

Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Bi-Weekly Update • 24th August 2020



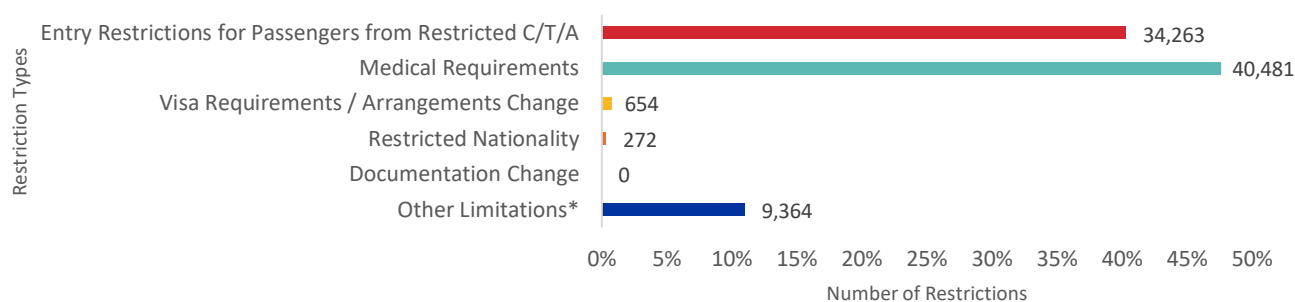
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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Overview

As Governments and authorities across the globe continue to grapple with the multiple challenges of the ongoing pandemic, COVID-19 related travel restrictions persist to impede global mobility and migration. As of 24th August 2020, a total of **219** countries, territories or areas have issued **85,034** travel restrictions indicating an **increase of 1 per cent** from **83,694** travel restrictions reported 17th August 2020. There has been an **increase of 4 per cent in medical restrictions** and a simultaneous **decrease of 2 per cent** in restrictions on **passengers arriving from a specific country, territory or area**. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 177 countries, territories or areas have issued 715 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 17th and 24th August 2020, 11 countries, territories or areas issued 21 new exceptions whilst 4 countries, territories or areas removed 9 exceptions.

Data Source: [IATA](https://www.iata.org) and official government websites.

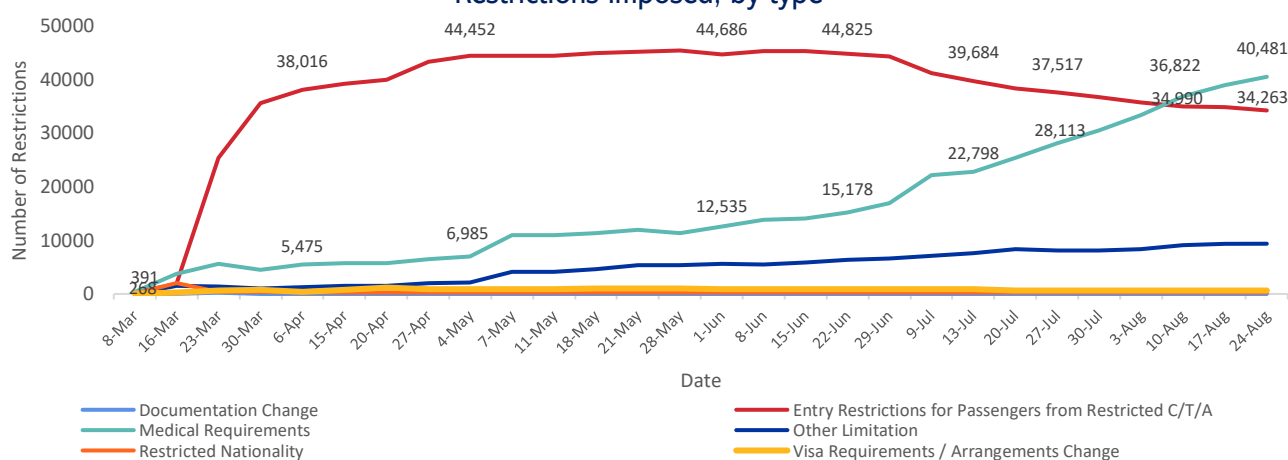
Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.

