

IOM COVID-19
IMPACT ON
KEY LOCATIONS OF
INTERNAL MOBILITY

BI-WEEKLY ANALYSIS
21 OCTOBER 2020

PUBLISHER

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Please send any feedback, comments and suggestions related to the Covid-19 Mobility Tracking dashboards and outputs to the DTM Covid-19 Team at dtm-covid19@iom.int

© 2020 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

COVER PHOTO:

©IOM Bangladesh / Nate Webb 2020

Shahanaj is a midwife at one of IOM's centers in Cox's Bazar. Together with a team of trained doctors, nurses and midwives, Shahanaj is part of the frontline responders to COVID-19 in the camp. "I find that working in the COVID-19 situation is an opportunity to enrich my Health career and gather more medical knowledge."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

METHODOLOGY & DEFINITIONS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1. NATIONAL-LEVEL MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS.....	6
2. KEY LOCATIONS OF INTERNAL MOBILITY SCOPE AND COVERAGE.....	7
3. OVERVIEW OF INTERNAL TRANSIT POINTS.....	8
4. OVERVIEW OF AREAS AND SITES OF INTEREST	11
5. CASE STUDY: YEMEN	14
ANNEX	16

Methodology & Definitions

IOM COVID-19 Impact on Key Locations of Internal Mobility Bi-Weekly Analysis is meant to serve IOM Member States, IOM, UN and voluntary partner agencies, the civil society (including media) as well as the general population in analysing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on different key locations impacting internal mobility. It is particularly relevant when identifying and addressing specific needs faced by migrants and mobile populations, disproportionately affected by the global mobility restrictions.

The report is based on information provided by IOM field staff, using resources available at the IOM country office level and is accurate to the best of IOM's knowledge at the time of compilation. All information is being constantly validated, including the geo-location and attributes, and through regular assessments and triangulation of information. The updates depend on the time frame within which the information becomes available and is processed by IOM. For this reason, the analysis is always dated and timestamped in order to reflect the reality at a given time. However, as the situation continuously evolves and changes, despite IOM's best efforts, the analysis may not always accurately reflect the multiple and simultaneous restrictive measures being imposed at a specific location.

As the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the resulting restrictive measures issued to mitigate the spread, has become increasingly complex and varied. The IOM global mobility database has been updated in a way which reflects the varied stages of measures issued at different times by C/T/As. As such, the evolution of global restrictive measures, has resulted in varied update timelines and can explain the difference in monthly updates. Data has been collected between 13 March and 16 October 2020. Data for 10 per cent of the assessed locations has been updated since the beginning of October, while data for 8 per cent of the assessed locations has been updated in September, with 11 per cent of the assessed locations that have been updated in August, while 7 per cent was last updated in July. The data for the remaining assessed internal locations was last updated before July (specifically, 21% in June, 16% in May, 19% in April and 9% in March). For more information see Table 3 in the annex.

This report provides an overview and analysis on the data from a global and regional perspective Key Locations of Internal Mobility and complements the bi-weekly report on Points of Entry (PoE), which focuses on the impact on cross-border movements and can be found [here](#). For more detailed country-specific information and dataset used for the analysis please visit: <https://migration.iom.int/>.

For further information on the methodology, definitions and explanation please refer to the [Methodology Framework](#). Regional maps are available [here](#).

Data is collected on the following location types:

Other Key Locations of Internal Mobility:

- Internal Transit Points (internal transit point inside a given country, territory or area)
- Areas of interest (region, town, city or sub-administrative unit in a given country, territory or area with internal COVID-19 related restrictive measures, including areas with an outbreak of COVID-19 or areas under lockdown/quarantine)
- Sites with a population of interest (including stranded, repatriated and returning migrants, IDPs, nationals, asylum seekers and regular travelers, who have been affected by COVID-19 mobility restrictions at specific locations, for example hotels, temporary reception centers, camps, transit centers and detention centers.

While not included in this report, to give a comprehensive view of the COVID-19-related impact on mobility, please also refer to the weekly report on Points of Entry (PoEs) mentioned above, which assesses the impact on cross-border movements at locations such as:

- Airports (currently or recently functioning airport with a designated International Air Transport Association (IATA) code)
- Blue Border Crossing Points (international border crossing point on sea, river or lake)
- Land Border Crossing Points (international border crossing point on land, including rail)

The following operational status is captured for each assessed Internal Transit Point ¹ :

- Fully operational:
 - Open for entry and exit: all travelers can use the PoE or internal transit point.
- Partially operational:
 - Open for commercial traffic only: only transport of goods is permitted, travelers are not allowed to cross;
 - Closed for entry: travelers cannot use this location to enter the country, territory or area;
 - Closed for exit: travelers cannot use this location to leave the country, territory or area;
 - Open for returning nationals and residents only: the location is open to returning nationals and residents only, including military and humanitarian personnel and other special groups for whom entry and exit is permitted according to national procedures in place.
- Fully closed:
 - Closed for both entry and exit: no one is permitted to use the PoE or internal transit point.
- Unknown

¹. Operational status is captured in the same way for all Points of Entry. For more information please refer to the bi-weekly PoE report.

Methodology & Definitions

The report systematically captures the following types of mobility restrictions in place at assessed Internal Transit Points :

- Movement restricted to this location
- Movement restricted from this location
- Rules pertaining to identification and/or travel documents needed to enter or disembark at this location have changed
- Medical measures including mandatory quarantine or additional medical checks have been imposed at this location
- Requirement for medical certificate confirming a negative COVID-19 test result
- Other
- None

Additionally, more information is collected on areas of interest, specifically concerning whether:

- Public events were cancelled or postponed
- Schools were closed
- Restricted operating hours for public establishments (café, restaurant, etc.) were adopted
- Alternative working arrangements (working remotely, etc.) were implemented
- Movement outside home was restricted
- Lockdown/quarantine measures were enforced by police or military

Country/territory/area level restrictions are aggregated as following:

- Significant mobility restrictions (E.g. curfew, lockdown, state of emergency, medical requirements for international arrivals and other mobility restrictions)
- No restrictions
- Specific national measures such as: national emergency declared and mandatory quarantine of arrivals from abroad

Affected Populations:

COVID-19 mobility restrictions affect different population categories. For example, for the purpose of this report, stranded migrants are individuals unable to return as a result of mobility restrictions related to COVID-19. This could include economic migrants, students, temporary visa or work permit holders. It could also include other populations such as tourists who may be stranded owing to COVID-19-related travel restrictions. These populations may be seeking repatriation or assistance while remaining abroad.

Other affected populations include regular travelers, nationals, returnees, irregular migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrant workers and refugees. The various populations are affected in diverse ways across the different types of assessed locations, including but not limited requirements for additional documentation, temporary relocation, quarantine or medical screening, up to an inability to continue their intended travel.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacities (COVID-19) at Internal Transit Points:

To understand public health emergency preparedness and response capacities with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic additional questions are asked about specific public health interventions that have been put in place in the specified locations including both internal transit points as well as PoEs. These include risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention and control, and measures to detect, manage and refer ill travelers suspected of having COVID-19, existence of standard operating procedures, health screening, presence and functionality of a referral system for suspected COVID-19 cases, and the availability of an isolation space for suspected cases before referral to designated health facility.

