

# GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE SERIES: COVID 19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA



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*Khozya D. Zyambo MMed,  
MBChB, Cert M&E, Zambia*



*Herbert Brian Kazoora MD  
|Ag Head of Programs  
African Field Epidemiology*



*Alex Riolexus Ario MD,  
Epidemiologist and Public  
Health Specialist Uganda*



*Patrick Mboya Nguku MD,  
MBChB, MSc (Applied  
epidemiology)*



*Moderated by:  
Maria Thacker Goethe  
Executive Director, GGHA*

AFENET

**GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE SERIES:  
COVID 19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS  
AND RESPONSE: PERSPECTIVES FROM  
AFRICA**

**WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING**

Gilberte “Gigi” Bastien PhD  
Associate Director, MSM/OGHE



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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Office of  
Global Health Equity

# GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE SERIES: COVID 19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA

## PERSPECTIVE FROM NIGERIA

Patrick Mboya Nguku MD, MBChB, MSc (Applied  
epidemiology), PGD AFENET

# **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response: Perspectives from Africa**

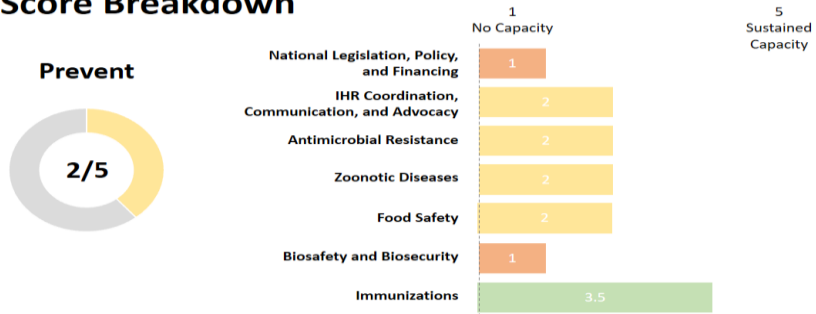
**Nigeria Country Experience**

# Outline

- Background
- Peace time investments on surveillance & response infrastructure
- COVID-19 outbreak in Nigeria
- Lesson learnt
- Conclusion

# IHR/JEE June 2017

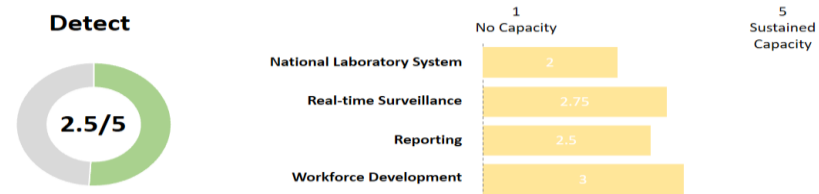
## Score Breakdown



1



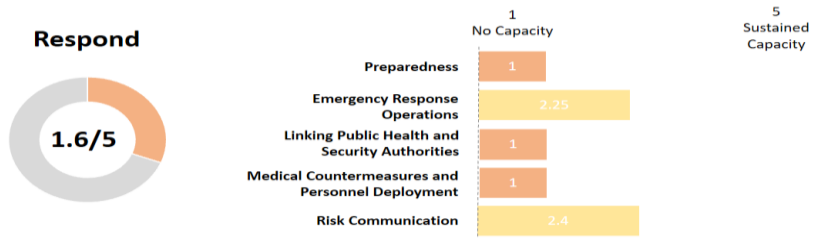
## Score Breakdown



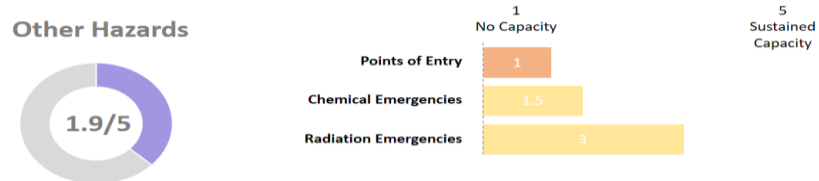
2



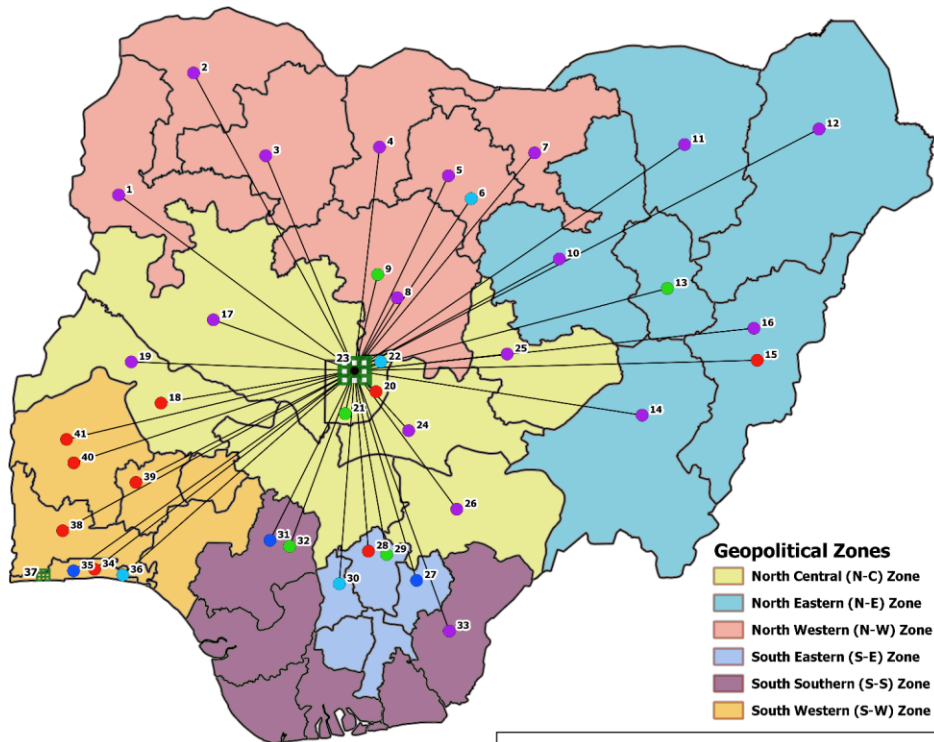
## Score Breakdown



## Score Breakdown



# NCDC LABORATORY NETWORK



- Geopolitical Zones**
- North Central (N-C) Zone
  - North Eastern (N-E) Zone
  - North Western (N-W) Zone
  - South Eastern (S-E) Zone
  - South Southern (S-S) Zone
  - South Western (S-W) Zone

## LEGEND

### Laboratories

- AMR
- CSM/Cholera
- Influenza
- Lassa/VHF
- Yellow Fever/Measles/ Rubella
- CPHL, Yaba
- NRL, Gaduwa
- State Boundary

N-W

N-E

N-C

S-E

S-S

S-W

Ref. ID	Name	State	Cluster
1	Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital, Birnin Kebbi	Kebbi	CSM/Cholera
2	Public Health Laboratory, Sokoto	Sokoto	CSM/Cholera
3	Ahmad Sani Yarima Bakura Specialist Hospital, Gusau	Zamfara	CSM/Cholera
4	State Public Health Laboratory, Katsina	Katsina	CSM/Cholera
5	Infectious Disease Hospital, Kano	Kano	CSM/Cholera
6	Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano (Sentinel Site)	Kano	Influenza
7	Rasheed Shakoni Specialist Hospital, Dutse	Jigawa	CSM/Cholera
8	Yusuf Dantsoho Hospital, Kaduna	Kaduna	CSM/Cholera
9	Yusuf Dantsoho Hospital, Kaduna	Kaduna	Yellow Fever/Measles/ Rubella
10	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital, Bauchi	Bauchi	CSM/Cholera
11	General Hospital, Damaturu	Yobe	CSM/Cholera
12	University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Maiduguri	Borno	CSM/Cholera
13	State Specialist Hospital, Gombe	Gombe	Yellow Fever/Measles/ Rubella
14	State Specialist Hospital, Jalingo	Taraba	CSM/Cholera
15	Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo	Taraba	AMR
16	General Hospital, Yola	Adamawa	CSM/Cholera
17	General Hospital, Minna	Niger	CSM/Cholera
18	University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin	Kwara	AMR
19	General Hospital, Ilorin	Kwara	CSM/Cholera
20	National Hospital, Abuja	FCT	AMR
21	Maitama District Hospital, Abuja	FCT	Yellow Fever/Measles/ Rubella
22	Asokoro District Hospital, Abuja (Sentinel Site)	FCT	Influenza
23	NCDC National Reference Laboratory (NRL), Gaduwa, Abuja	FCT	Yellow Fever/Measles/Rubella, CSM/Cholera, Lassa/VHF, Influenza, Monkeypox
24	General Hospital, Lafia	Nasarawa	CSM/Cholera
25	Plateau General Hospital, Jos	Plateau	CSM/Cholera
26	Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi	Benue	CSM/Cholera
27	Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki	Ebonyi	Lassa/VHF
28	University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Enugu	Enugu	AMR
29	University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Enugu	Enugu	Yellow Fever/Measles/ Rubella
30	Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi (Sentinel Site)	Anambra	Influenza
31	Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Irrua	Edo	Lassa/VHF
32	University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin	Edo	Yellow Fever/Measles/ Rubella
33	Cross River General Hospital, Calabar	Cross River	CSM/Cholera
34	Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Microbiology Laboratory, Idaraba	Lagos	AMR
35	Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) Virology Laboratory, Idaraba	Lagos	Lassa/VHF
36	Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja (Sentinel Site)	Lagos	Influenza
37	Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL), Yaba	Lagos	YF/Measles/Rubella, CSM/Cholera
38	Babcock University Teaching Hospital, Ilisha-remo	Ogun	AMR
39	Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife	Osun	AMR
40	Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital, Ogbomoshosho	Oyo	AMR
41	University College Hospital, Ibadan	Oyo	AMR



100 0 100 200 300 km





**A4EPR**  
Alliance for  
Epidemic  
Preparedness &  
Response

*Multisectoral partnerships to end epidemics*

## Private Health Sector Alliance of Nigeria

Private sector-led network that mobilizes the business community to deliver better health outcomes in Nigeria



Private Sector  
Track Record

Structure and  
Governance



## Nigeria Centre for Disease Control

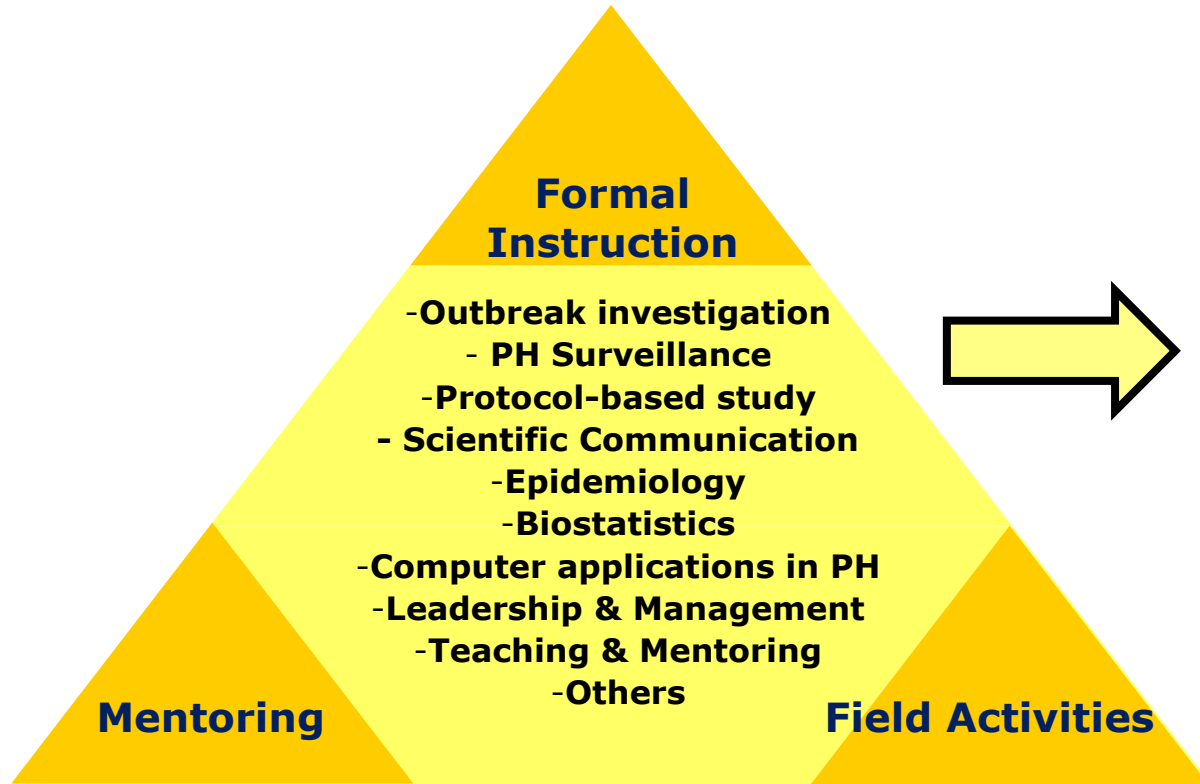
Agency responsible for enhancing Nigeria's preparedness and response to epidemics through prevention, detection, and control of infectious diseases



