



**ESAR RCCE TWG**

**Special Meeting on Monkeypox**

**August 10, 2022**

# RCCE TWG Agenda

## August 10, 2022



1. Welcome
2. Monkeypox Epidemiological Overview
3. Monkeypox Infodemic Update
4. Partner Updates
5. Partner Comments, Questions and Action Points
6. TWG Updates and Tools

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# Situation Updates

- **WHO Epidemiological Update**
- AIRA Infodemic Update

# **MONKEYPOX ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

**RCCE TWG 10 August 2022**

**Dr Chol Thabo Yur – Health Emergency Officer  
EPR Nairobi Hub**

# Monkeypox

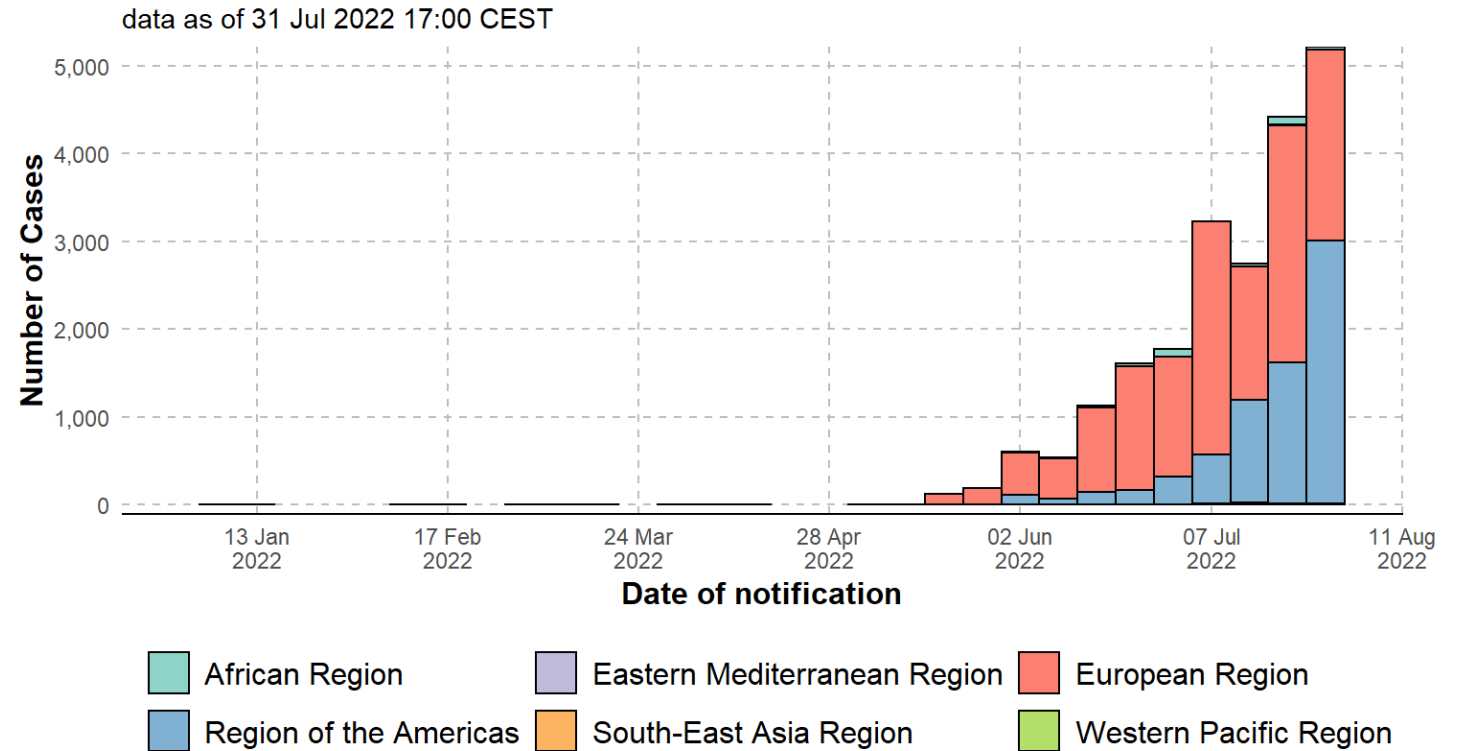


- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease
- Caused by a double-stranded DNA virus (Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family)
- *Orthopoxvirus* genus includes variola virus (smallpox), vaccinia virus (smallpox vaccine), and cowpox virus.
- First human case was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- 9+ African countries previously confirmed monkeypox cases.
- Reservoir unknown
- Two clades: West African and Central African clades – only Cameroon has both
- First discovered in monkeys in 1958.

# Global Epidemiological Situation

## Confirmed cases by date of notification

- Since 1 Jan 2022, cases reported to WHO from **83 Member States / territories** across all **6 WHO regions**
- As of 26 July 2022, at 17h CEST, a total of **23 351 laboratory confirmed cases (and 122 probable)**, including **8 deaths**, have been reported to WHO



