

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


373

PoEs assessed


21

Internal Transit Points in 4 countries


20

Areas of interest


127

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	7	38
Kenya	13	6	22	41
Rwanda	10	0	1	11
Somalia	21	8	13	42
South Sudan	36	2	7	45
Uganda	29	6	3	38
United Republic of Tanzania	34	50	21	105
Grand Total	210	87	76	373

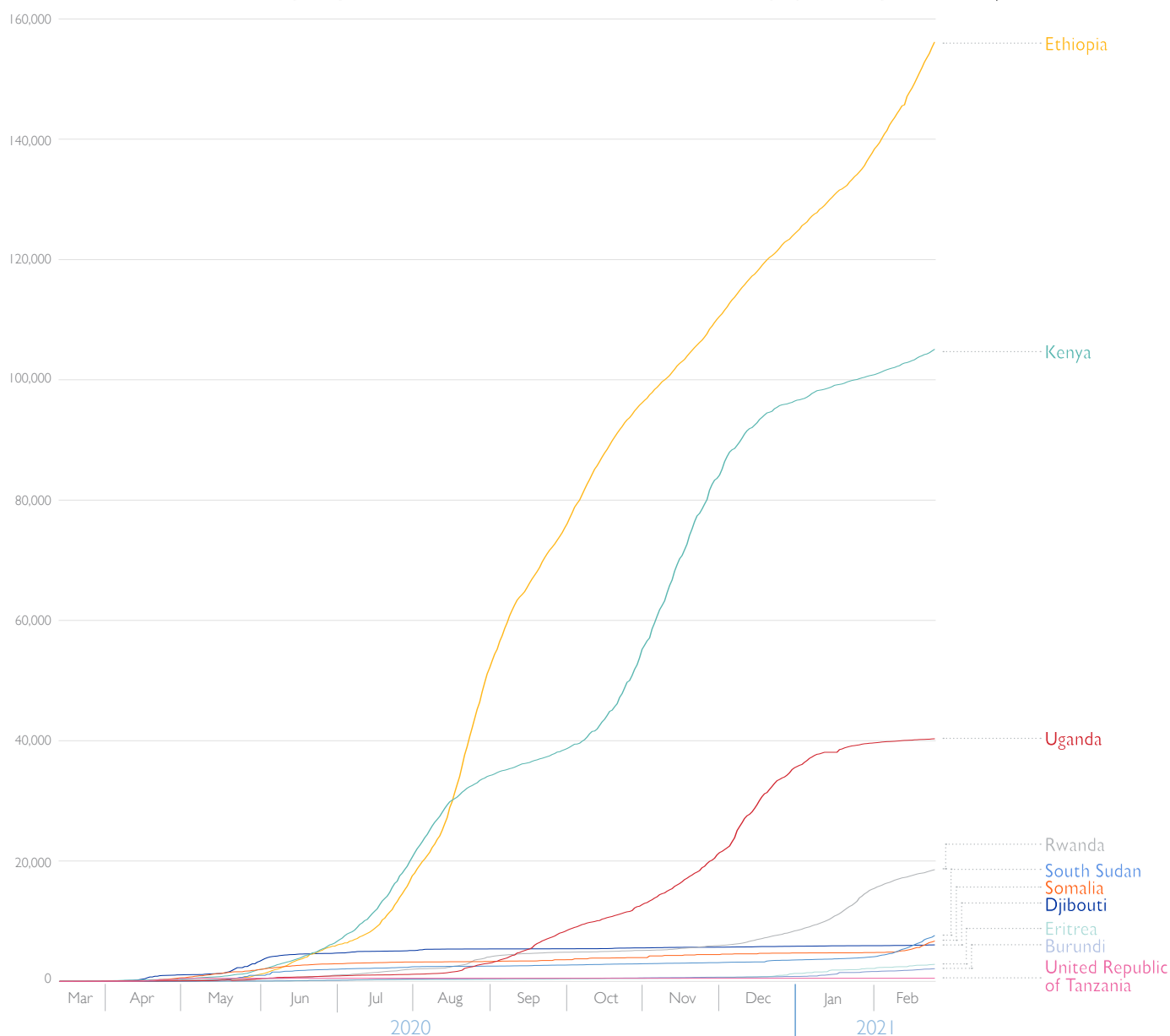
¹ Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

CONTACT

COVID-19 SITUATION

Epidemiological Situation ²

Incidence trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the East and Horn of Africa as of 25 February 2021



