

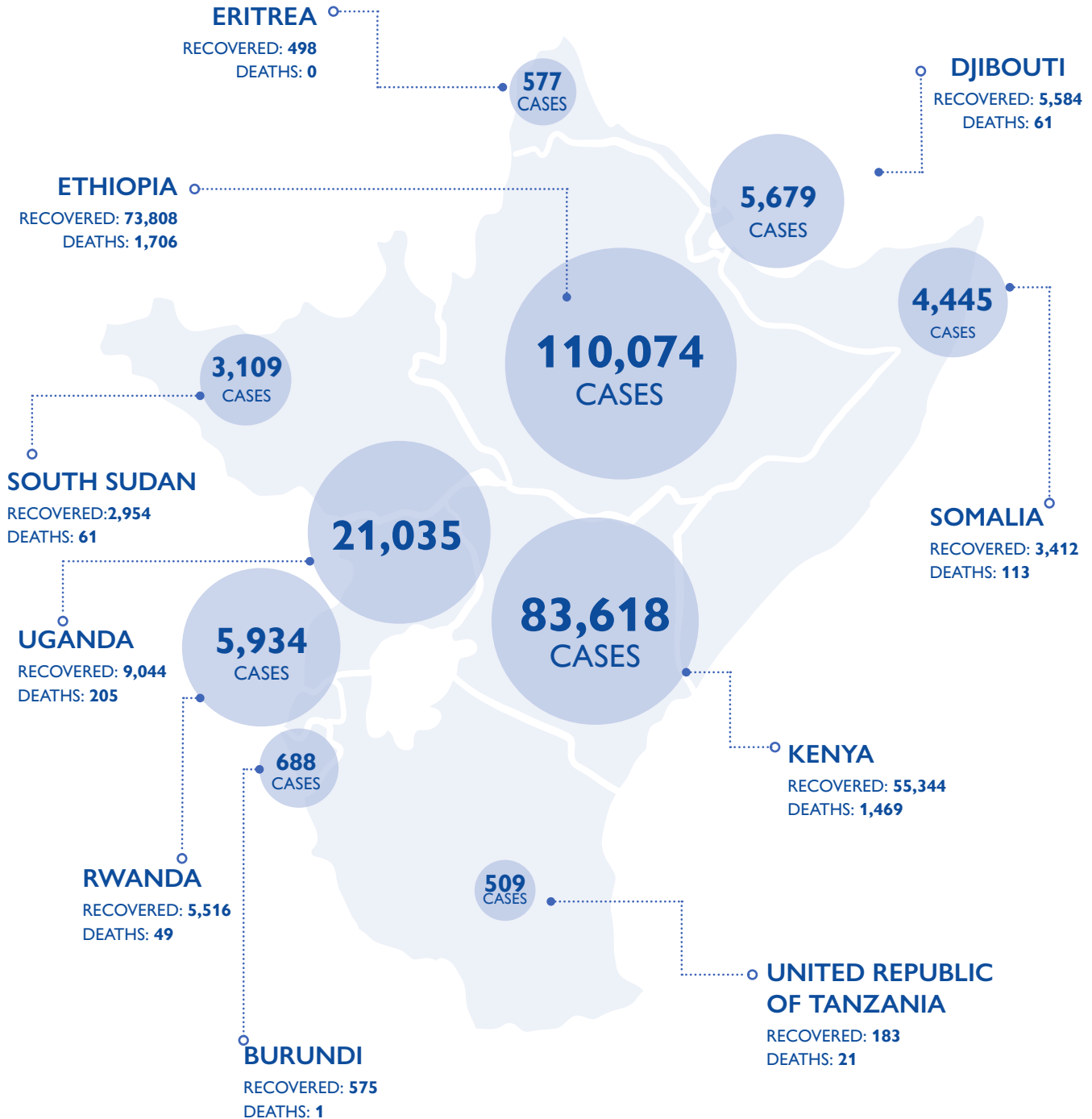
# EAST & HORN OF AFRICA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT - #34

02 DECEMBER 2020 Update

**235,668**  
CONFIRMED CASES

**3,686**  
CONFIRMED DEATHS

**156,918**  
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.



**181,823**

Migrant movements observed (DTM, October 2020) (55% reduction compared to October 2019)



**1,038**

Migrant arrivals in Yemen from the Horn (DTM, October 2020) (92% reduction compared to October 2019)



**6.3M**

IDPs (October 2020 – DTM, OCHA)



## EHoA SITUATION OVERVIEW

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The number of people infected with COVID-19 continues to increase across East & Horn of Africa. Migrants, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are among the world's worst impacted groups, compared to non-migrants. Migrants are more likely to face conditions and circumstances in which the infection is more likely to spread, namely, poorer and makeshift conditions and overcrowded settings. This group is likely to have more limited access Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as they may be excluded from access public health and medical services. Migrants and mobile populations may also have an over-representation of pre-existing health issues due to a historical lack of access to health care. Migrants are currently stranded across the East and Horn of Africa due to border closures and movement restrictions. Many are in need of food, water, medical assistance and transport. Migrants are also experiencing involuntary return to countries of origin, detention and abuse, stigma and xenophobia, resulting from being blamed for the spread of the disease.