Technical  
Expertise

Strong Global  
Partnerships

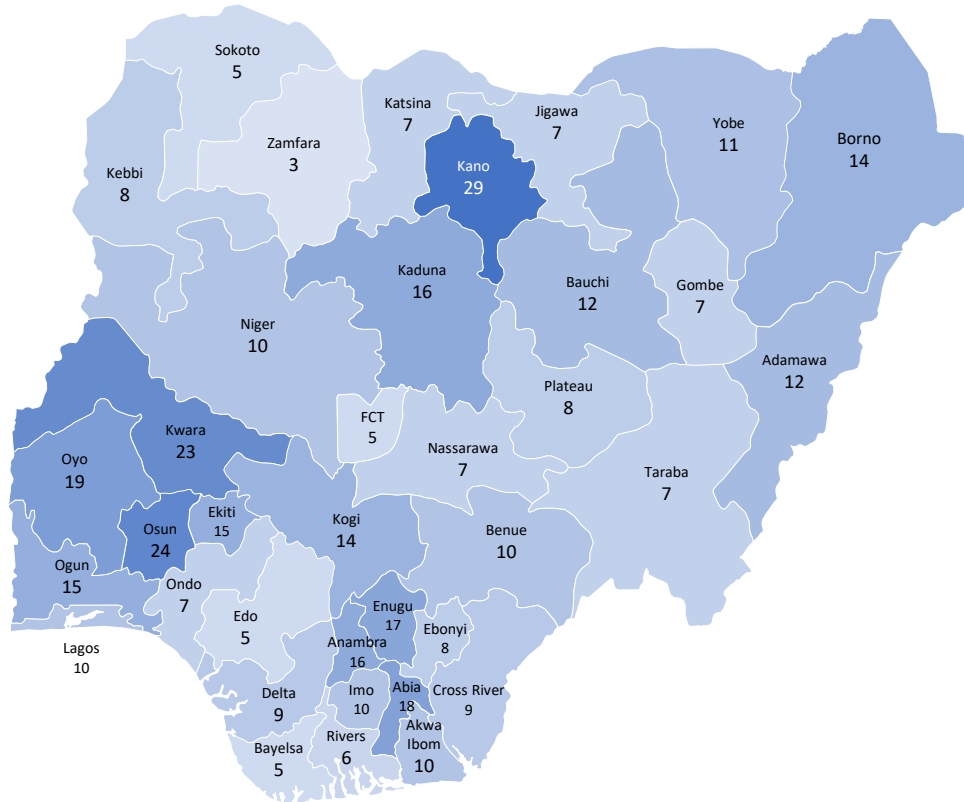
# FELTP Competencies and Outputs



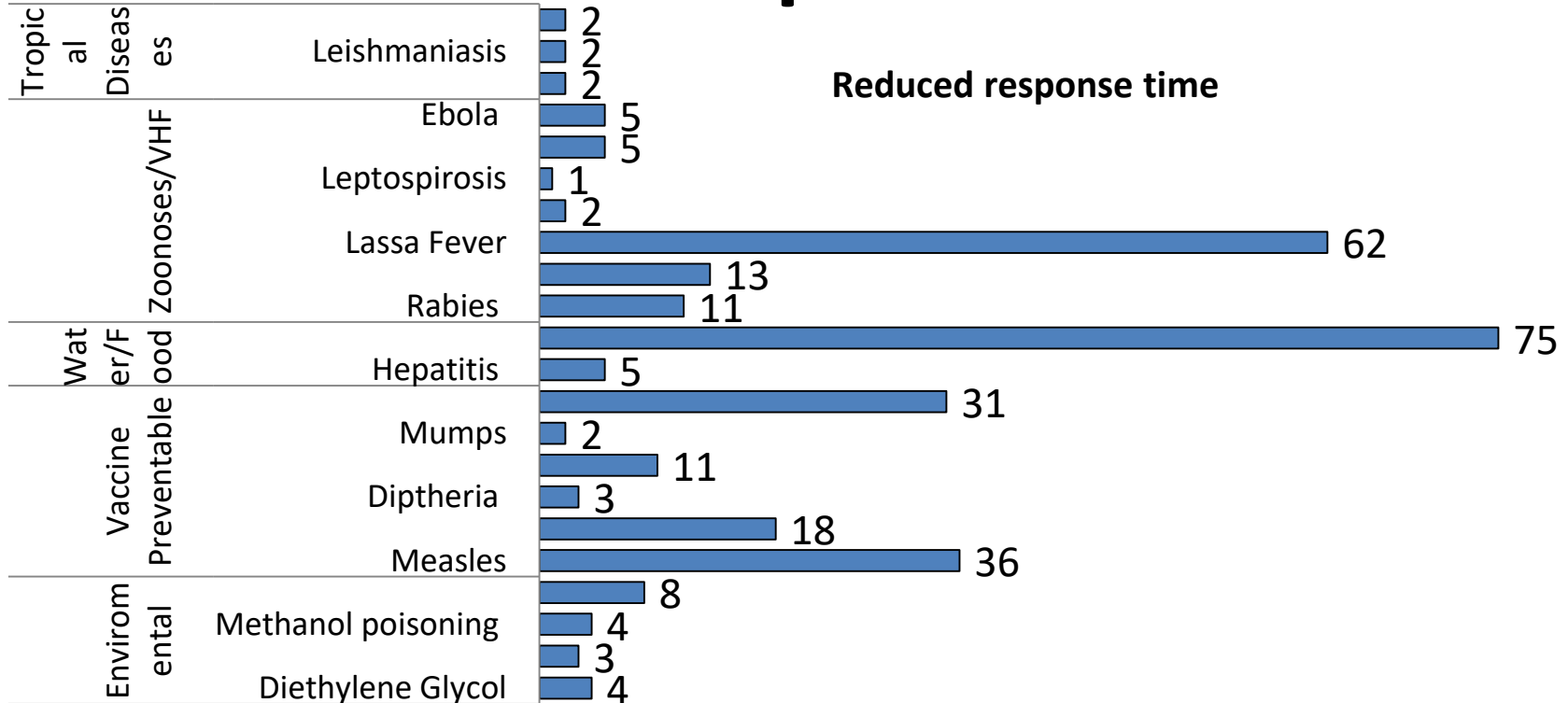
## Outputs

- **Outbreak report**
- **Surveillance analysis or data analysis report**
- **Surveillance evaluation report**
- **Study protocol**
- **Abstract**
- **Conference presentation**
- **Seminar**
- **Bulletin article**
- **Scientific manuscript**
- **Others**
  - **Teaching and mentoring reports**
  - **Management meeting minutes**

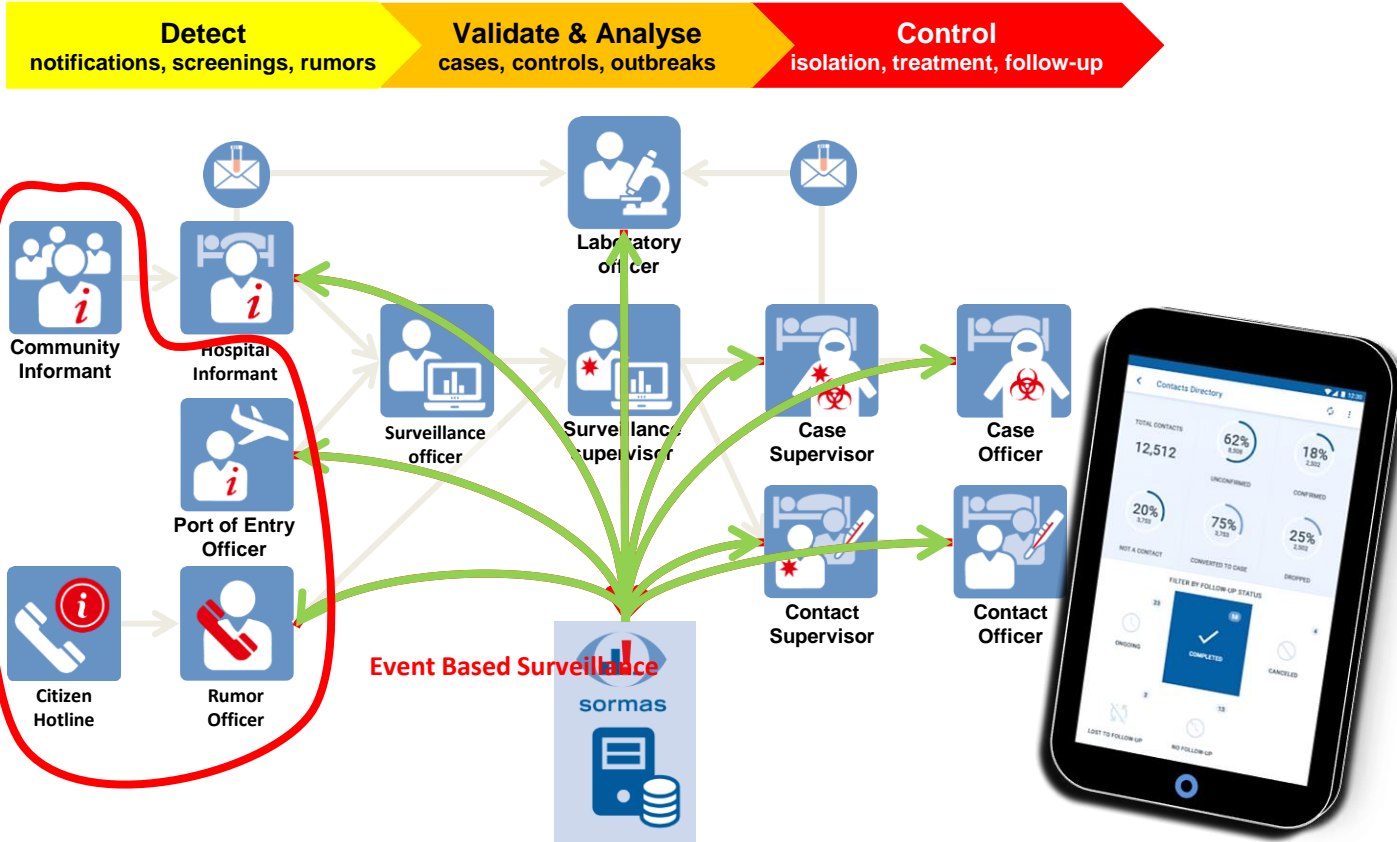
# >500 Field Epidemiologists



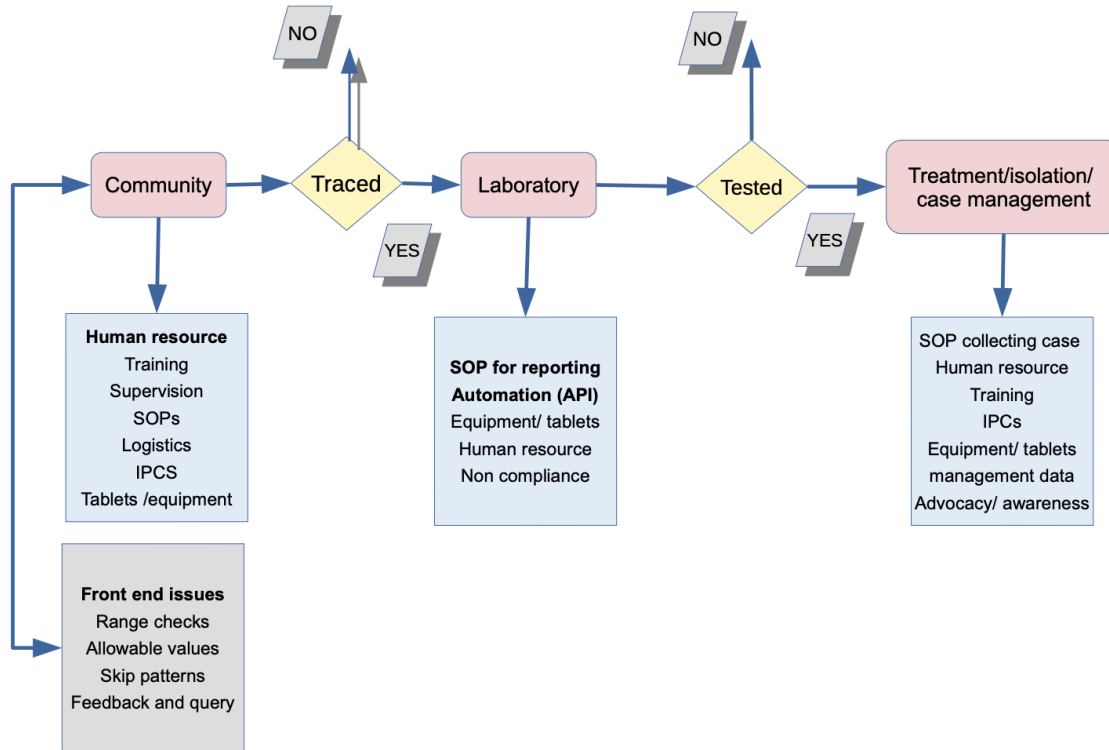
# Outbreaks Provide Opportunities to Improve



