

COVID-19 Testing Report for WHO Africa Region  
22/10/2020

Produced by the TIBA COVID-19 Pandemic Response Unit



## Executive Summary

- The TIBA Pandemic Response Unit has created a new data set recording COVID-19 testing data up to the end of July 2020 for WHO Africa Region.
- We provide graphical representations of timelines of testing rates and (where available) test positivity rates.
- Testing rates were extremely variable between countries. Trends in testing rates were variable, increasing in a majority of countries but decreasing in others.
- Test positivity rates were also very variable, though rarely exceeded 20%. Trends in test positivity rates were very variable, some countries showing a clear increase, some no trend and some a clear decrease.
- The data are freely available; a link is provided on page 5.
- Further analyses of these data are ongoing and will be reported in due course.
- Further details are provided in the report. Please contact [info@tiba-partnership.org](mailto:info@tiba-partnership.org) with any questions.

# Contents

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## Methods

### Data Sources:

At the time of gathering data for this briefing note on 18th June 2020, only 38 (81%) out of 47 WHO Africa region countries were reporting their national COVID testing data. Testing data for 37 of the countries in the region were available on Our World in Data (OWiD) <sup>1</sup> website (Figure 1). OWiD largely sources their COVID testing data from government websites such as ministries of health and public health institutes. Testing data for 15 countries in the region was available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), while some of the countries in the region published their testing data on their websites or social media platforms. Finally, we could not find testing data for 9 countries (19%) in the WHO Africa region. Positive test data was collected for 17 WHO Africa region countries while 20 countries provided case data and no positive test data.

The data provided from the various sources was not always consistent; in some instances, it referred to the number of test performed while in other instances it referred to the number of individuals who have been tested. Regarding data provided by OWiD, we found that often the positivity rate along with their number of tests were out of sync by a day or two, or completely different therefore we went to the primary source listed and corrected it.

To note, it is not clear whether the daily case data recorded by countries refers to cases confirmed from the tests completed that day. The case data obtained for some countries, e.g. São Tomé and Príncipe and Burkina Faso, have very large outliers where the number of new cases is significantly larger than the number of tests, suggesting that these newly confirmed cases are not results from that day's tests.



Figure 1: Summary maps showing countries with testing and positivity data up to 31st July 2020. Testing data was available for 81% of the WHO Africa countries while few countries reported positive test data.

<sup>1</sup><https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-testing>

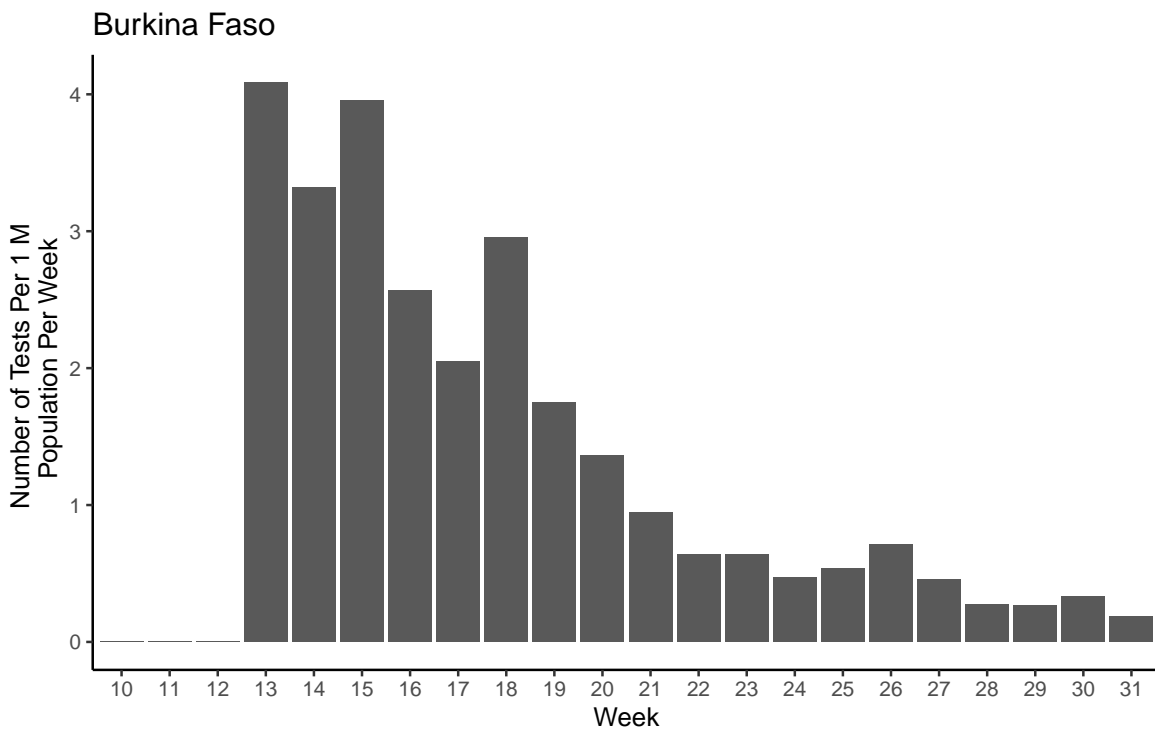
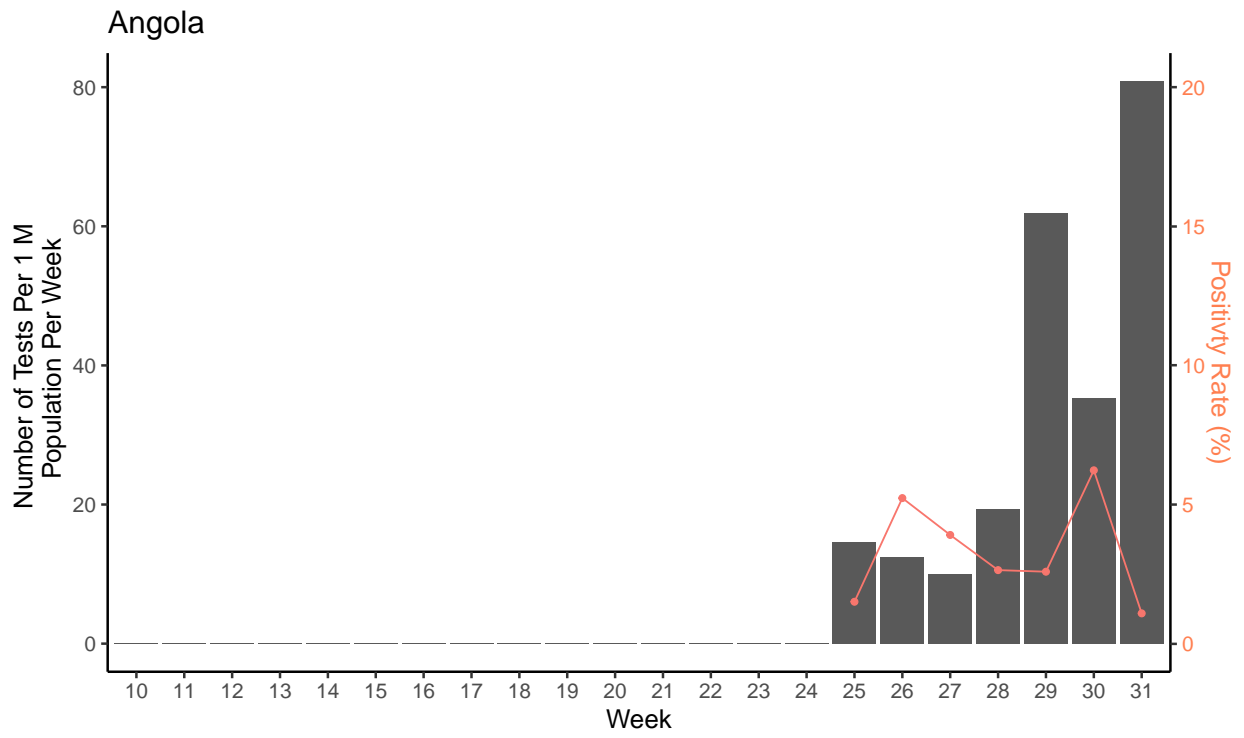
Weekly positivity rate and weekly average tests per 1 million population;

- The graphs below show the weekly averages of tests conducted per 1 million members of the population along with the weekly average positivity rates.
- The weekly average of tests conducted are represented by the bar charts, with variable left-hand y-axes scales in order to ensure the data is easily visible. These averages were computed by taking the number of tests performed, multiplying by 1 million, and dividing by the World Bank <sup>2</sup> population value from 2019. The World Bank dataset is very widely used and updated at least annually.
- The weekly average positivity rates are shown by the red line graphs. These data were only available for 14 countries and represents the percentage of people who test positive for the virus out of the total tested. Variable right-hand y-axes were used to ensure that data from countries with very low positivity rates were still visible.
- The data ranges from Week 10 of the year (starts 02-Mar) until Week 31 of the year (starts 27-Jul), but 5 days from this week are included. The raw data files are available at [https://git.ecdf.ed.ac.uk/epigroup/covid-19/tiba\\_testing\\_data](https://git.ecdf.ed.ac.uk/epigroup/covid-19/tiba_testing_data)

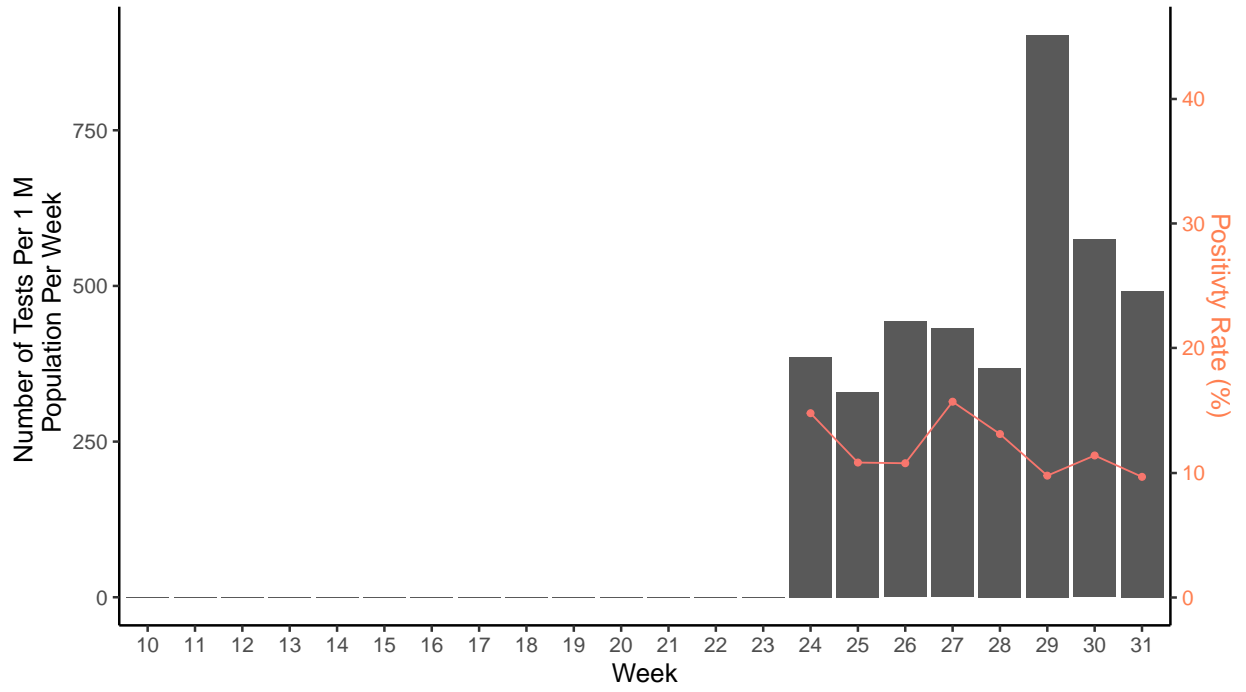
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<sup>2</sup><https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>

