

### 1,214,971

Confirmed cases in more than 200 countries, territories or areas<sup>1</sup>

### 67,840

Deaths

### 45,427

Restrictions on mobility have been imposed globally

### 1,149

IOM movements cancelled

### \$116.1M

Requested by IOM for the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19

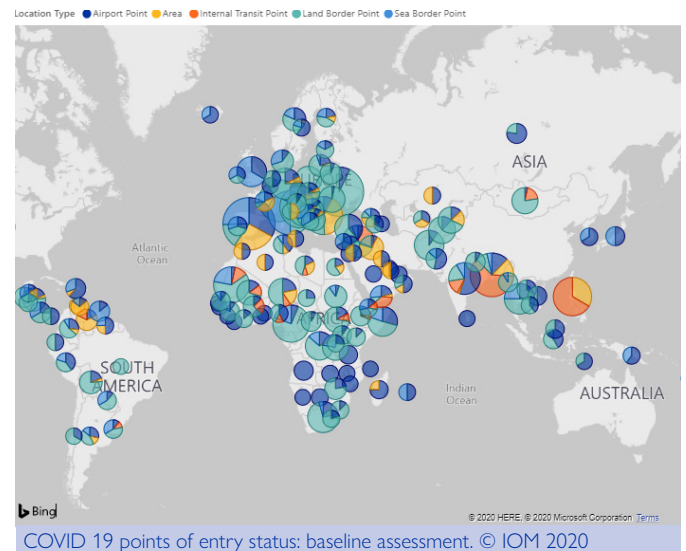


IOM staff present medical equipment to border officials in Mauritania. @IOM 2020.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 31 December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia of unknown etiology was reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of the People's Republic of China. On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Committee declared the illness known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 11 March, WHO officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Since the outbreak began, as of [7 April](#), more than 1.2 million cases and over 67,000 deaths have been reported in more than 200 countries/territories/areas, with new cases and countries reporting daily.

As of 6 April 2020, a total of **45,427** restrictions and measures have been issued by governments and authorities in **194 countries, territories and areas** since the COVID-19 global mobility restrictions monitoring began. While the total number of new mobility restrictions issued has seen only a marginal one percent increase when compared to 3 April 2020, **medical restrictions and measures** have increased by more than seven per cent.



## CONTACTS

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## SNAPSHOT OF IOM RESPONSE

## Partnerships and Coordination

Around the world, IOM provides technical support to country-level, cross-border, regional, and global coordination mechanisms. Within these mechanisms, IOM is providing technical support for COVID-19 preparedness and response and advocating to ensure that migrants and vulnerable groups are included in global, regional and national preparedness and public health planning.

- In the Greater Mekong Subregion, following mass returns of migrants from Thailand, IOM missions in [Cambodia](#), [Lao People's Democratic Republic](#), [Myanmar](#) and Thailand have been engaging with humanitarian-development actors, donors and respective government(s) to support returning migrants, with a special focus on the situation at points of entry (POE) and assessing needs in communities of origin.
- In [Vanuatu](#), IOM is supporting inter-agency efforts to develop a national preparedness and response plan, and is providing support to the National Disaster Management Office on COVID-19 responses, including logistical support and information management. In [Niger](#), IOM has provided guidance on migrant health programming to support the development of a government preparedness and response plan in Agadez.
- [IOM Burkina Faso](#) is providing technical support to the government and coordinating with social services to set up hygienic equipment and measures in two government-managed transit centres, Dori and Bobo Dioulasso.
- [IOM Nigeria](#) is working with government counterparts to implement guidance to CCCM/shelter managers on scaling up COVID-19 readiness and response operations in camps and camp-like settings.
- [IOM Solomon Islands](#) is communicating with the National Disaster Management Authority with a view to assisting the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to quarantine sites and their overall management.
- Large return flows are being observed in [Venezuela](#), with an estimated 43,000 returning migrants having crossed the border over the last two weeks, and an additional 15,000 expected this week. Under the HCT framework, IOM and UNHCR as well as other agencies are beginning assistance to address the needs of these migrants, including temporary accommodation and humanitarian transport needs within the country.