# Digitalizing Surveillance – Surveillance Outbreak Response Management Analytic System (SORMAS)



# SORMAS Architecture



- Back end/ server side issues
- Poor/lack of feedback loop to states
- Low analytical capacity

# Surveillance Update as at July 27, 2020

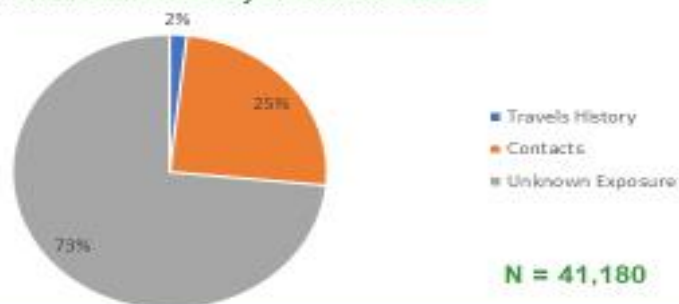
## Update on cases (within last 24 hours)



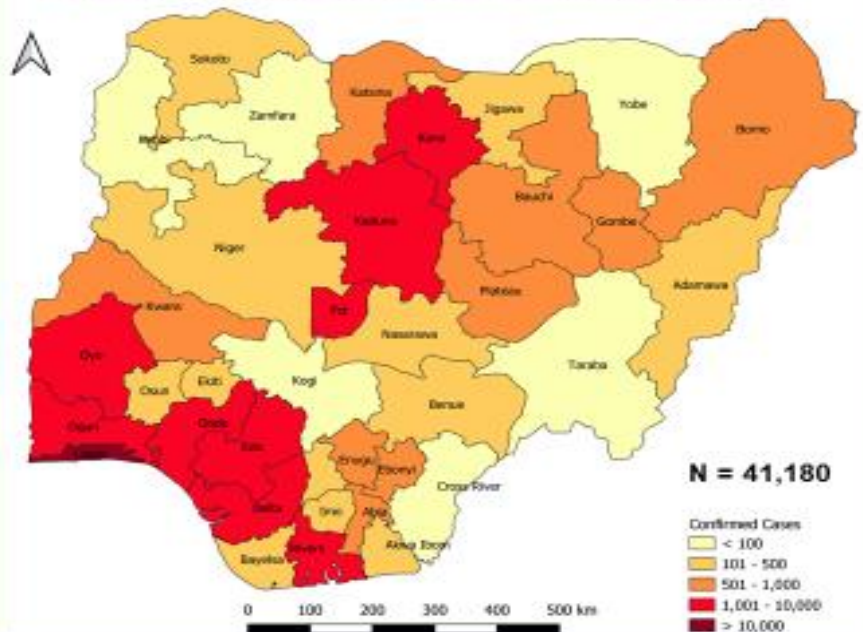
## Aggregate



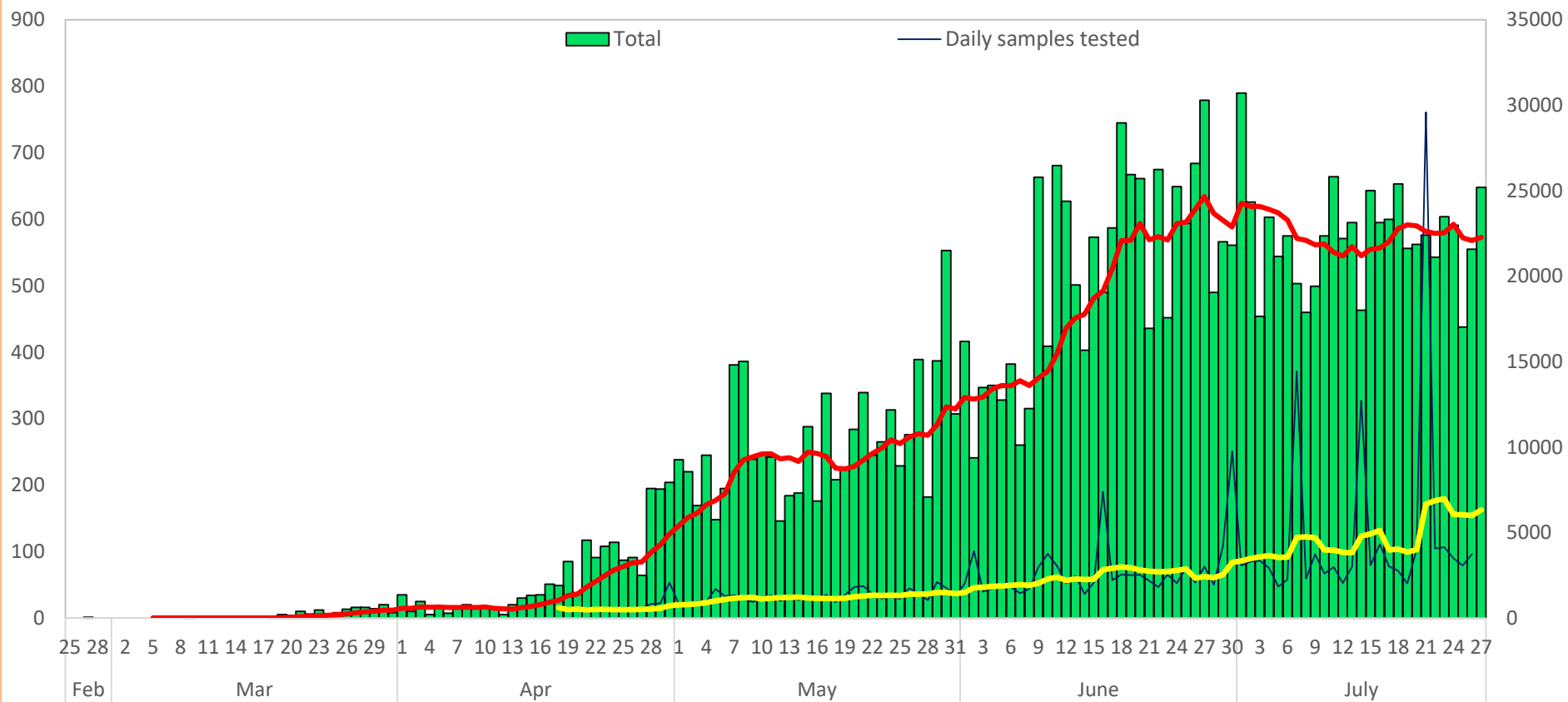
## Travel/contact history of confirmed cases



