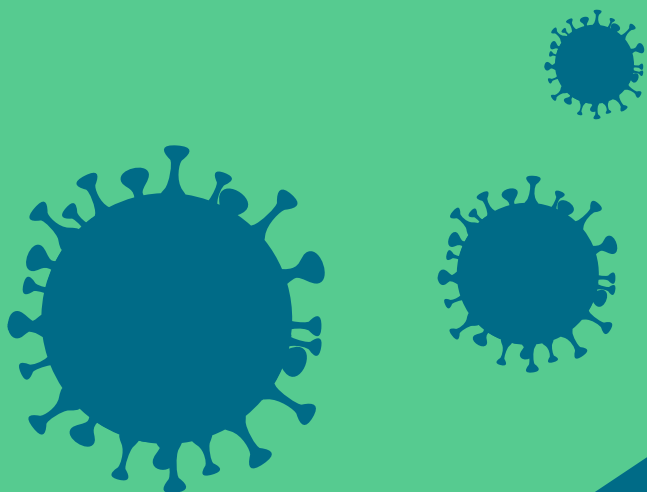


# How **COVID-19** is changing the world: a statistical perspective





© 2020 Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities  
All rights reserved worldwide

This publication is copyrighted under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on any map in this work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The publication has not been formally edited.

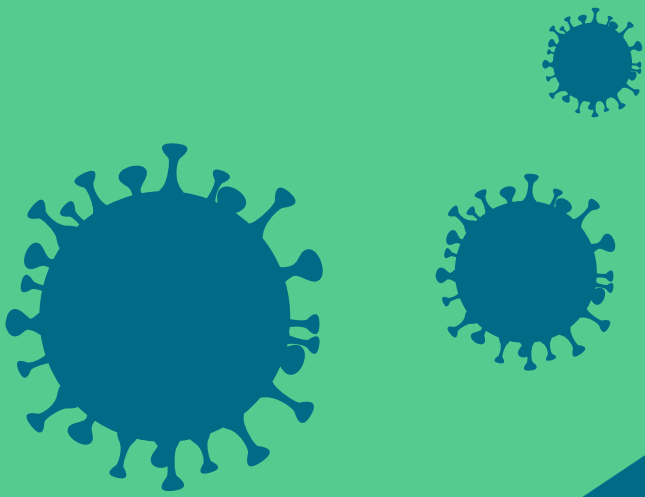
UNCTAD prepared the publication cover and provided desktop publishing.



# Contributing organisations

Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
Bank for International Settlements (BIS)  
Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC)  
European Central Bank (ECB)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN Habitat)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)  
United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)  
Universal Postal Union (UPU)  
World Bank (WB)  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Trade Organization (WTO)

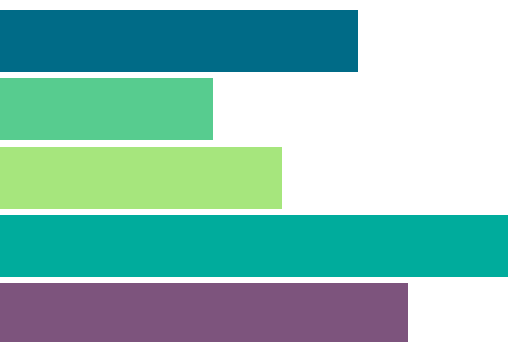




## The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

The CCSA is comprised of international and supranational organizations, whose mandate includes the provision of international official statistics in the context of the *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities* ([https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/principles\\_stat\\_activities/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/principles_stat_activities/)) and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organization and regular contacts with countries. The mandate of the CCSA is to ensure the efficient functioning of the international statistical system; develop common standards, platforms and methodologies; provide inter-institutional support; outreach; and advocacy for high quality official statistics.

More information can be found on the CCSA webpage: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/>



# Introduction

COVID-19 has turned the world upside down. Everything has been impacted. How we live and interact with each other, how we work and communicate, how we move around and travel. Every aspect of our lives has been affected. Although the world is in lockdown, governments, epidemiologists, school principals, entrepreneurs and families around the world are already planning the next steps: how to safely reopen schools and businesses, how to commute and travel without transmitting or contracting infection, how to support those most affected by the crisis – the millions who have lost their livelihoods or their loved ones, how to ensure the already serious inequalities don't deteriorate further.

Decisions made now and in the coming months will be some of the most important made in generations. They will affect people all around the world for years to come. It is imperative that governments making those decisions have access to the best information available. Throughout this crisis, the international statistics community has continued to work together, in partnership with national statistical offices and systems around the world to ensure that the best quality data and statistics are available to support decision making during and after the crisis. This report gives a small flavor of that cooperation. It has been compiled jointly by 36 international organizations, under the aegis of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).

The United Nations and other partner organizations of the CCSA make a wealth of impartial data and statistics available free of charge with the spirit of promoting facts-based planning. This report presents a snapshot of some of the latest information available on how COVID-19 is affecting the world today. Although a wide range of topics are covered in this report, a consistency of message is clear – this is an unprecedented crisis, and no aspect of our lives is immune. The quantitative knowledge presented in this report covers different aspects of public and private life from economic and environmental fluctuations to changes that affect individuals in terms of income, education, employment and violence and changes affecting public services such as civil aviation and postal services. The report also puts a spotlight on the affects for some sub-population groups like women and children as well as geographical regions.

The statistics presented in this report are unprecedented. We are witnessing data points and inflections in trends that would have been unimaginable only a few months ago. New statistical records are being set on an almost weekly basis. By the end of April, 212 countries, territories or areas had reported confirmed cases of COVID-19. In the first four months of 2020, more than 3 million cases of infection had been confirmed and more than 210,000 deaths. Some startling economic numbers include a 9% year-on-year fall in global production and manufacturing output, nowcasts that the value of global merchandise trade will fall by almost 27% in Q2 2020, the largest fall in global commodity prices on record (-20.4% between February and March 2020). On the social side, we see the shocking loss of employment – a decline of almost 10.5% in total working hours, the equivalent of 305 million full-time workers. Some 1.6 billion students have been affected by school closures and the crisis will push an additional 40 – 60 million people into extreme poverty. The impact is being felt in every region. For example, for the Gulf region, forecasts predict a decline in GDP growth of between 0.6% (best) and -1.9% (worst scenario) in 2020, but a recovery of between 0.5% and 2.5% in 2021. Whereas in Europe, statistics are already reporting that GDP fell by 3.5% in Q1 2020 – the sharpest fall since their time series began in 1995.

The report also provides a glimpse into the challenges facing national statistical offices at the moment. At a time when statistics are most needed, many statistical systems are struggling to compile basic statistics, highlighting once again the need to invest in data and statistics, and the importance of having modern national statistical systems and data infrastructure.

The statistics presented in this report are the tip of the iceberg. Readers are encouraged to visit the websites of the contributing organizations, where they can find a wealth of data and high-quality information. As the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, said: *"With common cause for common sense and facts, we can defeat COVID-19 -- and build a healthier, more equitable, just and resilient world"*. It is our sincere hope that this report contributes to that cause - with facts based on impartial statistics. Finally, we would like to give special thanks to the CCSA secretariat (UN-DESA) and the statistics team at UNCTAD, without whom this report would not have been possible.

Angela Me  
Chief Research and Trend  
Analysis Branch, UNODC  
Co-chair CCSA

Haishan Fu  
Director, Development Data Group  
World Bank  
Co-chair CCSA



**CCSA**  
Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

**#StatisticalCoordination**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## COVID-19

COVID-19: the first 4 months (WHO) .....	8
Responding with open data (OCHA).....	12

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Vulnerabilities in banking systems (BIS) .....	16
Aviation crisis (ICAO) .....	18
Employment shock (ILO) .....	20
Sharp fall in trade and commodity prices (UNCTAD) .....	22
Trade in medical goods (WTO) .....	24
Global manufacturing declines (UNIDO) .....	26
Unprecedented challenge for Tourism (UNWTO) .....	28
International postal services disrupted (UPU) .....	30

## SOCIAL IMPACT

Risks for agriculture and food (FAO) .....	34
Migration in a time of travel restrictions (IOM) .....	36
ICTs minimise disruption (ITU) .....	38
COVID-19 impacting the vulnerable and compounding existing inequalities (OECD) .....	40
Human rights in a pandemic (OHCHR) .....	42
COVID-19 and human development (UNDP) .....	44
Pollution and waste (UNEP) .....	46
Schools out (UNESCO) .....	48
Forced displacement (UNHCR) .....	50
Urban vulnerabilities (UN Habitat) .....	52
Children bear the brunt (UNICEF) .....	54
Impact on drugs and homicides (UNODC) .....	56
Differential impacts on women (UN Women) .....	58
Impact on poverty (WB) .....	60

## REGIONAL IMPACT

Economic impact of COVID-19 (ADB).....	64
Regional policy actions (ECLAC) .....	66
Impact on statistical activities (ESCWA) .....	68
Sharp decline in EU GDP (Eurostat) .....	70
GDP in the Gulf (GCC) .....	72
COVID-19 in Africa (UNECA) .....	74
Risks to health and wealth (UN ESCAP) .....	76

## STATISTICAL IMPACT

Still producing economic statistics (ECB) .....	80
Innovation, resiliency and cooperation (IMF) .....	82
Statistical capacity squeezed (PARIS21) .....	84
2020 Census at risk (UNFPA/UNSD) .....	86

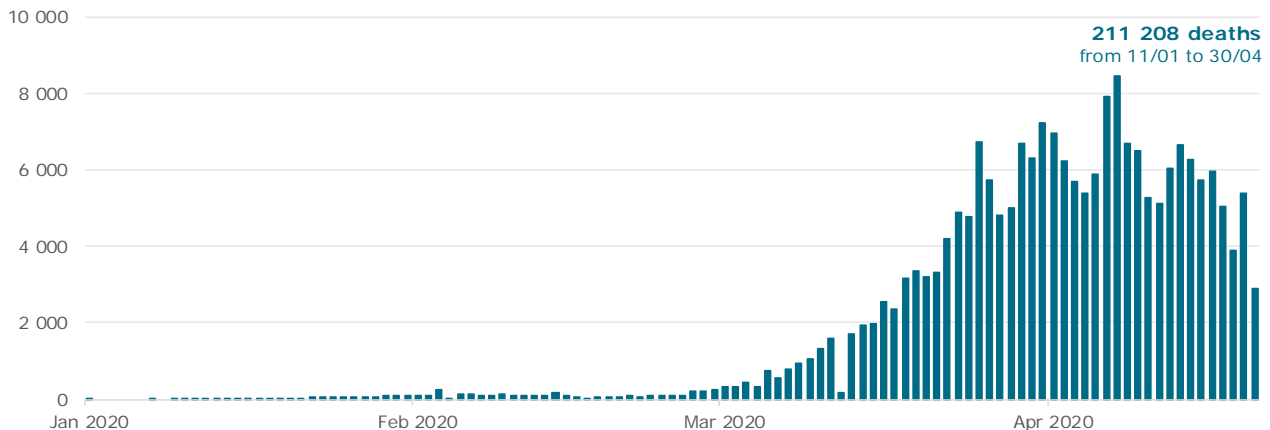
# COVID-19





The COVID-19 pandemic is a catastrophe taking an enormous toll on humanity disrupting lives and livelihoods. The scale and severity of COVID-19 is unprecedented. WHO is working with partners and countries toward a coordinated public health response driven by real-time, reliable and actionable data.

Daily deaths due to COVID-19 over time



Source: World Health Organisation

WHO is at the forefront in leading the global fight against the COVID-19 from the start by tracking the growth, coordinating global information exchange, and providing technical support to countries. By the end of January 2020, 20 countries, territories and areas had reported cases of COVID-19. The number quickly rose to 54 by the end of February, and to 202 by the end of March. By 30 April 2020, 212 countries, territories and areas had reported COVID-19 cases and 174 had reported at least one death from COVID-19. In total there are 3,059,642 cases of infection and 211,028 deaths reported. COVID-19 has spread to all continents except Antarctica, and fewer than 30 countries, territories or areas (mostly in the Pacific islands) have reported no COVID-19 cases.

Different regions have been affected unequally by COVID-19. Up to 30 April 2020, Europe had the most cases of confirmed infection at 1,406,899, followed by the Americas at 1,246,190, Eastern Mediterranean at 181,119, Western Pacific at 147,743 and South-East Asia at 52,266, while Africa had only 24,713 reported cases. Confirmed cases have exceeded 100,000 in seven countries; the United States had the most at 1,003,974, followed by Spain at 210,773, Italy at 201,505, the United Kingdom at 161,149, Germany at 157,641, France at 125,464, and Turkey at 114,653.

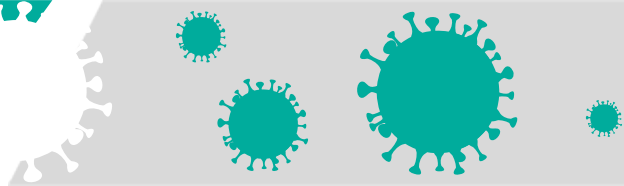
The COVID-19 case fatality rate varied across countries: Among the top 10 countries with the most COVID-19 infections, France reported the highest

fatality rate at 18.8 deaths per one hundred infections, followed by Italy at 13.6, the United Kingdom at 13.5, Spain at 11.3, Iran at 6.4, China at 5.5, the United States at 5.0, Germany at 3.9, Turkey at 2.6 and Russia at 1.0.

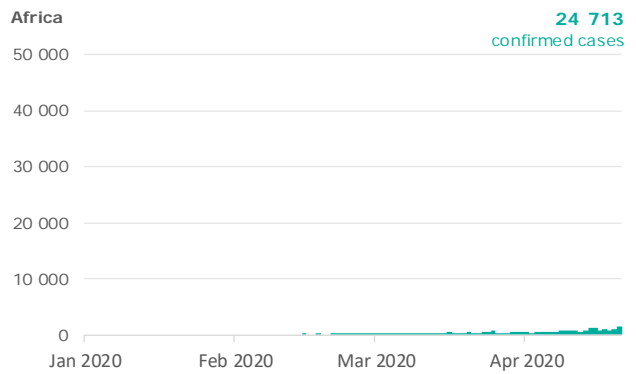
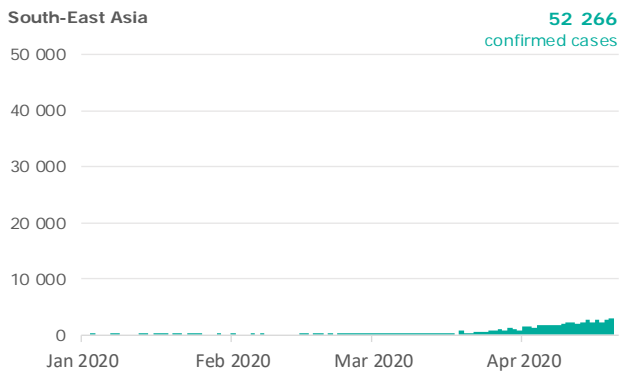
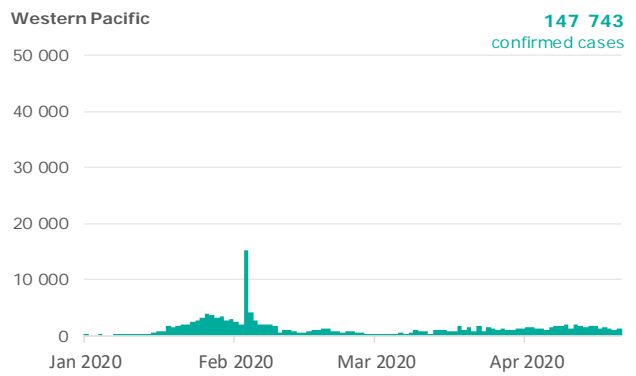
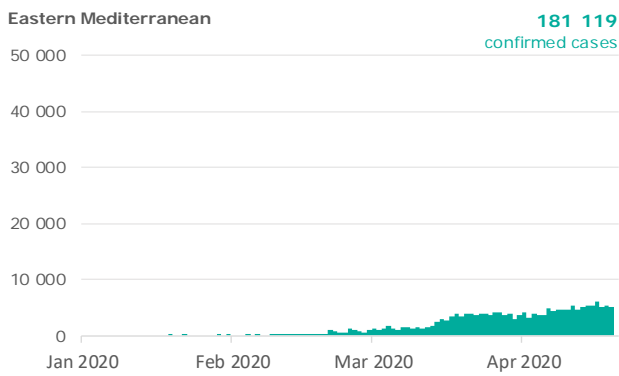
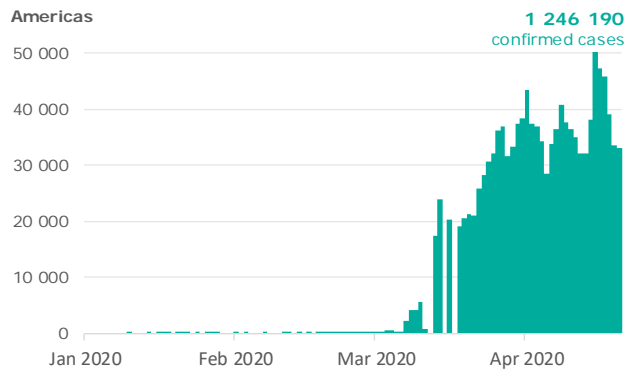
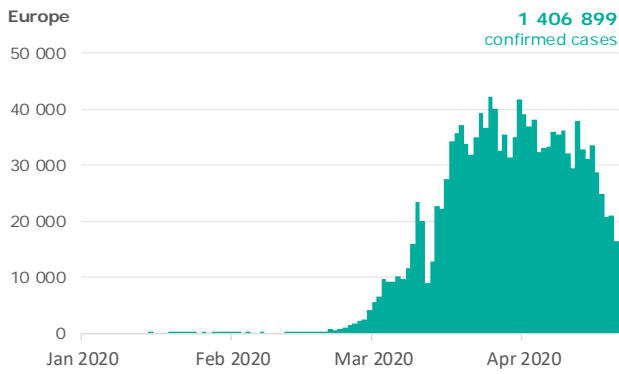
Strong public health measures and surveillance capacity are essential to prepare, prevent, detect and respond to health emergencies. WHO is examining the relationship between COVID-19 data and self-reported country readiness measured by International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness to understand the weakness of current public health system against public health events and risks, to assess and close the gaps to reduce the risk of future pandemics.

Although COVID-19 appears to have reached the peak in some countries, a second wave of infections is observed in some places, and the cases are still increasing rapidly in many others. The danger of an extended pandemic with cross-border infection cannot be underestimated. Response to this crisis must be driven by evidence and data, the collection and analysis of this, of itself, can be an overwhelming task for countries. The difficulty is further amplified by the speed of scientific developments that bring new data and analytical challenges to inform mandated actions. WHO is actively supporting countries to increase their capacity to generate real-time, reliable, accessible and actionable data.

# COVID-19

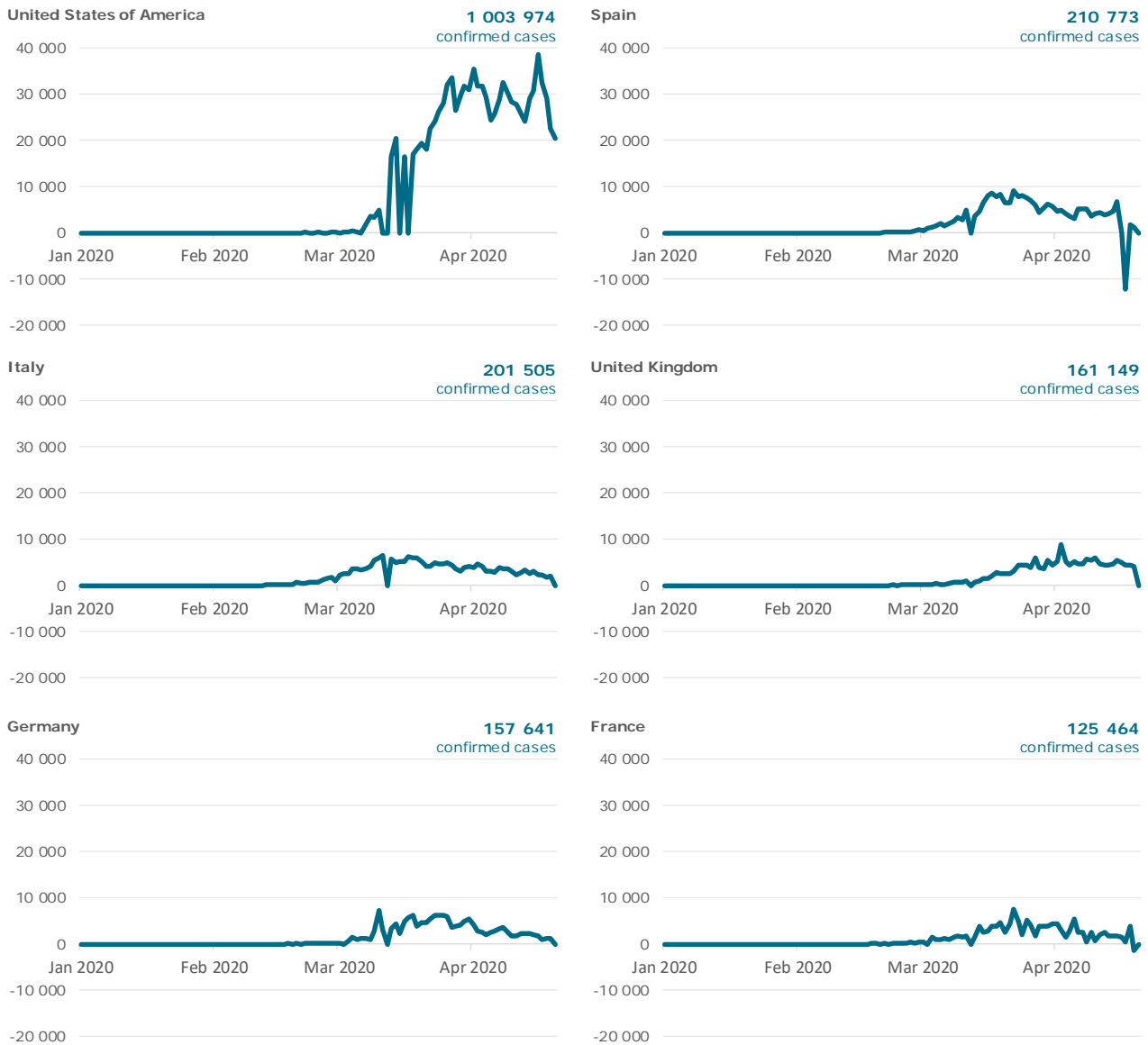


## Daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 overtime by region





## Daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 overtime in selected countries



*Note:* Negative data reported by Spain and France are revisions to previously reported 'confirmed' cases by tests other than PCR. Their data now reflect the WHO-recommended PCR confirmation.

More information available at:

- <https://covid19.who.int/>

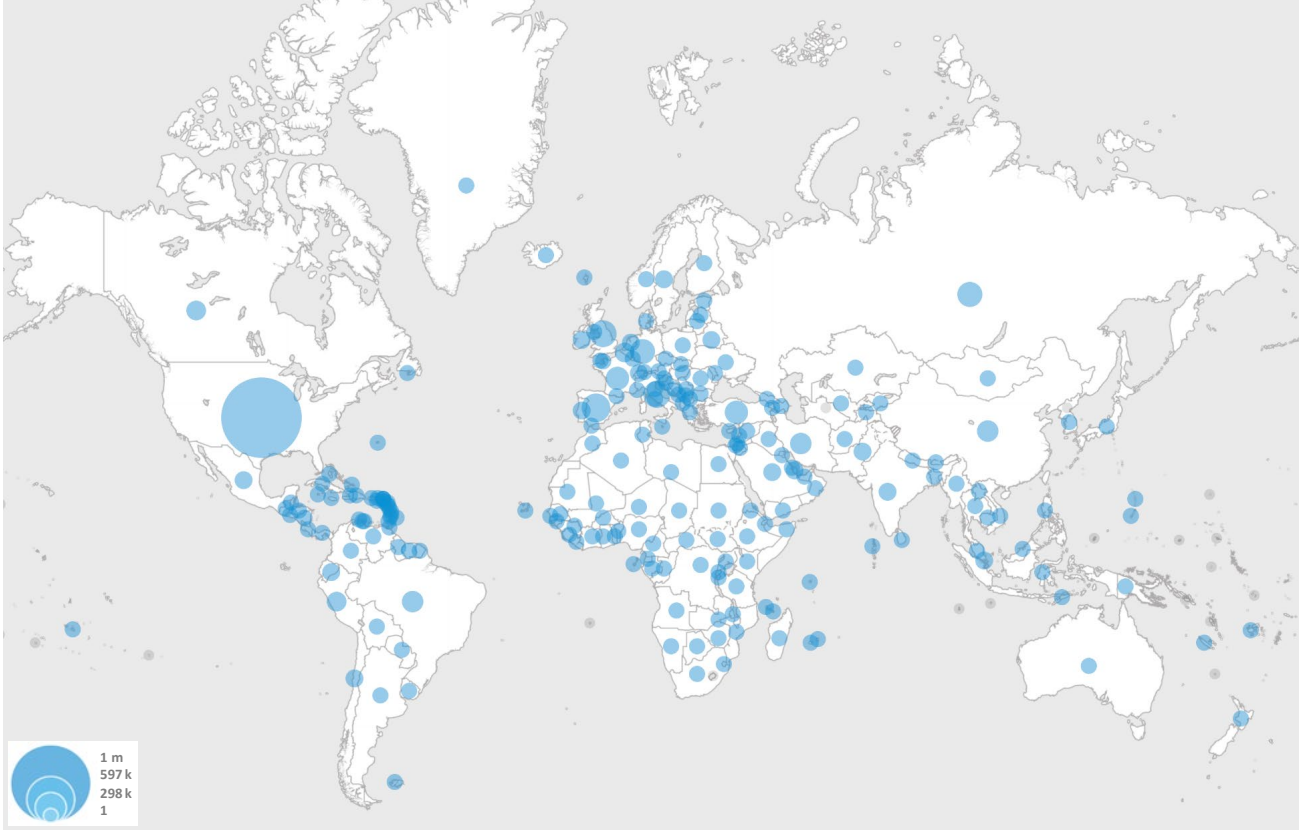
Sources:

- International Health Regulations (2005). 3rd edition.
- Health security capacities in the context of COVID-19 outbreak: an analysis of International Health Regulations annual report data from 182 countries. The Lancet 395(10229), March 2020

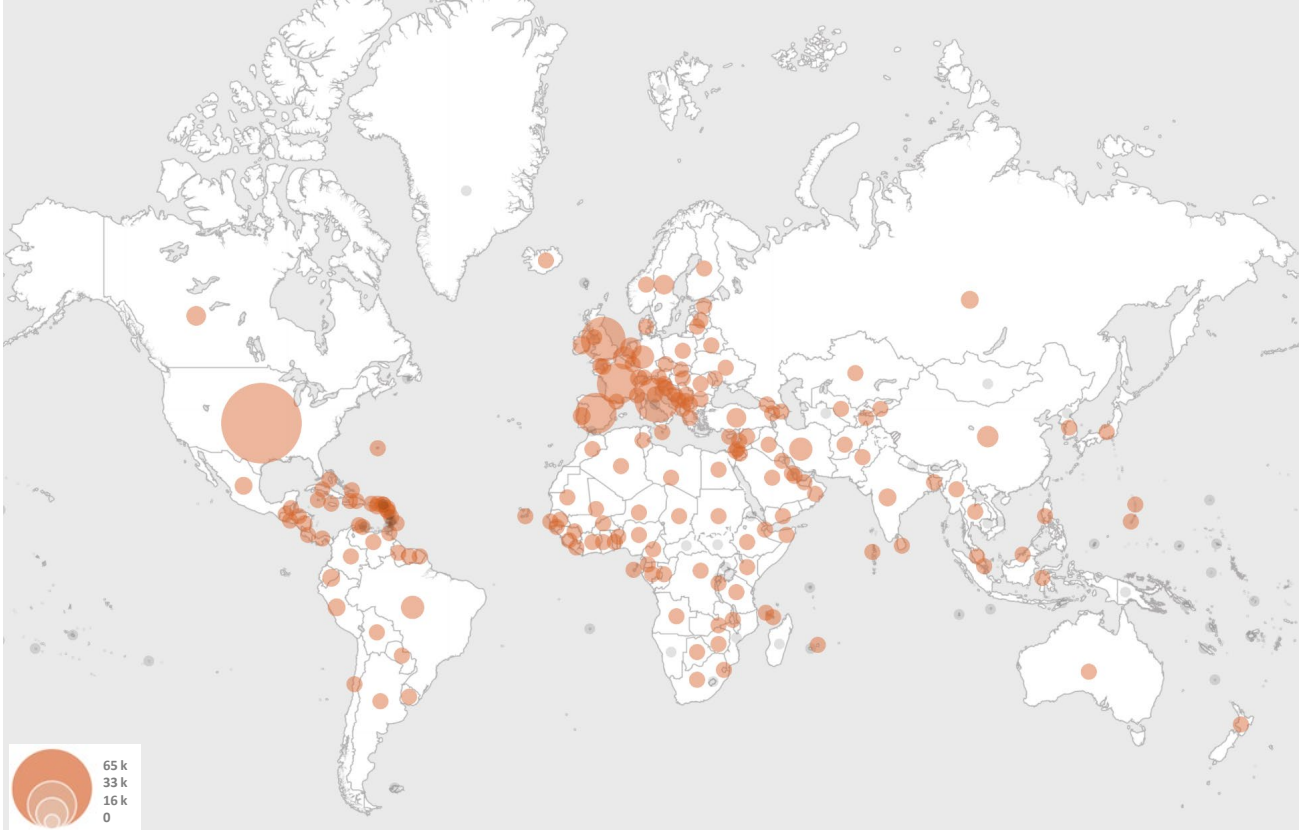
# COVID-19



Confirmed cases of COVID-19 (as of 7 May 2020)



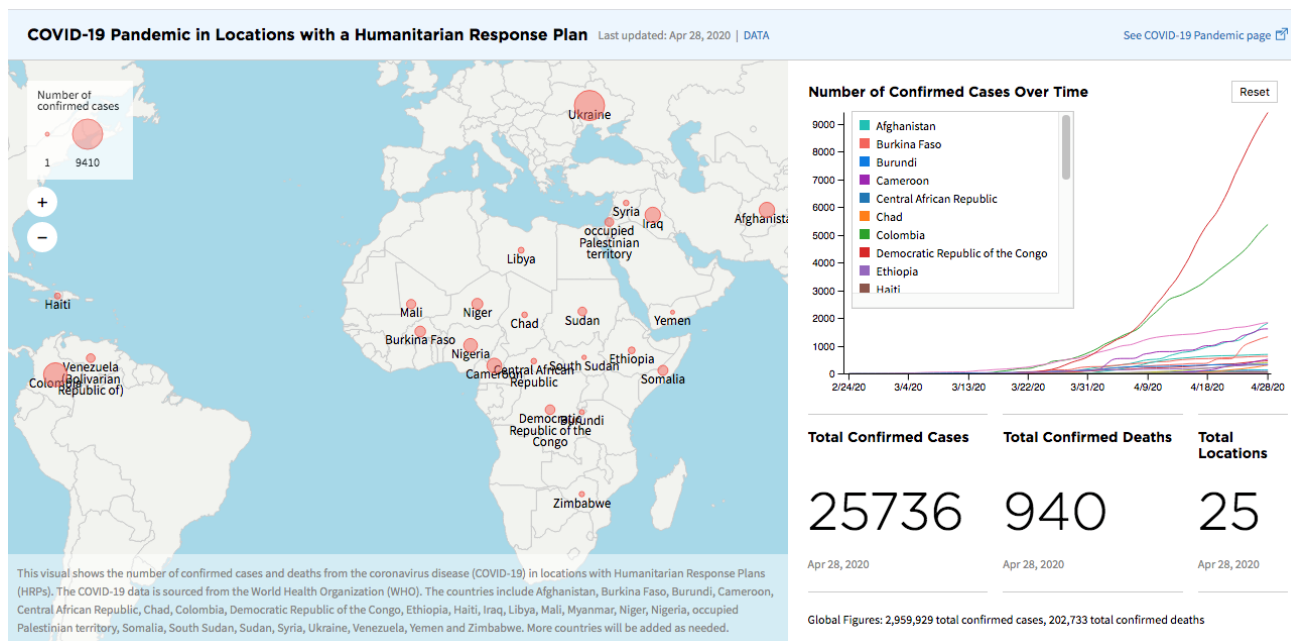
Deaths of COVID-19 (as of 7 May 2020)



## Making data accessible for the COVID-19 pandemic

Access to open, interoperable and timely data about the COVID-19 pandemic is critical for understanding the timing and severity of the pandemic and the best strategies for responding in different contexts.

### Confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in locations with a humanitarian response plan




COVID-19 has affected almost every country in the world, some of which were already experiencing humanitarian crises. Data about the scale, severity and duration of the outbreak is in demand as decision makers and responders seek to mitigate the impact of the virus in developing countries. To make it easy to find relevant data, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) created a dedicated page for COVID-19 data on their Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) platform which brings together data from hundreds of partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic page includes dozens of datasets in machine-readable formats, all of which are also available through the HDX API. Some of the most notable contributions include the INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index which ranks countries vulnerable to health and humanitarian impacts of COVID-19; WHO's COVID-19 case data for China and the rest of the world; UNESCO's global school closures data; and WFP's COVID-19 global travel restrictions and airline Information.

The COVID-19 response presents a range of challenges around the management of data, especially as it relates to data about an individual's health. To help staff, the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Sub-Group on Data Responsibility (co-led by OCHA, IOM, and UNHCR) developed a resource page with practical guidance and basic precautions all organisations can take to ensure the ethical and safe handling of COVID-19 data.

Humanitarian and development organisations are encouraged to close data gaps by sharing data that is critical but often missing. For the COVID-19 response, this includes data on the location of health and education facilities, food insecurity and malnutrition rates, and transportation routes and mobility patterns. For more information, contact [centrehumdata@un.org](mailto:centrehumdata@un.org).

INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index table

		Vulnerable Groups	VULNERABILITY (Hazard-independent)	Movements	Behaviour	Demographic and comorbidity	COVID-19 VULNERABILITY	VULNERABILITY	Governance	Institutional	Access to health care	Infrastructure	LACK OF COPING CAPACITY (Hazard-independent)	COVID-19 LACK OF COPING CAPACITY	LACK OF COPING CAPACITY	INFORM COVID-19 RISK	COVID-19 RISK CLASS	Rank
COUNTRY	ISO3																	
Central African Republic	CAF	9.2	9.4	1.1	9.3	0.4	2.8	7.3	8.0	8.0	9.3	9.3	8.7	9.4	9.1	7.6	Very High	1
Somalia	SOM	8.2	8.7	1.9	8.5	0.0	2.6	6.6	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.4	7.2	8.5	7.3	Very High	2
South Sudan	SSD	8.4	8.3	2.6	8.3	0.0	2.7	6.2	9.4	9.4	10.0	10.0	9.7	6.8	8.6	7.3	Very High	2
Chad	TCD	7.2	7.9	2.7	8.4	0.0	2.8	5.9	8.1	8.1	9.8	9.8	9.1	7.3	8.3	7.2	Very High	4
Afghanistan	AFG	8.5	8.2	2.2	8.4	1.6	3.5	6.4	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	7.0	7.7	6.8	Very High	5	
Congo DR	COD	8.4	7.7	2.8	7.5	0.0	2.6	5.7	8.2	8.2	7.0	7.0	7.7	5.8	6.9	6.8	Very High	5
Haiti	HTI	6.1	6.9	3.8	7.8	2.0	3.9	5.6	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.4	6.8	7.7	6.6	Very High	7
Burundi	BDI	7.1	7.2	4.1	6.9	0.0	2.8	5.4	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.6	7.6	6.5	Very High	8
Yemen	YEM	7.8	7.6	2.7	7.9	0.8	3.1	5.8	9.0	9.0	6.8	6.8	8.1	6.2	7.2	6.4	High	9
Burkina Faso	BFA	5.7	6.4	2.6	7.5	0.0	2.5	4.7	6.1	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.4	7.3	6.9	6.3	High	10
Guinea-Bissau	GNB	5.5	6.4	1.4	7.1	0.4	2.3	4.7	8.1	8.1	7.1	7.1	7.6	6.8	7.2	6.2	High	11
Liberia	LBR	6.1	6.8	4.4	7.4	0.4	3.2	5.3	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.4	5.2	6.4	6.2	High	11
Mozambique	MOZ	6.6	7.2	3.2	7.5	1.6	3.5	5.7	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.1	4.9	6.1	6.2	High	11
Niger	NER	6.2	7.0	3.2	8.5	0.0	2.9	5.3	6.7	6.7	7.7	7.7	7.2	5.3	6.3	6.2	High	11
Madagascar	MDG	5.9	6.0	3.1	7.5	0.0	2.7	4.6	7.5	7.5	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.3	6.1	High	15
Sierra Leone	SLE	5.7	6.3	4.0	6.2	0.4	2.8	4.8	7.0	7.0	8.1	8.1	7.6	5.6	6.7	6.1	High	15
Uganda	UGA	7.8	7.2	3.2	7.2	0.0	2.6	5.3	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.7	5.0	5.9	6.1	High	15
Zambia	ZMB	7.1	6.7	2.9	6.1	0.8	2.7	5.0	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.8	6.1	7.2	6.7	6.1	High	15
Comoros	COM	3.3	4.9	2.7	7.9	0.0	2.7	3.9	7.9	7.9	5.7	5.7	6.9	9.1	8.2	6.0	High	19
Guinea	GIN	6.7	6.1	3.9	7.7	0.0	2.9	4.7	7.0	7.0	8.8	8.8	8.0	4.8	6.7	6.0	High	19
Lesotho	LSO	4.4	5.8	3.3	6.2	6.4	5.6	5.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.1	6.8	6.0	High	19
Eritrea	ERI	4.2	5.7	2.3	7.9	0.4	2.8	4.4	8.1	8.1	6.4	6.4	7.3	7.0	7.2	5.9	High	22
Ethiopia	ETH	6.1	6.4	3.6	6.3	0.0	2.5	4.7	6.3	6.3	7.3	7.3	6.8	4.6	5.8	5.9	High	22
Kiribati	KIR	5.7	5.6	5.9	7.7	5.6	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.9	High	22
Nigeria	NGA	5.6	5.7	4.0	6.7	0.0	2.7	4.4	7.2	7.2	9.6	9.6	8.7	4.9	7.2	5.9	High	22
Togo	TGO	4.1	5.3	4.6	7.2	0.4	3.2	4.3	7.1	7.1	6.3	6.3	6.7	7.2	6.9	5.9	High	22
Benin	BEN	3.3	5.2	2.9	7.9	0.4	2.9	4.1	6.0	6.0	6.8	6.8	6.4	7.0	6.7	5.8	High	27

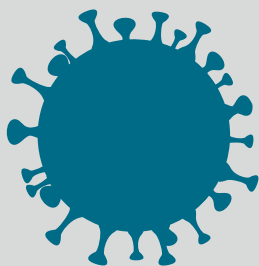
source: HDX

More information available at:

- OCHA's COVID-19 response page: <https://www.unocha.org/covid19>
- The HDX COVID-19 crisis data page: <https://data.humdata.org/event/covid-19>
- Data Responsibility for COVID-19 Guidelines: <https://data.humdata.org/faq-data-responsibility-covid-19>
- INFORM data on HDX: <https://data.humdata.org/organization/inform>

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

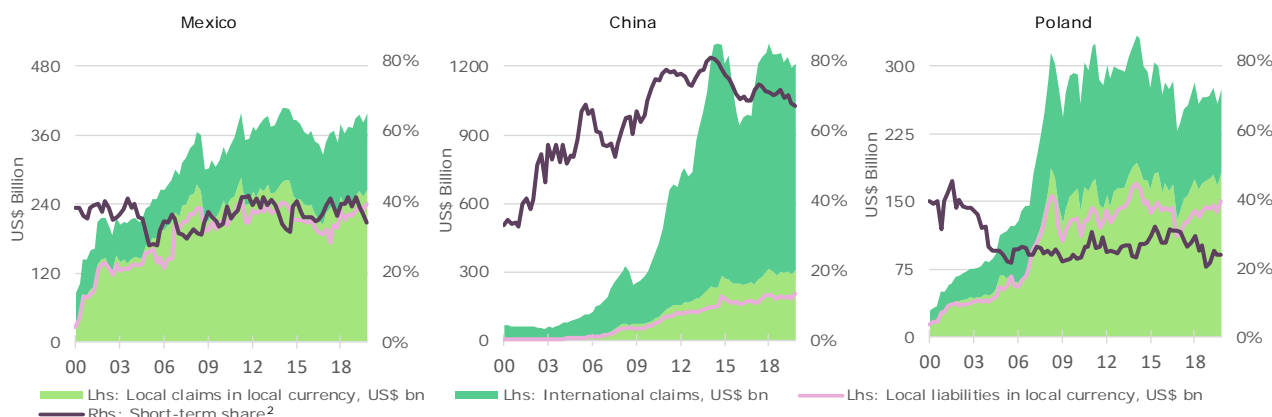




## Global banking on the eve of COVID-19: potential risks

The short-term share of credit by foreign banks, a key indicator of external vulnerability, is high for some emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) borrowers. In addition, substantial variations could be expected among national banking systems in their reactions to a global financial shock triggered by the pandemic.

Figure 1 - Foreign claims<sup>1</sup> on selected emerging markets



<sup>1</sup> Foreign claims is the sum of international claims (cross-border claims in all currencies and foreign currency claims extended locally by foreign offices) and locally extended claims in local currency.

<sup>2</sup> Share of short-term claims (maturity up to and including one year) in total international claims.

Source: BIS consolidated banking statistics on an immediate counterparty basis (Table B4).

The Great Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2007–09 showed that the stability of bank credit to EMDEs depends a lot on its composition. Both the maturity profile of the stock of foreign lending, or claims, and their types – ie international claims versus local claims in local currencies – influence how rapidly the stock of credit can contract following a shock. At the same time, borrowers are more likely to need cash during such periods, and thus draw on existing credit lines, resulting in an expansion of the stock of claims.

The BIS international banking statistics (IBS) can shed light on which EMDEs were potentially more vulnerable at end-2019, on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was considerable heterogeneity across borrower countries (Figure 1). International claims accounted for the majority of banks' total foreign lending to borrowers in emerging Asia (64%). By contrast, more than half (57%) of banks' foreign claims on those in Latin America were local claims in local currencies, reflecting operational requirements imposed by both host- and home- country supervisory authorities. Local claims in local currencies also accounted for the majority (60%) of foreign claims on emerging Europe.

Looking at the maturity profile, total short-term claims (those with a remaining maturity of one year or less) amounted to roughly 50% of total international claims. Lending to key economies in emerging Asia have tended to have a higher share of short-term maturities.

Corporate borrowers in EMDEs that have faced severe revenue shortages are now likely to tap their credit lines in order to secure working capital. Such a drawdown would have an expansionary effect on global banking credit, since undisbursed credit commitments were on the order of 10–15% of total claims at end-2019.

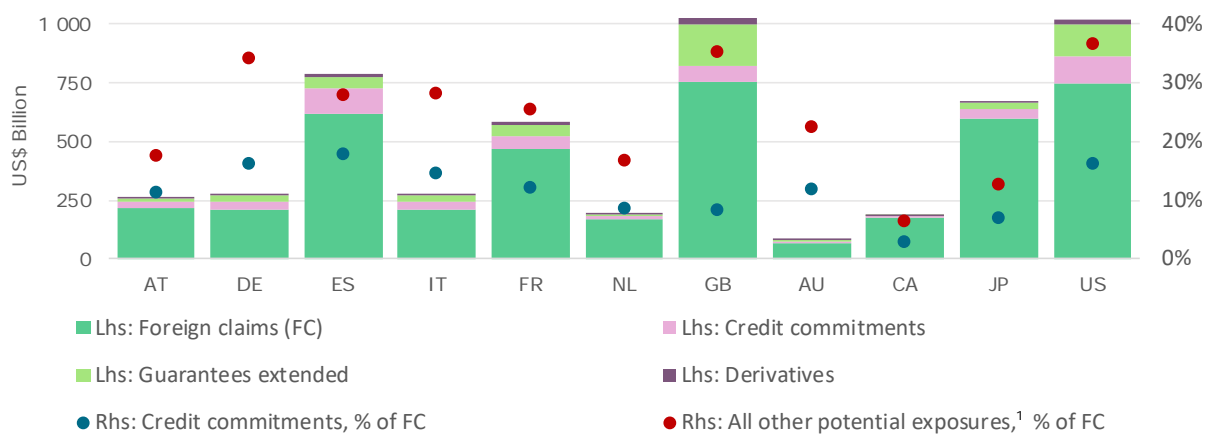
The IBS also shed light on the creditor perspective, that is on the consolidated exposures of national banking systems on borrowing regions. For most banking systems, claims on EMDEs represent a relatively small share (20% on average at end-2019) of their total foreign claims, but there are important exceptions. Moreover, banking systems that provide the bulk of their foreign credit as international rather than local claims, and with a shorter maturity profile, arguably have greater scope to scale back their overall credit in times of stress.

There are indeed notable differences across reporting banking systems. For example, French, Japanese, UK and US banks, all with total foreign claims on EMDEs in excess of \$450 billion, booked close to or less than 50% of their positions locally in the borrower country. On top of this, US and UK banks' international claims tend to have shorter maturities.

Lastly, the BIS statistics also track banks' full credit exposures on a guarantor basis, that is, including off-

balance sheet and other potential exposures such as undisbursed credit commitments, credit guarantees and derivatives. End-2019 data show that these can be substantial (Figure 2). The complex and varied structure of banks' credit to EMDEs suggests that there is likely to be heterogeneity among national banking systems in their reactions to the global financial shock triggered by the pandemic.

Figure 2 - Foreign claims and other potential exposures to EMDEs (as of December 2019)



<sup>1</sup> Refers to the sum of credit commitments, guarantees extended and derivatives.  
 Source: Consolidated banking statistics on a guarantor basis.

Sources:

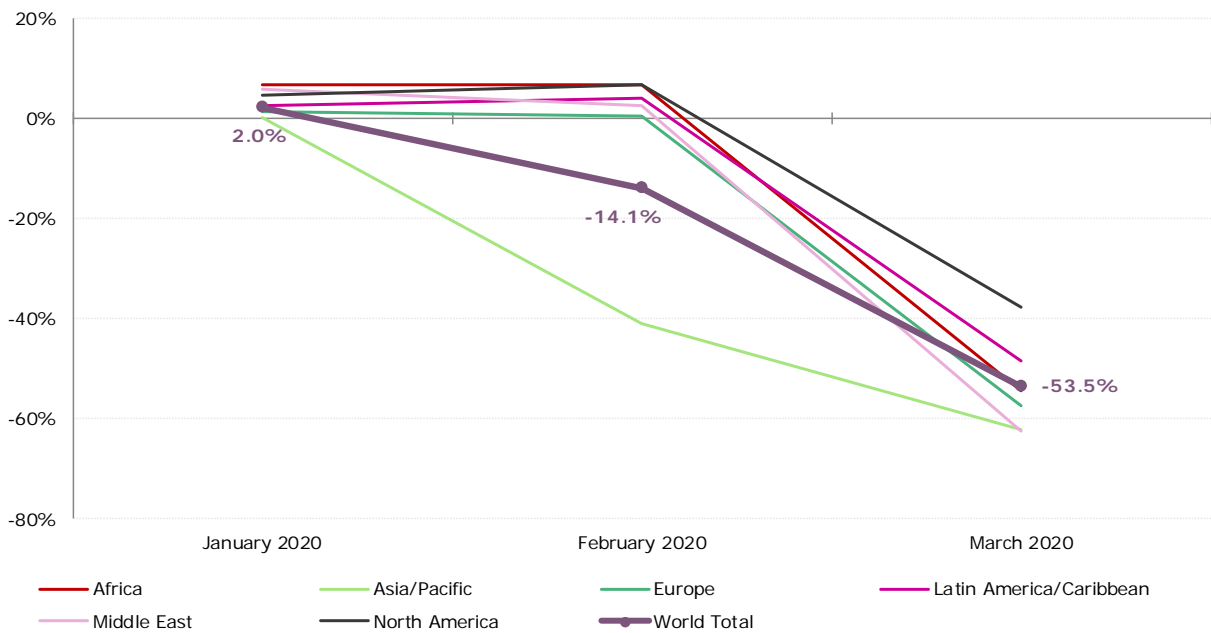
- BIS international banking statistics at end-December 2019, [BIS Statistical release](#), 22 April 2020.



## Aviation industry facing deepest crisis ever in history

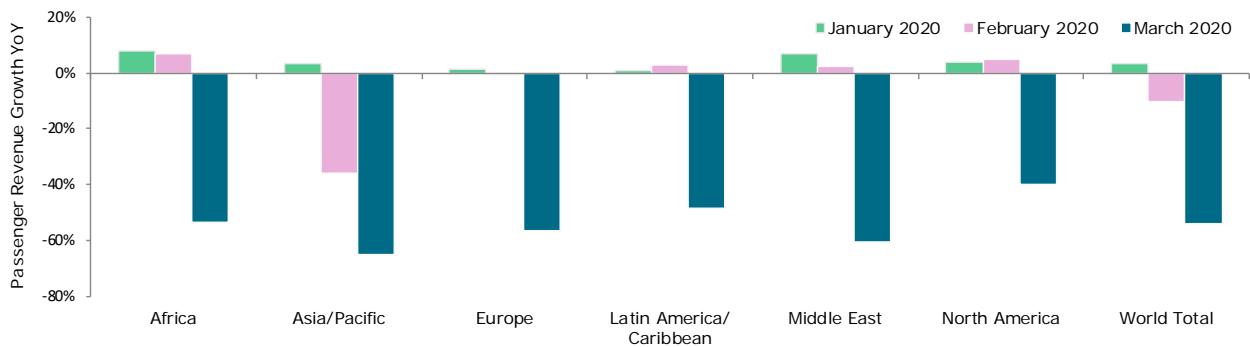
The aviation industry bears the weight of the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak heavier than other industries as its “raison d’être” is the transport of people and goods all across the globe for travel, tourism, business and trade.

**Air traffic demand collapses** (passenger growth, YoY)



Source: ICAO ADS-B operational data

**Passenger revenue plummets** (by region)



Source: ICAO air transport statistics and estimates

The prospects of aviation worldwide have taken a dramatic turn for the worse with rapid and drastic declines in air travel demand amplified by stringent travel restrictions. With around 90% of fleet being grounded and travel demand hitting nearly zero, the traffic reduction has far exceeded the level observed in events such as SARS and terror attacks of 11 September 2001, putting the aviation industry under extreme strain. And the outlook for April is expected to further deteriorate.

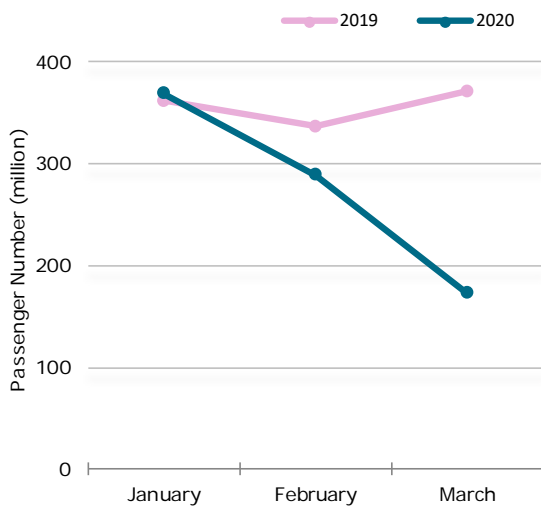
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)’s economic impact analysis of COVID-19 on aviation indicates that in the month of March when the pandemic was declared on 11th, 38% of seats capacity were cut globally compared to the same period of 2019. Passenger numbers plunged by 54% or 198 million, due to dampened load factor. Asia/Pacific recorded the biggest fall in passenger numbers by 85 million, followed by Europe and North America, by 50 and 35 million, respectively. Air cargo traffic dropped

19% in March, offsetting by the recent increasing demand of cargo freighters in transporting medical supplies.

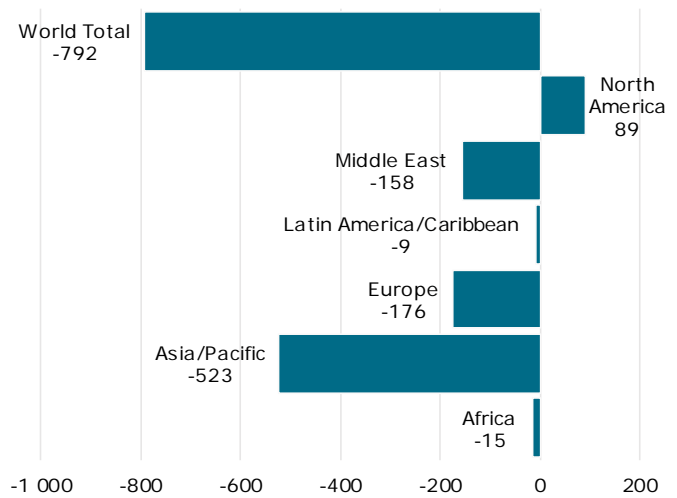
The slump in air traffic has further caused severe financial pressure on all stakeholders in the aviation sector. Only in March, airlines are estimated to lose USD 28 billion in revenues, and airports and air navigation service providers have lost around USD 8 billion and USD 824 million, respectively.

Aviation stimulates global economies through employment, trade and tourism. It also plays an instrumental role as a worldwide enabler in times of crisis, through its vast network and connectivity, vital air cargo services and support of supply chains. It is of utmost priority to uphold the aviation industry's financial and functional operability in order for it to deliver on its value in overcoming the consequences of this unprecedented crisis.

Monthly passenger traffic (compared to 2019)



Decline in air cargo volume - March 2020 (thousand tonnes)



Sources:

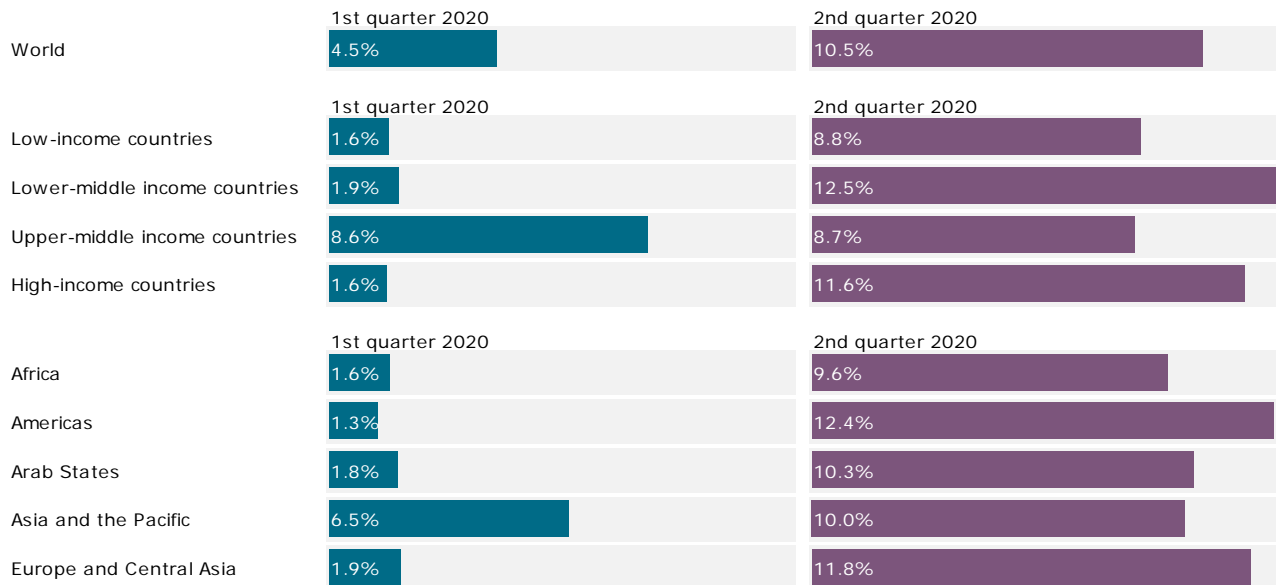
- ICAO Air Transport Statistics, ADS-B, FlightAware
- ICAO Economic Impact Analysis of COVID-19 on Aviation



## Unprecedented shock to labour markets with biggest employment decline since WWII

Halt in activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic had an immediate and sweeping impact on employment. Global hours worked could drop by 10.5 per cent this quarter, equivalent to 305 million full-time workers with a 48-hour workweek.

### Estimated drop in aggregate working hours



Source: ILO now casting model.

In response to the exponential rise in COVID-19 infections, many countries across regions are implementing lockdowns, travel restrictions, social distancing policies, and workplace and school closures. These necessary measures aim to slow the spread of the virus, minimize lives lost and avoid catastrophic outcomes for national health systems, but they also have a sudden and drastic impact on workers and enterprises.

By the beginning of April, 81 per cent of the global workforce lived in countries with mandatory or recommended workplace closures. By April 22nd, their share had decreased to 68 per cent, mainly driven by the lifting of workplace closures in China. However, the situation has worsened elsewhere.

With a view to estimating the global employment decline this will entail, the ILO designed a new now casting model which, based on real-time economic and labour market data, predicts the drop in working hours. Its findings are far from reassuring: the total amount of

hours worked by workers around the world could drop in the current quarter by around 10.5 per cent. This is equivalent to 305 million full-time workers with a 48-hour workweek. It is the worst global crisis since the Second World War. Indeed, the drop in hours worked already outpaces that of the 2008-2009 financial crisis. Worryingly, COVID-19 is now also impacting the developing world, where capacities and resources are severely constrained.

The employment impacts of COVID-19 are deep, far-reaching and unprecedented. There is typically some delay for a drop in economic activity to translate into a drop in employment, but in the current crisis the impact on employment was immediate and sweeping, as a result of lockdowns and other measures.

The employment drop implies that numerous workers around the world are facing or will face a loss of income, in many cases leading them and their families to (deeper) poverty.

## Employment in countries with workplace closures

(As of the 22d of April 2020. Refers to countries implementing required or recommended workplace closures)

	Employed in countries with workplace closures (in millions)	Share of employed in countries with workplace closures (%)	Employers in countries with workplace closures (in millions)	Share of employers in countries with workplace closures (%)	Own-account workers in countries with workplace closures (in millions)	Share of own-account workers in countries with workplace closures (%)
World	2 259	68	71	82	740	66
Low income countries	75	25	2	31	40	27
Lower-middle income countries	1 119	98	32	100	540	97
Upper-middle income countries	502	39	19	62	115	31
High income countries	563	96	19	96	44	94
Africa	265	56	11	77	117	51
Americas	460	98	17	98	87	95
Arab States	49	89	1	76	4	69
Asia and the Pacific	1 092	57	29	71	486	65
Europe and Central Asia	393	95	13	96	45	94
World without China	2 259	88	71	93	740	84

Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2019 and The Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker.

For more information, including information on the ILO now casting model, see [ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work, Second edition](#). For information on COVID-19 and labour statistics, see [ILOSTAT](#).



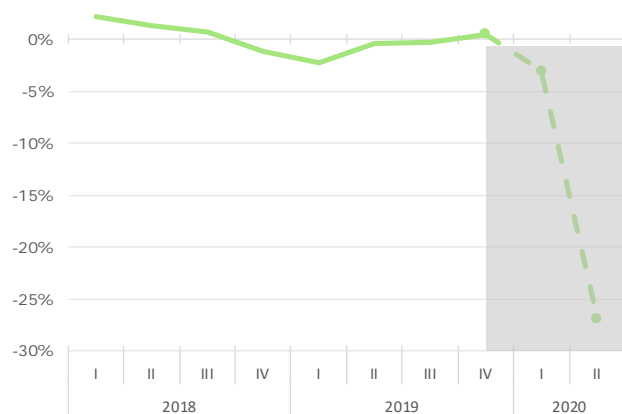
International  
Labour  
Organization

## Timely indicators signal a marked decline in global trade

UNCTAD trade nowcasts and free market commodity price index indicate that global trade values and prices have been negatively impacted since the first quarter of 2020 by the COVID-19 outbreak. The downturn is expected to accelerate during the second quarter of the year.