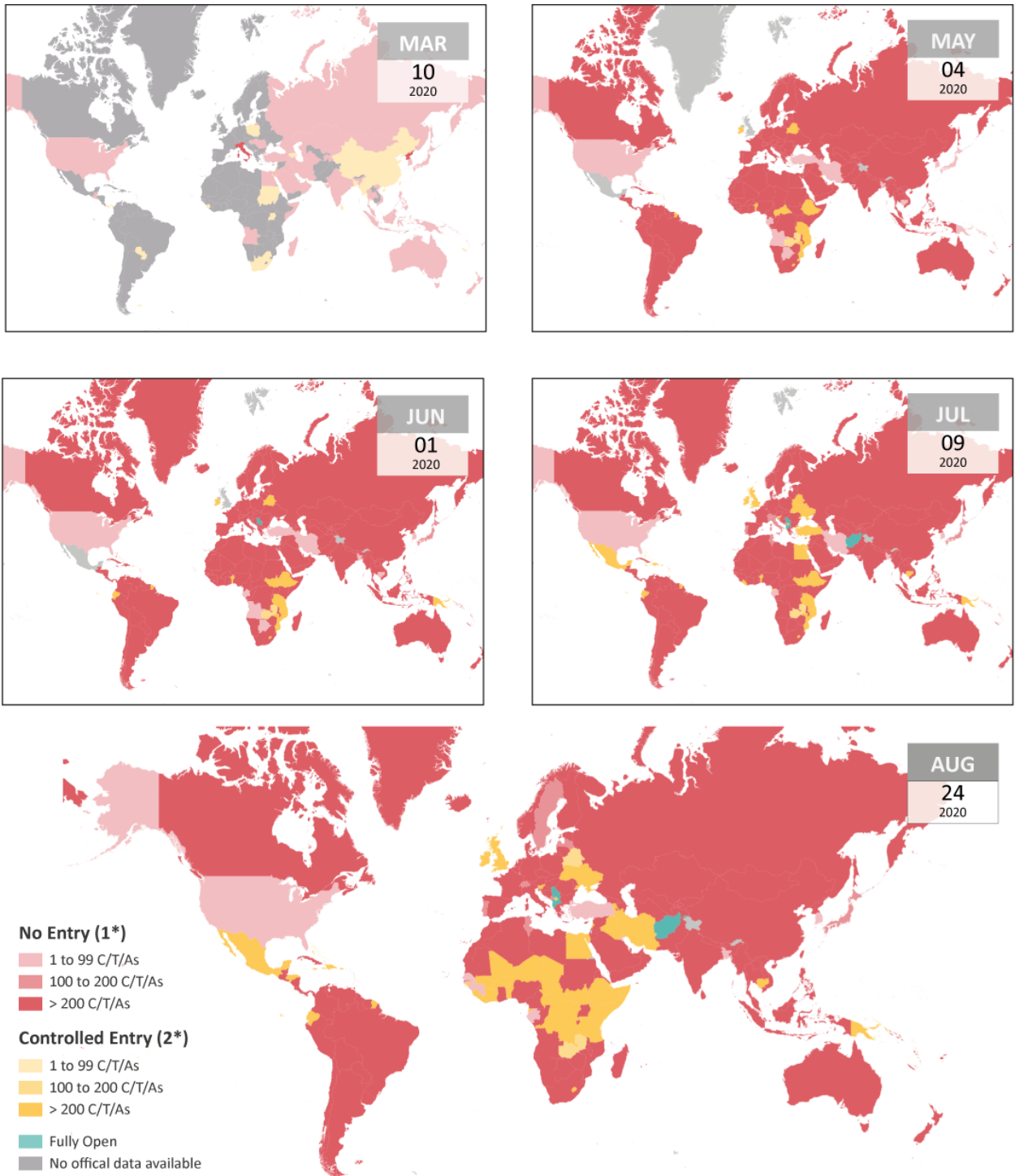
As of 24th August 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (40%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 48 per cent of restrictions. Changes in visa requirements have also followed a stable trend, continuing to represent a small share (<1%) in total restrictions.