As of December 1, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the region stands at 235,668. 1,142 new cases have been reported in the last day with most new cases reported in Uganda (576 daily increase 2.7%), followed by Ethiopia (540 daily increase 0.5%), Kenya (302 daily increase 0.7%) and Rwanda (15 daily increase 0.2%). Ethiopia remains the country with the highest number of confirmed cases in the region at 110,074 (46.7% of total case), followed by Kenya 83,618 (35.5%), followed by Uganda 21,035 (8.9%).


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 government responses to combat COVID-19 and access to COVID-19 vaccines.

IOM Regional Office launched its Strategy 2020-2024 for East and Horn of Africa on December 1 at a virtual gathering which included Ministers from and high-level government representatives from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and leaders of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Deputy Secretary-General of the East Africa Community, and representatives from the EU, United Nations and other development partners. The strategy highlights critical trends impacting migration in the region, including the continuous re-emergence of epidemics, pandemics and other public health threats. By so doing, it acknowledges the linkages between climate change and environmental degradation to the alarming and growing trend in zoonotic diseases.

*The number of COVID-19 cases in East and Horn of Africa continues to increase with 235,668 people now infected.*

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*IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa launched its Strategy 2020-2024 for East and Horn of Africa on December 1.*



The strategy highlights some of the key impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration and mobility in region as outlined above and points to IOM's responses, including through its lead role at points of entry and its support for COVID testing across the region. It calls for maintaining the momentum for regional integration, including to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, inclusion of migrants in universal health coverage, including IDPs, for migrants to be included in national health responses, , and protection of the rights of migrants in response to the pandemic.

A regional financial appeal to assist migrant groups in the East and Horn of Africa was launched in April for \$71.6M. So far, 71% of the required funds have been raised.

Link to the IOM Regional Strategy for East and Horn of Africa 2020-2024: <https://ronairobi.iom.int/publications/east-and-horn-africa-regional-strategy-2020-2024>

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%932020>

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## IOM COUNTRY RESPONSE

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### **Partnerships and Coordination**

IOM Ethiopia is assisting migrants in 16 COVID-19 quarantine facilities in Ethiopia, in partnership with the government, in the capital, Addis Ababa and other regions. 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 around COVID-19. IOM is also participating in state COVID-19 response fora with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners, including the International Rescue Committee, Medair, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Networks for Health. IOM Burundi is participating in a gathering which will include all national medical health departments within the East African region to build consensus on sustainable approaches to implementing the regional health strategy to combat COVID-19.


### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)**

IOM Ethiopia has reached nearly 32,000 people with COVID-19 awareness messages in Dire Dawa, East Hararghe, West Guji, Gedeo, Borena, East and West Wollega Zones during the reporting period. IOM Kenya is conducting COVID-19 awareness and prevention activities in Eastleigh in the capital Nairobi through radio broadcasts and roadshows. The targeted area is migrant dense with a significant number of COVID-19 positive cases. 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. Over 248,300 people were reached with COVID-19 information through a network of 249 Community Hygiene Promoters during the reporting period. IEC materials with messages on COVID-19 are being displayed at 662 handwashing stations. IOM conducted training on COVID-19 for 45 community caretakers in 10 locations. IOM in partnership with City FM is continuing to reach people with radio-messages on gender-based violence prevention, gender equality, and protection in relation to COVID-19. IOM also conducted a survey on the COVID-19 prevention measures in Juba. Of more than 23,200 individuals observed in 27 public places, 63 percent washed their hands. Over 4,000 people in Wau, Malakal and Bentiu were reached with COVID-19 related mental health and psychosocial support prevention, behavioral change and tackling misinformation. The IOM managed helpline in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile provided counselling to 19 people during the week. IOM Tanzania and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children are jointly participating in workshops on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) focusing on COVID-19 and other public health issues. This week, IOM Tanzania has reached 40 border and port health officials from strategic Points of Entry (PoEs) in Lake and Western zone of the country including Mwanza, Kigoma, Kagera and Mara regions.