### Global merchandise trade values

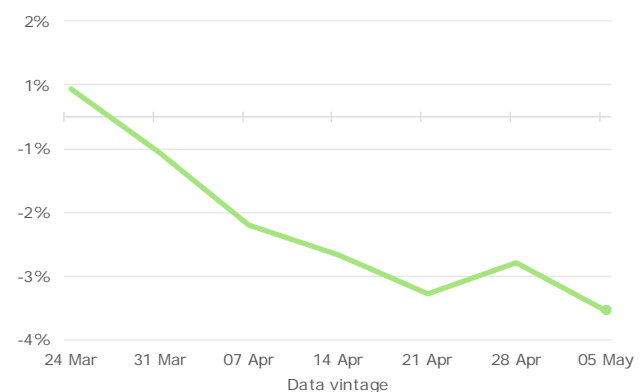
Growth rate over previous quarter, seasonally adj. series



Note: Shaded area indicates UNCTAD nowcasts

### Evolution of trade value nowcasts with new data, first quarter of 2020

Growth rate over previous quarter, seasonally adj. series



Global merchandise trade volumes and values were showing modest signs of recovery since late 2019 when the global economy was hit by the measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. UNCTAD nowcasts for global trade values point to a fall of 3.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 with respect to the previous quarter. Most of the impact of these measures, however, will affect global trade in the second quarter of the year, with an estimated quarter-on-quarter decline of 26.9 per cent.

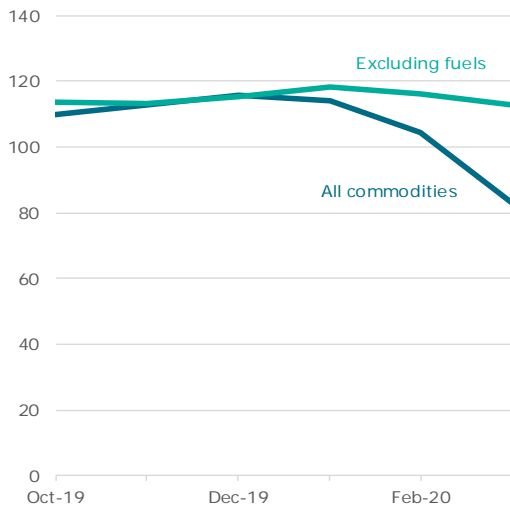
UNCTAD nowcasts incorporate a wide variety of data sources, capturing diverse determinants and indicators of trade. They are updated weekly to incorporate new data releases. The estimations above are based on data available as of 5 May 2020. The nowcasts for merchandise trade value for the first quarter of 2020 were revised downwards over almost all the last updates, reflecting increasingly deteriorating prospects with every release of new statistics. The drop in global trade nowcast for the first quarter is driven by marked decreases in related timely indicators. Since December

2019, commodity prices have been falling at an accelerated rate. UNCTAD's Free Market Commodity Price Index (FMCPI) lost 1.2 per cent of its value in January, 8.5 per cent in February and 20.4 per cent in March. Fuels were the main driver behind this development, recording a price fall of 33.2 per cent in March, while minerals, ores and metals, food and agricultural raw materials saw prices decreasing by less than 4 per cent.

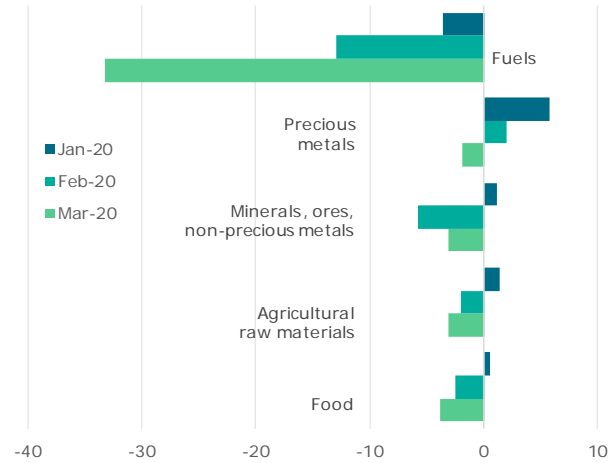
The fall of more than 20 per cent in one month is unique in the history of the FMCPI. From July to December 2008, after the outbreak of the global financial crisis, the maximum month-on-month decrease was 18.6 per cent. At that time, the descent lasted six months. The duration and overall strength of the current downward trend in commodity prices and global trade is yet uncertain.



**Free market commodity price index**  
(2015=100)



**Changes in FMCP sub-indices**  
(MoM growth rate in per cent)



*Sources and metadata:*

UNCTAD nowcasts and FMCP are based on data from different sources. For more details on the methodology and data sources, see:

- UNCTAD (2018), Free Market Commodity Price Index: Methodological Note, available at [https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/statcpbmn1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/statcpbmn1_en.pdf).
- UNCTAD (2018), Estimation of a coincident indicator for international trade and global economic activity, available at <https://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=2301>.
- UNCTAD (2020), Commodity price bulletin, March, available at <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/Commodity-Price-Bulletin.aspx>.



## Trade in medical goods

- Imports and exports of medical products totalled about \$2 trillion, including intra-EU trade, which represented approximately 5% of total world merchandise trade in 2019;
- Protective supplies used in the fight against COVID-19 attract an average tariff of 11.5% and go as high as 27% in some countries.

Country	Total imports		Medical imports	Share of total medical imports			
	Value	Share of imports of all products	Share of world imports	Medical equipment	Medical supplies	Medicines	Personal protective products
	(US\$ billion)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
World	1 011.3	6	100	14	17	56	13
1. United States	193.1	8	19	16	16	59	10
2. Germany	86.7	7	9	12	18	57	13
3. China	65.0	3	6	23	15	46	16
4. Belgium	56.6	13	6	8	12	75	5
5. Netherlands	52.7	8	5	16	20	55	8
6. Japan	44.8	6	4	16	16	56	13
7. United Kingdom	41.1	6	4	11	15	62	12
8. France	40.5	6	4	12	20	53	15
9. Italy	37.1	8	4	9	15	66	9
10. Switzerland	36.9	13	4	6	9	80	5

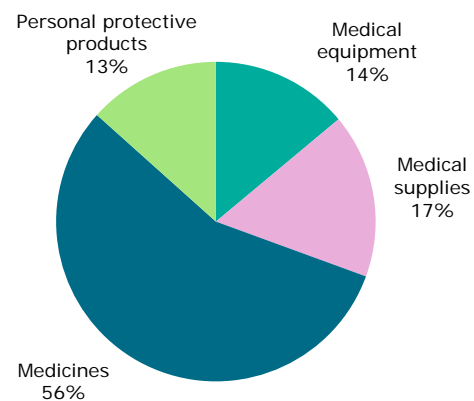
The report of the WTO Secretariat traces trade flows of products such as personal protective products, hospital and laboratory supplies, medicines and medical technology while providing information on their respective tariffs.

Trade in medical products which have been described as critical and in severe shortage during the COVID-19 crisis<sup>1</sup> totalled about US\$ 597 billion in 2019,<sup>2</sup> accounting for 1.7% of total world merchandise trade. The ten largest supplying economies accounted for almost three-quarters of total world exports of the products while the ten largest buyers accounted for roughly two-thirds of world imports.

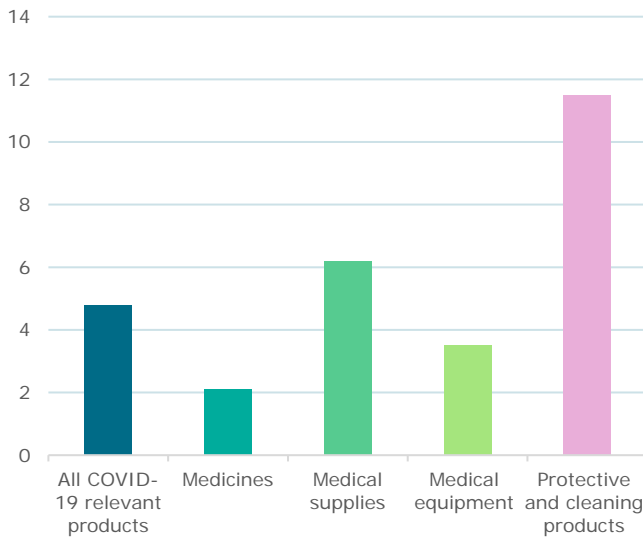
Commitments made under various WTO negotiations and agreements have helped slash import tariffs on these products and improve market access, with the average tariff on COVID-19 medical products standing at 4.8%, lower than the 7.6% average tariff for non-agricultural products in general. The statistics show that 70% of 164 WTO members impose a tariff of 5% or

lower on medical products. Among them, four members do not levy any tariffs at all: Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Macao, China; and Singapore. The report, however, also identifies markets where tariffs remain high. Tariffs on face masks, for example, can be as high as 55% in some countries.

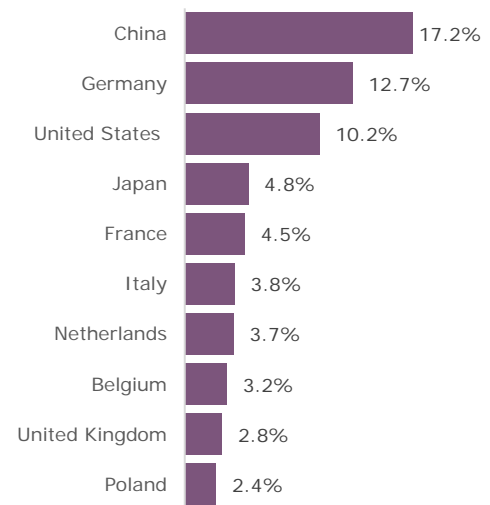
2019 Total imports of medical products: \$1.01 Trillion



Average MFN applied duty of medical goods and its categories



Share of top 10 exporters of personal protective products



WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo and WCO Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriya declared

*“We are [...] willing to establish a coordinated approach in support of initiatives that facilitate cross-border trade in goods, in particular those key to combat COVID-19. This would allow that essential goods can quickly reach those most in need, including in least developed and land-locked countries.”*

- The full report: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/rese\\_03apr20\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/rese_03apr20_e.pdf)
- Summary table: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/medical\\_good\\_annexes\\_e.xlsx](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/medical_good_annexes_e.xlsx)
- WTO COVID-19 page: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/covid19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm)

**Note:**

<sup>1</sup> Those products include: computer tomography apparatus; disinfectants/ sterilization products; face masks; gloves; hand soap and sanitizer; patient monitors and pulse oximeters; protective spectacles and visors; sterilizers; syringes; thermometers; ultrasonic scanning apparatus; ventilators, oxygen mask; X-ray equipment; other medical devices. They are frequently mentioned by countries, international organizations and in news reports as the goods in short supply.

<sup>2</sup> The values of imports and exports in this study are calculated at HS 6-digit subheading level. Those subheadings could cover products that are for non-medical use.

**Data sources:**

- WTO, Integrated Database and Consolidated Tariff Schedules database.
- World Tariff Profiles, 2019, UN COMTRADE, Trade Data Monitor for 2019 initial trade estimates. Data.WTO.ORG for trade balance data on manufactured goods.

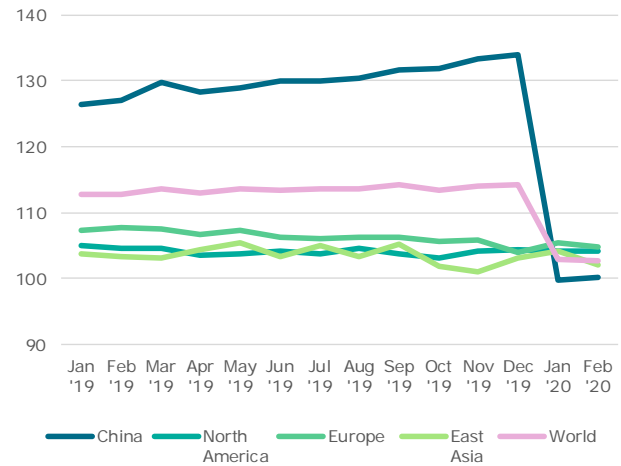
## Further decline in global manufacturing production

The global manufacturing growth which was already decelerating in 2019 due to the trade tensions among dominant economies is expected to further decline due to economic disruptions triggered by COVID-19.

Industrial production index, base year 2015

	China	North America	Europe	East Asia	World
Jan '19	126.4	105.0	107.4	103.8	112.8
Feb '19	126.9	104.5	107.7	103.3	112.8
Mar '19	129.7	104.5	107.6	103.1	113.7
Apr '19	128.3	103.6	106.6	104.3	113.0
May '19	128.9	103.8	107.3	105.5	113.6
Jun '19	130.0	104.3	106.3	103.4	113.5
Jul '19	129.9	103.9	106.1	105.1	113.6
Aug '19	130.5	104.5	106.2	103.4	113.7
Sep '19	131.7	103.9	106.2	105.2	114.2
Oct '19	131.8	103.2	105.6	102.0	113.4
Nov '19	133.4	104.2	105.8	101.0	114.1
Dec '19	134.0	104.3	104.0	103.0	114.2
Jan '20	99.8	104.2	105.5	104.3	103.0
Feb '20	100.3	104.2	104.9	102.0	102.6

Manufacturing output



This preliminary data is based on observed index numbers of industrial production (base year 2015) collected by UNIDO Statistics Division. The data coverage is limited to country groups affected by social and economic lockdowns in early months of COVID-19.

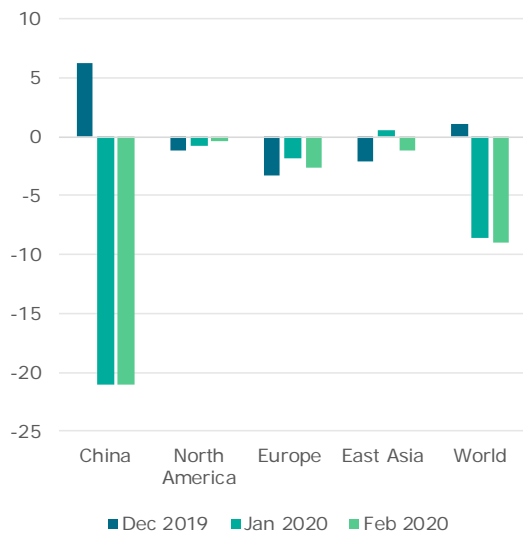
Throughout the year 2019, world manufacturing was already experiencing a consistent decline in production growth (see latest [quarterly report on Manufacturing Production](#)). Especially industrialized countries registered a noticeable contraction of production. China still showed high quarterly growth rates of more than 5 per cent at the end of the year.

For the first two months of 2020, China showed a sharp reduction of output, which can be explained by the celebrations of the Chinese New Year at the end of January 2020 as well as the beginning of the lockdown of Wuhan and other regions to contain the virus at the same time. It remains to be seen, how fast China will catch up the losses made during the first quarter of 2020.

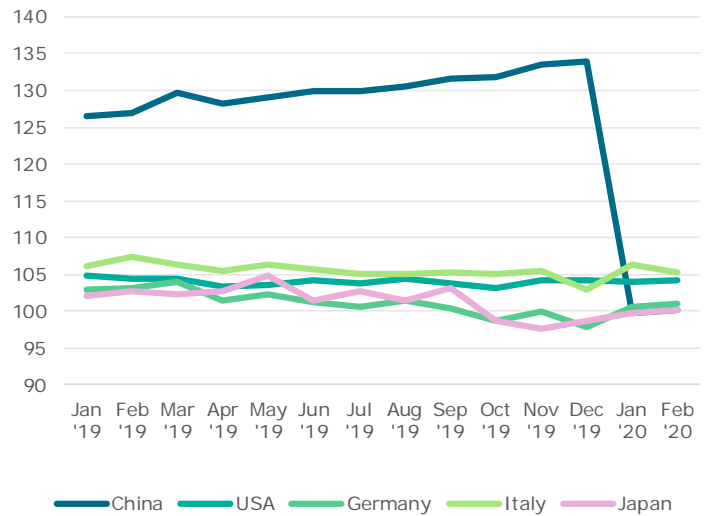
For industrialized countries, aggregated to the country groups North America, Europe and East Asia, direct

impacts of COVID-19 cannot be measured with the latest data of February 2019 as most of the countries started the economical restrictions in March. Nevertheless, these countries started the year 2020 with further decreases of manufacturing production which will be reinforced by largely COVID-19 measures made by the countries so far. The aggregate for the world manufacturing production also shows a sharp decline caused mainly by large share of China in global manufacturing. As other countries will be included global manufacturing growth is expected to drop further.

**Monthly growth rates of Manufacturing**  
Output compared to previous year



**Production output of countries with the highest shares**



For more information, see World Manufacturing Production (Report):

<https://stat.unido.org/content/publications/world-manufacturing-production>

Methodology: [https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/Methodology\\_of\\_the\\_Quarterly\\_Report\\_0.pdf](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/Methodology_of_the_Quarterly_Report_0.pdf)

Preliminary data on index numbers (base 2015) are derived from national statistical sources. In case of missing seasonal adjusted data, UNIDO conducts seasonal adjustment where appropriate. Seasonal adjustments are made to filter out any fluctuations or calendar effects within time series shifts.

The aggregates for World, North America, Europe and East Asia are calculated with weights referring to the base year 2015. Furthermore, only available country data is taken into account for calculating the aggregates. The aggregate for the world manufacturing output considers a share of 78 per cent of all countries due to data availability. The dataset will be regularly updated if further information will become available.

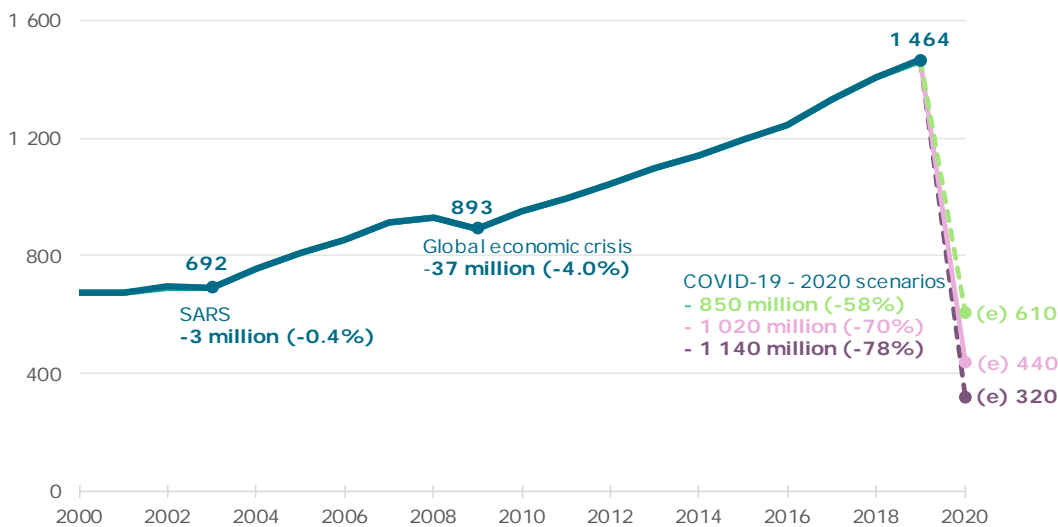


UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

## Tourism facing an unprecedented challenge

In an unprecedented crisis to the tourism sector, possible scenarios point to declines of 60% to 80% in international tourist arrivals for the year, depending on the speed of the containment and the duration of travel restrictions and shutdown of borders. Additionally, the availability of tourism-related statistical data for 2020 will likely be impacted.

Figure 1 - 2020 forecast - international tourist arrivals (million)



Source: UNWTO

The above are not forecasts. They are scenarios based on the possible opening of national borders and lifting of travel restrictions in July, Sept. and Dec. 2020 respectively

Closure of borders, travel bans and quarantine measures in many countries directly affect the tourism sector arguably like no other.

After increasing almost uninterruptedly and more than doubling since 2000, UNWTO expects international arrivals in 2020 to decrease by 60 to 80 percent with respect to 2019, depending on when travel restrictions are lifted. Available data show that arrivals in the month of March dropped by 60 percent with respect to the same month in 2019.

Many of the countries most significantly affected by the health emergency are key players in the global tourism ecosystem, either as destinations, source markets or both. Countries with the highest number of reported cases account for about 55 and 68 percent of global inbound and outbound tourism expenditure, respectively (see Table 1). The effects of the crisis on these economies will spill out to other countries, and

the impact will be particularly critical on territories that are heavily dependent on international tourism.

Figure 2 shows those countries or territories where inbound tourism expenditure represents more than a quarter of total GDP. These developing economies are thus more vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19, as they depend greatly on inbound tourism, especially from those countries that at the moment are most directly affected by the pandemic.

The current situation also affects the data needs and the capacity to deliver in the aftermath of the crisis. While countries are making great efforts in filling the data gaps, the continuity of important sources can be affected, including household, border and accommodation establishments surveys. In this context, it is important for those affected countries to explore alternative data sources and collaborate with industry data partners to fill the gaps.

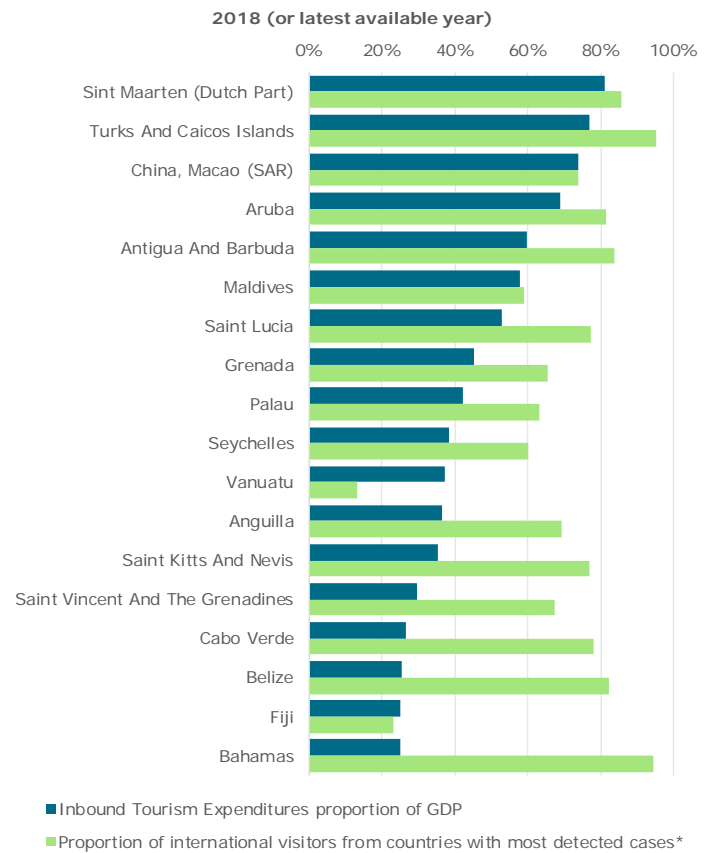
**Table 1 - Proportion of global tourism inbound and outbound expenditure of countries with most reported COVID-19 cases\***

Country	2018	
	Inbound Expenditure	Outbound Expenditure
United States Of America	18%	13%
Spain	6%	2%
Italy	4%	3%
Germany	4%	7%
China	3%	20%
France	5%	4%
Iran, Islamic Republic Of	0%	1%
United Kingdom	3%	5%
Turkey	3%	0%
Belgium	1%	1%
Switzerland	1%	1%
Netherlands	2%	2%
Canada	2%	2%
Austria	2%	1%
Portugal	2%	0%
Brazil	0%	2%
Korea, Republic Of	1%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>68%</b>

\* Countries with more than 10,000 reported COVID-19 cases as of 8 April 2020, WHO.

In decreasing order by total number of reported cases.

**Figure 2 - Countries or territories where international inbound tourism expenditure represents more than a quarter of total GDP, and their dependence on tourist arrivals from countries with most reported COVID-19 cases\***



\* Countries with more than 10,000 reported COVID-19 cases as of 8 April 2020, WHO.

**Methodological Notes to UNWTO Tourism Statistics Database:**

- [https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-02/methodological\\_notes\\_2020.pdf](https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-02/methodological_notes_2020.pdf)

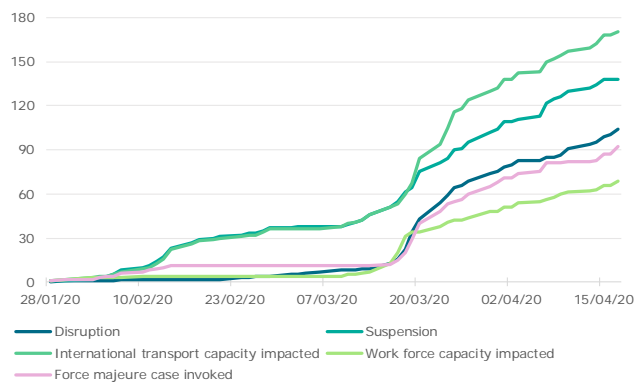
**Sources:**

- UNWTO statistical database available through the UNWTO E-library and Dashboard:
  - <https://www.e-unwto.org/>
  - <https://www.unwto.org/unwto-tourism-dashboard>
- UNWTO COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-covid-19>
- WHO Situation Reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

## Disruption of the international postal supply chain

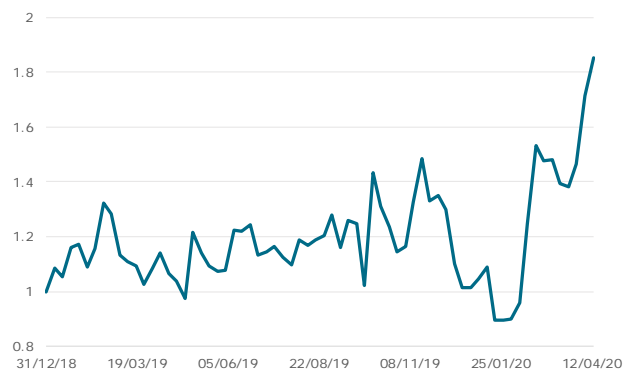
- Almost one in two international mail items is « stranded »
- International volumes are down by 23% due to the crisis
- Customs clearance times have increased by a factor of 32

**Figure 1 - Number of announcements to the UPU Emergency Information System**  
(Cumulative number of EmIS messages)



Source: UPU Emergency Information System(EmIS) messages.  
Note: Daily cumulative sum of announcements at global level.

**Figure 2 - Ratio of international outbound messages to international inbound messages**  
(Outbound-Inbound ratio of Edi messages)



Source: UPU big-data platform EMSEVT3 messages.  
Note: Weekly ratio between announced dispatch and reception of mail. Electronic Data Interchange(EDI)messages at the office of exchange level (EMC/EMD).

Postal operators around the world have been facing hurdles in providing their traditional services due to the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, the sanitary measures taken by governments have both restricted the access to labor (e.g. social distancing) and transportation services (e.g. closure of airports). At the same time, in countries experiencing important economic shutdowns, postal services have been deemed vital and continue to function in contrast to many other businesses.

As the UN agency in charge of coordinating cross-border postal activity, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) monitors international mail in real time through its big-data platform. Through its Emergency Information System (EmIS), it also collects essential information on the capacity of postal operators to supply services.

As of April 20, 2020, 124 countries have submitted EmIS messages to announce disruptions in their operations. As shown in Figure 1, the international transport capacity has been the most impacted area,

with over 170 EmIS messages sent to the UPU since the beginning of the crisis.

The disruption of air-routes has eventually impacted the delivery of many postal items. Figure 2 leverages postal big- data by exploiting the information captured through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) messages embedded in bar-coded mail items. By calculating the ratio between items ready to be exported and items received by the importing country, one can measure the level of disruption in the international supply chain. In normal times, the ratio is slightly above one, as in a given week almost every exported item is received by the importing country. Since February 2020, the ratio has climbed and as of April 2020, for every 1.8 weekly item exported, only one is notified as received.

Problems related to the availability of labor (69 EmIS announcements) have also lengthened the clearance of items through customs, with bar-coded parcels showing an increase from an average of 2 hours to over 64 hours.



Overall, even if domestically the demand for deliveries and online sales has surged, international mail has been decreasing. Estimates gathered from high-frequency data indicate that the drop of international mail due to

the emergence of the pandemic is 23%. This is just one of the symptoms of the extent to which COVID-19 has impacted international economic flows.

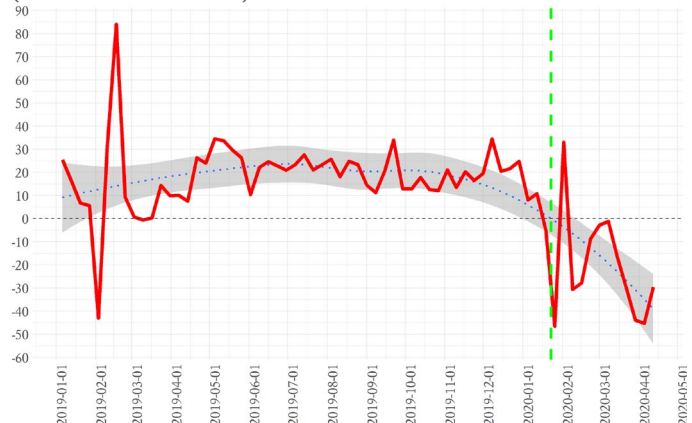
**Table 1 Postal disruption during the COVID-19 outbreak**

Number of EmIS announcements of a disruption in the supply of postal services	138
Number of EmIS announcements of a disruption of international mail flows	170
Stranded mail ratio (outbound messages / inbound messages)	1.85 (+70% compared to April 2019)
Drop in international postal volumes due to the crisis (items, all mail classes)	-23%
Average increase in customs clearance time (inbound parcels)	+97 % (from 2 to 64 hours)

Sources: UPU big-data platform. UPU EmIS messages. UPU Quality Control System (QSC).

Notes: Drop in volumes obtained by comparing the period going from the January 23, 2020 to April 19, 2020 to the period January 23, 2019 to April 19, 2019.

**Figure 3 - Year-on-Year weekly growth rates, all mail classes (international mail items)**



Sources: UPU big-data platform.

Notes:

- The dotted line reflects the trend.
- The dashed vertical line indicates the closure of Wuhan international airport.
- The red curve depicts year-on-year growth rates.
- The spikes in 2019 coincide with seasonal Holiday.

