

BACKGROUND

The current outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. To better understand how COVID-19 affects global mobility, IOM has developed a [global mobility database](#) to map and gather data on the locations, status and different restrictions at Points of Entry (PoEs), globally. In the East and Horn of Africa (EHoA) region, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams in nine of the ten countries covered by IOM Nairobi Regional Office¹ are actively collecting information on various PoEs, internal transit locations, as well as other areas of interest in an effort to better understand the extent of these restrictions, as well as the impact on different types of population groups. This report is developed as a close collaboration between IOM's divisions and units, in particular: DTM, Migration Health Division (MHD), Immigration and Border Management (IBM), and Migrant Protection and Assistance Division (MPA).

Data is collected about the following locations:

- **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)
- **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 specific restrictions)
- **Sites with a population of interest** particularly affected by or at risk of COVID-19 (stranded, repatriated and returning migrants, IDPs, nationals, asylum-seekers and regular travellers)

SCOPE AND COVERAGE AT A GLANCE


9

 Countries in the East
 and Horn of Africa

344

PoEs assessed


21

 Internal Transit Points
 in 4 countries

20

Areas of interest


126

 Sites with populations
 of interest

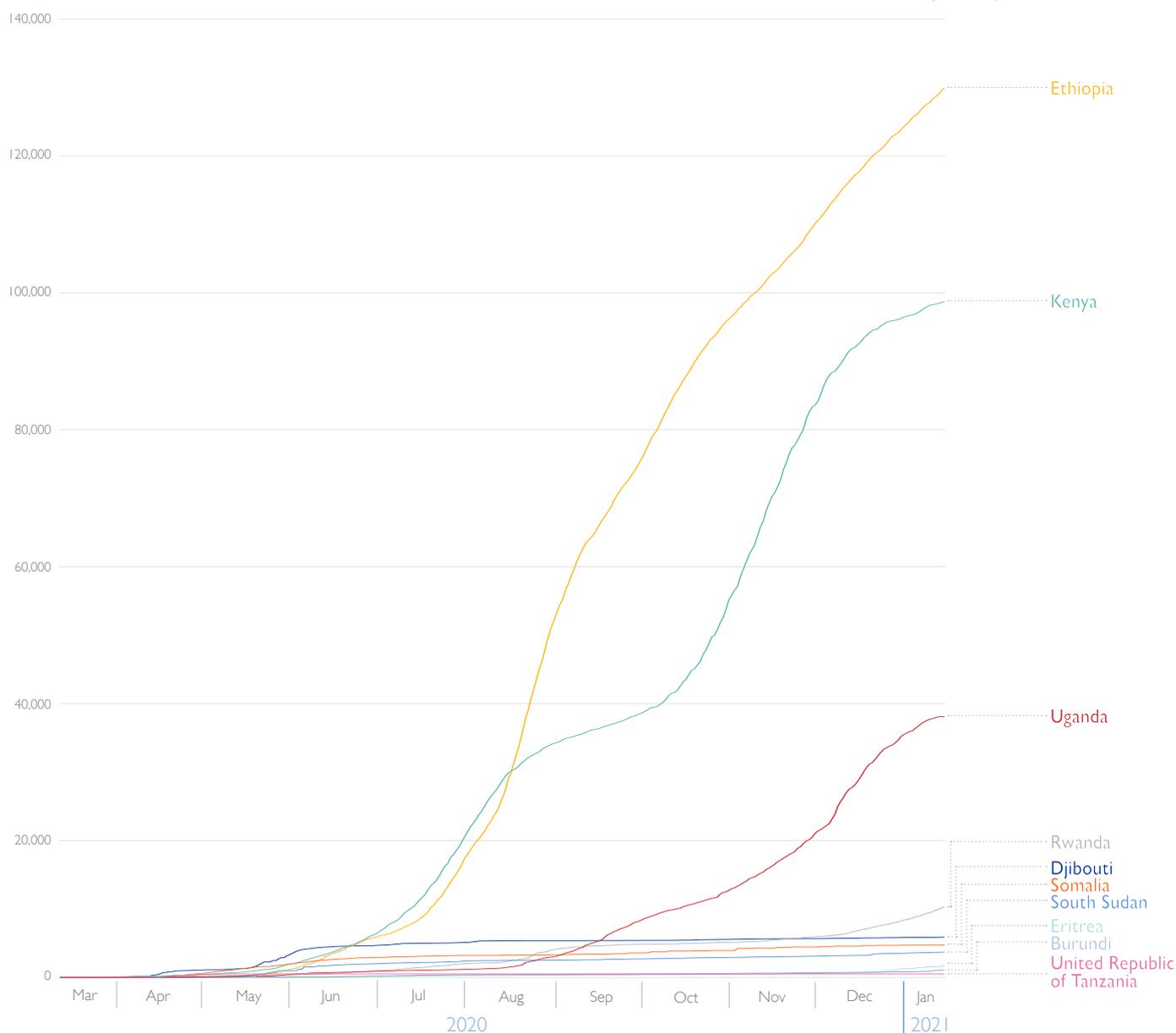
Countries' PoEs	Land Border Points	Blue Border Points	Airports	Total
Burundi	32	9	1	42
Djibouti	4	6	1	11
Ethiopia	31	0	6	37
Kenya	13	6	22	41
Rwanda	10	0	1	11
Somalia	21	8	13	42
South Sudan	36	2	7	45
Uganda	9	0	1	10
United Republic of Tanzania	34	50	21	105
Grand Total	190	81	73	344

¹ Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

CONTACT

Epidemiological Situation ²

Incidence trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the East and Horn of Africa as of 14 January 2021



Overview of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries in the East and Horn of Africa as of 14 January 2021

	Burundi	Djibouti	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Kenya	Rwanda	Somalia	South Sudan	Uganda	United Republic of Tanzania	Total
Confirmed cases	1,103	5,900	1,805	129,922	98,693	10,316	4,744	3,703	38,085	509	294,780
Deaths	2	61	6	2,008	1,723	133	130	63	304	21	4,451
Recoveries	773	5,813	1,014	114,749	81,933	6,974	3,666	3,228	13,083	183	231,416
Active cases	328	26	785	13,165	15,037	3,209	948	412	24,698	305	58,913

