

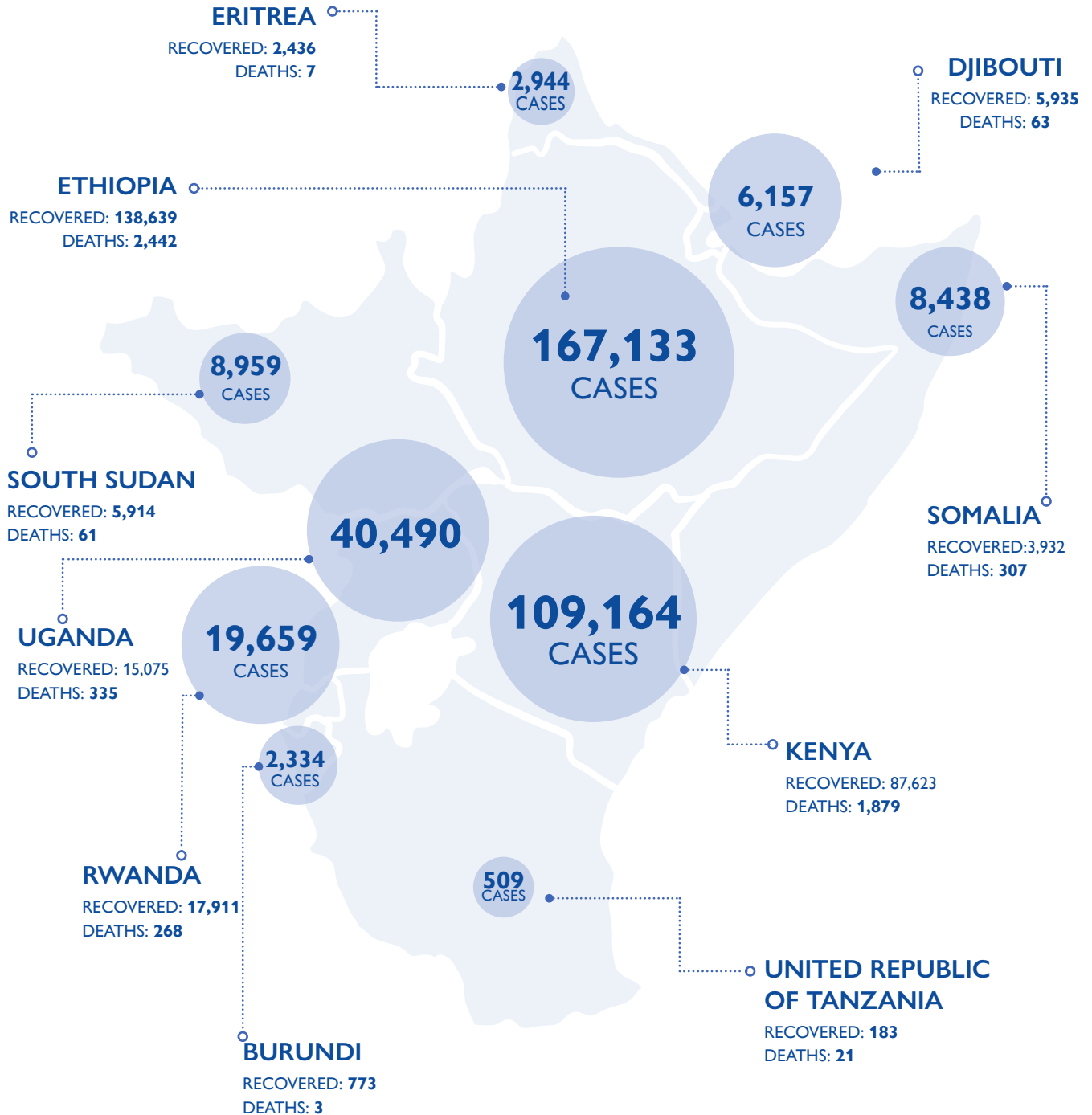
EAST & HORN OF AFRICA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT - #44

10 MARCH 2021 Update

365,787
CONFIRMED CASES

5,427
CONFIRMED DEATHS

278,421
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.