## Spatial Distribution of Confirmed cases

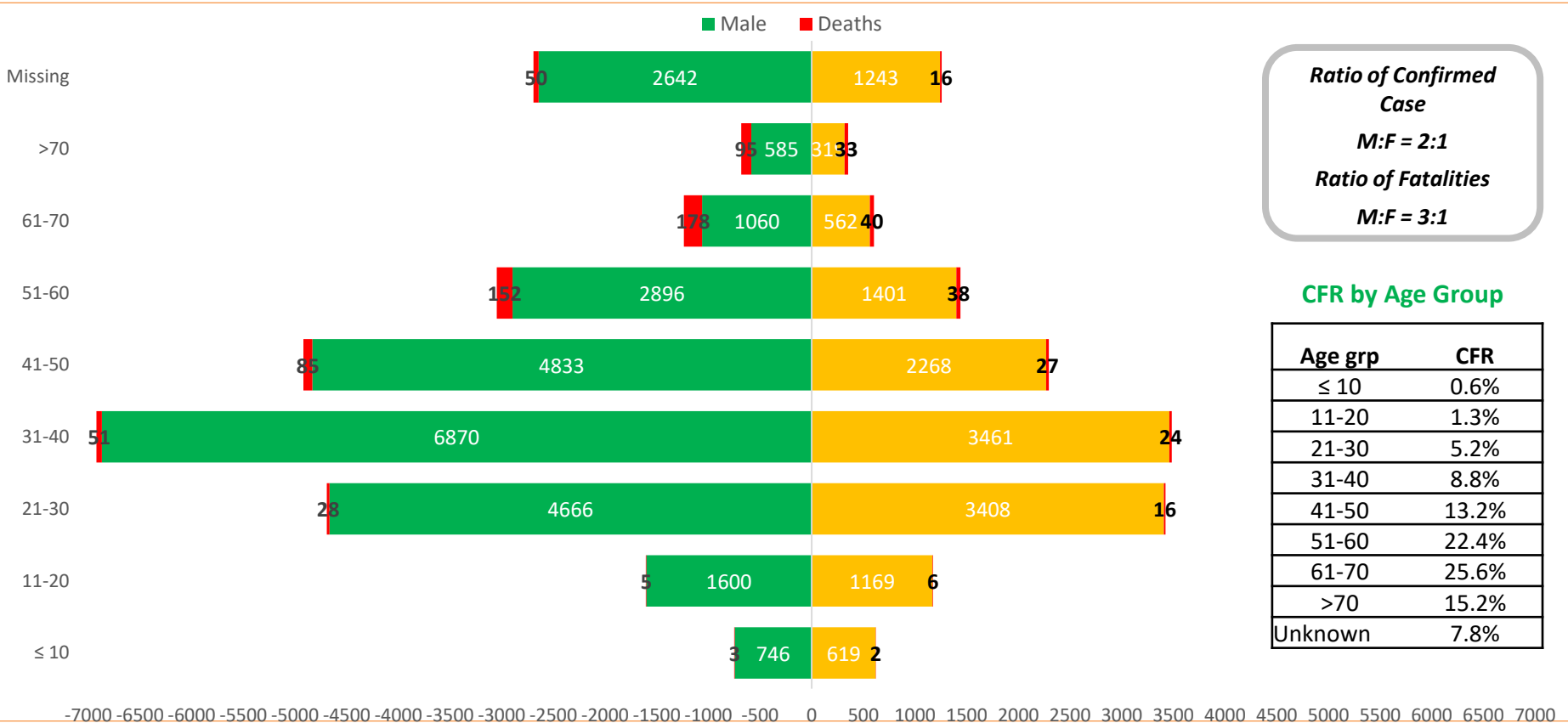


# National Epi-curve with Testing Trend





## Cases and Fatality by Age and Gender



**Ratio of Confirmed Case**  
**M:F = 2:1**

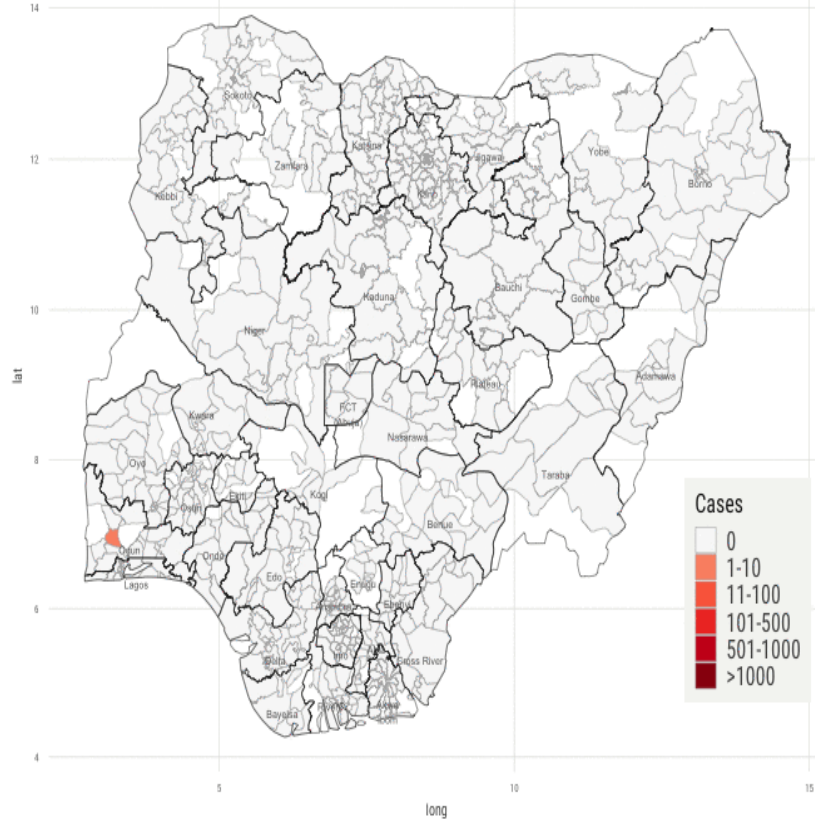
**Ratio of Fatalities**  
**M:F = 3:1**

### CFR by Age Group

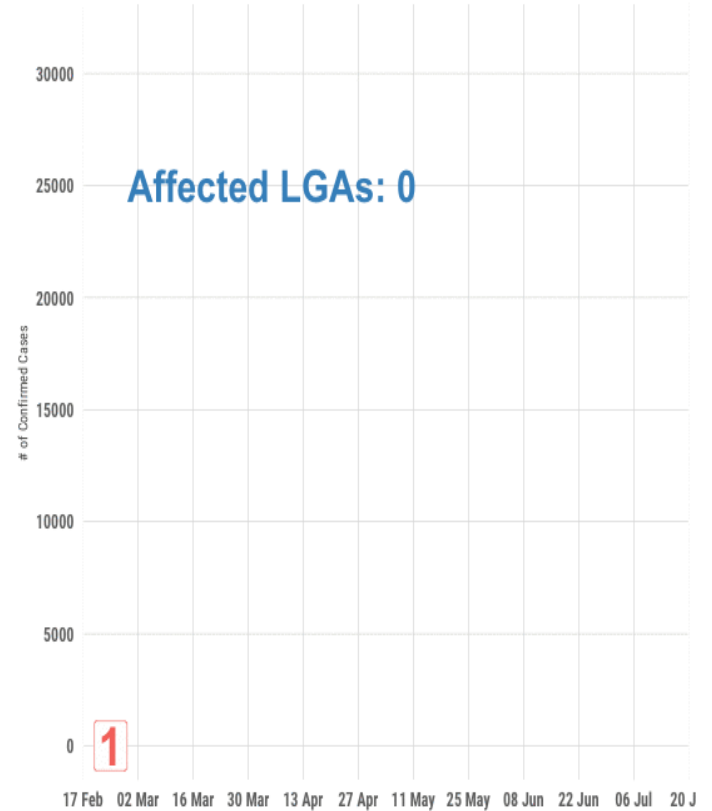
Age grp	CFR
≤ 10	0.6%
11-20	1.3%
21-30	5.2%
31-40	8.8%
41-50	13.2%
51-60	22.4%
61-70	25.6%
>70	15.2%
Unknown	7.8%

# Time trend

Confirmed cases by LGA, Date: 2020-02-24

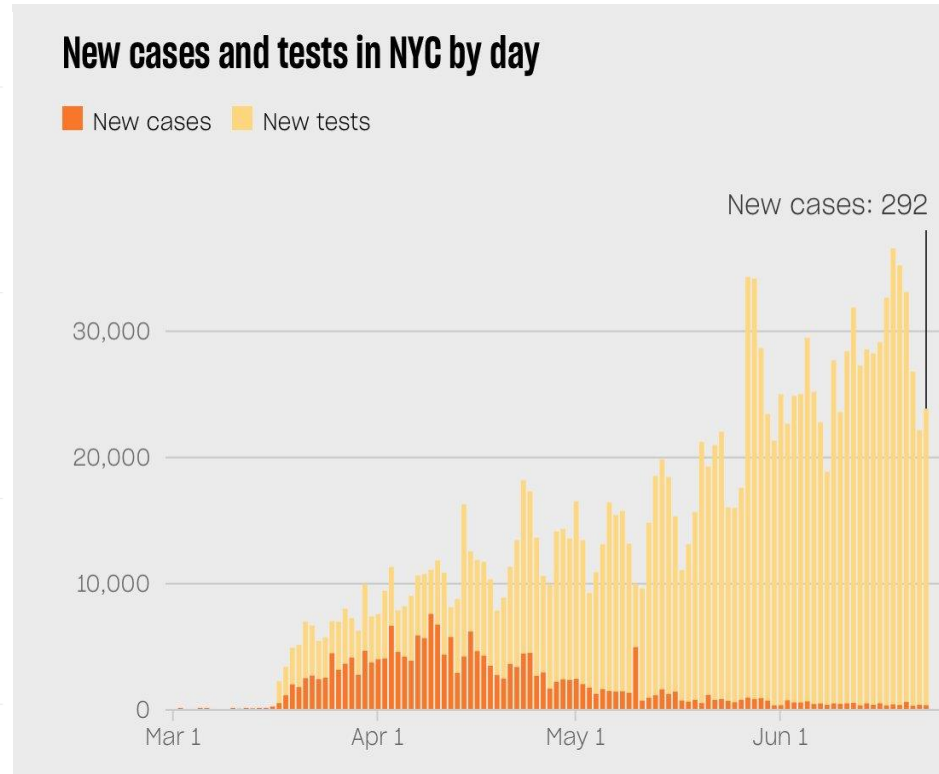
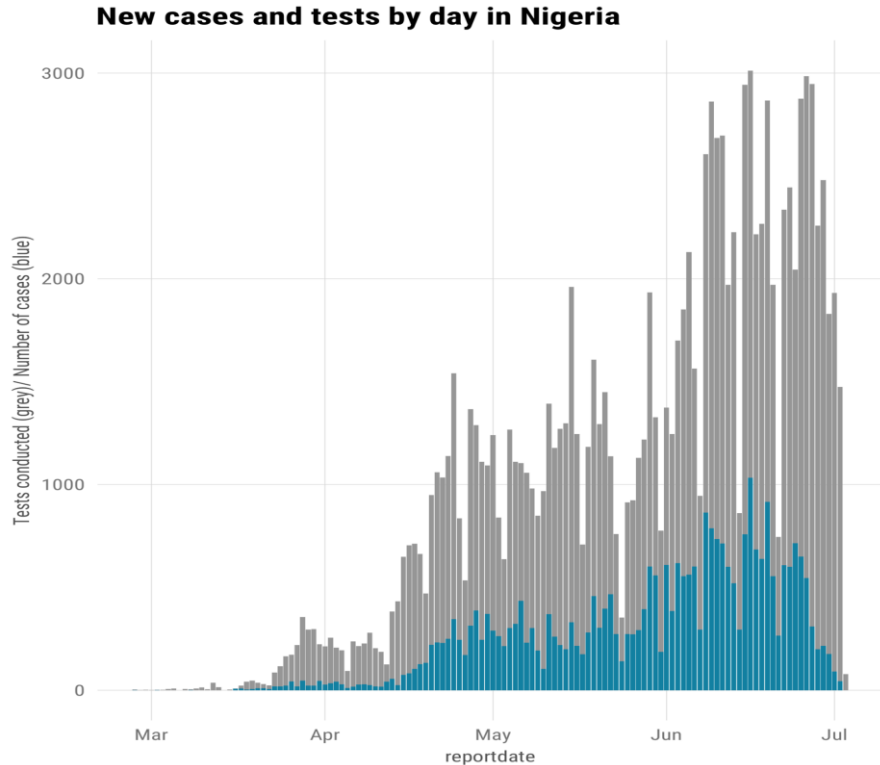


Weekly number of Cases

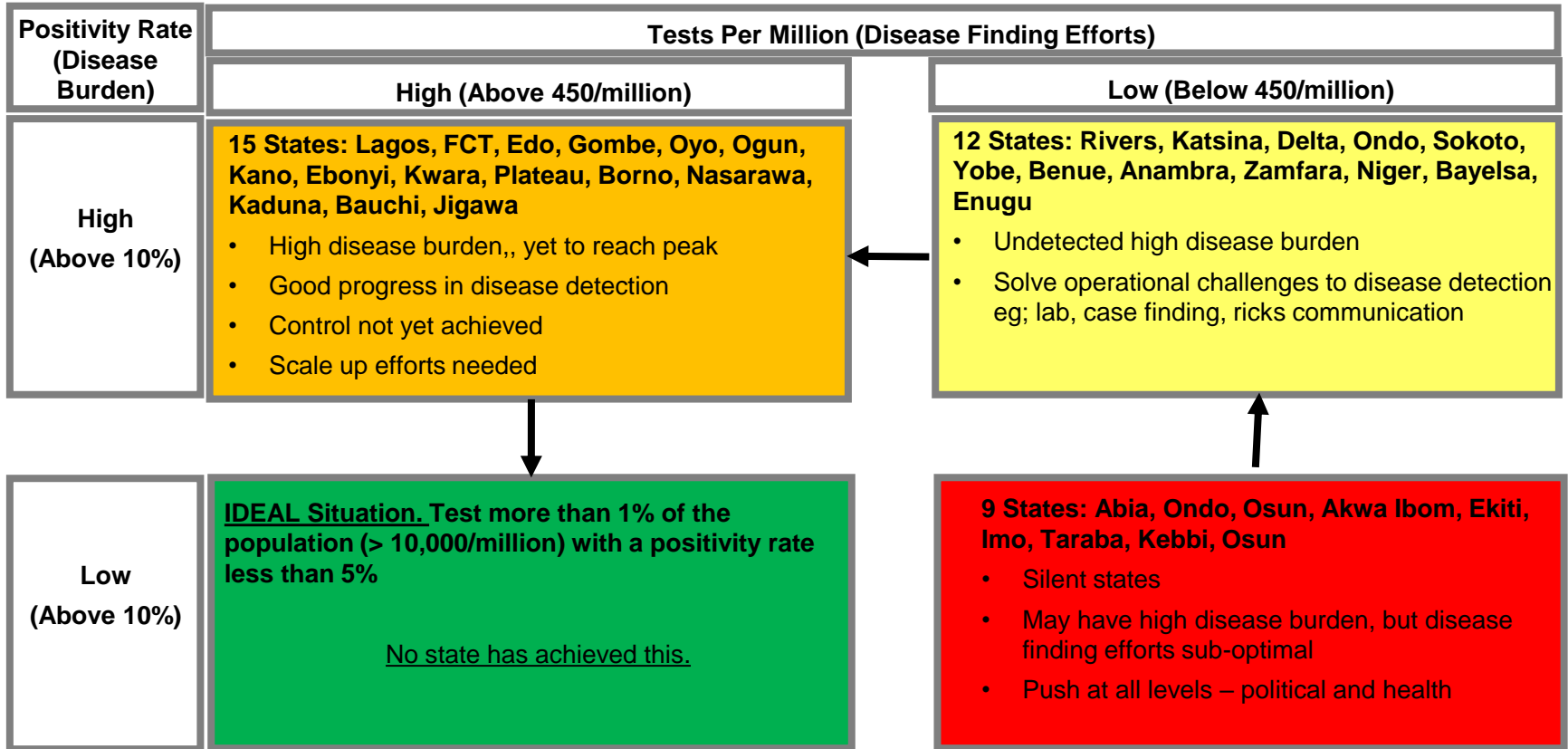


# Where we are , Where we want to go.....

## Nigeria



# Disease Finding Efforts



# LGA Categorization – Hot Spotting Strategy

- Identify high transmission LGA for targeted intervention
- Different approaches
  - Historical disease burden
  - Combination of diseases burden , recency and positivity
  - Logistic regression – weighting all potential predictors for high risk
  - Other considerations – contiguity , political engagement , ease of implementation
- 4 week cycle of review
- Engagement process – states
- Monitoring – disease burden and intervention

# Criteria for Selection of LGAs/Districts

## Criteria 1: Number of currently active cases

Definition: The number of patients cases who were diagnosed less than 30 days ago and have not died or been discharged  
Selected LGAs > 100 active cases

## Criteria 2: Test positivity rate within the previous 2 weeks

Definition: Proportion of tests conducted in the previous 2 weeks that are positive for SARS-Cov-2  
Selected LGAs > 20% positivity rate with a minimum of 10 new cases in the 2 week period

## Criteria 3: Percent increase in confirmed cases from the previous week

Selected LGAs > 50% increase in new cases of COVID-19 with a minimum of 15 cases at baseline

# Other Interventions

- Pre-outbreak planning , simulation
- RRT surge – insurance , medical cover and training
- Private sector involvement – resources, labs , other expertise
- State level PHEOC activation
- Leveraging on existing IPC capacities
- Political and operational engagement

# Lessons Learnt / Conclusion

- National Public Health Institute that is empowered , funded , functional and staffed with appropriate sub-national linkages is central in mounting an effective response
- Peace time investments in surveillance and laboratory infrastructure are core to preparedness and response
  - Using existing frameworks – IHR
- Collaboration with the private sector is possible – continuous engagement
- Outbreak not homogenous – hot spotting strategy useful
- Skilled adequate workforce essential – need protection / motivate