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The trained officials will roll out the RCCE interventions in their respective border points and designated PoEs. The interventions will include COVID-19 information dissemination, prevention and on when and how to seek health care for travelers. IOM is also conducting RCCE on WASH in various communities in Kigoma region. IOM has so far conducted 9 community meetings in targeted areas.

### **National Laboratory Systems**

IOM Ethiopia has conducted 141 COVID-19 tests for UN staff at its Migrant Health Assessment Centre during the reporting period. IOM also supported 5 quarantine facilities in Jijiga, Moyale, and Addis Ababa with COVID-19 testing. Over 36,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted by IOM Kenya at its laboratories in Mombasa and Nairobi. The tests are targeted at refugees, truck drivers, migrants and humanitarian personnel.

### **Disease Surveillance**

IOM Ethiopia has assisted over 40,400 migrants who have been returned to the country since the start of the pandemic as part of disease surveillance efforts to stop the spread of the disease. IOM has also registered nearly 600 new returnee migrants in the reporting period. IOM Kenya has established COVID-19 testing laboratories for truck drivers and humanitarian personnel including UN staff as part of efforts to support the government's surveillance activities.

### **Points of Entry**

IOM Burundi handed over equipment to the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS organization to support the Government's efforts in the fight against diseases with epidemic potential, including COVID-19. The donation includes vehicles, ICT and office equipment that will be used to supervise and coordinate information sharing between the Ministry of Public Health and PoEs. The other donation, including tents, masks, gloves, soaps, chlorine, thermo-flash, sprays, hand washing devices and 55-inch TV screens, will help strengthen the cross-border diseases surveillance system at PoEs and improve risk communication activities at the national airport. Other items, including bicycles, telephones, raincoats, boots, backpacks and clothing, is being provided to community health workers in the cross-border regions of Muyinga and Giteranyi, that will help with community-based surveillance and risk communication on epidemics, including COVID-19. IOM Ethiopia has screened over 2,500 returnees and local community members for COVID-19 at IOM mobile health team sites and government supported health posts in Dire Dawa, East Hararge, Gedeo, West Guji, East and West Wollega Zones. IOM Kenya deployed staff and laboratory equipment to assist in COVID-19 testing for truck drivers. Over 24,000 truck drivers have since been tested. Over 15,500 travellers have been screened for COVID-19 at Juba International Airport and other areas by IOM South Sudan. IOM is also supporting the PoE at the Juba International Airport and four others by providing clean water, rehabilitation and maintenance of sanitation facilities, construction and installation of handwashing facilities, and supply of IPC materials such as face masks, soap, and hand sanitizers.

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## Infection Prevention and Control

IOM Ethiopia is providing COVID-19 protective facemasks to 56 quarantine staff and migrant returnees in Semera and Moyale and has trained 60 health workers in East Hararge on COVID-19 IPC, surveillance, home-based isolation and care management. IOM also provided 10,000 litres of water and installed five handwashing stations in Gambella town. IOM Kenya has trained 75 frontline border officials Namanga, Busia Malaba and Lunga Lunga One Stop Border Posts on COVID-19 IPC measures, and the handling of suspected cases among travellers. IOM Rwanda donated 127 handwashing stations to schools attended by refugees from Mahama camp and those from hosting communities. The donation will benefit some 23,700 students and teachers. The construction of basements for 44 handwashing stations meant for refugees and vulnerable host communities is complete. IOM South Sudan is maintaining 652 handwashing devices. Nearly 46,000 people in Juba are benefiting from 17 operational handwashing facilities maintained by IOM while 87 handwashing stations maintained by IOM is benefiting some 89,400 people during the week. The upgrade of four boreholes in Juba is ongoing. Nearly 16,000 people benefited from 15 handwashing facilities in Wau while over 4,800 people benefited from three handwashing stations in Nimule during the reporting period.

## Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

IOM Ethiopia has provided 2,500 migrant returnees and members of the host community including children with COVID-19 related medical checks and assistance in Dire Dawa, East Hararge, Gedeo, West Guji, East and West Wollega Zones during the reporting period.

## Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management

IOM South Sudan has processed requests for PPE from five partner organizations for COVID-19 infection prevention and control in Juba, Yei and Aweil counties. The equipment includes 50 boxes of medical examination gloves, 30 pieces of coveralls and 36 contactless thermometers. IOM also supported five partners with the integration of COVID-19 in flood, malnutrition and displacement response preparedness activities. IOM also provided water storage and treatment supplies to benefit nearly 10,000 households in Wau, Rubkona, Mayom, Ayod, and Mundri East. The procurement of reusable facemask is in progress while the distribution of locally produced facemasks is ongoing.