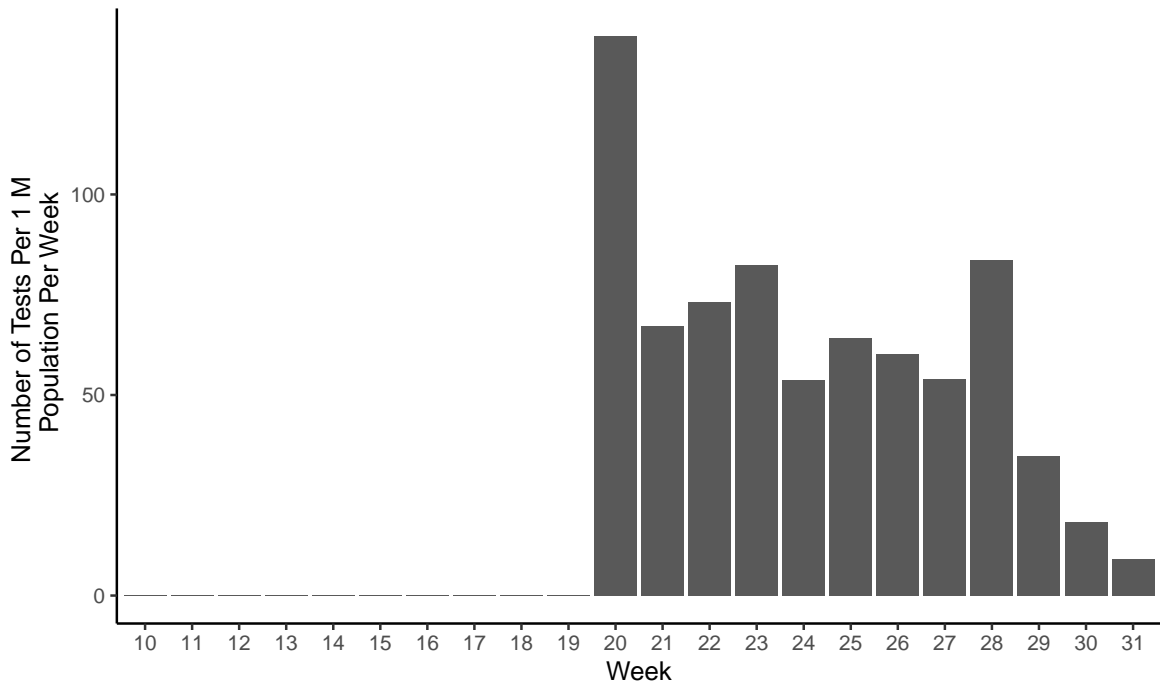
# Results

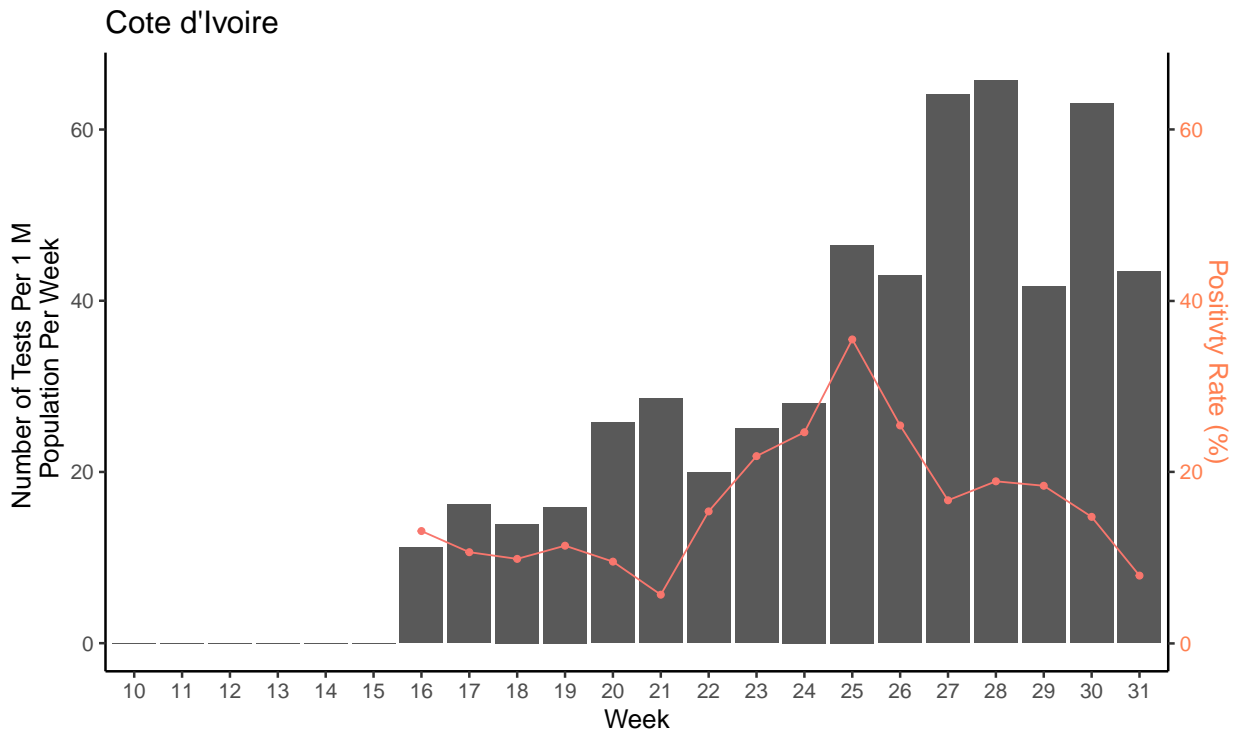
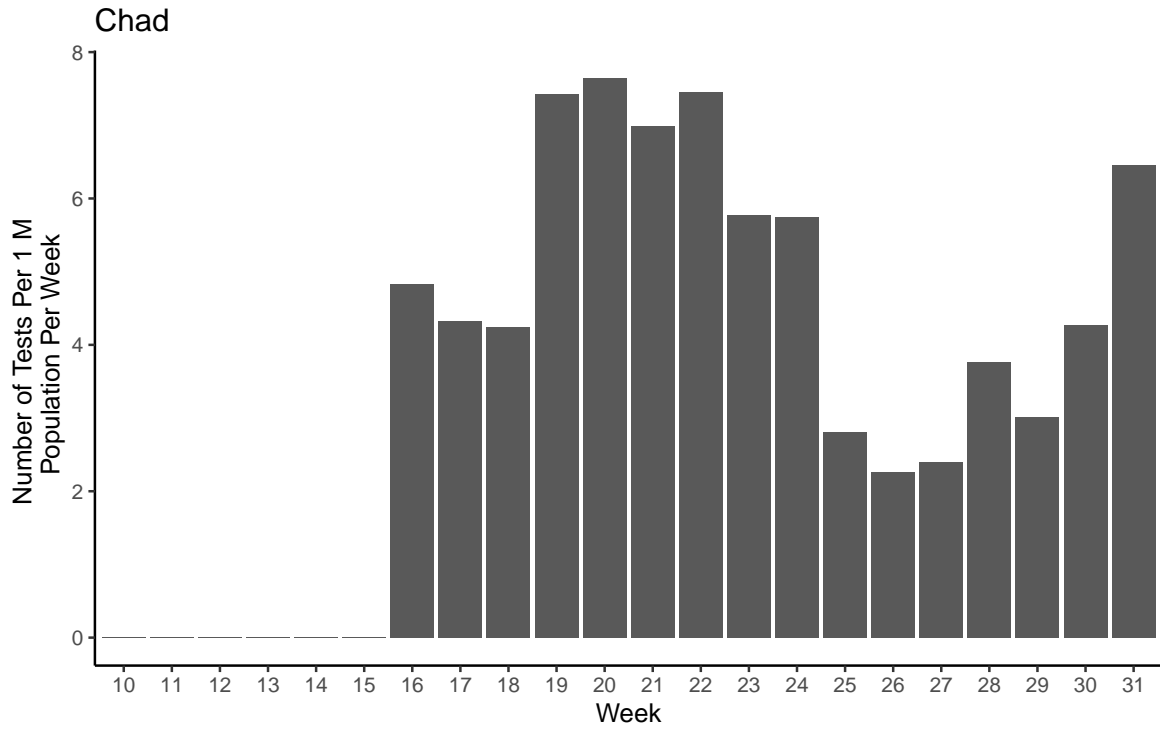