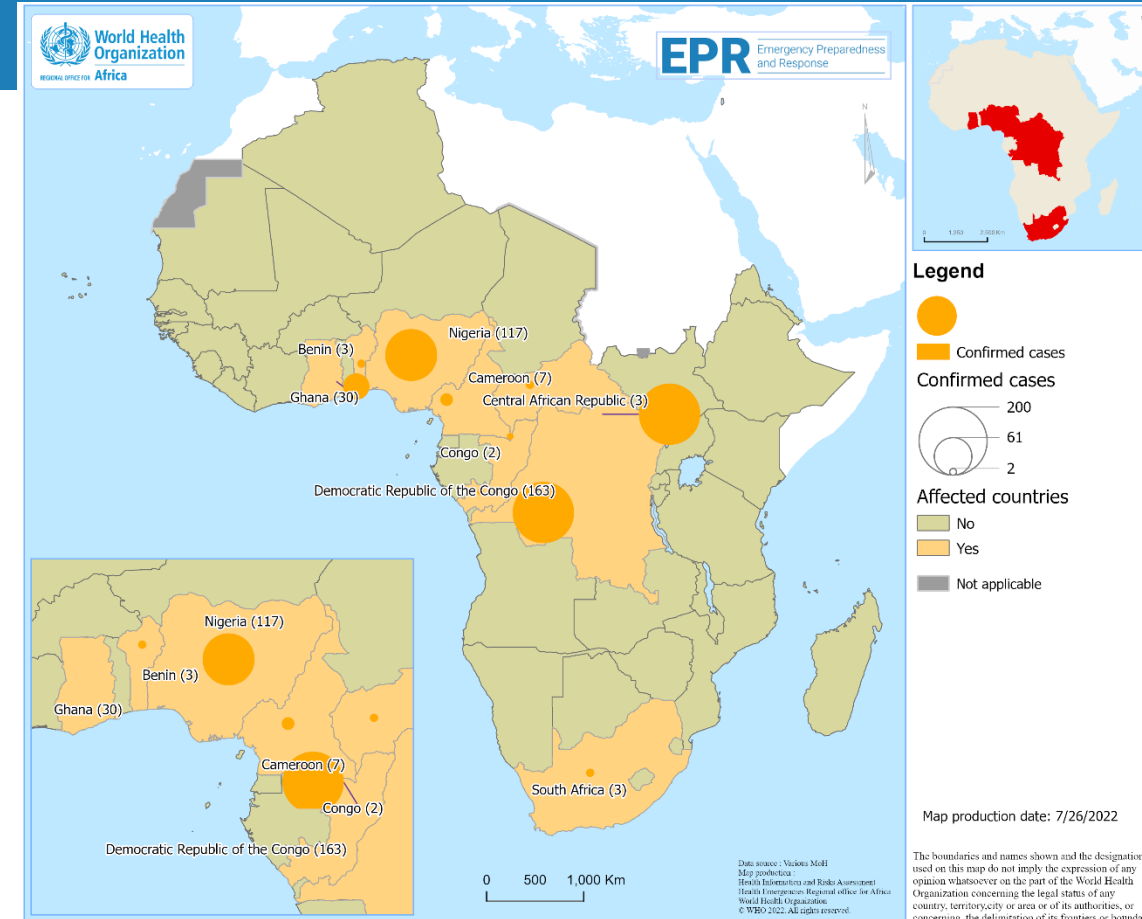
Source: WHO



# Monkeypox Situation In WHO/AFR (Jan-July 2022)

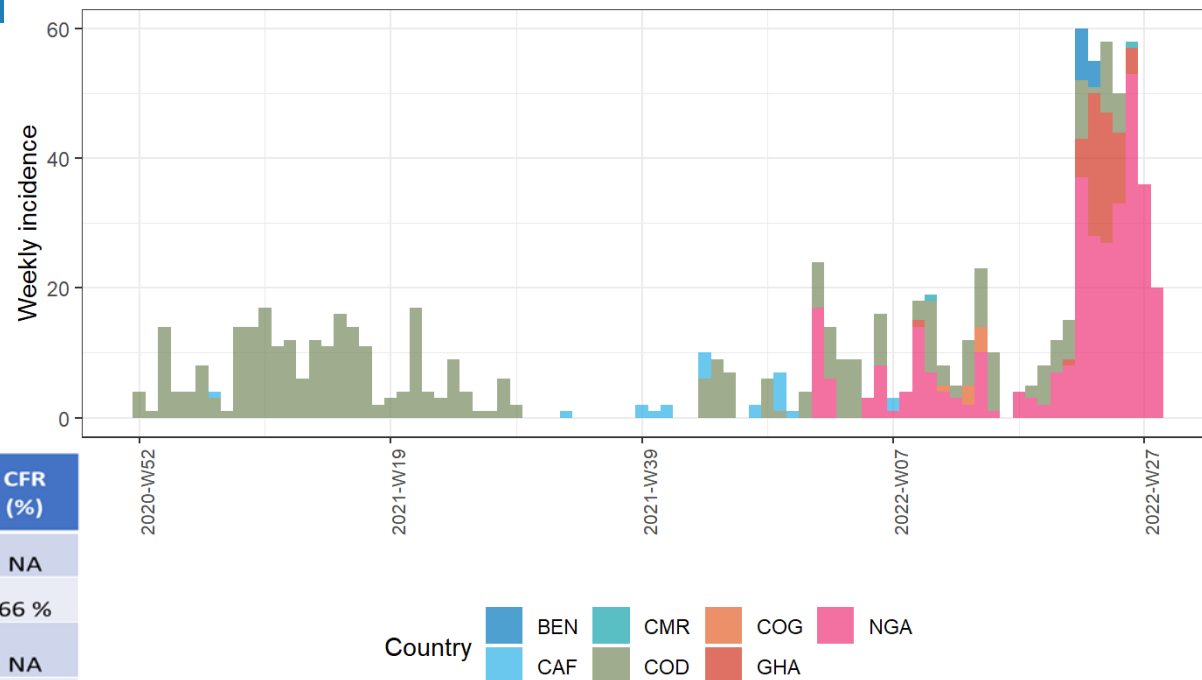
Country	Confirmed cases	Confirmed /probable deaths	CFR (%)
Cameroon	7	0	NA
CAR	3	2	66 %
Republic of Congo	2	0	NA
DRC	163	0	NA
Nigeria	117	3	2.5 %
Ghana	34	0	NA
Benin	3	0	NA
South Africa	3	0	NA
Liberia	1	0	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.5 %</b>

Country	Confirmed	Total cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
Cameroon	7	33	0	0%
CAR	3	5	2	40%
Republic of Congo	2	8	0	0%
DRC	163	1973	0	0%
Liberia	1	1	0	NA
Nigeria	117	338	3	1%
Ghana	34	220	0	NA
Benin	3	6	0	NA
Mozambique	0	2	0	NA
South Africa	3	3	0	NA
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2%</b>



