EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Data August 13, 2020

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

SITREP Nº 32 published on August 18, 2020

www.guineasalud.org
The figure shows that as of August 13, 2020, 49,215 PCR tests have been performed (46,840 not counting control tests) of which 4,892 have been confirmed as positive for COVID-19, with a positivity rate of 10.4%.

4,892 confirmed cases, 3,633 have been placed in isolation in hotels or hospitals; of them 2,713 recovered and 83 died (fatality rate 1.7) close to the average for the region and Africa. Isolated active cases (in hospitals or hotels) amounted to 699 and the total number of active cases (including asymptomatic isolated cases in homes) amounted to 1958. A total of 429 health personnel affected and 3 deaths.

The update of the COVID-19 situation in Equatorial Guinea will now take place between 24-48 hours on the new institutional website of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare: www.guineasalud.org
1. Laboratory data analysis
Distribution of positive cases by gender and by age groups

Graph 1: Confirmed cases by age group
Graph 2: Confirmed cases by age and gender

Graph 3: Tests by region
Graph 4: Confirmed cases by region
Graph 5: Confirmed cases by province

Graph 6: Confirmed cases by districts
Graph 7: Evolution of the proportion of positive cases per week
Graph 8: Comparison of tests carried out against confirmed positive cases

Graph 9: Comparison of tests performed / confirmed positive cases in the Insular Region
2. Analysis of isolation and hospitalized cases

Graph 10: Test compared with positive cases in the continental region

Graph 11: Evolution of the number of isolated or hospitalized cases
Graph 12: Distribution by sex

Graph 13: Distribution by state

Graph 14: Location of isolation / hospitalization
Graph 15: Distribution of isolated and hospitalized cases by age groups

Graph 16: Distribution of isolated and hospitalized cases by age groups and sex

Graph 17: Health worker affected by sex

Graph 18: Deaths by age group and sex

Graph 19: Evolution of the national number of deaths
Graph 20: Evolution of the number of deaths Insular Region

Graph 21: Evolution of the number of deaths Continental Region
1. Coordination, planning and monitoring

- Holding regular meetings of the Political Committee chaired by the Vice President of the Republic.
- Regular coordination meetings at the island region and continental region level.
- Activation of the second de-escalation phase through Decree No. 54/2020 dated August 4.
- Monitoring the measures of the second de-escalation phase.
- Continuation of the publication of data through the SitRep report and the joint MINSABS-WHO press conference.
- Ongoing development of the official website of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, with a special section on Covid-19 in Equatorial Guinea.
- Joint supervision by four Subcommittees (Surveillance, Laboratory, PCI, and Entry Points) in the District of Luba.
- Ongoing update of the National Response Plan to Covid-19 for the period between August and December 2020.
2. Risk communication / community participation and social mobilization

- Organization of the second press conference for the publication of epistemological data with the presence of national and international media.
- Usage of the 3 available spaces (2 television and 1 radio) for the wide dissemination of messages on the prevention measures of Covid-19, as well as intermittent participation in television spaces such as “El Balcón de Domingo”, “Matinales” and “A Fondo”.
- TV participation of the members of the RCCE Committee (RTV-GE, Asonga).
- Continuation of the execution of the monthly work plan of the Subcommittee.
- Continuation of awareness-raising at the community level and the town councils of the Luba district.
- Preparation of the draft resource mobilization plan.
- Ongoing review of the communication strategy for its alignment with phase 2 de-escalation in Equatorial Guinea.

3. Surveillance, rapid response team and investigation

- Preparation of the periodic work-plan (monthly and weekly).
- Daily supervision of the mass test posts in the island region.
- Tracking of direct contacts of positive cases for 14 days by health zones (5970 accumulated direct contacts have been systematically monitored; 125 are still active, of which 112 (90%) were followed the day before this report was written).
- Supervision to reinforce epidemiological surveillance at the Luba entry point.
4. Entry points

- Strengthening of the external health team with the implementation of triage at airports, ports, and land borders.

- Implementation and monitoring of isolation units for passengers with febrile and respiratory symptoms.

- Commissioning of the mobile equipment for taking samples of Covid-19 and controlling passengers at the Malabo airport.

- Designation of the Buena Esperanza health center as a fixed point for taking samples from travelers abroad.

- Between June 25 and August 13, 2020, a total of 1,167 passengers arrived, of which 887 (79%) had a negative PCR certificate. The remaining 280 underwent an immediate test upon arrival and went into quarantine, of which 12 (4%) tested positive for Covid-19.