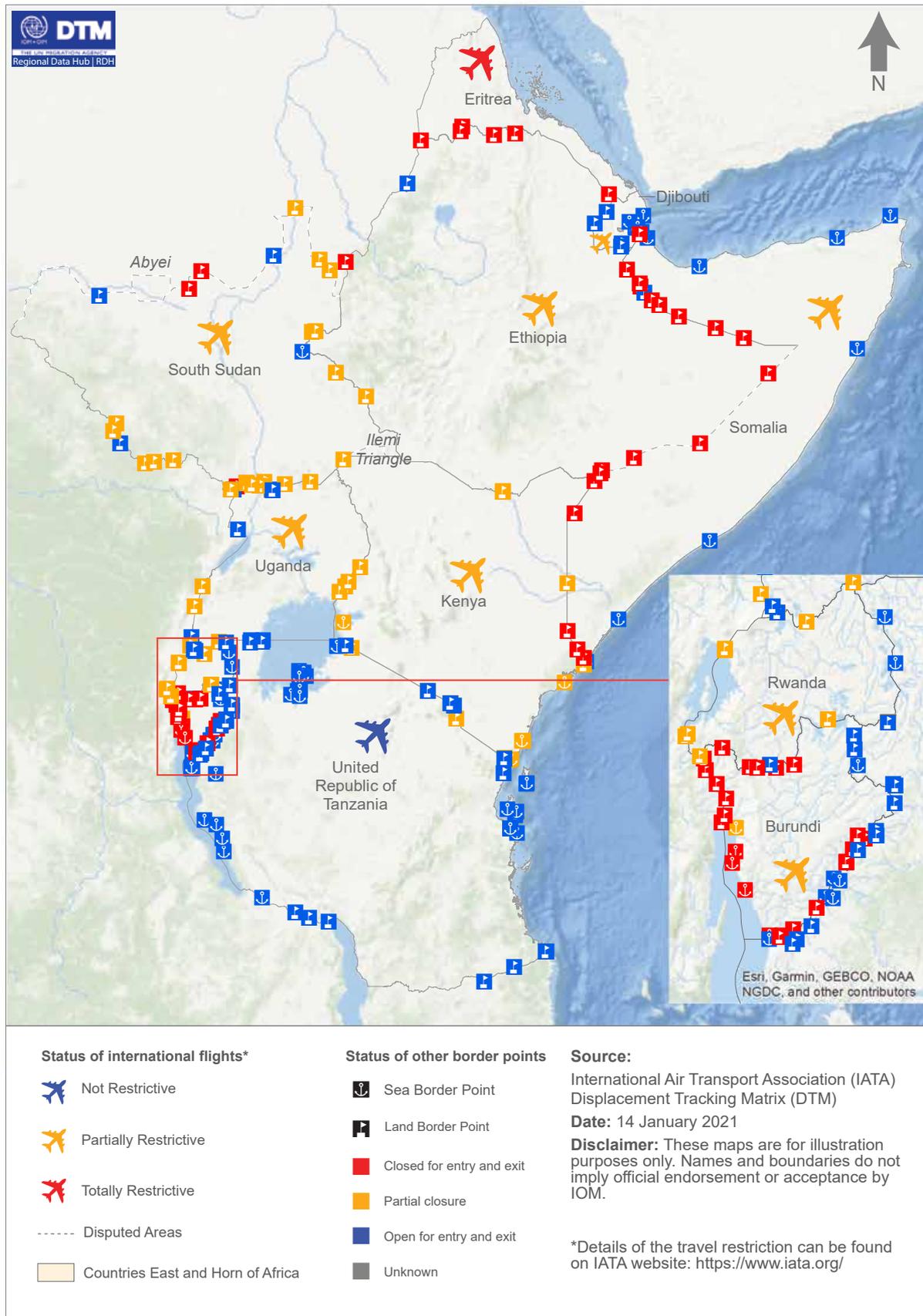
The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the region has continued to increase, exceeding 294,000 as of 14 January 2021. The EHoA region now represents 13.2% of the total Africa COVID-19 cases. Across the region, the majority of the cases are asymptomatic and through community transmission. As of 14 January 2021, the number of COVID-19 related deaths in the region stood at 4,451. The fatality rate (1.5%) is still below the Africa (2.3%) and global (2.2%) averages, showing contained number of severity case in the region. The number of cumulative recovered cases is 231,416 (78.5% of cases in the region).

² Source: Ministry of Health Official Reports. World Health Organization (WHO).

Travel Restrictions

- Rwanda suspended both public and private transportation services between its capital Kigali and other districts for an initial period of 15 days effective 5 January 2021.
- South Sudan has reopened its land borders, however, cross-border movements are still limited due to the restrictions imposed by neighbouring countries.

Status of PoEs in the East and Horn of Africa region as of 14 January 2021



LEVEL OF RESTRICTIONS

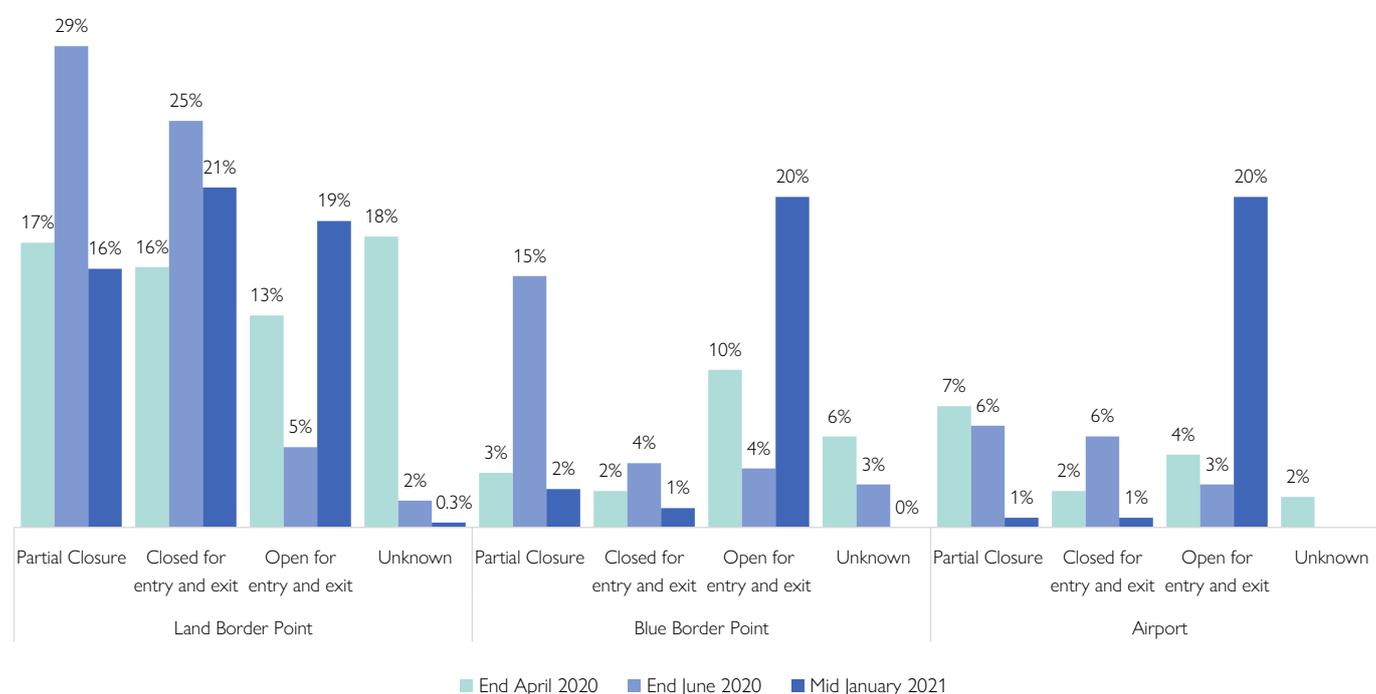
Although a majority of the PoEs had some level of restrictions imposed on them, there is a higher proportion of open PoEs as compared to previous months due to the ease of COVID-19 related restrictions in the region. A total of 64 PoEs (19%) were partially closed, while 202 (59%) were open for travel in both directions, which is an increase from 175 (53%) in November. A further 77 PoEs (22%) were closed for both entries and exits, and one had unknown operational status.