# Evolution of confirmed Monkeypox cases over time

Weekly Epi-curve: Suspected and Confirmed Cases



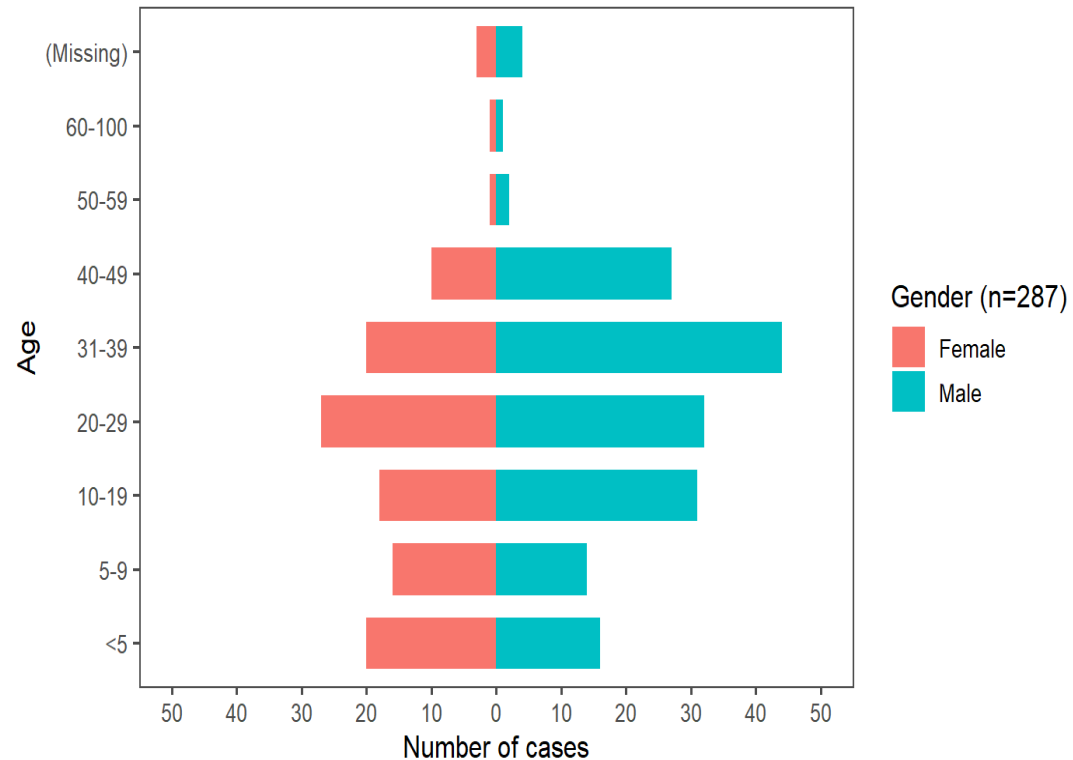
- Increasing trend in number of new confirmed cases starting from April 2022.
- increase driven by DRC, Ghana and Nigeria
- Nigeria and DRC have reported 87% (n=264) of all confirmed cases
- Reinforced monkeypox surveillance and laboratory capacity may explain the increase

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<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.5 %</b>

\*\*\* Four countries submitted linelists (Ghana, DRC, CAR, Nigeria and Congo). Data for Benin extracted from the laboratory report.

