

# IOM COVID-19 IMPACT ON POINTS OF ENTRY

BI-WEEKLY ANALYSIS

29 SEPTEMBER 2021

# PUBLISHER

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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](mailto:dtm-covid19@iom.int)

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## COVER PHOTO:

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*An IOM staff member interviews a beneficiary in Arbal Village, Gomole Woreda, Borena Zone.*

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# 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. 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.

## Points of Entry (PoEs):

- As 23 September 2021, a total of 4,447 PoEs were assessed in 183 C/T/As: 1,107 (25%) airports, 2,605 (59%) land border crossing points and 735 (16%) blue border crossing points.
- Overall, 11 per cent of the assessed PoEs were fully closed (no change compared to the previous reporting period), 29 per cent partially operational (no relative change compared to the previous report) and 53 per cent fully operational (no change compared to the previous reporting period), however the operational status of PoEs varied across IOM Regions and PoE types:
  - The IOM Region with the highest share of fully closed PoEs was West and Central Africa (21%, i.e. no change compared to the previous reporting period), followed by South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (13%, i.e. a 1 p.p. decrease compared to the previous reporting period);
  - The European Economic Area remained the IOM Region with the highest percentage of fully operational PoEs (83%, i.e. a 1 p.p. decrease compared to the previous reporting period), followed by East and Horn of Africa (71%, no change compared to the previous reporting period), Middle East and North Africa (61%; i.e. no change compared to the previous report), and South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (59%, a 1 p.p. increase on a fortnightly basis);
  - About 14 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points, globally, were fully closed. For airports and blue border crossing points this was reported as 6 and 5 per cent, respectively, with no significant change recorded across all PoE types compared to the previous report;
  - Similarly, the share of fully operational locations for airports (70%, no change compared to the previous reporting period), blue border crossing points (54%, i.e. no change compared to the previous reporting period) and land border crossings points (45%, i.e. no change compared to the previous reporting period) did not experience any significant change in the last fortnight.

# Methodology & Definitions

To better understand and capture how COVID-19 affects global mobility, IOM has developed a global database used to map, track and analyse the impact the pandemic is having on Points of Entry (PoEs) and other key points and locations of internal mobility. This system for data collection and analysis, which has been operational since March 2020, is called Mobility and Restrictions Mapping (MRM) and was developed in phases responding to the evolution of the pandemic and the resulting restrictiveness at points of entry and locations of internal mobility. Until the end of August the system was in phase two and was composed of components, called modules, tailored to capture different information. This included modules for mapping PoE operational status and measures, as well as other modules related to observations at key locations of internal mobility. Modules related to internal mobility captured information on general COVID-19 measures within country contexts, internal mobility restrictions, the situation at in-country transit points and areas such as cities and provinces that have specific COVID-19 measures in place which may differ from those imposed at country level, and sites and locations with populations of interest (stranded foreigners/migrants and or internally displaced persons whose mobility was impacted due to COVID-19 measures).

Since the beginning of September 2020, phase three of the MRM is based on gradual improvements as well as on recommendations provided by users and key stakeholders. It is aimed at establishing a Global PoE Reference Database-master list, used as a baseline for other assessments. This will be a comprehensive list of all official PoEs worldwide and will expand on the original PoE module to capture information on the official and operational status of observed PoEs (airports, blue border crossing points and land border crossing points). It will be implemented in all countries, territories and areas currently captured in the database but will aim to reach every country in the world and all PoEs. All data collected through previous versions of the module since March 2020 will continue to be updated regularly.

Through phase three, data collected for key locations of internal mobility (in countries, areas or sites with populations of interest) will continue to be collected and processed through the existing modules and will continue to be functional in the improved version of the MRM system.

The Points of Entry Bi-Weekly Analysis report and the Key Locations of Internal Mobility Monthly Analysis report serve to present an overview of these COVID-19 related changes observed at the assessed airports, blue border crossing points, land border crossing points, as well as at internal transit points, and other key locations of internal mobility.