Location Type	Partial Closure	Closed for entry and exit	Open for entry and exit	Unknown	Total
Land Border Point	54	71	64	1	190
Blue Border Point	8	4	69	0	81
Airport	2	2	69	0	73
Total	64	77	202	1	344

Situation Overview

- Most countries had a combination of all types of restrictions, and quite a few PoEs have been opened up as restrictions on movements eased in the past weeks. Airports, in particular, have largely resumed movements in both directions, with around 95% of all assessed airports now open. A majority of land border points still have some sort of restrictions, with only 34% open for movement in both directions (up from 29% in November), and blue border ports have opened further as compared to November, with 85% now open (up from 75%);
- Rwanda still had the highest proportion of partially closed points (91%), Ethiopia the largest proportion of completely closed points (73%), as it continues to experience a surge in COVID-19 cases. At the same time, all points in Djibouti were completely open as is the case in the United Republic of Tanzania, while Kenya remains at 54% and more than half the points in South Sudan (58%) are partially closed;
- Since the beginning of the crisis, the situation has stabilized a lot, with more points allowing for travel in either direction. The chart below shows the evolution from April, the beginning of the outbreak, to June which was arguably the peak of the crisis, to now.

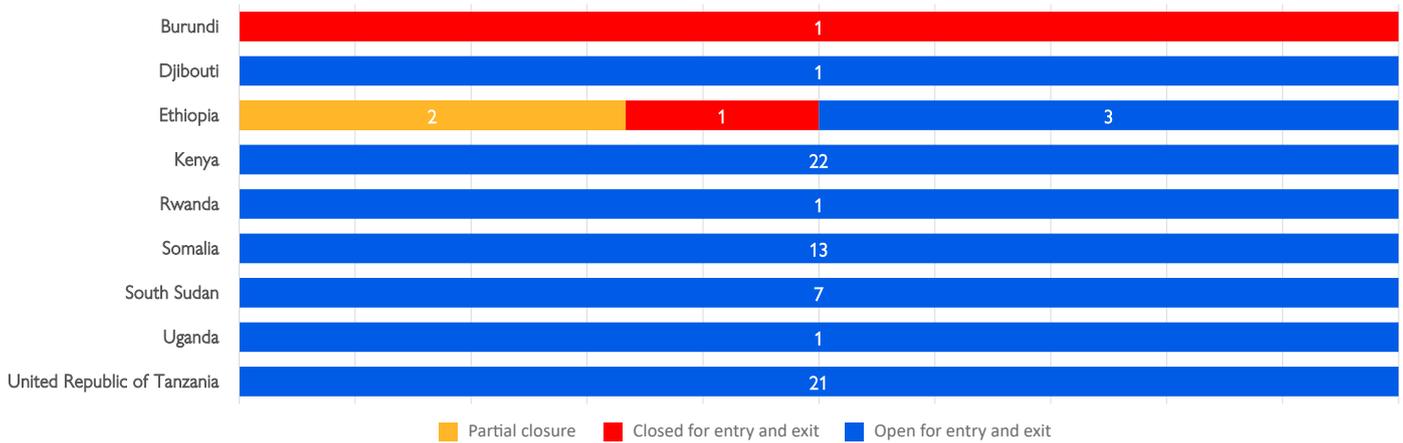
Operational status of assessed PoEs since April 2020



Overview of Airports

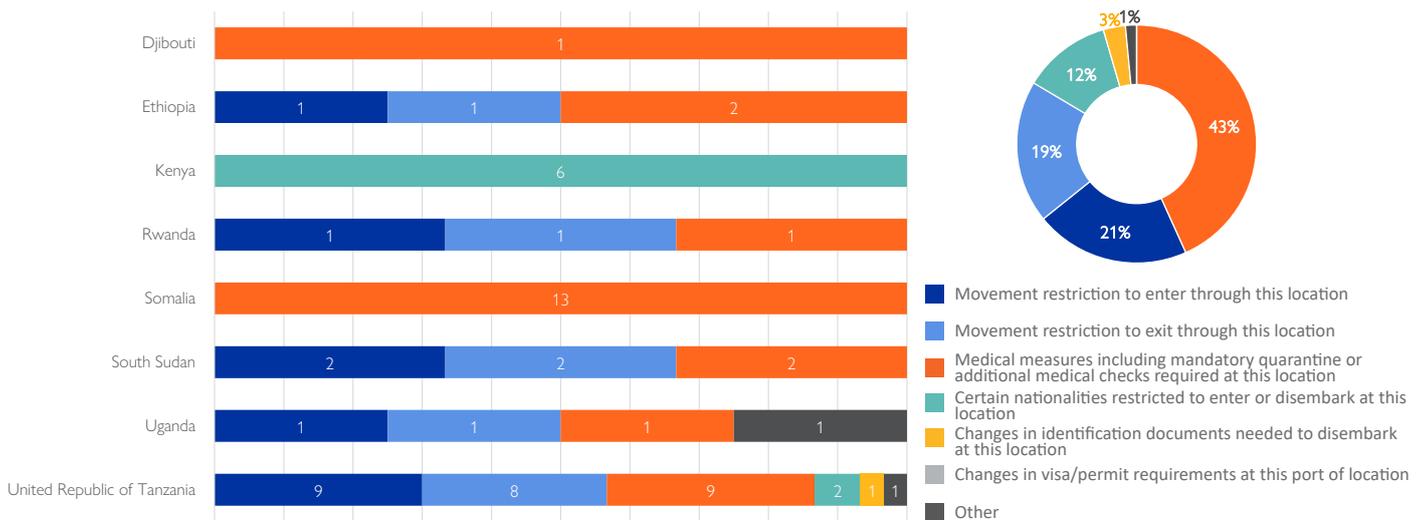
- **Operational status:** Restrictions have been eased at most airports, and only two (2) in Ethiopia are reported to be partially closed (open for commercial traffic only), while only two (2) airports, one in Burundi, and the other also in Ethiopia, are closed for both entry and exit. The remaining 69 out of 73 airports are now open for travel in both directions, as the next chart shows.

