

# Covid-19 in sub-Saharan Africa

Weekly Situation Report #01

April 8, 2020



African Population and Health Research Center

## Introduction

The global community is racing to slow down and halt the spread of **SARS-CoV-2**. The **Covid-19 pandemic** has claimed tens of thousands of lives in a very short period of time, since it was first announced on December 31, 2019. In Africa, the virus has spread to dozens of countries within weeks. Several African governments have put in place measures for early detection, contact tracing, and quarantining of potential contacts. Currently, forty-seven countries in the WHO African region can now test for Covid-19. **The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)** is committed to generating an Africa-led and Africa-owned body of evidence to inform decision making for an effective and sustainable response to the most critical challenges facing the continent. The objective of this **weekly situation report** is to highlight the weekly trends of new confirmed cases, cumulative cases, and active cases for all **sub-Saharan African Countries**. This bulletin is a summary for informational purposes. Complete summaries and trends can be assessed from the in-house dashboard (<https://siddi.shinyapps.io/covid19dashboardsa/>).

## Data source and analysis

The Covid-19 incidence data used to prepare this bulletin is extracted daily from the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering (JHU CCSE) Coronavirus (<https://github.com/RamiKrispin/coronavirus-csv>) data repository. These data are used in our in-house R-Shiny dashboard developed for countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Graphical R functions such as **ggplot2** and **plotly** are used to generate the statistics and trends.