## Protection

IOM Ethiopia has trained 32 health extension workers on gender-based violence (GBV) and mental health and psychosocial support in relation to COVID-19 in West Guji. Some 1,800 people in Dire Dawa, West Guji, East Wollega Zones received GBV and mental health and psychosocial support awareness. 122 people including unaccompanied minor children, and adult migrant returnees received blankets, mats, bedsheets, soaps and dignity kits at PoEs and in quarantine facilities. Some 97 migrant returnees including children were provided with food and onward transportation assistance, while 3 unaccompanied minors were reunited with their families in Moyale. IOM Tanzania is providing protection to migrants who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

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Migrants who are due for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration are receiving shelter, psychosocial support and medical assistance. IOM Kenya has received a request from the Ethiopian Embassy to support 332 vulnerable migrant households with food and non-food items to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19. The distribution is planned for December 2020.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

IOM Ethiopia is continuing camp coordination with the Disaster Risk Management Office on COVID-19 preparedness at IDP sites in East and West Hararghe, Borena, Gedeo, East and West Guji and East and West Wollega zones. IOM Tanzania is continuing with voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures.

### **Displacement Tracking Matrix**

IOM Burundi's Data Tracking Matrix (DTM) continued Flow monitoring data collection at the country's borders with the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo for COVID-19 surveillance. IOM Ethiopia published the DTM Ethiopia's National Displacement Report 6, based on assessments in over 1,300 IDP sites and over 1,200 villages, in which over 1,200 self-reported cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Somali, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' regions as well as in Oromia and Tigray regions. The assessment also revealed that daily laborers and the elderly were the most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of the IDPs assessed were found either to be unemployed, lost their job and or face challenges getting a job. Many IDPs were either borrowing, reducing meals, and selling livestock and other assets as coping mechanisms. Shortage of drugs, inaccessibility of health facilities and affordability of services were the main challenges to the healthcare system in the assessed IDPs sites. Moreover, IDPs are facing challenges related to price increase on food, hygiene products and drugs. IOM South Sudan conducted its regular remote weekly assessment of COVID-19 mobility restrictions and response measures at 90 locations, including land and blue border points, airports and internal transit points. DTM enumerators carried out 2,754 interviews representing 5,830 individual movements across 26 Flow Monitoring Points (FMP). Through flow monitoring registry, DTM surveyed people on the move at key transit points within South Sudan and at its borders. 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 596 interviews representing 1,614 individual movements. IOM Tanzania is continuing flow monitoring at five PoEs in Zanzibar. IOM Kenya is conducting flow monitoring activities along the borders of Namanga, Malaba, Busia and Lunga Lunga. The collected data provides an insight into mobility trends, migration drivers and travelers' profiles and the impact of COVID-19.

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HUMAN INTEREST STORY


# UNACCOMPANIED CHILD MIGRANTS REUNITED WITH FAMILIES IN ETHIOPIA. By IOM



*Tirusew Getachew (right) a social worker escorts a minor to her hometown in East Harerghe 590 kms from Addis Ababa. Photo - IOM Haimanot Abebe (003)*

The COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting the difficulties faced by unaccompanied migrant children. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 500 minors, including some aged between 15 and 17, have arrived in the country from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Djibouti among other nations. Many left Ethiopia by themselves, and some lost contact with their families while undertaking dangerous and risky journeys mainly to Gulf countries seeking work and opportunities. With the help of IOM Ethiopia many are being reunited with their families once they arrive in the country. Due to shock and trauma, many are unable to remember where they come from and their family members. IOM is supporting migrant returnee children in COVID-19 quarantine centres. Mental health specialists are working with children in the facilities, until they are well, then escorting them back to their homes and villages.





IOM has been working with Government of Ethiopia, local authorities and designated social workers, to trace the families of the children by collecting bio data from the unaccompanied minors when they arrive at quarantine facilities. IOM has been using contact information and addresses to try and find their families.

For those who do find their families, IOM covers their travel costs to reunite them. IOM also provides small cash grants to the parents or guardians looking after the children.

“We have been personally escorting these young children to their regional towns to look for their families physically, while liaising with local government officials on possible names, addresses, and telephone numbers of potential family members,” said Tirusew Getachew, a seconded Social Worker at Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth.