Operational status - Airports



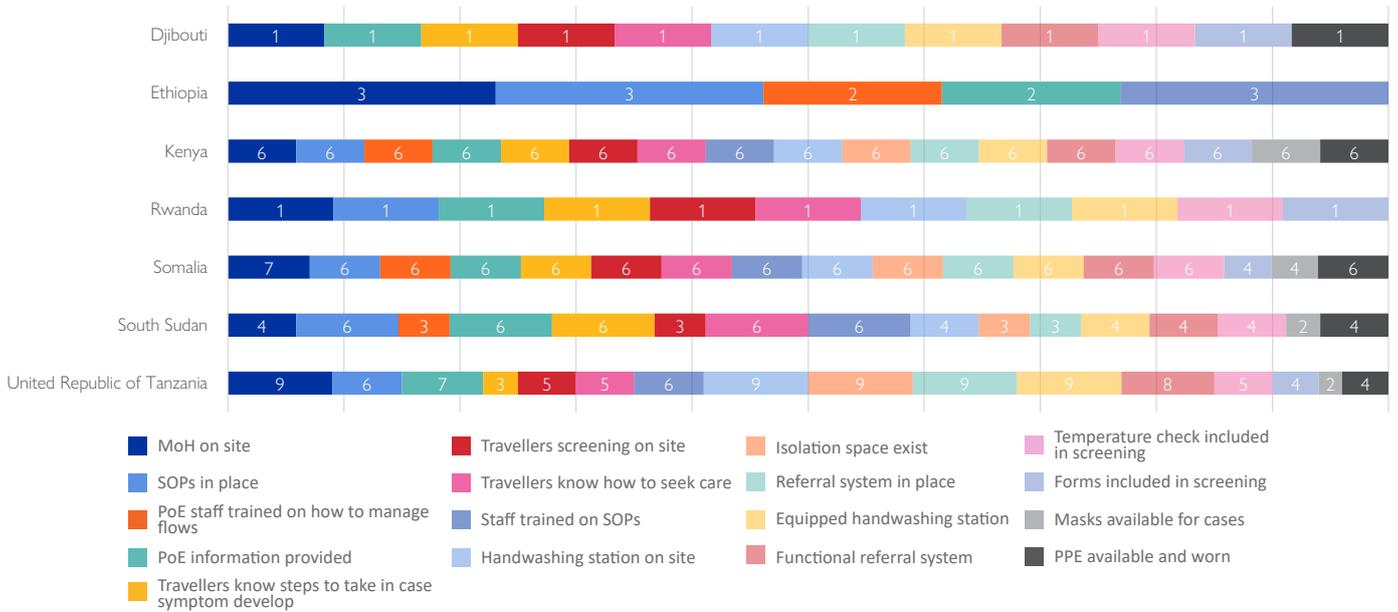
• **Type of restrictions:** As the airports ease restrictions on travel, other measures that were also put in place to ensure that movement happens in a safe manner were expanded, with particular attention paid to the implementation of medical measures. As the chart below shows, 29 airports now require mandatory quarantine and/or additional medical checks (40%), while other measures are also still in place. Overall, restriction on entry and exit movements was the second most often utilized method, implemented in 14 and 13 airports (19% and 18%) respectively, while restrictions on certain nationalities were imposed at eight (8) airports. In addition, another one (1) implemented changes in identification documents needed to disembark at the particular location, and two (2) had other measures in place. No information was available about the restrictions imposed at the airport in Burundi.

Type of restrictions implemented - Airports



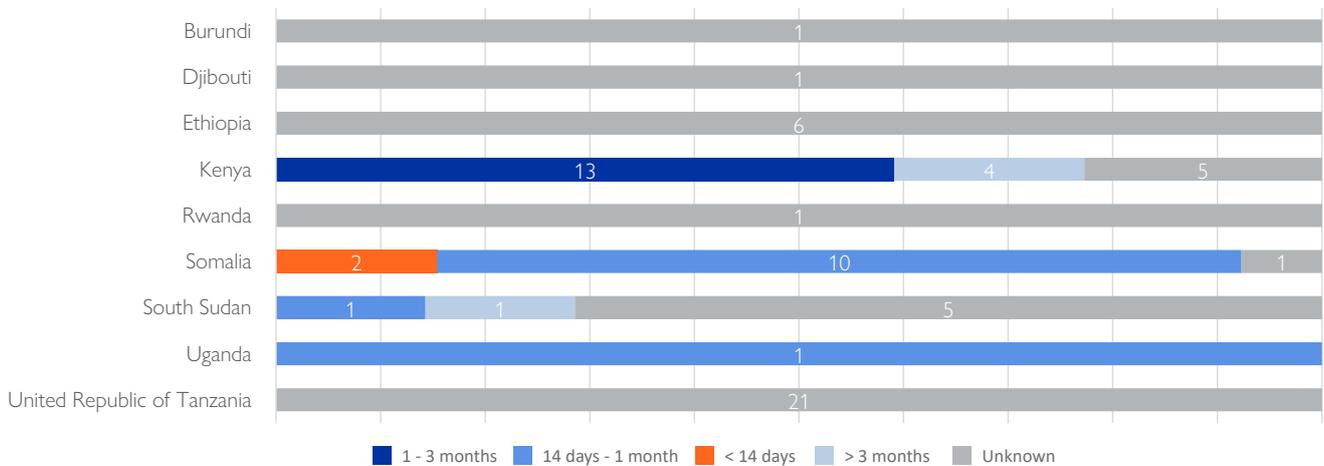
• **Public health measures:** In terms of public health measures, a representative of the Ministry of Health (MoH) was present at 42% of assessed airports. About 38% of airports had Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to managing flows, while 40% provided information on occupational health and safety of staff (Infection Prevention Control, IPC), and detection (health screening), registration, notification, management and referral of ill travellers, with the presence of trained staff in the same 37% of airports. About 32% each had health screening, with temperature checks, and 34% had functional referral systems in place. In addition, 23% of airports had staff trained to manage the flow of passengers in an organized manner during the epidemic. As part of the staff SOPs and training, the staff would also be required to provide information to passengers on steps to take in case symptoms develop, which was also the case in 32% of the airports. Similarly, the staff in 34% of airports was also required to provide information on how the traveller could seek health care in case symptoms worsened. About 37% of airports had handwashing stations on site, all of which were equipped, and 33% had isolation rooms to quarantine suspected cases. The next chart shows the breakdown by country for each measure.

Public health measures - Airports



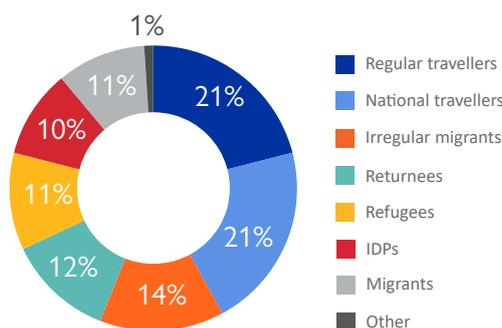
• **Estimated duration of restrictions:** Although changes in many measures have been recorded, and airports are beginning to ease restrictions, information on how long the various measures will be in place is still difficult to obtain in the current climate where the situation remains highly fluid. As the chart below shows, the duration of the restrictions was unknown for more than half of the airports: 41 out of 73. Only 13 airports in Kenya were estimated to remain at current level of restrictions for one to three months. The remaining airports were closed for 14 days to one month (12), for more than three months (5), or for less than 14 days (2).

Estimated duration of restrictions - Airports



• **Population affected:** Most airports saw an even distribution of population groups affected by these measures. As the chart below shows, restrictions imposed at airports affected different population groups.

