

EAST & HORN OF AFRICA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT - #40



13 January 2021 Update

EHoA SITUATION OVERVIEW

The number of COVID-19 cases in East & Horn of Africa region continues to increase at the start of 2021. Migrants including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are among some of the vulnerable groups most likely to be impacted by the pandemic. Migrants and IDPs are more likely to be exposed to the conditions and circumstances in which COVID-19 spreads, which includes living in poorer and makeshift conditions, and overcrowded settings. They are more likely to lack of access to medical care and hygiene, and have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

There are currently thousands of migrants stranded across the East and Horn of Africa due to COVID-19 movement restrictions, including quarantine rules. Many are in need of food, water, medical assistance and transport. Migrants continue to experience involuntary return to their countries of origin by some governments. Migrants are also experiencing detention and abuse in some countries, and facing stigma and xenophobia, resulting from being blamed for the spread of the disease.

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 the development and roll out of available vaccines for the disease.

A regional financial appeal to assist migrant groups in the East and Horn of Africa was launched in April for \$71.6M. So far, 72% 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>

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138,600

Migrant movements observed (DTM, November 2020) (57% reduction compared to November 2019)

1,340



Migrant arrivals in Yemen from the Horn (DTM, November 2020) (80% reduction compared to November 2019)



6.4M

IDPs (November 2020 – DTM, OCHA)



IOM COUNTRY RESPONSE

Partnerships and Coordination

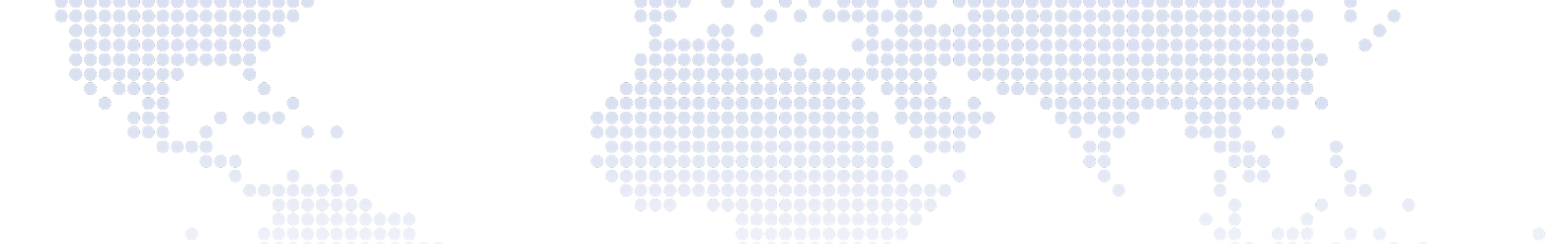
IOM Ethiopia in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia continues to support temporary places of shelter for migrants in Addis Ababa and at other Points of Entry (PoEs), where migrant returnees receive direct assistance and transportation home to their communities of origin, including food and medical care. Since the onset of the pandemic IOM Ethiopia has assisted tens of thousands migrants who have returned to the country. IOM Kenya in partnership with the national authorities is implementing a project to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable migrant communities. The project will focus on health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), combatting gender-based violence, as well as risk communication and community engagement around the disease. The project will be implemented in Wajir, Mandera, Garissa and Marsabit counties. IOM Rwanda has completed the construction of handwashing stations in three districts to serve school going children from Mahama, Nyabiheke and Gihembe Refugee Camps as part of COVID-19 prevention efforts in co-ordination with national authorities. Plans are underway to build an additional 66 such stations. IOM South Sudan is continuing to work in partnership with the state authorities on the Strategic Advisory Group, the National Task Force, the COVID-19 National Steering Committee meetings, Technical Working Groups, and State Task Forces. With the support of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, IOM is also working with four partners including the International Rescue Committee, Medair, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and the United Networks for Health in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities, aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. The International Rescue Committee, operating in Rubkona County, and Medair, operating in Juba County, conducts health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities. In Yei County, Torit, and Nimule, the Norwegian Refugee Council conducts WASH activities. The United Networks for Health conducts health activities in the same locations with the support of IOM.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

IOM Ethiopia has reached over 9,100 individuals with COVID-19 prevention messaging campaigns, community mobilization, and health education at health facilities in Dire Dawa, Jigjiga, Togo Wuchale, Dewolle, East and West Hararghe, West Guji, Geddo, Borena, East and West Wollega Zones during the reporting period. IOM Kenya has conducted outreach activities in Eastleigh, a migrant dense neighborhood in the capital Nairobi, reaching over 6,000 people with COVID-19 prevention and awareness messages. IOM also performed 97 handwashing demonstrations and reached over 500 households with COVID-19 messages. Community Health Volunteers and officials from the Ministry of Health were also trained on COVID-19 prevention. IOM Rwanda has reached over 1 million people in Rubavu, Karongi and Musanze districts with COVID-19 prevention information and guidance. IOM South Sudan continues to conduct COVID-19 sensitization and hygiene promotion activities for communities in Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites and Malakal PoC, as well as outside the

