

The current COVID-19 outbreak has affected global mobility in the form of various travel disruptions, restrictions and bans. On 16 March 2020, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire put in place a series of precautionary measures to contain the spread of the pandemic - including the closure of the country's land, air and sea borders, the suspension of visa issuance at the airports for all incoming travellers, the shutdown of all training and educational establishments and the banning of gatherings of more than fifty persons throughout its national territory. In order to better understand how these restrictions are affecting mobility in the country, IOM launched in late March 2020 a **rapid assessment of the COVID-19 situation at key Points of Entry (PoE)**. The purpose of this assessment is to help national authorities, United Nations agencies, organizations and other key stakeholders identify and develop adequate pandemic preparedness and response interventions at PoE. This report presents information on the operational status as well as the public health measures that have been put in place at **12 official PoE across the country**.

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

In late March 2020, **12 PoE** were assessed through surveys administrated to key informants, mostly border officials. They are located at the borders with Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana.

12 land border crossing points

STATUS OF PoE AND CROSSBORDER MOBILITY

- 0** open
- 0** partially open
- 12** closed

All of the 12 assessed PoE were **closed for movement of persons** but remained partially open to allow **transport of goods**. However, 2 border posts reported that ensuring the enforcement of the border closure at their respective PoEs remained a challenge as border officials did not have the necessary equipment and staff to ensure effective closure of the border 24/7.

Did you know?
Approximately 30,000 migrants are stranded in West and Central Africa due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



MAP: LOCATION OF PoE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE
12 Border posts assessed

- Main cities in Côte d'Ivoire
- Border posts set up by IOM and financed by the European Union
 - Gbéléban (Guinée)
 - Nigouni (Mali)
 - Gbapleu (Mali)
 - Sipilou (Guinée)
- Border posts set up by IOM and financed by the Government of Japan
 - Koguiénou (Burkina Faso)
 - Tiéfenzo (Mali)
- Other border posts
 - Noé (Ghana)
 - Sokoro (Mali)
 - Gbeunta (Liberia)
 - Pekan (Liberia)
 - Daobly (Liberia)
 - Prollo (Liberia)

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Representations and the use of boundaries and geographical names on this map may include errors and do not imply any judgment on the legal status of a territory, nor official recognition or acceptance of these boundaries by IOM.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES IN PLACE AT THE ASSESSED POINTS OF ENTRY

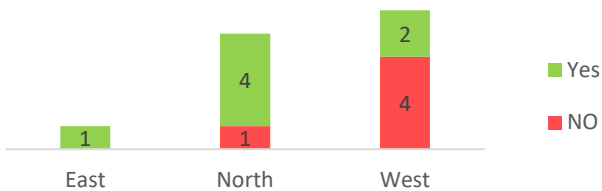
Apart from capturing the operational status and identifying the types of restrictions / measures in place at each PoE, the assessment seeks to identify what (if any) **preventive health measures** have been set-up at these points since the start of the epidemic. In particular, the assessment seeks to identify:

- the presence of **health workers** at the PoE
- the implementation of **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for managing flows, occupational health and safety of staff (IPC), and detection (health screening), registration, notification, management and referral of ill travellers
- The implementation of **Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)** activities
- The installation of **hand-washing stations** (Infection Prevention and Control)
- The implementation of a **health screening process** and setup of a **referral system**

PRESENCE OF HEALTH WORKERS

Health workers are present at **58%** of the assessed PoE (7 out of 12). These may include workers from the INHP (public hygiene national institute) or local doctors.

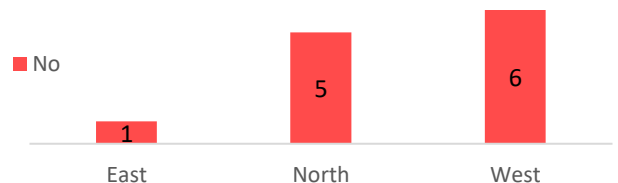
Graph 2: presence of health workers at assessed PoE



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

All of the assessed PoE **do not have SOPs** in place for managing flows and for the detection of ill travellers. However, 2 of the assessed PoEs reported having a type of collaboration framework between border agents and local health structures for the detection and referral of ill travelers.

Graph 3: SOPs developed and put in place at assessed PoE



RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information about **COVID** is provided in **all of the assessed PoE**. This includes awareness sessions with local populations, religious and community leaders as well as day to day information to travellers.

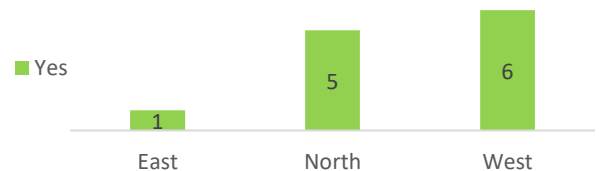
Did you know?

Approximately 2.5 million international migrants are present in Côte d'Ivoire, constituting thus nearly 10 per cent of the total country population. This makes Côte d'Ivoire the West African country with the largest number of international migrants present on its territory.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

All of the assessed PoE have **hand-washing stations** available. The assessed PoE are also equipped with hand sanitizer as a complement to handwashing stations.

Graph 4: availability of hand-washing stations at assessed PoE



HEALTH SCREENING PROCESS AND REFERRAL SYSTEMS

All of the assessed PoE have set up a **health screening process** for travellers. With the use of **non-contact thermometers**, border authorities check travellers' temperatures while respecting safety precautions.

Referral systems are in place in 5 of the 12 assessed PoE. In most cases, a phone line has been set up and can be used when a suspect case is detected.

Did you know?

Côte d'Ivoire has 3109 kilometers of land borders. However, there are only 51 official Points of Entry.

IOM CÔTE D'IVOIRE RESPONSE

Through COCOTIP project, IOM donated sanitary and medical equipment to 10 PoE in May 2020. The equipment includes : **7 500 pairs of gloves, 10 000 masks, 2 000 liquid soaps, 1 500 hydroalcoholic gels, 100 hand-washing stations, 3 000 paper rolls and 50 infrared thermometers.**

These 10 PoE will in a next phase be provided with electronic tablets to assist with data collection processes regarding border crossings as well as the tracing of COVID-19 cases. Trainings on the utilization of tablets as well as data collection methodologies will also be administered to border authorities.

For further explanations on the methodology use, please refer to the Methodology Framework, available on the following link <https://migration.iom.int/>