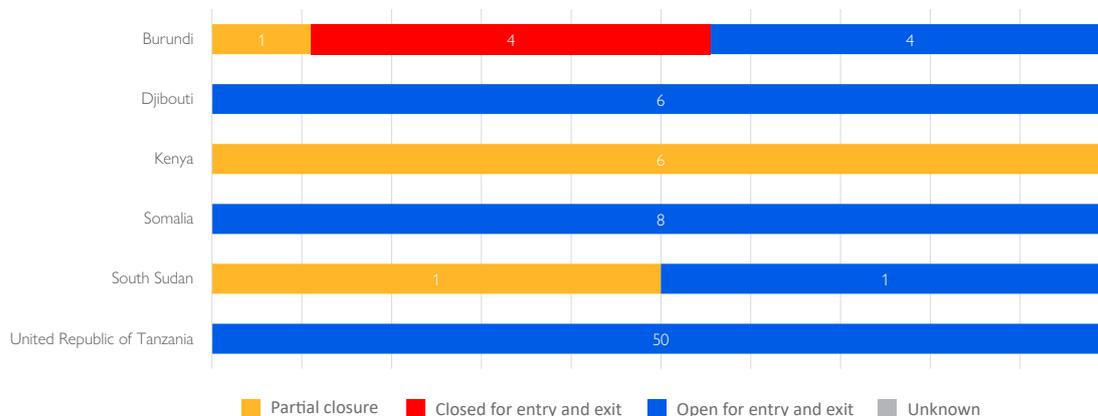
Population affected - Airports



Overview of Blue Border Points

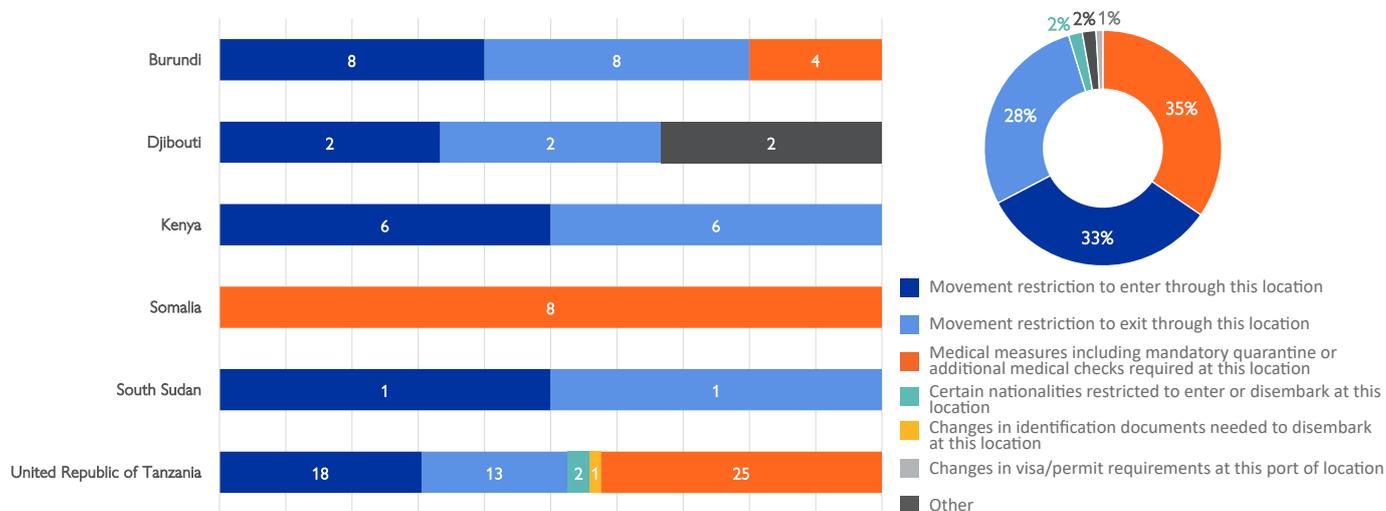
• **Operational status:** Similar to airports, most Blue Border Points (sea, lake and river) had some level of restriction imposed on them, but 69 out of the 81 had none (85%), and were reported to be open for both entry and exit travel. As the chart below shows, 8 out of 81 were partially closed (10%), while four (4) were closed for all travel (5%).

Operational status - Blue Border Points



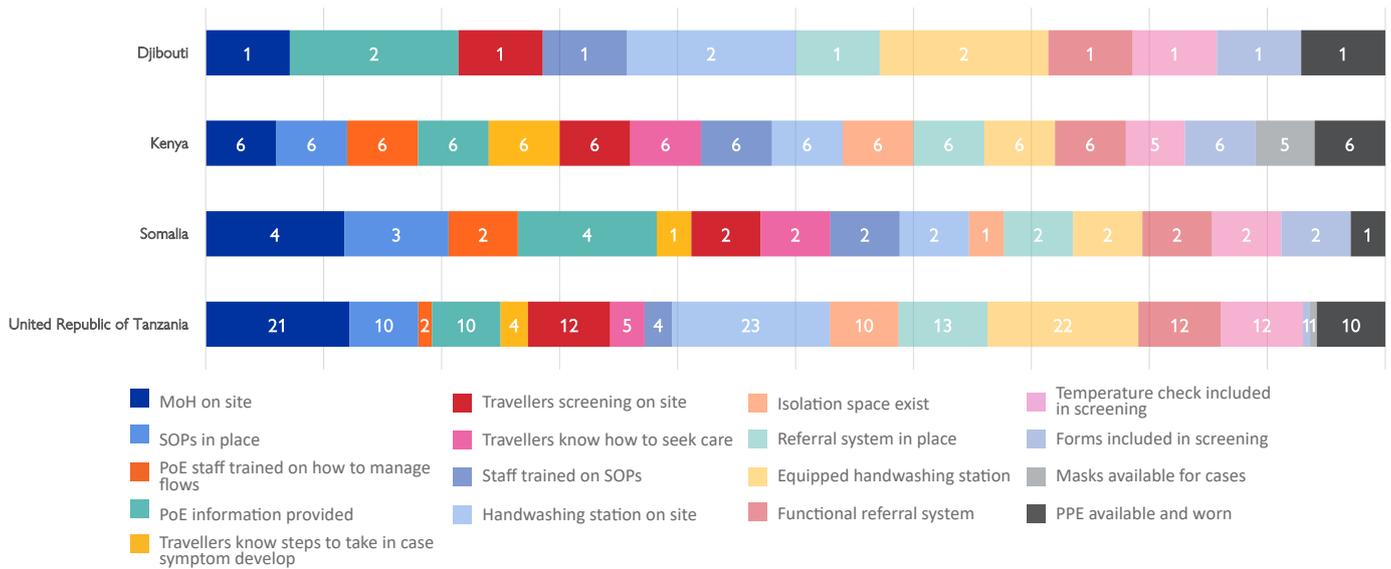
• **Type of restrictions:** Overall, the imposition of mandatory medical measures on travelling passengers was the most often utilized method, implemented in 37 ports. The restriction on entry movements was the second most often utilized method, implemented in 35 ports, while restrictions on exit were imposed in 30 locations. Only two (2) ports had restrictions allowing certain nationalities to travel through, while one (1) implemented changes in identification documents needed to disembark at this location, and none changed visa requirements. Two (2) locations in Djibouti had other measures in place.