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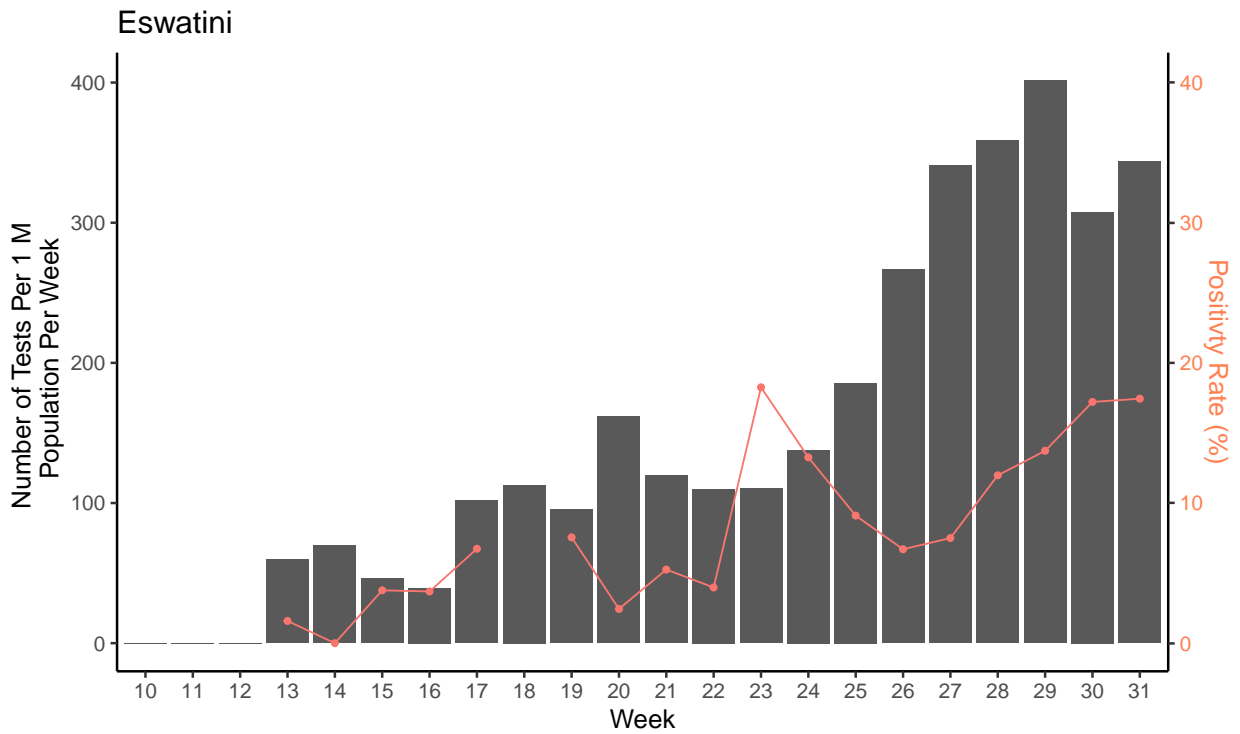
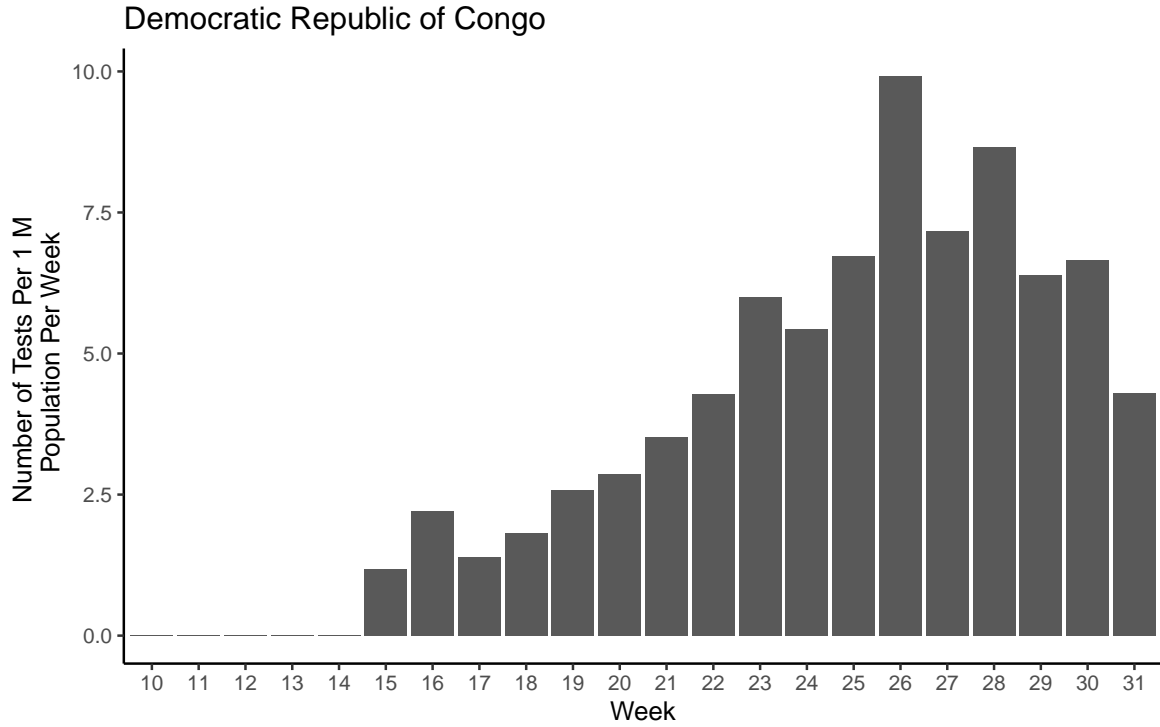


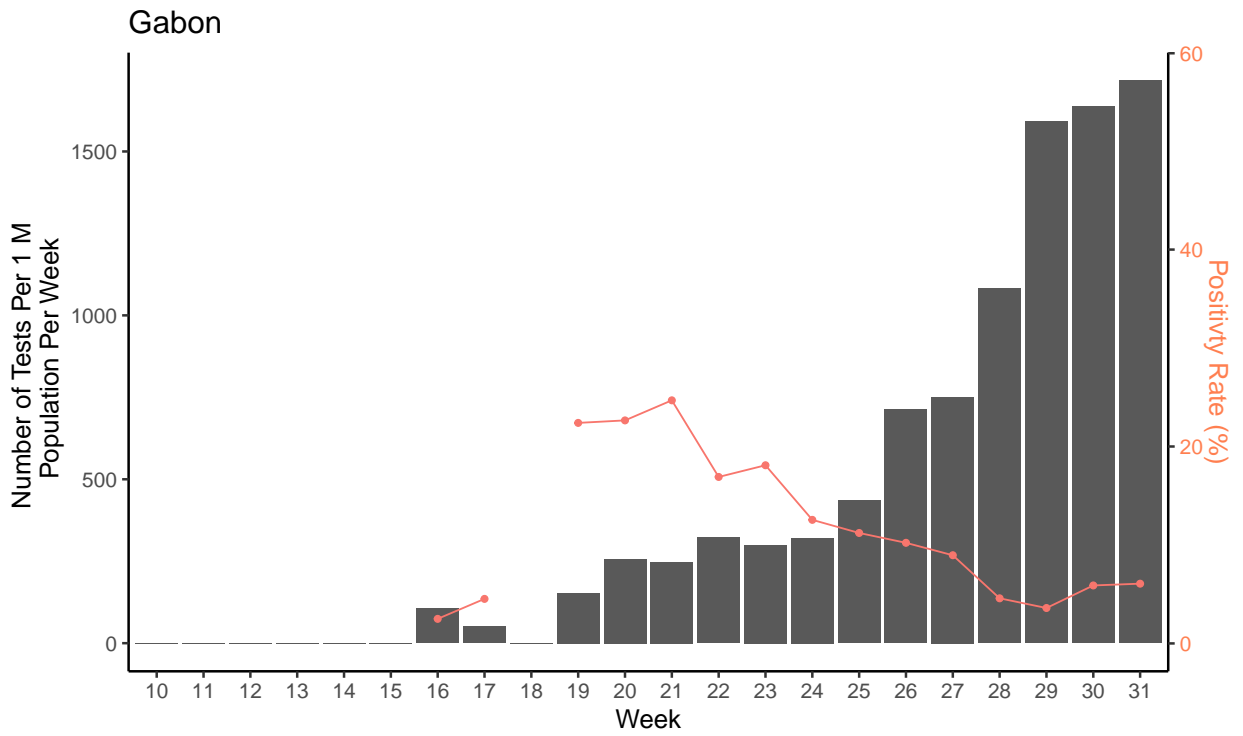
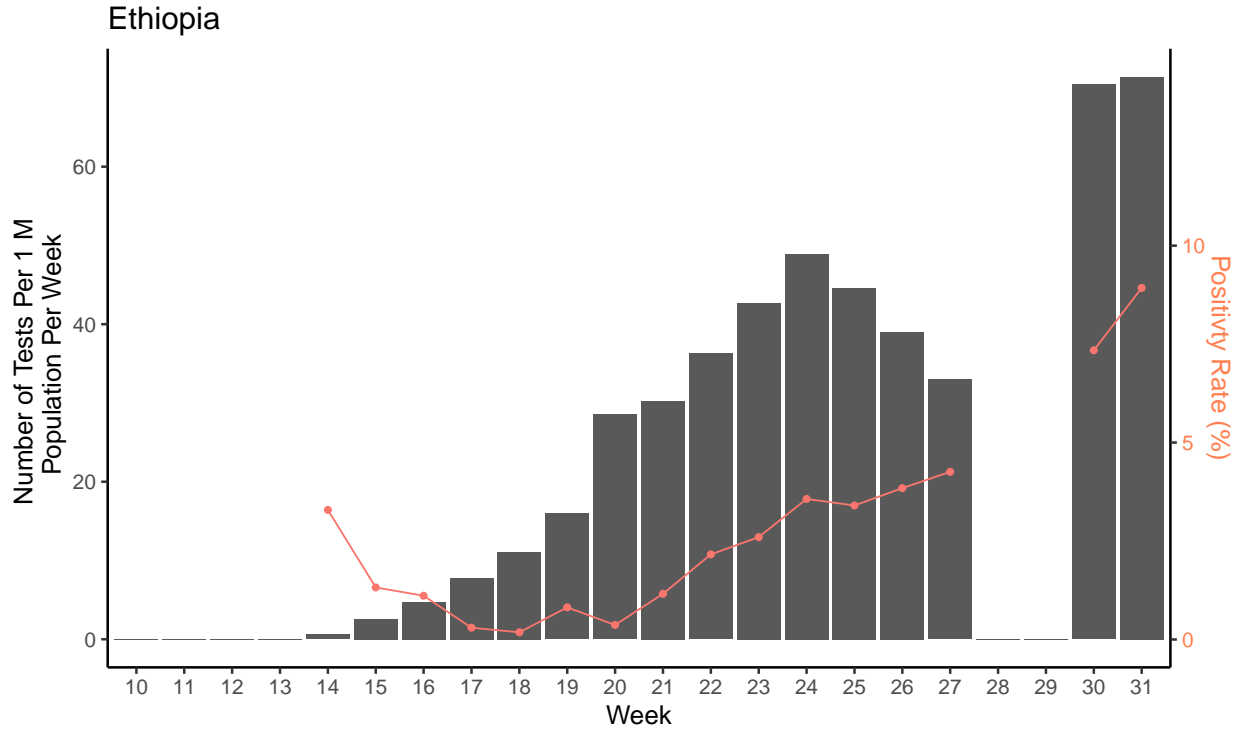
### Central African Republic