	Burundi	Djibouti	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Kenya	Rwanda	Somalia	South Sudan	Uganda	United Republic of Tanzania	Total
Confirmed cases	2,106	6,060	2,826	156,112	105,057	18,553	6,687	7,597	40,322	509	345,829
Deaths	3	63	7	2,321	1,847	258	223	90	334	21	5,167
Recoveries	1,348	5,892	2,225	133,607	86,497	17,279	3,784	4,107	14,616	183	269,538
Active cases	755	105	594	20,184	16,713	1,016	2,680	3,400	25,372	305	71,124

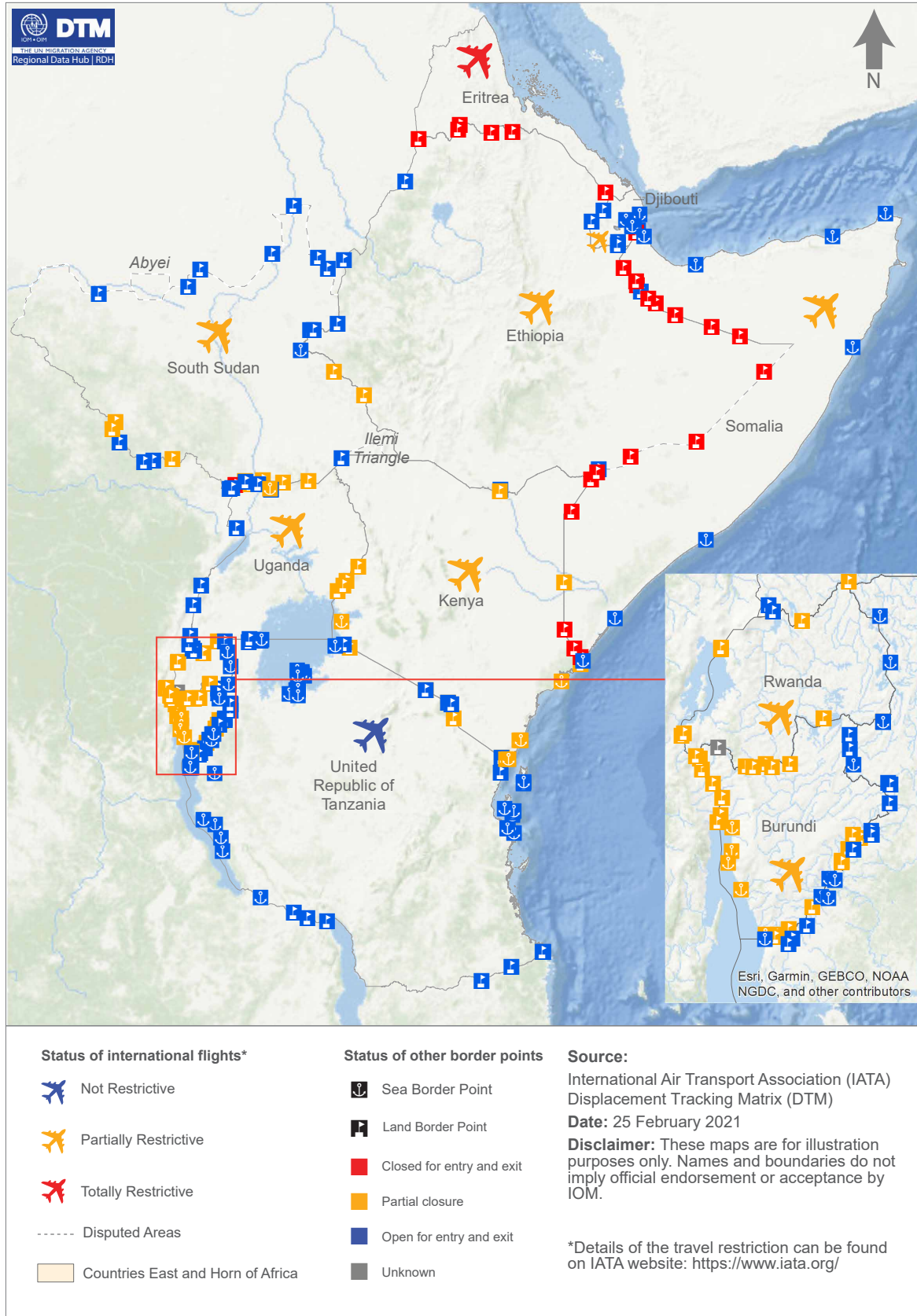
The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the region has continued to increase, exceeding 345,000 as of 25 February 2021. The EHoA region now represents 12.3% of the total Africa COVID-19 cases. Across the region, the majority of the cases are asymptomatic and through community transmission. As of 25 February 2021, the number of COVID-19 related deaths in the region stood at 5,167. The fatality rate (1.5%) is still below the Africa (2.5%) and global (2.2%) averages, showing contained number of severity case in the region. The number of cumulative recovered cases is 269,538 (77.9% of cases in the region).