List of acronyms used throughout the report

- C/T/As: countries, territories or areas
- DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix
- IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons
- ITP: Internal Transit Point
- PoE: Point of Entry
- p.p.: Percentage Point ²
- SOPs: Standard Operating Procedures

Data is geographically aggregated by IOM Regional Offices. The list of countries under each IOM Regional Office can be found here: <https://www.iom.int/regional-offices>

2. Not to be confused with per cent, percentage point (p.p.) refers to an increase or decrease of a percentage rather than an increase or decrease in the raw number.

Executive summary

The current COVID-19 pandemic has affected global mobility both in terms of international mobility restrictions and restrictive measures on internal movement. To better understand how COVID-19 affects global mobility, IOM has developed a global mobility database to gather, map and track data on these restrictive measures impacting movement. This report provides a global perspective of the COVID-19-related measures and restrictions imposed by countries, territories and areas impacting internal movements, as well as the resulting effects on stranded migrants and other population categories. The information in this report relies on a compilation of inputs from multiple sources, including from IOM staff in the field, DTM reports on flow monitoring and mobility tracking.

Data has been collected between 13 March and 16 October 2020. Data for 10 per cent of the assessed locations has been updated since the beginning of October, while data for 8 per cent of the assessed locations has been updated in September, with 11 per cent of the assessed locations that have been updated in August, while 7 per cent was last updated in July. The data for the remaining assessed internal locations was last updated before July (specifically, 21% in June, 16% in May, 19% in April and 9% in March).

Through this exercise, IOM collected information about 181 C/T/As across all IOM regions. Among these, 40 per cent (72 C/T/As) declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and 69 per cent introduced some sort of mobility restriction. Some restrictive measures that have been adopted are quarantine for all international arrivals (67%) and the suspension of the issuance of new visas (35%). On the other hand, some facilitations for stranded populations have also been adopted, such as the automatic extension of expired visas and working permits (29%) and the removal of fines for visa overstays and expired residency and working permits (35%).

Key Locations of Internal Mobility (Internal Transit Points, Areas of Interest, and Sites with Populations of Interest):

- IOM assessed 1,517 key locations across 135 C/T/As, including 385 internal transit points, 479 areas of interest and 653 sites with population of interest.
- Assessed internal transit points and areas of interest were mostly situated in Asia and the Pacific, while the highest number of assessed sites with population of interest were from the East and Horn of Africa and the European Economic Area.
- 89 per cent of the assessed internal transit points were fully operational, with 6 and 3 per cent which were respectively either fully closed or partially operational. Moreover, 49 per cent of the assessed internal transit points had introduced medical measures within the location.
- The most common restrictive measures in place in the assessed areas of interest included the cancellation of public events (52% of the assessed areas), school closure (52%), restricted operating hours for public establishments (45%) and alternative working arrangements (45%). Moreover, non-essential movements outside home were restricted in 15 per cent of the assessed areas while lockdown or quarantine measures were enforced by police or military in 23 per cent of the cases.
- Stranded foreign nationals were reported in 64 per cent of the assessed sites with populations of interest, while in 20 and 14 per cent of cases respectively nationals and foreign nationals on their way to their country of origin were reported to be present in the assessed sites with population of interest.

I. National-level mobility restrictions

40%

Declared national emergency

69%

imposed significant mobility restrictions⁴

29%

automatically extended visas and working permits

181

Assessed C/T/As

67%

imposed mandatory quarantine for international arrivals

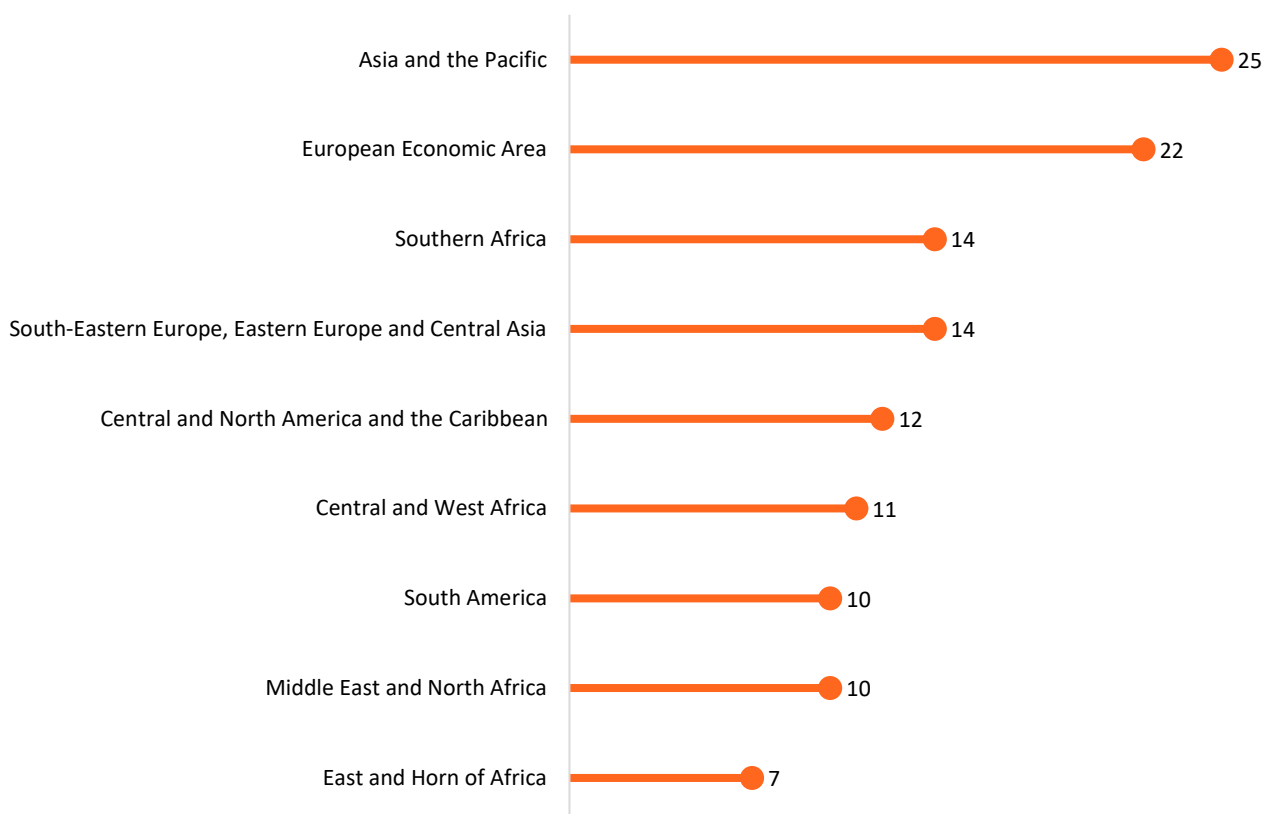
35%

removed fines for visa overstays, expired residency and work permits

35%

suspended the issuance of new visas

Number of C/T/As which imposed significant mobility restrictions by IOM region



4. These mobility restrictions include, among others, curfew, lockdown, checkpoints and patrols.

2. Key Locations of Internal Mobility: Scope and Coverage

385

Assessed Internal Transit Points

1,132

Assessed Areas and Sites

135

Assessed C/T/As

The current COVID-19 pandemic has also affected global mobility in the form of various internal travel disruptions and restrictions. To better understand how COVID-19 affects internal mobility, globally, IOM has included internal transit points as well as assessed areas and sites in the global mobility database. IOM maps and gathers data on the locations, status and restrictions at internal transit points as well as other sub-administrative such as areas of outbreak of COVID-19 or areas under lockdown/quarantine, and sites where populations of interest, such as stranded foreign nationals and IDPs, are particularly affected.