*Sources and references:*

- UPU Emergency Information System (EmIS).
- UPU Quality Control System.
- UPU official statistics are freely available in the following platform: <http://www.upu.int/en/resources/postal-statistics/query-the-database.html>
- UPU postal big data is a collection of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) messages sent between postal operators, customs and airlines. The EDI messages are the result of the implementation of UPU standards. Several guides on standards are available in the UPU website <http://www.upu.int/en/activities/standards/standards-documents.html>.
- A description on how to transform EDIs into bilateral postal flows and supply chain indicators is available in the following two papers:
- Anson, J, Boffa, M, Helble, M. Consumer arbitrage in cross-border e-commerce. Rev Int Econ. 2019; 27: 1234–1251. <https://doi.org/10.1111/roie.12424>
- Ansón, J, Arvis, J-F, Boffa, M, Helble, M, Shepherd, B. Time, uncertainty and trade flows. World Econ. 2020; 00: 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/twec.12942>

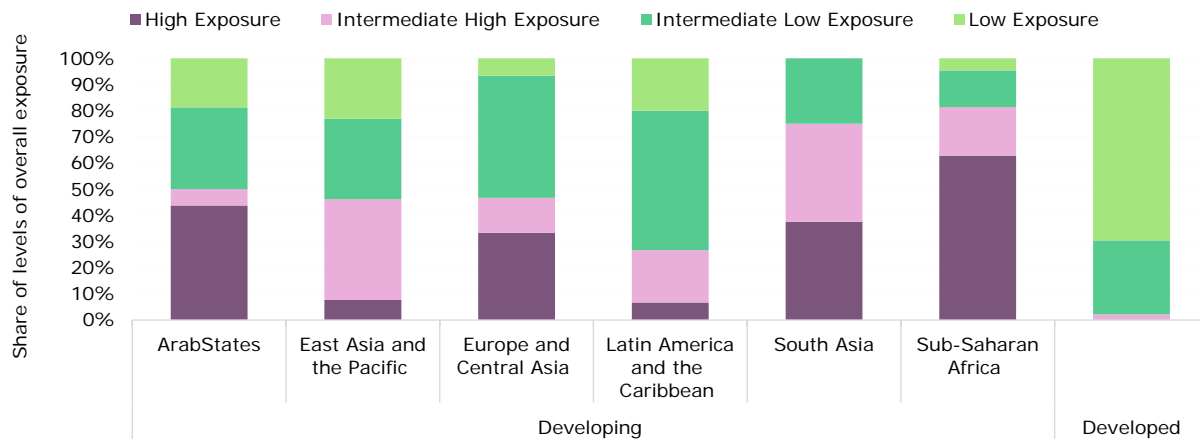
# SOCIAL IMPACT



## Agriculture & food

Low-income countries prone to rises in the triple burden of malnutrition due to pandemic-induced income shocks, while disruptions to global supply chains and labour shortages pose uncertainties for agricultural production.

Developing countries have a higher degree of exposure to demand-side risk



The FAO assembled a compendium of data to empirically assess and identify the pandemic's primary channels of transmission to food and agriculture sectors. The appraisal quantified the potential impacts on agricultural input markets, trade and food consumption, which was supplemented by a qualitative evaluation of the effects of credit markets, energy markets and possible disruptions in supply chains. This analysis enabled FAO to create a taxonomy of countries based on their degree of exposure to pandemic-induced shocks. Two key findings emerged from this assessment: demand-sided risks are mostly related with low-income countries, whilst supply-sided risks are more prevalent in high-income countries.

Structural factors, such as low incomes and limited access to public safety nets, render populations in low-income countries more susceptible to demand-sided effects of the pandemic. Downturns in economic growth and associated income contractions have raised the likelihood of an increase in undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among these populations, underpinned by their high propensity to adversely change dietary intakes in response to income shocks. Such effects were found to be more likely to occur in sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis further revealed heightened demand-sided risks for countries that rely

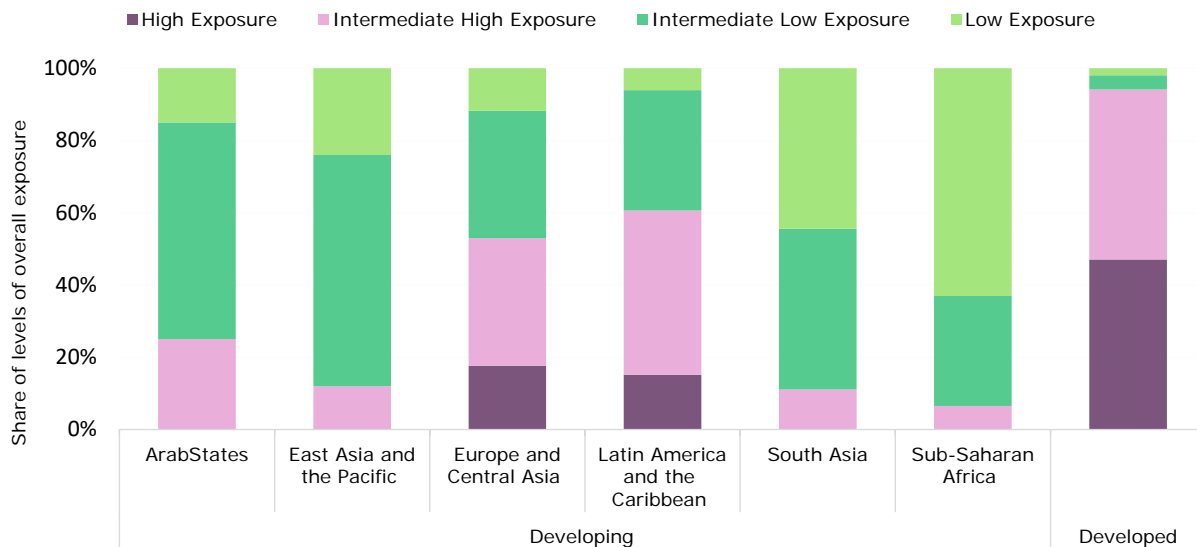
on food imports and are fiscally dependent on exports of raw commodities, such as oil, prices of which collapsed precipitously with the pandemic. This situation is particularly applicable to countries in the Middle East and North Africa, where disruptions in food supplies and a shrinkage in revenue would have twofold impacts. There are however potentially mitigating effects arising from the pandemic, including lower import costs for foods due to declining international prices, that may transmit to the domestic level and ease access constraints for vulnerable consumers.

By contrast, FAO's analysis showed that countries in the higher-income brackets are more likely to face disruptions stemming from the supply side, given the high integration in global supply chains and capital-intensive agricultural systems. Agricultural production in many European countries and in North America, rely on global supply chains to access agricultural inputs and to market their outputs, which in turn many countries rely on. Logistic disruptions can curtail the supply of intermediate inputs, including fertilisers, and compromise crop production in the short term. Capital-intensive systems are also more exposed to disruptions in credit markets. Increases in borrowing rates observed in many middle-income countries are likely to raise production costs amid a fall in food commodity

prices, increasing the vulnerability of farm incomes. As with the demand side, there are also concurrent countering effects associated with the pandemic that may diminish supply side risks, including lower energy prices that can reduce production costs.

The agriculture sector in most countries are also exposed to labour shortages, but particularly in labour-intensive low-income countries, where subsistence farming systems prevail and therefore labour shortages would also have repercussions for food security.

### Developed countries have a higher degree of exposure to supply-side risks



More information available at:

- <http://www.fao.org/home/en>
- <http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/en/>

Data sources:

- J. Schmidhuber, J. Pound, B. Qiao. 2020. COVID-19: Channels of transmission to food and agriculture. FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8430en>
- FAO. FAOSTAT. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home>
- World Bank. International Comparison Program, 2011. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp#5>
- Economic Research Service. USDA. Commodity and Food Elasticities database <https://data.ers.usda.gov/reports.aspx?ID=17825>
- National accounts

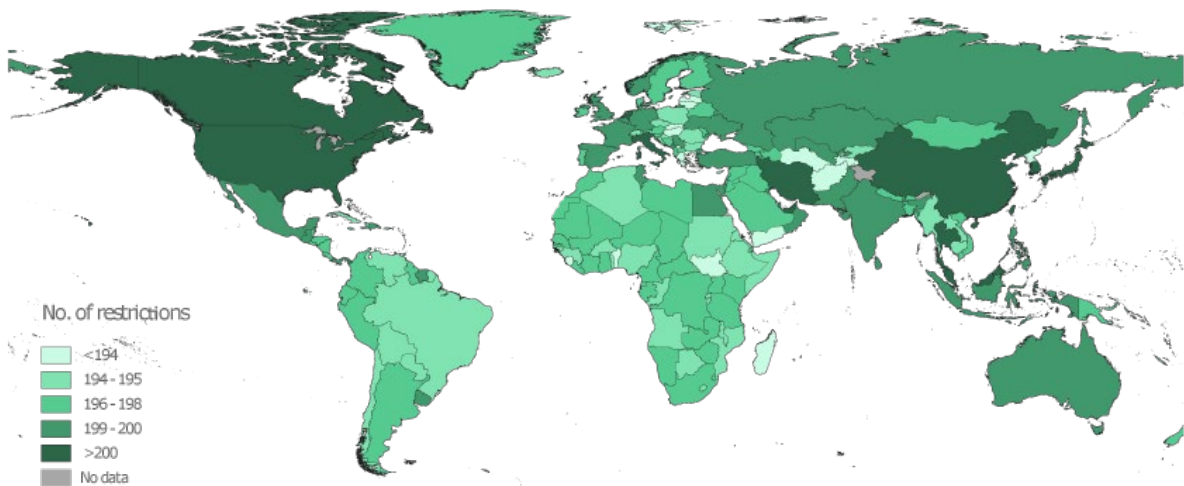


Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## Mobility impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused global mobility to come to a near standstill with border closures, air travel suspensions and complex mobility restrictions. Forcibly displaced and other migrant populations are one of the first to confront the harsh impacts of this crisis.

Global Mobility Impacts of COVID-19: International Organization for Migration, April 2020



Source: IATA & Official CTAs websites

The current outbreak of COVID-19 has drastically changed global mobility in complex and unprecedented ways. To better understand this, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** has developed a global mobility database and online portal to map the impacts on human mobility, across global, regional and country levels.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has developed a **COVID-19 Travel Restriction Monitoring** database. The database provides daily reporting on the rapidly changing travel restrictions being imposed in response to the pandemic.

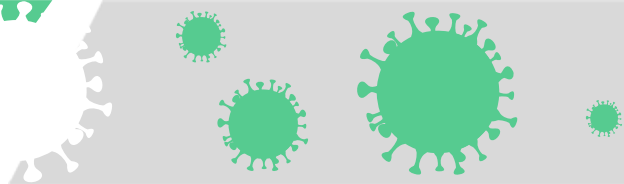
For example, on 10 March 2020, IOM recorded **5 430** restrictions in the database imposed by **105** countries, territories, and areas and by 23 March there were **33 712** restrictions imposed by **164** countries, territories, and areas in the data, highlighting the unprecedented rate and scale of the impact on mobility around the world.

The IOM platform maps and analyzes the different countries, territories and areas that are imposing restrictions, as well as those that are receiving restrictions. IOM has also incorporated an analysis of exceptions to these restrictions such as repatriations, the mobility of humanitarian and medical experts and

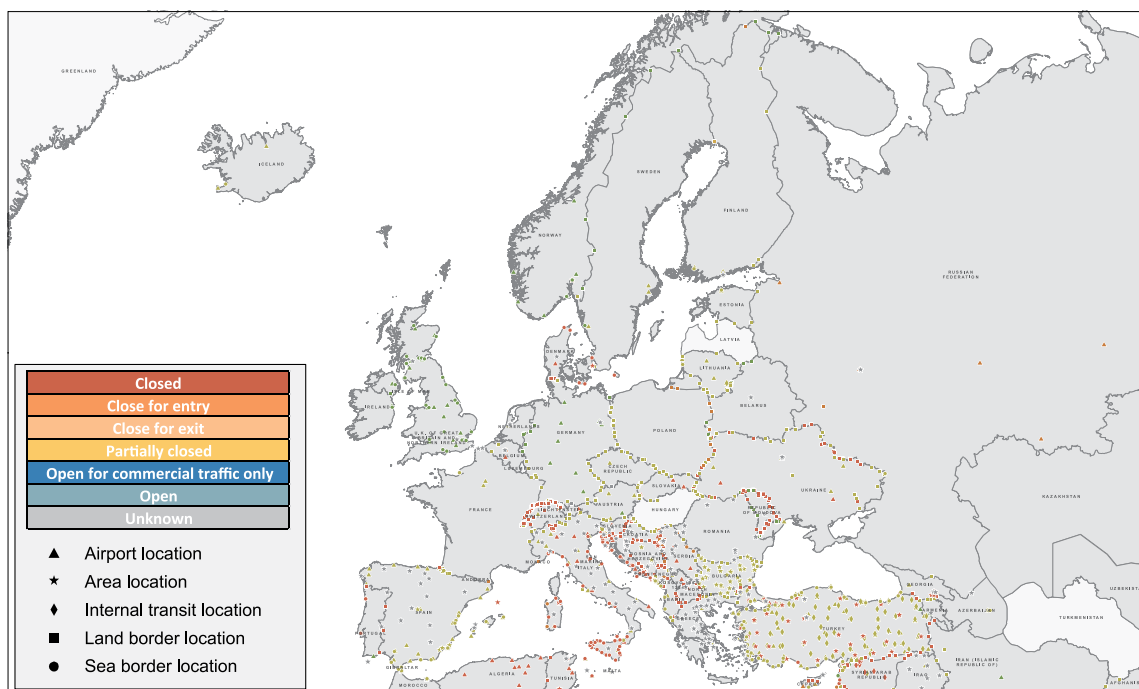
airline to support in capturing as full an extent as possible in the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 global mobility context. This has been visualised in an interactive travel restriction matrix to easily see the current status of travel restrictions.

To elucidate the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on displaced and vulnerable populations in camps and camp-like settings and mobile populations who may now be stranded owing to COVID-19 related mobility restrictions, IOM at country, regional and global level is adapting and seeking innovative ways to collect and process information to support and inform the delivery of context specific assistance to meet the needs faced by migrants and mobile populations. Connectivity maps using IOM's DTM's Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) show cross-border population mobility trends within and between certain areas to help inform public health preparedness and response strategies in targeted areas. These maps highlight traditional migration routes that could be at risk of infection.

As the global mobility context continues to evolve rapidly, DTM remains flexible and adaptive, working with existing and new partners tailoring existing tools or developing new tools to better analyze the changing dynamics.



Mapping the status of entry and exit points by Country/Territory/Area as a result of travel restrictions  
(Locations assessment coverage as of 19 Apr. 2020)



Source: IATA, IOM

More information available at:

- <https://migration.iom.int/>



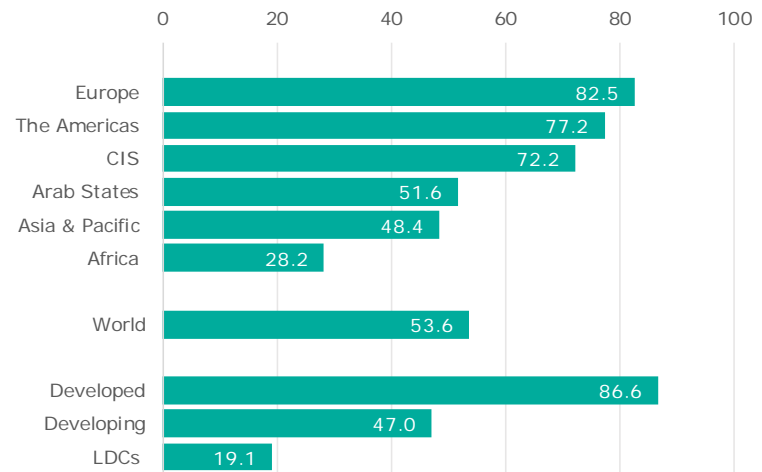
International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

## Developing countries less equipped to use ICTs to minimise disruption caused by coronavirus

Older age groups also worse placed

Percentage of households with Internet access / a computer at home / Percentage of individuals using the Internet by region and development status, 2019\*

2019 Estimates	Internet access at home	Computer at home
Europe	86.5	78.0
The Americas	71.8	65.7
CIS	74.2	66.3
Arab States	57.1	51.9
Asia & Pacific	50.9	43.5
Africa	17.8	10.7
World	57.0	49.7
Developed	87.0	82.3
Developing	46.7	38.5
LDCs	11.8	9.5



\* ITU estimates

Since the current outbreak of COVID-19 emerged, many individuals and households are using Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to minimise the disruption and circumvent some of the obstacles they face in getting on with their daily lives.

For example, many people have resorted to using the Internet to work from home, to order essential items for home delivery, or to continue their children's learning<sup>1</sup>.

Some of the ICT-related data that is beginning to emerge reveals the scale of the profound changes that are impacting people's lives around the world. For example, data released by Google from users of their maps service identifies large changes to people's daily movements between home and places of work or recreation<sup>2</sup>.

However, for people to be able to take advantage of the empowering opportunities offered by ICTs, one thing they need is a sufficient level of access to be able to do so.

ITU estimates that over 53% of the world's population used the Internet in 2019, up from under 17% in 2005. However, the proportion of people using the Internet is not distributed evenly across the globe: The figure was more than 82% in Europe, but only just over 28% in Africa in that year. In Least Developed Countries

(LDCs), only around 19% of individuals used the Internet in 2019.

One major caveat with these figures is that not all Internet users will have used the Internet from their home, with some using the Internet from work or school, for example. So although 2019 figures serve as a baseline, it is unclear what the figures would be during the lockdown periods in 2020.

Considering households, it is estimated that 57% of households have Internet access. Household Internet access is fairly ubiquitous in developed countries (87% of households) and in the region of Europe (86.5%), but it's much lower in LDCs (11.8%) and in the Africa region (17.8%).

Those households having Internet access may not necessarily have a computer with which to use it for performing detailed tasks: Just 9.5% of households in LDCs compared to 82.3% in developing countries.

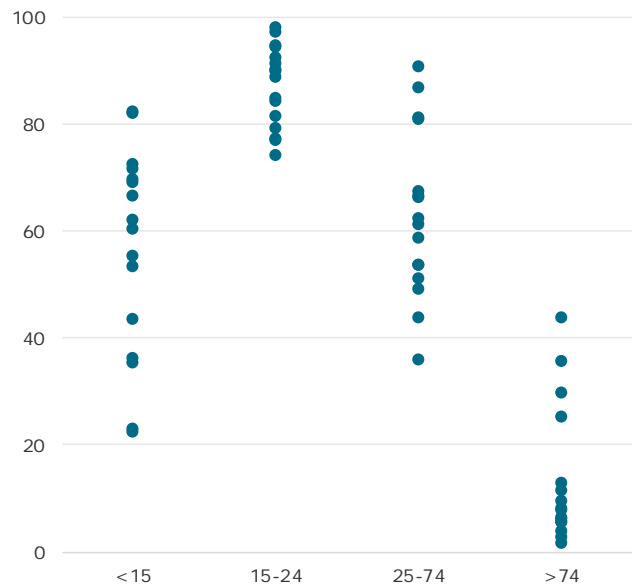
A point of particular relevance to COVID-19 is the fact that use of ICTs varies by age. Although insufficient data exists for producing global estimates, the table and chart below illustrate that those below 15 years of age and those in older age groups generally have much lower rates of Internet use than those in the 15 to 24 year age range.



Percentage of individuals using the Internet by age range, 2018, selected countries

Country	<15	15-24	25-74	>74
Bolivia	23.1	76.9	43.8	3.8
Brazil	82.2	89.9	67.2	12.8
Colombia	60.4	84.2	62.2	11.3
France	82.0	97.0	86.7	29.7
Indonesia	22.4	77.1	35.7	1.6
Kazakhstan	72.4	94.5	80.7	8.0
Macao, China	69.1	98.1	90.7	43.6
Mauritius	62.0	88.6	53.6	6.3
Mexico	66.5	90.0	61.3	9.5
Morocco	71.5	81.3	58.7	35.6
Paraguay	35.5	84.8	66.2	6.1
Peru	43.4	79.3	49.2	5.4
Thailand	69.6	91.4	50.9	2.6
Ukraine	53.2	92.4	66.4	7.7
Uruguay	55.3	94.4	81.0	25.2
Uzbekistan	36.2	74.2	53.7	5.5

Distribution of values in selected countries, by age range, for the percentage of individuals using the Internet in 2018



Please note that for some countries, age ranges may differ from those depicted due to the scope of their data collections.

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> For example, the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/13/covid-19-could-cause-permanent-shift-towards-home-working>
- <sup>2</sup> See <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

#### Metadata:

- For detailed information regarding the definitions of regions and country development groups, please refer to: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/definitions/regions.aspx>

#### Source:

- ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database.



## COVID-19 impacting the vulnerable and compounding existing inequalities

The OECD is leveraging its multi-disciplinary expertise to guide and support countries to tackle COVID-19. A new platform providing timely information, including a series of policy briefs, is available at: [www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses](http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses). Building on the 2020 edition of the OECD's How's Life? one of these briefs highlights how COVID-19, beyond its immediate impacts on health, jobs and incomes, is increasing people's anxiety and worry, affecting their social relations, trust, personal security and sense of belonging. The impacts of COVID-19 will be particularly severe for those financially insecure or living in overcrowded housing, compounding existing inequalities.

**Share of people at risk of falling into poverty if they had to forego three months of their income**  
Share of individuals who are financially insecure, 2016 or latest available year



*Note:* Financially insecure people are those who are not income poor (i.e. their income net of taxes is above half of the median income of their countries) but have insufficient liquid financial wealth (cash, quoted shares, mutual funds and bonds net of liabilities of own unincorporated enterprises) to support them at the level of the income poverty line for more than three months.

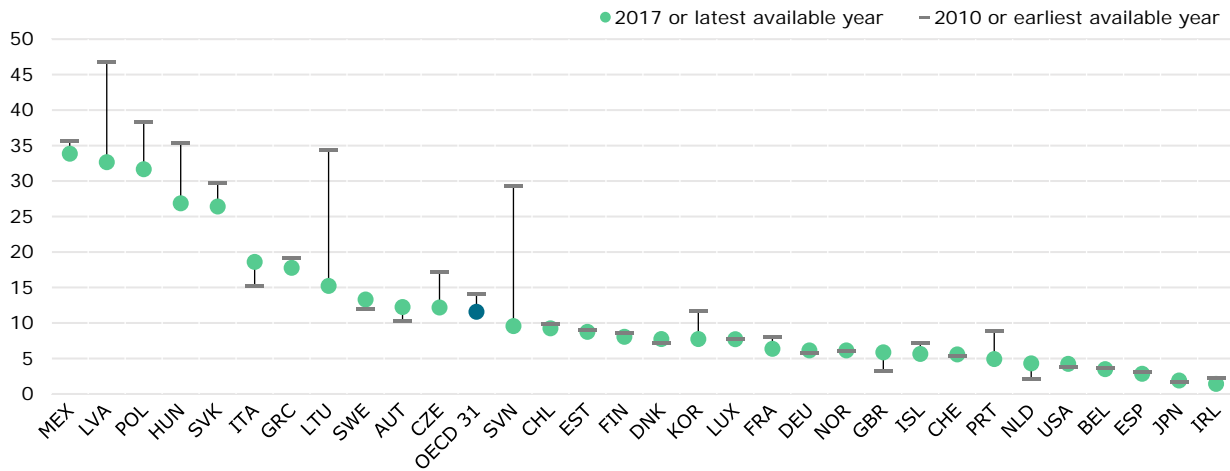
Even a temporary interruption of income due to the confinement measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 can have devastating effect on people's material conditions when they have limited financial assets to draw upon when a sudden risk materialises. Across the 28 OECD countries with available data, 36% of people are financially insecure – meaning that, while they are not currently considered as “income poor” (their income is above half of the median in their country), they lack financial assets to keep their family above the poverty line for more than 3 months, should their income suddenly stop. This risk is especially high for young people, people with less than a college education, and for couples with children, who are also among those who have to deal with school closures and new care responsibilities. Single parent families, especially those headed by women, will also face compounding challenges from a loss of income,

difficulties with childcare, and a lack of family support. While most OECD countries are putting in place measures to provide replacement income, through temporary unemployment and other schemes, these may take time to materialise. A health crisis risks becoming a social crisis.

People living in poverty, or facing financial insecurity, those in overcrowded or unaffordable housing, and those who are socially isolated or with poor psychological well-being, are among those groups who will face particular challenges (Figure 1). Low-wage workers, people in precarious jobs, those living with the threat of domestic abuse or violence, and those in need of mental health care or support for disabilities will also be at higher risk.

## Share of people living in overcrowded housing in OECD countries

Overcrowding rate, share of households living in overcrowded conditions, percentage



Note: A house is considered overcrowded if less than one room is available in each household: for each couple in the household; for each single person aged 18 or more; for each pair of people of the same gender between 12 and 17; for each single person between 12 and 17 not included in the previous category; and for each pair of children aged under 12 years.

Nearly 12% of OECD households, on average, live in crowded conditions. This adds to the psychosocial strains of confinement and social distancing measures, whilst also making it very difficult to isolate symptomatic individuals from other household members. Access basic sanitation (an indoor flushing toilet for the sole use of the household) is still a challenge among poorer households in some OECD countries, and is important for limiting the spread of the virus between households living in close proximity.

The impact of the crisis is not limited to people's material conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic is having immediate effects on people's anxiety and stress.

Polls conducted in early March indicated that 60% of Americans were "very" or "somewhat" worried that they or someone in their family will be exposed to the coronavirus, almost double the level in the previous month, and this before confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States started escalating. Mandatory confinement also poses problems for people at risk of domestic abuse, with support groups already sounding the alarm about the potential for abuse cases to rise in the pandemic.

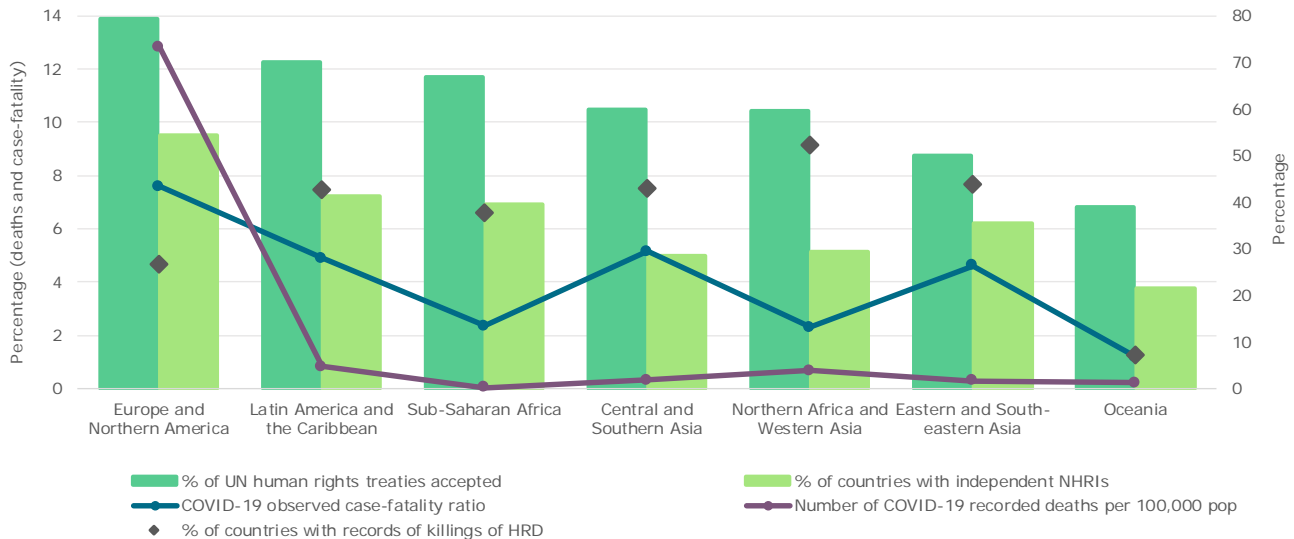
Rapid and decisive action by governments is needed to support the most vulnerable people through broad and coordinated policy.

### Sources:

- OECD (2020a), COVID-19: Protecting People and Societies, OECD Publishing, Paris, [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=126\\_126985-nv145m3l96&title=covid-19-Protecting-people-and-societies](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=126_126985-nv145m3l96&title=covid-19-Protecting-people-and-societies)
- OECD (2020b), How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-being, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9870c393-en>

## The COVID-19 pandemic tests our human rights resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency impacting civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. It is a test of our societies' resilience. Respect for human rights will be fundamental to the success of our responses and recovery.



*“The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency – but it is far more. It is an economic crisis. A social crisis. And a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis.”* **Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres**

The impact of COVID-19 is still unfolding and being assessed. States' efforts in strengthening national data collection and reliability will be crucial to understand the spread and severity of the impact on communities. The growing trend in the number of recorded deaths and observed cases of COVID-19 across regions shows how urgent it is to establish national and international public health responses anchored strongly in human rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic affects many human rights, starting with the rights to health and life. In response to the pandemic, states of emergency and emergency measures have been declared by more than 100 countries. While international law allows emergency measures in response to significant threats, those restricting human rights should be legal, proportionate, necessary, non-discriminatory and temporary. States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights should send formal notifications of such emergency measures through the UN Secretary-

General. From 9 March to 15 April 2020, this has been done by only 13 countries.

States' ratification of international human rights treaties contributes to the implementation of human rights standards on the ground. Through ratification, States commit to put in place domestic measures and legislation compatible with their treaty obligations, and allow individuals to report possible human rights violations. On average States have ratified 60 per cent of all international human rights treaties. Despite the high level of commitment, the implementation of human rights commitments is still lagging behind and varies greatly across regions and countries, raising concerns about the level of human rights enjoyment by the people. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can play a critical role to help States move from human rights commitment to action. Strong NHRIs help ensure that non-discriminatory measures are taken and that no one is left behind, including persons with disabilities, people in detention and other institutions, homeless populations, migrants, displaced persons, refugees, indigenous peoples, LGBTI people as well as persons in the informal sector, living in slums or of low socio-economic status. Stepping up support to facilitate the establishment of independent NHRIs is critical. In

Northern Africa and Western Asia, Eastern and South-eastern Asia, and Central and Southern Asia, and Oceania less than 35 per cent of States have independent NHRIs.

States must protect freedom of expression, opinion and association. Ensuring that relevant information reach all people, without exception, is even more critical at times of crisis. Journalists and human rights defenders must be given the space to report on the pandemic, including coverage that is critical of government responses, without fear or censorship. Most of the regions that have a lower proportion of ratified treaties and independent NHRI witnessed a higher number of killings of human rights defenders, journalists or trade unionists from 2015 to 2019. These regions also face a higher prevalence of discrimination.

The risk of accentuation of existing patterns of discrimination is real. The pandemic is already generating a wave of stigma, racism and xenophobia against certain national and ethnic groups. Ensuring access to relevant and accurate information will be essential throughout and after the pandemic, in readily understandable formats and languages, including for persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and linguistic minorities. Transparency must be ensured concerning the measures taken and on their impact especially on the most vulnerable, marginalized or at risk of discrimination. Protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination, especially in the enjoyment of economic and social rights that are drastically impacted by the crisis will have to be at the centre of responses to build our societies' long-term recovery and resilience. Fiscal stimulus and

social protection packages aimed directly at those least able to cope with the crisis are also essential to mitigating the devastating consequences of the pandemic.