# Analysis of age and gender

Age Pyramid - Confirmed Cases Only

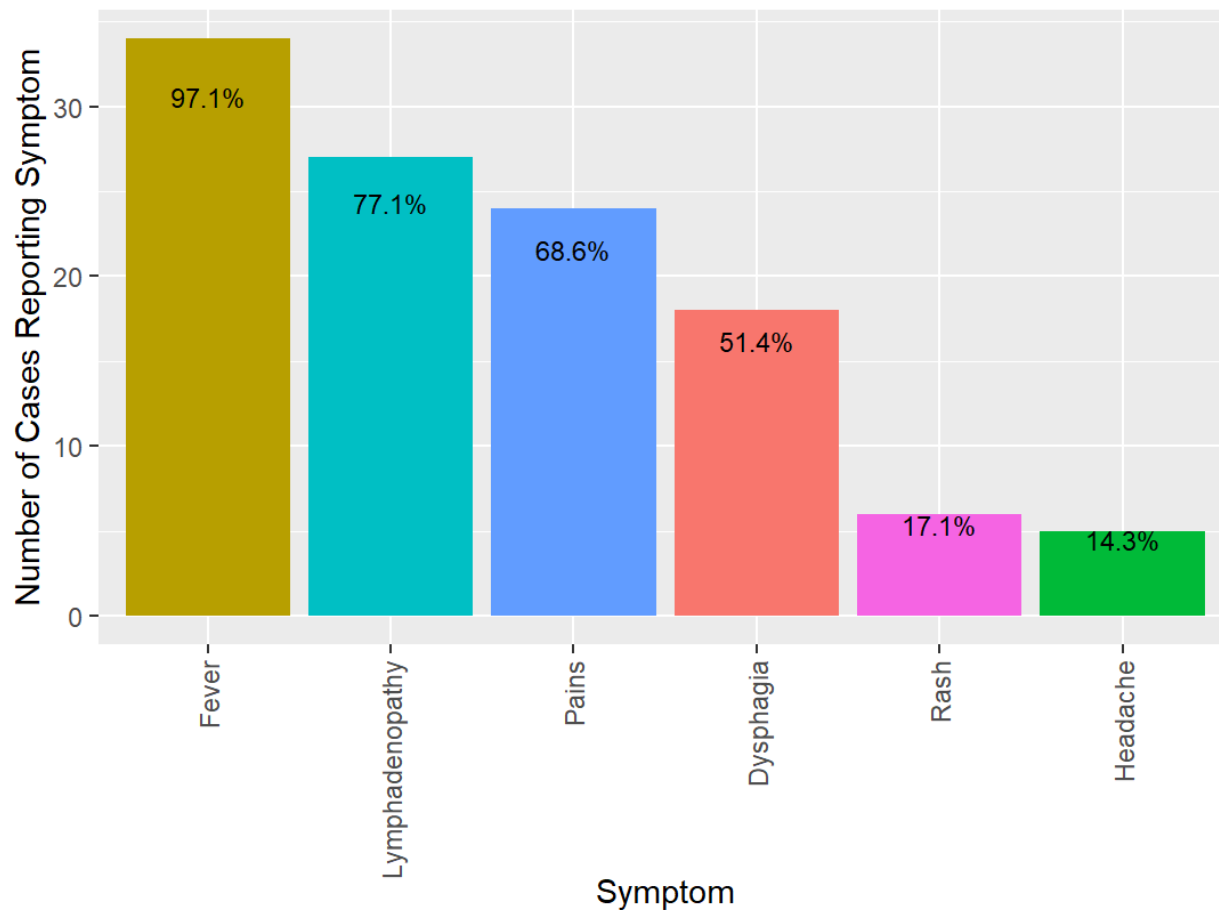


- 60 % of confirmed monkeypox cases are males
- Most of the confirmed cases are under the age of 39 years
- Median age of reported cases is 20 years (interquartile range: 9-32).

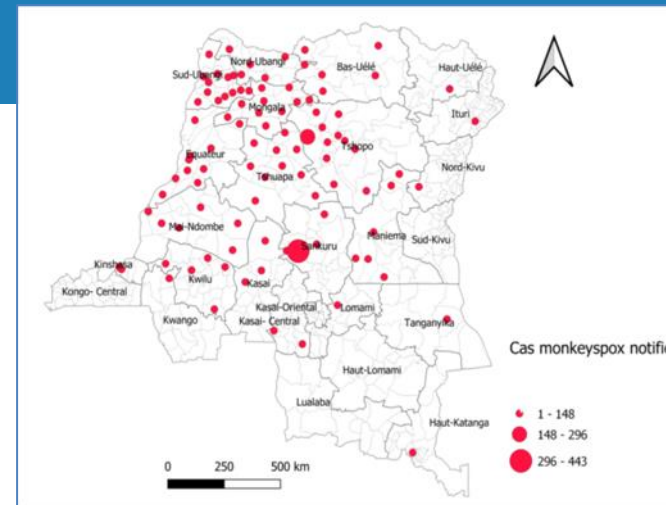