This report provides an overview and analysis on the data from a global and regional perspective, using data updated as of **16 October 2020**.

IOM has assessed a total of 1,517 locations (including internal transit points, areas of interest and sites with population of interest) in **135 countries, territories and areas** so far. The highest share of these assessed locations remained consistent with sites with populations of interest (43%), followed by areas of interest and important internal transit points between cities and regions, with 32 and 26 per cent respectively. More details can be found in Table 1 in the Annex.

Table I: Number (#) and percentage (%) of assessed locations by type and IOM region

Region	Total		Internal transit points		Areas of interest		Sites with population of interest		No. of C/T/As
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Asia and the Pacific	308	100%	115	37%	105	34%	88	29%	24
Central and North America and the Caribbean	157	100%	2	1%	103	66%	52	33%	18
West and Central Africa	182	100%	99	54%	28	15%	55	30%	11
East and Horn of Africa	165	100%	21	13%	20	12%	124	75%	9
European Economic Area	191	100%	2	1%	80	42%	109	57%	23
Middle East and North Africa	153	100%	26	17%	64	42%	63	41%	17
South America	66	100%	6	9%	19	29%	41	62%	9
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	262	100%	114	44%	48	18%	100	38%	13
Southern Africa	33	100%	0	0%	12	36%	21	64%	11
Total	1,517	100%	385	25%	479	32%	653	43%	135

3. Overview of Internal Transit Points

385

Internal Transit Points
assessed in 29 C/T/As

89%

of the assessed internal transit
points are fully operational
(no change compared to the
previous report)

49%

of the assessed locations
imposed medical restrictions
(no change compared to the
previous report)

Of the **385 internal transit points** monitored in 29 countries, territories or areas, an overwhelming majority is **fully operational (89%**, i.e. no change. increase compared to the previous report). The remaining internal transit points are either **fully closed (6%**, i.e. no change on a fortnightly basis) or **partially operational (3%**, i.e. no change compared to two weeks ago), with 3 per cent of the assessed internal transit points whose operational status is unknown. Moreover, approximately half of the assessed locations (189 out of 385, 49% of the total: no change compared to the previous report) have imposed medical restrictions, such as quarantine or medical screening.

IOM-assessed internal transit points were mostly situated in Asia and the Pacific (30%), South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (30%) and West and Central Africa (26%). Specifically, almost two thirds of the assessed internal transit points were from only four countries: Turkey (81 assessed internal transit points, 21% of the total), Mali (74, 19%), Bangladesh (50, 13%) and the Philippines (44, 11%). The operational status of the assessed internal transit points appears very similar across the abovementioned regions with a majority of locations that are fully operational. For more information, please refer to Table 4 in the Annex.

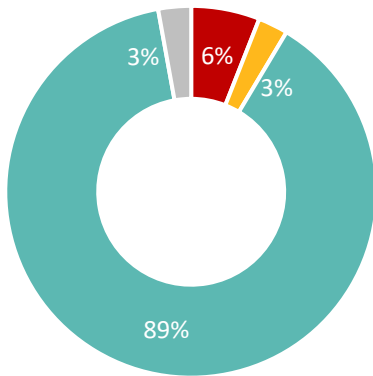
In 226 out of the 385 assessed internal transit points (59% of the total, i.e. no change compared to the previous report), the foreseen duration of the restrictions was unknown (i.e. information was unavailable). In 24 and 14 per cent of the cases the restrictions will be in place for 14 days to one month or less than 14 days, respectively. Only in 15 internal transit points (4% of the total), the restrictive measures will be valid for more than one month.

These restrictions had an **impact** on all categories of population (for more details, see Table 5 in the Annex), especially on **regular travelers** and **nationals** (both affected in **60%** of the assessed locations). **Irregular migrants** (in **24%** of the assessed internal transit points), **returnees (19%)** and **IDPs (16%)** have also been affected by the abovementioned restrictions. Finally, a less significant impact has also been reported on **migrant workers** (in **10%** of the assessed locations) and **refugees (6%)**.