The IOM COVID-19 Impact on Points of Entry 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 PoEs. 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.

This report provides an overview and analysis on the data from a global and regional perspective of PoEs. For more detailed country-specific information and dataset used for the analysis please visit: <https://migration.iom.int/>

# Methodology & Definitions

As the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the resulting restrictive measures issued to mitigate the spread, have become increasingly complex and varied. The IOM database monitoring the impact on points of entry has been updated in a way which reflects the varied stages of measures issued at different times by countries, territories or areas. 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 2020 and 23 September 2021. Data for 46 per cent of the PoEs have been updated since the beginning of September, while 50 per cent of the PoEs have been updated during the month of August. For more information see Table 1.2 in the Annex.

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:

- 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 PoE:

- Fully operational:
  - Open for entry and exit: all travelers can use the PoE.
- 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 PoE to leave the country, territory or area;
  - Open for returning nationals and residents only: the PoE 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.
- Unknown

## List of acronyms used throughout the report

- C/T/As: countries, territories or areas
- DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix
- IBM: Immigration and Border Management
- IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons
- MRM: Mobility and Restrictions Mapping
- PoE: Point of Entry
- p.p.: Percentage Point<sup>1</sup>
- 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>

*1. 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.*

# I. PoE Scope and Coverage: Numbers at a glance

4,447

Assessed Points of Entry

183

Assessed C/T/As

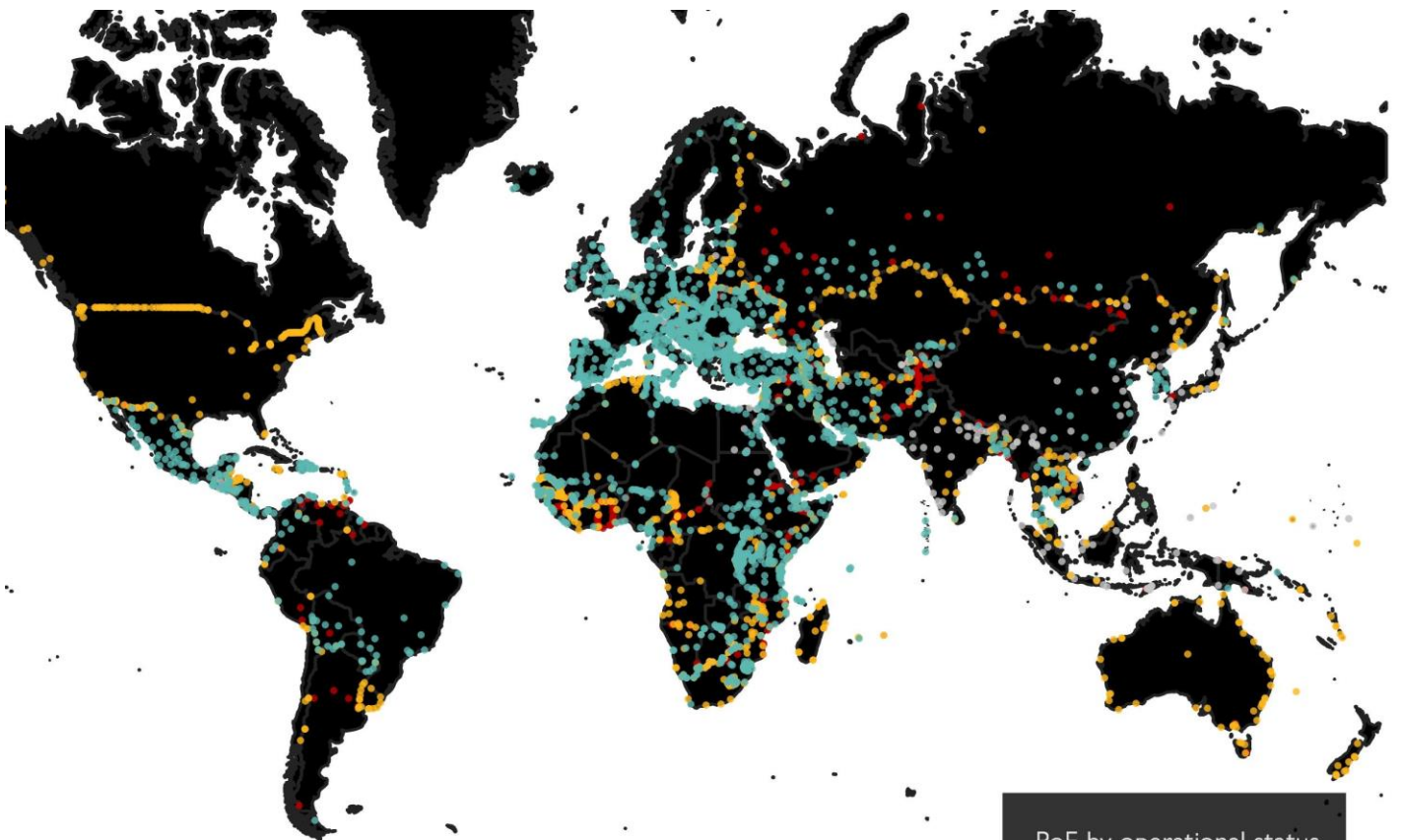
To better understand how COVID-19 has affected the various travel restrictions and disruptions hampering global mobility, this report looks at IOM's global mobility database to map and gather data on the locations, status and different restrictions at PoEs globally, including airports, blue border crossing points and land border crossing points. This report also looks at the impacts on stranded migrants and other populations such as tourists who are affected by the changes in mobility measures using a compilation of inputs from multiple sources, including from IOM staff in the field, DTM reports on flow monitoring and mobility tracking as well as from trusted media sources.