\*\*\*\*Data on gender and age are available for 86% of monkeypox cases (287 over 333) reported

# Clinical presentation of confirmed monkeypox cases

Incidence of Symptoms: Confirmed Cases Only



- Symptoms
- Dysphagia
  - Fever
  - Headache
  - Lymphadenopathy
  - Pains
  - Rash

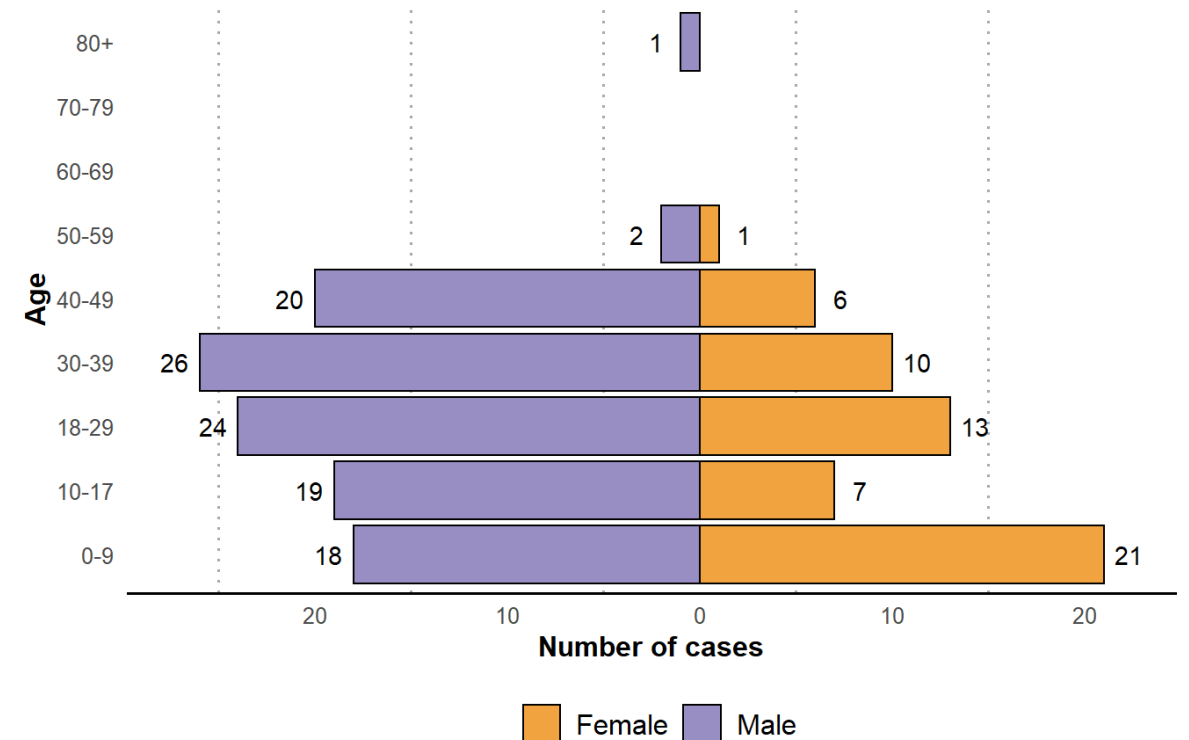
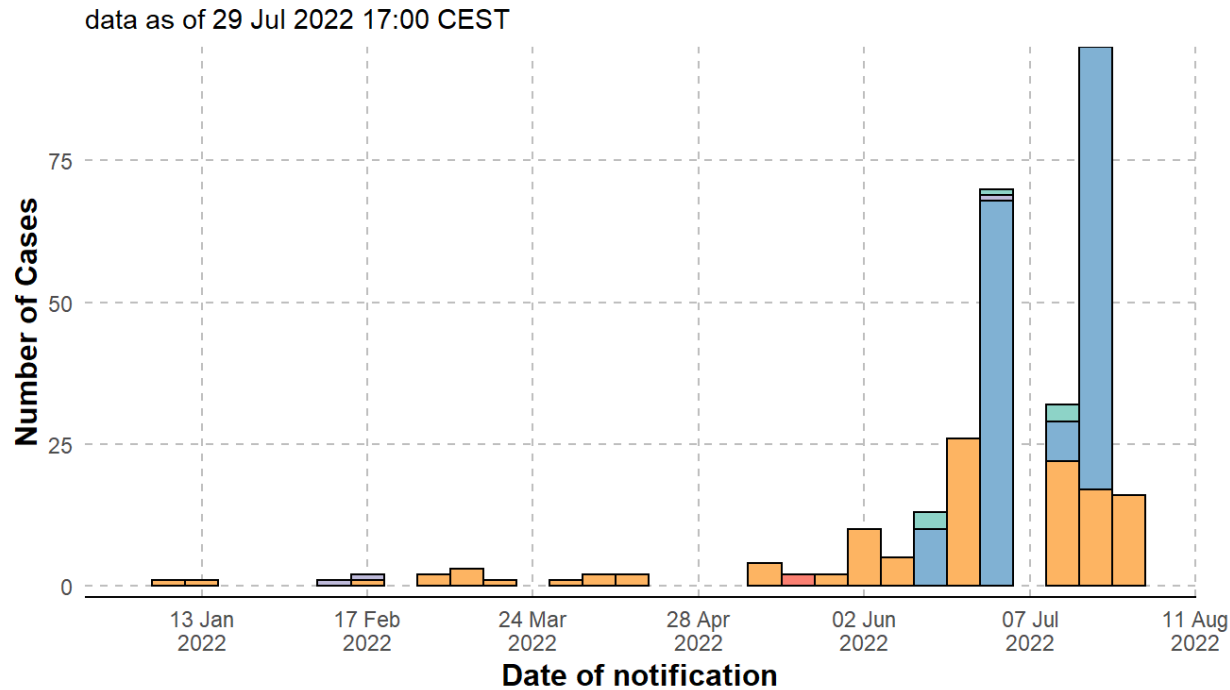