*“In every stage of this epidemic – including the recovery – efforts should be made to involve National Human Rights Institutions, as well as civil society and human rights defenders.”* High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet



More information available at:

- <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx>

Data sources:

- <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Covid-19.aspx>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Covid19Guidance.aspx>
- <https://covid19.who.int/>
- <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

## Human development level and COVID-19

Every society is vulnerable to shocks and adversities, but some suffer far less harm and recover more quickly than others. Countries at lower level of human development are at a higher risk when crises strike.

Human Development vulnerability of countries to COVID-19 crisis

Vulnerability	Population in multidimensional poverty, (%), 2007-18	Population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, (%), 2007-18	Population living below income poverty line		Working poor at PPP\$3.20 a day, (% of total employment, 2018)	Social protection and labour programs, (% of population without any), 2006-	Immediate economic vulnerability		
			PPP \$1.90 a day, (%), 2010-18	National poverty line, (%), 2010-18			Remittances, inflows (% of GDP), 2018	Net official development assistance received, (% of GNI), 2017	Inbound tourism expenditure, (% of GDP), 2016-18
<b>Human development groups</b>									
Very high human development						31.3	0.29		2.3
High human development	4.5	12.5	2.1	10.4	8.5	39.3	1.03	0.1	1.5
Medium human development	29.4	18.4	17.7	23.0	40.0	31.9	4.11	0.8	1.4
Low human development	62.3	16.2	45.1	44.0	68.4	86.1	4.63	4.7	1.7
Developing countries	23.1	15.3	12.6	19.3	25.9	43.2	1.51	0.3	1.8
<b>Regions</b>									
Arab States	15.7	9.4	4.7	23.0	14.9	52.8	2.70	1.7	3.6
East Asia and the Pacific	5.6	14.9	1.5	5.1	10.1	41.7	0.62	0.0	1.4
Europe and Central Asia	1.1	3.6		11.5	9.2	42.6	2.75	0.7	4.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.5	7.7	3.8		6.8	42.7	1.59	0.1	1.6
South Asia	31.0	18.8	17.4	22.9	43.0	25.1	3.39	0.4	1.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	57.5	17.2	43.5	43.0	63.1	79.4	2.89	2.8	2.0
<b>Least developed countries</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>4.57</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>SIDS</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>			<b>17.7</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>6.89</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>OECD</b>			0.7			36.0	0.33		2.1
<b>World</b>			10.5	19.1	25.0	42.5	0.74	0.3	1.9

The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, but also a humanitarian and development crisis that is threatening to leave deep social, economic and political scars for years to come, particularly in countries already weighed down by fragility, poverty and conflict.

For many years, the Human Development Reports have shown that most countries have registered positive trends in human development, but caution is always advised because progress is not linear, and crises, natural or man-made, could reverse gains. The concepts of vulnerability, preparedness and resilience add much to the human development approach by looking not just at achievements but also at risks and uncertainty.

Inequality is manifest in the vulnerability to some adverse event or circumstance, such as the current pandemic. Health shocks can be some of the most destabilizing to households and society, and poverty adds to the high risks of long-lasting consequences and deaths. Those living in multidimensional poverty are among the most vulnerable. Despite recent progress in poverty reduction, more than 2 billion people are either near or living in multidimensional poverty, and more than 40 percent of global population do not have any social protection.

Globalization has brought many economic opportunities in developing countries, but as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions at one point in the interconnected world can trigger serious local problems elsewhere. The effects of such events may be damaging for people in countries which heavily depend on tourism, such as small island developing states, or on inflows of remittances, or on official development assistance.

Crises continuously occur with destructive consequences. It is vital to build capacities for disaster preparedness and recovery, which enable communities to better weather- and recover from –shocks.

A nation's preparedness to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic depends to a large extent on the healthcare system capacity, but also on the abilities of institutions to effectively maintain essential public services, provide a social safety net for most vulnerable, prop up the economy, and mobilize collective action in all segments of the society. Countries with higher level of human development that are less unequal exhibit stronger social cohesion implying higher trust and capacity to create (prepare) safer communities. Widespread lockdowns mean that many people are relying on Internet access to work, to continue with education and

to interact with others. The digital divide has become more significant than ever, as billions of people around the globe don't have access to reliable broadband internet.

While COVID-19 is impacting income poverty quite rapidly across the lower quintiles of populations in the first year of the pandemic, the spillover effects on

multidimensional poverty indicators (health and nutrition, education, living standards) will be manifested in the medium and long-term. Therefore, equipping countries with the capacities needed to develop, monitor and reporting multidimensional poverty measures remains critical (in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and its SDG target 1.2).

Preparedness of countries to respond to the COVID-19 crisis

Preparedness Highest Lowest	Human development			Health System				Connectivity	
	Human development index (HDI), (value), 2018	Inequality-adjusted HDI, (IHDI), (value), 2018	Inequality in HDI (%), 2018	Physicians, (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Nurses and midwives, (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Hospital beds, (per 10,000 people), 2010-18	Current health expenditure, (% of GDP), 2018	Mobile phone subscription, (per 100 people), 2017-18	Fixed broadband subscriptions, (per 100 people), 2017-18
<b>Human development groups</b>									
Very high human development	0.892	0.796	10.8	30.4	81	55	12.0	127.8	30.5
High human development	0.750	0.615	17.9	16.5	30	32	5.7	113.6	18.8
Medium human development	0.634	0.507	20.0	7.3	17	9	3.9	91.9	2.4
Low human development	0.507	0.349	31.1	2.1	8	6	4.5	67.5	0.4
Developing countries	0.686	0.547	20.3	11.5	23	21	5.3	99.2	10.2
<b>Regions</b>									
Arab States	0.703	0.531	24.5	11.1	21	15	4.9	100.3	7.4
East Asia and the Pacific	0.741	0.618	16.6	14.8	22	35	4.8	117.6	21.3
Europe and Central Asia	0.779	0.689	11.5	24.9	61	51	5.2	107.3	14.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.759	0.589	22.4	21.6	47	20	8.0	103.6	12.8
South Asia	0.642	0.520	19.0	7.8	17	8	4.1	87.7	2.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.541	0.376	30.5	2.1	10	8	5.3	76.9	0.4
Least developed countries	0.528	0.377	28.6	2.5	6	7	4.2	70.9	1.4
Small Island developing states	0.723	0.549	24.0	22.2	28	25	5.9	80.5	6.4
OECD	0.895	0.790	11.7	28.9	80	50	12.6	119.3	31.6
World	0.731	0.596	18.6	14.9	34	28	9.8	104.0	14.0

Note:

Two colour-coded dashboards present a set of indicators that assess the level of vulnerability and preparedness for 189 countries. Here, only aggregates for human development categories, regions, and other major development groups are presented. The color-coded dashboards allow partial grouping of countries by indicator. For each indicator, countries are divided into five groups of approximately equal size (quintiles). The intention is not to suggest thresholds or target values for the indicators but to allow a crude assessment of a country's performance relative to others. Five-colour coding helps users to immediately discern a country's performance.

The full dashboards are available at the website of the Human Development Report Office. <http://hdr.undp.org>

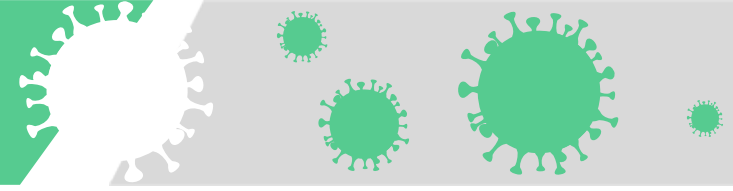
Sources:

- UNDP (2020). COVID-19 UNDP's Integrated Response. [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/covid-19-undp\\_s-integrated-response.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/covid-19-undp_s-integrated-response.html)
- UNDP (2019). Human development report 2019. Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2019-report>
- UNDP (2014). Human development report 2014. Sustaining human progress: Reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2014>
- UNDP (1994). Human development report 1994. New dimensions of human security. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-1994>



HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT OFFICE

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

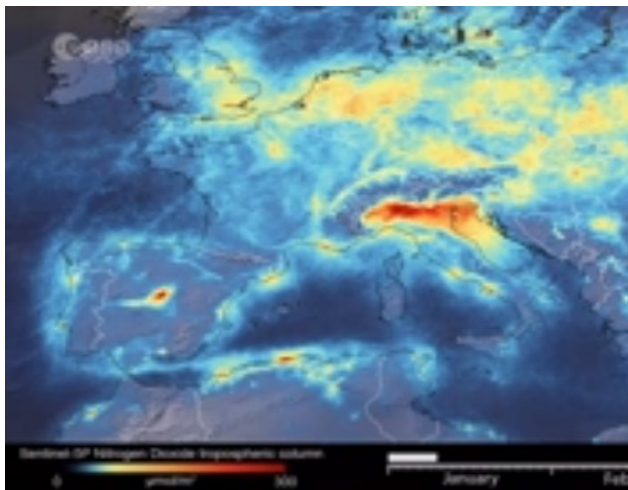


## Pollution and waste impact

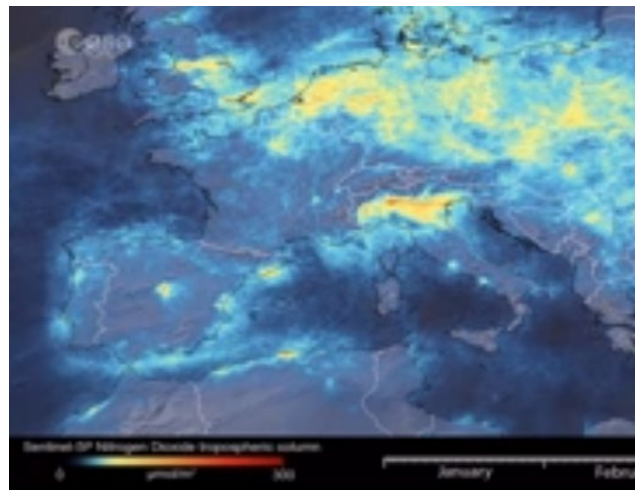
Long-term exposure to air pollution may significantly increase the risk factor for many predicted to die from COVID-19. There are huge increases in impacts from solid medical waste pollution and marine litter as a result of the COVID crisis. Reducing air pollution and proper waste management are critical to minimizing negative impacts on human and ecosystems health.

**Fluctuation of nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Europe (10-day average)**

1 January 2020



11 March 2020



Source: ESA website Accessed 13/4/2020, <https://www.esa.int/esearch?q=Italy> <https://www.esa.int/esearch?q=Italy>

The pandemic spread of the coronavirus has prompted many governments to introduce unprecedented measures to contain the disease, leading to the temporary shutdown of many businesses and widespread restrictions on travel

New data from the Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite reveal the decline of air pollution, specifically Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations, over Italy. While satellites found decreases in one air pollutant, that doesn't mean the air is free of all pollution.<sup>1</sup>

A Harvard study has found that long-term exposure to air pollution may significantly increase the risk factor for many predicted to die from COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> Efforts to reduce pollution post-COVID-19 is thus essential to decrease vulnerability in the population to the virus. With shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide, WHO calls on industry and governments to increase manufacturing by 40 per cent to meet rising global demand.<sup>3</sup>

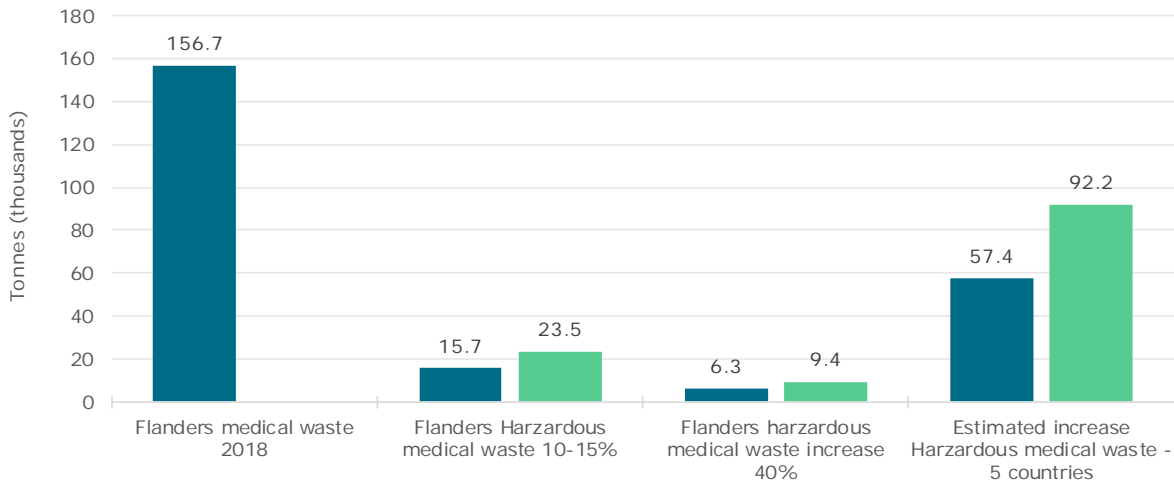
Based on medical waste statistics published by the Public Waste Agency of Flanders for 2018 of which 10-15% of medical waste is hazardous, an estimate of an

additional 164,140 to 246,210 tonnes of hazardous medical waste can be expected in the European Union.

Improper disposal of wastes via small scale incineration and dumpsite burning will result in point sources of highly toxic persistent organic pollutants (POPs) generation with impacts on health. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) Executive Secretary, Rolph Payet urges decision-makers at every level to ensure that waste management is given attention to ensure minimization of impacts upon human health and environment.<sup>4</sup>



## Estimated increase in hazardous medical waste



Based on medical waste statistics published by the Public Waste Agency of Flanders for 2018<sup>5</sup> with 10-15% of medical waste being hazardous, an expected increase of 40% during 4 months of the year extrapolated to the 2018 population of France, Spain, Italy, UK and Belgium, represents an extra 59,797 to 89,696 tonnes.

Interesting Websites: UNEP: <https://www.unep.org/>  
 Basel Convention: <http://www.basel.int/>  
 WESR: <https://wesr.unep.org/>

### Sources:

- <sup>1</sup> <https://www.esa.int/eseach?q=Italy>
- <sup>2</sup> <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/covid-pm>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/03-03-2020-shortage-of-personal-protective-equipment-endangering-health-workers-worldwide>
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Default.aspx?tabid=8376>

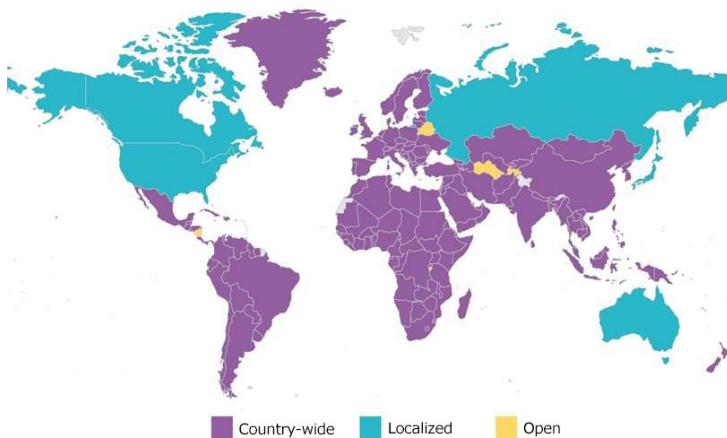
### Metadata:

- <sup>5</sup> <https://ovam.be/bedrijfsafvalstoffen>

## 1.6 billion learners are affected by school closures

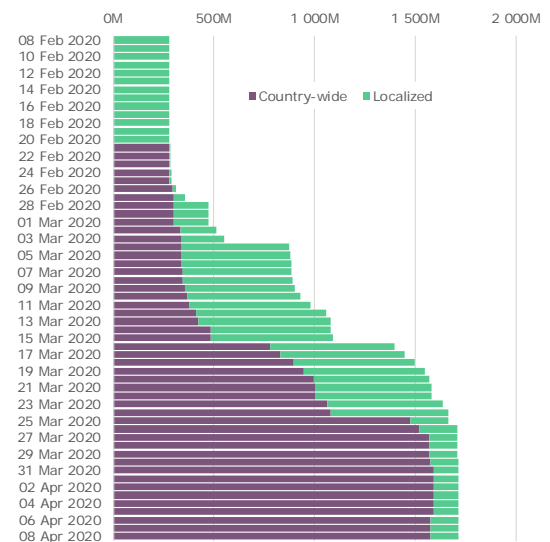
Nationwide closures of schools and universities in 192 countries because of the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted the education of nearly 1.6 billion learners, or 90% of the world's student population.

National school closures, April 2020



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNESCO.

Number of learners affected by school closures, February-April 2020



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Governments around the world have closed educational institutions from the pre-primary to the tertiary level in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to minimize health risks for students, teachers and non-academic staff.

Enrolment figures compiled by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics make it possible to track the number of learners whose education has been disrupted. In mid-February 2020, 300 million learners were affected by nationwide closures of schools and universities. Two months later, this number has grown to nearly 1.6 billion students in 192 countries, representing 90% of the global student population. In addition, 140 million students live in countries with localized school closures. Only a small number of countries have not closed any schools.

Globally, the nationwide closures affect approximately 155 million children in pre-primary education, 691 million primary school pupils, 537 million secondary school pupils, and 191 million students in tertiary education.

The regional distribution of learners affected by the crisis reflects the size of the total population in each Sustainable Development Goal region. Central and Southern Asia is home to 30% of the 1.6 billion students whose schools have been closed. 28% of these students live in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 16% in sub-Saharan Africa, 11% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 8% each in Europe and Northern America and in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

The amount of instructional days lost and the options for remedial action (for example extending the school year or compressing the curriculum) depend on the timing of the pandemic relative to the academic year. In three quarters of all countries, the crisis occurred in the second half of the school year, with students well advanced in the current grade.

**Learners not in school because of nationwide school closures (million), by Sustainable Development Goal region and level of education, 10 April 2020**

SDG region	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
Europe and Northern America	17.3	32.8	47.2	22.6	119.9
Central and Southern Asia	26.4	208.5	183.9	45.7	464.5
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	63.6	175.0	139.1	68.2	445.8
Northern Africa and Western Asia	7.6	52.3	46.6	19.2	125.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	19.7	160.4	56.2	7.8	244.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	20.0	59.9	62.9	27.1	169.8
Oceania (incl. Australia and New Zealand)	0.6	2.0	1.2	0.3	4.1
World	155.2	690.9	537.2	190.9	1 574.3

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

In one quarter of countries, mainly in the Southern hemisphere, the pandemic occurred near the start of the academic year, preventing timely entry of students into their new class.

There is a high risk that national, regional and global progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education will be reversed as a consequence of the pandemic. To design effective interventions, policy makers and other stakeholders need up-to-date and accurate statistics.

One immediate priority is access to online instruction or alternative learning platforms like television, radio or printed material that allow students to continue their education, but reliable statistics in this area are still sparse.

The presence of a positive and stimulating home environment is another important factor at a time when schools are closed. Data on the home environment collected for SDG monitoring reveal stark inequities linked to wealth and other household characteristics.

In the longer term, prolonged absence from school is associated with lower retention and graduation rates and worse learning outcomes, in particular among segments of the population that are already disadvantaged, including members of poor households and students with disabilities.

The cost of fighting the pandemic and the reduction in tax revenue caused by the downturn in economic activity are likely to have a negative effect on education spending by governments and on global aid to education.

UNESCO and its Institute for Statistics are working with Member States and other partners to identify the indicators and collect the data needed to measure the short-, medium- and long-term effects of the current crisis and to help governments minimize its impact on national education systems.

*Sources:*

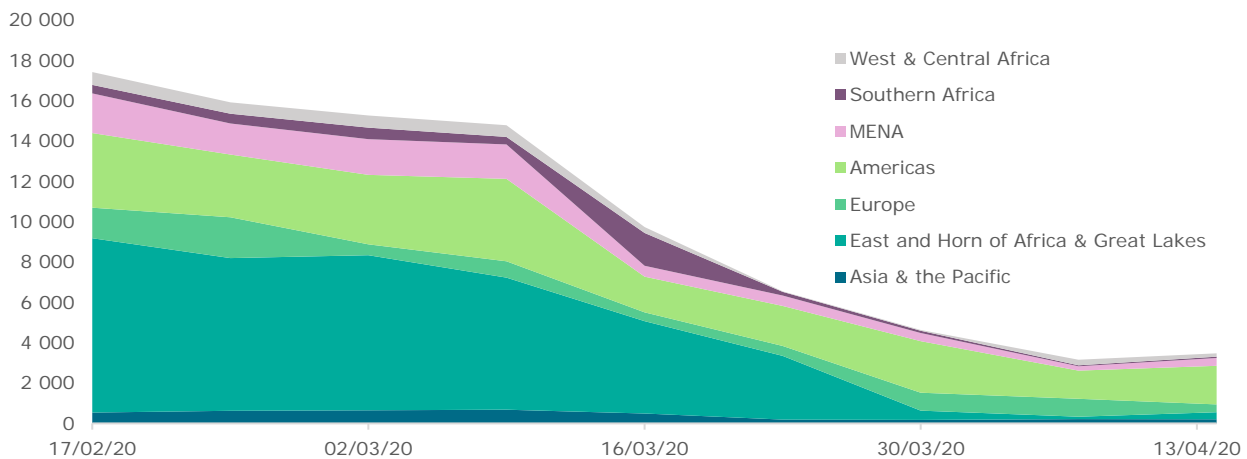
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). 2020. "UIS.Stat." April 2020. <http://data.uis.unesco.org>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 2020. "COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response." April 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/>



## Forced displacement

While COVID-19 is primarily a public health crisis, current movement restrictions and the socio-economic impact of the pandemic are in turn deepening a poverty and protection crisis for the most vulnerable forcibly displaced populations. Social distancing measures may mean less data will be available at a time it is most needed.

UNHCR weekly refugee registration by region (proGres v4)



As the Coronavirus pandemic continues, claiming thousands of lives each day, those at greatest risk include the over 70 million persons forcibly displaced as a result of war, conflict and persecution, most of whom live in developing countries. Many live in crowded situations, with social distancing difficult if not impossible. As COVID-19 spreads much faster in densely populated areas, geospatial data can be of great use to estimate population densities of refugee settlements and determine areas most at risk. For instance, Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, currently the largest camp in the world with 800,000 refugees has a population density 1.5 higher than New York City.

Children make up around half of the world's refugee population, while only around 2 per cent are persons over 60 years of age, a group especially vulnerable to Covid-19. The chart below presents a selected number of countries that at end-2019 had a high percentage of older forcibly displaced persons.

Governments are increasingly taking measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, including by limiting freedom of movement, with border closures effective in many countries. These measures have negatively impacted the socio-economic conditions of those living at the margins of society, including forcibly displaced persons, many of whom lost jobs and income

opportunities or are unable to leave their houses to look for work. They also further heightened protection risks for UNHCR's people of concern, impacting on their right to seek asylum.

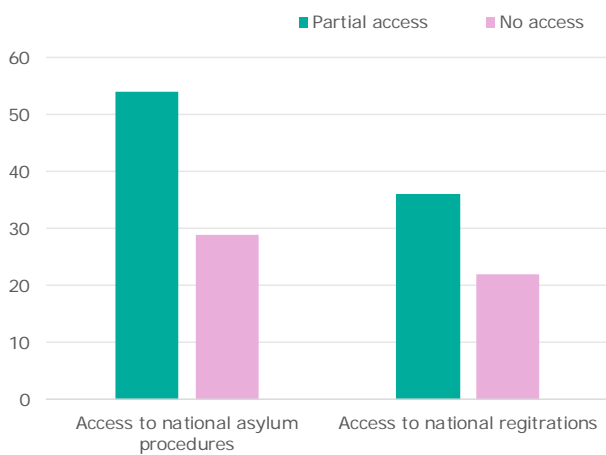
The availability of timely data has therefore become more important than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to assess its impact on forcibly displaced populations. However, restrictions to contain the spread of the virus have largely impacted data collection across the globe. In many countries, the pandemic has impacted negatively on the conduction of general population censuses. In UNHCR field operations, restrictions on movement have led to a suspension of many face-to-face interviewing activities. Instead telephone interviews (computer assisted or not) or self-administered questionnaires are the dominant data collection form which will undoubtedly affect response rates and possibly data quality. Remote vulnerability assessments are being undertaken by UNHCR and its partners to extend existing cash programmes that seek to mitigate some of the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities.

At the core of UNHCR's statistics lies refugee registration which is an essential protection activity conducted by its field staff. It has continued as much as

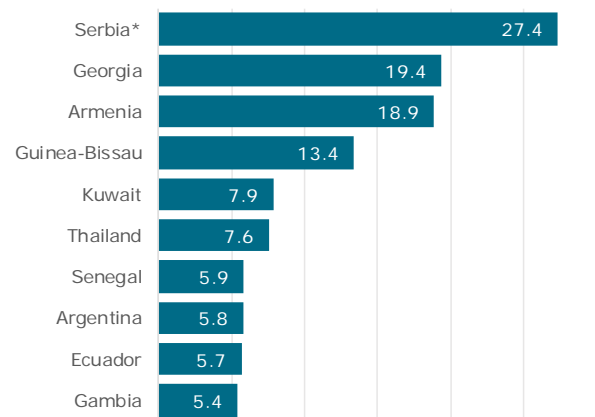
feasible, either remotely, or by enforcing social distancing rules through the scheduling of activities over longer periods of time. As a consequence, the number of refugees registered in UNHCR's web-based case management system (proGres v4) has decreased by 80% in the period between mid-February and mid-April, as highlighted by the graph above, with particularly large reductions in the East Africa and Middle East/North Africa regions. For countries that conduct refugee status determination, the right to seek asylum has also been affected as access to registration

has been suspended in several countries. Asylum procedures are also affected, as hearings or interviews are being postponed or conducted only in urgent cases. At least 73 countries have partially or totally restricted access to national asylum procedures, with 58 countries having restricted access to national registration (see graph). As a result, global asylum statistics may under-represent the true magnitude of people seeking international protection during the pandemic.

**National asylum restrictions** (no. of countries as of 13/04/20)



**Percentage of displaced people who are 60+**



\* Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)

More information available at:

- <http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/population-data.html>

Sources:

- UNHCR Cash assistance and COVID-19: Emerging field practices. <https://www.unhcr.org/5e8af8b74>
- Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2018 (<https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/unhcrstats/5d08d7ee7/unhcr-global-trends-2018.html>)
- Humanitarian Data Exchange: COVID-19 Pandemic <https://data.humdata.org/event/covid-19>
- Global Focus: COVID-19 situation <http://reporting.unhcr.org/covid-19>
- Global COVID-19 Emergency response <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/75480>



## Over 90% of COVID-19 cases are happening in urban areas

With over 90% of COVID-19 cases happening in urban areas, the impacts of this pandemic are most devastating in cities especially for the poor urban dwellers and those living in the most densely populated areas.

With over one billion people living in informal settlements and slum-like conditions, COVID-19 has led to job losses, with direct impacts on food security, housing and shelter and access to basic needs. The COVID-19 impacts have and will no doubt **exacerbate the vulnerability** of many urban sub-population groups such as residents of informal settlements, women, the disabled, elderly persons and children. In the spirit of leaving no one behind and no space behind, supporting urban vulnerability mapping is no longer a luxury but a must for this pandemic. In such times where the right decision must be made quickly and at the right time and place, local authorities and cities need a system that can help them collate, analyze and translate data into simple-to-understand information for informed actions.

The COVID-19 outbreak highlights the need for accurate and timely information at the community level, coupled with a high-level, coordinated approach, which spans across the local, regional, national and global levels. Today, data availability and reporting on COVID-19 spread and impacts are largely at the country level and significantly scarce at subnational level (eg. city, geographical/settlement sub-units), which is posing significant challenges for targeted response and case-management efforts. This lack of data at the local level is a stark contrast to today's richness in modern data and analytics technologies which have previously proven to be invaluable tools and enablers for detecting, tracking, predicting, responding to and managing local to global crises in near real time.

Supporting an urban COVID-19 response requires adaptive data and analytics governance, and procedures for early outbreak detection that generate accepted, actionable information. Near-real-time data and analytics can aid in the planning of urban responses amidst scarce resources and in the attempts to flatten the curve before health system capacity is exceeded. A pandemic response takes on a life of its own with many additional dimensions — such as coordination, real-time data sharing within and across

Proportion of urban population living in slums (Percentage)

Regions	2000	2014	2016	2018
World	28	23	23.5	23.9
Australia and New Zealand	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.01
Europe and Northern America	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Northern Africa and Western Asia	23	22	22.6	25.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	29	21	20.8	20.9
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	38	28	28	27.2
Central and Southern Asia	46	32	32.3	31.2
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	24	24	23.6	23.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	65	56	55.6	56.2

Source: UH-habitat urban indicators database, 2020.

borders, and predictive scenarios with unpredictable timelines. Often, those without the means to see the data on testing, tracking and treatment are taking guess estimates for their response strategies at a time of great uncertainty.

In the urban setting where risks of spread and resulting social, physical and economic impacts are higher (due to higher concentrations of people and activities, better connection to other regions), data and analytics are vital for early outbreak detection and response (testing, diagnosis, isolation, contact tracing and quarantine); — allowing warnings to be sounded and spread of the disease to be halted. The usability of these data, just like data at the national level relies on the consistency of its production, quality, frequency and relevance of the indicators/aspects being monitoring, which should tie directly to the most impactful response and actions across the social, economic and physical infrastructure dimensions. Coordination and guidance of city-level data production and analysis processes are thus critical, especially during the emergency and response phases where hundreds of actors engage in complimentary and many times overlapping data related activities. This coordination and guidance require a clear strategy, which is both rooted in prevailing data fundamentals and proven/workable response models. Within the urban ecosystem, UN-Habitat, through its Data and Analytics unit should provide such guidance in the form of a comprehensive intelligent data and information management strategy. This strategy must take an integrated approach —

delivering on the promise of new technologies and capitalizing on existing solutions, while ensuring that it is well-coordinated internally and resourced.

In aligning with the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 which has articulated several streams of work such as; ensuring that essential health services are still available and protecting health systems; guiding the necessary surge in fiscal and financial stimulus to make macroeconomic policies work for the most vulnerable and strengthening multilateral and regional responses, our data and innovations related efforts aim to ensure that countries have access to urban software and tools that will enable them to be part of a federated network of COVID-19 data hubs.