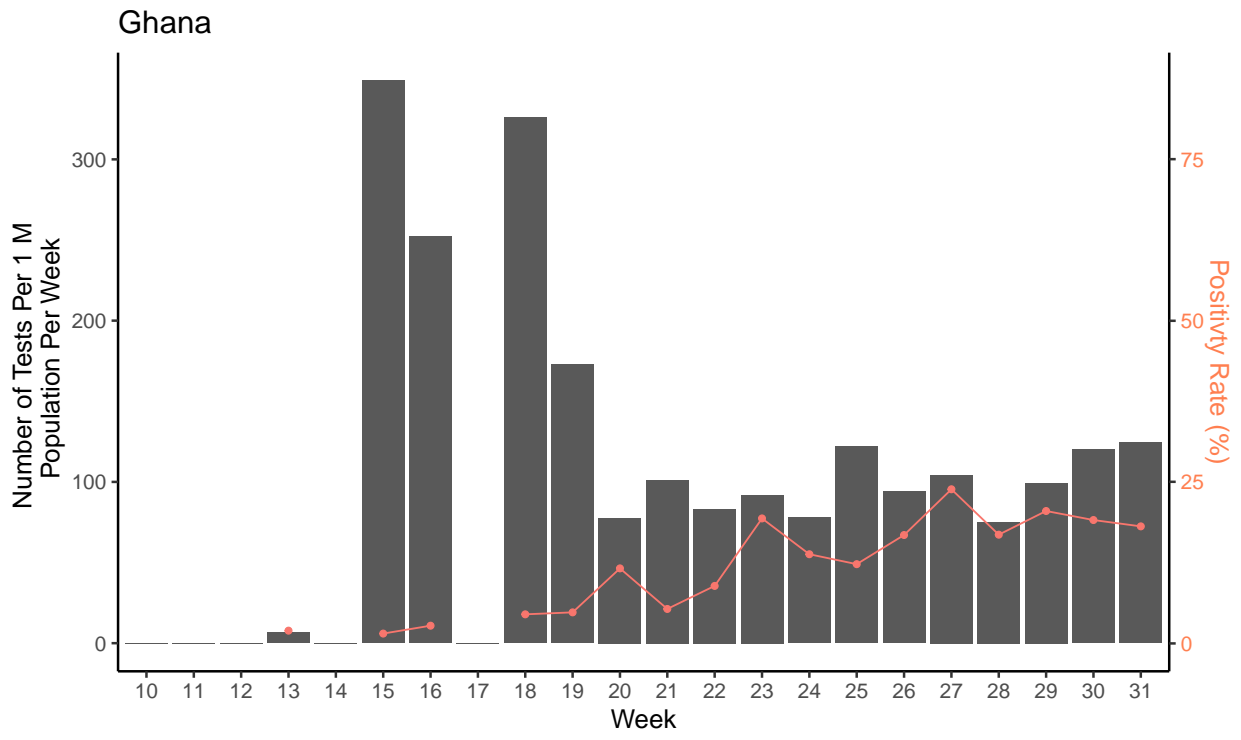
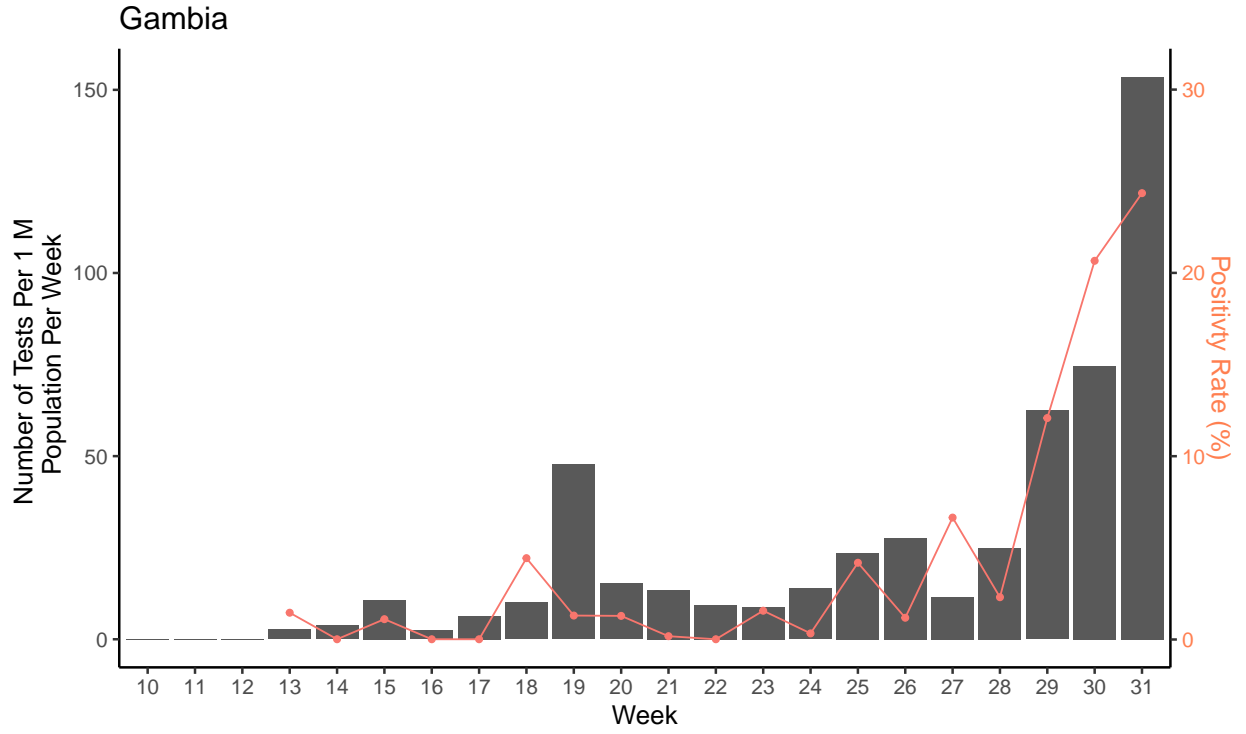


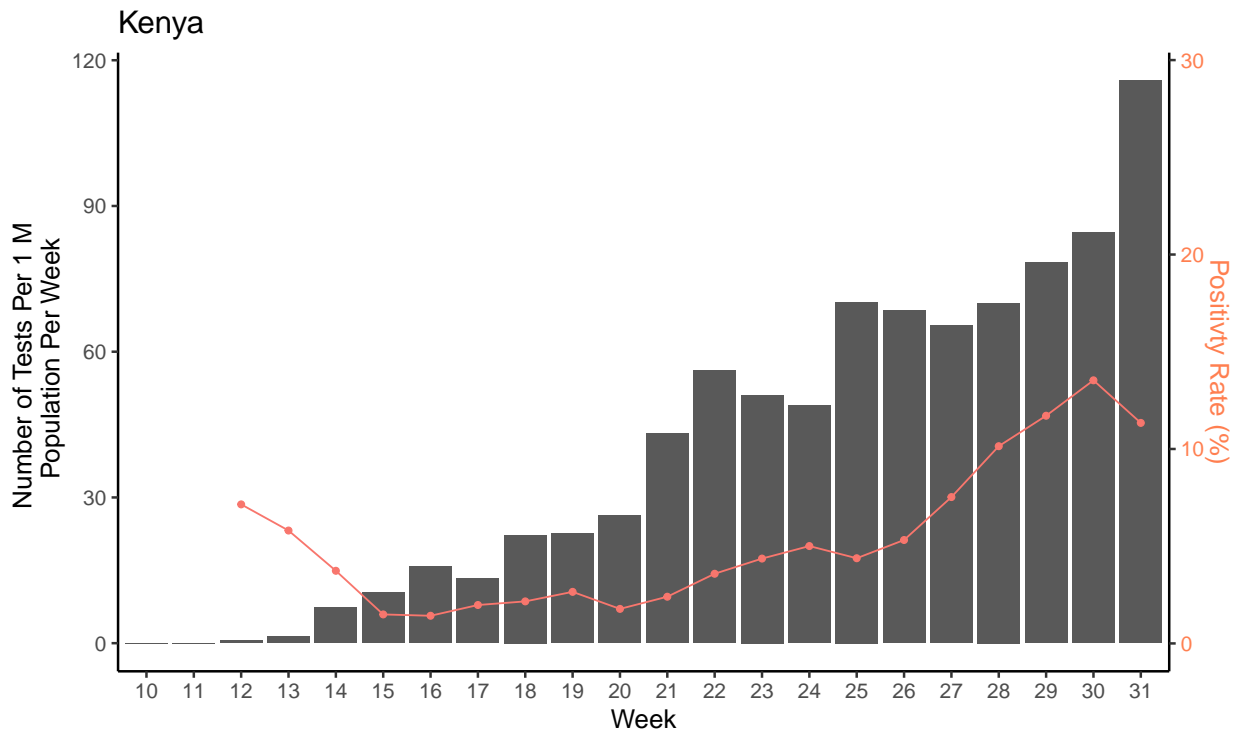
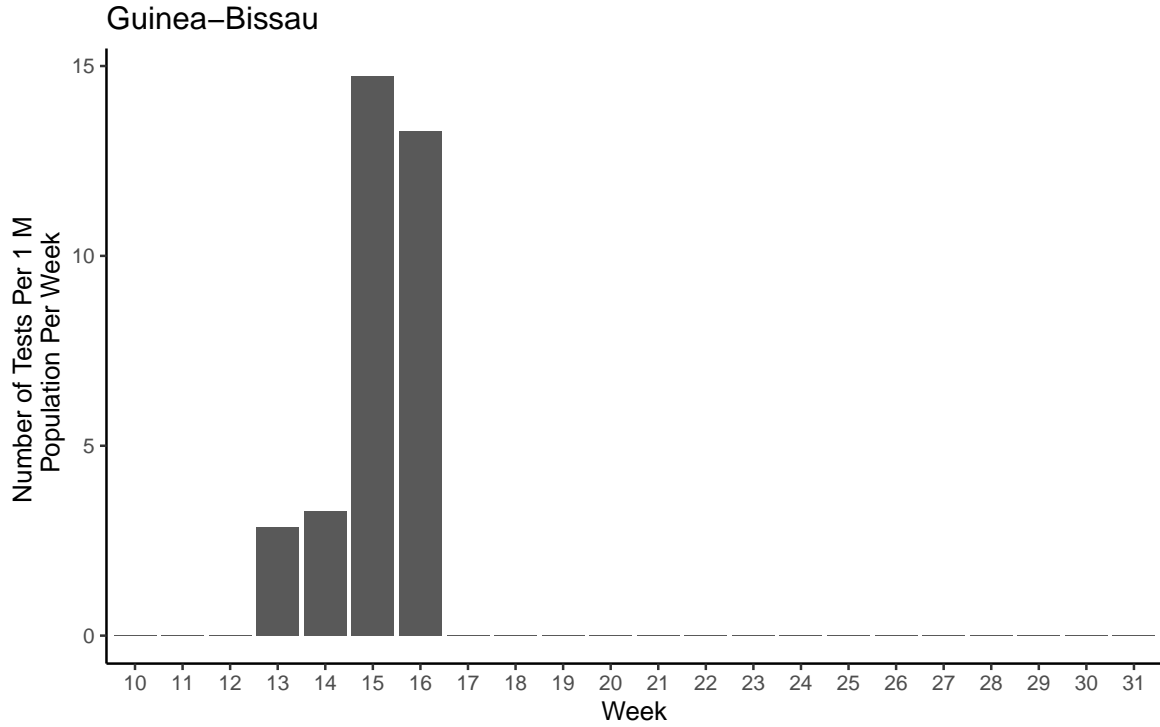