# In focus: West and Central Africa

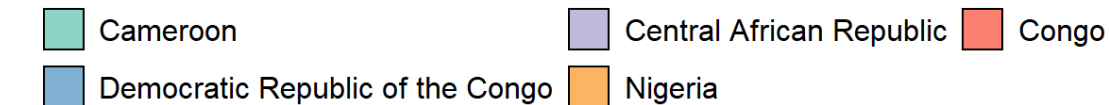
([https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/))

- In 2022, as of 01 Aug 2022, there have been 309 confirmed cases of monkeypox reported in these countries and 5 deaths. These represent 1% and 62% of global cases and deaths respectively. In addition, 173 (56% of all cases) detailed cases have been reported to WHO.
- Of those cases with detailed data:
  - 110 male cases (64.3%) and 61 female cases (35.7%) have been reported
  - The median age is 25 (IQR: 11 - 35).
  - Of the 168 cases where age was available, there were 65 (38.7% of total) cases reported aged 0-17, out of which 21 (12.5% of total) were aged 0-4.
  - There are currently no detailed cases for which transmission or exposure setting detail is available

# In focus: West and Central Africa

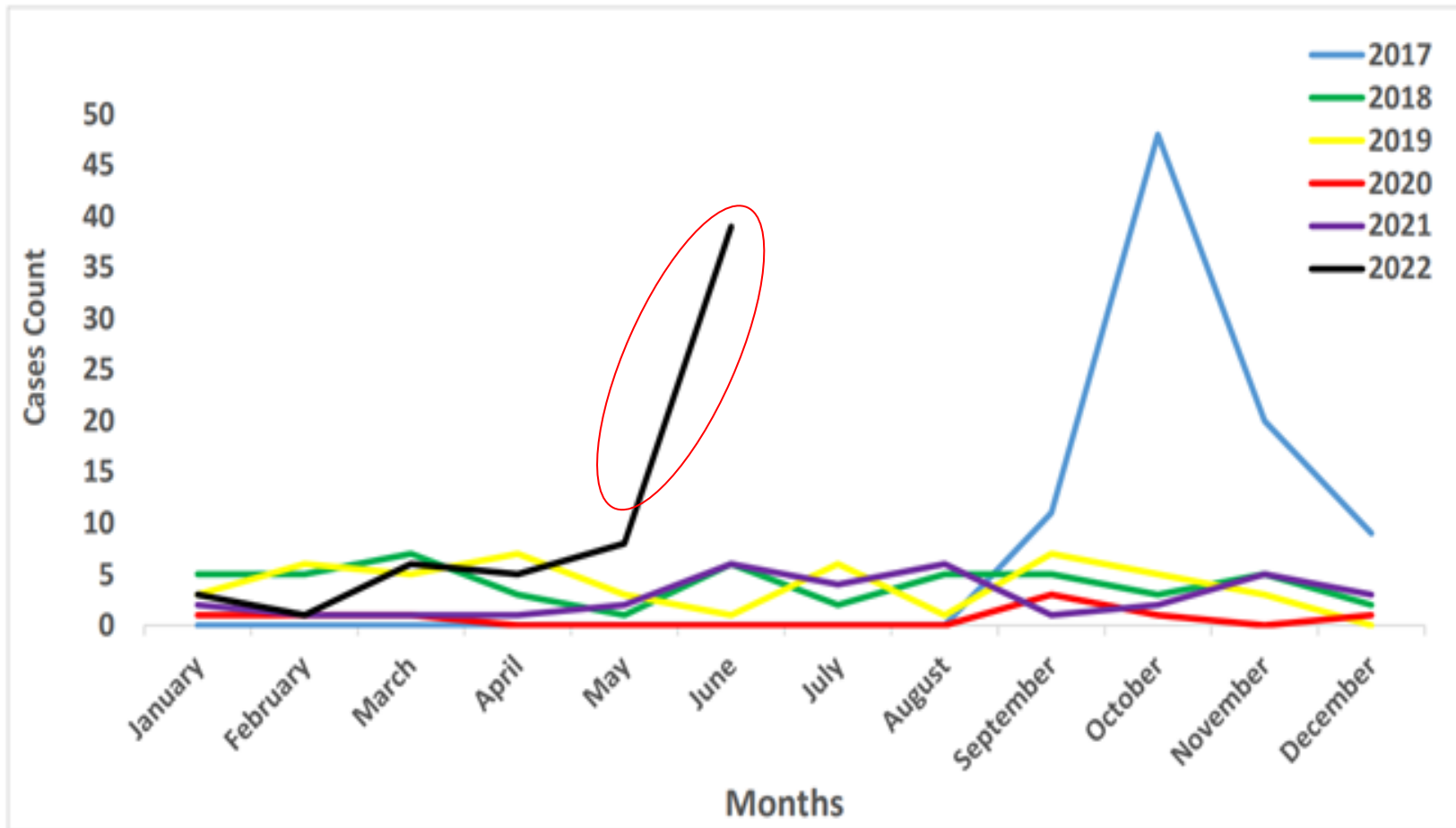


Source: WHO  
168 cases with age-sex data



Source: WHO

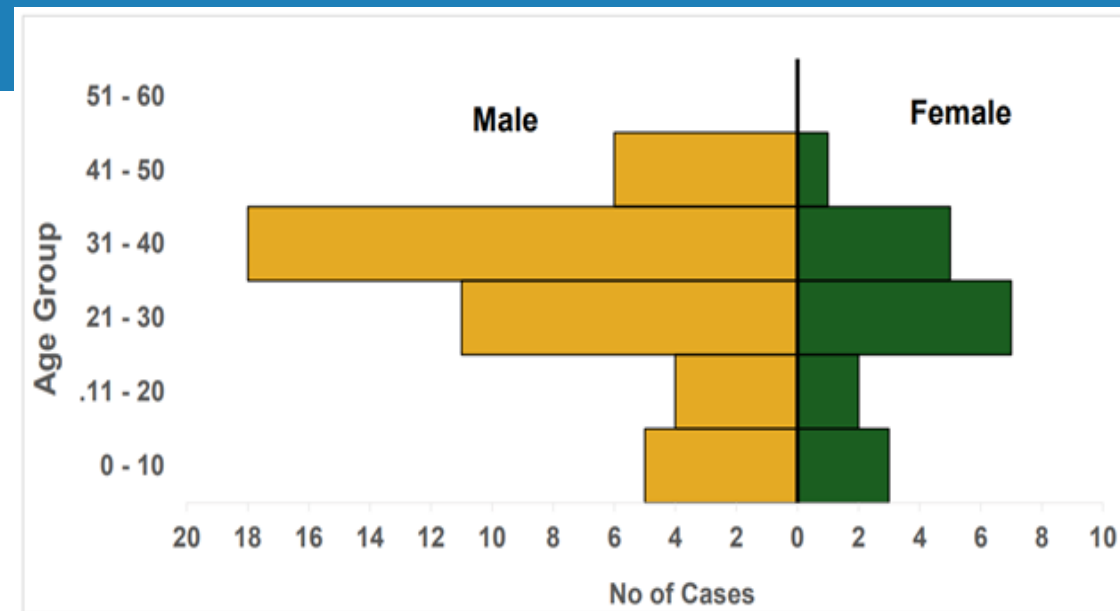
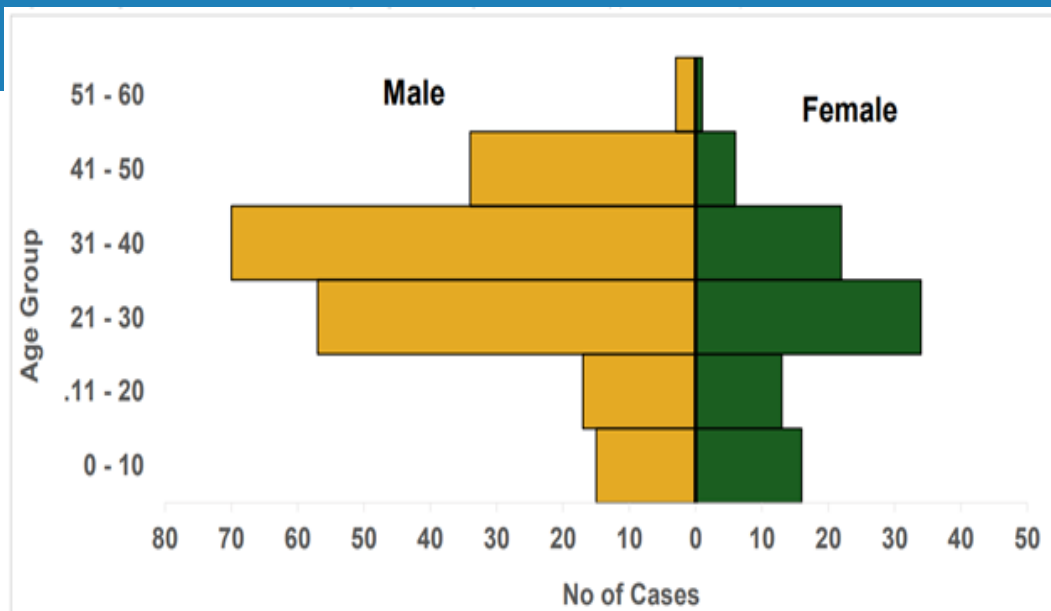
# Monkeypox situation in Nigeria



- One of the re-emerging diseases in Nigeria
- First human in 1970, Two cases in 1978
- Re-emergence of the disease in 2017
  - Cases occur in central and west Africa in proximity to tropical rain forest
- The uptick in Monkeypox cases starts in May 2022.
- We have now surpassed the peak number of cases seen in 2017 when MPX re-emerged.
- Ongoing efforts to strengthen surveillance increased awareness from global news headlines, and investments in RCCE may explain partially the increase.
- Confirmed cases:101
- Deaths:3
- All cases are **West African strain**

Source: NCDC situation report

# Age-sex distribution of confirmed Monkeypox cases in Nigeria, 2017 – 2022



Age and sex distribution of confirmed monkeypox cases from 1 st January to 26th June 2022

Age and sex distribution of confirmed monkeypox cases September 2017 – 26th June 2022

The uptick in Monkeypox cases starts in May 2022.