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

IOM works with RCCE counterparts at global, regional and national levels to ensure that mobility is taken into account in public health messaging, and to ensure that information is communicated to migrants and mobile populations. For example:

- In [Bangladesh](#), IOM has trained 600 staff in Cox's Bazar on the recognition of COVID-19 clinical symptoms, prevention of disease transmission, and other considerations when working with beneficiaries. Two awareness-raising videos in Bangla have been developed and shared on social media and viewed over 70,000 times. Moreover, COVID-19 awareness-raising materials have been translated into Bangla for distribution in Bengali-speaking communities in Malaysia, Vanuatu, Bahrain, and Maldives.
- IOM has engaged in awareness-raising and sensitization on COVID-19 contamination risks, and mitigation measures have been rolled out in shelters and for migrants in several countries, including [Burkina Faso](#), [the Gambia](#), [Mali](#), [Niger](#), [Nigeria](#) and [Senegal](#).
- [IOM Kyrgyzstan](#) with the support of NGO partners continues raising awareness through "Safe Migration" social media pages informing the population of the risks of COVID-19, relevant government safety instructions and restrictions, as well as WHO-recommended measures on health protection. IOM is helping to develop migrant friendly messages to raise awareness among migrants and the population to fight stigmatization.
- Several countries, such as [Guinea-Bissau](#), [Mali](#) and [Niger](#), are funding the broadcasting of COVID-19 campaigns through radio and digital components.
- [IOM Afghanistan](#) field teams have conducted hygiene and COVID-19 awareness in 1,052 communities and are supporting the RCCE core-group to tailor community level messaging through key informant interviews.
- In [Peru](#), hotlines to assist refugees and migrants in need of immediate psychological and psychiatric support have been established. Protection interventions for victims of human trafficking at risk of further exploitation and abuse during the COVID-19 emergency are being developed by Response for Venezuelan (R4V) partners.
- [IOM Italy's](#) COVID-19 Brochure has now been translated into 32 languages and, based on feedback from reception centres, has also been translated into audio files (12 to date).

## Disease Surveillance

IOM is working to enhance existing national-level disease surveillance systems by linking mobility information to surveillance data, particularly among border communities and in migrant-dense areas. IOM is also conducting population mobility mapping in some locations to anticipate preparedness measures to be implemented in a strategic and prioritized manner.

- In [Bangladesh](#), IOM staff from Cox's Bazar attended a WHO-led training session in preparation for the launch of the Rapid Investigation Team for COVID-19 that will prioritize outbreak investigation and rapid response measures. The IOM team comprises epidemiologists, medical officers, medical assistants, community health supervisors and logistics staff.
- In [Mozambique](#), IOM is engaging in community contact tracing and household tracing of migrants, with the support of community and traditional leaders and community networks, and engaging in awareness campaigns to ensure sensitization on quarantine and other public health measures, focusing on migratory corridors and areas of return for migrant workers.
- [IOM Micronesia](#) has provided the Department of Health with infrared thermometers for medical screening at points of entry. In a joint effort with UNICEF, the Department of Health in each state has been provided with a "classroom" tent for the purpose of supporting health screening efforts.
- In multiple locations, work is ongoing to use IOM's DTM surveys to collect disease surveillance data linked to COVID-19, including access to health services and awareness of the virus and related mitigation measures. Questions related to COVID-19 have been integrated into DTM data collection in Chad, for example.

## Points of Entry (POEs)

IOM is supporting Ministries of Health and border authorities and partners to enhance preparedness of prioritized POEs.

- In [Mozambique](#), IOM is a key member of the POE technical working group and, among other activities, is supporting the drafting and revision of POE-related standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- [IOM Mauritania](#) is providing support in active health screening and referrals at the few designated PoEs which remain open to travelers and goods. IOM Mauritania has also supported the Ministry of Health, in coordination with WHO, in providing personal protective equipment and conducting trainings with a view to allowing the authorities to reopen more POEs as quickly and safely as possible.

- [IOM Bangladesh](#) completed the training of ten IOM staff that will be deployed from the emergency operations cell in Dhaka to eight POEs. The staff were trained using the WHO Guidance on the Management of Ill Travellers at Points Of Entry, the operational considerations for managing COVID-19, basic protective measures against COVID-19, and infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures. The trained staff will travel to POEs to conduct rapid needs and capacity assessments and establish POE task forces.
- [IOM Marshall Islands](#) is working with the POE working group on SOP development, supporting plans for improved POE preparedness and response in order to address various scenarios including fisheries, containerships and emergency flights.
- [IOM Haiti](#) is conducting a joint visit with the Ministry of Health and WHO at Ouanaminthe border crossing point to finalize a needs assessment and start implementation of the POE protocols. IOM Haiti is also coordinating with the Ministry of Health and WHO to develop further POE response tools.
- [IOM Viet Nam](#) has launched a training initiative on IPC and migrant protection for frontline immigration officers at two major international airports in Ho Chi Minh City. Hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per appropriate guidelines will be donated to the immigration units at five airports.

## Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

IOM continues to strengthen the provision of critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services in health care facilities, camps, POE and displacement settings.

- In [Mozambique](#), IOM has built handwashing stations and conducted sensitization campaigns in 10 resettlement sites, with more planned.
- Hygiene kits are being provided to migrants transiting or accommodated in all the reception centers in [North Macedonia](#).
- [IOM Timor-Leste](#) is working with the Ministry of Health to improve quarantine centre standards through the provision of necessary equipment and hygiene supplies. 50 hygiene kits were distributed to migrants in quarantine facilities in Dili.

## Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

IOM continues to provide technical and operational support to governments, as well as life-saving primary health care, essential health services, critical medicines, personnel, diagnostics, and other general support.

- Migration health staff in Health Assessment Programmes (HAP) have been called upon to

contribute to national COVID-19 response activities in some locations. As of 3 April, 52 staff have been deployed to support COVID-19 related programmes, both internally within IOM programs and to government efforts. Discussions are in progress for further staff to assist.

- 24 HAP sites are liaising with Member States to provide supplies and services to support local COVID-19 response initiatives, including, among others, screening for COVID-19 at POE and elsewhere, the provision of primary and acute care services related to COVID-19, and the provision of personal protective equipment and supplies for COVID-19 response.
- **IOM Ukraine** supported a webinar for 30 psychologists and community workers to build their capacity to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations online. Following this online training, psychologists will conduct online consultations in communities on how to cope with fear, stress, anxiety and other emotions brought up by the pandemic.
- **IOM Ukraine** also provides returning migrants, Ukrainians stranded abroad because of the COVID-19 outbreak, and their families in Ukraine, with access to timely and accurate information and referrals through the National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline. More than 1,000 consultations were provided in March 2020 alone.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, IOM provided technical guidance on the establishment of Mobile Storage Units to be used for a referral clinic. IOM Papua New Guinea is also assisting in the construction of a multipurpose COVID-19 monitoring, testing and quarantine facility.

### Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management

IOM is engaging in the procurement and provision of critical medical supplies to protect frontline health-care workers, as well as providing necessary supplies and equipment for government stakeholders and beneficiaries.

- **IOM North Macedonia** donated IT equipment to allow for the continuation of education activities for migrant children through online classes.
- **IOM Indonesia** is engaged in a joint procurement with WHO and UNDP to obtain three ventilator machines for the Government of Indonesia.
- **IOM Serbia** is actively engaged in emergency procurement of preventive/disinfection items (masks, gloves, disinfection liquids, soaps and similar items), as well as through the delivery of additional temporary shelters for the growing number of migrants residing in Serbia amidst the outbreak.

### Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

In an effort to provide a global overview of the restrictions to mobility being implemented around the world, IOM has developed a global mobility restrictions database based on information from IATA, WHO Situation Reports and relevant media and official sources. This database provides daily reporting on the rapidly changing travel restrictions being imposed by countries in response to the COVID-19 crisis, allowing for interactive analysis and mapping. Heatmaps of the travel restrictions have been produced. The database and maps can be viewed on [the Mobility Restrictions COVID-19 website](#).

IOM has developed an online tool to register points of entry and transit including airports, ports and ground crossings, which have been subjected to restrictions locally. The country level **Mobility Restriction Mapping of Ports of Entry** provides a real time snapshot of the types of mobility restrictions being put in place including the varied and complex forms of mobility restrictions being enacted at location level. Phase 1 of the global mapping exercise took place between 13 March to 2 April in 146 countries/territories/areas and provided baseline information on 2,494 points. On 2 April 2020, the roll out of phase 2 of the data collection exercise at country level was launched and will continue to collect more detailed information on those points.

IOM continues to track cross border flows in order to understand population mobility trends within and between certain areas, which in turns helps to inform public health preparedness and response strategies.