Finally, with national statistical offices and cities, we hope to get them quickly up to speed in building their own COVID-19 open data sites, with ready-to-use templates that allow them to focus on responding to the urgent demand for data and insights from their constituencies. This approach will help build external coherence and harmonization of processes, and workflows, and provide broader guidance externally for the urban evidence-based response.

### **Proposed broader external responsibilities for urban data collection for COVID-19**

- Create and lead an organized structure of coordination, information management, global and

regional urban data, and research on the impacts of COVID-19 on urban populations.

- Adapt the agency-wide data strategy as more is discovered about the extent of the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on urban dwellers, including plans for collecting and analyzing data on urban basic services, mitigation, resilience, social behavior and projected economic impacts on specific at-risk or vulnerable populations as appropriate.
- Establish, within national coordination structures, a mechanism to share relevant findings and key recommendations to inform and adjust the multisectoral local and national response.
- Support federated approach of local data managements systems and platforms along with the national statistical offices and data teams from the ministries of health that oversee case management statistics.
- Coordinate the production of a glossary of key urban indicators and measures to track the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.
- Produce city level trackers for levels of preparedness and response to COVID-19.

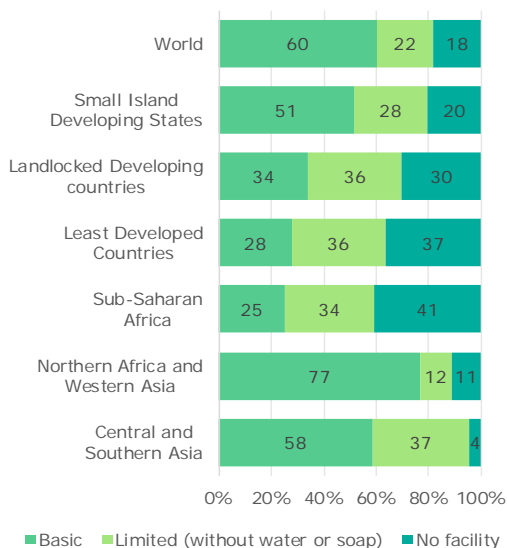
#### *Sources:*

- <https://urban-data-guo-un-habitat.hub.arcgis.com/>
- COVID-19 Kenya see: <https://coronavirus-response-guo-un-habitat.hub.arcgis.com/>
- [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/04/final\\_un-habitat\\_covid-19\\_response\\_plan.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/04/final_un-habitat_covid-19_response_plan.pdf)
- [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/04/covid19\\_policy\\_and\\_programmatic\\_framework\\_eng-02.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/04/covid19_policy_and_programmatic_framework_eng-02.pdf)

## COVID-19 is altering the lives of children – especially the impoverished – to a catastrophic extent

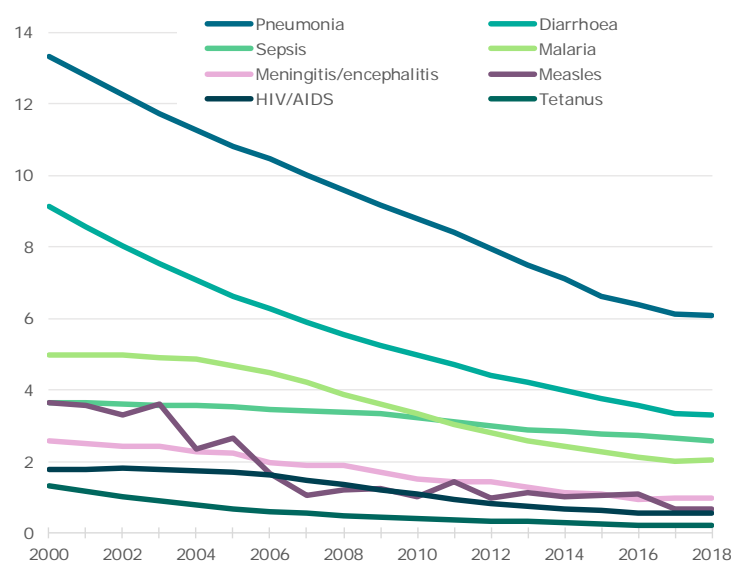
Children already left behind will likely bear the brunt of the pandemic’s impact, whether through missing out on life-saving vaccinations, increased risk of violence, or interrupted education

**Figure 1 - Percentage of population with access to handwashing facilities at home, 2017**



Sources: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP); Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities

**Figure 2 - Global trends in under-five mortality from main infectious diseases. Cause-specific under-five mortality rates (deaths per 1 000 live births) 2000-2018**



Sources: WHO and MCEG interim estimates, applying cause fractions of the year 2017 to UN IGME estimates for year 2018

Many children, especially those in the poorest households and the poorest parts of the world, risk losing their lives to pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, HIV and other preventable diseases unless urgent action is taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For instance, any further disruptions to immunization services will result in more children dying from pneumonia, which already kills around 800,000 children under the age of five every year – about 2,200 per day.

Nearly three quarters of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lack basic handwashing facilities at home, a fundamental mechanism to prevent COVID-19, leaving the already vulnerable people at further disadvantage. As many as 3 billion people lack handwashing facilities with soap and water available: 1.6 billion have facilities lacking soap or water, and 1.4 billion have no facilities at all. In short, for many people, the most basic and effective method of preventing the spread of COVID-19 is out of reach.

When schools closure is instituted as a containment measure, such alternatives as distance education (e.g. TV or radio programme) and online learning are deployed as alternatives in some countries. However, less than half of households in majority of countries around the world have access to internet. While 73% of urban household possess television, only 38% of rural households do so in 60 developing countries. The pandemic risks aggravating the “learning crisis” and leaving the most deprived children behind.

As communities are being disrupted, children already at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse will find themselves even more vulnerable. Nearly 8 in 10 children from 1 to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home by caregivers in the past month. As many as three quarters of children aged 2 to 4 worldwide are subject to verbal aggression or corporal punishment by caregivers at home. In addition, 18% of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 to 49 have

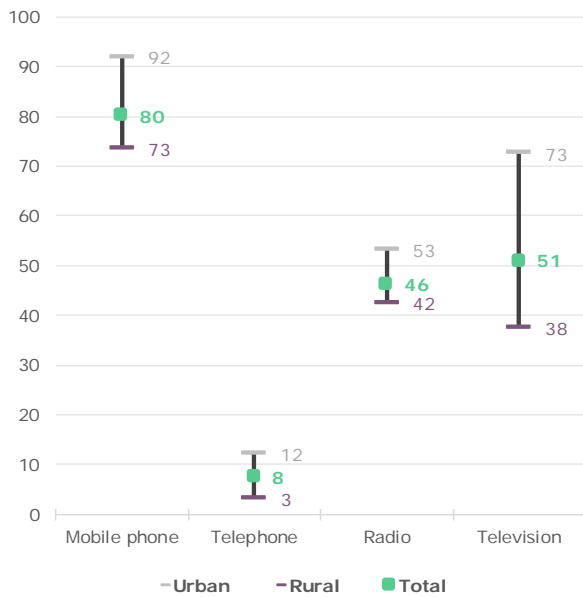


experienced physical and/or sexual partner violence during the previous 12 months. During times of crisis, especially now, girl's and women's risks of intimate partner violence in the home is very likely to increase.

Of the world's 13 million child refugees, those who reside in camps face similar challenges. They, along

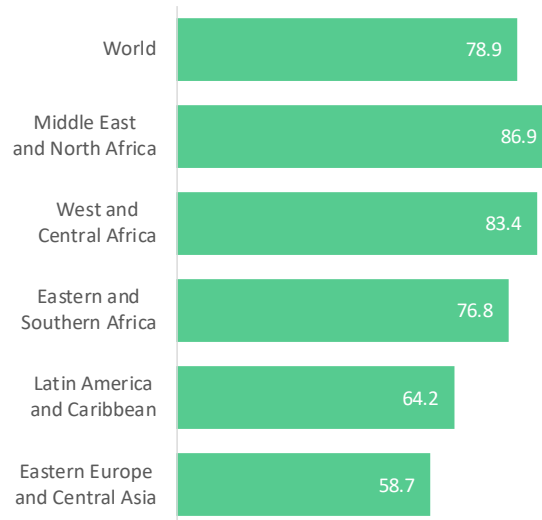
with a million child asylum-seekers and 17 million displaced children, are among those most likely to be excluded from social protection, and to be negatively affected by movement restrictions that may keep them from obtaining a more secure status.

**Figure 3 - Households possession of technologies (Percent)**



Source: UNICEF analysis of DHS data sets since 2010

**Figure 4 - Children age 1-14 years who experience violent discipline by caregivers in the past month (Percent)**



Source: <https://data.unicef.org>

Notes: Population coverage for the estimates is 28% for the entire world, and varies from 28% in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to 86% in West and Central Africa. Therefore, caution should be taken in interpreting the data. Regional estimates for East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia were suppressed because population coverage is below 25 per cent.

**Metadata:**

- <https://data.unicef.org/>



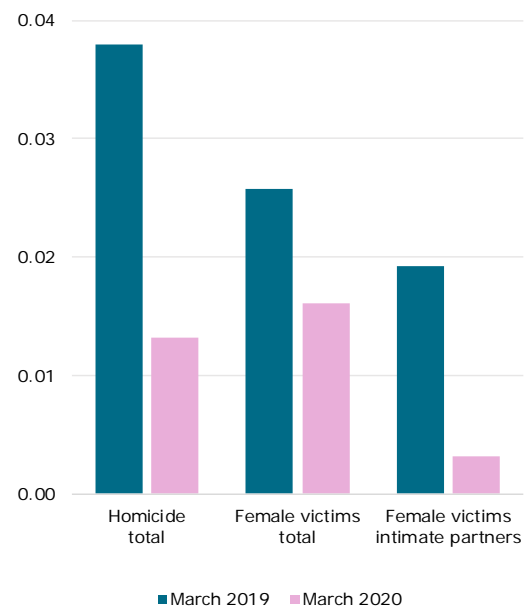
## The diversified impacts of COVID-19 on homicide and drug trafficking

Lockdown measures have reduced violence in countries with a relatively low homicide rate, while having no impact on high levels of homicide driven by organized crime and gang violence. Movement restrictions have disrupted the international trafficking of heroin more than cocaine as a result of greater reliance on land shipments.

**Figure 1 - Daily homicide rate in countries of Central America**  
(Mar-Apr 2020)



**Figure 2 - Homicide rates in Italy**  
(March 2019 vs. March 2020)



The impact of lockdown measures, imposed by governments to prevent the spread of COVID-19, on violence and drug trafficking is not linear. Diverse drivers of homicide, the characteristics of drug markets in place before COVID-19 and the varying degrees of restrictions enforced in different countries are resulting in different adaptations of crime and drugs to the new COVID-19 induced landscape.

Preliminary data on homicide trends suggest that lockdown measures have hardly impacted violence in countries with high levels of homicide. Homicide trends in two countries of Central America have remained stable in the three to four weeks after lockdown measures were implemented, while in another country of the region, a slight decrease was detected. This is probably linked to different lockdown regimes adopted

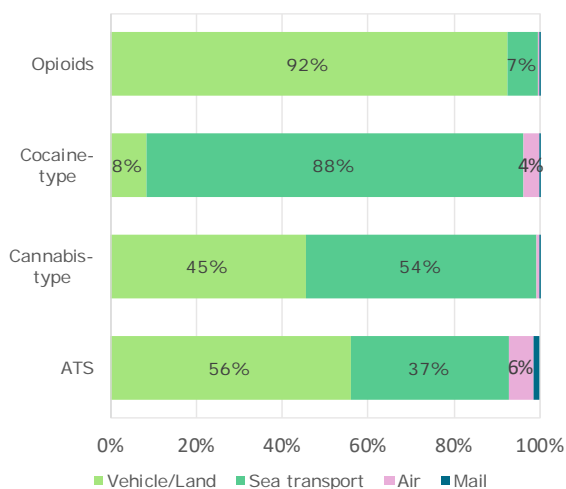
by countries, but also to the main actors of violence in this region - organized crime and youth gangs - that, at least in this phase, continue to operate violently. In contrast, in countries with a low level of homicide, the intensity of lockdown measures seems to have drastically reduced violence. Available reports on countries of western Europe and the United States reflect a sharp decrease of lethal violence. For example, the tight lockdown regime enforced in Italy has resulted in a sharp decrease of homicide levels. The strict enforcement regime, high level of social control and measures of social support may be contributing to reducing violence. In this context, impact on domestic violence remains challenging to assess: while a decrease of gender-based killings was observed in some countries, requests of assistance to helplines or

service centers protecting victims of gender violence increased in a number of countries, showing heightened risk of this kind of violence.

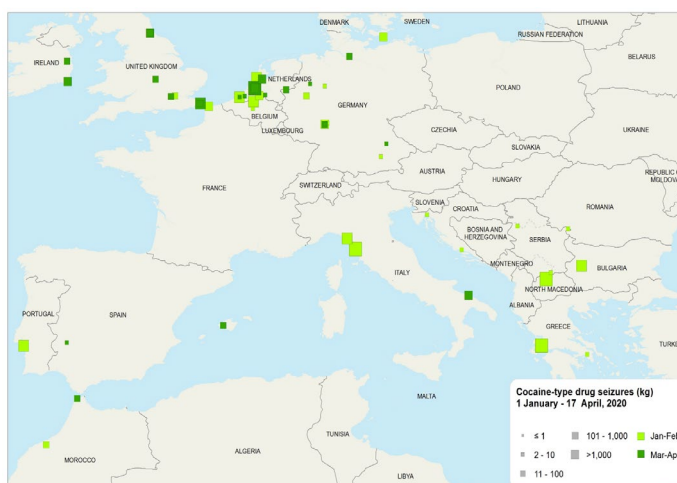
COVID-19's impact on drug trafficking is linked to the way drug shipments typically cross borders. International trafficking of heroin, primarily transported

by land, has been disrupted more than cocaine trafficking which relies on sea routes. Relatively recent large seizures of cocaine in European ports demonstrate the ongoing international trafficking of cocaine.

**Figure 3 - Percentage distribution of transportation modes of illicit drugs**  
(based on weights seized, 2017-2020)



**Map 1 - Cocaine-type drug seizures (kg)**  
(1 January - 17 April 2020)



**Note:**

- Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico: rates computed on number of homicides each day, per 100,000 pop.
- Italy: number of homicides for the periods 1-22 March 2019 and 1-22 March 2020, per 100,000 pop.
- Homicide rates calculated using population data sourced from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects (2019 revision).
- UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform collects information on individual seizures of significant amounts of drugs
- UNODC: [www.dataunodc.un.org](http://www.dataunodc.un.org)

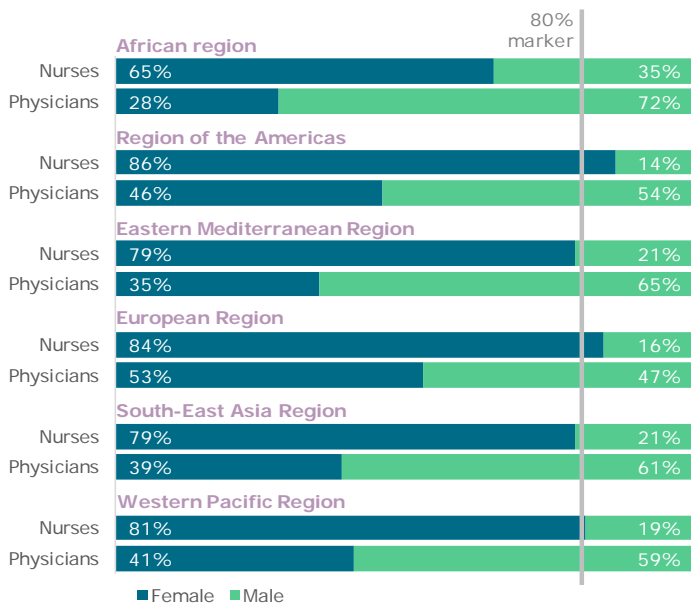
**Sources:**

- Figure 1: Honduras: National Police General Directorate, <https://www.sepol.hn/sepol-estadisticas-honduras.php?id=128> ; Guatemala: INACIF (Guatemalan Forensic Science Institute), <https://www.inacif.gob.gt/index.php/component/content/article?id=85&Itemid=437>; Mexico : Public Security and Civil Protection Ministry (SSPC), <http://www.informeseguridad.cns.gob.mx/>
- Figure 2: Ministry of Interior, Italy
- Figure 3: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform, 2017-2020
- Map 1: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform, January-April 2020
- Additional sources:
- London Metropolitan Police (<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/>)
- New York Police Department (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/index.page>)

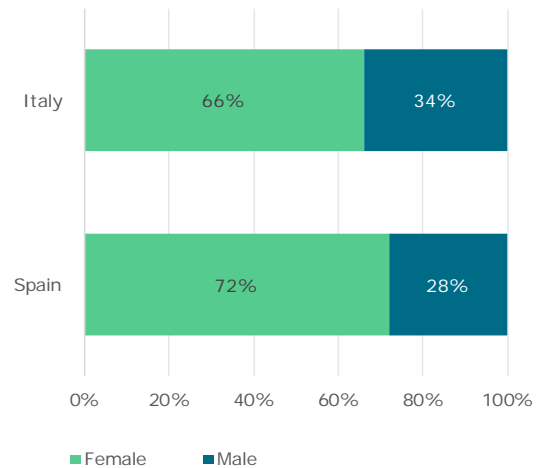
## Women on the frontline, but gender equality in jeopardy

The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening fragile gains on gender equality and women’s rights. As countries respond to the crisis, disaggregated data is critical to examine the differential impact on women and men towards evidence-based decision-making.

**Distribution of physicians and nurses, by sex**



**Distribution of health care workers infections by sex**



Source: UN Women calculations based on data from Spain’s Ministry of Health (6 April 2020) and Italy’s Istituto Superiore di Sanita, (2 April 2020).

Source: Source: WHO 2019, data from National Health Workers Accounts for 91 countries for physician data and 61 countries for nursing data.

Preliminary data shows that in most countries more men dying of the disease than women. But some groups of women are particularly vulnerable during this crisis.

**Women paid care workers are at the forefront of the crisis.** As 70% of the global health care workforce, women are in close contact with patients, thus facing a higher risk of infection.

**Women do the bulk of unpaid care work.** Globally, women on average do three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men – a workload that intensifies with school closures and when health systems are overloaded.

**Widespread job losses will have long-term impacts for women’s economic independence and security.** With 740 million women globally in informal employment and a majority employed in services,

women are particularly hard hit by the crisis. Lockdowns and restrictions adversely affect women’s access to services worsening their vulnerability. Emerging data shows that since the outbreak, **violence against women and girls has intensified**, resulting in a **shadow pandemic**.

As well as addressing the immediate health crisis, it is important to monitor other vital services upon which women depend, including **access to sexual and reproductive health** services. Failure to do so risks jeopardizing progress on maternal health and SDGs.

To respond to the crisis, UN Women is undertaking rapid assessments on the gendered impacts of the pandemic to inform policymaking. These resources are accessible on the [Women Count Data Hub](#), which is continuously being updated with new data, resources and information.

## Emerging data on violence against women and girls and COVID-19



### Metadata:

- UN Women (2020). COVID-19 and gender: What do we know; what do we need to know? <https://data.unwomen.org/features/covid-19-and-gender-what-do-we-know-what-do-we-need-know>
- UN Women COVID-19: Emerging gender data and why it matters <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-emerging-gender-data-and-why-it-matters>

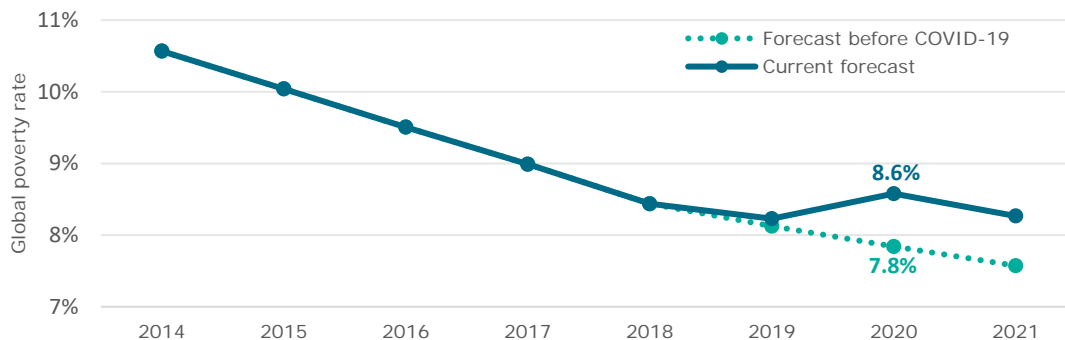
### Sources:

- WHO 2019, data from National Health Workers Accounts for 91 countries for physician data and 61 countries for nursing data. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311314/WHO-HIS-HWF-Gender-WP1-2019.1-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- UN Women (2020). Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-equality-womens-rights-in-review-en.pdf?la=en&vs=934>
- World bank estimates based on International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. Data retrieved in March 1, 2020.

## COVID-19 pushing 40-60 million people into extreme poverty

COVID-19 is taking its toll on the world, causing deaths, illnesses and economic despair. But how is the deadly virus impacting global poverty? Here we'll argue that it is pushing about 40-60 million people into extreme poverty, and that Sub-Saharan Africa might be the region hardest hit.

The impact of COVID-19 on Global Poverty



Nowcasting global poverty is not an easy task. It requires assumptions about how to forecast growth, how such growth will impact the poor and many other assumptions. This goes to say that estimating how much global poverty will increase because of COVID-19 is challenging and comes with a lot of uncertainty.

Here we use the latest household survey data for 166 countries in PovcalNet (an online tool provided by the World Bank for estimating global poverty) and extrapolate forward using growth projections from the April 2020 edition of the World Economic Outlook. Comparing these COVID-19-impacted forecasts with the forecasts from the previous edition of the World Economic Outlook from October allows for an assessment of the impact of the pandemic on global poverty. Of course other factors may have also worsened (or improved) countries' growth outlooks between October and April but it's safe to say that most of the changes in the forecasts are due to COVID-19.

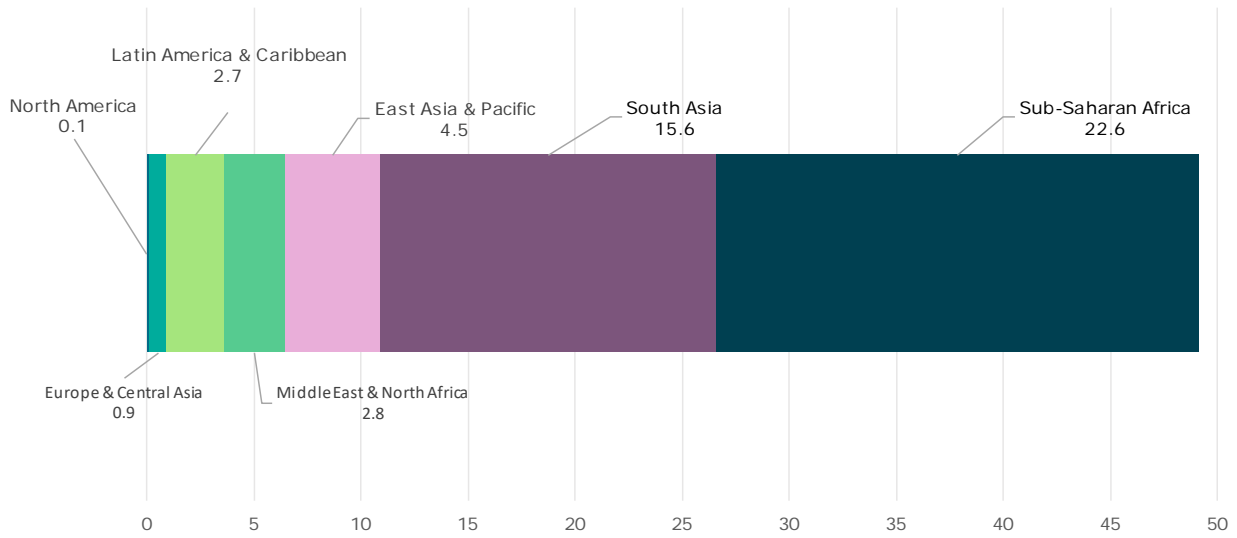
Such forecasts reveal that COVID-19 is likely to cause the first increase in global poverty since 1998, when the Asian Financial Crisis hit. With the new forecasts, global poverty—the share of the world's population living on less than \$1.90 per day—is projected to increase from 8.2% in 2019 to 8.6% in 2020, or from 632 million people to 665 million people. Compare this with the projected decline from 8.1% to 7.8% over the same time period using the previous World Economic Outlook forecasts. The slight change from 8.2% to 8.1% for

2019 happens because the revised growth forecasts also changed for non-COVID reasons for some countries. Taking this into account, it means that COVID-19 is driving a change in our 2020 estimate of the global poverty rate of 0.7 percentage points — (8.6%-8.2%)-(7.8%-8.1%). Another way to put this is that the estimates suggest that COVID-19 will push 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.

The places where the virus is taking its highest toll depends primarily on two factors: 1) the impact of the virus on economic activity and 2) the number of people living close to the international poverty line. IMF projects that advanced economies will contract by around 6% in 2020 while emerging markets and developing economies will contract by 1%. Yet with more people living close to the international poverty line the developing world, low- and middle-income countries will suffer the greatest consequences in terms of extreme poverty. Though Sub-Saharan Africa so far has been hit relatively less by the virus from a health perspective, our projections suggest that it will be the region hit hardest in terms of increased extreme poverty. 23 million of the people pushed into poverty are projected to be in Sub-Saharan Africa and 16 million in South Asia.

When looking at the impact of the pandemic on higher poverty lines, for example the number of people living on less than \$3.20 or \$5.50 per day, more than 100 million people will be pushed into poverty.

Millions of people pushed into extreme poverty due to COVID-19



More information available at:

- <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/home.aspx>
- <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/04/14/weo-april-2020>
- <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/impact-covid-19-coronavirus-global-poverty-why-sub-saharan-africa-might-be-region-hardest>



# REGIONAL IMPACT

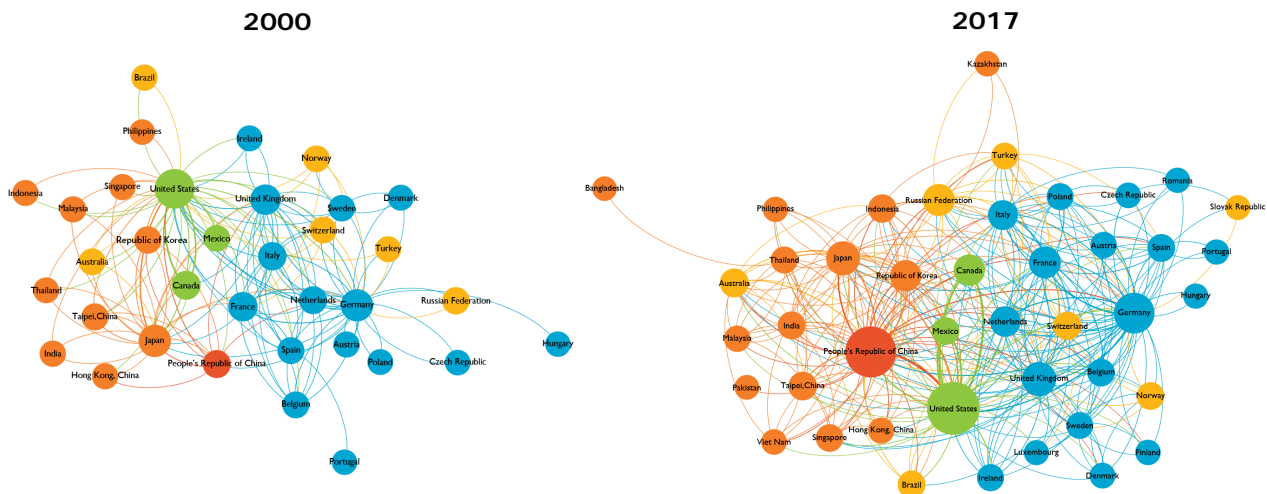




## Trade linkages and the economic impact of COVID-19

ADB's Multi-Regional Input-Output Tables show that deeper trade linkages over the last 20 years led to the pandemic's greater impact on world GDP in absolute terms, but not in relative terms as a share of global GDP due to broadly stable domestic production.

Figure 1 - Network chart of trade linkages



Note: Chart shows economies with the highest levels of domestic value added (DVA) in global value chain (GVC) activities. Node size corresponds to DVA that is ultimately involved in forward GVC participation. Edges refer to DVA embedded in exports from source to destination. Orange nodes refer to economies from Asia, green nodes from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), blue nodes from the European Union (EU), and yellow nodes from rest of the world. Line thickness indicates the size of DVA that is absorbed abroad. End color is based on color of source node. For more information, see note 2.  
Source: ADB estimates using Multi-Regional Input-Output Tables

Have greater trade linkages over the past two decades amplified the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Analytical tools like input-output tables (IOTs) offer a unique insight in understanding how shocks to one sector could spread to the rest of the economy. Recent trends in outsourcing have renewed interest in these tables, especially on the interactions among economies in the same value chain.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has integrated multiple national IOTs to create a fully consistent 'world' table, which we call "Multi-Regional Input-Output Tables" (MRIOTs). MRIOTs allow analyses to move from traditional trade volumes to quantifiable interdependencies of different industries in different economies.

To date, MRIOTs include updated input-output transactions for economies representing 95% of the

world economy, and are available from the year 2000.<sup>1</sup> They show that the world economy has grown more integrated in the last two decades, with economies increasing their participation in global value chains through larger trade flows as well as a greater density of trading partners (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup>

MRIOTs facilitate understanding of how worldwide shocks, such as pandemics, could reverberate through global supply chains. The long historical series of MRIOTs also enables us to estimate the counterfactual impact of such a shock in 2000, and to understand whether deeper trade linkages were related to a greater impact of that shock.

A recent study by ADB suggests that the global cost of the COVID-19 pandemic could range from US\$2 trillion to US\$4.1 trillion of global GDP (ADB 2020; Abiad et al. 2020). Simulating the same COVID-19 pandemic shocks on demand and production using MRIOTs in 2000, we find that COVID-19's impact on world GDP is

2 to 3 times greater in 2020, than if a pandemic of a similar magnitude had occurred two decades ago when global production links were less integrated and the world economy smaller (Table 1).