We have now surpassed the peak number of cases seen in 2017 when MPX re-emerged.

Ongoing efforts to strengthen surveillance increased awareness from global news headlines, and investments in RCCE may explain partially the increase.

Source: Nigeria CDC situation report



# OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

- Weak MPX preparedness and response capacity
- Insufficient epidemiological investigation
- Weak laboratory capacity for confirmation of cases
- Very limited capacity in case management
- Low compliance to IPC in health facilities
- Limited access to affected areas
- Vaccination: strategy in process to vaccinate the affected populations?
- RCCE: to be adapted to the local context

# CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- High level advocacy
- Webinar and trainings (Integrated Diseases Surveillance & Response)
- Technical guidelines and support
- Support to improve surveillance and laboratory capacity including sequencing, IPC, case management, RCCE etc. in affected countries
- Strengthen readiness/preparedness in other countries

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# Situation Updates

- WHO Epidemiological Update
- **AIRA Infodemic Update**



**Africa Infodemic  
Response Alliance**

A WHO-HOSTED NETWORK



**VIRAL  
FACTS  
AFRICA**

# Monkeypox Narratives in African Information Environs

August 10, 2022

Please direct questions relating to this presentation to Rhys O'Neill, [oneillr@who.int](mailto:oneillr@who.int) or Sergio Cecchini, [cecchinis@who.int](mailto:cecchinis@who.int)

# Joint Partnership



**Africa Infodemic Response Alliance**

A WHO-HOSTED NETWORK

**Collective service** | Risk Communication and Community Engagement



**World Health Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

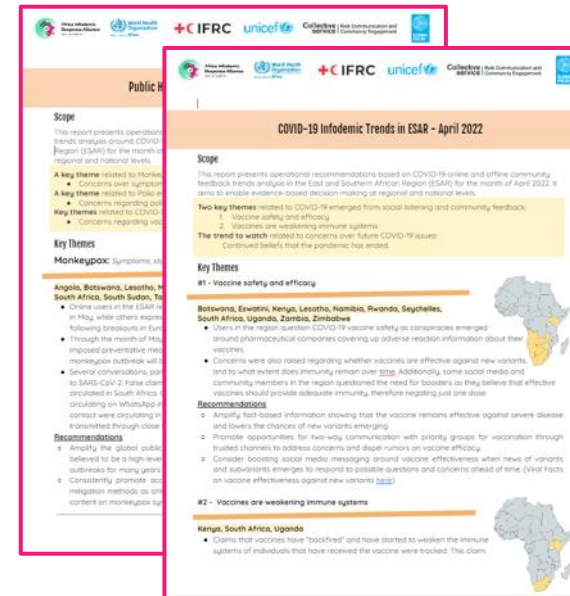
**+C IFRC**

**unicef**



## Monthly-multi organizational Social Analysis Comparisons

- Outputs include operational recommendations based on online and offline community feedback trends analysis around COVID-19 and other key public health issues in the East and Southern African Region (ESAR).



**Africa Infodemic Response Alliance**  
A WHO-HOSTED NETWORK

# Initial Findings (May 2022)



## Curiosity and Fear of Stigmatization

- Online users in the ESAR region showed curiosity regarding monkeypox symptoms in May, while others expressed fears regarding the stigmatization of African countries following breakouts in Europe and the USA.

## Concerns for New Lockdowns and Quarantine Practices

- Through the month of May, African social media users also expressed concern for newly imposed preventative measures in the form of lockdowns and travel restrictions, and the recent monkeypox outbreak will be used as a method to keep COVID-19 pandemic measures in effect.

## Early Conversations Claiming Monkeypox is Caused by COVID-19

- Several conversations, particularly regarding spread and prevention measures, compared the virus to SARS-CoV-2. False claims that the monkeypox outbreak is caused by COVID-19 vaccines circulated in South Africa. Claims that the virus is spreading by contact with LGBTQ+ people were circulating on WhatsApp in Kenya. Articles claiming that the virus spreads primarily via sexual contact were circulating in Uganda and Kenya. Several posts on social media clarified the disease is transmitted through close contact.



# Development of Narrative



## Monkeypox is not a real outbreak

- Some online users in the ESAR region pushed the claim that Monkeypox is not spreading across the globe. Some users have stated that there are no cases in Africa and the alleged monkeypox outbreak is serving as a new way to discriminate and stigmatize African countries.

## Home remedies for Treatment and Prevention

- However, interest in the monkeypox virus rose in the region following the detection of cases in South Africa. A large part of the content tracked focused on remedies, diagnosis, and spread in the region.

## Comparisons to COVID-19 Outbreak/Monkeypox Side Effect of Vaccine

- Others have compared the outbreak to the COVID-19 pandemic and are encouraging Africans not to buy into the claims of a new disease outbreak. There were also claims that monkeypox was a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- False claim that Kenya will start seeing monkeypox infections after it has been selected as a clinical trial site for the development of a monkeypox vaccine generated high engagement on social media.