The IOM COVID-19 Impact on Points of Entry Bi-Weekly Analysis report provides an overview and analysis on the data from a global and regional perspective, using data updated as of **23 September 2021**.

IOM has assessed **4,479** total PoEs in **183 countries, territories and areas**, so far. Of these PoEs, 2,605 (59%) were land border crossing points, 1,107 (25%) were airports and 735 (16%) were blue border crossing points (sea-, river and lake ports). More details can be found in Table 1 in the Annex.

Of all assessed PoEs, **11 per cent** were reported as **fully closed** and **53 per cent** were reported to be **fully operational**. Another **29 per cent** were **partially operational**. At the regional level, **West and Central Africa** was the region with the highest percentage of fully closed assessed PoEs (21% out of 488), followed by South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (13% out of 856). Conversely, European Economic Area and Central and North America and the Caribbean were the regions with the lowest percentage of fully closed assessed PoEs (6% out of 878, 6% out of 432, respectively). More details can be found in the Annex, in Table 1 and 2.

## Global map of assessed PoEs and their operational status



### PoE by operational status

- Fully Closed
- Fully Operational
- Unknown
- Partially Operational

*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.*

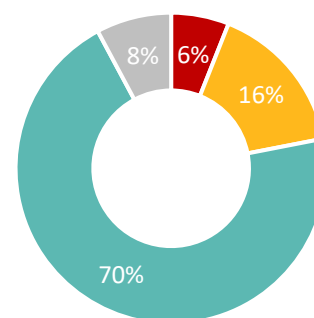
## 2. Overview of Airports

IOM assessed **1,107 airports** in **179 countries, territories and areas**. Of the assessed airports, **6 per cent** or 68 airports were reported to be **fully closed** (no relative change compared to the previous report). Airports with **partially operational** status were reported for **16 per cent** or 179 airports (no relative change compared to the previous report). For **70 per cent** (774 airports) of the assessed airports, the operational status was reported to be **fully operational** (no relative change compared to the previous report). Information was not available for the remaining 8 per cent (no change on a fortnightly basis) of assessed airports (for more details, see Table 3 in the Annex).