Type of restrictions implemented - Blue Border Points



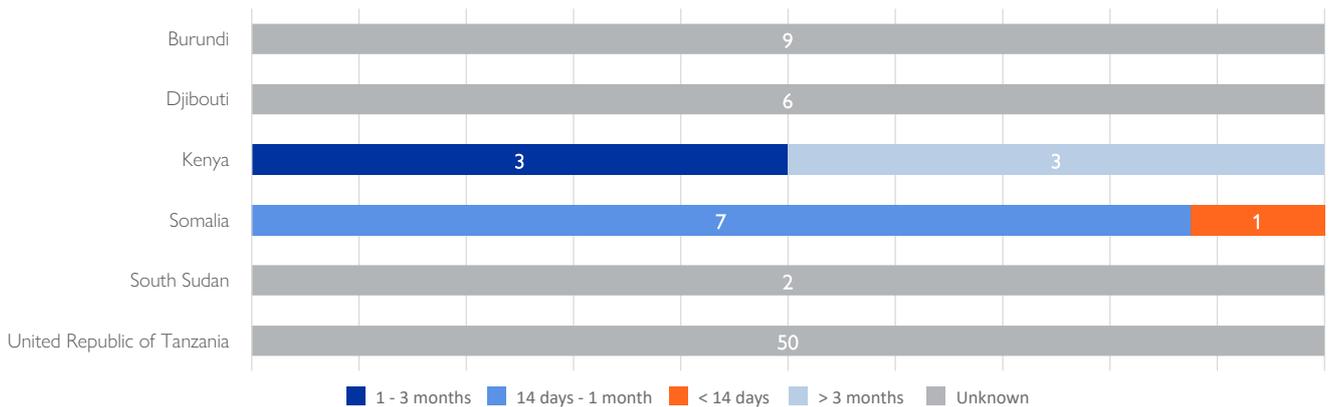
• **Public health measures:** Like in airports, risk mitigation measures for Blue Border Points to ensure safe movements included the presence of a Ministry of Health (MoH) representative (40% ports), equipped handwashing stations (40% ports), traveller screening on site (26% ports), functioning referral systems in places (27% ports), and provided information about COVID-19 to travellers in the form of posters, leaflets, announcements on prevention, handwashing, symptoms, where to go if unwell, etc (27%). About 23% had Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to managing flows, occupational health and safety of staff (Infection Prevention Control, IPC), and detection (health screening), registration, notification, management and referral of ill travellers. About 12% of ports had staff trained to manage the flow of passengers in an organized manner during the epidemic. In 11 locations, the staff was also able to provide information to passengers on steps to take in case symptoms develop, while 14% of locations had staff that could guide the travellers on next steps in case symptoms worsened. About 25% of ports had health screening, including temperature checks, while 22% had Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) equipment available, and 21% had isolation spaces on site. The next chart shows the breakdown by country for each measure.

Public health measures - Blue Border Points



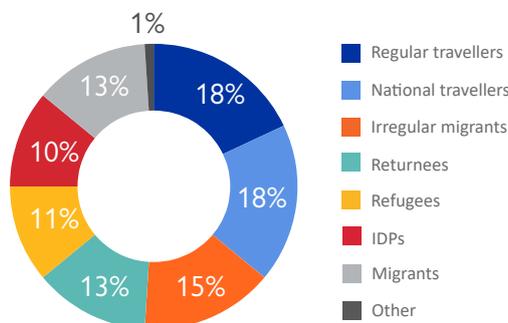
• **Estimated duration of restrictions:** As the chart below shows, the majority of the ports had an unknown duration for these measures (67 out of 81), while only one (1) port in Somalia was estimated to remain at current level of restrictions for less than 14 days. Remaining ports were closed for 14 days to one month (7), for one to three months (3), or for more than three months (3).

Estimated duration of restrictions - Blue Border Points



• **Population affected:** As the chart below shows, restrictions imposed at airports affected different population groups.

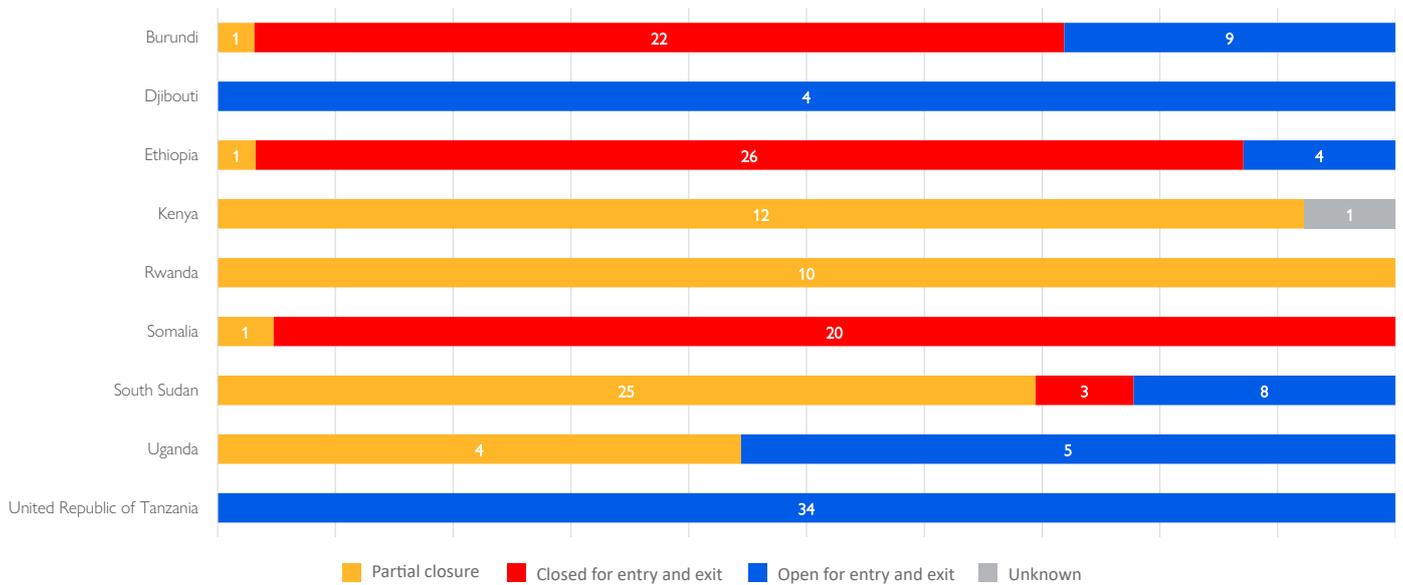
Population affected - Blue Border Points