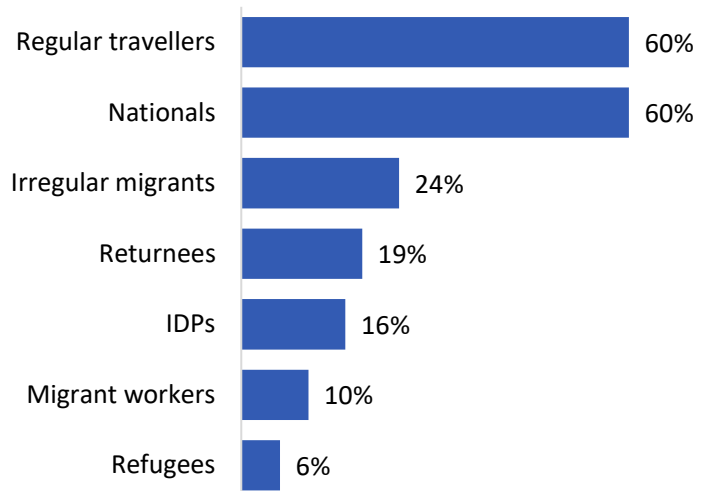
3. Overview of Internal Transit Points

Operational status of the assessed internal transit points

- Fully closed
- Fully operational
- Partially operational
- Unknown

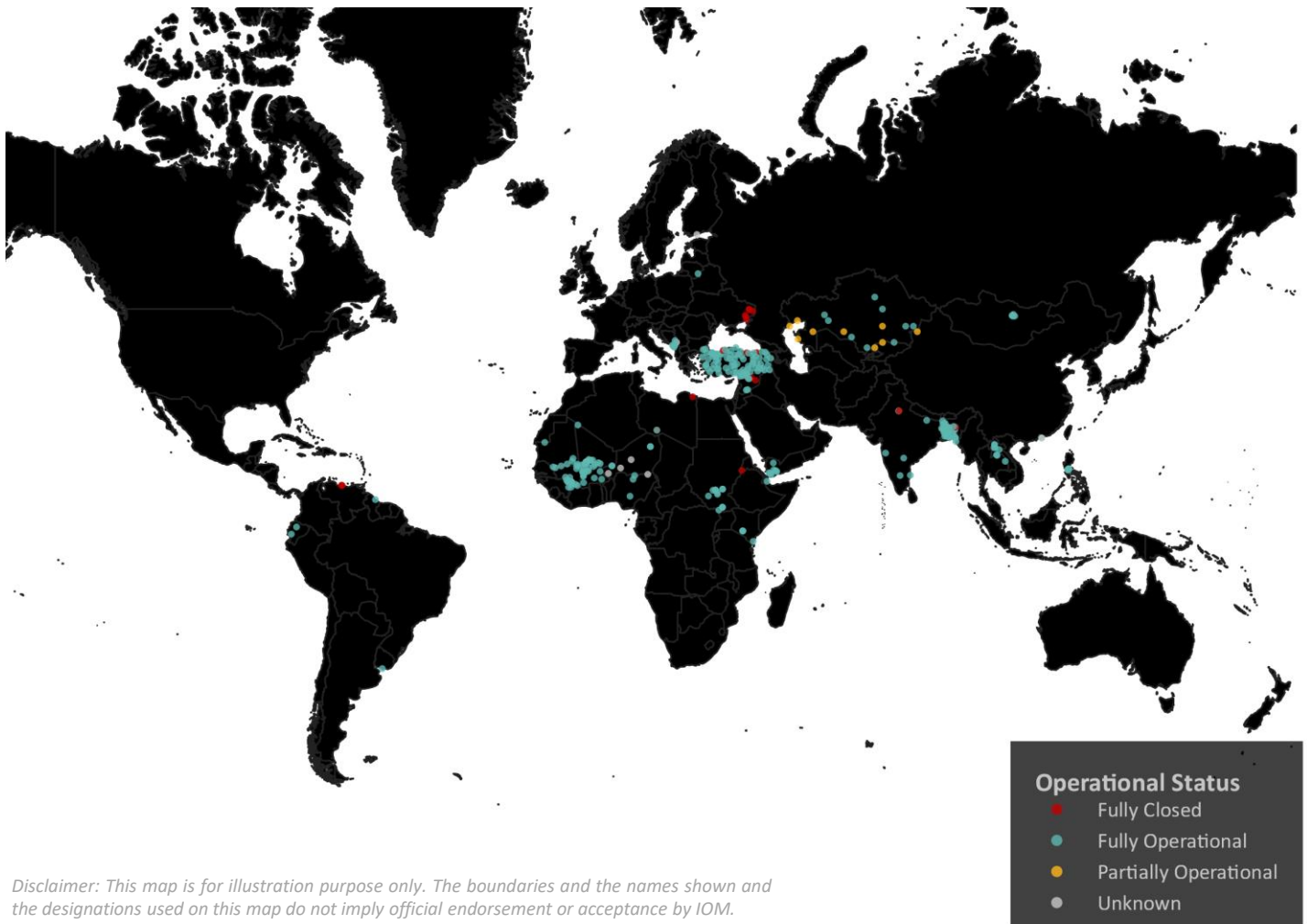


Percentage of internal transit points with affected population



Percentage of Internal Transit Points

Global map of assessed internal transit points and their operational status



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

3. Overview of Internal Transit Points

Public Health Measures

The following public health measures were reported to be in place in assessed internal transit points through IOM’s missions participating in this exercise (for further information, see Table 6 in the Annex).

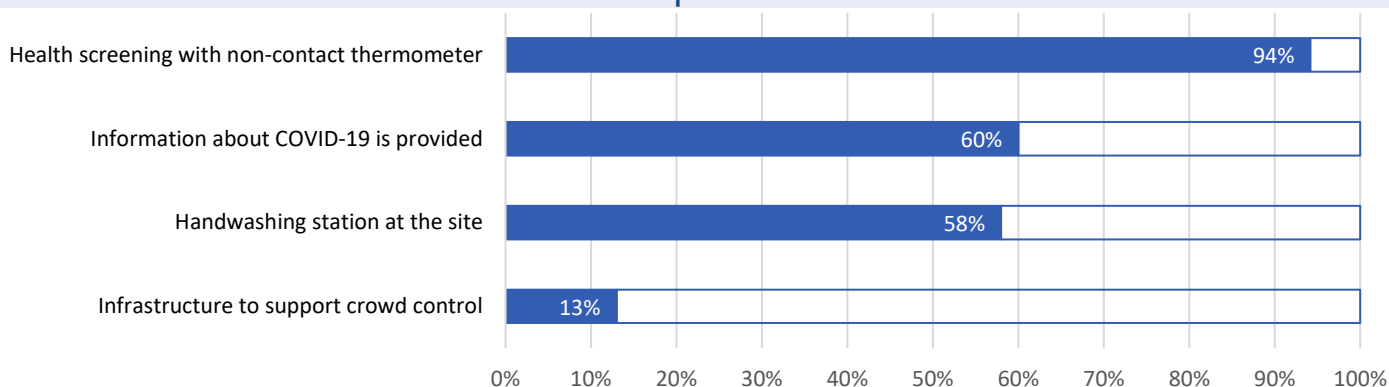
On risk communication and community engagement at the assessed internal transit points, 60 per cent of the assessed locations (144 out of 242 identified internal transit points) reported that information on COVID-19 was provided to travelers at the site through leaflets, posters or announcements. Additionally, in 133 out of 231 identified locations (58% of the total) handwashing stations were available as an infection prevention and control measure.

Health screening using non-contact thermometers was reported at almost all identified internal transit points (113 out of 120 locations recording a response, 94% of the total). However, only 16 out of 128 assessed internal transit points (13% of the total) reported that there was infrastructure in place to support crowd control and ensure safety of screeners.

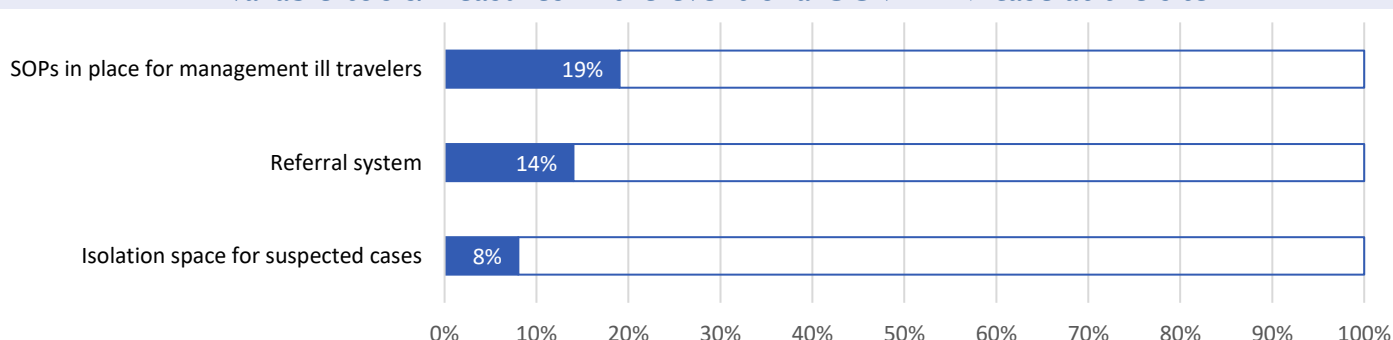
For the detection, management and referral of ill travelers, standard operating procedures were reported to be in place at 19 per cent of identified internal transit points (48 out of 251 locations recording a response), while a referral system was reported to be in place at 33 out of 238 specified internal transit points (14% of the total). Finally, only 18 internal transit point had reliable information regarding the availability of an isolation space for suspected COVID-19 cases, prior to their appropriate referral (18 out 240 assessed internal transit points, 8% of the total).

Maintaining and enhancing these public health measures and interventions across various levels (e.g. local, national, regional) can facilitate the detection, assessment, and notification or reporting of events that can together contribute to prompt and effective responses to public health emergencies such as COVID-19.