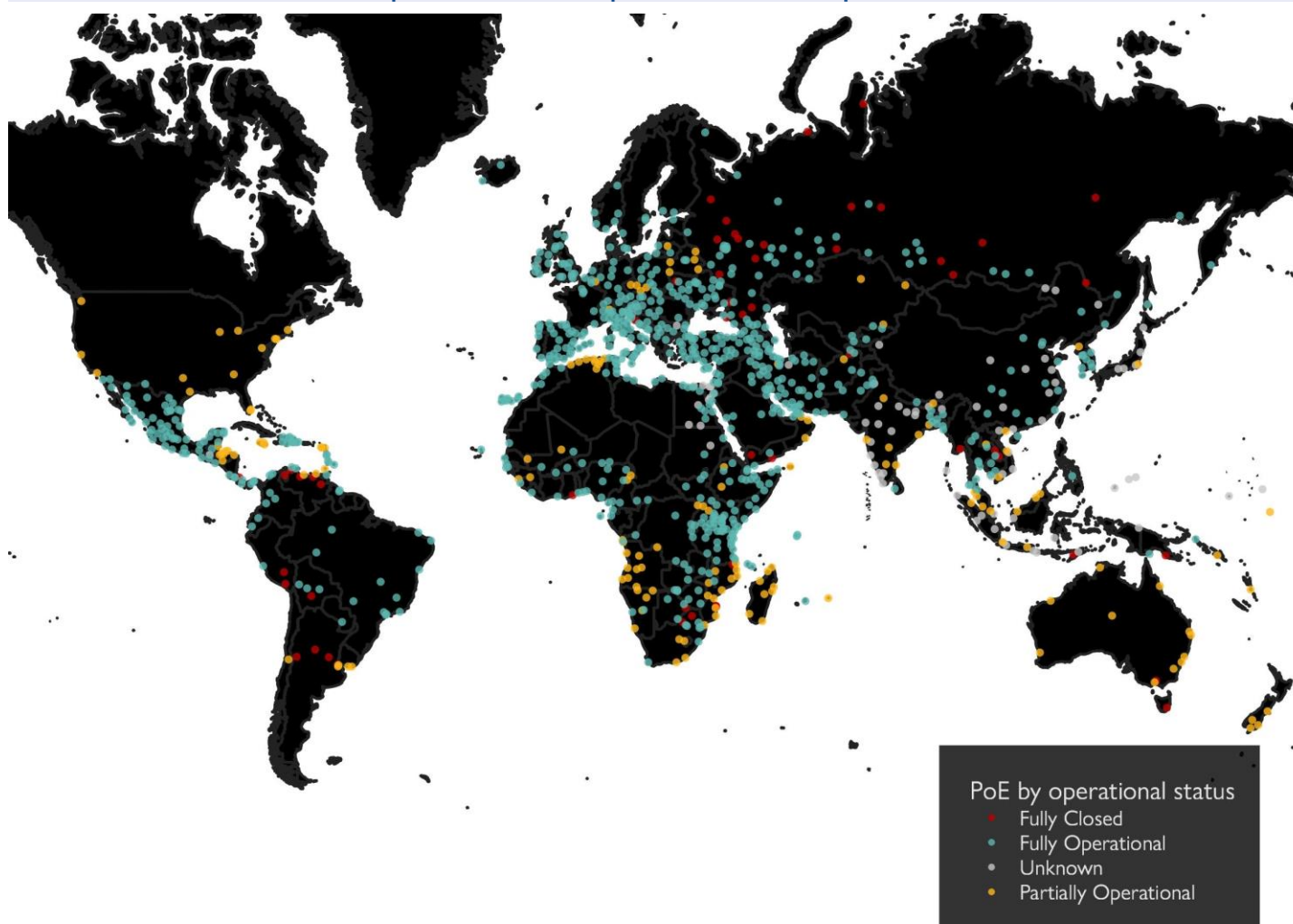
The IOM region that reported the highest percentage of fully closed airports was South America (12 out of 43, or 28%, of assessed airports are closed), followed by South-Eastern Europe Eastern Europe and Central Asia with 29 out of 191 closed airports or 15 per cent (a decrease of 2 p.p. over the previous update). Conversely, the European Economic Area remained the region with the highest proportion of fully operational airports with 95 per cent of the total or 195 out of 205 fully operational (a 1 p.p. decrease compared to the previous report). It was followed by East and Horn of Africa (91% of fully operational airports, i.e. no change compared to the previous report) and Central and West Africa (82% of fully operational locations, i.e. no change compared to the previous report).