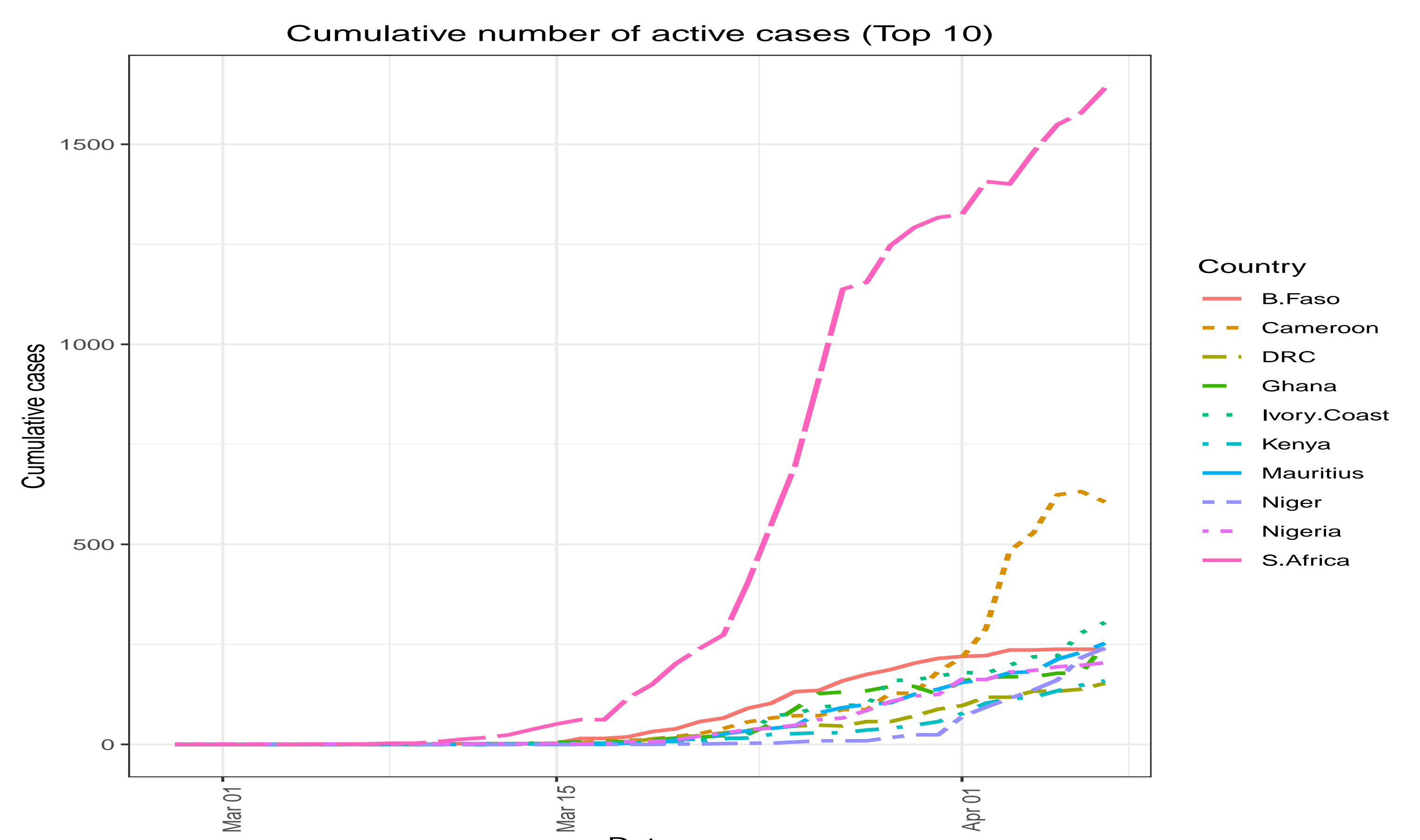
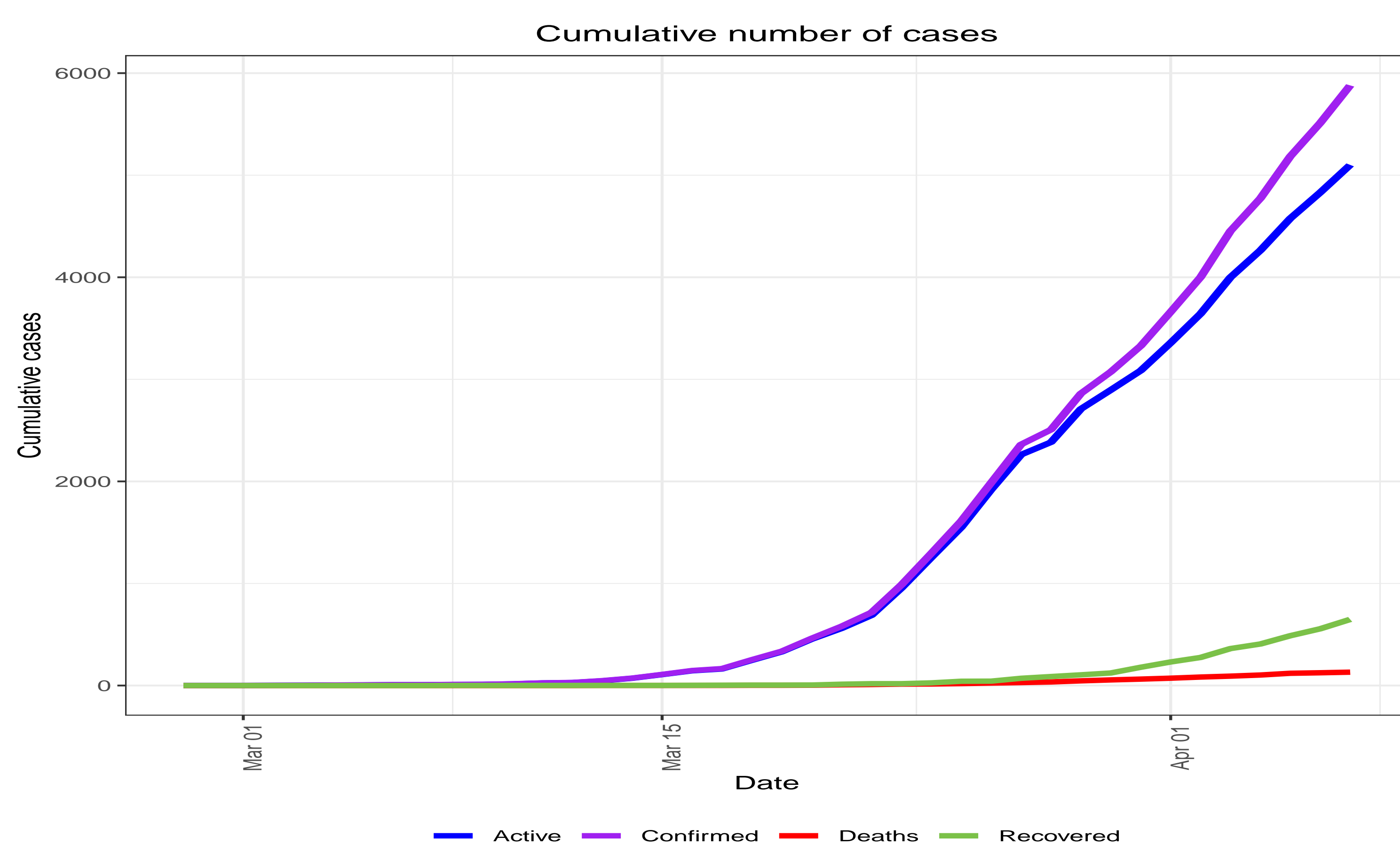
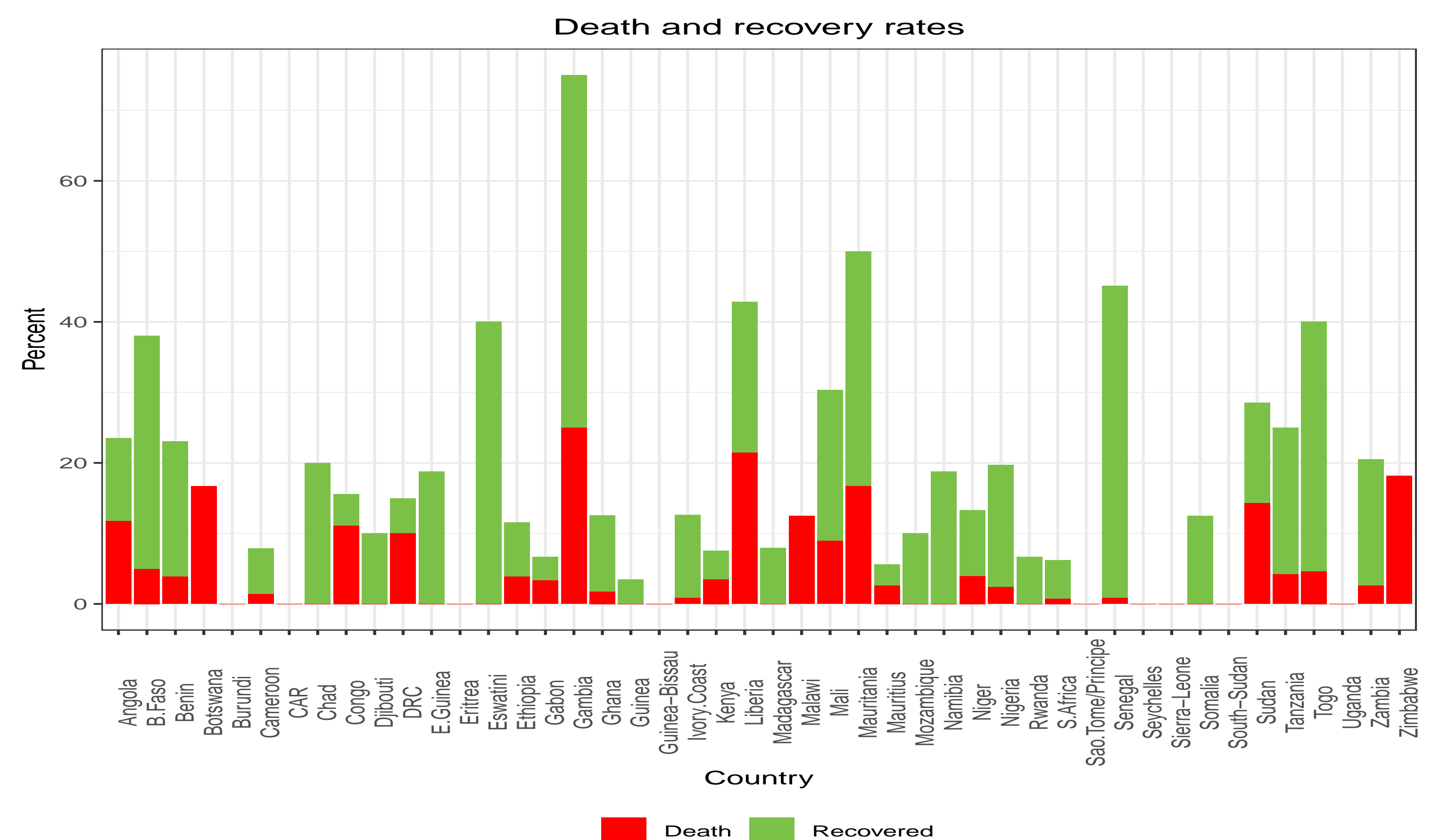
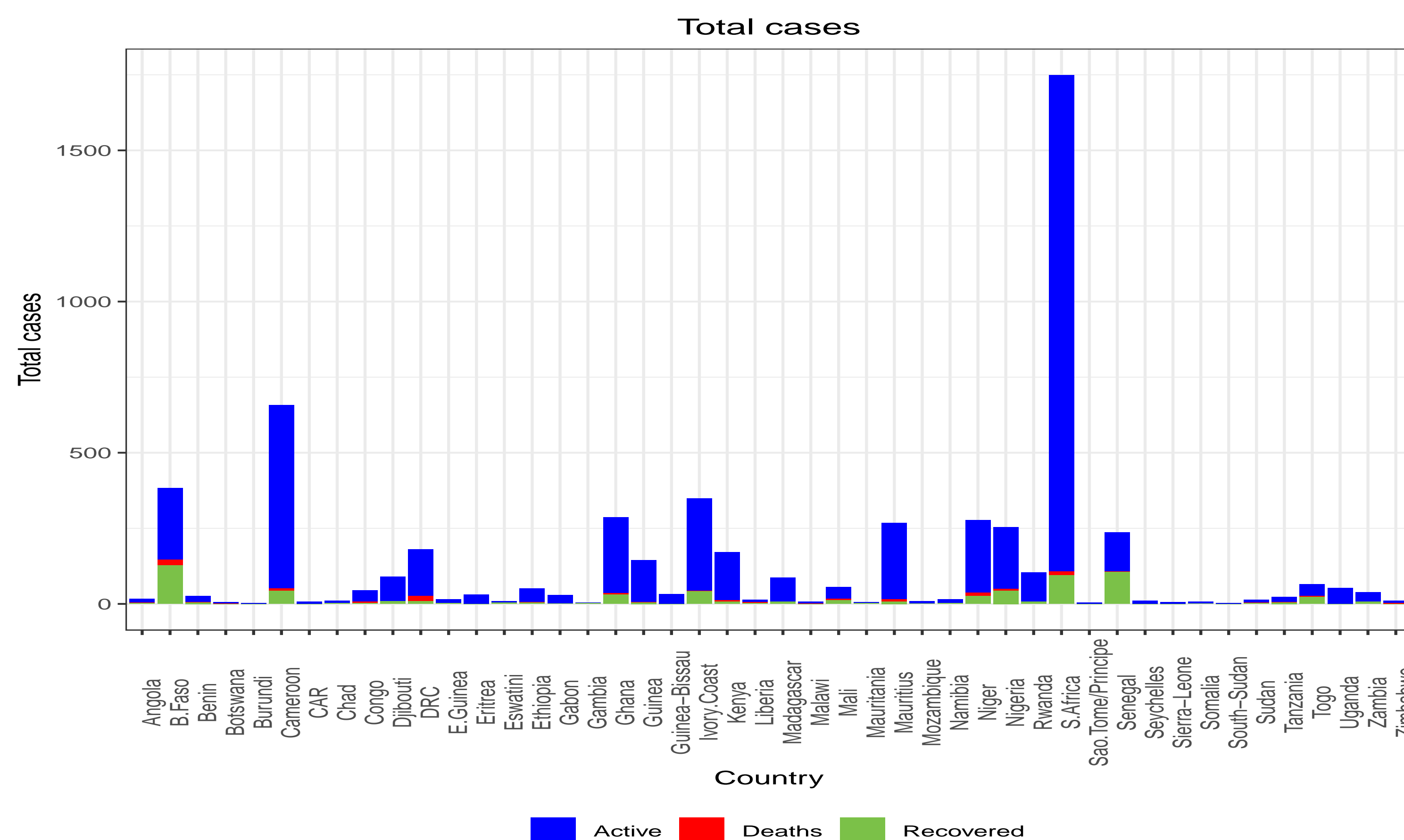
## Highlights

Using data up to **2020-04-07**

- Sub-Saharan African has so far reported a **total of 5880 confirmed**, **648 recovered**, **131 deaths**, and **5101 active cases** of Covid-19
- S.Africa has the **highest confirmed cases** in Africa which stands at 1749 cases.
- Gambia has the **highest case fatality rate (CFR)** of 25%.
- Gambia has the **highest recovery rate** of 50%
- Ghana reported the **highest number of confirmed new cases** of 73.
- There were **92 new recovery cases** and **6 new deaths**.

## Graphical results

### For sub-Saharan African Countries



## Key messages

The number of Covid-19 cases in sub-Saharan Africa is **still low** compared to other regions but the **numbers are growing**; The countries with **highest case-load include South Africa, Cameroon and Burkina Faso**; **Mortality** seem to widely vary with **higher rates in Gabon, Angola and Sudan**, While the first cases have been identified on different dates, going by the countries that have higher numbers of cases, the epidemic growth curve seem to be taking an **exponential shape**. If this happens for most countries, a high infection rate is likely over a short period of time with the **potential of overwhelming healthcare services**.

## For comments or questions, contact

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