Overview of Land Border Points

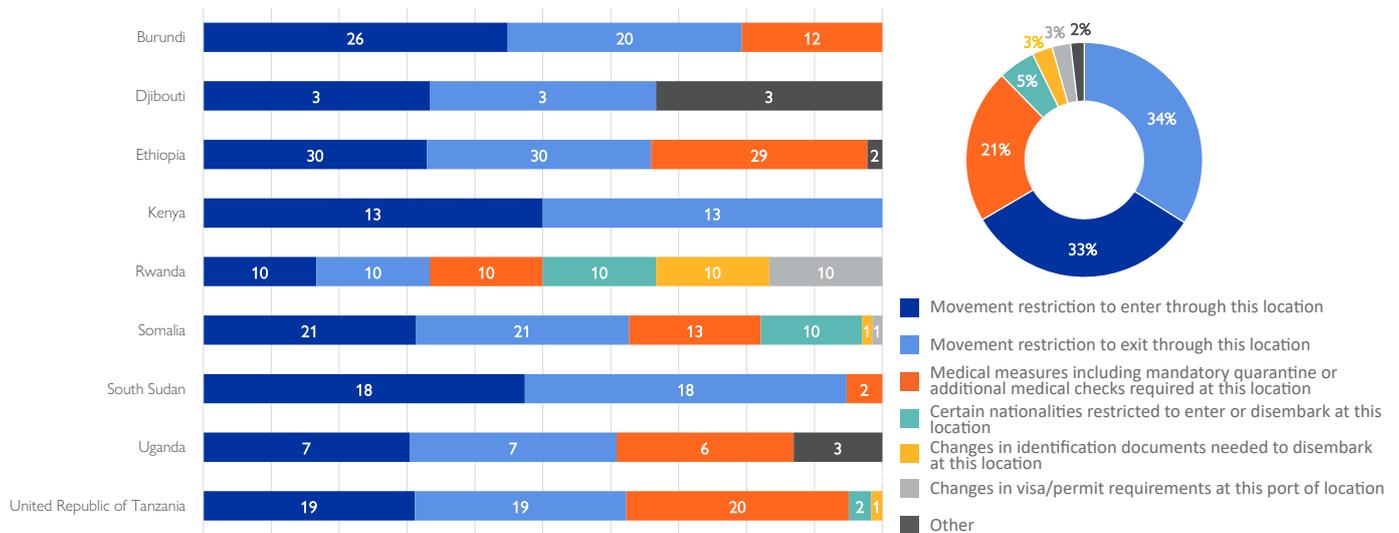
• **Operational status:** As the following chart shows, Land Border Points make up the overwhelming majority of all the PoEs assessed, and of the 190 ports, a little more than a fourth were partially closed (54), while more than a third were closed for both entry and exit (71), and only 64 were open for both (up from 56 ports). One port had unknown operational status.

Operational status - Land Border Points



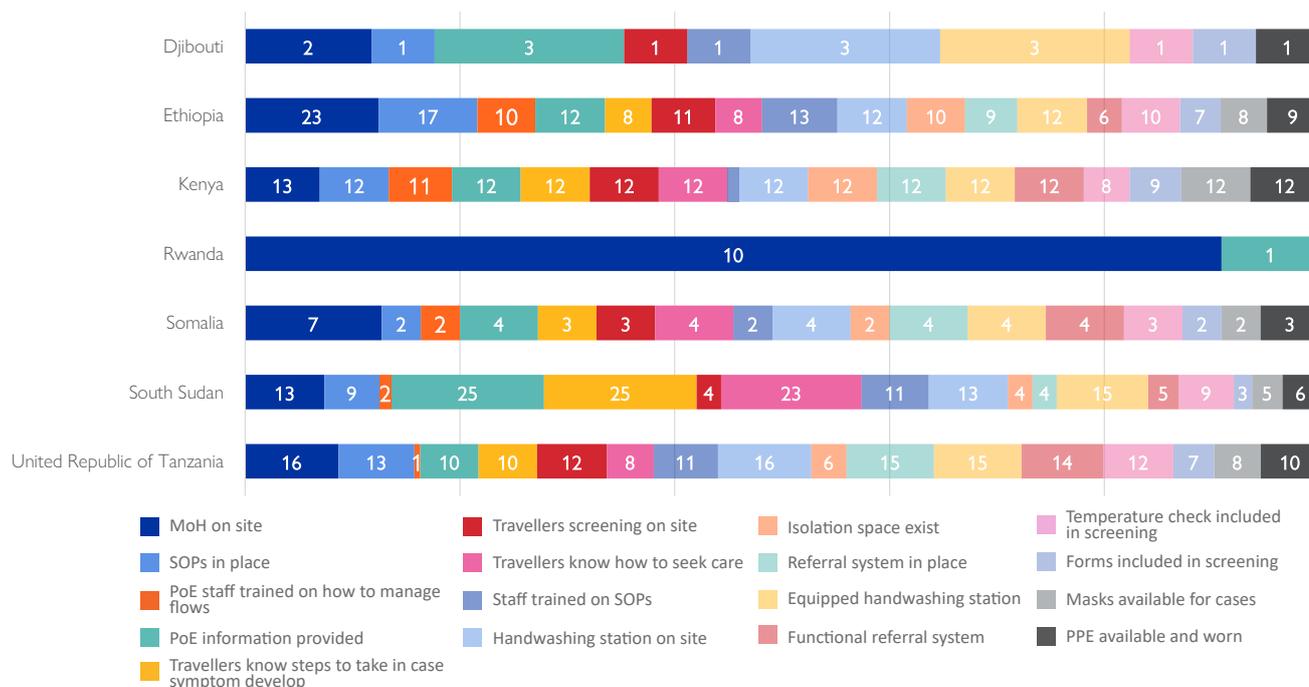
• **Type of restrictions:** Restriction on exit movements was the most enforced measure, implemented in 147 ports (77%), while restrictions on entry were imposed in 141 locations (74%), and 92 ports imposed mandatory medical measures on travelling passengers (48%). About 22 ports had restrictions on which nationalities could travel through, while 12 implemented changes in identification documents needed to disembark at this location, and 11 changed visa requirements. Another eight (8) PoEs had other restrictions in place.

Type of restrictions implemented - Land Border Points



• **Public health measures:** Similar to airports, the most utilized measures at Land Border Points to ensure safe movements was the presence of a Ministry of Health (MoH) representative (44% of ports), while 28% had Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to managing flows, though only 21% of these had staff trained in occupational health and safety of staff (Infection Prevention Control, IPC), and detection (health screening), registration, notification, management and referral of ill travellers. Only 14% of ports had staff trained to manage the flow of passengers in an organized manner during the epidemic. The staff was also able to provide information to passengers on steps to take in case symptoms develop (31% of ports), and on how the traveller could seek health care in case symptoms worsened (29% of ports). Similarly, 23% each had screening for travellers on site, and had functional referral systems in place. About 32% of ports had functioning handwashing stations, and 22% had Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) equipment available. The next chart shows the breakdown by country for each measure.

Public health measures - Land Border Points



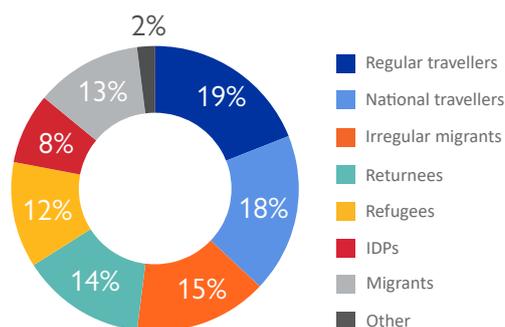
• **Estimated duration of restrictions:** As the chart below shows, almost all of the ports had unknown duration for these measures (141 out of 190) while only eight (8) ports in Somalia were estimated to remain at current level of restrictions for less than 14 days. The remaining ports were closed for 14 days to one month (28), for one to three months (8), or for more than three months (5).