116,061

Migrant movements observed (DTM, January 2021) (70% reduction compared to January 2020)



2,500

Migrant arrivals in Yemen from the Horn (DTM, January 2021) (77% reduction compared to January 2020)



6.5M

IDPs (January 2021 – DTM, OCHA)

*This reduction is partially due to the suspension of DTM Flow Monitoring operations in some countries.



EHoA SITUATION OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact people across East & Horn of Africa. Migrants, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are among some of the world's most vulnerable groups likely to be impacted by the disease. Migrant groups are more likely to be exposed to the conditions and circumstances in which COVID-19 spreads, which includes living in poorer and makeshift locations, and/or overcrowded settings. Migrant groups are also less likely to have access to medical care, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and the COVID-19 vaccines being developed and distributed.

Thousands of migrants remain stranded across East and Horn of Africa due to the impact of nearly one year of movement and mobility restrictions, including air, land and sea border closures, and quarantine rules. Many of these people are in need of food, water, medical assistance, transport, counselling and psycho-social support. Migrants have also suffered involuntarily return to their countries of origin, some have experienced detention and faced abuse in facilities. Others are facing stigma and xenophobia, resulting from being blamed for the spread of the disease.

As of March 9 2021, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the region stands at 365,787. 1,677 new cases have been reported in the last day with most new cases reported in Ethiopia (995 daily increase 0.6%), followed by Kenya (337 daily increase 0.3%), Somalia (117 daily increase 01.4%) and Rwanda (108 daily increase 0.5%). Ethiopia remains the country with the highest number of confirmed cases in the region at 167,133 (45.7% of total case), followed by Kenya 109,164 (30.0%), followed by Uganda 40,490 (11.1%).

IOM is supporting governments throughout the region to respond to COVID-19 in the areas of risk communication, disease surveillance, infection prevention and control, case management, 'Points of Entry' (PoEs), procurement and logistics, and in other areas. IOM is advocating for migrants, including IDPs to be included in all government responses to COVID-19, including access COVID-19 vaccines. IOM launched a regional appeal for the East and Horn of Africa for \$71.6m in April 2020, to meet the many needs of these communities.

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 2020 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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IOM COUNTRY RESPONSE

Partnerships and Coordination


IOM Ethiopia is the designated lead agency supporting the Government of Ethiopia in the management of migrant returnees. IOM continues to support 7 temporary places of shelter in Addis Ababa and at Points of Entry (PoEs), where returnees receive direct assistance and transportation home to their communities of origin. IOM Uganda is actively participating in COVID-19 related meetings including the incident management team meetings, surveillance, Point of Entry (PoE) Working Group and the UN Emergency coordination meetings and the COVID-19 national steering task force. IOM also met with the district leadership of the border districts of Adjumani a refugee settlement and Amuru district bordering the South Sudan to introduce the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) funded project and discussed the implementation modalities as part of efforts to strengthen partnerships and coordination with the border communities. IOM Burundi held a meeting with the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight Against Aids to prepare for training on Community Event Based Surveillance for community health workers. IOM also met with health authorities in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo to share strategies and best practices in the prevention and response to epidemics between the two countries. IOM South Sudan is continuing to work in partnership with the 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 20,600 individuals including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and migrant returnees with COVID-19 prevention messaging through campaigns, community mobilization, and health education at health facilities in Dire Dawa, East and West Hararge, Borena, West Guji and East Wollega, Central and North Gondar zones during the reporting period. In Somalia, IOM reached over 600 IDPs in Doolow, Baidoa and Kismayo with COVID-19 related awareness messages. Some 67 migrants were reached with similar messages at the Migrant Response Centre in Bossaso. Over 10,400 people were reached with COVID-19 prevention messages at clinics in Hudur, Dhobley, Kismayo, Baidoa and Doolow. IOM Rwanda donated a public address system and information, education and communication materials

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to Prison Fellowship Rwanda to scale up COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns in refugee camps and host communities. The items also included a generator and solar panels. 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 PoCs in Juba, Jur River, Magwi 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 276 community hygiene promoters working across the country and reaching 252,631 individuals. IOM has now reached nearly 8 million people with COVID-19 messages since the outbreak of the pandemic. IOM also reached 10,397 people in Malakal, Bentiu and Wau with mental health and psychosocial support messages in relation to COVID-19 and also aimed at changing behavior.