### Operational status at assessed airports

- Fully closed
- Partially operational
- Fully operational
- Unknown



### Global map of assessed airports and their operational status



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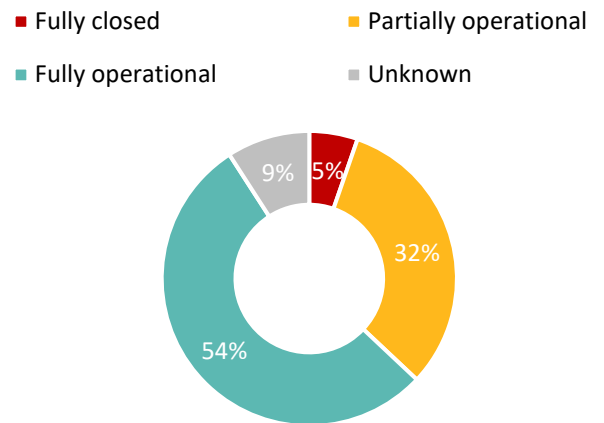


### 3. Overview of Blue Border Crossing Points (sea-, river and lake ports)

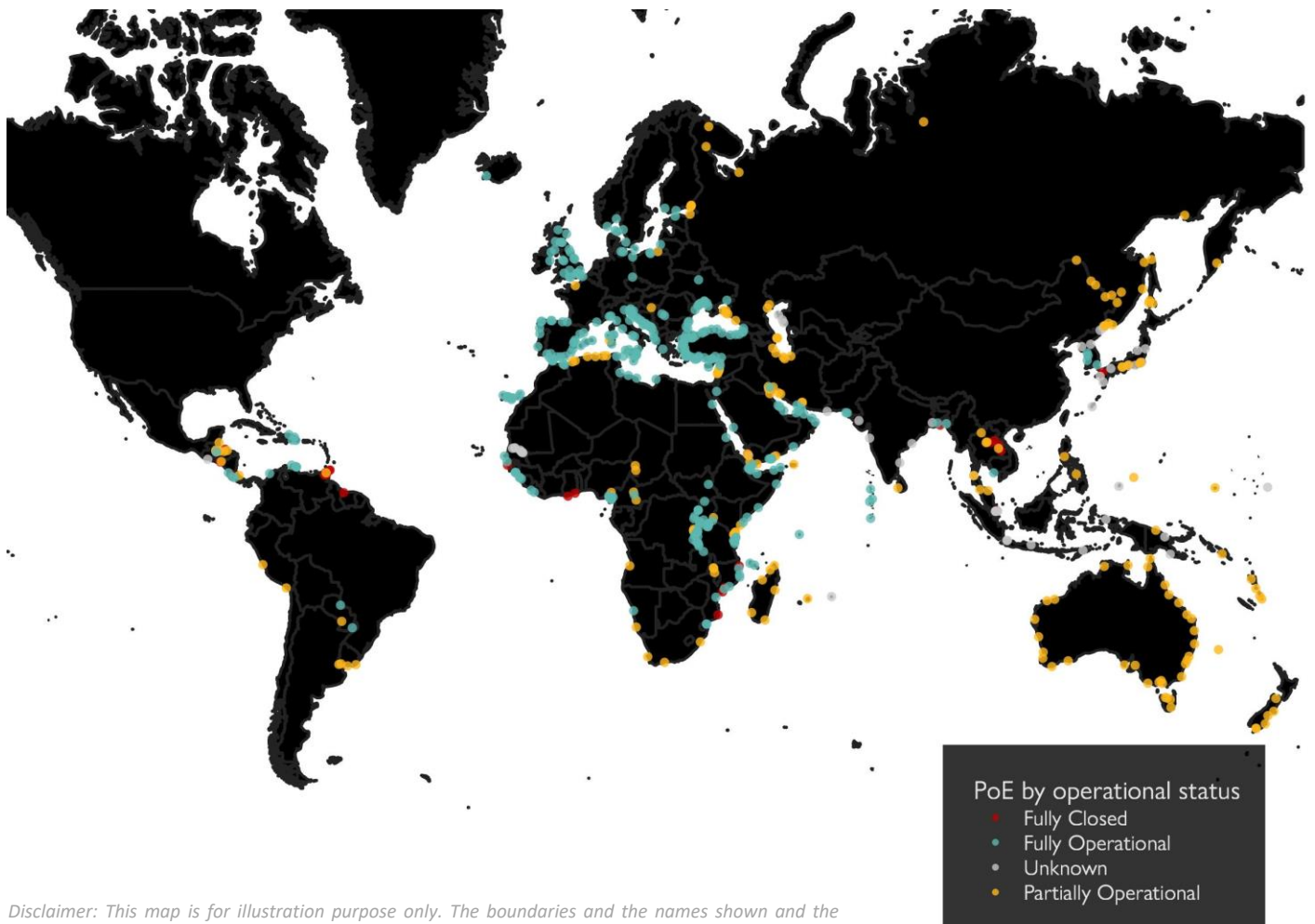
IOM assessed a total of **735 blue border crossing points in 116 countries, territories and areas**. The operational status of the assessed blue border crossing points varied slightly in the past two weeks. **Five per cent**, or 39 locations, were reported to be **fully closed** (no relative change compared to the previous report), while the portion of **partially operational blue border crossing points** was reported at **32 per cent** (a 1 p.p. increase compared to the previous reporting period). Finally, **54 per cent** of the locations were reported as **fully operational** (no relative change compared to the previous report). Information was not available for 9 per cent of the locations (for more details, see Table 3 in the Annex).