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AND RESPONSE: PERSPECTIVES FROM  
AFRICA**

**PERSPECTIVE FROM UGANDA**

**Alex Riolexus Ario MD, Epidemiologist and Public  
Health Specialist Uganda**



# STATUS OF COVID-19 **PANDEMIC** RESPONSE IN UGANDA

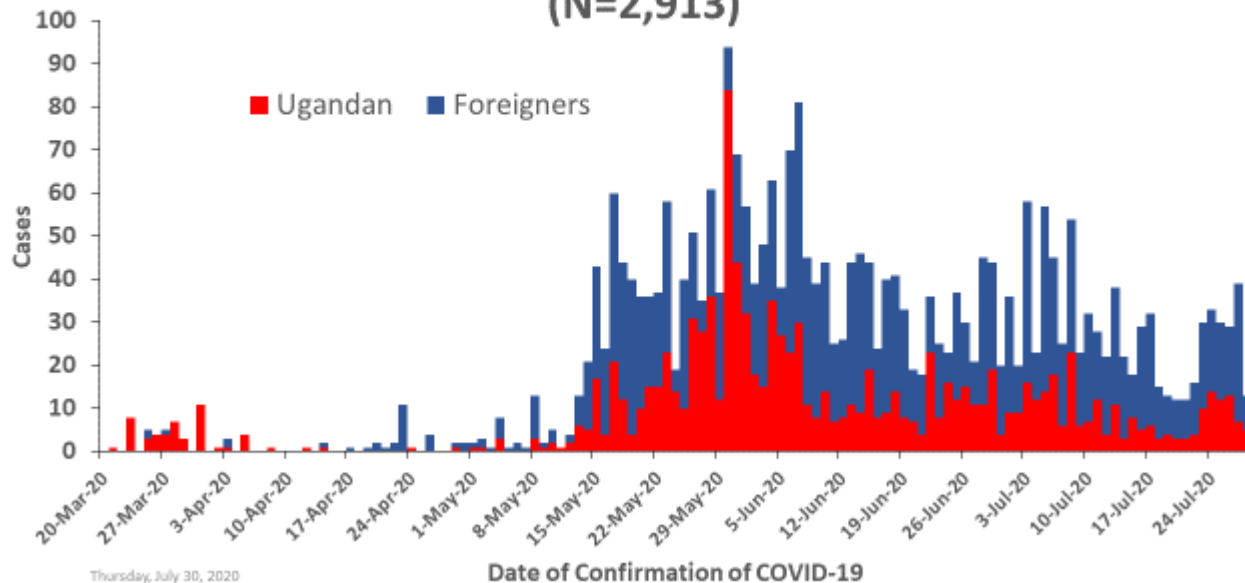
Dr. Alex Riolexus Ario  
Uganda National Institute of Public Health

Ministry of Health, Uganda

# Background

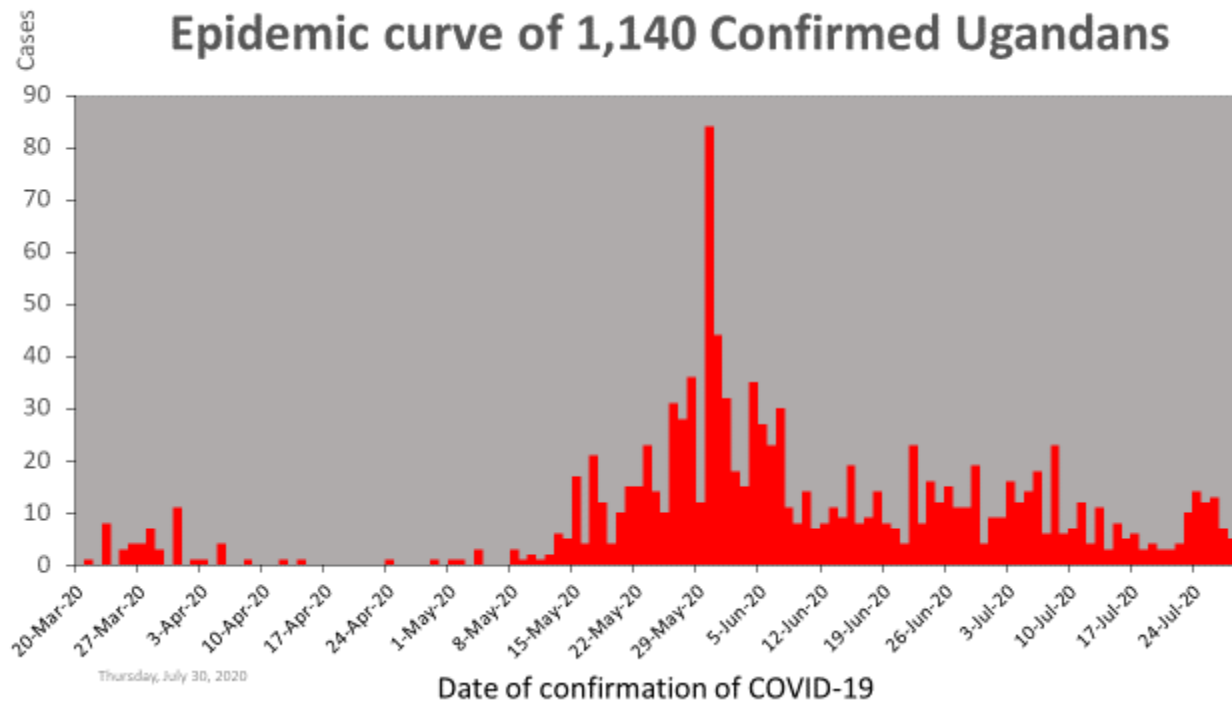
- Uganda declared 1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 confirmed case on 21 March 2020
- By 28 July 2020:
  - **1140** Confirmed Cases (Excluding 1,773 foreign nationals)
  - **2** Deaths
  - **1018** Recoveries
  - **122** Active cases
  - **7491** Cumulative in institutional quarantine in 89 sites, **5530** discharged

## Epidemic Curve of All Confirmed Cases in Uganda (N=2,913)



Thursday, July 30, 2020

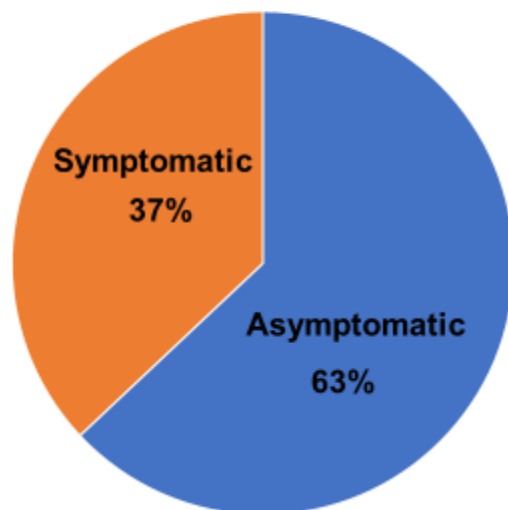
## Epidemic curve of 1,140 Confirmed Ugandans