Regarding more specifically the period from July 29 to August 14, 2020, of the 626 passengers who arrived on 7 international flights, 495 had a valid PCR test while 131 (or 21% of the passengers) did not. They had to be examined on the spot and quarantined pending the result of their PCR test.

Table 1. Points of entry - Malabo International Airport (passengers arrived)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fecha</th>
<th>Vuelos</th>
<th>Ciudad de origen</th>
<th>País de origen</th>
<th>Pasajeros llegados</th>
<th>Pasajeros con PCR válido</th>
<th>Pasajeros sin PCR válido</th>
<th>Porcentaje sin PCR válido</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30/07/20</td>
<td>Air France</td>
<td>París</td>
<td>Francia</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/08/20</td>
<td>Ethiopian Airlines</td>
<td>Addis Abeba</td>
<td>Etiopía</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/08/20</td>
<td>Air France</td>
<td>París</td>
<td>Francia</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/08/20</td>
<td>Cronos</td>
<td>Douala</td>
<td>Camerún</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/08/20</td>
<td>Ethiopian Airlines</td>
<td>Addis Abeba</td>
<td>Etiopía</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/08/20</td>
<td>Cronos</td>
<td>Cotonou</td>
<td>Benín</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/08/20</td>
<td>Lufthansa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>626</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Laboratory

- Effective decentralization of the laboratory service with the start of testing at the Mongomo laboratory.
- Easy access to the Covid-19 detection test and increased daily test processing capacity with the addition of the new automated Eppendorf machine.
- Continuation of regular supervision of the 20 Covid-19 sampling points.
- Implementation of a checklist to improve the coordination between Surveillance, Essential Services and the Laboratory.
- Use of pool sampling technique as needed to increase capacity, speed and optimize testing time, while reducing costs.
- Regular acquisition of laboratory material by the Government.
- Strengthening of the waste management capacity at the sampling points with the acquisition of waste containers with covers to mitigate the risks of infection and protect the environment.
6. Infection Control and Prevention (PCI)

- Delivery of manuals for control and prevention.
- Harmonization of the new PCI tools (to standardize the PCI standards nationwide).
- Preparation of the operational plan for PCI activities until December 2020.
- PCI evaluative supervision of foreign health personnel at the international airport and the international port of Malabo (to ensure compliance with PCI recommendations and standards).
- Evaluative supervision at the mass testing points located in Ela Nguema, Buena Esperanza health center (CS) and the Federations hotel (to guarantee compliance with PCI recommendations at all mass testing points).
- Rapid evaluative supervision of 8 health establishments with the new Scorecard tool (CS Madre Bisila, Malabo Regional Hospital, Guadalupe Clinic, CS Campo Yaoundé, CS Buena Esperanza, Sampaka Hospital, Luba District Hospital, Covid Treatment Center -19 Polyclinic Dr. Loeri Comba).

Graph no 26: Comparative evolution of PCI indicators in two consecutive supervisions in 8 health establishments in Malabo
7. Case management

- Beginning of the preparation of the subcommission's operational plan for the period from July to December 2020, framed in the National Response Plan.
- Supervision and evaluation of 2 establishments dedicated to the management of Covid-19 cases (Hotel Federaciones and the Loeri Comba Polyclinic).
- Active search for positive cases lost during follow-up. To date, 766 cases have been located.
- Completion of the Procedures Guide of the Isolation Center of the Malabo Sports Center, for the management of asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 in said facility.
- Updating of the case management protocol and inclusion of the drug Remdesivir.
- Currently, the country has 44 respirators (22 in Malabo and 22 in Bata) distributed in 9 establishments (5 establishments in Malabo and 4 in Bata); 14 oxygen concentrators (7 in Malabo and 7 in Bata); 8 treatment centers (4 in Malabo and 4 in Bata); and 7 isolation centers (4 in Malabo and 3 in Bata).
- In terms of specialized technicians, the country also has 5 rescuers (3 in Malabo and 2 in Bata).
- The classification of confirmed hospitalized cases by level of severity in Malabo, as of August 12, 2020, is 9 mild-moderate cases, 3 severe cases and 4 critical cases.
8. Logistics

- Equipment of the isolation centers located in the Malabo and Bata sports centers, with a capacity of 216 beds.
- Distribution of laboratory material, medicines and consumables to the different service provision points.
- Guaranteed transport of Covid-19 samples from the continental region to the reference laboratory in the island region.
- Acquisition of 108 beds for the isolation center of the Malabo Sports Center.
- Acquisition of 7000 units of disinfectant gel for use in hospitals and isolation centers.
- Acquisition of 18 oxygen generators for distribution in district hospitals nationwide.