Central America, North America and the Caribbean was the IOM region with the highest share of fully closed blue border crossing points (17 out of 44, 39% of the total, no change compared to the previous report), followed by Southern Africa, with 11 per cent (4 out of 38 assessed blue border points in the region, no change compared to the previous reporting period). The European Economic Area region continued to be the IOM region with the highest share of fully operational blue border crossing points with 140 fully operational locations out of the 142 assessed blue border crossing points in the region (99% of the total, no change compared to the previous report). The region with the second highest share of fully operational blue border crossing points was East and Horn of Africa, with 88 per cent or 77 out of 88 ports reported as fully operational, followed by South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia with 71 of 122 or 58 per cent of the total.

**Operational status at assessed blue border crossing points**



**Global map of assessed blue border crossing 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.*

## 4. Overview of Land Border Crossing Points

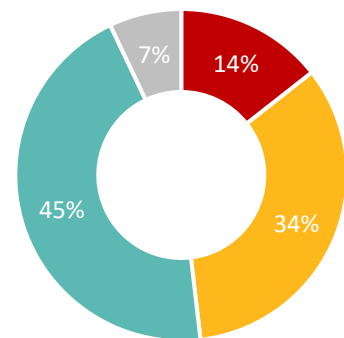
Among the **2,605 assessed land border crossing points** in 132 countries, territories or areas, the **fully closed** and **partially operational** made up **14** and **34 per cent** of the total, respectively, while **45 per cent** of the assessed locations were **fully operational** without any restriction. The operational status of the remaining 7 per cent was unknown. Compared to the previous report, no relative change was recorded in the operational status of the assessed land border crossing points (for more details, see Table 3 in the Annex).

West and Central Africa remained the IOM region reporting the highest share of fully closed land border crossing points with 97 out of 385 assessed locations completely closed, corresponding to 25 per cent of the total number of land border crossing points assessed in this region (no change compared to the previous reporting period). Other IOM regions with a significant proportion of fully closed land border crossing points include Asia and the Pacific (52 out of 246, 21%, i.e. no change compared to the previous reporting period), East and Horn of Africa (35 out of 213, 16%, i.e. no change compared to the previous report) and South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (85 out of 543, 16%, no change compared to the previous report).