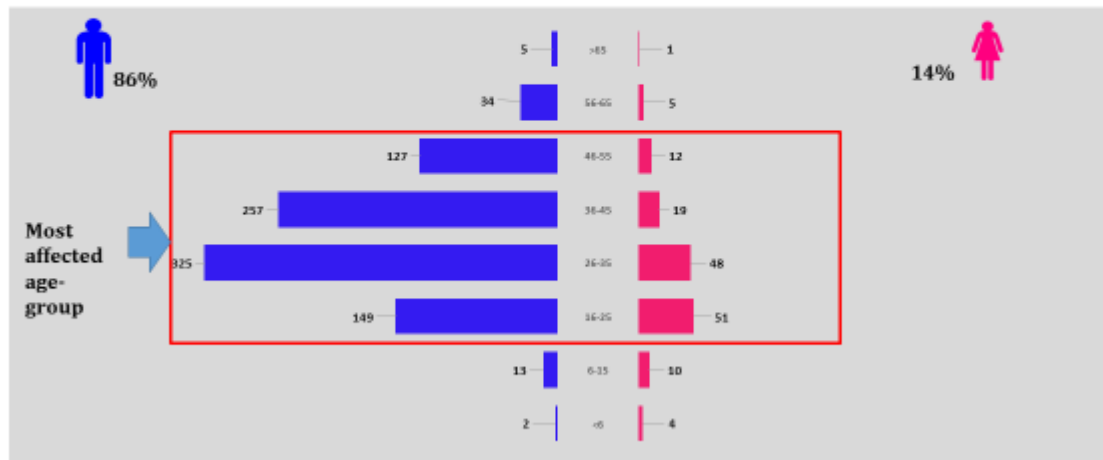
Thursday, July 30, 2020

## Most Case-patients were asymptomatic

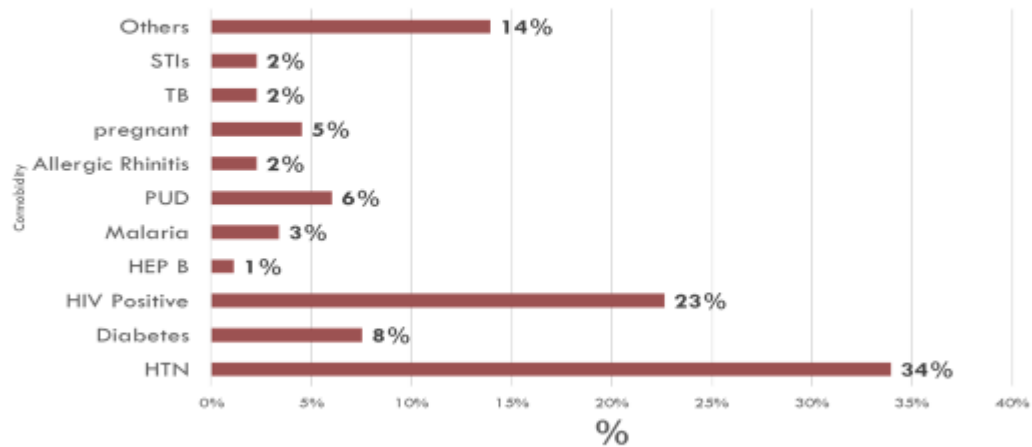
- All case-patients classified as mild



## Age and Sex distribution of cases

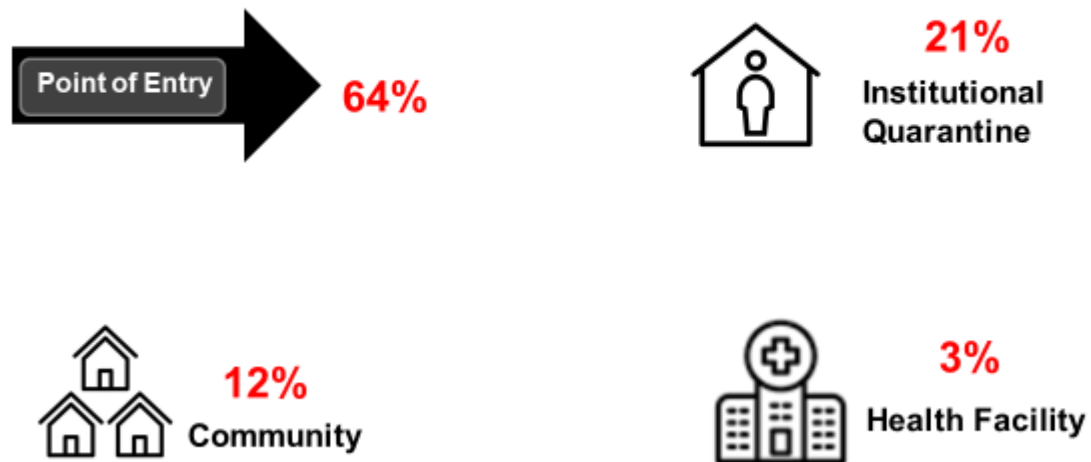


## Co-morbidities (%)





## Case Distribution by Sample Collection Point

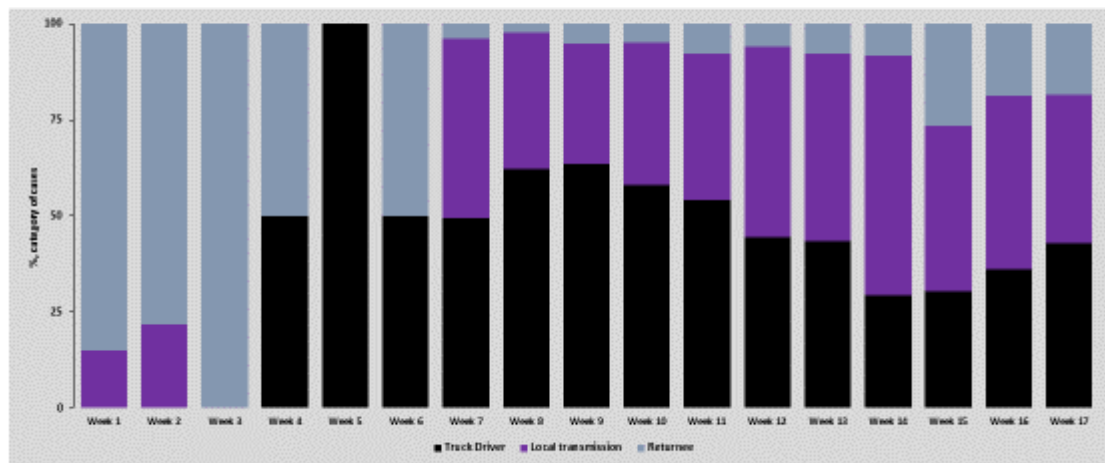


# Half of Case-patients are Truck Drivers





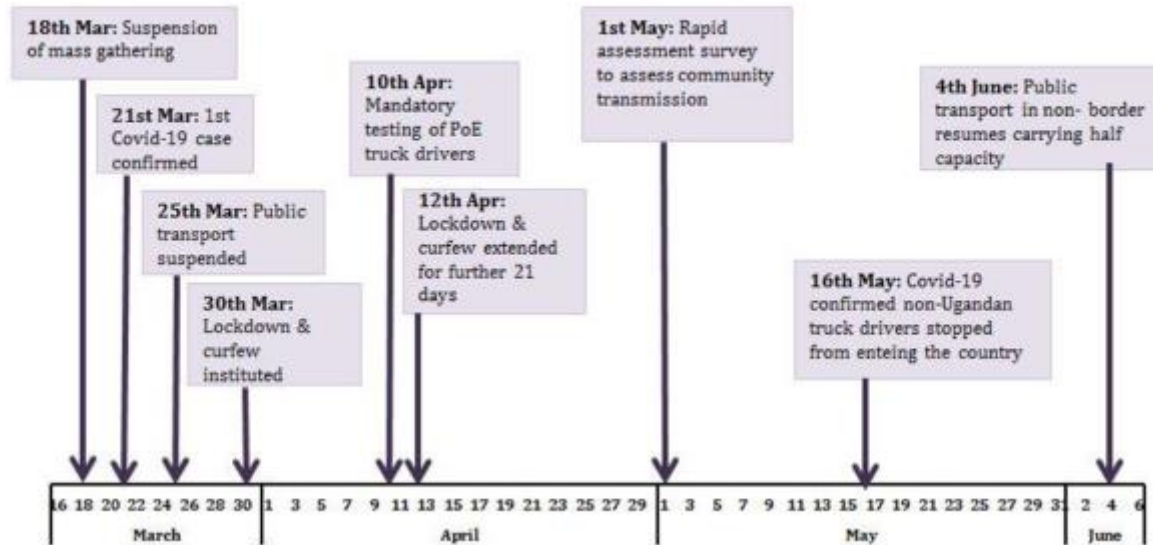
## Types of Confirmed Cases over the weeks



## COVID-19 Coordination

- Developed a National COVID-19 Response Plan
- Activated National Coordination Mechanisms
  - Incident Management System
  - National and District Task Forces
  - Emergency Operations Centre
- Strategic meetings at regional, national and parliamentary levels
- Coordinated donation of funds
- Deployed regional support teams: Doctors, Critical care nurses, Epidemiologists

# Public Health Mitigation Measures



## **Surveillance Interventions**

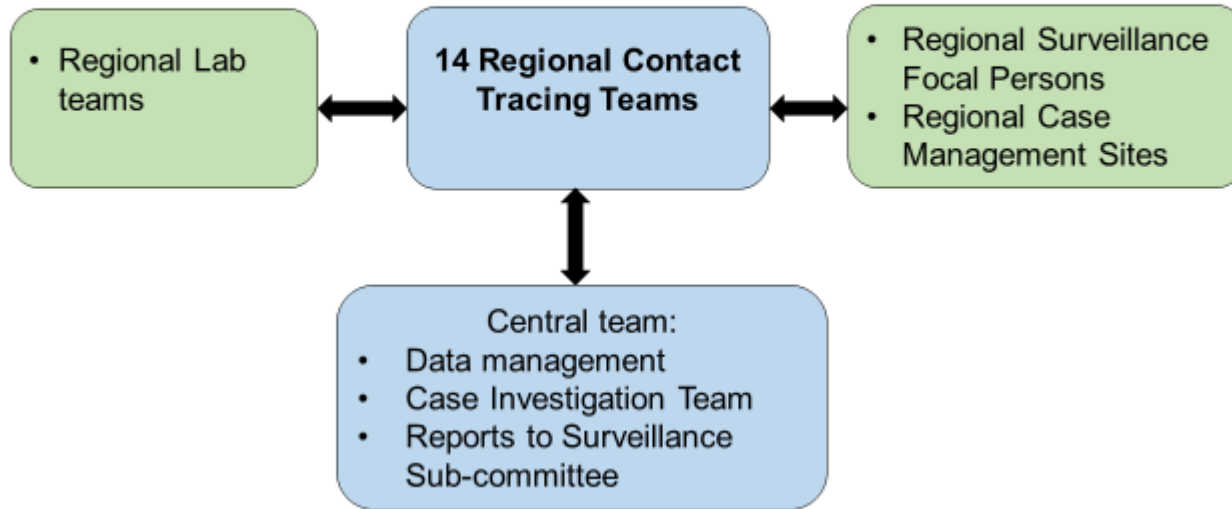
- Contact identification, listing and follow-up
- Activated COVID-19 alert desks in all districts
- Oriented District and Regional Surveillance Focal Persons
- Activated screening of travelers at 53 PoEs
- Established CBDS in high risk districts

## **Contact Tracing in COVID-19**

- Follows confirmation of case
- Persons who came in contact with case (Contacts) are:
  - Identified
  - Listed
  - Followed up for 14 days
  - Tested at start and end of follow-up



# Contact Tracing Team



## Contact tracing up-date, 28 July 2020

14,784 Contacts listed

13,738 (93%) Contacts completed follow-up

244 Contacts tested positive

1,046 Active contacts

 Secondary Attack Rate = 1.7%

## Laboratory Services

6

Established Testing facilities

7

Facilities assessed to test at sub-national level

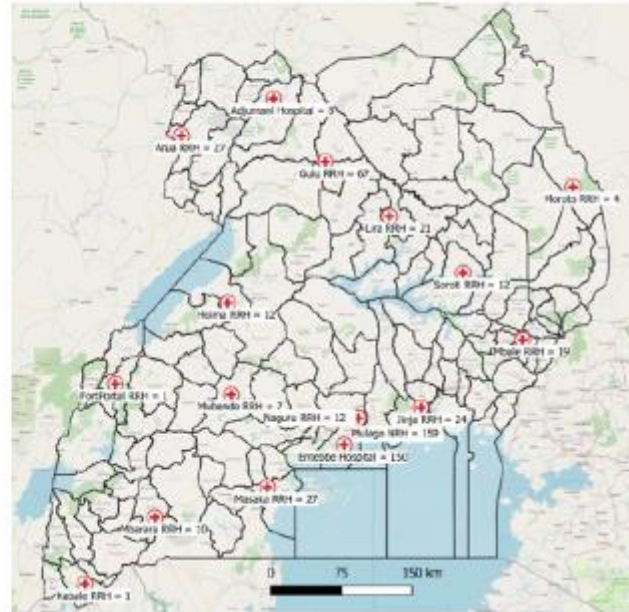
258,528

Tests (28 July)

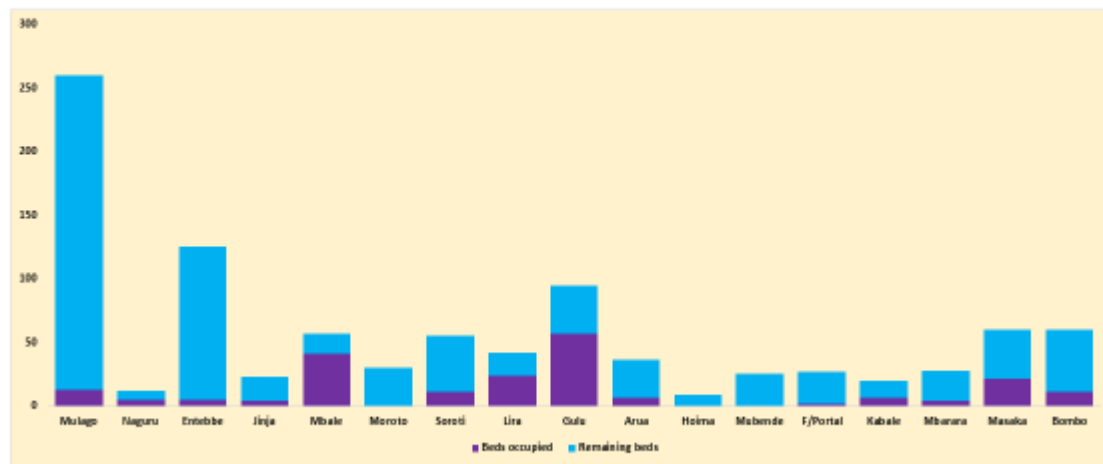
# Case Management Facilities

## 17 Treatment Facilities (28 July)

- 15 RRHs
- 1 General (District) Hospital
- 1 National Referral Hospital
- 930 Total bed capacity



## Bed occupancy at treatment facilities

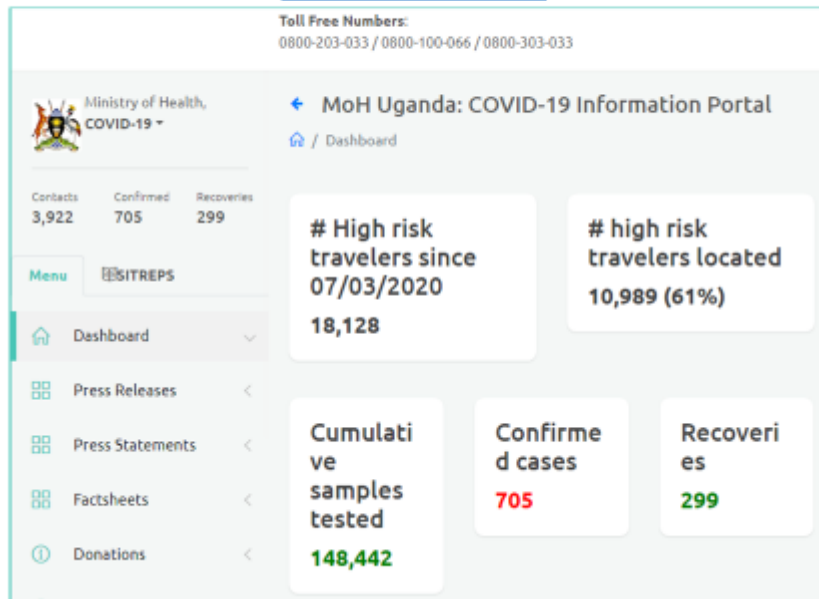


## Case Management Interventions

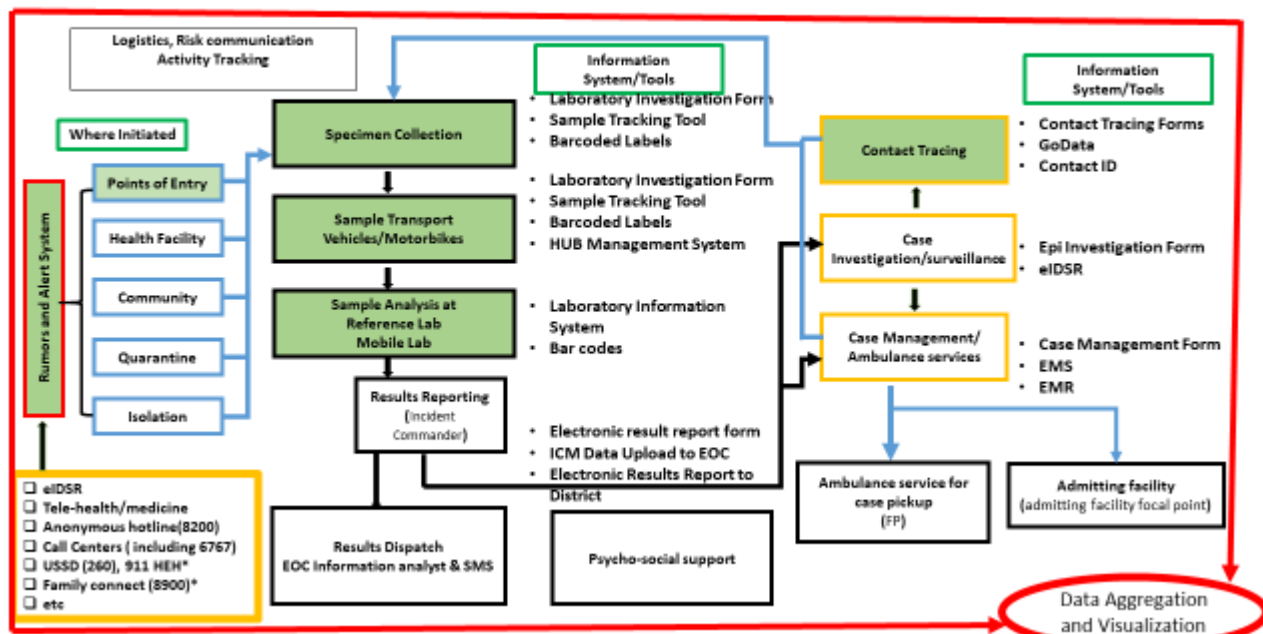
- Developed National Guidelines for Management of COVID-19
- All treatment facilities trained on management of COVID-19
- De-hospitalized approach for management of mild to moderate cases
  - set up treatment units in stadiums and tents
- Psychosocial support offered at PoEs, quarantine centres and treatment units