National Laboratory Systems

IOM Ethiopia continues to provide COVID-19 testing for UN staff and their dependents at the Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) lab conducting some 118 tests during the reporting period. IOM Uganda is providing COVID-19 testing for UN staff and their dependents as part of the First Line of Defense program and representing the Laboratory pillar at the National Taskforce. The IOM laboratory in Uganda will be introducing a new COVID-19 testing platform to enhance testing capacity. IOM Rwanda is providing COVID-19 testing to refugees due for resettlement to third countries.

Disease Surveillance


IOM Kenya is providing surveillance and screening support at the Hagadera Transit Center in Daadab. Some 172 individuals have received psychosocial support while 39 beneficiaries have been provided with tele-counselling services. Some 178 individuals have been supported with screening and surveillance, 3 beneficiaries have received psychosocial support services through tele counselling, while another 3 have been provided with SGBV support and referral. IOM has also deployed staff to the Moyale Subcounty hospital to strengthen the government's COVID-19 response. Since the beginning of the pandemic, IOM Ethiopia has received 58,600 migrant returnees, assisting with disease surveillance in the process. Over the last two weeks 2,058 new arrival migrant returnees were registered at PoEs.

Points of Entry

IOM Ethiopia screened 8,152 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, West Guji and East Wollega zones as well as in eight IDP intervention sites in North Gondar and Mekelle during the reporting period. IOM Kenya supported the Government of Kenya to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for ground crossings in the context of COVID-19. The SoPs were developed at a workshop that was attended by 24 border officials from Malaba, Busia, Namanga, Lunga Lunga, Moyale and Taveta. IOM Tanzania collaborated with

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the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children to facilitate mentorship and onsite trainings for border and port health officers on the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as well as case management. They were also trained on surveillance, contact identification and tracing, isolation techniques and use of relevant medical equipment to treat and respond to Public Health events including COVID-19 and Ebola Virus Disease. The training also covered Health, Border and Mobility Management (HBMM) framework, early detection and reporting of potential cases of public health events. The training brought together 14 participants from 2 formal POEs in Kagera region. IOM South Sudan conducted arrival and departure screening for COVID-19 at Nimule Ground Crossing reaching 7,730 travellers. IOM continues to provide IPC/WASH support to the PoE in Nimule by supplying 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.

Infection Prevention and Control

IOM Ethiopia trained 42 health officials in Wollega on non-medical management of COVID-19. In Somalia, IOM reached 12,952 individuals with hygiene promotion activities in Bossaso and Baidoa. IOM Rwanda donated 50,000 reusable facemasks to be distributed to refugees across the country. In South Sudan, IOM maintained 652 handwashing devices. During the reporting period, 50,354 individuals were reported to have used the 17 operational handwashing facilities in Juba bringing the total number of people benefitting to over 1.3 million. Some 101,068 people benefited from 96 handwashing stations built by IOM in the capital Juba. More than 2.2 million people have now benefited from these stations since they were built. IOM has begun handing over the facilities to stakeholders as part of an exit strategy. The upgrading of three boreholes in Juba is ongoing. Over the last two weeks, 4,741 people washed their hands at three handwashing stations in Nimule. More than 100,004 people have benefited from these three stations since they were built. IOM Uganda trained 30 health workers selected from 11 facilities surrounding Amuru district and the Elegu Point of Entry at the Uganda - South Sudan border on IPC. A follow up field mentorship support supervision visit is planned after the training to ensure that the trainees are applying the acquired skills.

Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

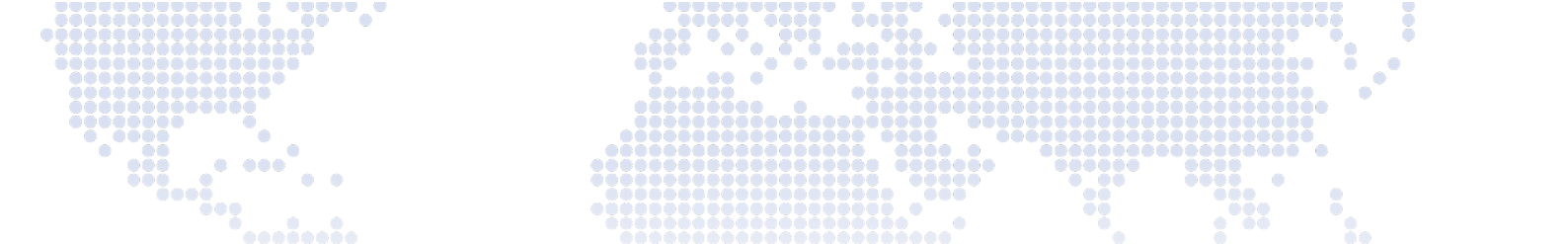
UN staff including IOM staff and their dependents received COVID-19 health-related assistance at the IOM Burundi run COVID-19 testing clinic. They also benefitted from psychosocial support to help them manage stress related to COVID-19. IOM Ethiopia provided medical consultations on sexual and reproductive health to 7,705 returnees and members of host communities in Dire Dawa, East Hararge, Gedeo, Borena, West Guji and East Wollega Zones as well as at two IOM-managed IDP intervention sites in North Gondar during the reporting period.

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management

IOM South Sudan provided COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment for distribution to IDPs in Bentiu and host communities in Gait. The commodities which

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included soap and buckets benefited some 12,960 people. IOM also provided seven partners with critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies to help them integrate COVID-19 preparedness activities into their WASH responses. They were provided with household water treatment and storage supplies, and soap for handwashing. Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits, as well as handpump spare parts were also released to some of the partners. These supplies benefited 7,570 households in Pibor, Aweil South, Fashoda, Renk, Pariang, Panyikang, and Rubkona counties. IOM has also procured 1,550,000 reusable facemasks for distribution to partners. With the increasing cases of COVID-19 in South Sudan and evidence of community transmission, more partners are requesting for re-usable cloth face masks to be distributed to vulnerable populations at a high risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to living conditions and settings, such as those in UN Protection of Civilian sites, collective sites, and other camp like settings. IOM also PPEs to six partners for distribution to frontline health workers. These include respirators, masks, protective goggles, medical examination gloves, protective coveralls, contactless thermometers, body bags, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Meanwhile, IOM has prepositioned five metric tones of soap to logistics hub in Rumbek to ensure uninterrupted supply to partners in Lakes state.

Protection


IOM Ethiopia reached 3,385 people in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, West Guji, East and West Wollega Zones, with gender-based violence and related mental health and psychosocial support and risk mitigation. IOM also organised 32 counselling sessions on mental health and psychosocial support and GBV risk mitigation across IOM intervention sites while 38 cases of mental health and GBV were provided with counselling. IOM also provided non-food items such as blankets, bedsheets, dignity kits to 2,058 unaccompanied minor children and adult migrant returnees at different PoEs and places providing temporary accommodation. Another 122 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 106 accompanied and unaccompanied minor children and adult migrant returnees received onward transportation allowance assistance to travel to places of origin while another 56 were assisted to travel from the PoEs to temporary accommodation facilities in Moyale.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

IOM Ethiopia reached 14,512 IDPs and members of host communities reached with Site Management Support (SMS) related activities in Dire Dawa, East Hararghe, Borena, West Guji, East Wollega Zones as well as in IDP sites in North and Central Gondar zones during the reporting period. In South Sudan, IOM is working with partners to put in place a contingency and response plan at the Bentiu PoC site following an upsurge in COVID-19 cases. Some 123 positive cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed at the site as of 28 February. As part of its contribution to the Risk Communication and Community Engagement, IOM's Camp Management team has been supporting the development and review of key COVID-19 messages that are applicable to the Protection of Civilians site context. IOM and partners are continuing with sensitization on COVID 19 prevention measures as well as rumors

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tracking. IOM Camp Management team through the IOM managed Shelter/Non Food Items pipeline has requested for the release of 30,000 pieces of reusable cloth face masks to be distributed in the Naivasha IDP site and Hai Masna Collective Center following the confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 there. IOM Tanzania is continuing with pre-embarkation medical checks for Burundian refugees who are being voluntarily repatriated.

Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM Somalia shared COVID-19 information with 1,563 individuals at 7 Flow Monitoring Points. Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Burundi is continuing with Flow Data collection for COVID-19 surveillance at the borders with the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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POINTS OF ENTRY & MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS