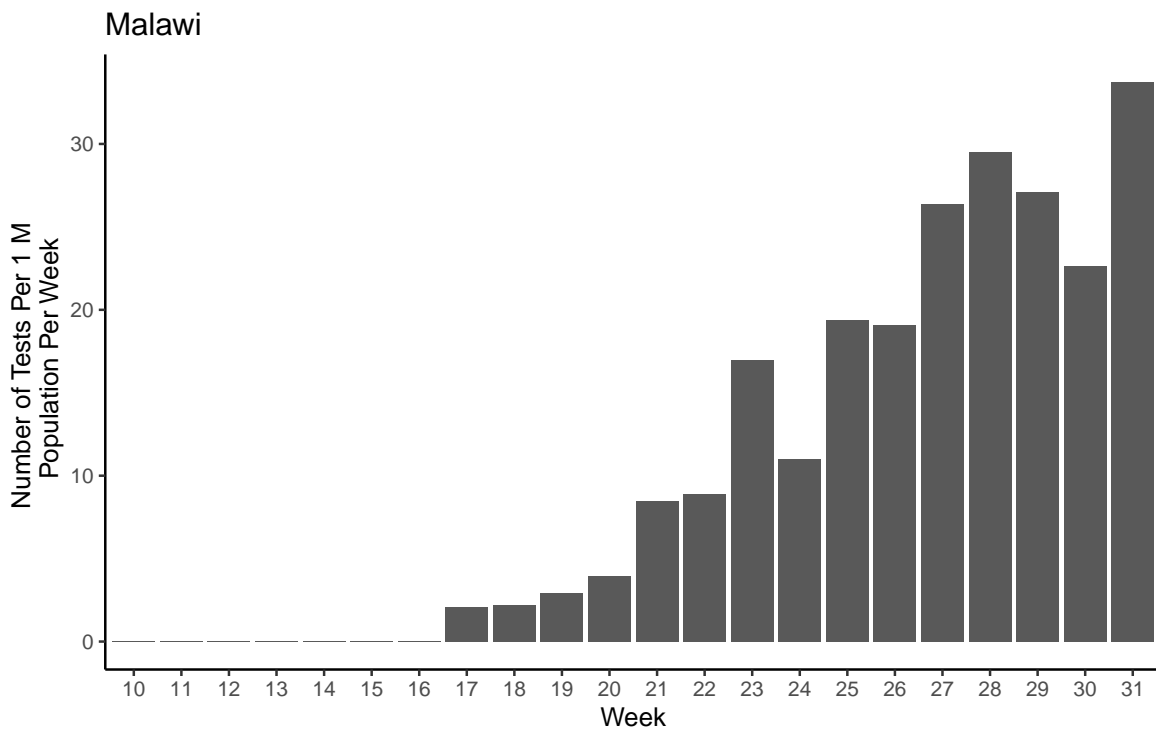
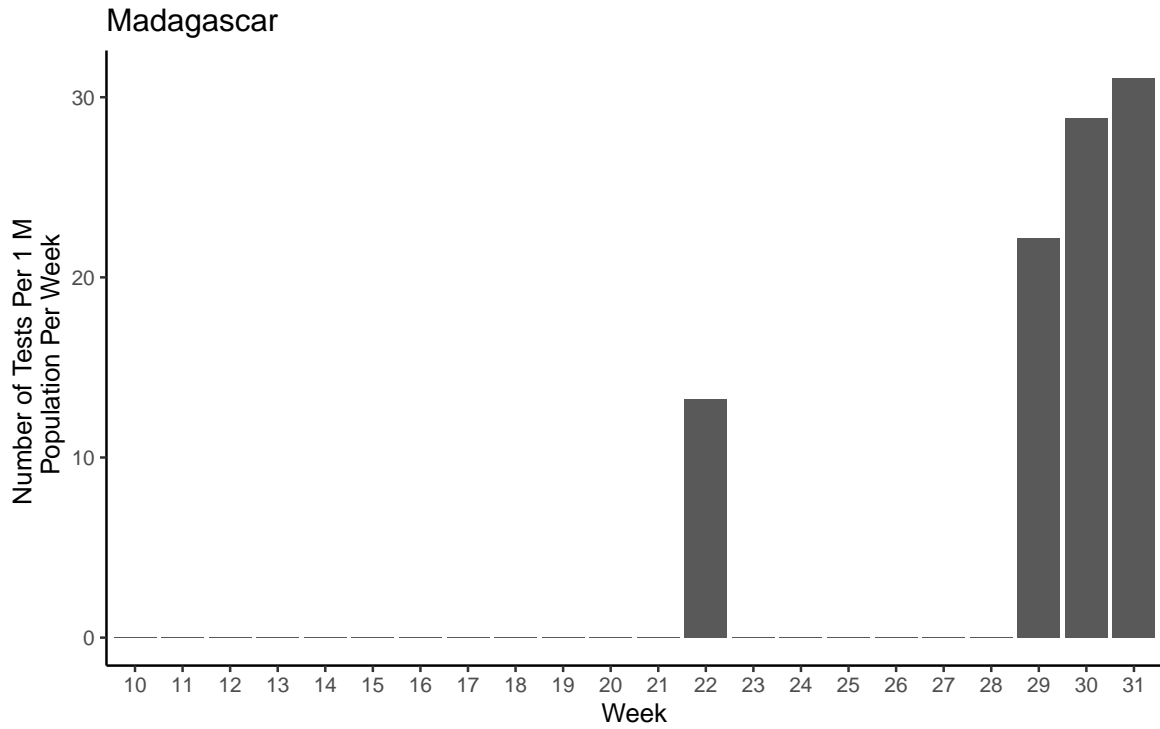


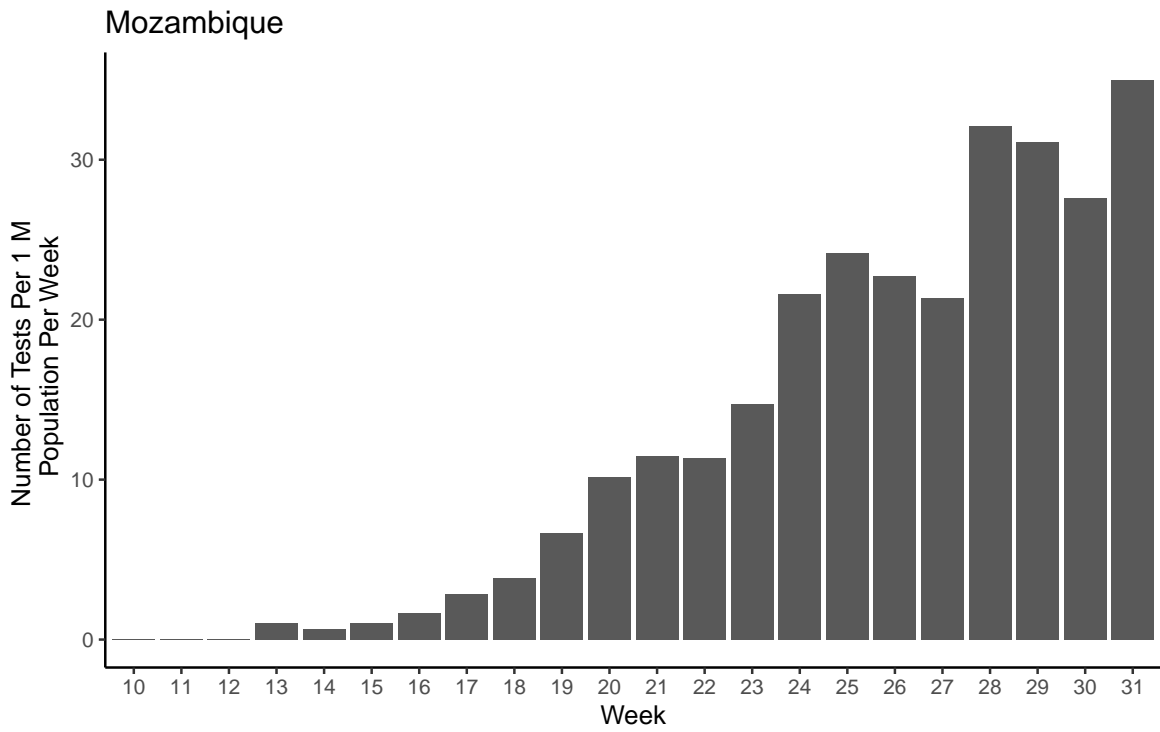
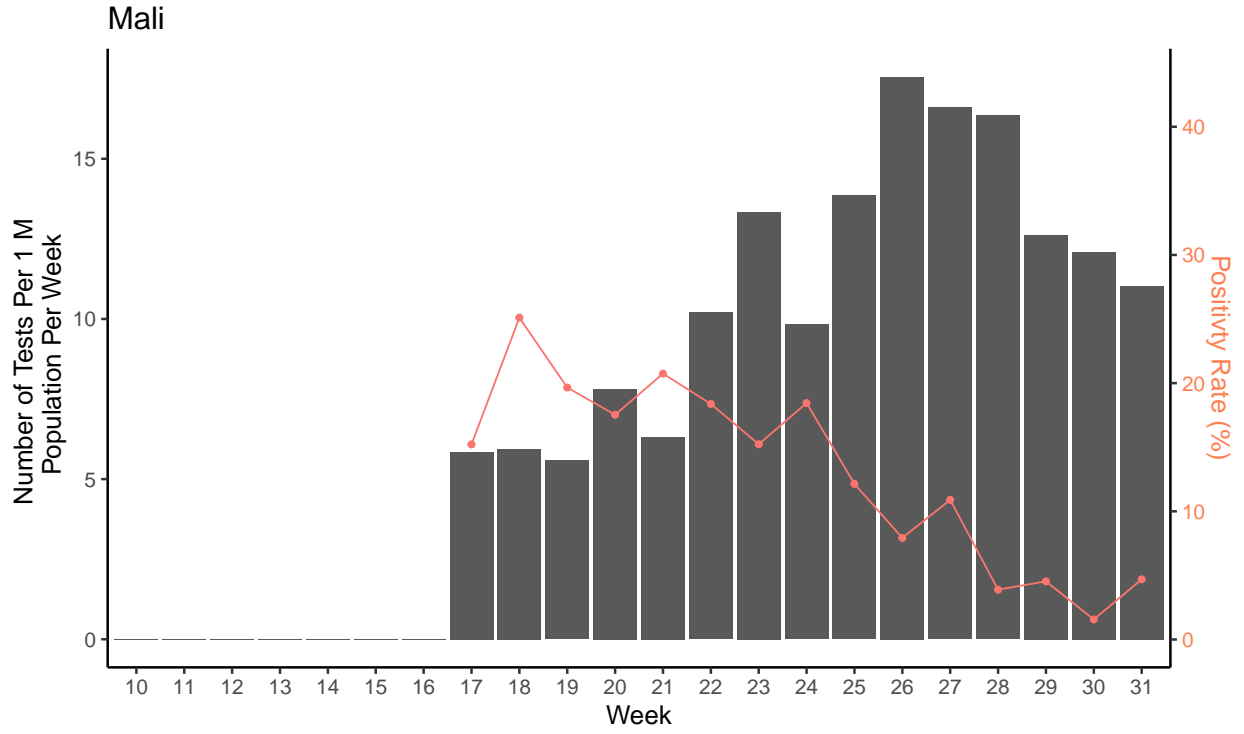