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

Travel Restrictions

- Burundi has amended its international travel restrictions since mid-January. The country's land borders with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda are currently closed, while the border with the United Republic of Tanzania is reportedly open, though travellers may be denied entry by the local officials.
- Public and private transportation services between Kigali and other provinces and districts remain suspended through at least 15 March 2021.

Status of PoEs in the East and Horn of Africa region as of 25 February 2021



LEVEL OF RESTRICTIONS

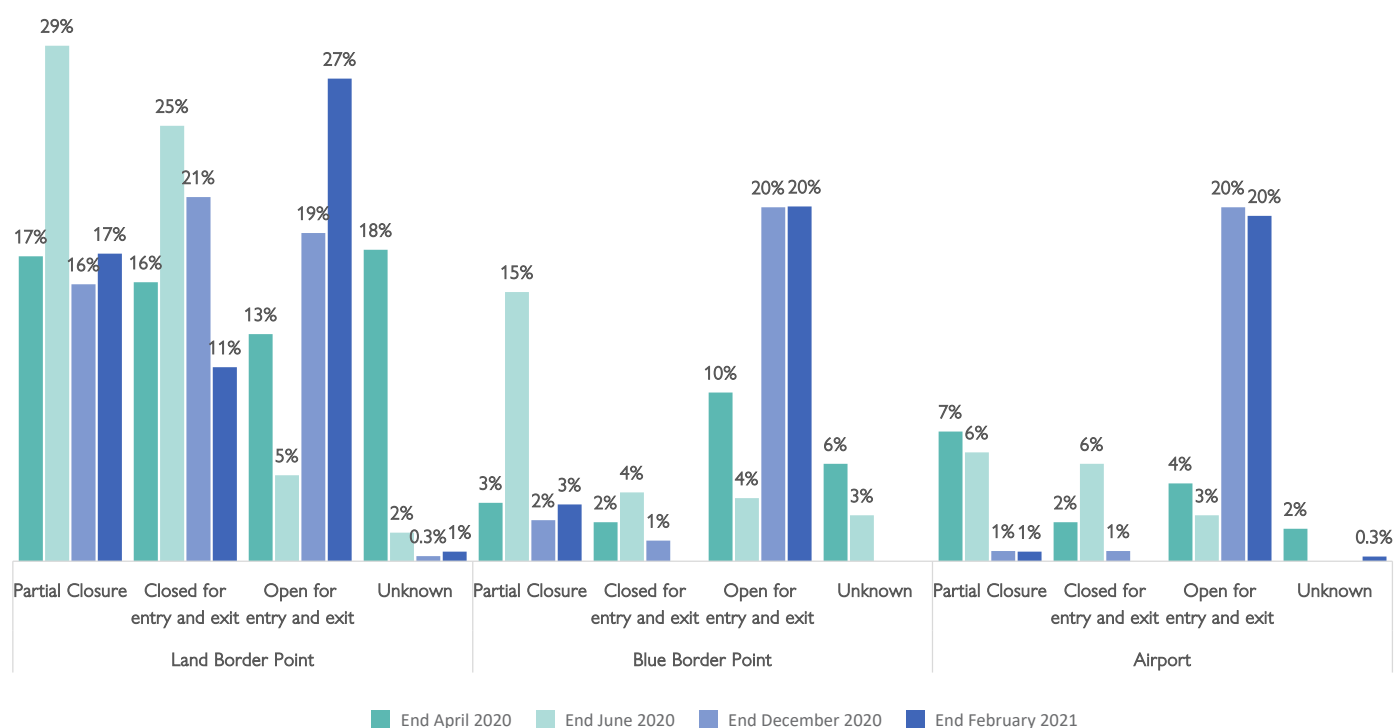
Although a majority of the PoEs had some level of restrictions imposed on them, there is a higher proportion of open PoEs compared to previous months due to the ease of COVID-19 related restrictions in the region. A total of 79 PoEs (21%) were partially closed, while 250 (67%) were open for travel in both directions, which is an increase from 202 (59%) in January. A further 41 PoEs (11%) were closed for both entries and exits, and three had unknown operational status.