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PoCs in Juba, Jur River, and Wau, as well as PoEs in Abyei, Renk and Nimule. Risk communication and awareness messages on COVID-19 continues to be disseminated through a network of 254 community hygiene promoters working across the country and reaching an estimated 217,300 individuals. IOM continues with the dissemination of COVID-19 related radio messages, combined with protection, gender equality and GBV mainstreaming with City FM radio, with its 21st radio broadcast focusing on COVID-19 symptoms and prevention measures. IOM has also conducted a survey on the COVID-19 prevention measures in the capital Juba. Of the more than 12,816 individuals observed at handwashing facilities, 33 percent washed. Over 3,800 people in Malakal, Bentiu and Wau were reached with COVID-19 related mental health and psychosocial support messages aimed at behavior change. IOM received 18 calls and offered assistance through its mental health and psychosocial support hotlines in Malakal and Bentiu. The callers received emotional support, with one referral to the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare for support.

National Laboratory Systems

IOM across the region continues to providing COVID-19 testing of UN staff in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, as part of the 'UN's First Line of Defence'. IOM Ethiopia has conducted 79 COVID-19 tests for humanitarian workers and UN staff at the Migrant Health Assessment Centre in the capital, Addis Ababa during the week. IOM is also supporting 5 quarantine facilities across the country with COVID-19 testing. IOM Rwanda is providing medical assessments, and COVID-19 testing to refugees for purpose of resettlement.

Disease Surveillance

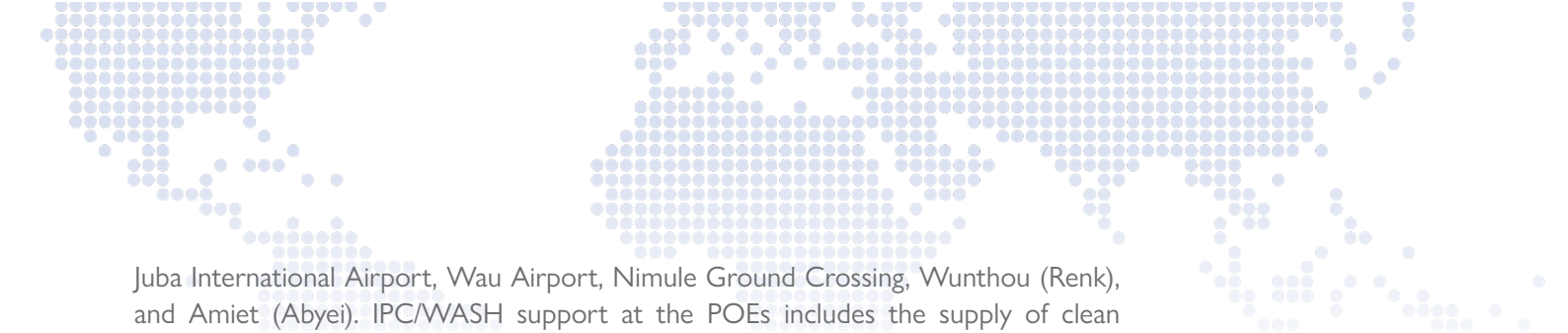
IOM Burundi is working with national health authorities in Makamba Province on the implementation of community-based surveillance of epidemics. IOM also met health authorities in Ruyigi Province to identify and discuss the training of community-based health workers to carry out epidemic surveillance in Gisuru District. Some 100 community health workers have been trained to carry out surveillance. Between 1 April, 2020 and 4 January 2021, IOM Ethiopia received and assisted nearly 46,000 migrant returnees to the country as part of disease surveillance efforts. During the reporting period, 723 new returnees were registered and assisted by IOM.

Points of Entry

IOM Ethiopia screened 3,713 returnees and local community members for COVID-19 at IOM mobile health team sites and government supported health posts in Dire Dawa, East Hararghe, Gedeo, Borena, West Guji and East Wollega Zones as well as two IDP sites in North Gondar during the reporting period. IOM Kenya has tested nearly 30,000 (29,606) truck drivers for COVID-19 in the Kenya port city of Mombasa. The testing has helped to facilitate the re-start and continuation of trade and movement of essential goods in East Africa region, following border closures negative economic impact on the region's economy. Testing has now been concluded for drivers and continues for humanitarian and UN staff. IOM South Sudan conducted arrival and departure screening for COVID-19 at two points of PoEs reaching a total of 9,936 travelers at Nimule Ground Crossing and Wau during the reporting. IOM continues providing Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/WASH support at five PoEs, namely