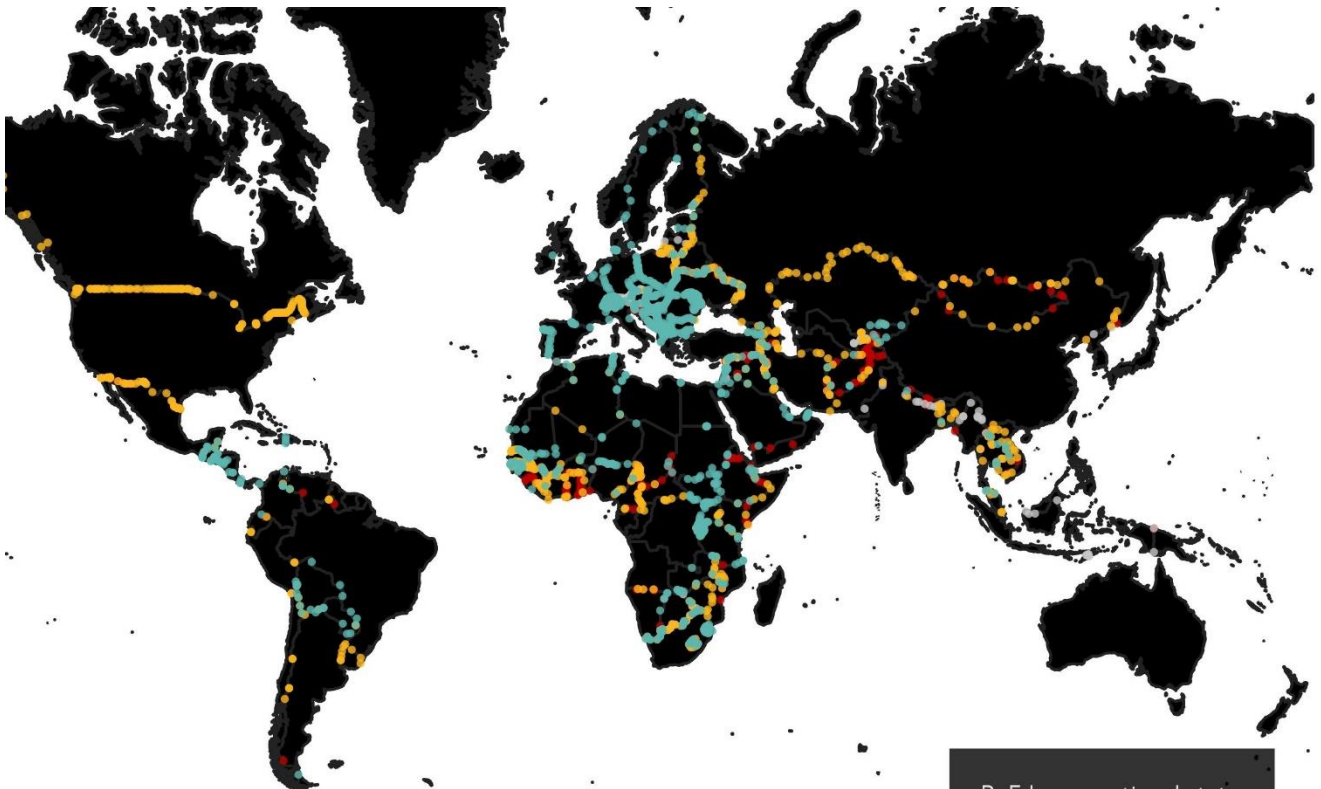
The highest percentage of fully operational land border crossing points among IOM regions remained in the European Economic Area with 397 out of the 531 assessed land border crossing points that are currently fully operational (75%, no change compared to the previous reporting period), followed by Middle East and North Africa (78 out of 128, 61%, a 1 p.p. decrease compared to the previous report), East and Horn of Africa (122 out 213 locations, 57% of the total), and South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (279 out of 543, 51% of the total).

