COVID-19
Government measures

acaps

About this report

An outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (abbreviated "COVID-19") (CDC 2020) was first reported in China in December 2019. The outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020 (WHO 11/03/2020). This report provides an update to previous ACAPS reports that explore measures adopted by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be found here.

Our reports are a component of ACAPS' broader effort to monitor the secondary impacts of the pandemic and are based on publicly available data assembled by our team through a wide scanning of information across the globe.

Further country-specific analysis of the COVID-19 situation and analysis of challenges for humanitarian operations can be found here.

Contents

Methodology

This report explores government measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been identified using data collected in the **ACAPS #COVID19 Government Measures Dataset** (updated 11/06/2020). Data is available for over 190 countries. The Secondary Data Review that populated the dataset was structured around **five broad categories of measures** used to group the interventions governments were taking in response to COVID-19:

- Movement restrictions
- Social distancing
- Public health measures
- Governance and socioeconomic measures
- Lockdown

For an overview of the **Government Measures Taxonomy**, including overall structure and definitions, please see the *Annex*. The taxonomy is frequently updated to reflect the evolving situation as governments adopt and amend measures. Many governments have begun easing restrictions and reducing measures. The dataset reflects these dynamics by indicating whether a measure recorded is being introduced (including being extended), or phased out.
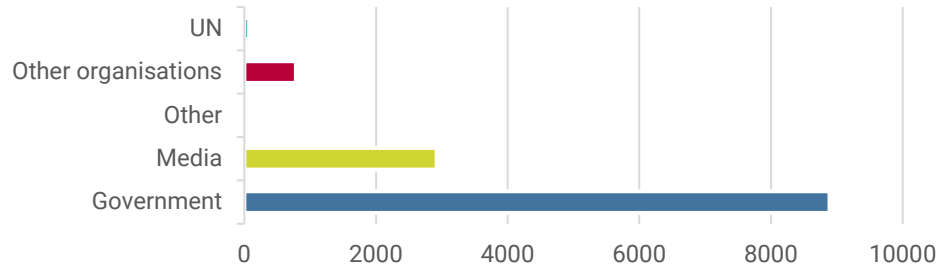
Limitations

The COVID-19 response provides abundant sources of information. Care is needed to identify the most reliable sources.

This report includes information on government measures available as of 11 June 2020.

Government measures are changing rapidly. Often information is outdated by the time it has been identified. The number of countries implementing or amending measures increases daily. Given the speed in which governments are amending or introducing new measures in response to COVID-19, the dataset and analysis are likely to have information gaps.

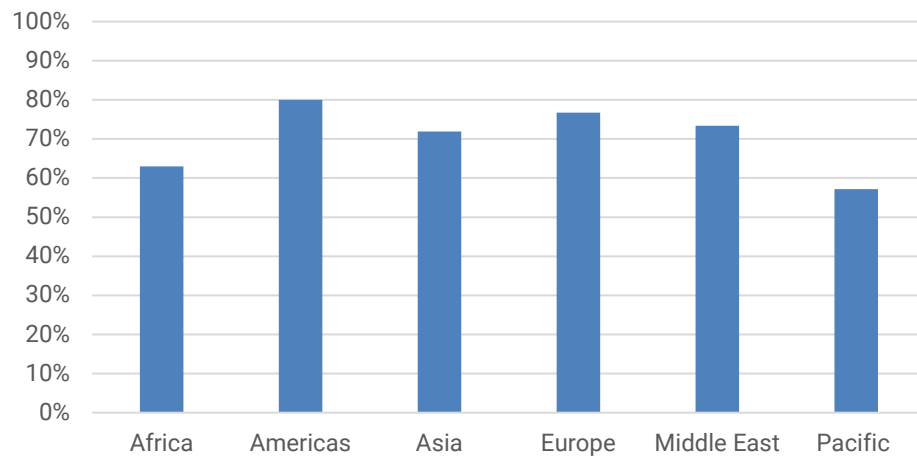There are information gaps for some countries.

Overview government measures

Information recorded in the ACAPS #COVID19 Government Measures Dataset comes from a broad range of sources, primarily from governments (70%). Other sources include media, United Nations agencies, and other organizations.

Type of Sources

As of 11 June 2020, 137 countries have implemented at least one measure from each of the five categories identified since the pandemic began.

% of countries per region having adopted at least one measure per category

Movement Restrictions

As of 11 June 2020, around 191 countries have taken measures that restrict movement since the pandemic began. Measures identified in this category are either introduced to control entry onto the territory of a State or to control movement within a territory. Measures directed at control of entry have been the most commonly implemented movement restrictions since the pandemic began. They include partial border closures (161 countries) and international flight suspensions (153 countries). Other measures that fall into this sub-category are visa restrictions or suspensions, requirements of additional health documents at entry points and intensified border controls. Among measures introduced to control internal movement, domestic travel restrictions have been the most commonly implemented measures (142 countries). Other measures directed at control of internal movement are curfews, and the establishment of surveillance and monitoring systems such as movement tracking through mobile phone data.