9. Maintenance of essential services

- Guaranteed continuity of surveillance activities for other diseases.
- Continuity of the activities of the Malaria Control Project.
- Continuity of reproductive health activities.
- Strengthening of operations for epidemiological surveillance and for vaccination activities in the field.
- Supervision at the island regional level for advocacy and guidance of vaccination activities in the context of Covid-19.
- Continuity of sending samples of suspected cases of the diseases that are the object of the Expanded Vaccination Program to the reference laboratory in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- Launching of epidemiological investigation missions of TNN and AFP cases reported in the continental part.
- Preparación del plan nacional para la introducción de VAR2 y Penta4 en el PAV de Guinea Ecuatorial y el plan nacional de campaña contra la viruela.
- Completar el entrenamiento de técnicos de laboratorio en técnicas de diagnóstico de VIH y tuberculosis.
- Evaluación del stock de medicamentos (anti-retrovirales y antituberculosos), pruebas de diagnóstico y consumibles de laboratorio, y expedición de solicitudes de compra aceleradas para cubrir las necesidades durante el periodo de pandemia.
- En coordinación con el Servicio Nacional de Laboratorio, aprobación de un proyecto diseñado para (I) reducir de manera segura el número de visitas de personas con VIH / SIDA y tuberculosis y, por lo tanto, su exposición a Covid-19 en entornos de salud, (II) seleccionar de manera segura a los pacientes que recibirán antirretrovirales por más de 3 meses y (III) evitar la necesidad de remitir a los pacientes a hospitales regionales. El proyecto se basa en el uso de nuevos tests rápidos en todos los servicios de VIH / SIDA y de tuberculosis en el país y en la descentralización del sistema GeneXpert, que permite el diagnóstico de tuberculosis en un solo visit y el reconocimiento de cepas de tuberculosis multidrogaresistentes en todas las provincias.
- Aprobación del entrenamiento en cada provincia asociado con el proyecto anterior.
- Con la asistencia técnica de UNICEF y OMS, aprobación y primeros pasos de un proyecto para el diagnóstico temprano de VIH en lactantes de madres seropositivas mediante el检测 viral load.
- Después de un análisis de las pérdidas de seguimiento del Programa Nacional de Lucha contra la Tuberculosis, diseño de un proyecto para su recuperación, que trabajará en conjunto con la trazabilidad de contactos y la búsqueda activa de nuevos casos de VIH y tuberculosis en las comunidades.
1. Strong political will of the Government to stop the pandemic, expressed through the mobilization of human, material and financial resources necessary for the response.

2. Support from WHO / AFRO with the presence of an Incident Manager and 4 international consultants and 13 national consultants, as well as other development partners in the fight against Covid-19.

3. Availability of a local laboratory for the analysis of samples from suspected Covid-19 cases.

4. Express will on the part of private companies and NGOs to support the Government in organizing the response to Covid-19.

5. Strengthening of capacity to handle Covid-19 cases.

6. Adherence of the population to the norms established by the Government to stop the contagion of Covid-19 at the community level.

7. Commitment by the personnel that makes possible the operation of the Technical Committee for Surveillance and Response to Covid-19, which amounts to more than 1,300 people, 760 in the island region and 540 in the continental region. This staff is made up of:

- Health workers (doctors, nurses, laboratory and pharmacy technicians, health assistants).
- Frontline workers and volunteers.
- National Security Workers.
- Staffs from the Ministry of the Interior and Local Corporations.
- Church volunteers.
- Civil Society (Red Cross and other NGOs involved in health promotion).
• Maintenance of the downward trend of the epidemiological curve after the transition to the second de-escalation phase.
• Reinforcement and consolidation of prevention measures guaranteeing the availability of resources.
• Maintenance of the operational capacity of the laboratories for Covid-19 in both regions.
• Availability of PPE and consumables in health establishments.
• Availability of data management tools in isolation centers (adapted hospitals and hotels), quarantine and laboratory.
• Reinforcement of the follow-up of positive cases at home.
• Reinforcement of community-based surveillance.
• Multisector participation in national response efforts.
• Maintenance of international technical assistance.
• Strengthening the access and demand for essential health services by the population.
• Reduction to the lowest possible level of contamination of health personnel.
CONTACT

DR MANUEL NGUEMA NTUTUMU, Director General of Public Health
DN JOSE OSA OSA NFUMU, National Director of the Health Information System
DN ALAIN POY, Incident Manager Covid-19, WHO