# Viral Facts Africa materials



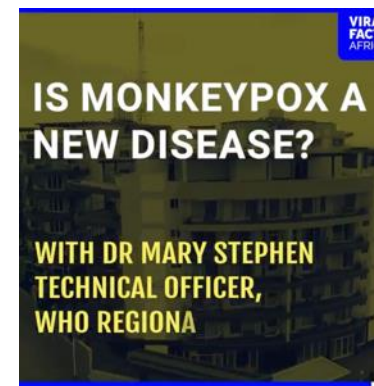
Debunk



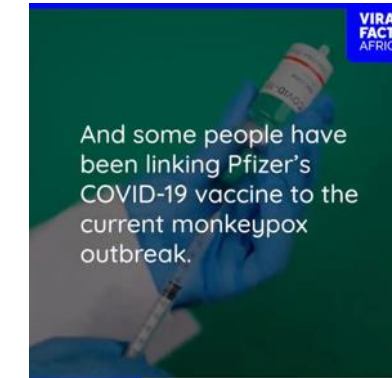
Explainer



Expert Intw



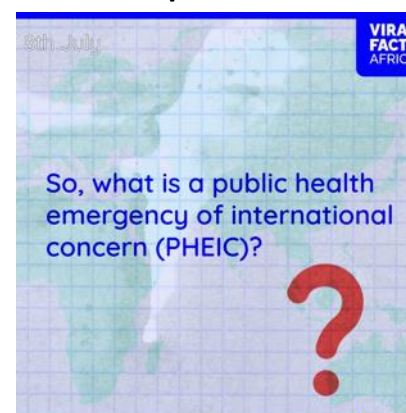
Debunk/Expl



Explainer



Explainer



Explainer History Mkpox



# Viral Facts Africa

## Original files



	<u>Code</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Link to EN content</u>	<u>Link to FR content</u>
1.	VFA 131	Explainer	Monkeypox	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
2.	VFA 135	Debunk	Covid vaccines causing monkeypox	<a href="#">English</a>	None
3.	VFA 136	Explainer	History of monkeypox	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
4.	VFA 142	Q&A	Monkeypox	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
5.	VFA 143	Literacy	Monkeypox doesn't exist/inoculation theory	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
6.	VFA 144	Explainer	Pfizer vaccine causing monkeypox/correlation & causation	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
7.	VFA 145	Explainer	PHEIC	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
8.	VFA 148	Mythbuster	Covid vaccines causing monkeypox	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">French</a>



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# Partner Updates

- Internews
- YPlus
- UNAIDS



GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV

# COVID-19 & MONKEYPOX

Engaging social media influencers in  
disseminating correct and consistent  
information





GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV

- Unclear information online
- Misconceptions
- Information not targeting adolescents and young people
- Concerns on the health of adolescents and young people, and how to manage their care
- Developed Q+A





In an attempt to provide validated information on COVID-19, four social media influencers were engaged from Botswana, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda.



The advocates worked with UNICEF ESARO and Y+ Global Communications sections to record short selfie videos providing accurate responses to the submitted questions by young people



Used three hashtags:  
#YPlusAimingHigher  
#COVID19andHIV  
#HIVInTheTimeofCOVID19





# Who was involved?



Y+ Global Executive Office

Social media influencers

Four young people openly living with HIV who are connected to the country networks

Country networks of young people living with HIV

Reviewers:

WHO and UNICEF ESARO

# Outcomes

1. 12 selfie-videos were recorded by four social media influencers
2. The videos were shared on UNICEF Africa social media platforms that is Twitter and Instagram, and on Y+ Global social media platforms that is Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
3. Cumulatively, the content reached over 110,000 people
4. Adolescents and young people living with HIV reported to have an improved knowledge on COVID-19, and living with HIV.



**GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV**



# MonkeyPox, A&YPLHIV

- Through the Ground Up! project supported by UNICEF ESARO and the 2gether 4SHR we will be taking lessons learnt from COVID-19 information dissemination
- Working with young people in all our diversity to collect questions from young people. identifying as key populations.
- Engage with UNICEF ESARO and WHO to support with validating the responses.
- Work with social media influencers who identify as key populations from the region.
- To take over UNICEF social media platforms, and use other platforms such as the **IoGT and the U-Report platforms**

# Stay in touch

## Thank You



GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV

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# RCCE TWG and WHO Resources

# RCCE TWG Resources



[Back to Emergencies](#)

## SITUATION ON MONKEYPOX

An ongoing outbreak of monkeypox was confirmed on 6 May 2022, beginning with a British resident who, after travelling to Nigeria (where the disease is endemic), presented symptoms consistent with monkeypox on 29 April 2022. The resident returned to the United Kingdom on 4 May, creating the country's index case of the outbreak. After April 2022, over 25,000 confirmed and 2 death have been reported and affect 99 countries where the disease is mainly not endemic (Global Health, 8 August 2022).

On 23 July 2022, The Internal Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee and WHO stated the outbreak as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (IHR/WHO).

[More from WHO](#)



**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK MECHANISM**

The Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) Tracker monitors community feedback mechanisms led by the Collective Service's Partners to support RCCE response on public health emergencies and more specifically on COVID-19. To learn more about terms and definitions, please check out our Glossary.

[Submit CFM](#)

SELECTION(S)

**19** # FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

**13** # COUNTRIES

**10** # ORGANIZATIONS

Clicking on on the table below displays more information.

Filter by emergency: **COVID-19** Epidemics Other health Disaster Conflict Program Other Active ESAR All organisations Clear all selections

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	STATUS	EMERGENCY	FREQUENCY	CHANNELS	LINK
Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust	Zimbabwe	Active	COVID-19	Continuous		
CCCM cluster	Somalia	Active	Displacement	Continuous	Undefined	

# New WHO Resources




World Health Organization

## What you need to know if you are recovering from **monkeypox** at home

Self-isolate and contact a health worker.  
Seek immediate advice if:

-  Your rash becomes very painful/gets infected
-  Your fever, nausea or vomiting gets worse
-  You can't eat or drink
-  You have difficulty breathing, feel dizzy or confused

04/08/2022



World Health Organization

Global Regions

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Home / Newsroom / Questions and answers / Monkeypox

## Monkeypox

4 August 2022 | Q&A

- What is monkeypox? (+)
- What are the symptoms of monkeypox? (+)
- Can people get seriously ill or die from monkeypox? (+)
- How does monkeypox spread from person to person? (+)
- How does monkeypox spread from animals to humans? (+)

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# Partner Questions, Concerns, Requests and Way Forward

# Key Discussions and Action Points

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- Social Science Research
- Community Feedback
- Media Dialogue
- Contextualised RCCE Guidance for ESAR
- Webinars for regional and country partners on key issues from community feedback
- Health Workers Module
- Contextualise IEC Materials
- Mapping/engaging of youth, HIV CSO, specialist agencies in ESAR