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Juba International Airport, Wau Airport, Nimule Ground Crossing, Wunthou (Renk), and Amiet (Abyei). IPC/WASH support at the POEs includes the supply of clean water through water trucking, rehabilitation and maintenance of sanitation facilities, construction and installation of handwashing facilities, and supply of materials such as face masks, soap, and hand sanitizers. In Abyei, IOM is also constructing a communal latrine at Amiet market and an incinerator at Amiet public health unit.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

IOM Ethiopia provided facemasks and sanitizers to 47 IOM staff and migrant returnees at different PoEs and temporary accommodation facilities across the country. IOM Rwanda provided 50,000 reusable facemasks to refugees across the country. IOM Somalia reached over 7,200 people with COVID-19 screening and awareness messages across 38 sites in Somalia. IOM South Sudan continues to maintain 658 handwashing stations throughout the country. The 18 handwashing facilities built by IOM in Juba remained fully operational during the week. In total, over the last week 44,554 individuals reportedly used the handwashing facilities, bringing the total number of people benefitting from the facilities to 996,712. During the reporting period, more than 88,868 people in Juba benefited from 89 operational handwashing stations built by IOM. More than 1,602,500 people have benefited from these facilities since the beginning of COVID-19. The upgrading of five other boreholes is ongoing in five locations in Juba. Over 4,800 people in Nimule benefited from three operational handwashing stations during the reporting period. Over 68,300 people have benefited from these facilities since they were built.

Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

Over 3,460 migrant returnees and host community members in Dire Dawa, East Hararghe, Gedee, Borena, West Guji and East Wollega Zones as well as 2 IOM IDP intervention sites in North Gondar were provided with medical assistance by IOM Ethiopia. In Somalia, IOM is partnering with the Federal Government of Somalia to equip several hospitals and health clinics to strengthen their capacity to provide healthcare services, through an innovative ‘telemedicine’ (remote telecommunications based diagnosis and treatment) project by the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoH) supported by IOM. The donation includes screens, video cameras, computers, video conference equipment and 50 iPads.

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management

IOM South Sudan provided water, sanitation and hygiene commodities to two organizations for COVID-19 and WASH response in Jonglei and Upper Nile States. IOM allocated buckets with taps that benefitted an estimated 12,500 people. The procurement of reusable facemasks is ongoing. IOM is already distributing locally produced facemasks in coordination with partners. The distribution is mostly being done in Protection of Civilian Sites. IOM has commenced vital dry season prepositioning operations in 2021 to key logistics hubs across the country. IOM completed the loading of six trucks with approximately 39 metric tons of WASH supplies scheduled to depart from Juba to Rumbek, Wau and Bentiu on 15 January 2021. The supplies include household and bulk water treatment supplies, latrine slabs, menstrual hygiene management kits and handpump spare parts, which will support COVID-19 prevention efforts.

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Protection

IOM Ethiopia has trained 36 staff in Dolo Ado on prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation around COVID-19. IOM also provided items such as blankets, bedsheets, dignity kits to 210 unaccompanied children and adult migrant returnees at different PoEs and places providing temporary accommodation. Another 143 accompanied and unaccompanied minor children as well as adult migrant returnees were provided with food and medical assistance at different PoEs and temporary accommodation centres across the country. Some 885 accompanied and unaccompanied minor children and adult migrant returnees received onward transportation allowance assistance to travel to quarantine facilities or places of origin. IOM Djibouti has provided 262 migrants with life-saving assistance (water and food), and medical first aid during the first week of January, before being referred to IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock. Over the past five months, an increasing number of migrants have been returning to Djibouti from Yemen. Border closures in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, movement restrictions due to COVID-19 containment measures and difficult living conditions in Yemen are contributing to this migration trend. The returning migrants are arriving in the coastal area of the Obock region in Djibouti.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

In collaboration with the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, IOM Ethiopia continued supporting Woreda and IDPs camp coordination meetings on COVID-19 preparedness and response agendas in East and West Hararghe, Borena, Gedeo, East and West Guji, and East and West Wollega. IOM Somalia continued to disseminate information to ensure IDPs are aware of the risks, signs and symptoms and mode of transmissions of COVID-19 and know the appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the risks. Awareness raising sessions were conducted at the information centres, marketplaces or during community meetings, with a highlight on how to practice physical distancing.