Estimated duration of restrictions - Land Border Points



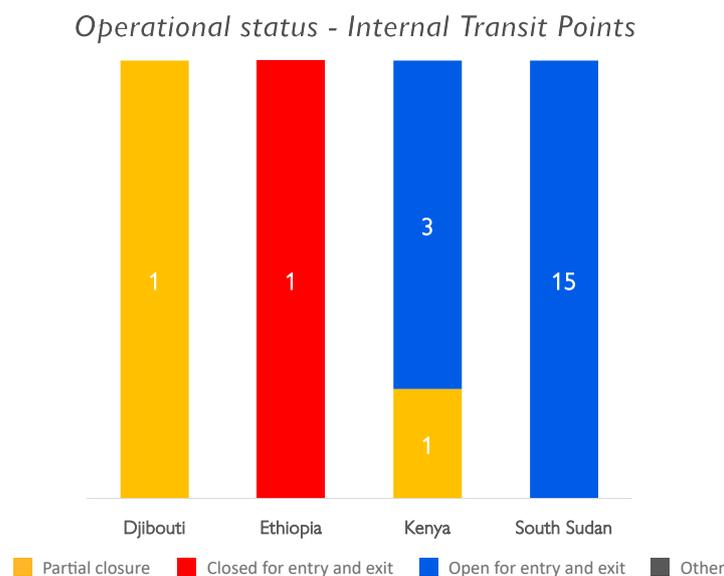
• **Population affected:** As the chart below shows, restrictions imposed at airports affected different population groups.

Population affected - Land Border Points



Overview of Internal Transit Points

• **Operational status:** Apart from international borders, DTM teams also assessed 21 internal transit points, including major bus stations close to international borders, in four (4) countries. As the chart below shows, most locations were open for both entry and exit (18), while two (2) were partially closed, and only one (1) was closed in both directions (in Ethiopia).

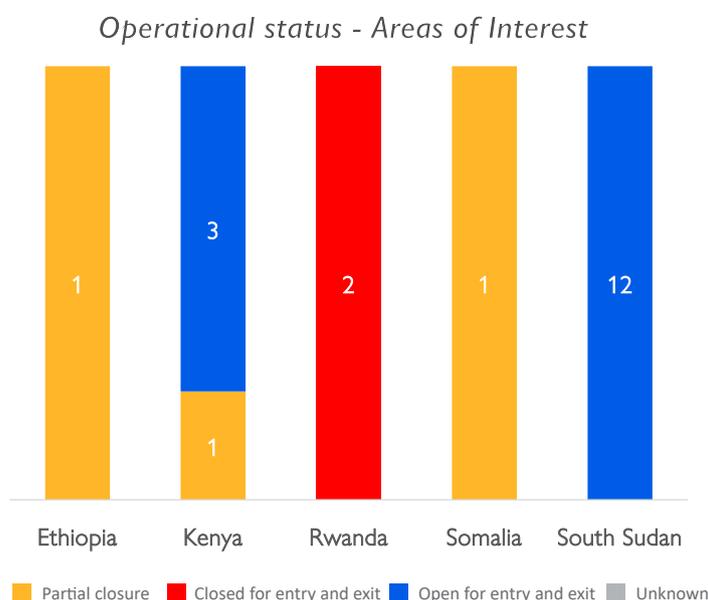


• **Type of restrictions:** In terms of movement restrictions, the partially closed sites were open only for returning nationals, while the rest were either completely closed (1) or completely open (18). Regular movement was impacted in five (5) locations, while nationals of the country were also impacted by these restrictions in five (5) sites. IDPs were impacted in four (4) sites, while migrants were impacted in three (3) sites. Returnees were impacted in four (4) sites, while refugees and irregular movements were impacted in three (3) sites each.

• **Public health measures:** There were also certain public health measures in place at these transit locations, and information about COVID-19 was provided at 19 sites, while equipped handwashing stations were present in 12 sites. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were implemented in 4 locations, and the staff was trained in all locations, while referral systems were in place and functional in eight (8) locations. In addition, isolation spaces existed in seven (7) locations, and three (3) had Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available.

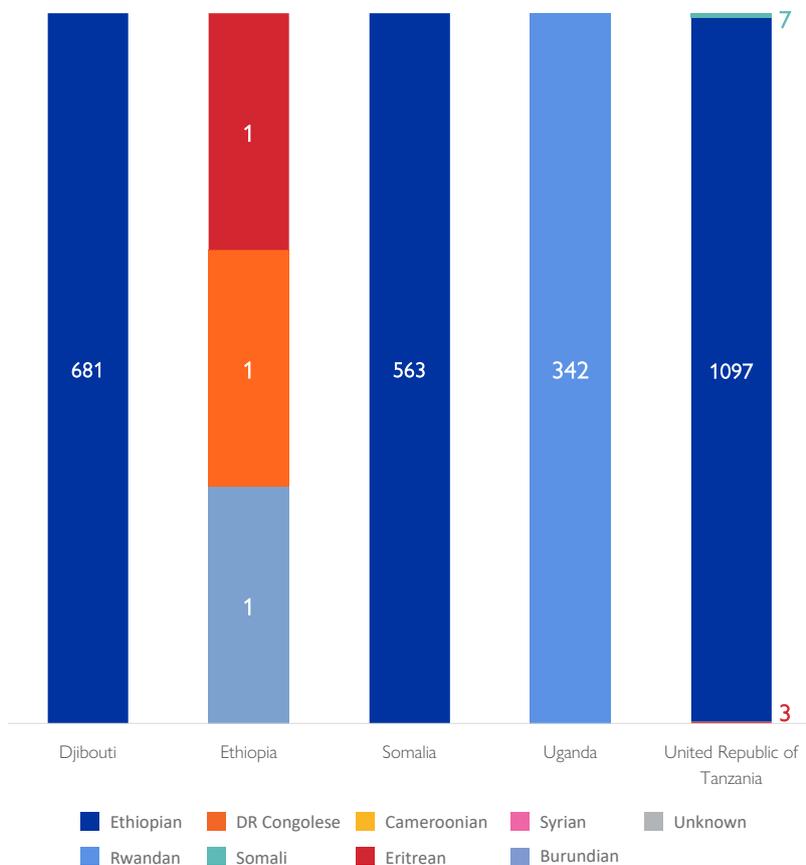
Overview of Areas and Sites of Interest

• **Operational status:** Areas and sites of interest may include regions, towns, cities, or sub-administrative units in a given country, territory or area to which special restrictions apply. DTM assessed 20 such locations in five (5) countries, and most were open for entry and exit (15) while only three (3) were partially closed, and two (2) was closed for both entry and exit.



• **Stranded migrants:** Similarly, 126 sites with a population of interest (stranded, repatriated and returning migrants, IDPs, nationals, asylum-seekers and regular travellers) were also assessed in eight (8) countries, with most locations being in Djibouti (41), followed by Burundi (37), Ethiopia (19), and South Sudan (18). These sites had the presence of IDPs, as well as migrants from different countries stranded due to border closures. The chart below shows the various 2,696 persons of various nationalities stranded in the eight (8) countries.

Stranded migrants - Sites with Populations of Interest



IOM distributes IEC materials in Bossaso, to raise awareness about COVID-19. Photo: © IOM Somalia 2020