Location Type	Partial Closure	Closed for entry and exit	Open for entry and exit	Unknown	Total
Land Border Point	65	41	102	2	210
Blue Border Point	12	0	75	0	87
Airport	2	0	73	1	76
Total	79	41	250	3	373

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 96% of all assessed airports now open. A majority of land border points still have some sort of restrictions, with only 49% open for movement in both directions (up from 34% in January), and blue border ports have opened further compared to January, with 86% now open (up from 85%);
- Rwanda still had the highest proportion of partially closed points (91%), Ethiopia the largest proportion of completely closed points (54%), 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 (59%) are now open, which is an increase from 36% in January;
- 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.

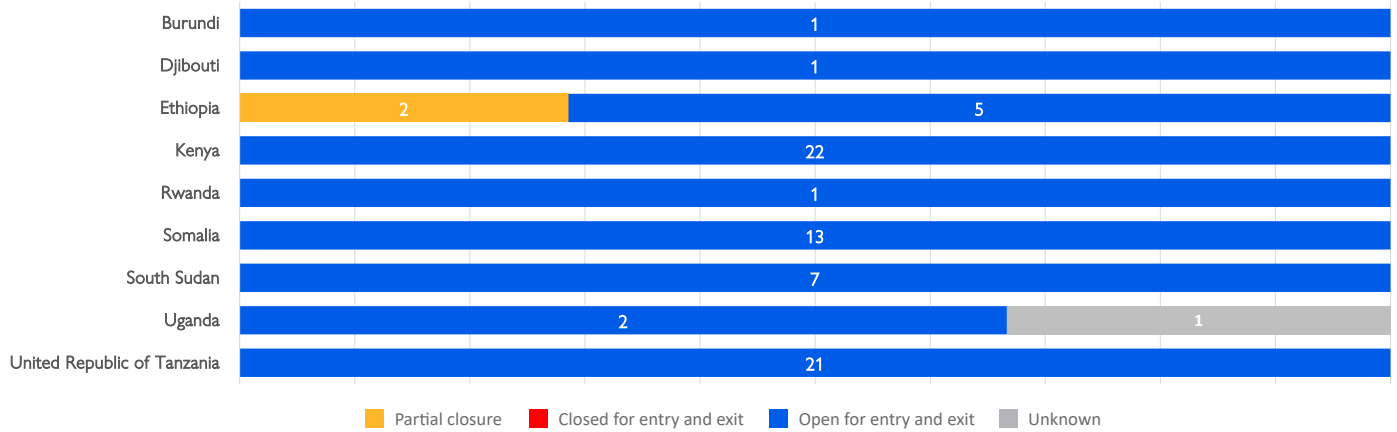
Operational status of assessed PoEs since April 2020



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). However, no airports are now closed, though one (1) in Uganda has unknown operational status. A total of 73 out of 76 airports are now open for travel in both directions, as the next chart shows.