Restrictions Imposed, by type



Important: This analysis does not capture pre-COVID-19 related travel restrictions, rather it draws attention to various travel restrictions issued as a result of COVID-19. This report focuses on the changes to pre-existing measures affecting passengers travelling through specific routes or with specific travel documentation and nationalities. The number of restrictions recorded in this report is indicative of the total number of COVID-19 related travel restrictions since 8th March 2020, when IOM began monitoring the impact of travel restrictions on global mobility as a result of COVID-19. More specifically, this analysis highlights emerging changes as a result of COVID-19 travel requirements to support identifying border management practices. This analysis does not aim to provide information on exact travel requirements. For specific and updated travel information, kindly refer to respective Consular authorities of the destination country. International Air Transport Association (IATA) and relevant airline companies may be a valid alternative to explore.

Changes in Restrictions on Arrival since 10th March 2020



(1*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

(2*) C/T/As imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID or other measures on arrival.

The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

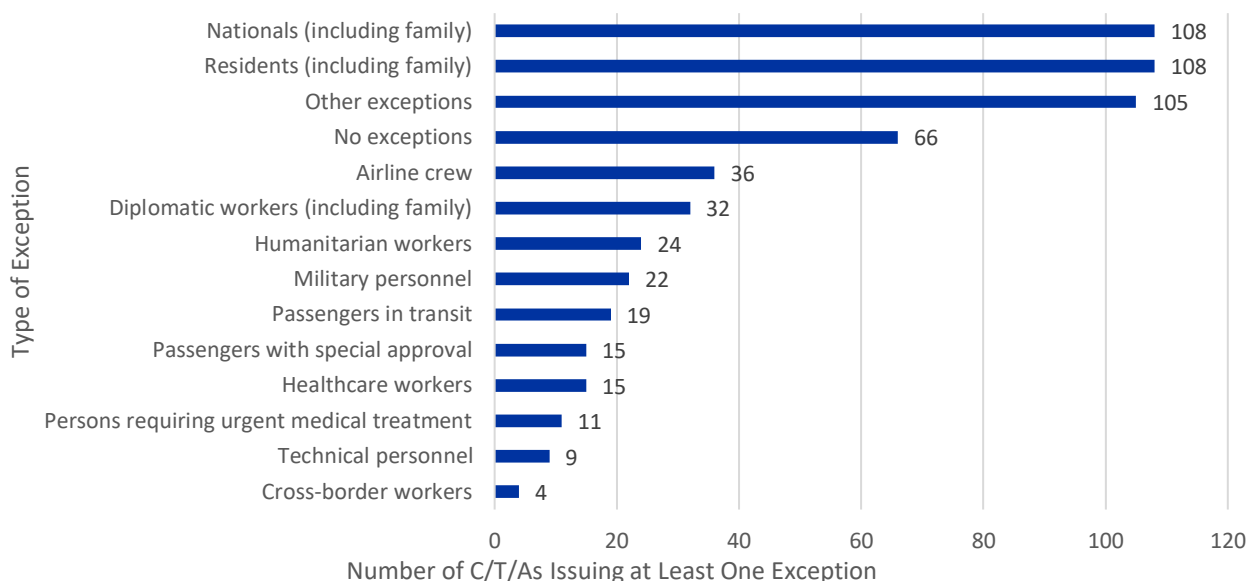
- Flights to **Guinea-Bissau** restarted as of 19th August 2020. Passengers must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued no longer than 72 hours prior to arrival.
- Flights to the **Dominican Republic** have restarted as of 18th August 2020. Arriving passengers must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result valid for no longer than 5 days prior to arrival, passengers without a certificate are subject to screening upon arrival. All passengers must also provide a completed health declaration form to enter.
- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo** has reopened airports as of 21st August 2020, all passengers must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result valid for no longer than 3 days prior to arrival, and those without a certificate are subject to a test upon arrival at their own expense.
- **Barbados removed conditional entry requirements** that previously included medical screening and quarantine measures for passengers that have not obtained a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure.
- **Greece issued a new condition for authorised entry** valid until 31st August 2020, for passengers arriving from Albania, Belgium, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Spain, Sweden, Bulgaria, Israel, Malta, Romania or United Arab Emirates, who must provide medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure.
- **Conditions for authorised entry** were issued by **Bulgaria** requiring passengers to provide a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure. Likewise, **Austria** issued the same conditions for entry for passengers arriving from Croatia. Nationals, residents and passengers from European Economic Area member states are exempt from these measures. Passengers arriving in Bulgaria are also subject to quarantine for 14 days.
- **Ecuador** increased the validity timeframe of negative COVID-19 test result from 7 days prior to departure to 10 days prior departure. Medical screening upon arrival has been removed and only a "Declaración de salud del viajero" is required.
- **Iceland added a new condition for entry**, stipulating that passengers must pay for a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test or else quarantine for 14 days, upon arrival. Children born in 2005 or later are exempt.
- **Israel issued a new condition for authorised entry** to passengers, provided they have electronic approval obtained 24 hours before departure from, <https://go.gov.il/entry-to-israel-en>.
- **Passenger travel bans** were extended by **Argentina** until 30th August 2020, by **Chile** until the 31st August 2020, by **Norway** until 31st October 2020.
- **Poland** suspended flights arriving from Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, The Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Gabon, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname and the United States of America and Kosovo,¹ until 24th August 2020.
- **Flight suspensions** were extended by **Guyana** until the 31st of August, by **El Salvador** until 18th September, by **Panama** until the 22nd September 2020, by **Georgia** until the 30th September 2020, by **Anguilla** until 31st October 2020.
- **Rwanda** tightened testing measures, requiring that passengers provide a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 5 days before arrival, as well as undergo a second PCR test upon arrival and wait 24 hours in a designated transit hotel while waiting for the test results.
- **Armenia suspended issuance of all visas upon arrival** and introduced new conditions for entry, including that passengers subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test or self-isolate for 14 days, upon arrival.