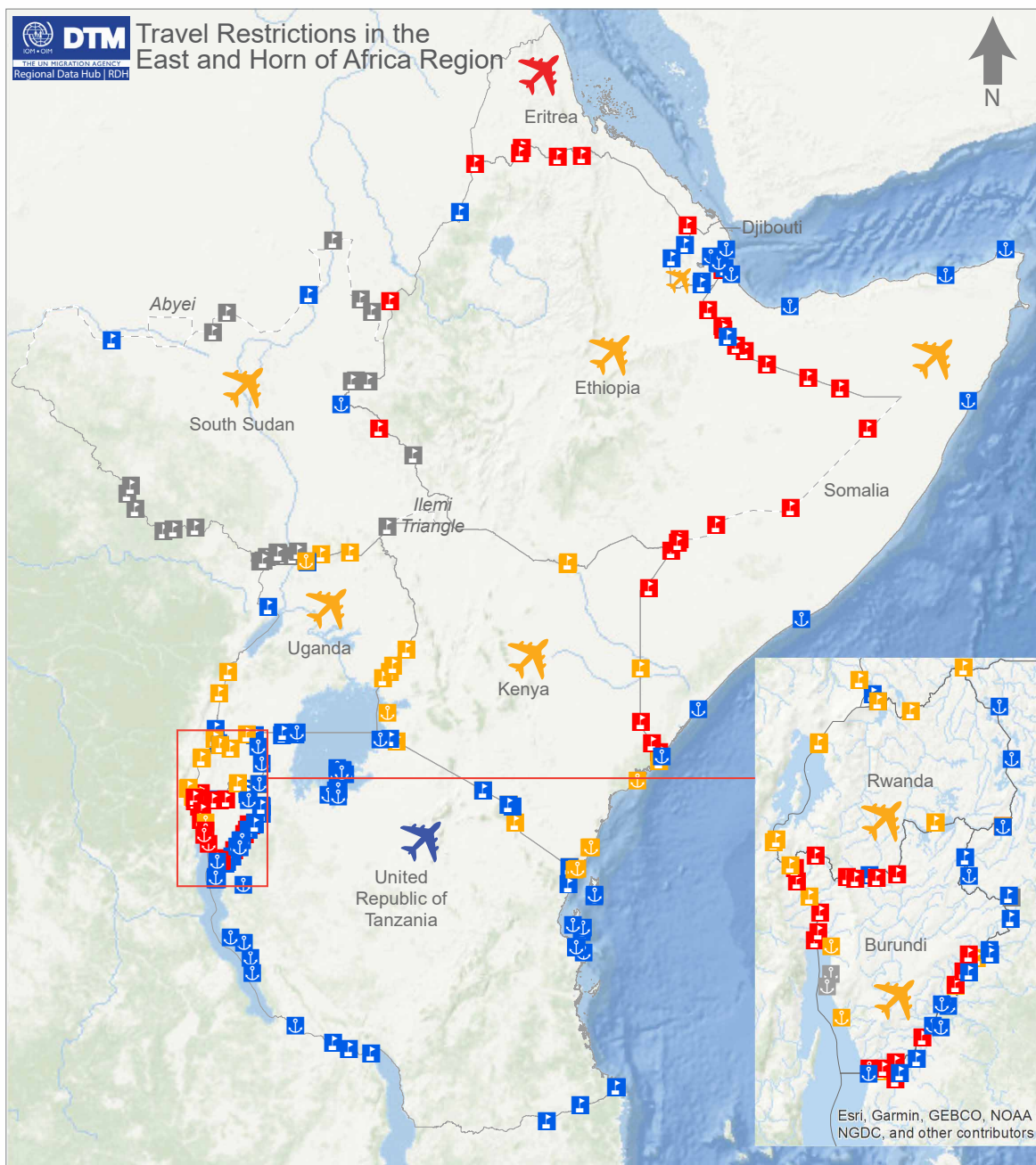
IOM has been supported by PRM, the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to provide assistance to the unaccompanied minors.

“The impact of COVID-19 on returning migrants, migrant children, and the country at large, is indeterminable. The need to mobilize resources and support the Government of Ethiopia’s response to helping the migrant children is immediate,” said Malambo Moonga, the Head of Migration Management at IOM Ethiopia.

Family tracing and reunification is part of IOM commitment to deliver the Regional Migrant Response Plan (2018-2020), a framework which aims to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of an estimated 235,000 vulnerable migrants in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen.

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# POINTS OF ENTRY & MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS



**Status of international flights\***

- Not Restrictive
- Partially Restrictive
- Totally Restrictive
- Disputed Areas
- Countries East and Horn of Africa

**Status of other border points**

- Sea Border Point
- Land Border Point
- Closed for entry and exit
- Partial closure
- Open for entry and exit
- Unknown

**Source:**

International Air Transport Association (IATA) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

**Date:** 26 November 2020

**Disclaimer:** These maps are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

\*Details of the travel restriction can be found on IATA website: <https://www.iata.org/>