

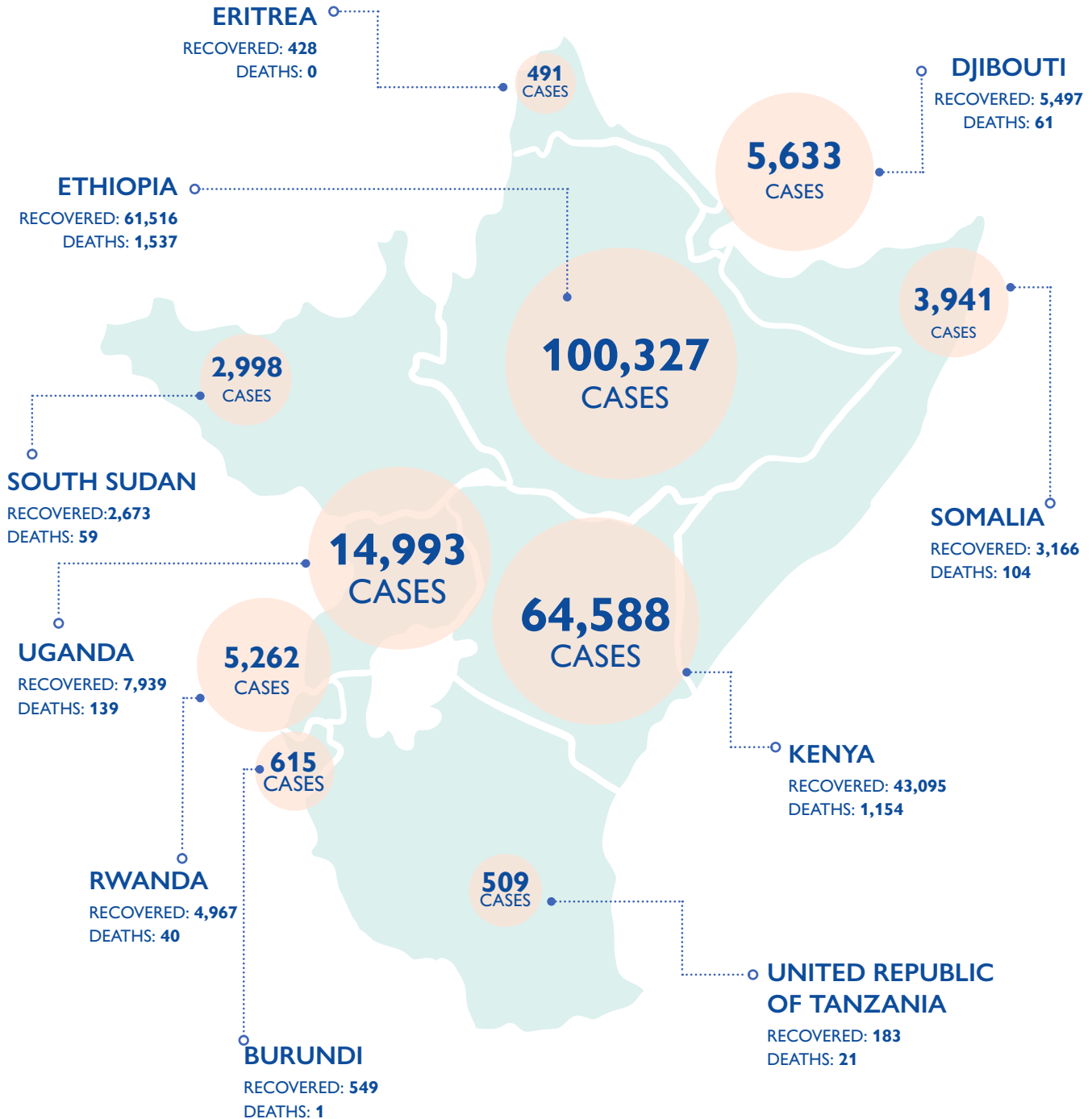
EAST & HORN OF AFRICA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT - #31

11 NOVEMBER 2020 Update

199,717
CONFIRMED CASES

3,119
CONFIRMED DEATHS

130,094
TOTAL RECOVERED



DISCLAIMER: The maps in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Representations and the use of boundaries and geographical names on these maps may include errors and do not imply judgment of the legal status of a territory, nor official recognition or acceptance of these boundaries by IOM.