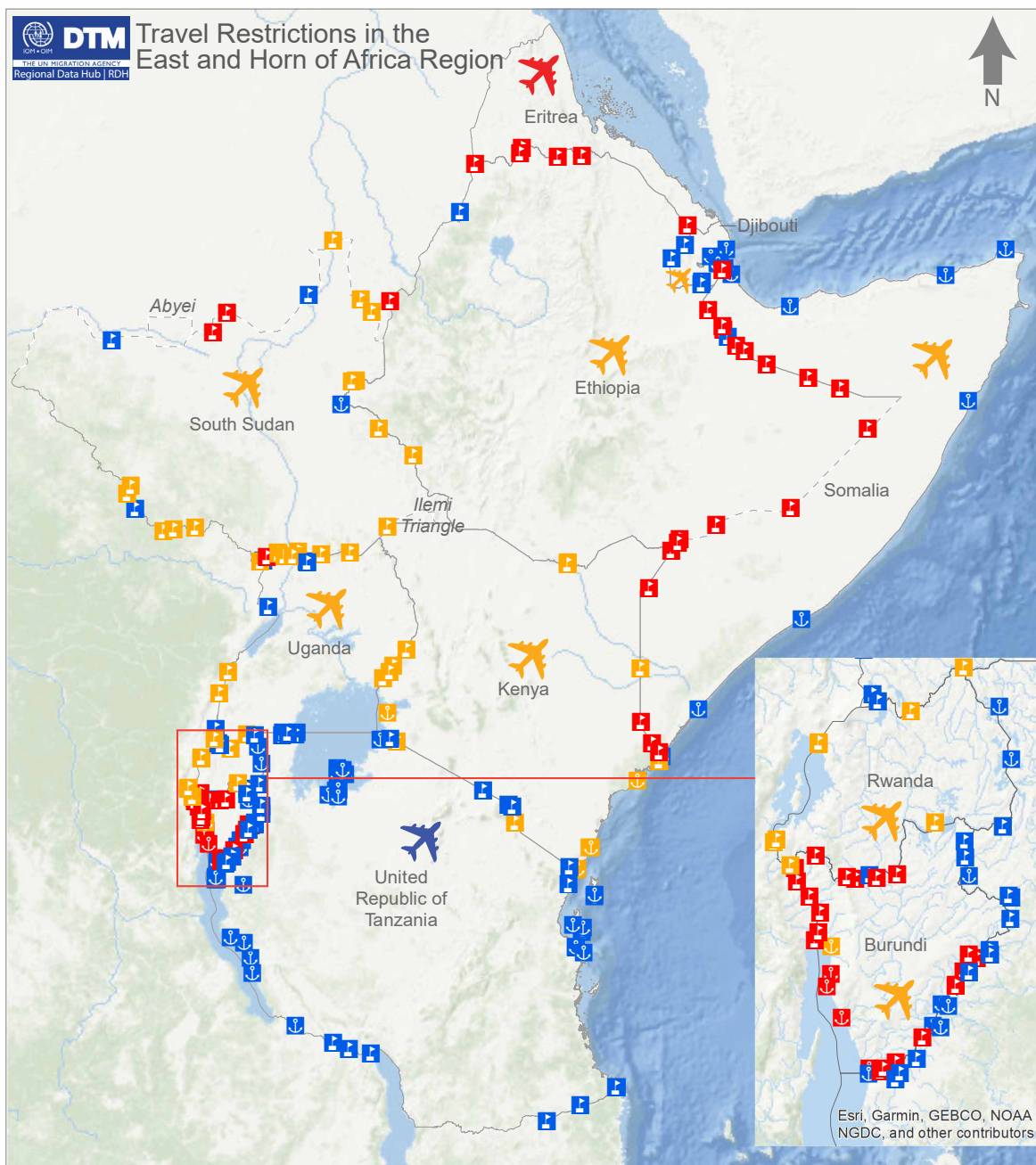
Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM Burundi's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continued with COVID-19 surveillance, flow monitoring and data collection at both the United Republic of Tanzania, and Democratic Republic of Congo borders. IOM Djibouti reached 3,795 host community members and migrants with awareness-raising activities on the prevention of COVID-19 across 11 flow monitoring points in the five regions of the country. IOM Kenya observed nearly 5,000 movements at Namanga, Busia, Lunga Lunga and Malaba borders, of these, 68 percent were incoming while the rest were outbound. In Somalia, IOM reached over 5,000 people with information on COVID-19. Information was shared with nearly 2,000 people who reported being unaware of covid-19. South Sudan enumerators carried out 2,212 interviews representing 6,065 individual movements at flow monitoring points. DTM is operating 4 displacement site FMPs at the gates of PoC sites in Wau, Bentiu and Malakal as well as Masna Collective Centre. Enumerators conducted 338 interviews representing 849 individual movements. The data from enumerator interviews provides an insight into mobility trends, migration drivers and traveller profiles to inform COVID-19 programming by humanitarian, development partners and the government.

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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: 7 January 2021

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/>