Public health measures in place in the assessed locations



Available tools/measures in the event of a COVID-19 case at the site



Disclaimer: The reported findings on Public Health measures should be considered with important caveats. The descriptive summary provided in this report is aimed at providing a rapid capture of assessed ITPs in terms of these public health measures and prompt more detailed rigorous evaluation. Data collection is conducted by country offices with varying resources and capacity, as such assessment coverage, data collection methodologies and modalities vary. Data validation, such as verification from those designated International Health Regulation (IHR) focal points and/or competent authorities at each ITP is not presently possible. These factors impose limitations to the ability to conduct analysis across POE settings within or between countries, territories and areas and comparisons externally at regional and global levels. Furthermore, the limitations of the exercise may impact the consistency of the captured public health measures, and the inter-rater reliability across different enumerators, influencing the quality of the data.

4. Overview of Areas and Sites of Interest

4.1. Areas of Interest

479

areas assessed
in 78 C/T/As

22%

of the assessed areas are located in
the IOM region of Asia and the Pacific

52%

of the assessed areas have
restrictions on public events

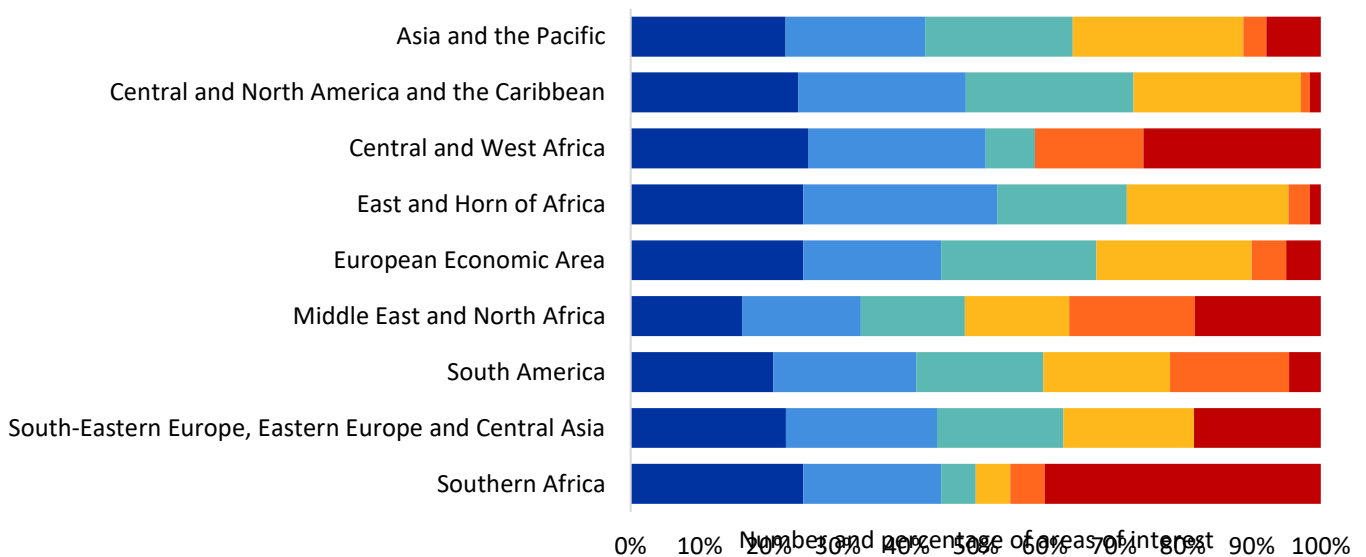
In total, 479 areas of interest were assessed in 78 countries, territories and areas (an increase of three assessed areas since last report). These areas were chosen from sub-national units of interest, such as areas of outbreak of COVID-19 or areas under lockdown/quarantine. Assessed areas consisted of cities, towns and regions. Cancellation of public events, school closures, restricted operating hours for public establishments and alternative working arrangements can be listed as restrictive measures imposed in these areas.

There was no significant changes since last report among the regions. The IOM region of Asia and Pacific continued to have the highest share of assessed areas (105 out of 479 assessed areas or 22%), along with followed by the IOM region of Central and North America and the Caribbean (103 out of 479 assessed areas or 22%). The IOM region of European Economic Area followed with 17 per cent, IOM Region of Middle East and North Africa had 13 per cent (i.e. 1 p.p. increase) and the IOM region of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia had 10 per cent of the assessed areas (80, 64, and 48 areas respectively).

The type of restrictive measures being imposed on the assessed areas varied. In 52 per cent of assessed areas (249 out of 479 assessed areas, 1 p.p. increase since the last assessment) public events were cancelled or postponed. Schools were closed also in 52 per cent of the assessed areas (247 areas, no change since the previous assessment). Restricted operating hours for public establishments (café, restaurant, etc.) and alternative working arrangements (working remotely, etc.) were in place in 45 per cent of the assessed areas for both (215 and 217 areas respectively, almost no change for both). Movement outside home was restricted in 15 per cent of the assessed areas while lockdown or quarantine measures were enforced by police or military in 23 per cent of them (74 and 112 assessed areas, a decrease of one p.p. in both). The largest proportion of areas with an expected duration of restrictions (37%), was 14 days to one month, followed by less than 14 days (20%) and one to three months (5%). However, in 36 per cent of assessed areas, the expected duration of restrictions was unknown.

Number and type of restrictions in areas of interest by IOM region

- Public events cancelled or postponed
- Schools closed
- Restricted operating hours for public establishments (café, restaurant, etc.)
- Alternative working arrangements (work remotely, etc.)
- Restricted movement
- Lockdown/quarantine enforced by police or military



4. Overview of Areas and Sites of Interest

4.2. Sites with Populations of Interest

653

sites assessed in 116 C/T/As

19%

of the assessed sites are located in the IOM region of East and Horn of Africa

64%

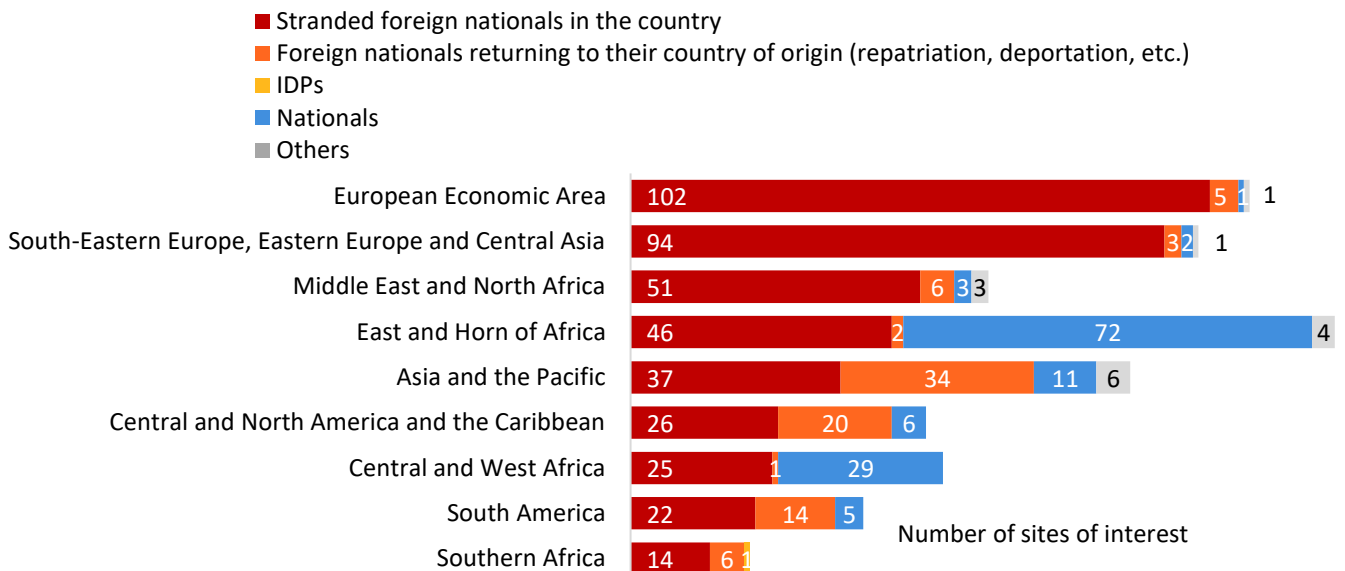
of the assessed sites have reported cases of stranded foreign nationals