123,794

Migrant movements observed (DTM, September 2020) (70% reduction compared to September 2019)



617

Migrant arrivals in Yemen from the Horn (DTM, September 2020) (94% reduction compared to September 2019)



6.3M

IDPs (September 2020 – DTM, OCHA)



EHoA SITUATION OVERVIEW

The number of people infected with COVID-19 in the East and Horn of Africa (EHoA) continues to rise, as the number of positive cases continues to rise globally. Migrants, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are among some of world's most vulnerable groups facing the worst impact of the infection, compared to non-migrants. They are more likely to be living in conditions and circumstances in which the infection is more likely to spread, poorer and makeshift conditions and overcrowded settings. They are also likely to have limited access to sanitation and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Migrants and mobile populations may also have an over-representation of pre-existing health issues due to a lack of access to medical facilities and care. Thousands of migrants are currently stranded across the East and Horn of Africa due to widespread border closures and movement restrictions brought on by COVID-19, unable to reach destination countries, and unable to return home. Many are in need of food, water, medical assistance and transport. At the same time, migrants are subject to involuntary return to their home countries, and some are experiencing detention and abuse, stigma and xenophobia, resulting from being blamed for the spread of the disease.

As of November 11, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the region stands at 199,717. 2,016 new cases have been reported in the last day with most new cases reported in Kenya (1,344 daily increase 2.1%), followed by Ethiopia (345 daily increase 0.3%), Uganda (289 daily increase 1.9%) and Rwanda (20 daily increase 0.4%). Ethiopia remains the country with the highest number of confirmed cases in the region at 100,327 (50.2% of total case), followed by Kenya 64,588 (32.3%), followed by Uganda 14,993 (7.5%).

IOM is working with governments across the region to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in the areas of protection, risk communication, disease surveillance, infection prevention and control, case management, 'points of entry' (PoEs), camp coordination and management, procurement and logistics, among others. IOM is advocating for all migrants, including IDPs, to be included in all national government responses in the fight against COVID-19. A regional financial appeal to assist migrant groups in the East and Horn of Africa was launched in April for \$71.6M. So far, 73% of the required funds have been raised.

Link to the EHoA COVID-19 appeal document; <https://ronairobi.iom.int/publications/iom-east-and-horn-africa-strategic-and-preparedness-and-response-plan-covid-19>

In August IOM launched an appeal to specifically respond to the needs of migrants on the 'Eastern Route' from the Horn of Africa to Yemen.

Link to the Regional Migrant Response Plan for Horn of Africa and Yemen' (RMRP) 2020 Appeal: <https://ronairobi.iom.int/publications/regional-migrants-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen-2018-%E2%80%93-2020>

The number of COVID-19 cases in East and Horn of Africa continues to increase with 199,717 people now infected.

Thousands of migrants are currently stranded across the East and Horn of Africa due to widespread border closures and movement restrictions.



IOM COUNTRY RESPONSE

Partnerships and Coordination

IOM Ethiopia is working on the management and coordination of 11 COVID-19 quarantine facilities for migrants in the capital Addis Ababa, and other regions, in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia. In total, IOM has been assisting in over 75 quarantine facilities since the start of the pandemic. IOM South Sudan is working in partnership with the authorities as a member of the Strategic Advisory Group, National Task Force, COVID-19 National Steering Committee, and the Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG), a key platform providing decision-makers and responders with data and analysis on the impact and needs for the COVID-19 response. IOM is also participating in state COVID-19 response fora with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners. IOM is collaborating with the International Rescue Committee, Medair, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Networks for Health, on conducting health, water and sanitation, and hygiene activities with the support of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. IOM has participated in the Intra-Action COVID-19 Review Workshop organized by the Ministry of Health on discussions towards the expected pandemic transitional coordination arrangements for 2021. IOM Burundi met with the Ministry of Health and HIV/AIDS Fight and other partners to determine the remaining activities in the COVID-19 response operational plan.

After intensive consultations with governments, UN, and NGO partners, in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, IOM submitted inputs from the regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen to the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021, establishing the persons in need along this route and proposed responses, including to address the consequences of COVID-19. The consultations culminated into a review and validation of the specific objectives, along with the target population and funding requirements for the MRP 2021 by the MRP partners at the regional level. The regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) utilizes a partner-based approach consisting of governmental, non-governmental, and intergovernmental actors; combining humanitarian and developmental perspectives to address the protection and humanitarian needs of migrants, the capacity needs of governments, and the drivers of irregular migration in areas of return and reintegration. The current regional MRP (2018 -2020) will end this year, and MRP partners have begun planning for the next inter-agency MRP (2021-2024)- to address the needs along the East and Horn of Africa and Yemen route, heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The MRP continues to provide a framework for coordination, protection, capacity building, analysis, and resource mobilization, recognizing the migration's regional dimensions linking the Horn of Africa and Yemen. A more systematic collaboration will ensure synergies and complementarities with existing projects for a compelling narrative and response as learned from the current Plan.