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

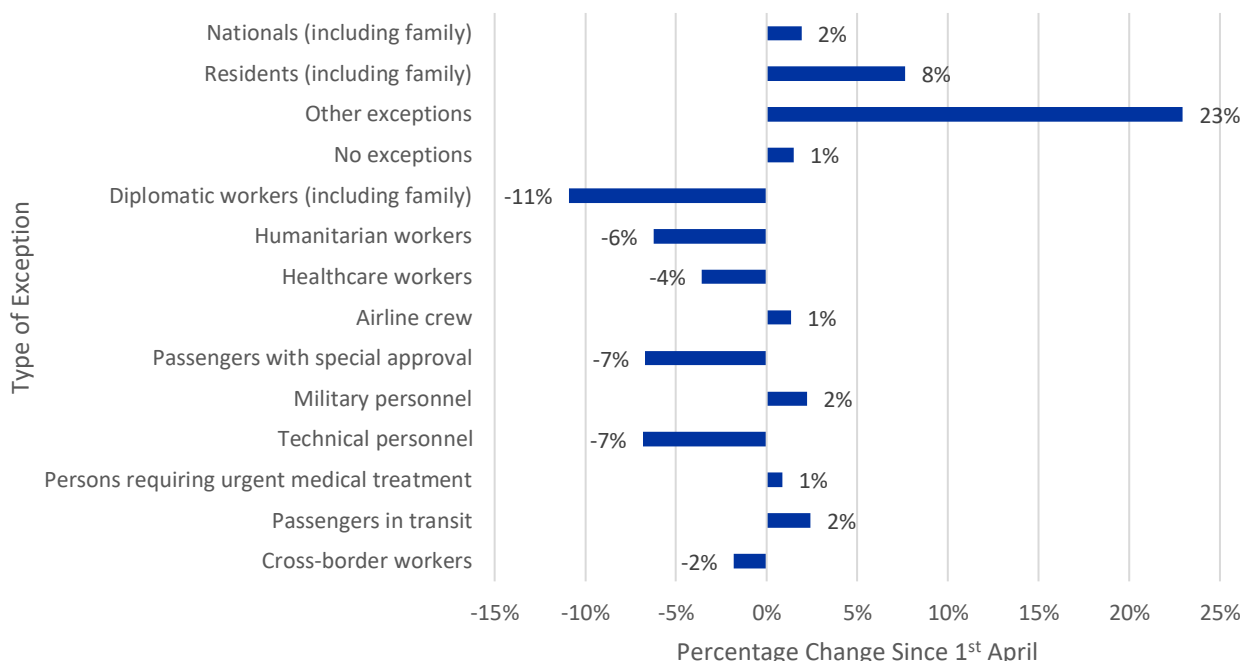
- **Mongolia extended quarantine measures** requiring passengers to quarantine for 21 days upon arrival, followed by an additional 14 days of self-isolation, whereas the **Netherlands** decreased their quarantine period from 14 to 10 days for passengers upon arrival.
- **New Zealand** decreased the allowed transit time for passengers passing through, from 24 to 12 hours.
- The border between the [United States of America and Canada](#) will remain closed for one more month until 21st September 2020. In addition to the existing limitation on non-essential travel, the [United States of America](#) further tightened measures as of the 22nd August 2020, closing lanes at select ports of entry along the border with Mexico and undertaking more secondary checks to limit non-essential travel.
- [Finland](#) removed several EU Member States, from the 'green list' which permitted the arrival of passengers without any proof of valid reason or mandatory quarantine requirement. As per the latest instructions of the Finnish Government, only travellers from Italy, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia and Lithuania are allowed to enter without any conditions for authorised entry. For countries, territories or areas that are not on the list, passengers must undergo a [14-day period of self-isolation](#) after arrival.
- As of 22nd August 2020, **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** imposed new conditions for authorised entry for passengers arriving from Austria, Croatia and Trinidad and Tobago, passengers arriving will need to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival. On the other hand, passengers arriving from Portugal to the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) will no longer be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival.