In total, 653 (increase of 27 assessed site since the last assessment) sites were assessed in 116 countries, territories and areas. These sites were selected as they concern populations of interest such as stranded foreign nationals and IDPs. Hotels, temporary reception centers, camps, transit centers and detention centers can be given as examples of assessed sites.

Affected population groups consisted of stranded, repatriated and returning migrants, IDPs, asylum seekers and regular travelers. In 64 per cent of the assessed sites with populations of interest, foreign nationals were reportedly stranded (417 out of 653 assessed sites, i.e. 2 p.p. increase) and in 14 per cent of cases foreign nationals reported returning to their country of origin (91 sites) were impacted, while in 20 per cent of sites, nationals were affected by restrictive measures (129 sites). In 2 per cent of the sites, there were other affected population groups including migrants and refugees that were in reception centers before COVID-19 (4 sites). In only one site, IDPs were affected by restrictive measures.

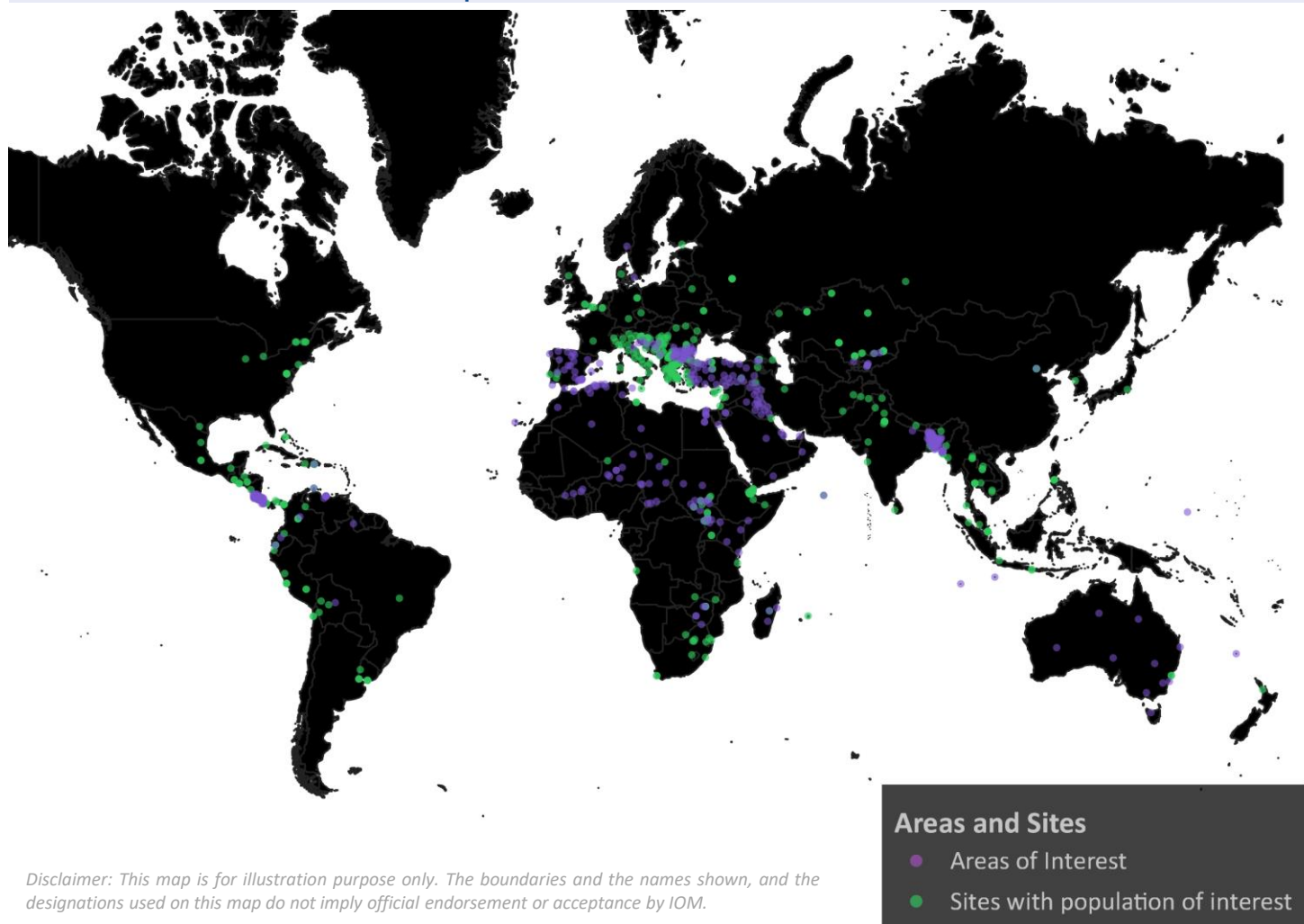
Among the regions, the IOM region of East and Horn of Africa and European Economic Area had the highest proportion of sites (19% and 17% respectively). IOM region of European Economic Area had the highest proportion of sites with stranded foreign nationals in the country (24% or 102 out of 417 stranded foreign nationals), followed by the IOM region of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia with 23 per cent (a 5 p.p. increase compared to last week). The IOM region of Asia and Pacific has the highest proportion of sites with reported cases of nationals returning to their country of origin (37%) followed by IOM Region of Central and North America and the Caribbean with 22 per cent, while IOM region of East and Horn of Africa reported the highest per cent of sites with reported cases of affected nationals (56%). Analysis within regions can be also conducted in order to investigate the distribution of sites with populations of interest in certain regions. In the IOM region of European Economic Area and IOM region of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia separately, 94 per cent of assessed sites, each had reported cases of stranded foreign nationals, 39 and 38 per cent of the sites in IOM region of Asia and Pacific and the region of Central and North America and the Caribbean, respectively had cases of impacted foreign nationals returning to their country of origin while nationals were the affected group in 58 per cent of the assessed sites in IOM Region of East and Horn of Africa.

Number of sites with population of interest disaggregated by population categories and IOM region



4. Overview of Areas and Sites of Interest

Global map of assessed Areas and Sites of Interest



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and the names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

5. Case Study: Yemen

This section provides reported examples of various ways COVID-19 mitigation measures have impacted migrants and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Yemen as a result of the pandemic. Information presented in this case study comes from a range of sources including IOM Regional Offices and Country Missions, IOM sitreps, IOM files and media outlets, as well as public media outlets. Please note that the content in this section is dependent on what is reported and available from reports mentioned¹.

In terms of the impact of COVID-19 on IDPs in Yemen, the situation remains complex. Through IOM Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix, between 26th August and 8th September 2020, 799 new displaced households were recorded in areas where IOM has access. The highest number of displacements were due to conflict in Marib, Al Hudaydah and Taizz governorates. From 1st January to 8th September 2020, IOM Yemen DTM estimates that 22,421 households or 134,526 individuals experienced displacement at least once.

According to a dashboard published by the Yemen DTM country mission on October the 7th, there were 2,045 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country, of which 1,327 have been recovered and 593 demises. During the period from 23rd September to 6th October 2020, 15 new cases and 6 deaths were reported in Yemen according to this report and to the World Health Organization (WHO). Regarding the impacts on IDPs, 1,548 households reported COVID-19 as the primary reason for displacement². Moreover, according to this report, 231 new migrants arrived to the southern governorates of Shabwah and Lahj. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the vast majority of IDPs displaced in Yemen is due to the continued conflict activities. Thus, in September 2020 there were a total of 23,519 IDPs displaced since the beginning of the year. For example, Marib governorate continues to have one of the largest IDP populations in the country, with the highest rate of new displacement. As displacement numbers continue to grow in response to conflict, IOM has noted that 80 per cent of new IDPs are settling in camps (up from only 60% earlier this year), resulting in overcrowding and the establishment of ad hoc sites with little to no access to services, further exacerbating COVID-19 related risks. Nevertheless, humanitarian needs remain large and the availability of partners and services in Marib is limited.

IOM with humanitarian partners continues to engage IDP communities in activities such as making facemasks in Ibb and Marib through cash for work and trainings. In Ibb, face masks were distributed to all IDPs in six sites, reaching 821 individuals. IOM teams continue to improve WASH services in displacement sites and communities hosting large displaced populations. IOM water trucking activities are ongoing in 58 sites in Al Hudaydah and Taizz, reaching 9,173 people. During the reporting period, IOM also distributed 9,260 long lasting insecticide nets to immunocompromised and high-risk individuals as well as newly arrived IDPs in Marib.

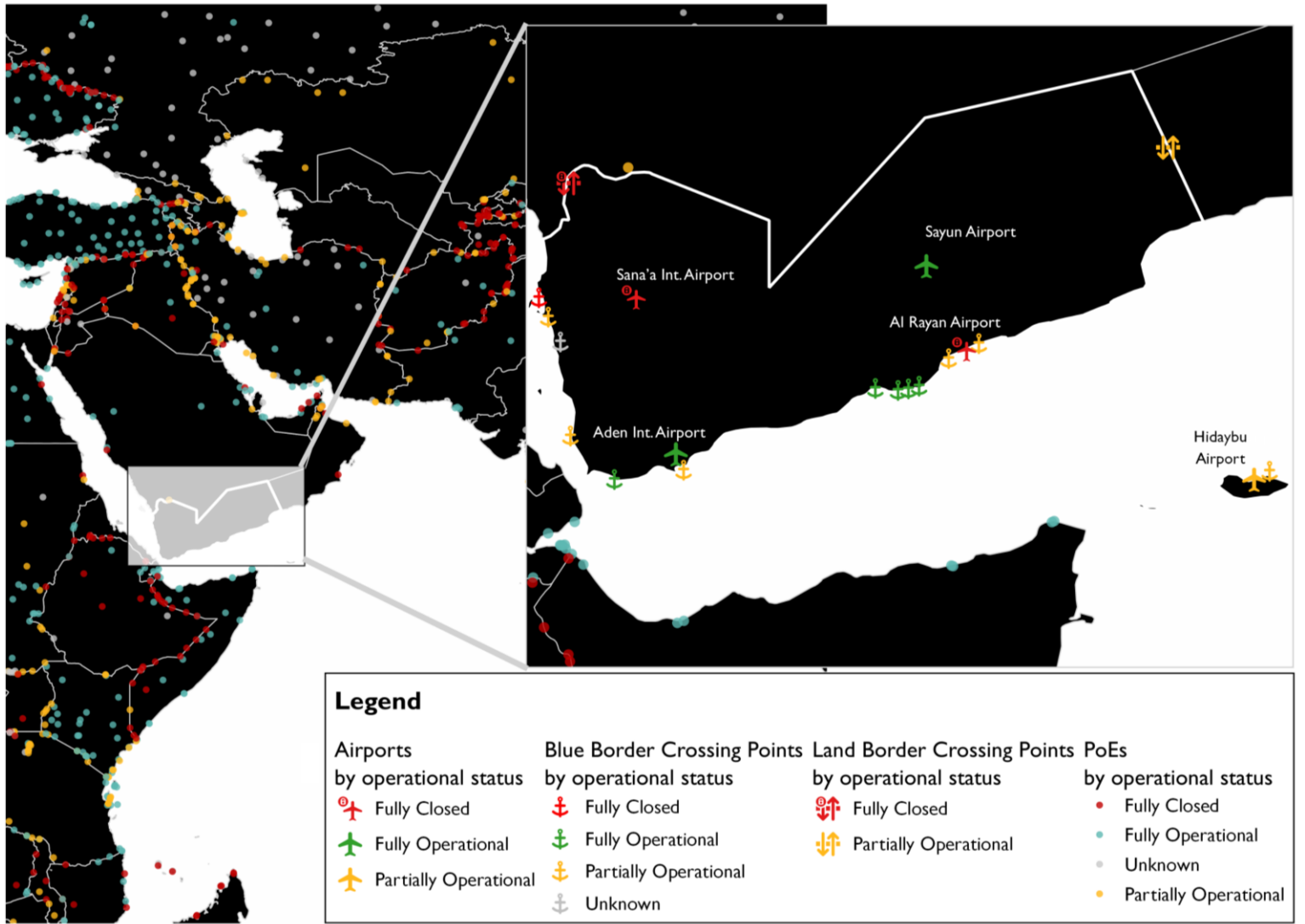
Furthermore, COVID-19 travel restrictions and border closures have left thousands of people stranded in Yemen, including 148 Malaysian students and over 2,000 Yemeni-American nationals and permanent residents of the United States of America. The lack of consular presence in Yemen was identified as a challenge to returning American citizens and permanent residents home to the United States of America. Other challenges cited include renewing visas and passports at the nearest embassy, which is extremely difficult due to COVID-19 border closures. Meanwhile, the students were able to return to Malaysia on a chartered Egypt Air flight, with 131 returning on 2nd August and 17 returning on 3rd August 2020.

There has also been reports of new and exasperated challenges that different population groups, including migrants, face in Yemen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, it was reported that migrants from various countries, territories, and areas in Africa are experiencing stigma in Yemen as they are being blamed for spreading the COVID-19 virus. Stigmatization of migrant as perceived carrier of the virus is not specific to Yemen but according to reports, some migrants in Yemen have reportedly been harassed for trying to get water or food and others have been blocked from accessing medical care. Thousands have also been driven out of northern Yemen over the past three months, with many being left in the desert without food or water, and others have been pushed to the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where they have been shot at and/or detained. Others have attempted to cross into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to find jobs with the help of smugglers. Meanwhile, according to UNICEF, millions of children could be pushed to the brink of starvation in Yemen amid a drop in aid because funds have been diverted to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency has expressed concerns that unless 54.5 million USD is raised by the end of August 2020, about 23,500 children who already have severe acute malnutrition will be at increased risk of dying and millions more will not get essential nutritional and vitamin supplements, or immunization against deadly diseases. UNICEF also stated that 19 million people, including one million pregnant or breast-feeding mothers will lose access to healthcare without the funds.