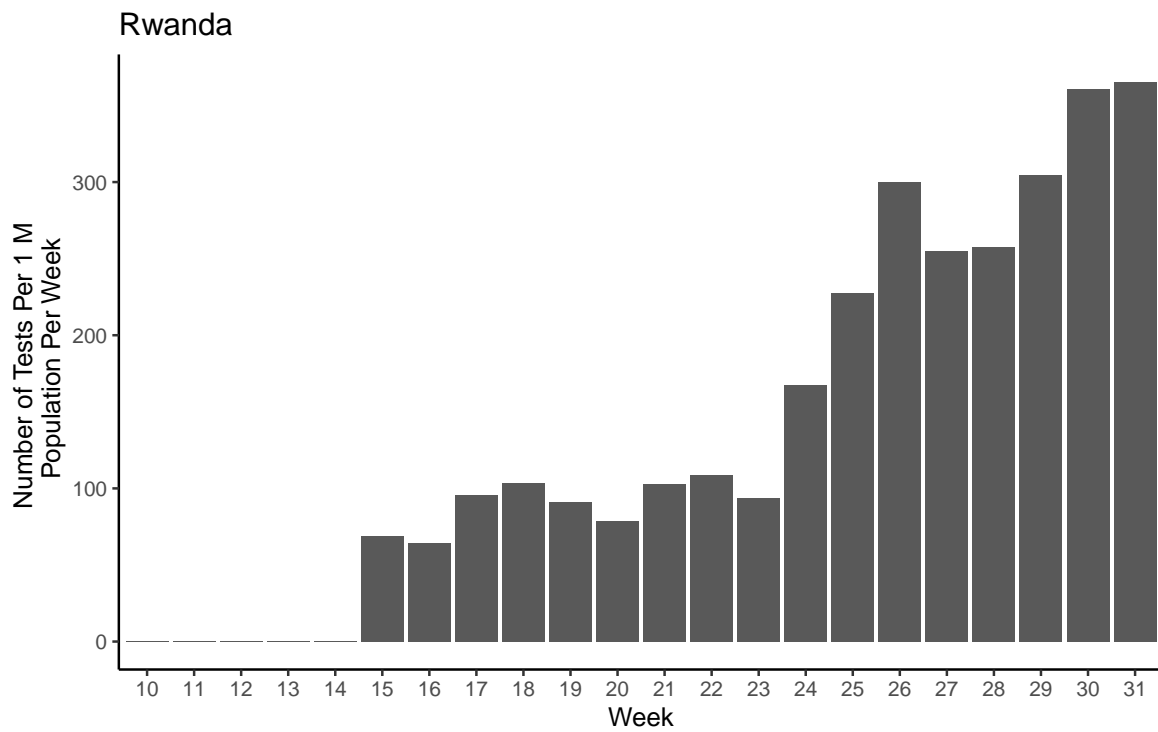
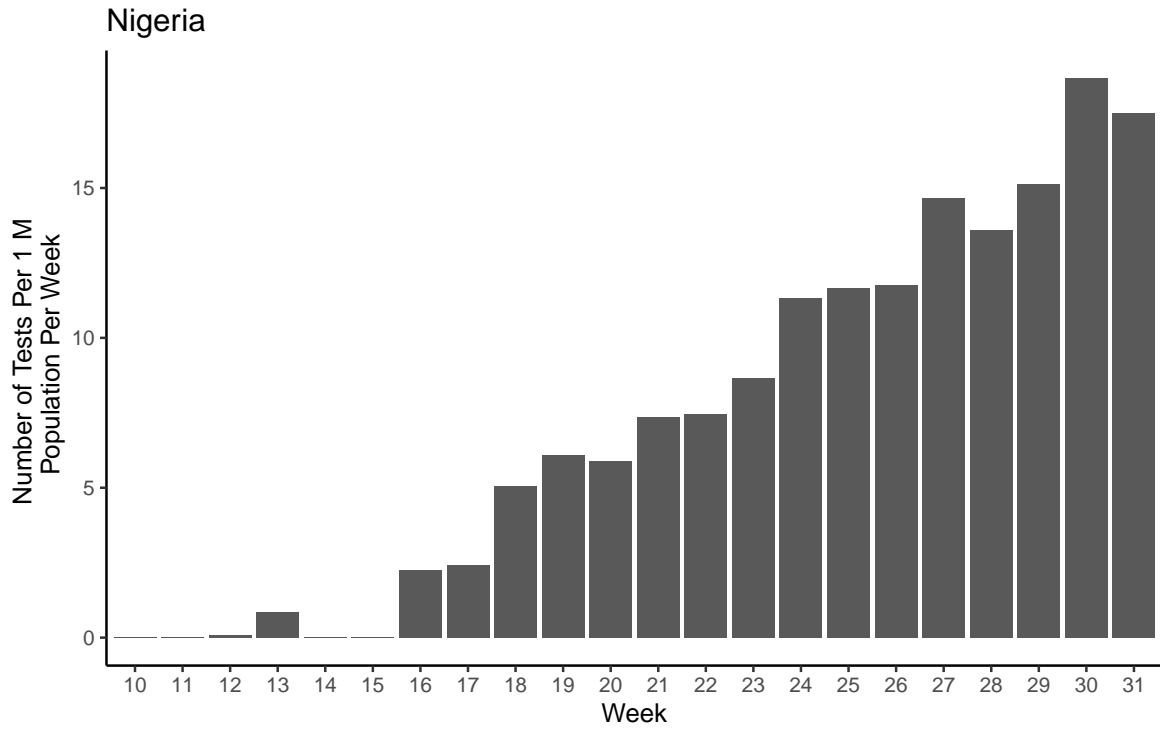