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry



Changes in Exceptions Enabling Entry



Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 715 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 177 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Italy (14), the Republic of Korea (13), Canada (12), Thailand (12), and then joint 5th with 11 were Greece, the Netherlands, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 17th August 2020, 21 new exceptions were added by Uganda (6), Jamaica (3), Lithuania (2), Poland (2), Uzbekistan (2), Austria (1), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1), Kazakhstan (1), Mayotte (1), Panama (1), Tunisia (1).
- Since the last update on 17th August 2020, 9 exceptions were removed by Lithuania (4), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2), Uganda (2), Mayotte (1).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- **Portugal added new exceptions** allowing the entry of passengers arriving from Australia, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Thailand, and Uruguay, but added restrictions on the entry of passengers arriving from Morocco and Algeria. Meanwhile, **Cyprus issued exceptions** allowing the entry of passengers arriving from Portugal and Monaco who are now allowed to enter. But added restrictions for passengers arriving from Australia, Macao, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China, Malta, and Spain from the list of countries exempt from the passenger ban.
- **France** removed Morocco from the list of countries allowed entry and added Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro and Kosovo², to the list of countries, territories and areas that passengers require a medical certificate upon arrival.
- **Poland** added **new exemptions** allowing the entry of passengers arriving from Portugal and Sweden as well as nationals and residents arriving from Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Thailand and Tunisia.
- Emirates airlines announced plans to operate flights from cities in India including Bengaluru, Kochi, Delhi, Mumbai, and Thiruvananthapuram from 20th to 31st August, the special flights will facilitate travel for nationals of [India](#) in the **United Arab Emirates** who wish to return home, and for residents of the United Arab Emirates that are currently in India and wish to return.
- A total of 263 nationals of [Mongolia](#) returned home from abroad on a chartered flight from Japan on 24th August 2020.
- On 21st August 2020, IOM facilitated the return of 118 nationals of [Ghana](#) who had been stranded in Libya for five months due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The charters to deliver medical aid to bolster COVID-19 efforts continue.
- The [People's Republic of China](#) sent medical aid including 100,000 medical masks to Tunisia on 21st August 2020.
- Under the European Union's global coronavirus response, an **EU Humanitarian Air Bridge** operation consisting of two flights to the [Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela](#) concluded after delivering a total of 82.5 tonnes of life-saving material to supply humanitarian partners in the field. The first flight departed on 19 August 2020 from Spain to Caracas, Venezuela, while the second flight followed on 21 August 2020.

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).