1. Please visit the Methodology tab of migration.iom.int for more information on stranded migrant mapping methodology.

2. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/yemen-covid-19-mobility-restrictions-07-oct-2020>

5. Case Study: Yemen



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

1. Please visit the Methodology tab of migration.iom.int for more information on stranded migrant mapping methodology.

Annex: Tables

Table 2: Number of C/T/As which imposed significant mobility restrictions by IOM region

Region	Yes	No	Unknown	n/a	No. of C/T/As per region
Asia and the Pacific	25	10	0	4	39
Central and North America and the Caribbean	12	3	0	7	22
West and Central Africa	11	8	0	2	21
East and Horn of Africa	7	1	0	1	9
European Economic Area	22	6	0	1	29
Middle East and North Africa	10	7	0	0	17
South America	10	0	0	0	10
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	14	4	0	1	19
Southern Africa	14	1	0	0	15
Total	125	40	0	16	181

Table 2.1: Measures taken by C/T/As in response to COVID-19

Measure taken in response to COVID-19	Yes	No	Unknown	n/a	Total
Automatic extension of visas and work permits	52	44	37	48	181
National emergency declared	72	93	0	16	181
Quarantine for international arrivals	121	45	0	15	181
Removal of fines for visa overstays or expired residency or work permit	63	28	42	48	181
Significant mobility restrictions	125	40	0	16	181
Suspension of issuance of new visas	63	72	0	46	181

Table 3: Number of location updates by month

Month	Location type			
	Area	Area2	Internal Transit Point	Total
March	91	2	49	142
March (%)	19%	0%	13%	9%
April	54	216	16	286
April (%)	11%	33%	4%	19%
May	45	98	94	237
May (%)	9%	15%	24%	16%
June	81	114	124	319
June (%)	17%	17%	32%	21%
July	70	33	6	109
July (%)	15%	5%	2%	7%
August	59	72	29	160
August(%)	12%	11%	8%	11%
September	22	52	41	115
September(%)	5%	8%	11%	8%
October	57	66	26	149
October(%)	12%	10%	7%	10%
Total	479	653	385	1517
Total (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%

Annex: Tables

Table 4: Number (#) and percentage (%) of operational status at internal transit points

Region	Fully Closed		Partially Operational		Fully Operational		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Asia and the Pacific	3	3%	0	0%	112	97%	0	0%	115	100%
Central and North America and the Caribbean	0	0%	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2	100%
West and Central Africa	0	0%	0	0%	90	91%	9	9%	99	100%
East and Horn of Africa	1	5%	0	0%	20	95%	0	0%	21	100%
European Economic Area	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	1	50%	2	100%
Middle East and North Africa	5	19%	1	4%	20	77%	0	0%	26	100%
South America	3	50%	0	0%	3	50%	0	0%	6	100%
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	11	10%	9	8%	93	82%	1	1%	114	100%
Total	23	6%	10	3%	341	89%	11	3%	385	100%

Table 5: Affected population categories at internal transit points

Location type	Nationals	Regular travellers	Irregular migrants	Returnees	IDPs	Refugees	Migrant workers	No. of locations assessed
Number	231	231	94	72	62	23	40	385
Percentage	60%	60%	24%	19%	16%	6%	10%	100%

Table 6: Public health measures at internal transit points

Question	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Handwashing station at the site	133	67	31	231
Health screening with temperature check using non-contact thermometer	113	0	7	120
Information about COVID-19 being provided at site	144	64	34	242
Infrastructure at the site to support crowd control and ensure safety of screeners	16	8	104	128
Isolation space exists for evaluation of any suspect case away from crowds	18	89	133	240
Referral system in place at the site	33	74	131	238
SOPs in place at the site for management and referral of ill travellers	48	84	119	251

Annex: Tables

Table 7: Number of areas of interest in each IOM Region

Region	Areas of interest	Percentage of Total	No. of C/T/As
Asia and the Pacific	105	22%	10
Central and North America and the Caribbean	103	22%	9
West and Central Africa	28	6%	4
East and Horn of Africa	20	4%	5
European Economic Area	80	17%	15
Middle East and North Africa	64	13%	15
South America	19	4%	7
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	48	10%	8
Southern Africa	12	3%	5
Total	479	1	78

Table 7.I: Number and type of restrictions in areas of interest

Region	Public events cancelled or postponed	Schools closed	Restricted operating hours for public establishments (café, restaurant, etc.)	Alternative working arrangements (work remotely, etc.)	Restricted movement	Lockdown/quarantine enforced by police or military	Total
Asia and the Pacific	20	18	19	22	3	7	105
Central and North America and the Caribbean	93	93	93	93	5	6	103
West and Central Africa	18	18	5	0	11	18	28
East and Horn of Africa	16	18	12	15	2	1	20
European Economic Area	10	8	9	9	2	2	80
Middle East and North Africa	31	33	29	29	35	35	64
South America	18	18	16	16	15	4	19
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	38	37	31	32	0	31	48
Southern Africa	5	4	1	1	1	8	12
Total	249	247	215	217	74	112	479

Annex: Tables

Table 7.2: Duration of restrictive measures in areas of interest

Duration	No. of Areas of interest	Percentage
1 - 3 months	24	5%
14 days to One month	176	37%
Less than 14 days	98	20%
More than 3 months	6	1%
Specific Date	1	0%
Unknown	174	36%
Total	479	100%

Table 8: Affected population categories in the sites of interest

Affected population categories	No. of Sites of interest	Percentage
Foreign national returning (on the way) to origin (Returnee/Repatriation/Deportation...)	91	14%
Foreign national stranded in country (Stranded)	417	64%
IDPs	1	0%
Nationals	129	20%
Other	15	2%
Unknown	653	100%
Total	626	100%

Annex: Tables

Table 8.1: Number (#) of sites disaggregated by population categories and by IOM region

Region	Stranded foreign nationals in the country		Foreign nationals returning to their country of origin (repatriation, deportation, etc.)		IDPs		Nationals		Other		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	Region's %
Asia and the Pacific	37	42%	34	39%	0	0%	11	13%	0	0%	6	7%	88	100%
Central and North America and the Caribbean	26	50%	20	38%	0	0%	6	12%	0	0%	0	0%	52	100%
West and Central Africa	25	45%	1	2%	0	0%	29	53%	0	0%	0	0%	55	100%
East and Horn of Africa	46	37%	2	2%	0	0%	72	58%	0	0%	4	3%	124	100%
European Economic Area	102	94%	5	5%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%	109	100%
Middle East and North Africa	51	81%	6	10%	0	0%	3	5%	0	0%	3	5%	63	100%
South America	22	54%	14	34%	0	0%	5	12%	0	0%	0	0%	41	100%
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	94	94%	3	3%	0	0%	2	2%	0	0%	1	1%	100	100%
Southern Africa	14	67%	6	29%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	21	100%
Total	417	64%	91	14%	1	0%	129	20%	0	0%	15	2%	653	100%