

COVID-19

Government measures

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

Dataset Modifications	2
Overview government measures	2
Movement Restrictions.....	2
Social distancing	3
Public health measures	3
Governance and socioeconomic measures	3
Lockdown	4
Annex - Government measures taxonomy	5

Methodology

This report explores the relationship between displaced populations and 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 23/04/20). Data is available for over 190 countries. Technical guidance on how the data is structured and coded can be found [here](#).

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.

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 23 April 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 Often information is outdated by the time it has been identified.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.

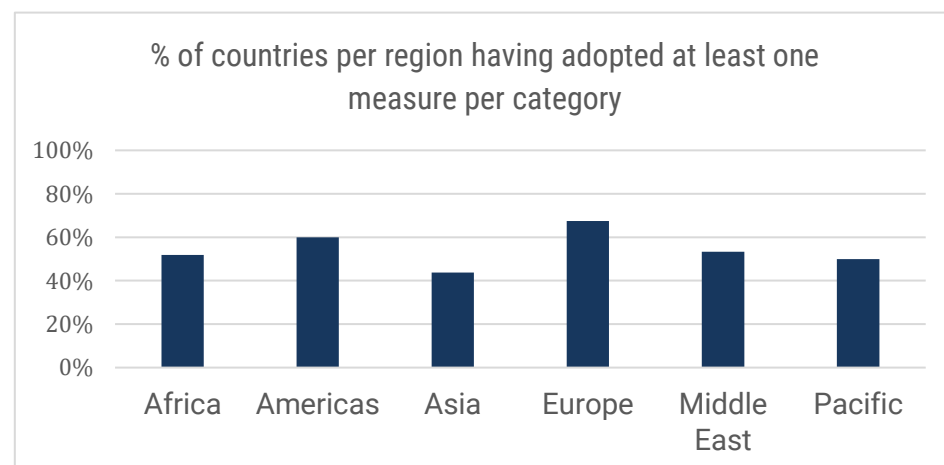
Dataset Modifications

The Government Measures dataset is continuously being reviewed and amended to reflect ongoing global developments. On 26 March, a column was added to capture any repercussions enforced by governments in the event of noncompliance to measures. The options include: fines, arrest/detention, deportation, refusal to enter the country, legal action, not applicable, not available, other, and up to detention (which includes fines, arrests, and detention).

As of 9 April, two additional measures were added to the public health category of the dataset, namely the requirement to wear protective gear in public (e.g. masks and gloves) and other public health measures enforced. The latter is used to record any government actions that do not clearly fall under any of the 11 other public health measures, such as sanitisation campaigns.

Overview government measures

As of 23 April 2020, 107 countries have implemented at least one measure from each of the five categories identified.



Movement Restrictions

As of 23 April 2020, at least 189 countries have taken measures that restrict movement. 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 are the most commonly implemented movement restrictions. They include partial border closures (150 countries), international flight suspensions (145 countries) and visa restrictions or suspensions (114 countries). Other measures that fall into this sub-category are requirements of additional health documents at entry points and intensified border controls. Among measures introduced to control internal movement, domestic travel restrictions are the most commonly implemented measures (108 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 implemented	Movement measures implemented						
	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Border closure (partial)	150	38	31	19	38	12	12
Int. flight suspension	145	45	21	25	30	13	11
Visa restrictions	114	26	15	27	20	14	12

Social distancing

As of 23 April 2020, more than 180 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 public services, school closures, and changes to prison policies. The most common social distancing measure is limiting public gatherings, currently taken in at least 160 countries.

Top 3 Social distancing measures implemented	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Limit public gatherings	164	49	26	26	41	13	10
Schools closure	158	47	28	28	39	15	10
Public services closure	126	31	22	22	39	14	9

Public health measures

A range of public health measures are being taken by 190 governments to prepare, mitigate, and respond to COVID-19. The 12 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

	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Introduction of isolation and quarantine policies	164	46	29	29	33	14	13
Strengthening public health systems	144	30	25	25	41	9	14
Health screenings at border points	132	45	21	25	22	9	10

Governance and socioeconomic measures

Over 170 governments are implementing 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 23 April 2020, 97 governments 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 socio-economic measures

	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Economic measures	144	37	30	18	38	9	12
Emergency administrative structures activated or established	111	30	20	14	32	4	11
State of emergency declared	97	29	19	8	25	3	13

Lockdown

Lockdowns of varying degree are currently implemented in over 115 countries. The degree of lockdown 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. These are currently imposed in at least 9 countries.

Lockdowns imposed	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Partial lockdown	103	27	18	15	26	10	7
Full lockdown	30	4	7	7	4	6	2

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 Introduction of 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
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 Public services closure
	30 Changes in prison policies
	31 Schools closure
Lockdown	32 Partial lockdown
	33 Full lockdown
	34 Lockdown of refugee/IDP camps or other minorities