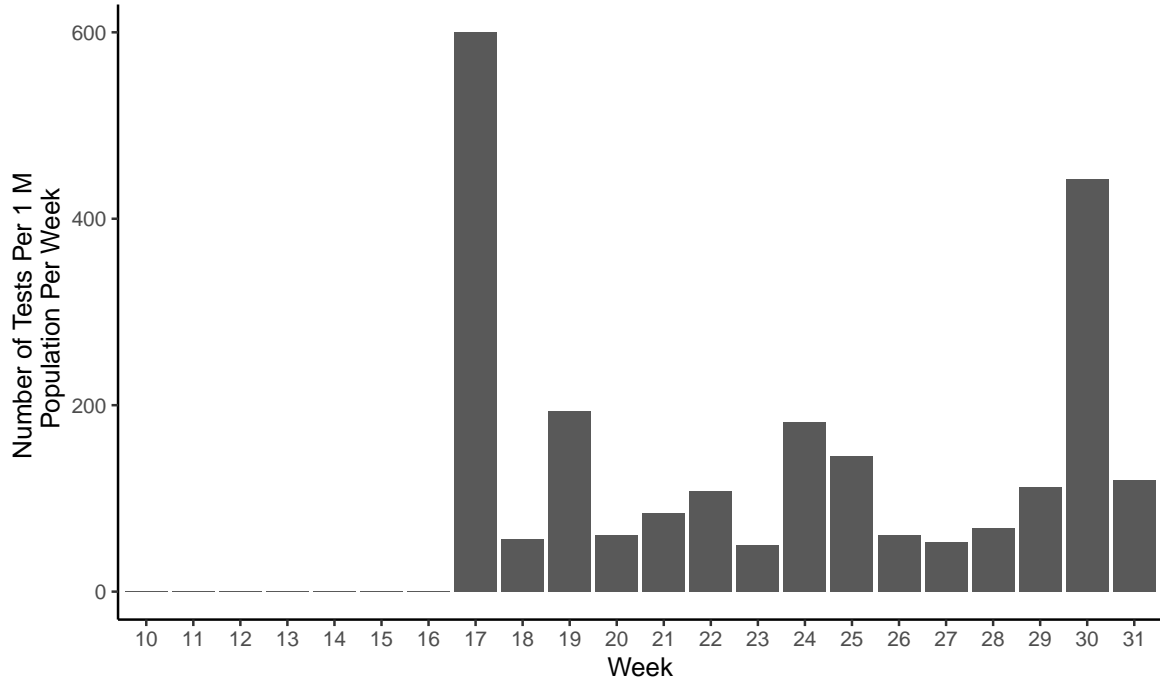




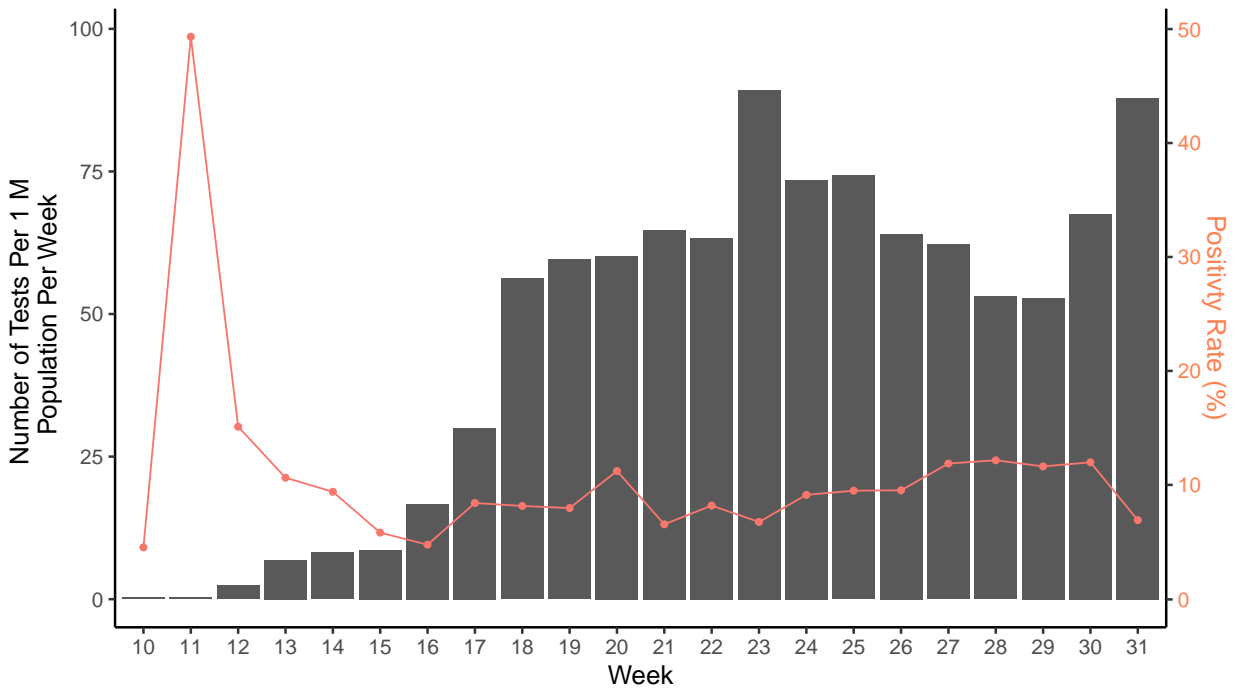




Sao Tome and Principe

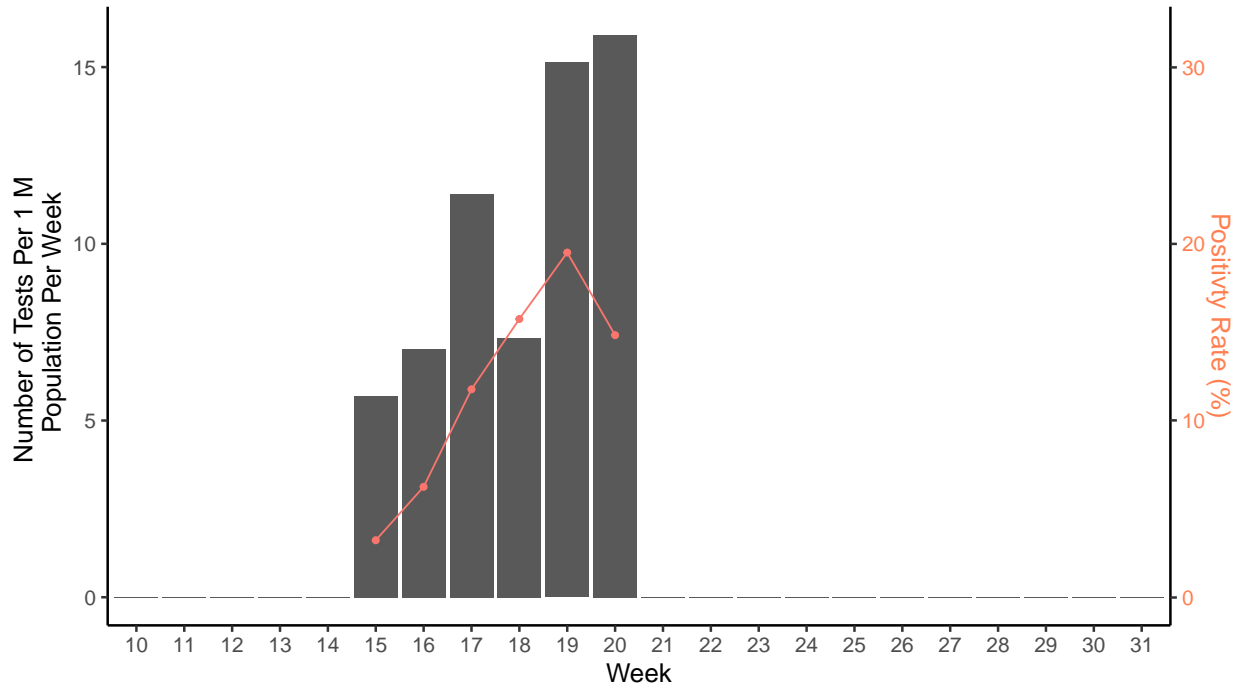


Senegal

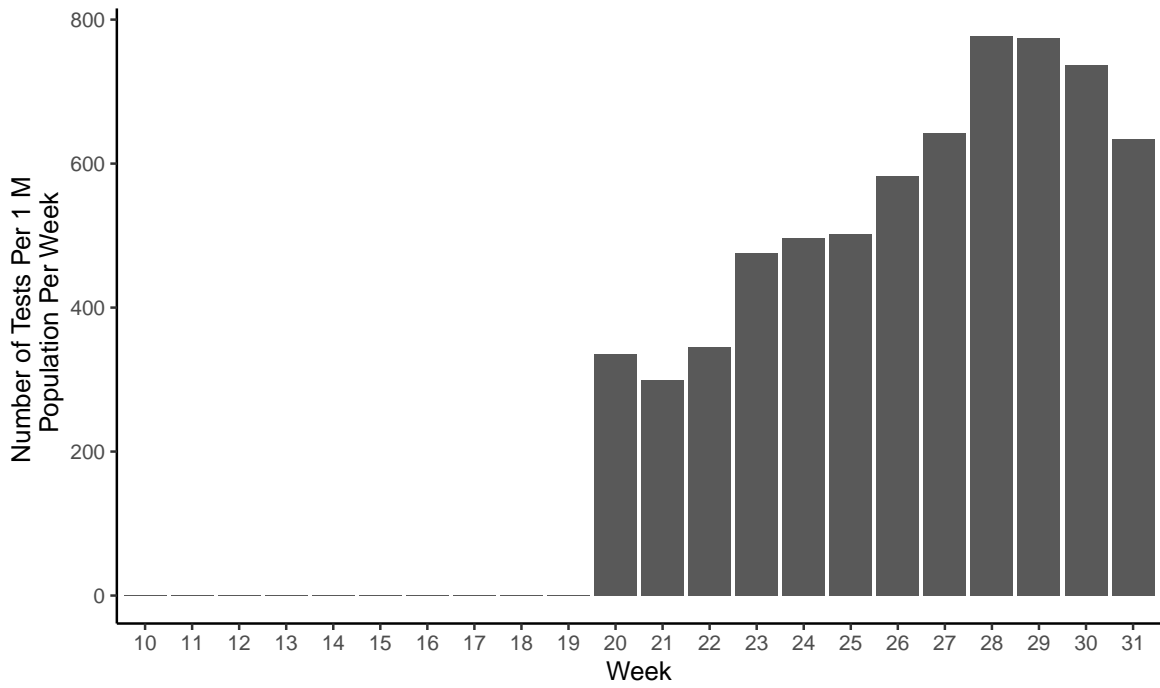


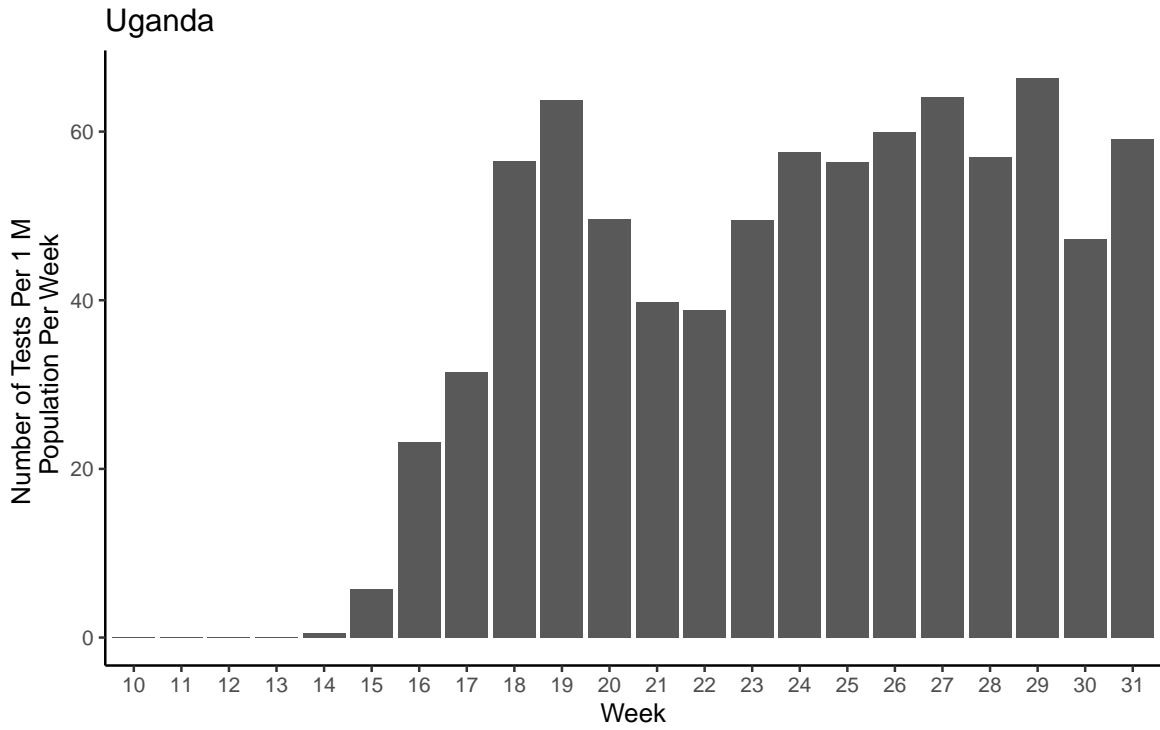
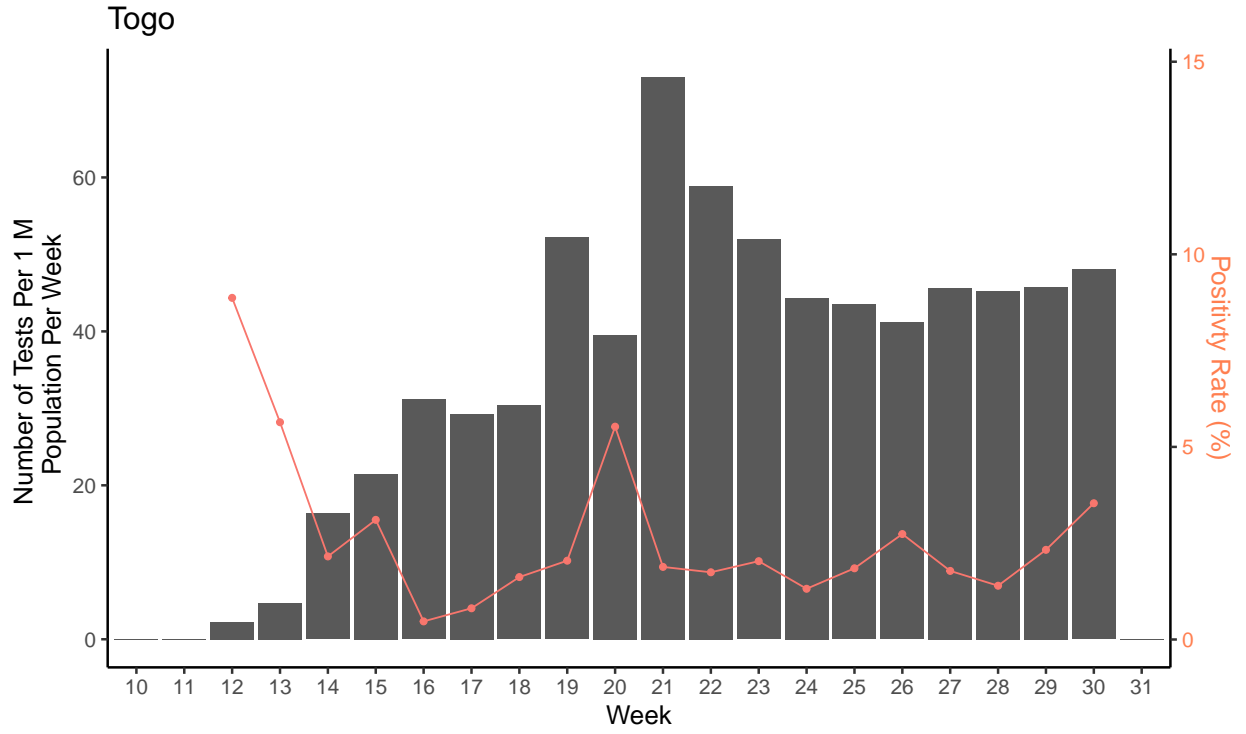