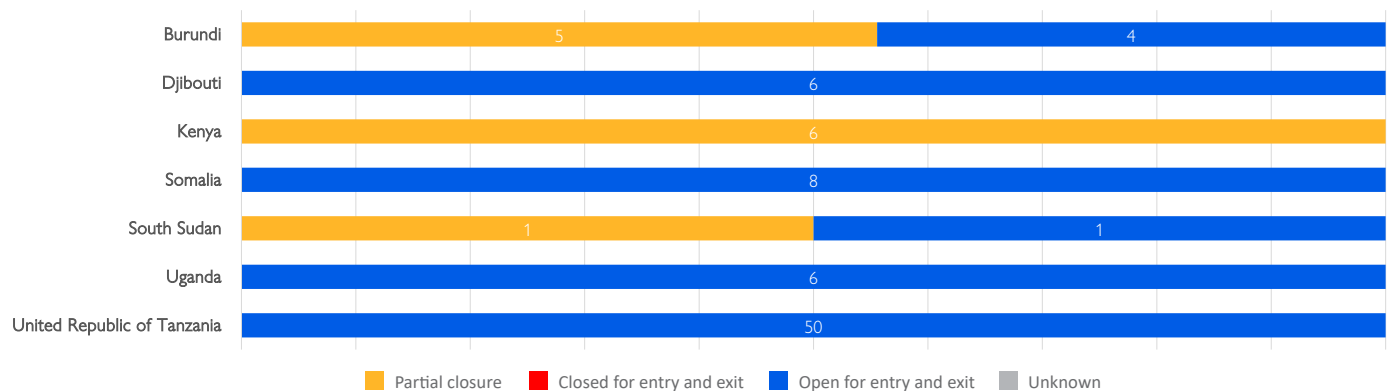
Operational status - Airports



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 75 out of the 87 had none (86%), and were reported to be open for both entry and exit travel. As the chart below shows, 12 out of 87 were partially closed (14%), which is a slight increase from 10% in January, most likely due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the region.

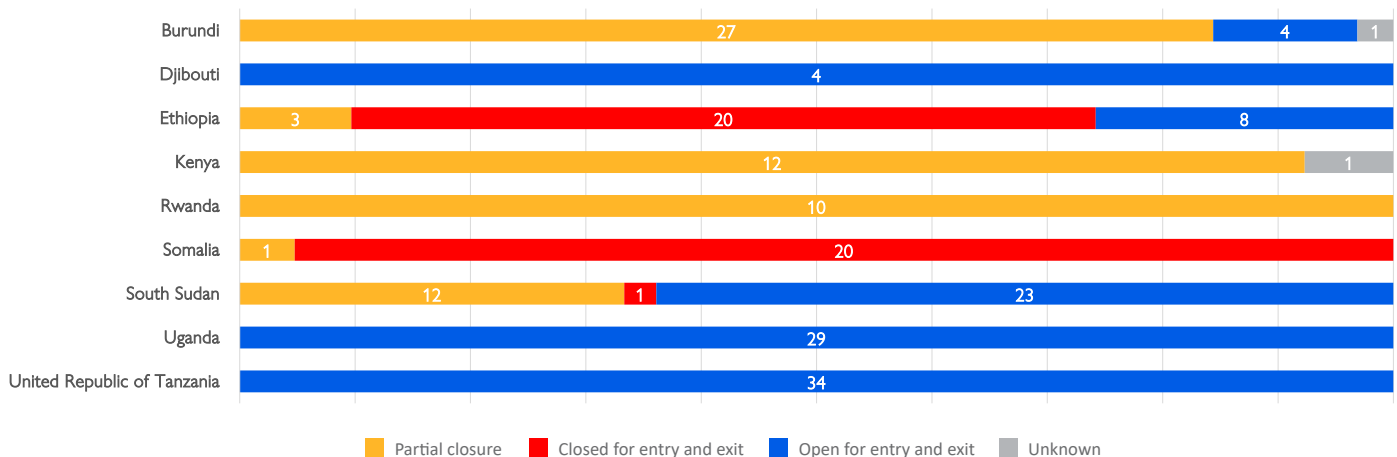
Operational status - Blue Border Points



Overview of Land Border Points

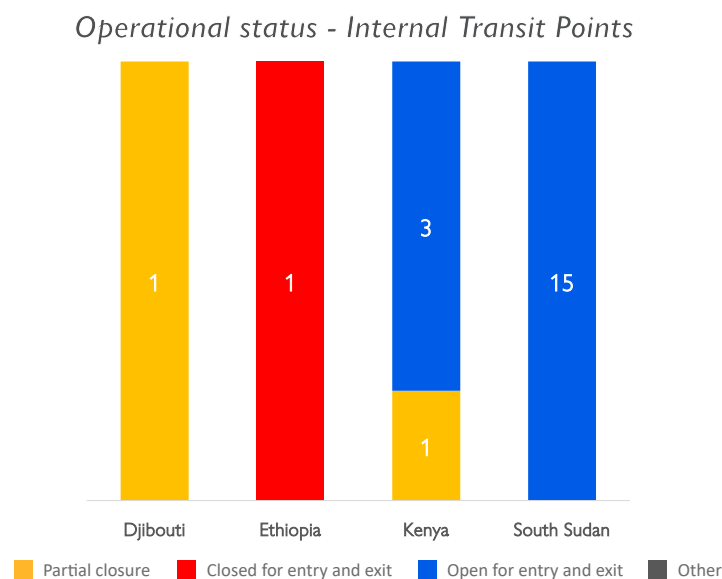
• **Operational status:** As the following chart shows, Land Border Points make up the overwhelming majority of all the PoEs assessed, and of the 210 ports, a little more than a third were partially closed (64), while around a fifth were closed for both entry and exit (41), and only 102 were open for both (up from 64 ports). Two ports had unknown operational status.