Operational status at assessed land border crossing point

- Fully closed
- Partially operational
- Fully operational
- Unknown



Global map of assessed land border crossing points and their operational status



- PoE by operational status
- Fully Closed
  - Fully Operational
  - Unknown
  - Partially Operational

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.

# Annex: Tables

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

Region	Total		Airports		Land border crossing points		Blue border crossing points		No. of C/T/A
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Asia and the Pacific	679	100%	251	37%	246	36%	182	27%	39
Central and North America and the Caribbean	432	100%	125	29%	263	61%	44	10%	22
West and Central Africa	488	100%	49	10%	385	79%	54	11%	22
East and Horn of Africa	381	100%	80	21%	213	56%	88	23%	9
European Economic Area	878	100%	205	23%	531	60%	142	16%	30
Middle East and North Africa	263	100%	80	30%	128	49%	55	21%	17
South America	122	100%	43	35%	69	57%	10	8%	10
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	859	100%	191	22%	546	64%	122	14%	19
Southern Africa	345	100%	83	24%	224	65%	38	11%	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>4447</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2605</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>183</b>

\*Table I.2: Percentage of update of PoE data by month

Location Type	December 2020	December 2020 (%)	January 2021	January 2021 (%)	February 2021	February 2021 (%)
Airport	0	0%	1	<1%	0	0%
Blue border crossing point	2	<1%	0	0%	0	0%
Land border crossing point	31	1%	2	<1%	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>

Location Type	March 2021	March 2021 (%)	April 2021	April 2021 (%)	May 2021	May 2021 (%)
Airport	0	0%	1	<1%	0	0%
Blue border crossing point	8	1%	7	1%	12	2%
Land border crossing point	13	1%	95	4%	26	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1%</b>

Location Type	June 2021	June 2021 (%)	July 2021	July 2021 (%)	August 2021	August 2021 (%)
Airport	0	0%	87	8%	540	49%
Blue border crossing point	0	0%	84	11%	291	40%
Land border crossing point	3	<1%	359	14%	1400	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>2231</b>	<b>50%</b>

Location Type	September 2021	September 2021 (%)	Total	Total (%)
Airport	641	58%	1107	100%
Blue border crossing point	374	51%	735	100%
Land border crossing point	1044	40%	2605	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2059</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>4447</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*For illustration and readability purposes, the columns for the period June – November 2020 were not included as all of them did not had a PoE update, except 10 Land border crossing points (<1%) for the month of June

# Annex: Tables

Table 2: Number (#) and percentage (%) of assessed PoEs by operational status and IOM region

Region	Fully closed		Partially operational		Fully operational		Unknown		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Asia and the Pacific	74	11%	281	41%	147	22%	177	26%	679
Central and North America and the Caribbean	24	6%	247	57%	152	35%	9	2%	432
West and Central Africa	103	21%	205	42%	162	33%	18	4%	488
East and Horn of Africa	35	9%	72	19%	272	71%	2	1%	381
European Economic Area	53	6%	17	2%	732	83%	76	9%	878
Middle East and North Africa	24	9%	61	23%	160	61%	18	7%	263
South America	15	12%	50	41%	57	47%	0	0%	122
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	115	13%	221	26%	506	59%	17	2%	859
Southern Africa	37	11%	137	40%	158	46%	13	4%	345
<b>Total</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>2346</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4447</b>

Table 3: Number (#) and percentage (%) of assessed PoEs by operational status and type

Location Type	Fully closed		Partially operational		Fully operational		Unknown		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Airport	68	6%	179	16%	774	70%	86	8%	1107
Blue border crossing point	39	5%	234	32%	396	54%	66	9%	735
Land border crossing point	373	14%	878	34%	1176	45%	178	7%	2605
<b>Total</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>2346</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4447</b>