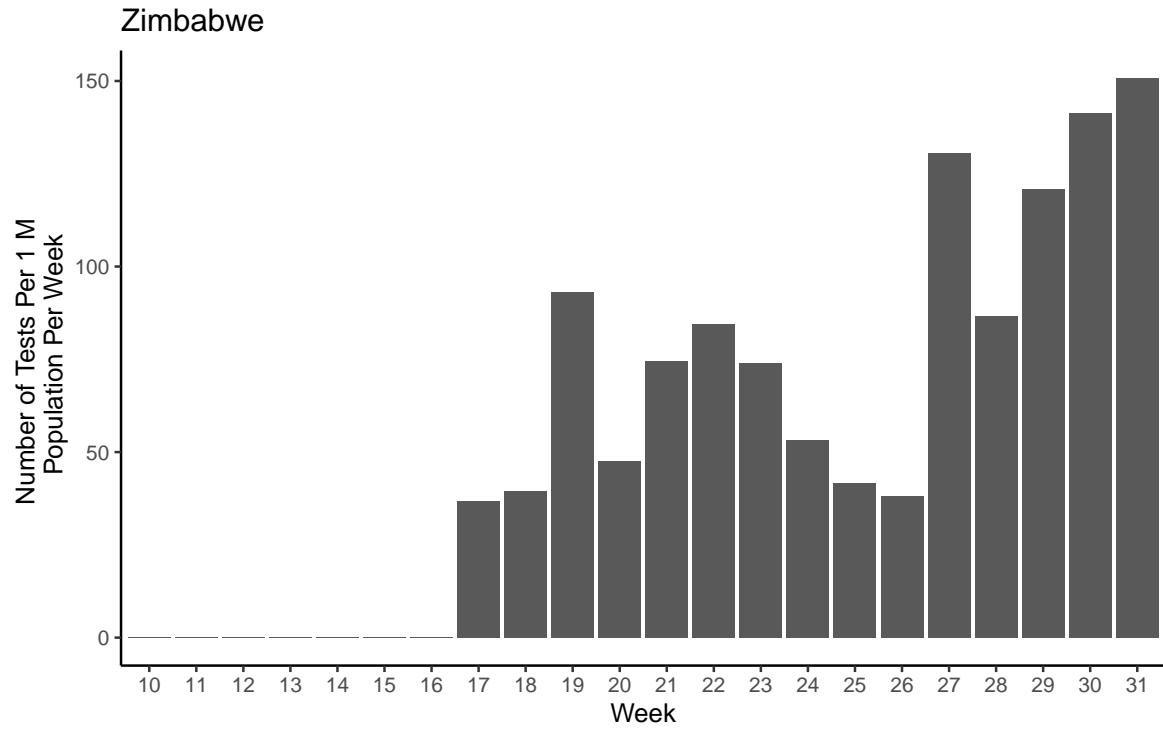
### Sierra Leone



### South Africa







## Appendix

Country	Testing..data	Positivity.Rate	Release.frequency	Source
Algeria	No	No	N/A	N/A
Angola	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="https://www.minsa.gov.ao/TodasNoticias.aspx">https://www.minsa.gov.ao/TodasNoticias.aspx</a>
Benin	Yes (cumulative)	No	Daily	<a href="https://www.gouv.bj/coronavirus/">https://www.gouv.bj/coronavirus/</a>
Botswana	Yes (cumulative)	No	Daily	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment/posts/3191898507559452">https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment/posts/3191898507559452</a>
Burkina Faso	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://www.sante.gov.bf/accueil">https://www.sante.gov.bf/accueil</a>
Burundi	Yes (cumulative)	No	Infrequently	<a href="http://minisante.bi/?p=735">http://minisante.bi/?p=735</a>
Cabo Verde	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="https://covid19.cv/conferencia-de-imprensa-sobre-a-covid-19-de-29-de-julho-de-2020/">https://covid19.cv/conferencia-de-imprensa-sobre-a-covid-19-de-29-de-julho-de-2020/</a>
Cameroon	Yes (cumulative)	No	Daily	<a href="https://twitter.com/drmanaouda">https://twitter.com/drmanaouda</a>
Central African Republic	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://twitter.com/MSPCentrafrique?lang=en">https://twitter.com/MSPCentrafrique?lang=en</a>
Chad	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ministeresantetchad/">https://www.facebook.com/ministeresantetchad/</a> and <a href="https://sante-tchad.org/communique-de-presse/">https://sante-tchad.org/communique-de-presse/</a>
Comoros	No	No		
Congo	Yes (cumulative)	Yes	Infrequently	<a href="http://sante.gouv.cg/">http://sante.gouv.cg/</a>
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	Yes	Daily	OWiD, supplemented by <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Mshpci">https://www.facebook.com/Mshpci</a>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://riposte-epidemie-rdc.info/bulletins.php">https://riposte-epidemie-rdc.info/bulletins.php</a> & OWID
Equatorial Guinea	Yes (cumulative)	Yes	Infrequently	<a href="https://www.guineaequatorialpress.com/imgdb/2020/pyn9_INFORMEPERIODICO31072020Spanishfinal.pdf">https://www.guineaequatorialpress.com/imgdb/2020/pyn9_INFORMEPERIODICO31072020Spanishfinal.pdf</a>
Eritrea	No	No		
Eswatini	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="http://www.gov.sz/index.php/covid-19-corona-virus/covid-19-press-statements-2020">http://www.gov.sz/index.php/covid-19-corona-virus/covid-19-press-statements-2020</a> and <a href="https://twitter.com/EswatiniGovern1">https://twitter.com/EswatiniGovern1</a>
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia">https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia</a>
Gabon	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="https://twitter.com/Covid19GOUVGA">https://twitter.com/Covid19GOUVGA</a>
Gambia	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.gm/covid-19-report/">http://www.moh.gov.gm/covid-19-report/</a>
Ghana	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="https://www.ghanahealthservice.org/covid19/archive.php">https://www.ghanahealthservice.org/covid19/archive.php</a>
Guinea	No	No		
Guinea-Bissau	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://covid19gb.com/boletins/">https://covid19gb.com/boletins/</a>
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Daily	OWID, supplemented by <a href="https://twitter.com/MOH_Kenya">https://twitter.com/MOH_Kenya</a>
Lesotho	Yes (cumulative)	Yes	Infrequent	<a href="https://www.gov.ls/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Update-on-Covid-19-status.pdf">https://www.gov.ls/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Update-on-Covid-19-status.pdf</a>
Liberia	Yes (cumulative)	No	Daily	<a href="http://moh.gov.lr/documents/reports/covid-19/2020/covid-19-sitrep-vol-17-2/">http://moh.gov.lr/documents/reports/covid-19/2020/covid-19-sitrep-vol-17-2/</a>
Madagascar	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="http://www.sante.gov.mg/ministere-sante-publique/?s=COVID-19%3A+Situation">http://www.sante.gov.mg/ministere-sante-publique/?s=COVID-19%3A+Situation</a>
Malawi	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/malawimoh">https://www.facebook.com/malawimoh</a>
Mali	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="http://www.sante.gov.ml/index.php/actualites/communiqués?start=84">http://www.sante.gov.ml/index.php/actualites/communiqués?start=84</a>
Mauritania	Yes(cumulative)	Yes	Infrequently	<a href="http://www.sante.gov.mr/?lang=fr">http://www.sante.gov.mr/?lang=fr</a>
Mauritius	No	No		
Mozambique	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="http://www.misau.gov.mz/index.php/covid-19-boletins-diarios?limitstart=0">http://www.misau.gov.mz/index.php/covid-19-boletins-diarios?limitstart=0</a>
Namibia	Yes (cumulative)	No	Infrequently	<a href="http://www.mhss.gov.na/home">http://www.mhss.gov.na/home</a>
Niger	Yes (cumulative)	No	Infrequently	<a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/niger-coronavirus-covid-19-situation-report-08-8-21-june-2020">https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/niger-coronavirus-covid-19-situation-report-08-8-21-june-2020</a>
Nigeria	Yes	No	Daily	OWID, supplemented by <a href="https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=14&amp;name=An%20update%20of%20COVID-19%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria">https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=14&amp;name=An%20update%20of%20COVID-19%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria</a>
Rwanda	Yes	No		<a href="https://www.rbc.gov.rw/index.php?id=717">https://www.rbc.gov.rw/index.php?id=717</a>

(continued)

Country	Testing..data	Positivity.Rate	Release.frequency	Source
São Tomé and Príncipe	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://covid.ms.gov.st/st/">https://covid.ms.gov.st/st/</a>
Senegal	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="http://www.sante.gouv.sn/actualites">http://www.sante.gouv.sn/actualites</a>
Seychelles	No	No		
Sierra Leone	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="http://dhse.gov.sl/?s=SITREP">http://dhse.gov.sl/?s=SITREP</a>
South Africa	Yes	No	Daily	<a href="https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/surveillance-reports/">https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/surveillance-reports/</a>
South Sudan	No	No		
Togo	Yes	Yes	Daily	OWiD, supplemented by: <a href="https://twitter.com/Covid19TG">https://twitter.com/Covid19TG</a>
Uganda	Yes	No	Daily	OWiD, supplemented by: <a href="https://twitter.com/MinofHealthUG">https://twitter.com/MinofHealthUG</a>
Tanzania	No	No		
Zambia	No	No		
Zimbabwe	Yes	Yes	Daily	<a href="http://www.mohcc.gov.zw/">http://www.mohcc.gov.zw/</a>