# Online COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://covid19.gou.go.ug/>



# Uganda COVID-19 Response Data Flow





## Risk Communication



- **“Tonsemerera Campaign” i.e. Keep your distance:**  
Runs on 309 radio stations and 7 TV stations
- **Other messages:** COVID-19 updates, use of masks, hand hygiene, stigma reduction, #StaySafeUg

# Logistics

- Bi-weekly dispatch of logistical supplies to treatment units
- Procured: PPE, medicines, testing kits, ICU equipment and community face masks
- Delivered: non-medical logistics to quarantine sites, community face masks
- Completed: Phase one distribution of public face masks to 27 high risk districts and Kampala Metropolitan totaling 8.5million

## **Gaps and Challenges**

- Disruption of continuity of essential health services especially at hospitals managing COVID-19 patients
- Significant Human Resource need: at Points of entry to support screening; laboratory personnel; contact tracers and VHTs to conduct community based disease surveillance
- Insufficient logistics: PPE and testing kits

## Lessons Learnt

- Early preparedness and prompt response averts spread and deaths
- Good coordination and a multipronged approach ensures effective response
- Longevity of an outbreak and mildness of cases creates laxity amongst the population – prevention measures not strictly followed
- Good surveillance and effective contact tracing slows community transmission

**THANK YOU**



**MOREHOUSE**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Office of  
Global Health Equity

# GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE SERIES: COVID 19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA

## PERSPECTIVE FROM ZAMBIA

Khozya D. Zyambo, MMed, MBChB, Cert M&E,  
Zambia Ministry of Health



# ***COVID 19 Preparedness and Response: Perspectives from Africa***

## **COVID-19 in Zambia: What We Should Know**

**Khozya D. Zyambo, MD**

National Paediatric HIV Mentor  
HIV/TB ECHO™ Lead Facilitator  
Ministry of Health, Zambia

# Learning Objectives

1. Describe COVID-19 trends in Zambia
2. Outline the mitigation measures for the COVID-19 peak in Zambia



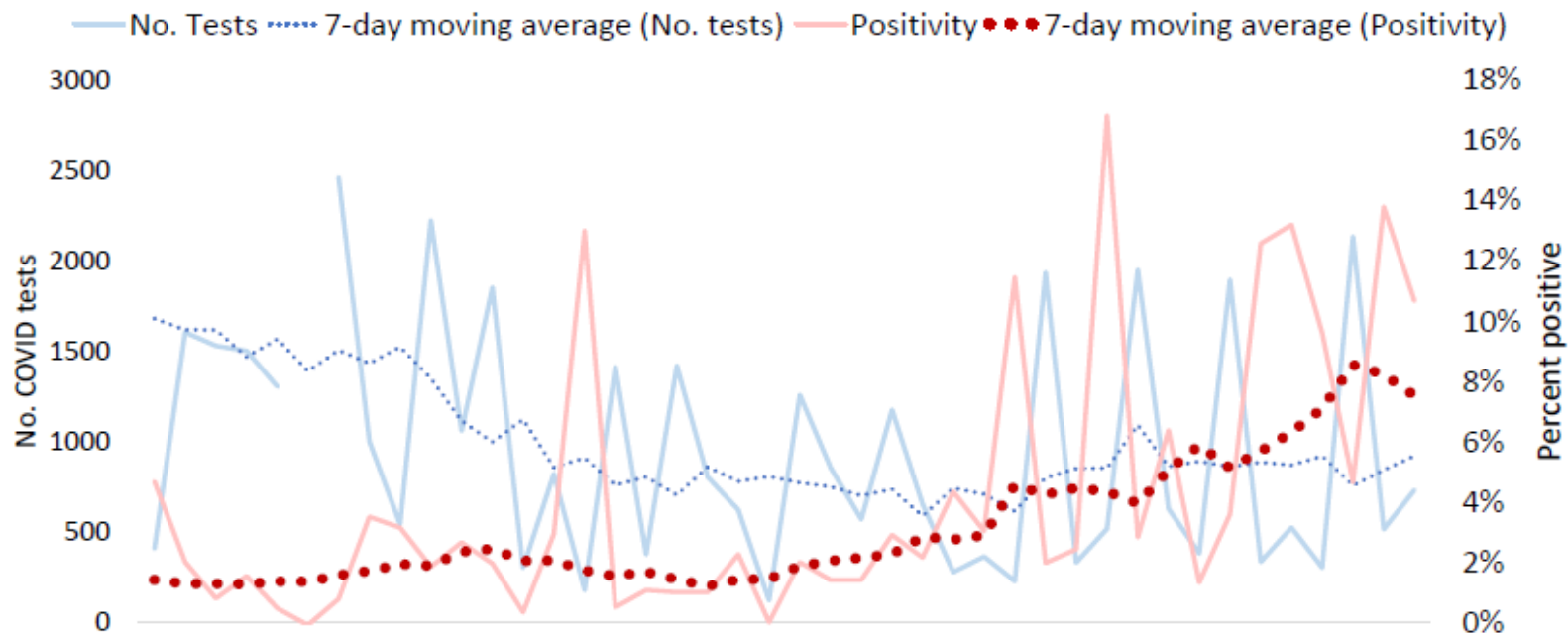


# COVID-19 Updates: 29/07/2020

- Cumulative cases **5249**
- Cumulative number of deaths **146**
  - COVID-19 associated deaths 98
  - COVID-19 deaths 40
  - 8 unclassified
- Total recoveries 1818 cumulatively

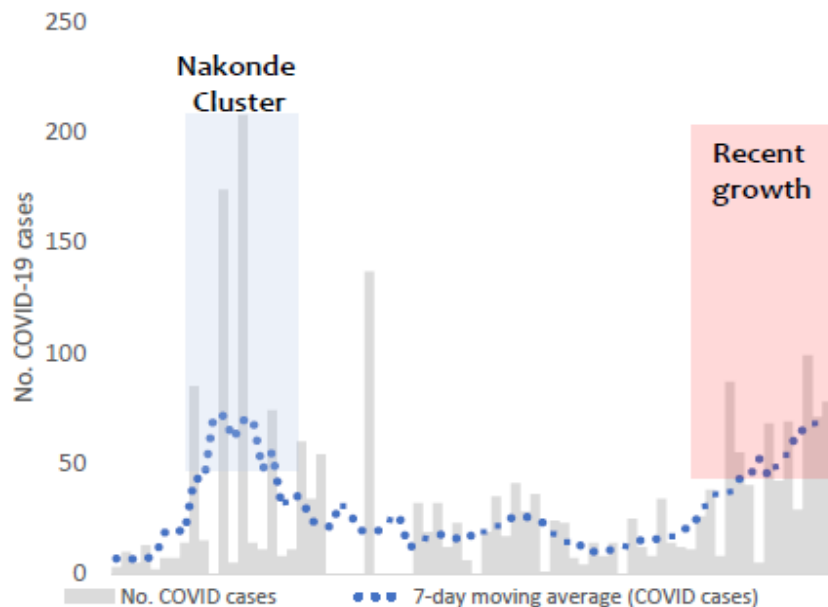


## Rising COVID-19 Test Positivity Rate is Indicative of Increasing Transmission in Zambia

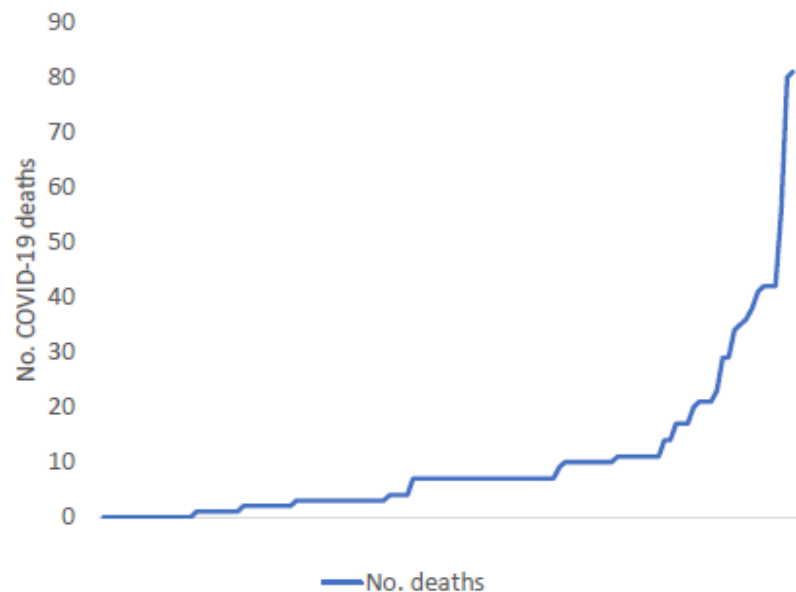


# Zambia may be Entering a Rapid Acceleration Phase

Recent COVID-19 cases are occurring throughout Zambia

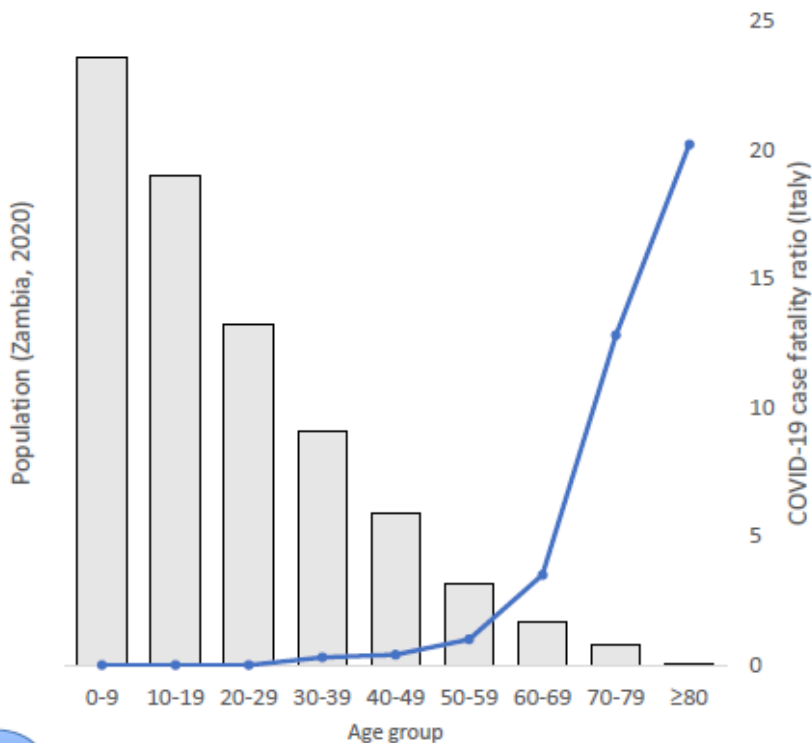


COVID-19 deaths are rapidly increasing in Zambia



# What Accounts for the Reported Lower COVID-19 Deaths in Zambia?

- **Population age distribution:** if the case fatality rates by age seen in other settings holds true in Zambia, there could be fewer fatalities
- 2.3% of Zambia population is 65 and above compared to 16% in the US and 23% in Italy
- Not all COVID deaths are recorded
  - Nearly 40% of deaths in Zambia are not registered at health facilities
  - Not all deaths with suspected COVID are tested