- Flow Monitoring (FM) activities are being carried out along the **Haiti-Dominican Republic** border in collaboration with the Support Group for the Repatriated and Refugees (GARR), Jesuit Services to Migrants (SJM) and Jeannot Succès Border Network (RFJS).
- In **Mongolia**, IOM and the Governor's Office of the Capital City of Mongolia entered a joint agreement to implement DTM and monitor all incoming and outgoing flows. FM activities have been ongoing since 27 February, with over 300 health and education system personnel being trained as data enumerators.
- In **Bangladesh**, IOM is working to enhance existing national-level disease surveillance systems by linking mobility information to surveillance data, particularly among border communities in Kurigram and Satkhira, and in the migrant and refugee dense areas of Cox's Bazar. Data is collected on the frequency of irregular border crossings, the number of vulnerable people in each union, access to water and the condition and availability of sanitation facilities. The ACAPS-NPM Analysis Hub have produced a report on [Health Behaviors & COVID-19](#) to support humanitarian responders in understanding the

current perceptions of healthcare and health-seeking behaviors, and how these behaviors will likely impact their ability to respond to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Rohingya camps.

Through utilization of its historical **Flow Monitoring data**, IOM is producing information products for movements of “outgoing” and “incoming” individuals, with an emphasis on movements from countries and regions with a higher prevalence of COVID-19.

Utilizing data from its central data repository of IDP data and mobility tracking, IOM also continues to **monitor and map global presence of internally displaced persons** into confirmed COVID-19 affected countries to support preparedness efforts and inform response. DTM's Event

Tracking Tool has been deployed to provide up to date information on events related to COVID-19 in [Burkina Faso](#), [Cameroon](#), [Chad](#), [Guinea](#) and [Ethiopia](#). As of 25 March 2020, IOM began **tracking information on stranded migrants** whose situation is being exacerbated by COVID-19. This includes information on the numbers of migrants in need, locations where migrants are stranded, and countries of origin.

A dedicated landing page on the [IOM Flow Monitoring Portal](#) has been developed to act as a central repository and dissemination channel for flow monitoring, mobility tracking, border management, movement and other reports, maps and outputs produced at country, regional and global level in relation to COVID-19.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Operational Challenges

Based on local epidemiological realities and government decisions, IOM has had to scale back its pre-migration health activities and movement operations temporarily to guarantee the safety of the migrants as well as staff. As of 3 April 2020, 76% of **IOM Migration Health Assessment Center (MHAC)** sites have temporarily ceased main Health Assessment Program (HAP) activities; however, efforts are being made to ensure that essential services are still being provided to migrants with significant medical conditions. The remaining 24% of MHACs have reduced their HAP services.

**IOM's Resettlement and Movement Management (RMM)** operations have also been severely impacted by the current crisis. Of departures scheduled for between 11 February and 30 April, 1,037 movements have been cancelled, affecting 10,279 individuals, the majority of whom are resettlement cases.

### New Programmatic Approaches

An immigration, consular and visa issue identification exercise has been initiated to categorize information from official sources, established news outlets and UN agencies about developments related to these issues worldwide. With more than 450 situations flagged in the first four days of the ongoing initiative, the identification of gaps and needs for assistance across all IOM regions is meant to support the development of further programming and response, as well as knowledge exchange.

### Guidelines and Guidance Documents

IOM's **Camp Management Operational Guidance** can now be found on Reliefweb in English, French and Spanish (Arabic translation coming soon) and an internal PowerPoint for the training of staff can be found [here](#).

IOM's CCCM and protection experts are currently drafting an internal guidance note on **Engagement with Quarantine Areas for Migrants and Returning Nationals**.

The Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean in San José has developed a POE protocols document, following existing global technical guidelines, in order to ensure the health of frontline control officers.

### Information Sharing and Communications

IOM, in collaboration with Professions in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP), organized a **CCCM Cluster webinar** on Operationalizing Standards for COVID-19 response in Camps on 2 April that is now available to watch here.

IOM has been working on how to manage anticipated media interest in the cases of COVID-19 in camp settings. On Thursday evening IOM broke news of the first confirmed coronavirus cases in a camp setting.

IOM is producing regular [COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots](#), which provide brief thematic reviews of the latest migration and mobility related impacts of Covid-19 from around the world. These snapshots draw upon the latest outputs being produced by researchers, analysts and organizations as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds. Spanish translations are underway and will be posted on the [COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots](#) webpage.

IOM has produced eight [“Expert Videos”](#) focusing on a range of issues – e.g. labor impacts, WASH, health and remittances – with six others in the production process. Eight videos have also been produced under the #WeTogether banner addressing stigma and xenophobia.



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