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Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

IOM Djibouti reached over 4,200 people including migrants with COVID-19 prevention awareness messages at Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) across five regions. Over 13,000 people in Gedeo, West Guji, East Wollega, Dire Dawa and East Harerghe were reached with COVID-19 awareness messages by IOM Ethiopia. An estimated 26,700 people in West Guji, East and West Hararghe, West Wollega, Gedeo and Borena were reached with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and COVID-19 prevention health related activities. IOM also provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to volunteers assisting IDPs to self-isolate in West Harerghe. IOM visited Wollega to monitor awareness and attitudes about COVID-19 and to assess the condition of handwashing stations. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials with hygiene related messages were distributed to communities in Elway, Dhas and Dillo districts. In Somalia, more than 7,400 people were reached with COVID-19 awareness and prevention information through 9 clinics supported by IOM Somalia. Another 1,796 people in Jubaland, South West State and Puntland were reached with hygiene promotion activities. Forty-five migrants in Hargeisa were reached with COVID-19 awareness and prevention information. IOM South Sudan is continuing with COVID-19 awareness and hygiene promotion in Bentiu and Malakal Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites as well as in areas surrounding the PoCs in Juba and Wau. Similar activities continue at PoEs in Abyei, Renk and Nimule. Nearly 170,000 people were reached with COVID-19 information through a network of 225 Community Hygiene Promoters during the reporting period. IOM in partnership with the Water Tankers Association, is conducting mass awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 by displaying IEC materials and playing pre-recorded messages through megaphones with the help of 50 water tankers in Juba. IEC materials with messages on COVID-19 are being displayed at 670 handwashing stations. IOM conducted six focus group discussions with 76 people to capture knowledge, attitudes and practices around COVID-19. Some 38 individuals received psychosocial support through IOM's hotline in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile. Over 890 people displaced by conflict in Western Bahr el Ghazal were provided with information on COVID-19. They were informed about the importance of handwashing, use of masks, and advised to practice social distancing.

Disease Surveillance


IOM Burundi is providing financial assistance to 100 community health workers in Muyinga Province. The health workers are carrying out community-based surveillance for early detection of epidemics across unofficial POEs and communities by monitoring travelers. Over 770 migrants are stranded across 12 sites in Djibouti including in IOM Djibouti's Migrant Response Centres and government-led quarantine facilities and are being assisted by IOM. IOM Ethiopia has received over 38,100 migrants who have been returned to the country since the onset of COVID-19 in April. IOM also registered over 880 new returnee migrants in the past week. About 20 returnees are currently in quarantine facilities across the country.

Points of Entry

IOM Ethiopia is continuing with COVID-19 screening at health posts and PoEs. IOM has finalized the construction of WASH facilities at Dewelle PoE. Over 17,800 truck

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drivers have been tested for COVID-19 by IOM Kenya as part of efforts to facilitate the transportation of essential goods such as food, medicine and fuel across East, Central and Horn of Africa countries. In Somalia, IOM screened over 13,600 people in Baidoa, Hudur, Dhobley, Kismayo and Dollow for COVID-19 during the reporting week. Over 13,000 travellers were screened for COVID-19 at Juba International Airport and other areas by IOM South Sudan during the same period. IOM provided healthcare services to over 1,170 people living near the Nimule PoE. The construction of preventative handwashing station at the Juba International Airport is nearing completion. IOM South Sudan has conducted a sensitization workshop in Renk for border officials including immigration officers. IOM also held a meeting with the government's inter-agency stakeholders and discussed setting up an Integrated Border Management Committee (IBMC) for a whole-of-government response to address COVID-19 related challenges identified at the border region. The IBMC will be comprised of IOM, 18 government agencies and other partners. The committee will meet regularly to discuss issues arising at the borders including response to pandemics.

Infection Prevention and Control

IOM Ethiopia is providing facemasks and sanitizers to 39 quarantine facility staff and returnees in Semera and Moyale. IOM Somalia has constructed 14 handwashing stations in Bossaso and is providing hygiene kits to 35 households in Bossaso and Dhobley. Some 27 hygiene promoters and 75 community hygiene workers have been recruited and trained and are currently working in Jubaland, South West State and Puntland. IOM South Sudan is maintaining 670 handwashing station during the week and during the reporting period over 84,100 people in Juba benefited from 79 operational handwashing stations built by IOM. IOM is also upgrading three boreholes in Juba to ensure reliable supply of clean water to communities. IOM has also built eight new handwashing facilities in Wau. Over 4,600 people in Nimule benefited from three handwashing facilities set up by IOM during the week. IOM Rwanda has to date provided over 120,000 reusable face masks, 12,000 surgical masks, 15,000 gloves and 2,000 bottles of handwashing soap to UNHCR for distribution to refugees in the country. IOM Tanzania is supporting the Ministry of Health to hold a workshop on the design and production of IEC materials for distribution to raise awareness about COVID-19 and how to prevent infection.

Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

IOM Djibouti assisted 420 migrants returning from Yemen to move from the Migration Response Centre in Obock to the government led quarantine facility in Ali-Sabieh. Migrants received food and medical assistance. IOM Somalia is providing accommodation and onward transportation assistance to 20 migrant returnees who arrived from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management

IOM South Sudan is supporting four WASH partners to integrate COVID-19 preparedness activities as part of the flood response in Juba, Koch, DuK and Wau counties. Over 34,620 people were provided with critical WASH items including buckets, soap, filter cloths, water purification tablets and water treatment flocculants.

Over 13,000 travellers were screened for COVID-19 at Juba International Airport and other areas by IOM South Sudan during the same period.

Over 17,800 truck drivers have been tested for COVID-19 by IOM Kenya as part of efforts to facilitate the transportation of essential goods.

IOM is also providing handpump spare parts to repair 20 nonfunctional water points in Wau to ensure people affected by floods have access to water as part of COVID-19 prevention. In addition, IOM processed three requests from two partners to provide PPE to healthcare and frontline workers and to deliver vital COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures in Magwi and Ayod counties. The items included medical examination gloves, thermometers and hand-sanitizer. IOM received 2,500 boxes of soap and handpump spare parts from donors during the reporting period. Procurement of reusable facemasks is ongoing. IOM is prepositioning operations to key logistics hubs, whenever roads are accessible for transportation of critical supplies for WASH Cluster partners' COVID-19 response during the rainy season. Approximately 12 metric tons of buckets with tap and without tap were sent to Rumbek logistics hub to ensure uninterrupted provision of key WASH supplies.

Protection

IOM Djibouti is providing lifesaving assistance, including food, water and medical assistance to migrants arriving from Yemen along the coast in Obock region. IOM Ethiopia is providing psychosocial support and gender based violence awareness in relation to COVID-19 to over 500 migrant returnees in West Guji, East and West Wollega regions. Blankets, mats, bedsheets, soap and dignity kits and other items have been provided to 67 migrants at different PoEs and quarantine facilities across the country. Transportation, food and medical assistance was provided to 73 migrant returnees in Moyale. Some 108 returnee migrants received transportation, food and medical assistance.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

IOM Ethiopia is continuing camp coordination with Disaster Risk Management Office on COVID-19 preparedness at IDP sites in West Hararge, Borena, Gedeo and West Guji zones. A standard operating procedure on COVID-19 response has been developed and shared for launch by the local government in West Guji. The construction of multi-purpose shades for COVID-19 intervention is ongoing in all six IDP sites in Borena zone.

Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM Burundi's DTM continues with data collection at United Republic of Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo border areas as part of COVID-19 surveillance. IOM Djibouti is conducting sensitization campaigns on the risks and prevention of COVID-19 across five FMPs. IOM Somalia shared COVID-19 information with 2,066 individuals who reported to be unaware of the pandemic. IOM South Sudan is conducting regular weekly assessments of COVID-19 preparedness and response measures across 90 locations, combining border points, airports and internal transit points. DTM enumerators carried out 3,172 interviews representing 8,016 individual movements across 24 FMPs. DTM is operating four displacement site FMPs at the gates of the Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites in Wau, Bentiu and Malakal as well as Masna Collective Centre. Enumerators conducted 845 interviews representing 2,207 individual movements. DTM completed data collection for household level multi-sectoral needs, vulnerabilities and COVID-19 impact survey in Juba at two POC sites. Data collection for Wau Town and displacement site is ongoing. The same will take place in Bentiu Town and respective PoC sites.

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Information Sharing and Communication

A new report jointly published IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP), “Populations at Risk: Implications of COVID-19 for Hunger, Migration and Displacement, November 2020”, highlights the link between hunger and displacement and the increasing vulnerabilities facing people, including migrants across East and Horn of Africa, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report says the number of people acutely food insecure could rise to 41.6 million before the end of 2020 due to COVID-19. The report shows that remittance flows upon which many communities, particularly migrants, including IDPs rely are expected to decrease by nearly 10% in 2020. The report says border closures and movement restrictions in over 220 countries, territories has had a devastating effect on the human mobility of over 160 million migrant workers, and their opportunity to work and earn an income, thus straining the ability of migrants and displaced people to afford food and other basic needs. IOM and WFP call on the world to step up response to immediate humanitarian needs and the rising socioeconomic toll. The report can be found here: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/populations-risk-implications-covid-19-hunger-migration-displacement-2020>

IOM Regional Office’ Nairobi’s Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, launched its new website, designed to simplify and ease access to crucial data and research for migration policy and programming, including a repository of latest COVID-19 analytical products. The site can be accessed here: <https://ronairobi.iom.int/regional-data-hub-rdh>

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The EU-IOM Joint Initiative has assisted 150 vulnerable Sudanese migrants to voluntarily return home on a charter flight from Egypt. Photo: © IOM Sudan