# Mitigation Measures – Community

- Enhance and maximize on having clear and consistent public messaging regarding risk of COVID-19 so each Zambian can play their part in protecting themselves and their loved ones
- Focus on getting every Zambian to participate on minimizing the impact of COVID-19, things like physical distancing, mask wearing, frequent hand washing, and staying home when they have respiratory symptoms
  - Need to enforce mandated mask wearing in public
  - Need to work with community/church leaders to get public buy-in for these measures
- We have to protect people at highest risk of COVID-19 death
  - Those 60 years and older
  - Those with diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and kidney disease



## Mitigation Measures – Community

- **Home deliveries:** Through peer-run groups or private delivery mechanisms that maximize social distancing and respect client's privacy
- **Community or private pharmacies:** Scheduled pick-up times to maximize social distancing
- **Pop-up pharmacy:** Provide additional infrastructure in remote areas outside hospital or clinic settings with pick-up windows that are configured to ensure social distancing





# Mitigation Measures – Facility



- Ensure **safety** of patients and providers
  - Provision of PPE
  - Physical distancing
  - Triage
- **Reduce risk of transmission** COVID-19
  - Minimizing contact with health facilities
  - Infection prevention control measures
- Promote multi-month scripting of medicines for at risk conditions
  - HIV care, Diabetes, Cardiovascular & lung diseases
- Spaced appointment scheduling
  - Appointment by day and time
  - Weekend and after-hours
- **Telehealth/mobile technologies**
  - To f/u clients on MMD
  - Virtual rounds done in COVID-19 isolation centres; Multi-Disciplinary Team of experts consulted on management of complicated cases while minimizing PPE use and risk of exposure of healthcare workers
  - Virtual training of healthcare workers
  - Transmission of various guidelines to all facilities countrywide in the shortest possible time

# Mitigation Measures – Facility



Supporting Last Mile distribution of commodities for scale-up of 6MMD



Setting up multiple triage points at ART sites





# Lessons Learnt

- COVID-19 Pandemic is on-going and Zambia is yet to peak as number cases & severity of disease increases exponentially
- We are now seeing VERY SICK patients and mortality has increased drastically
  - Based on predictions and earlier models
- The need to protect vulnerable groups has become crucial
  - Very young and the elderly
  - Those with underlying conditions (diabetes, hypertension, kidney diseases, etc.)
  - Immune compromised
- High density areas (compounds) will be more affected
- Healthcare worker safety is paramount, a number of healthcare workers are getting infected and we have lost a few so far.



# Thank You Questions!!



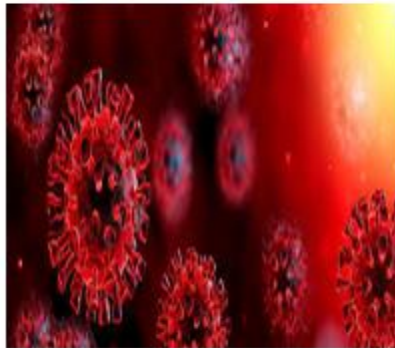
# **The Role of the African Field Epidemiology Network and Member Field Epidemiology Training Programs**

**Herbert Brian Kazoora MD | Ag Head of Programs  
African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)**

# Presentation Outline

1. Current COVID-19 Situation in Africa
2. About AFENET
3. AFENET Corp of Disease Detectives (ACoDD)
4. AFENET & COVID-19 response in Africa
5. Challenges
6. Acknowledgements

## Current COVID-19 Situation in Africa



- Cases = 871,970
- Deaths = 18,475
- Recoveries = 523,684
- CFR = 2.1%
- All 54 countries affected
- South Africa Most Affected
- Source:  
<https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>, Accessed 29/7/2020

# About AFENET

## About AFENET

- **AFENET**- African Field Epidemiology Network
- Non-profit networking and service alliance of FE(L)TPs in Africa
- Primary implementing partner to develop and sustain FE(L)TPs in sub-Saharan Africa for over 10 years
- Work with Ministries of Health and Agriculture, National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs)



### Vision

A healthier Africa



### Mission

Committed to ensuring effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority public health problems in Africa



### Objective

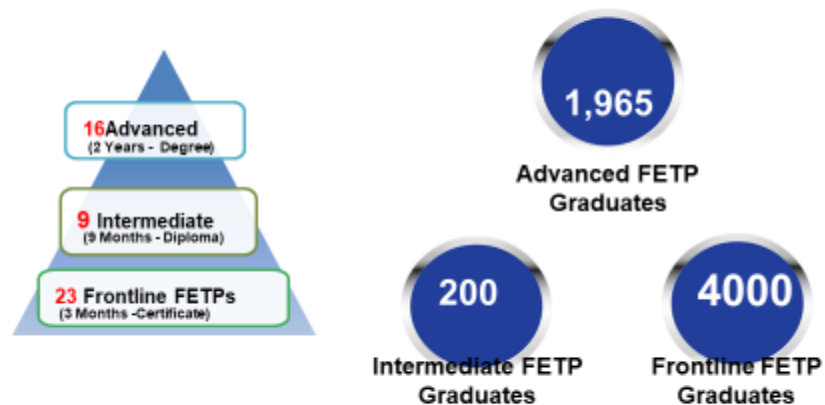
- To strengthen field epidemiology and public health laboratory capacity and, effectively contribute to addressing epidemics and other major public health problems in Africa

[www.afenet.net](http://www.afenet.net)







## Field Epidemiology Capacity Development






## AFENET's Strategic Priorities

**01**  Field Epidemiology  
Capacity Development

**02**  Public Health Laboratory  
Capacity Development

**03**  Public Health Disease  
Surveillance &  
Effective Response

**04**  Public Health Program  
Management & Research  
Development

**05**  Networking &  
Collaboration For Public  
Health Advancement

**06**  Documentation &  
Publication For  
Public Health

**07**  Promoting the 'One  
Health' Approach

## AFENET Corp of Disease Detectives (ACoDD)



- Established in 2018
- Is a civil voluntary professional service of culturally competent field epidemiologists
- Built on the One Health Approach
- Membership- Graduates and Residents of FE(L)TPs in Africa
  - Advanced FETP
  - Intermediate FETP
  - Frontline FETP

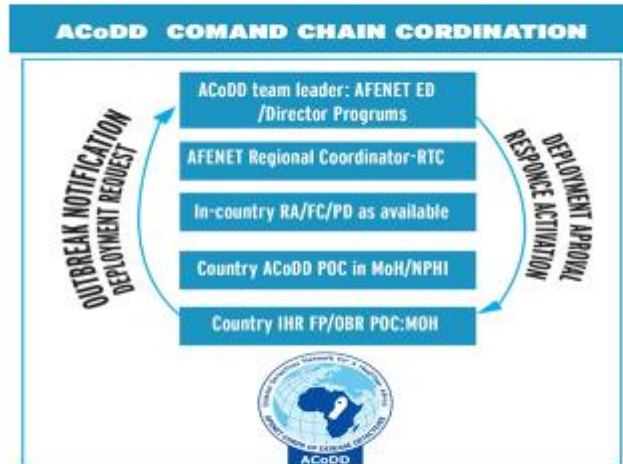
## Purpose of ACoDD

- Platform to rapidly mobilize and deploy field epidemiologists
- Provide prompt and effective response to disease outbreaks and public health emergencies
- Conduct field investigations and epidemiological studies to provide evidence for public health decision and policy
- Sustain local capacity for disease prevention, detection and response

## Where are the ACoDD members

- ACoDD members are spread across the AFENET member countries
- Over 85% work within the public and private health sectors within their countries

## ACoDD Deployment Mechanism



## AFENET & COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in Africa

## Preparedness Phase

AFENET Collaborated with Africa CDC to:

- Rapidly conduct regional trainings for health workers on :
  - Enhanced surveillance at points of entry – Kenya, Feb 2020
  - Event- based surveillance in Uganda, March 2020
  - COVID-19 laboratory diagnosis using PCR in Senegal, Feb 2020
  - Infection Prevention and Control training, Nigeria
  - Risk communication and Community Engagement, Tunisia
- Procure and distribute PPEs and Lab supplies
- Convene an emergency meeting of Ministers of Health - [Africa Taskforce for Coronavirus \(AFCOR\) established](#)

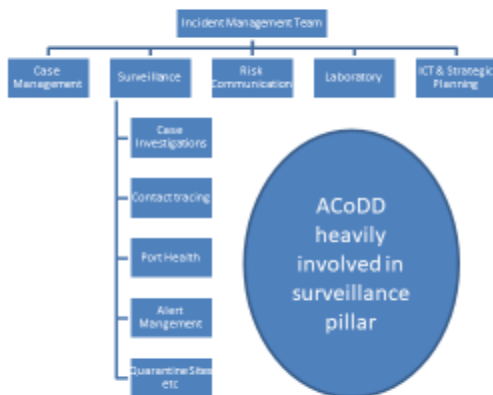
## Preparedness Phase....2

### Member FETPs supported Ministries to:

- Develop national prepared and response plans
- Develop/adapt surveillance protocols and tools ( forms/case definitions)
- Conduct point of entry surveillance – Screening travellers at Airports, ground crossing points
- Risk Communication and community engagements
- Investigate and respond to alerts and rumours
- Orient health workers on case detection, reporting and infection prevention and control
- Conduct risk assessments



## Response Phase



- ACoDD members mobilized and deployed to IMS for:
  - Screening travellers at points of entry
  - Case investigation & contact listing
  - Contact tracing and follow up
  - Alert management
  - Risk communication & Community engagement
  - Sample collection
- Supported Africa CDC to mobilize and deploy >200 FETP graduates through African Volunteer Health Corp ( AVOHC)



## AFENET Teams in the field



FETPs Respond to Disease Outbreaks across Africa



## Challenges

- High mobility of non-quarantined contacts especially in Urban Settings ( Before lockdowns)
- Limited laboratory capacity to rapidly test all contacts under follow up to inform timely discharge or isolation of contacts
- Shortage of personal protective equipment
- Prolonged stay in institutional quarantine sites by contacts for more than 14 days when one turns positive
- Limited funding to sustain deployment of contact tracers in the field

# Acknowledgements



*Thank you for your  
attention*

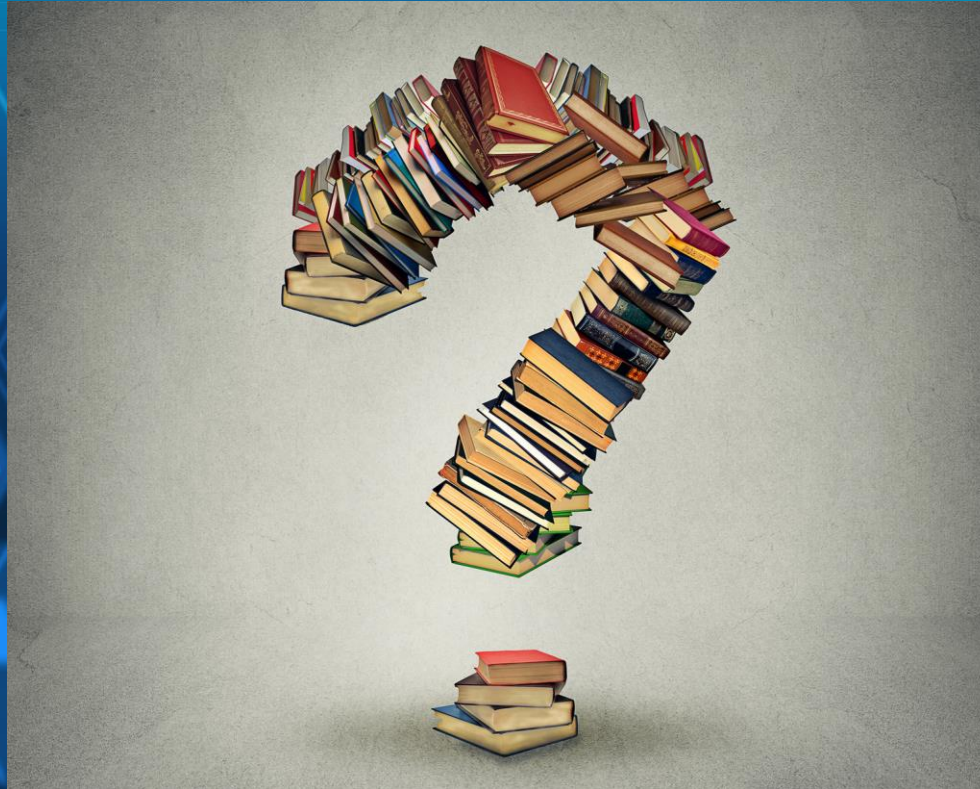




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## CLOSING REMARKS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Gilberte “Gigi” Bastien PhD  
Associate Director, MSM/OGHE