Top 3 Movement restrictions measures implemented (introduction/phase- out)

Top 3 Movement restrictions	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Border closure (partial)	125/36	41/2	31/1	19/4	27/12	11/1	11/1
Int. flight suspension	122/31	41/6	20/4	25/1	17/15	9/4	10/1
Domestic travel restrictions	79/63	28/15	18/8	13/10	7/21	10/3	6/3

Social distancing

As of 11 June 2020, more than 185 countries have implemented social distancing measures, which seek to reduce physical social contact and ensure physical distance between individuals, particularly in public spaces. In terms of government actions, the measures being taken include limiting public gatherings, closure of businesses and public services, school closures, and changes to prison policies. Since the start of the pandemic, the most common social distancing measure observed is limiting public gatherings, which has been implemented in 179 countries.

Top 3 Social distancing measures implemented (introduction/phase- out)

Top 3 Social distancing measures implemented	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Limit public gatherings	113/66	34/18	21/10	23/7	19/24	10/3	6/4
Schools closure	95/76	30/19	28/4	11/12	12/30	11/4	3/7
Closure of businesses and public services	53/105	19/25	12/18	7/13	8/32	10/5	2/7

Public health measures

A range of public health measures have been implemented in more than 190 governments to prepare, mitigate, and respond to COVID-19. The twelve identified measures include promoting public health awareness, introducing isolation and quarantine policies, health screenings at border points, testing for COVID-19, mass population testing, obligatory medical tests not related to COVID-19, psychological assistance and medical social work, amendments to funeral and burial regulations, general recommendations, other public health measures enforced, requirement to wear protective gear in public, and strengthening public health systems.

Top 3 Public health measures implemented (introduction/phase- out)

Top 3 Public health measures implemented	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Isolation and quarantine policies	115/28	45/2	30/2	28/3	21/20	14/0	13/1
Strengthening public health systems	155/11	37/1	33/0	28/0	33/10	10/0	14/0
Health screenings at border points	138/2	45/0	24/0	25/1	24/1	9/0	11/0

Governance and socioeconomic measures

Since the pandemic began, over 185 governments have implemented a variety of governance and socioeconomic measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the five measure types identified in this category is the introduction of emergency legislation, which grants governments extended powers. As of 11 June 2020, over 96 governments still operate under emergency legislation frameworks. Other measures in this category include the specific economic measures, the deployment of military forces, and changes to import/export regulations.

Top 3 Governance and socioeconomic measures implemented (introduction/phase- out)

Top 3 Governance and socioeconomic measures	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Economic measures	156/10	41/1	31/3	27/1	38/2	9/0	10/3
Emergency administrative structures activated or established	135/10	34/2	26/1	23/3	38/1	5/1	9/2
State of emergency declared	96/13	30/2	21/2	10/1	18/8	4/0	13/0

Lockdown

In response to the pandemic, almost 140 countries have implemented partial lockdowns of varying degreesince the start of the pandemic and over 30 countries have implemented full lockdowns (either on national or sub-national level). The degree of lockdowns differs between countries and can be scaled up gradually. Generally, lockdown protocols limit individual movement and require populations to only leave their homes for essential purposes. In addition, authorities suspend economic activity of sectors considered non-essential during lockdowns. Lockdowns can be implemented nation-wide or in some cases on a regional or municipal level only. A specific type is lockdown in refugee or IDP camps. Such lockdowns are currently imposed in over 10 countries.

Lockdowns implemented (introduction/phase- out)

Lockdowns	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Partial lockdown	91/45	22/12	14/12	17/7	19/10	11/3	8/1
Full lockdown	24/13	1/3	9/0	4/4	2/5	7/0	1/1

Annex - Government measures taxonomy

Category		Measure
Movement restrictions	1	Additional health or other document requirements upon arrival
	2	Border checks
	3	Border closure
	4	Complete border closure
	5	Checkpoints within the country
	6	International flights suspension
	7	Domestic travel restrictions
	8	Visa restrictions
	9	Curfews
	10	Surveillance and monitoring
Public health measures	11	Awareness campaigns
	12	Isolation and quarantine policies
	13	General recommendations
	14	Health screenings in airports and border crossings
	15	Obligatory medical tests not related to COVID-19
	16	Psychological assistance and medical social work
	17	Mass population testing

Category		Measure
Public health measures	18	Strengthening the public health system
	19	Testing policy
	20	Amendments to funeral and burial regulations
	21	Requirement to wear protective gear in public (e.g. face mask or gloves)
	22	Other public health measures enforced
Governance and socioeconomic measures	23	Economic measures
	24	Emergency administrative structures activated or established
	25	Limit product imports/exports
	26	State of emergency declared
	27	Military deployment
Social distancing	28	Limit public gatherings
	29	Closure of businesses and public services
	30	Changes in prison policies
	31	Schools closure
Lockdown	32	Partial lockdown
	33	Full lockdown
	34	Lockdown of refugee/IDP camps or other minorities