Operational status - 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).

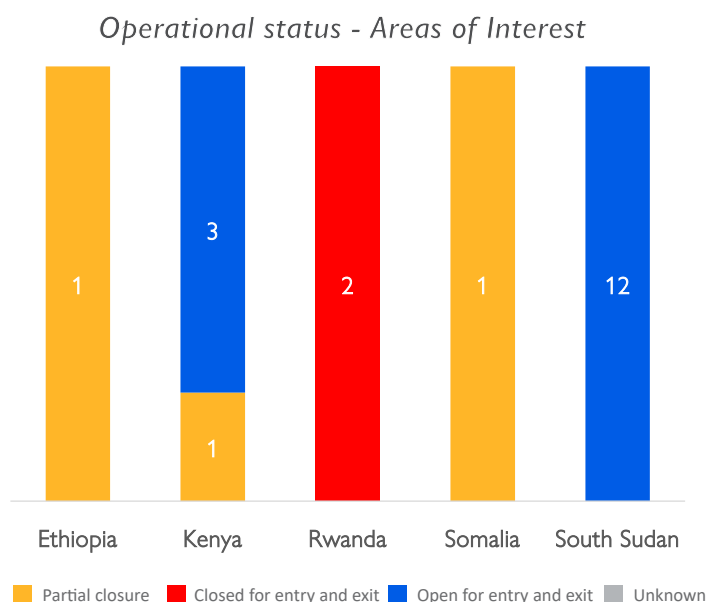


• **Type of restrictions:** In terms of movement restrictions, the partially closed sites were open only for returning nationals, while the rest were either completely closed (1) or completely open (18). Regular movement was impacted in five (5) locations, while nationals of the country were also impacted 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.

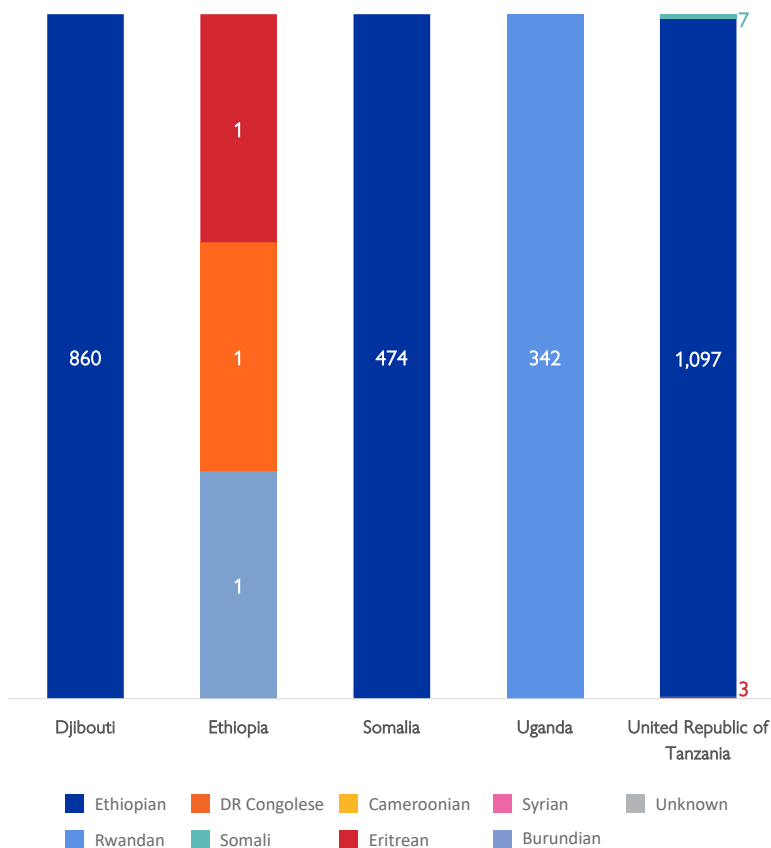
Overview of Areas and Sites of Interest

• **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, 127 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 (42), 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 2,786 persons of various nationalities stranded in the eight (8) countries.

Stranded migrants - Sites with Populations of Interest



COVID-19 awareness raising session with migrants in Bossaso. Photo: © IOM 2020