However, when expressed as a share of global GDP, the pandemic's impact in both years are similar: a decline of 2.3%-4.8% in 2020, compared to a fall of 2.0%-4.8% if the COVID-19 pandemic had struck in 2000 (Table 1). This is because the bulk of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak comes from drops in domestic demand which fall mostly on domestic production, with purely domestic services like retail trade, restaurants, and local transport hit particularly hard. Indeed, the percentage of final demand satisfied by domestic production has remained high over the

past two decades and even increased slightly in developing Asia and the Pacific (Table 2).

This finding suggests a nuanced view about the economic impact of COVID-19. While the pandemic is truly global, with virtually all economies having confirmed cases, the effects of each domestic outbreak falls primarily on the domestic economy. Spillovers will still be important for countries dependent on tourism and remittances, and if supply and trade disruptions are significant.

**Table 1 - Estimated global and regional impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, under different scenarios**

A. Impact in 2020	Shorter containment, smaller demand shocks		Longer containment, larger demand shocks	
	% of GDP	Losses US\$ millions	% of GDP	Losses US\$ millions
World	-2.3	2 012 980	-4.8	4 090 840
People's Republic of China (PRC)	-4.6	628 049	-5.1	691 601
Developing Asia excl. PRC	-1.0	93 287	-2.2	200 096
Rest of the world	-2.0	1 291 645	-5.1	3 199 142

B. Counterfactual Impact in 2000	Shorter containment smaller demand shocks		Longer containment larger demand shocks	
	% of GDP	Losses US\$ millions	% of GDP	Losses US\$ millions
World	-2.0	671 076	-4.8	1 623 316
People's Republic of China (PRC)	-4.4	53 836	-4.9	59 589
Developing Asia excl. PRC	-1.0	23 533	-2.2	51 439
Rest of the world	-2.0	593 707	-5.0	1 512 288

Source: ADB estimates using Multi-Regional Input-Output Tables

**Table 2 - Share of Domestic Production to Internal Final Demand (%)**

	2000	2018
World	90.6	89.5
People's Republic of China (PRC)	94.7	95.7
Developing Asia excl. PRC	88.9	90.5
Rest of the world	90.6	88.1

Source: ADB estimates using Multi-Regional Input-Output Tables

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> ADB MRIOTs may be accessed through this link: <http://mrio.adbx.online/>

<sup>2</sup> Detailed indicators related to global value chains may be accessed through this link: <https://kidb.adb.org/kidb/downloads/gvc>

<sup>3</sup> Detailed results of the analysis may be viewed through this link: <https://data.adb.org/dataset/COVID-19-economic-impact-assessment-template>

#### Sources:

- Abiad, Abdul, Rosa Mia Arao, Suzette Dagli, Benno Ferrarini, Ilan Noy, Patrick Osewe, Jesson Pagaduan, Donghyun Park, and Reizle Platitas. "The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Developing Asia." ADB Briefs. Asian Development Bank, April 3, 2020. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/BRF200096>.
- Asian Development Bank. "Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020: What Drives Innovation in Asia?" Asian Development Outlook. Asian Development Bank, April 3, 2020. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/FLS200119-3>.

Daily monitoring of policy measures adopted by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, shows a rapid increase in the number of actions taken in different areas, such as movement restrictions, health, labor, economy, education, and social protection.

**Actions taken by the governments on a daily basis** (sample of 26 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean)

Country	First reported case	February 2020							March 2020																												
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
ARG	03/03												1										2	1	1	2	12	1		4	4						
ATG	15/03																						2	2				2									
BHS	15/03																										1	1		6							
BLZ	23/03				1								1										4			1	4		7	1	5	1		4			
BOL	11/03																					1		2									3	8			
BRA	25/02	1											1	3									1	3	4			9	15	11	5	19		9	3		
BRB	18/03																																6	2			
CHL	03/03																										1	3	5	1	6	16	8		1	8	
COL	06/03				1																		4	1	2			6	2	7	3	1	3	1	4		
CRI	06/03																					1	3	1	2	1	2	1	8	3	3	6	7		3		
CUB	11/03																																		11		
DMA	22/03																															1		1	3		
DOM	01/03				1																							3		7	9	2			2		
ECU	29/02																						2	1			4	3	1	3		1	4	1			
GRD	22/03																																7		1		
GTM	13/03																										1	1	3	2	4	10	1	4		1	
GUY	12/03																																6	1		2	
HND	10/03																																12				
HTI	19/03																																			4	
JAM	12/03								1																										2	1	1
KNA	24/03																																			4	1
LCA	13/03																																			5	
MEX	27/02																																			2	
PAN	09/03																																			1	1
PER	06/03																																			2	
PRY	07/03																																			2	3

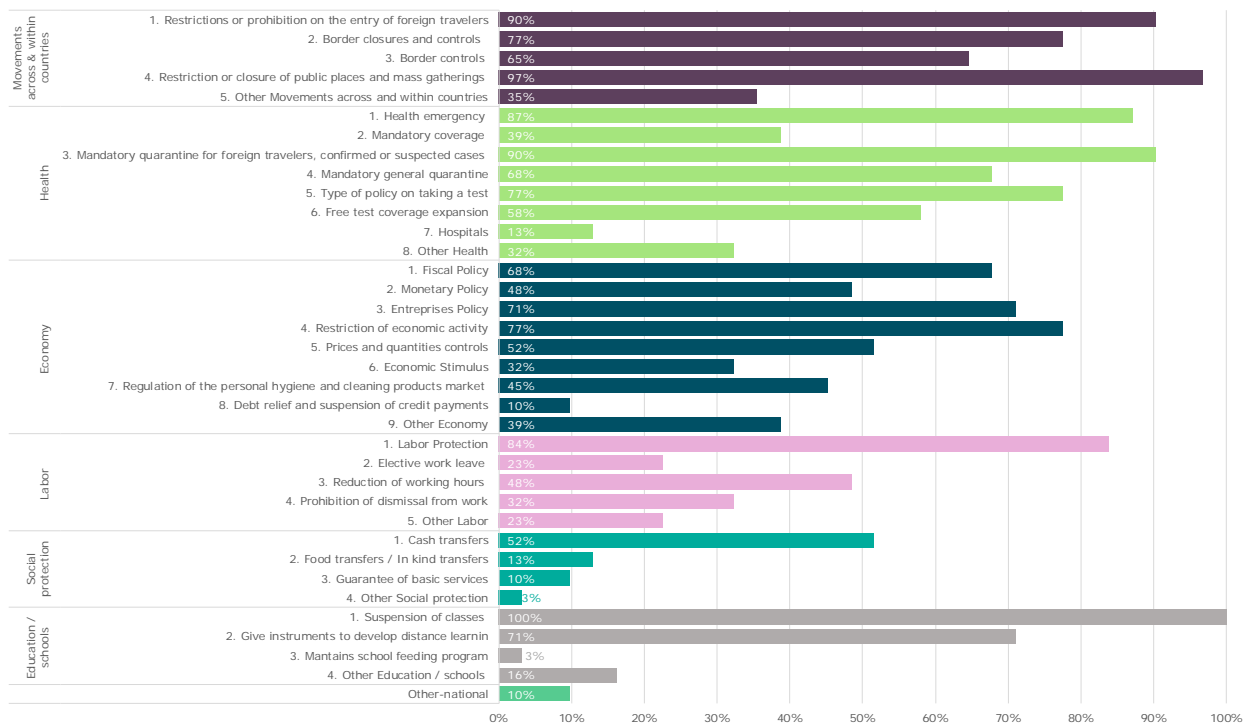
From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has been tracking the public policies that the 33 countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC region) have implemented to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as input to the analysis of the economic and social impacts that these policies will have at the national and sectoral levels. One relevant work line in this regard is to monitor the actions taken by the governments on a daily basis and provide access to this information by means of technological tools that facilitate the dissemination and exchange of practices within the region. This work is being conducted with the support of the United Nations Country Resident Coordinators, who until the moment have reported on more than 1,000 actions taken by the countries. As result of this work, it is observed that the countries of the LAC region have been taking an increasing number of actions, categorized in measure types such as movement restrictions, health, labor, economy, education, and social protection. Even some actions began to be implemented by early January, 93% of the registered actions have been taken between March 10th and 23rd. A quick overview on these is provided below. Regarding movement restrictions

measures, the most frequent action implemented in 30 of 31 countries, has been the restriction of access or closure of public places and the prohibition of mass gathering. Restrictions or prohibition to the entry of foreign travelers has also been an action of wide application in the region, with a 90% of coverage. Mandatory quarantine for foreign travelers, confirmed or suspected cases has been applied in 28 countries, while mandatory general quarantine appears quite spread in the region but with less frequency, being observed in 21 countries. Other relevant action in this field has been the declaration of Health Emergency, being implemented in 27 countries. In the ambit of Education, 31 countries (the 100% of the total reported) have suspended classes in schools and universities, providing instruments to develop distance learning in 71% of the cases (22 countries), through online platforms, TV, radio and distance learning materials. With respect to Economy, the most frequent action in the region has been the establishment of restrictions in the access to shop and shopping centers, applied in 24 countries. In many countries the governments have also implemented policies to benefit and ensure sustainability in companies and enterprises. This type of action is observed in 22 countries. In order to provide

access to detailed information about these actions, ECLAC has created a COVID-19 Observatory, which contains a geoportal section where -by clicking a country in the map- it is possible to know details on the date in which the action(s) was/were taken, the governmental organization in charge and a

comprehensive explanation. This relevant dissemination tool was officially launched by Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, on April 04th, in ECLAC's headquarters in Santiago, Chile, and will be operative during the whole period of the pandemic.

## Proportion of countries implementing the measure (of a total of 31 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean)



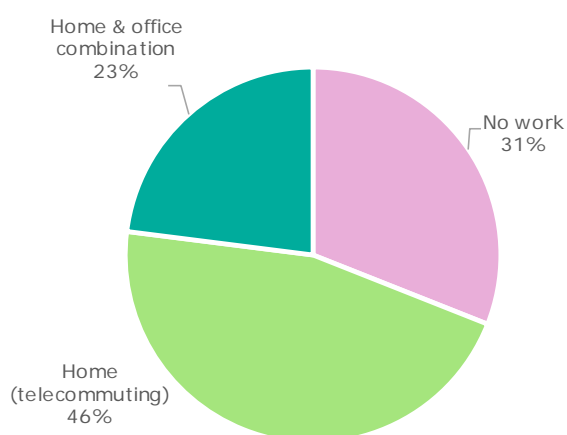
Note:

More information available at <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/COVID-19>

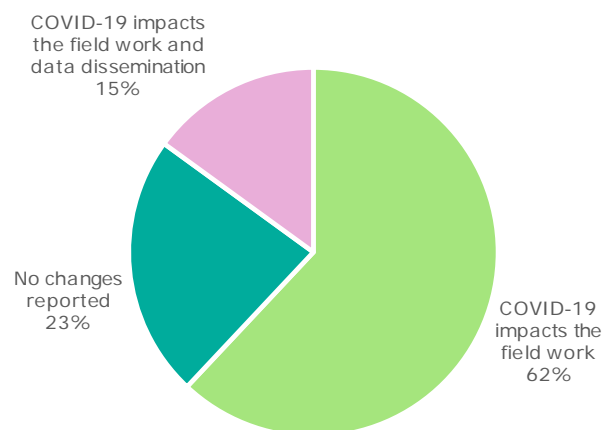
## Effect of COVID-19 on Arab National Statistical Systems

84.6% of the respondents stated that their statistical work has been affected by COVID-19, with Bahrain and Saudi Arabia being the only 2 countries which reported no effect at all. As for the case of the other responding countries, the effect mostly took place in data collection so far.

**Work modalities reported by Arab national statistical offices at COVID-19 period**



**Impact of COVID-19 on statistical activities at Arab States (% of responses)**



Although field data collection may have been reduced or completely stopped in most Arab countries - more so for International Comparison Programme (ICP) purposes than for the Consumer Price index (CPI) but also for other regular statistical programs - around 77% of the respondent countries stated that they are collecting data through non-traditional methods, such as phone calls, emails, websites or direct linking with outlets for almost all household consumption items.

When asked which work programs are expected to be affected by the spread of COVID-19, the responses provided indicated that, as expected, data collection will be more affected than data dissemination and that monthly collection and dissemination are expected to be affected more than quarterly and annual collection and dissemination, which can be associated with the uncertainty regarding the duration of emergency precautions and alternative work modalities brought about by the spread of the virus. As for the affected work programs, ICP and CPI are mostly affected, however with a larger effect on ICP. The effect on compilation and dissemination of National Accounts data was lower than that on CPI and ICP.

In relation to work modalities, 46% of the respondent national statistical offices stated that employees are working from home, 31% stated that work has stopped completely, and the remaining 23% have adopted a combination of work from the office and work from home.

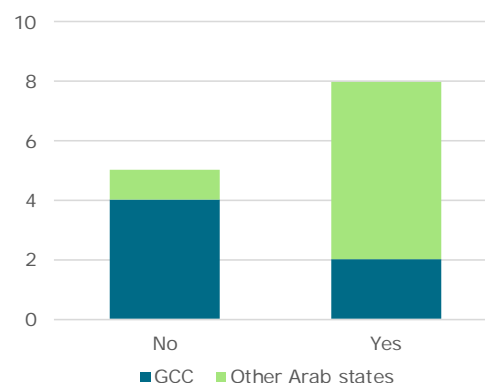
Around 69.2% of the respondent countries stated that the date of resumption of data collection activities is unknown, 15.4% stated that data collection will resume in May 2020 while in the remaining 15.4% data collection is still ongoing and did not stop with the spread of COVID-19.

Diving into more detail on the effect of COVID-19 on economic growth and quality of life, we note that the well-being of people living in different countries around the world will be affected by the pandemic. The comparison of real well-being measures can only be performed using Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs). However, the use of PPPs with reference year 2017 or 2011 would not provide accurate comparisons as the purchasing power of different currencies would have changed and rankings would have shifted as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

## Increase of prices due to COVID-19

Country	Food and beverages	Basic goods and services	Therapeutic appliances	Personal care
Iraq	10%		50%	20%
Jordan	20%		100%	
Sudan	30%	25%	200%	100%
Tunisia	5%	10%	7%	8%
UAE	10%	5%	25%	20%
Qatar			20 - 25%	
Palestine	No out of the ordinary changes in prices			
Bahrain	Government prevented price changes			
Saudi Arabia	Government prevented price changes			

## Effect of COVID-19 on Prices



The situation is favorable in the Arab region where the production of PPPs for 2020 would be an advantage. With the already established strategy for producing annual PPPs which ESCWA has already developed and been implementing throughout the last years, relying on a combination of actual data collection and data extrapolation with increased reliability on actual data, ESCWA has built and developed national statistical capacities and accustomed member states to annual collection of a major part of required price data. Some member countries have even started collecting price data for the 2020 ICP cycle.

Moreover, the production of PPPs for 2020 in the Arab region will not jeopardize the quality of PPPs for the

previous or subsequent years, as it will not serve as a reference or benchmark year. On the contrary, PPP production for 2020 will actually produce value added indicators to the region, as it will shed light on any deviations in the ranking of the real wealth of the Arab nations and will highlight the changes in the real sizes of the Arab economies and the purchasing powers of the region's different currencies, both in comparison to other years and against other countries, which will provide valuable insight on the economic impact of COVID-19 in the region.

### Note:

More information available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/our-work/statistics>

### Sources:

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (March-April 2020):
- Data Portal: <https://data.unescwa.org/>
- Quarterly Inflation Monitor: <https://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/quarterly-inflation-monitor>



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

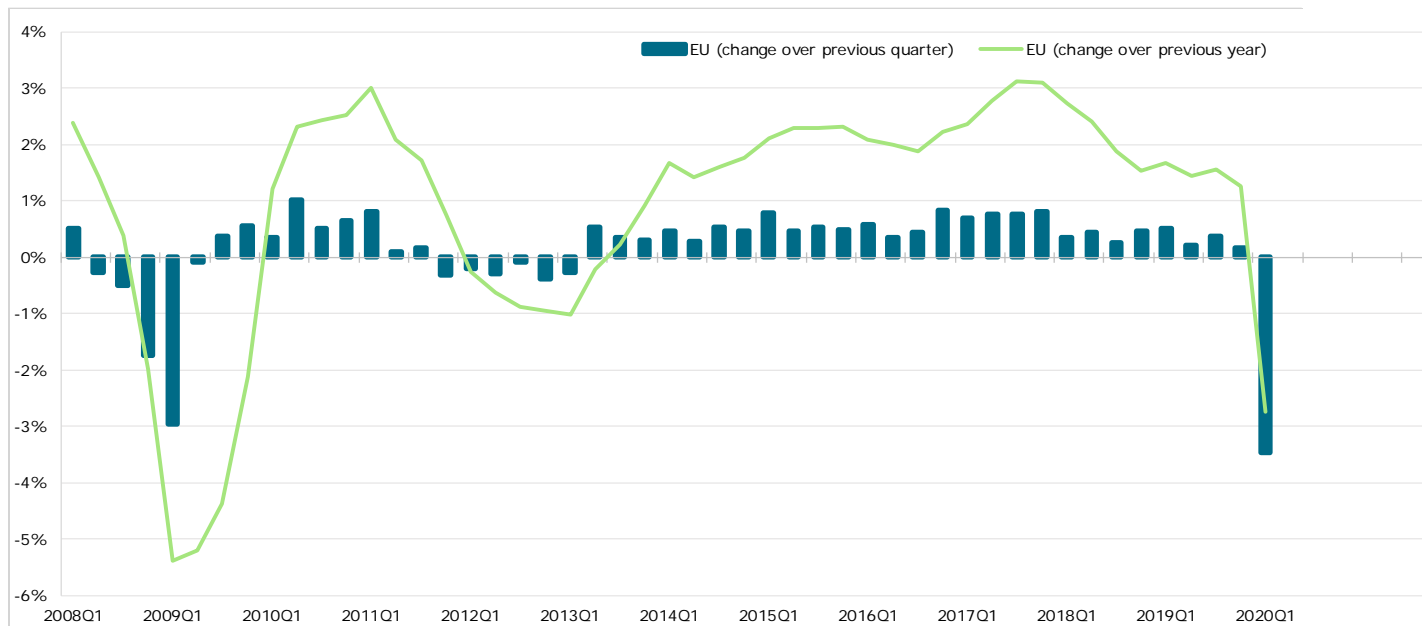


United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

## The first effects of the crisis reflected in the preliminary flash estimate of EU GDP figures

Seasonally adjusted GDP decreased by 3.5% in the EU during the first quarter of 2020, compared with the previous quarter, according to the preliminary flash estimate GDP figures, released by Eurostat on 30 April 2020. This was the sharpest decline observed since the time series started in 1995.

**GDP growth rates over the previous quarter and previous year**  
(% change, based on seasonally adjusted data)



In March 2020, the final month of the period covered, COVID-19 containment measures began to be widely introduced by EU Member States. In the fourth quarter of 2019, GDP had grown by 0.2% quarter-on-quarter in the EU.

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP decreased by 2.7% in the EU in the first quarter of 2020, after +1.3% in the previous quarter. This was the sharpest decline since the third quarter of 2009 (-4.4% for EU).

The COVID-19 crisis is having a direct impact on the production of European official statistics and, at the same time, is leading to an increased demand for data published by Eurostat. In the face of the crisis, Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes of the European Statistical System (ESS) are working closely together to ensure the publication of all statistics, as planned in the

national and Eurostat release calendars, and to develop joint responses to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

To respond to the growing demand for information arising from the COVID-19 outbreak, in April 2020, Eurostat launched a comprehensive dedicated section on its website, which brings together a wide range of statistics and data related to the pandemic. These data provide a reliable reference point for measuring the economic and social impacts of the crisis.

Eurostat's COVID-19 website section covers a range of topics related to the 'economy', 'society and work', 'population and health' as well as 'agriculture, energy, transport and tourism'. Each of these topics features latest data releases, interactive visualisations, in-depth explanatory articles and relevant data sets.



Eurostat's COVID-19 website section covers a range of topics related to the 'economy', 'society and work', 'population and health' and 'agriculture, energy, transport and tourism'. Each of these topics features latest data releases, interactive visualisations, in-depth explanatory articles and relevant data sets. The section also provides links to COVID-19 information available on the websites of the National Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States, EFTA countries and the United Kingdom. Additionally, since the beginning of the crisis,

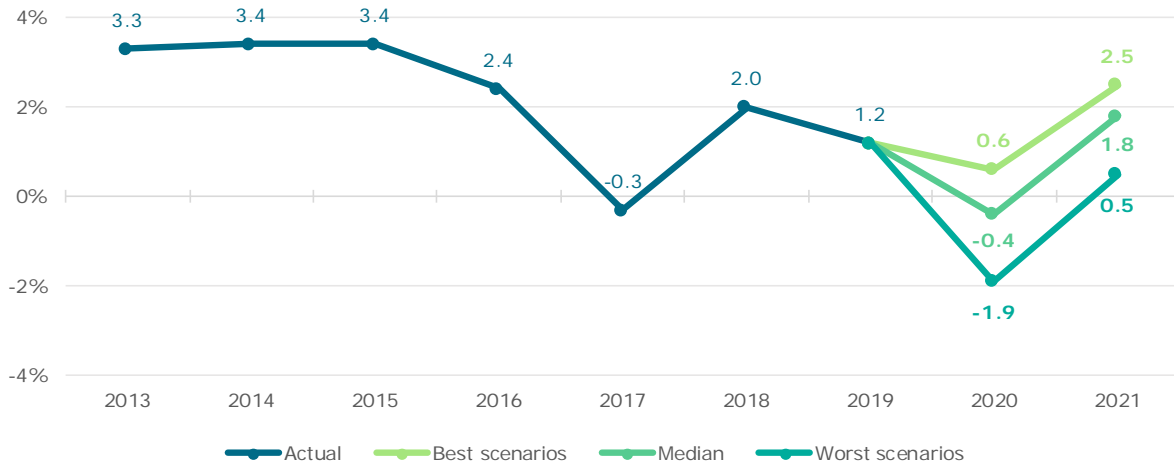
Eurostat has been providing practical guidance on statistical issues triggered by COVID-19. The 'Support to statisticians' part of the website brings together all the freshly developed guidelines and methodological notes on the collection and publication of European official statistics. Eurostat's intention is to focus on solutions and thus be of direct help not only to official statisticians in the EU and EFTA countries but also across the globe.

#### Sources:

- [Eurostat COVID-19 website](#)
- Eurostat [website section](#) on national accounts, and specifically the [page](#) on quarterly national accounts
- Eurostat [database section](#) on national accounts
- [Note](#) on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on national accounts
- [Guidance](#) on quarterly national accounts (including flash) estimates in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

The question is not **whether GCC countries can avoid the recession or not**, rather how can the GCC **reduce possible structural damage** and unleash opportunities to expand in strategic sectors?

Figure1 - GCC GDP in constant prices (growth rate YoY%)



Source: GCCStat

Although the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the GCC region (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait) is still lower than most other parts of the world, the economic impact is likely to be more severe.

While GCC economies are diversifying, they are still heavily dependent on oil and gas. Crude oil prices began to decline with the development of the pandemic in January 2020. Differences among OPEC members and Russia over reducing production, led to a plunge of oil prices (Brent oil prices decreased from \$ 68.9 per barrel on January 6, 2020 to \$ 26.7 per barrel on March 30, 2020).

Similar to other countries, GCC countries pledged more than 120 billion USD to help economies combat the consequences of the pandemic. Priorities have focused on preventing the spread of the pandemic and then to prevent the development of a long-term economic stagnation with possibly permanent structural damage to the economy. The policies of the GCC countries have therefore generally focused on increasing health spending and on supporting vulnerable groups and stimulating demand. The impact of the pandemic on the GCC economy depends on several factors, the

most important of which are: 1) future scenarios for crude oil prices, 2) the speed of controlling the spread of the pandemic in the GCC and globally, and the associated social isolation and disruption in production and services sectors, 3) the success of the policies to contain the negative effects on the economy, and 4) the impact of the pandemic on GCC trade partners.

The GCC-Stat forecast of GDP growth rate suggests that the GCC economy will contract in 2020 by -0.4%, before it gradually rebounds, starting in 2021 (See Figure 1).

The pandemic will also increase the, already sizable, fiscal deficits of GCC countries in two ways: 1) decreased revenues due to lower oil and natural gas prices and a decrease in tax revenues (due to the policy packages to address the pandemic and the disruption of taxable activities); 2) increased government spending. The deficit in GCC general budgets is expected to increase by a range of 30-40% in year 2020. Pressure on borrowing costs will come from a combination of sharp increases in global risks, deteriorating sovereign GCC bond ratings (with consequential increases in higher bond margins) and capital flight to safe assets.

GCC-Stat predictions show that the sectors most likely to be affected by the pandemic in 2020 are hotels and restaurants, followed by transportation and storage, and the wholesale and retail trade sector. Lower internal demand (as declining consumer confidence reduces household consumption, especially in durable goods and luxuries), and the collapse in demand from tourists and business travelers (if borders are closed for much of the first half of 2020) are key factors.

This in turn will lead to a reduction in investment as the private sector attempts to reduce cost, and lay off workers to cope with lower demand. The burden of this disruption is likely to fall on small businesses and self-employed workers associated with these sectors.

To sum up, the GCC countries could weather the COVID-19 pandemic with coordinated policies among the member states to support affected businesses, boost confidence, investment and trade. The pandemic highlights the need to expand in strategic sectors, such as food and basic services. In addition, supporting information and technology sectors are imperative to overcome long lasting disruptions. Finally, the changes in the labor market brought about by this pandemic could be exploited to reduce imbalances in the GCC labor market and improve labor productivity.

#### *GCC- Stat Forecasting Model:*

GCC-Stat formulates its forecast of the GCC GDP growth rate for the years 2020 and 2021 based on a Structural Vector Autoregressive Model (SVAR). The model includes international indicators, such as prices of primary commodities, international interest rates, world growth rate, and GCC domestic variables, including government spending, gross domestic product, money supply, and inflation rate

#### *Resources:*

- GCC-Stat – [www.gccstat.org](http://www.gccstat.org)
- Oil Prices – [www.investing.com](http://www.investing.com)



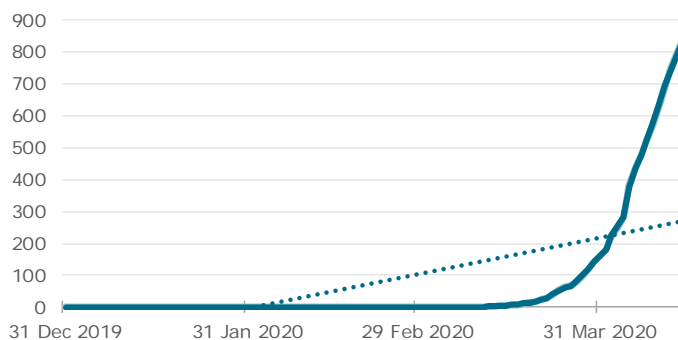
Since the declaration of the COVID-19 outbreak on 31 December 2020, as of April 9th 2020, the COVID-19 cases in Africa were over 15,300 cases, 835 deaths, and 2,946 recoveries.

### COVID-19 Actions Undertaken in Africa

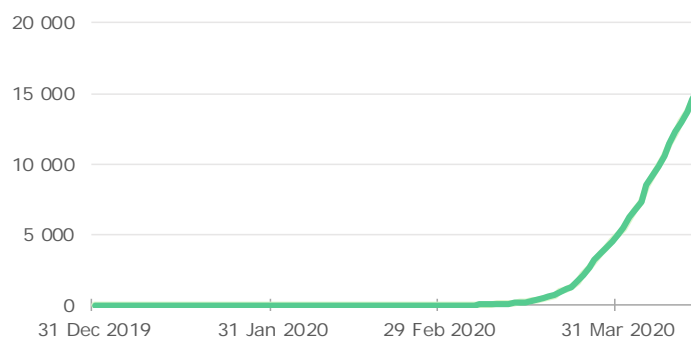
COVID-19 Actions	Countries
1. Number of countries conducting entry screening at the Points of Entries (PoEs), mainly at the airports, with some doing so at seaports and ground crossings	45
2. Number of countries implementing total refusal of entry into their territories	35
3. Number of countries allowing cargo, humanitarian or emergency flights	22
4. Number of countries implementing refusal of entry of passengers from high risk countries and three countries allow entry with days 14 quarantine upon arrival	9
5. Number of countries implementing lockdown	23
6. Nationwide lockdown and lockdown in affected areas in 11 countries	12
7. Number of countries curfew has been put in place	8

Source: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200414-sitrep-85-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=7b8629bb\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200414-sitrep-85-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=7b8629bb_4)

### Total confirmed deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa



### Total confirmed cases of to COVID-19 in Africa



Source: <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data/>

Currently, although the number of the COVID-19 cases in Africa as compared to other continents is low, there are obvious indications that the cases and case fatality rates are rising exponentially. The burden of the disease is currently a serious threat to the already over stressed statistical systems in the continent. This precarious situation of statistical systems in the continent is compounded by the fact that, of the 54 African countries, 33 are among the least developed countries in the world having the most vulnerable statistical systems. The monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development plans require a great deal of data and statistics. Obtaining such information in a timely and regular manner, however, has been a challenge in Africa. The disruptive negative effects of COVID-19 will trap countries in a vicious cycle of limited resources and

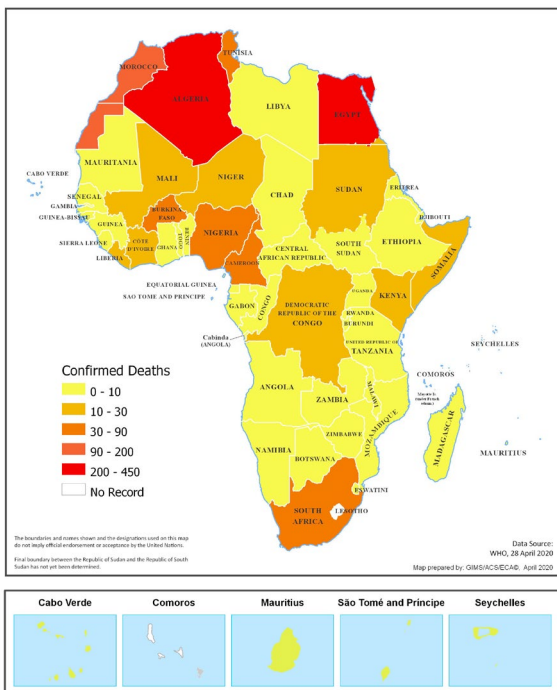
poor performance in supporting developing planning efforts. NSOs' capacities to collect, compile and disseminate even the minimum data needed let alone respond to new challenges and to meet new demands for data and statistics will be compromised leading to poor decision making as misinformation will have a negative toll on economic and social development of countries already with weak statistical systems. In the midst of the outbreak of the pandemic, the statistical community is lagging behind in developing robust and reliable methodologies of measuring the COVID-19 pandemic in the continent. Presently data collected at the points of entry has failed to follow statistical production principles with little or no implication of the various national statistics and mapping offices in the statistical and mapping management processes. The NSOs through government support have to seize the

opportunity and conduct COVID-19 specific surveys and censuses that will properly help assess and manage the volatile situation of the pandemic in the continent. There is need to develop measurement parameters for local transmission of the pandemic as well as to improve contact tracing processes and measurements allowing for rapid identification and isolation of secondary cases, which is key to breaking

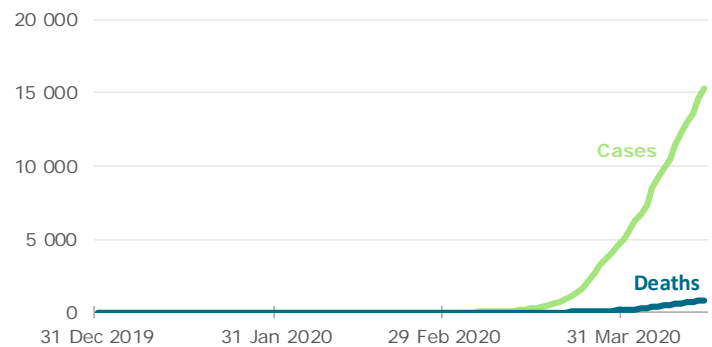
transmission chains and slowing down the spread of the outbreak. Since this is a communicable disease, it will be important to link geography or location to the statistical data that will be collected. The location data will permit targeted and precise identification of cases limiting the amount of resources needed to fight the pandemic.

## Confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people (April 2020)

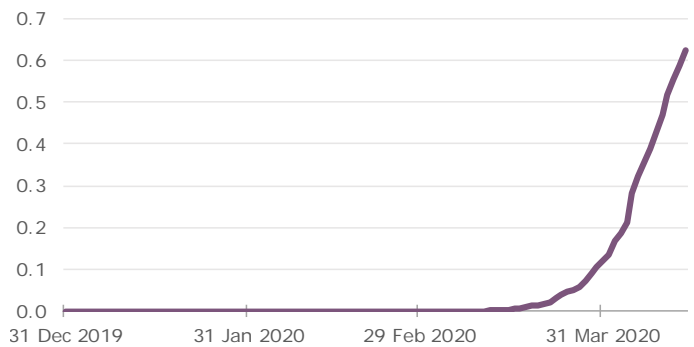
Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the total number of deaths from COVID-19.



## Total confirmed cases and deaths in Africa



## Total confirmed deaths per million people in Africa



Source: <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data/>

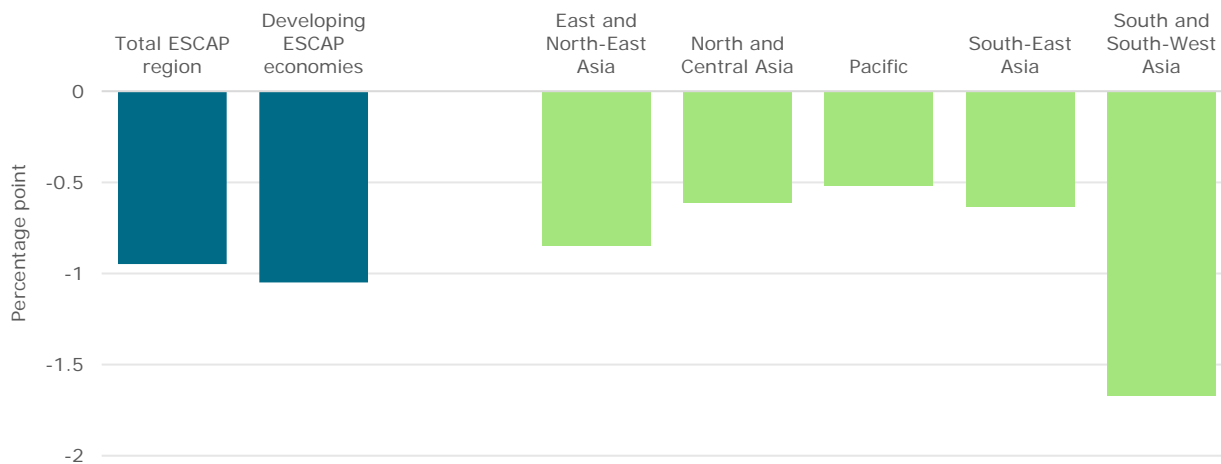
## Metadata:

- [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200414-sitrep-85-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=7b8629bb\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200414-sitrep-85-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=7b8629bb_4)
- <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>
- <https://doi.org/10.35188/UNU-WIDER/2020/800-9>
- <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/SG-Report-Socio-Economic-Impact-of-Covid19.pdf>
- [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200414-sitrep-85-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=7b8629bb\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200414-sitrep-85-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=7b8629bb_4)



COVID-19 has significantly threatened people's lives and the Asia Pacific region's economic outlook. Health inequalities abound in Asia Pacific. The slowdown gives the environment breathing space

**GDP growth decline in Asia and the Pacific region during the COVID-19 outbreak**



Source: ESCAP estimates. GDP growth differences are based on GDP growth forecasts on 27 November 2019 and 10 March 2020.

The impact of COVID-19 in Asia Pacific is tremendous due to the concentration of economic activities, demographics, urbanization, and difficult progress on SDGs. With more than two-thirds of global population, the world's most populous cities, the bulk of the world's industrial activities, energy supply and consumption, and with 46 million migrants, the crisis has shown how tightly the Asia-Pacific region is woven into the economic and social fabric of the world.

### Expected economic impacts of COVID 19

- Reduction in aggregate demand in Asia Pacific, with particular impacts on service sectors such as tourism, retail, hospitality, and civil aviation.
- Deceleration in GDP growth could be significant.
- International demand for commodities also fell, especially for oil, further contributing to economic and financial uncertainty and instability.

### Disrupted labor movement and supply chains.

- Sectors which rely heavily on extended supply chains, such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals and electronics, are under stress due to supply shortages.
- Prices are expected to increase, largely temporarily, especially for daily essentials and medicinal products.

- Traditional services sectors and some labor-intensive and supply-chain-based manufacturing are taking an immediate hit, resulting in increased layoffs and unemployment.
- Prioritizing the welfare of their own citizens, countries are engaging in beggar-thy-neighbor policies.
- The impact on employment is likely to be substantial as services and labor-intensive manufacturing comprise over 80 percent of the region's informal sector and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and contribute to most of the jobs in the region.

### Social impacts in Asia Pacific

- Health inequalities abound in Asia Pacific.
- 1.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation and an estimated 260 million also lack access to clean water at home, deprived of the most basic and effective prevention measure against the virus currently available: frequent handwashing.
- Many more are lacking access to affordable health care. Estimates indicate that over 4 in 10 people in the Asia-Pacific region have no access to health care, making disease detection, treatment and recovery hard to predict.

- Over 60 percent of the Asia-Pacific population also lack access to social protection, as do most of the 70 percent of all workers in the informal sector.
- Most Asia-Pacific countries have higher out-of-pocket expenditures for health care than the rest of the world
- In Asia-Pacific region, only a handful developing countries have established universal health care systems. In most of the region's other developing countries, people remain unprotected.
- Without unemployment benefits, many workers, especially in the informal sector and SMEs will not be able to sustain their basic living standards.

### People in vulnerable situations most at risk

- People in vulnerable situations, many of which are in Asia Pacific, are particularly at risk due to their health and overall social and economic circumstances. For example, many older persons in Asia Pacific lack social protection and many of the 690 million persons with disabilities in Asia Pacific are poor and in vulnerable employment without adequate social protection.
- Migrant workers in Asia Pacific have also been hit hard: many of them have lost their jobs, are stranded without any social protection, at risk of contracting the disease, and unable to return home due to closed borders.

### Environmental impacts in Asia Pacific

- Substantive reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide and reduced air pollution, especially in Asia and the Pacific where the intensive use of natural resources has come at steep environmental costs.
- It is likely that China's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions have reduced by a quarter or more during

February 2020. China's two-month coronavirus lockdown may have saved the lives of 4,000 children under 5 and 73,000 adults over 70 with a reduction in air pollution.

### Implications for the Energy Sector

- Measures to contain COVID-19 have resulted in reductions of 15 percent to 40 percent in output across key industrial sectors in China alone. During February 2020, electricity demand and industrial output, as a result of COVID-19, were far below the levels of the same period last year. Coal consumption at power plants was down 36 percent; Satellite-based nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels were 37 percent lower, and the utilization of oil refining capacity was reduced by 34 percent.

- Global oil demand could be reduced by 0.5 percent between January to September 2020.
- If the shutdown of Chinese industry persists beyond the first quarter of 2020, developers of wind and solar projects may be affected by shortages of equipment which will hinder the growth of the renewable energy sector.

### Implications for the Transport Sector

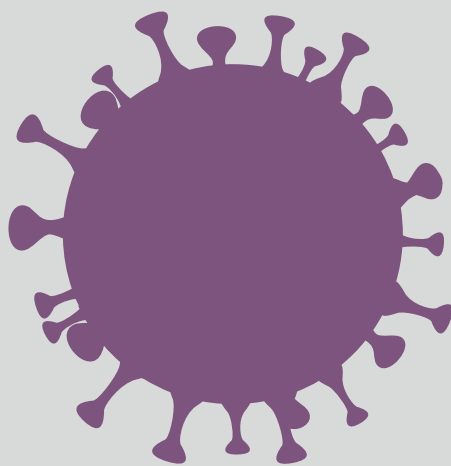
- Shipping, which carries over 80 percent of global trade volumes, registered plunging numbers with a sharp decline in container ships visiting Chinese ports in late January and early February 2020.
- Dramatic drop of the nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in China demonstrated how much drastically reducing transport and industrial activity can impact emissions.

### Sources:

- [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/covid%20\\_Report\\_ESCAP.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/covid%20_Report_ESCAP.pdf)

# STATISTICAL IMPACT







In crisis times there is even more a need for high-quality data to be available on a timely basis. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic poses severe challenges to the collection and production of economic and financial statistics. The European Central Bank (ECB) and the national central banks (NCBs) will offer assistance to reporting agents to ensure that data continues to be collected in a timely manner and remains fit for purpose.

**Reliable and timely data are crucial in times when the economy faces turbulence caused by extraordinary situations.**

The efforts of reporting agents to continue their statistical reporting to the ECB and to the national central banks of the euro area are essential to ensure that all sectors of the economy can benefit from the supportive financing conditions secured by the ECB's policy measures, enabling them to absorb this significant shock.

**The ECB will do everything necessary within its mandate to help the euro area through the crisis caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and will explore all options and contingencies to support the economy through this shock.**

**Despite the current coronavirus pandemic, the ECB is determined to continue collecting data on a timely basis and of a quality that is fit for purpose.** This will allow the ECB to have the necessary statistical information at its disposal to adjust all of its measures, should this be needed, to safeguard liquidity conditions in the banking system and to ensure the smooth transmission of its monetary policy.

**This statistical information contributes to the maintenance of price stability** and the smooth conduct of policies pursued by the competent authorities responsible for the supervision and resolution of financial institutions, for markets and infrastructures, and for the stability of the financial system.

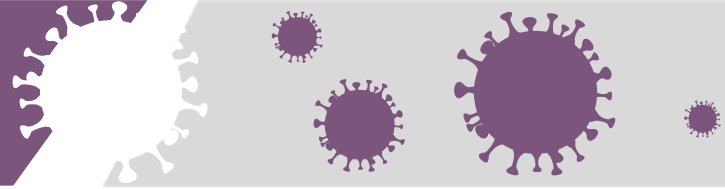
**Pragmatic solutions are offered to support reporting agents.**

At the same time, the ECB and the national central banks acknowledge that the pandemic poses considerable challenges to reporting agents across the euro area and the European Union, such as the unavailability of staff for health reasons, restrictions on movement and the closing down of some sectors of the economy.

**Many reporting agents have swiftly adopted remote working arrangements.** Meanwhile, the continuity and quality of statistical information reporting may be challenged by the exceptional circumstances surrounding the performance of day-to-day operations underlying the statistical reporting.

**As part of its crisis efforts, the ECB has therefore invited the national central banks and reporting agents to find pragmatic solutions within the existing legal framework** to keep data reporting within limits that are manageable for reporting agents, while maintaining the quality of the statistical information at a sufficiently high level.

**In case of difficulties, reporting agents have been asked to contact their national central banks and the ECB for assistance.** The ECB and the national central banks cooperate closely with other European institutions and bodies. Together with the reporting agents, the ECB will rise to these unprecedented challenges, thus ensuring that the data and statistics required to support the necessary policy measures are available and fit for purpose.



*Link to statistics and metadata:*

Statistical Data Warehouse website: <http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/>  
Statistics webpage on ECB website: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/html/index.en.html>  
Euro area statistics website: <https://www.euro-area-statistics.org/>  
ECB website: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/html/index.en.html>  
SSM website: <https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/home/html/index.en.html>

*Sources:*

- ECB communication to reporting agents on the collection of statistical information in the context of COVID-19, ECB, 15 April 2020.
- Supervisory reporting measures in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, ECB, 15 April 2020.
- Our response to the coronavirus emergency, Christine Lagarde, President of the ECB, the ECB Blog, 19 March 2020.



**EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK**  
**EUROSYSTEM**

## Innovation, resiliency and cooperation keep official statistics flowing

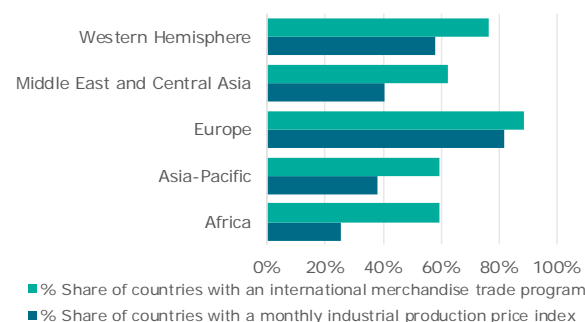
During any crisis citizens, governments and businesses need “the facts” quickly so that they can make critical decisions. The way that we collectively manage the COVID-19 crisis that now grips the planet is highly dependent on having a steady stream of timely, high quality data that allow governments and citizens to make life-saving and livelihood saving decisions. National Statistical Systems are facing unprecedented challenges in delivering these data. Innovation, resiliency and international cooperation are ensuring that official statistics not only continue to flow but that they are enhanced to address the specific COVID-19 information needs.

The table and figure below show the worldwide average timeliness of key economic indicators as well as the regional availability of high frequency monthly economic indicators. *The challenge for the national statistical system is to maintain or improve on worldwide timeliness and availability at a time where their resources and operations are being severely impaired.*

**Table 1 - Average timeliness of key economic indicators**  
(in days after the reference period)

Region	Consumer Price Index	Industrial Production Index	Number of persons employed	Exports
Africa	28	77	238	114
Asia-Pacific	38	55	190	96
Europe	18	44	50	45
Middle East and Central Asia	18	51	97	66
Western Hemisphere	27	45	114	64

**Figure 1 - Availability of selected high frequency economic indicators**



COVID-19 has brought a new set of challenges to the global statistical community. The world-wide shutdown means that most of the staff from the global statistical system (the global network of national statistical agencies, central banks and government ministries) are now working from home – often with limited access to the tools and data they need to produce and disseminate leading economic indicators. Face to face surveys are being suspended, the in-store collection of prices is no longer possible and surveying businesses is becoming problematic as they temporarily shut down or simply are not able to respond to government questionnaires. On top of these operational there are abrupt changes in economic behavior that call for much more timely and frequent indicators. The challenges faced by the statistical system today have not been seen in the past. Standard imputation methods such as carrying forward previous observations or trending

forward prior period trends are not appropriate given the degree of the shutdowns that are occurring.

In many cases the disruption in data collection is impacting or will impact the worldwide access to key economic indicators related to consumer prices, employment, international trade, international finance and economic growth more generally. Some countries are well resourced to deal with these challenges while other are not and require assistance. The international statistical community is working together to ensure that both the volume and the quality of data are maintained and even enhanced during the COVID-19 crisis.

### Ensuring the continuity of operations

Countries and international organizations are sharing best practices in business continuity so that national and international statistical organizations can continue



to publish key leading economic indicators such as the consumer price index, the balance of payments and gross domestic product. Working with other international bodies, the IMF has published a series of business continuity notes that address some of the operational and methodological challenges presented to compilers by the pandemic. Examples include how to best impute for missing prices when constructing the consumer price index or how to adjust for non-response to business and household's surveys. Experts are also sharing ideas and developing new indicators that help citizens, governments and business understand the interaction between health care and the economy. New surveys are being developed in record time on topics such as household access to basic supplies, mental health, care for seniors, and the production of health care equipment.

### **Big Data - Open Data – Citizen Generated Data**

In recent years, statisticians, researchers, academics, and businesses have been exploring ways to make better use of big data and open data to compile official statistics. Much of this work has been experimental and it has been challenging to operationalize this work in such a way that it can be incorporated into the regular

statistical system. The COVID-19 crisis is serving to sharpen our thinking and alter our risk profile (which is generally very low for statisticians) when it comes to using big data, open data and citizen generated data to compile current economic indicators and official statistics. Several countries have launched open platforms for citizens to provide their governments and themselves an assessment of the health, social and economic impact of COVID-19. Data sharing platforms have been established that allow statisticians to share high frequency indicators derived from “big data” and “open data” sources that can be linked as much as possible – “plug and play” into their official statistical processes.

The COVID-19 had the potential to shut down the worldwide ‘official statistics’ industry as national statistical systems faced large disruptions in their business operations. Rather than shutting down – the national statistical system faced the challenges head on – and through innovation, resiliency and international cooperation were able to ensure the continued steady flow of official statistics to its citizens at a time when they needed it the most.

#### *Notes:*

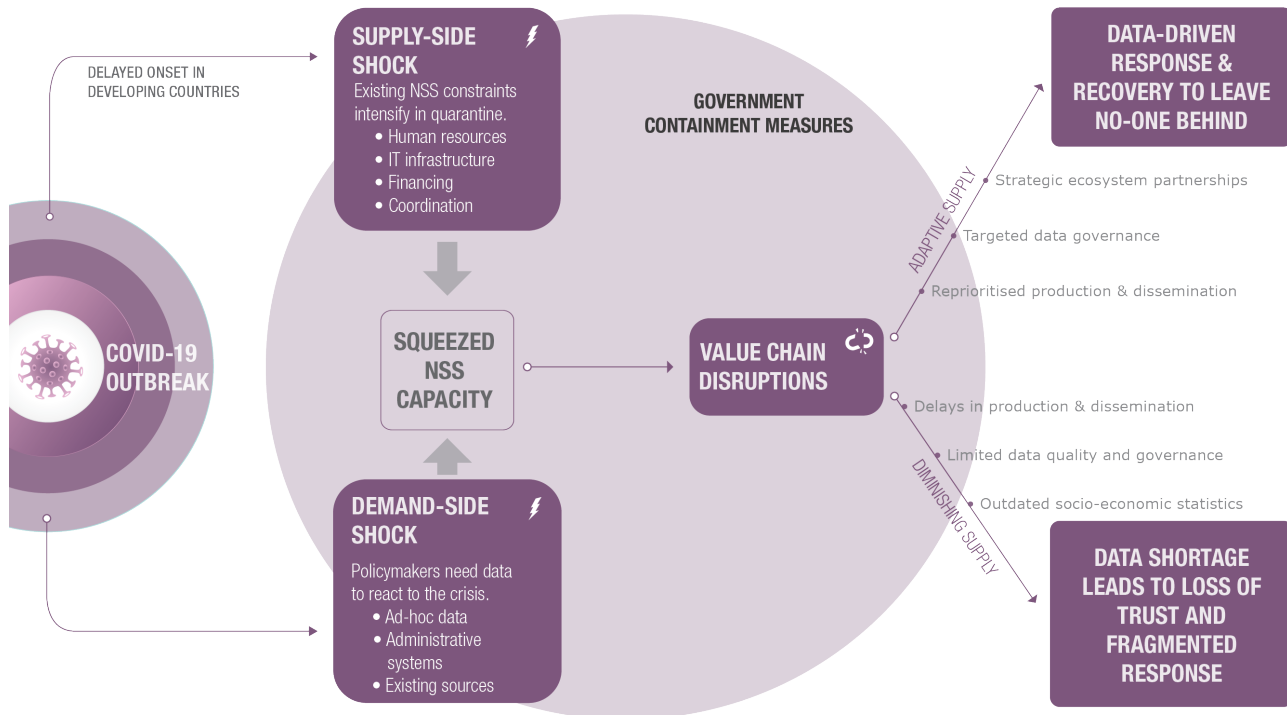
- Special Series on COVID-19: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLs/covid19-special-notes>
- Humanitarisons Data Exchange : <https://data.humdata.org/>
- United Nations: Resources for Official Statistician: <https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/>
- OECD COVID-19 Discussion Forum : <https://community.oecd.org/community/official-stats-workspace-covid19>



## COVID-19 squeezes statistical capacity

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought data and evidence to the center of policy making and public attention. However, as countries comply with lockdowns and other containment measures, national statistical systems (NSSs) may be squeezed beyond their institutional limits thus threatening data production.

Figure 1 – The impact of COVID-19 on the data value chain



Source: PARIS21, 2020

Early indications show COVID-19 will affect developing and least developed countries in unique ways (Lempinen, 2020). In least developed countries and fragile contexts with larger informal economies, poorer infrastructure and limited social safety nets, health and fiscal capacity, options for responding to the crisis are more constrained and come with starker trade-offs (The Economist, 2020).

As more developing countries adopt containment measures, the COVID-19 crisis has created a dual shock affecting data demand and supply that precipitates disruptions in the data value chain for official statistics (Figure 1).

On the demand side, policy makers, development partners and citizens need to take quick, informed actions to design interventions that reach the most vulnerable and leave no one behind. However, in many countries, robust and complete administrative records

of vital events and domestic migration are not available to inform valid policy responses at the national and sub-national levels. Moreover, available socio-economic and price data may rapidly fall out of date due to evolving conditions on the ground.

At the same time, the crisis severely affects data supply. The closure of workplaces forces national statistical offices (NSOs) and other NSS institutions to shift to teleworking arrangements, often without sufficient IT solutions in place to sustain ongoing activities. In response, most NSOs have bootstrapped their data production and postponed field-based data collection.

Demand and supply shocks to NSSs are also reflected in the communication patterns of NSOs in developing countries (Figure 2). Only 49 out of 151 NSO websites analysed currently publish any information related to the pandemic in their homepages (PARIS21, 2020).

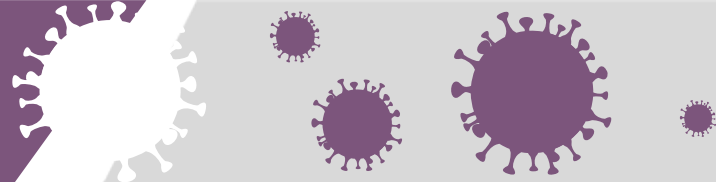
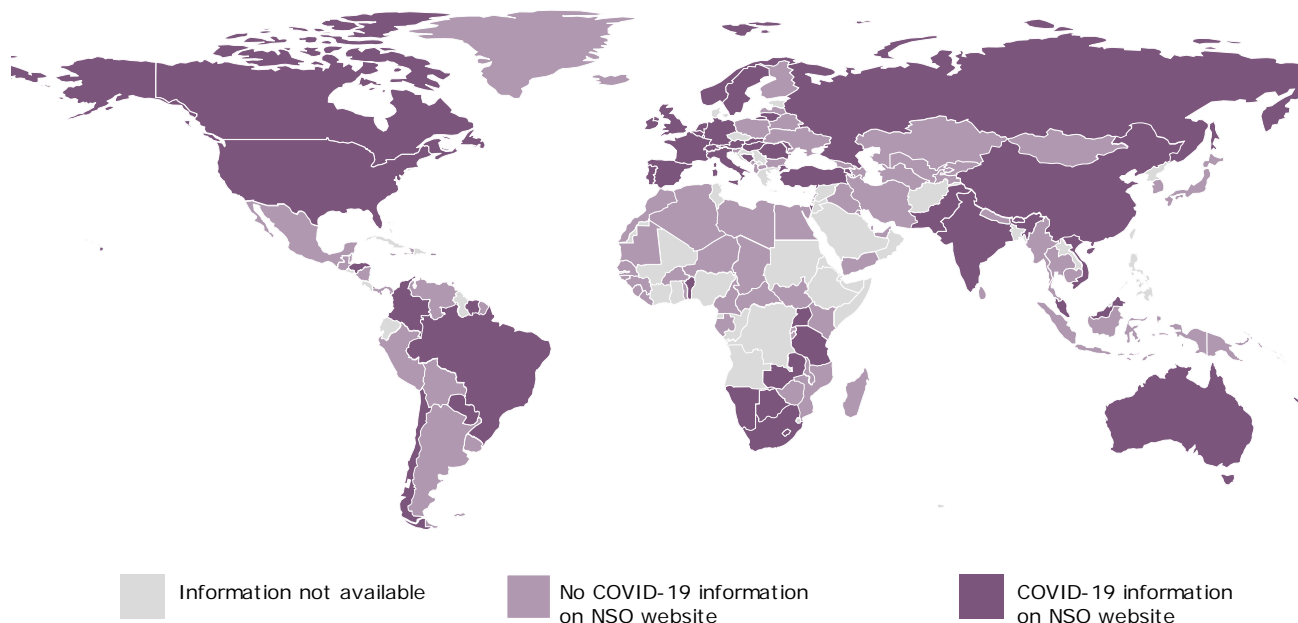


Figure 2 – NSOs communicate heterogeneously on COVID-19



Source: PARIS21, 2020

Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map. The data is web scraped from NSO websites as of 03.04.2020.

Source: <https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/DataForMap.xlsx>

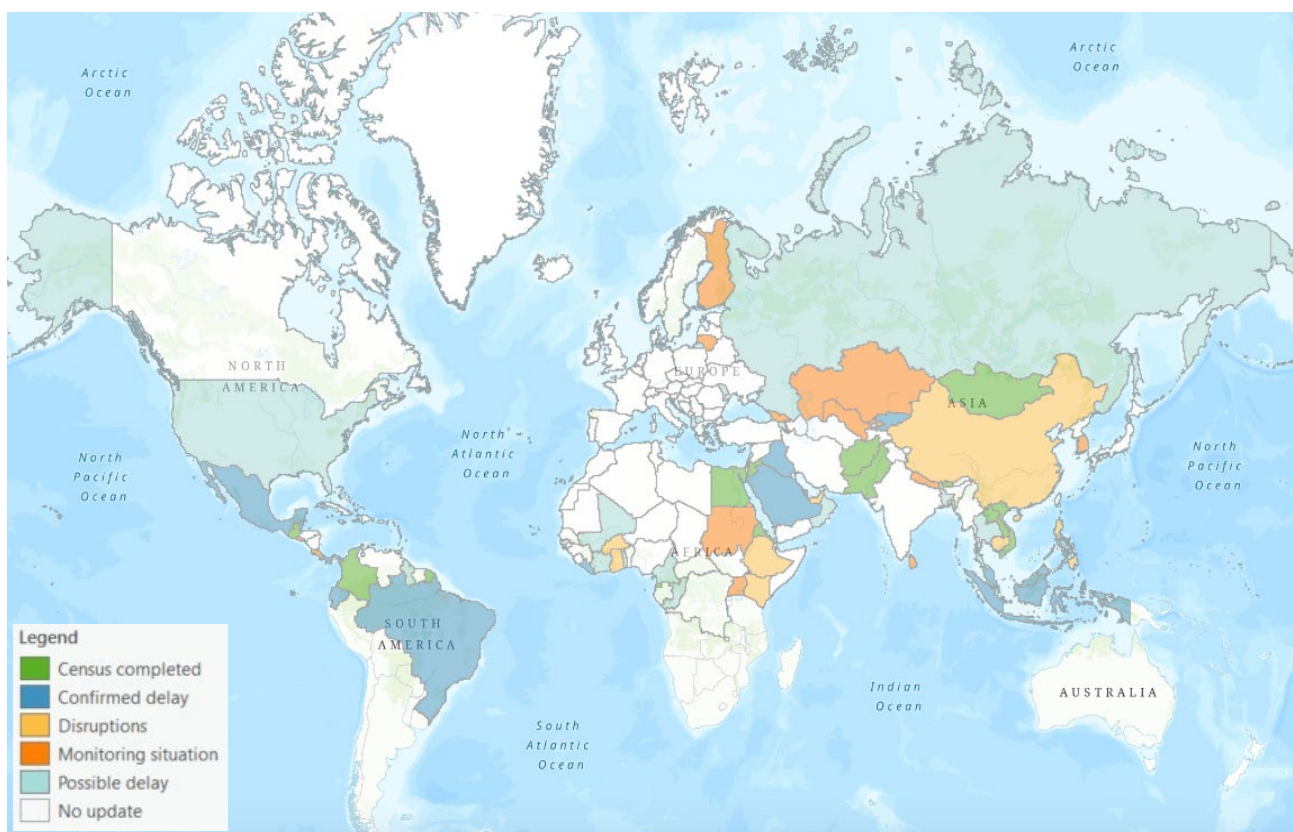
Note: URL to the NSOs are based on data from the Statistical Capacity Monitor: <https://statisticalcapacitymonitor.org/>

References:

- Lempinen, E. (2020), Africa faces grave risks as COVID-19 emerges, says Berkeley economist, <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/03/31/africa-faces-grave-risks-as-covid-19-emerges-says-berkeley-economist/>.
- PARIS21 (2020), Combating COVID-19 with data: What role for National Statistical Systems. Policy Brief. [https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/COVID\\_Policybrief\\_Full.pdf?v=2.0](https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/COVID_Policybrief_Full.pdf?v=2.0)
- The Economist (2020), Covid-19 presents stark choices between life, death and the economy, <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/04/01/covid-19-presents-stark-choices-between-life-death-and-the-economy>.

## 2020 Census round at risk of falling behind

As the world grapples with COVID-19, National Statistical Offices worldwide are struggling with the implications of the pandemic on the 2020 census round. At a moment when we urgently need up-to-date population data for preparedness and response, censuses will be delayed, and many people may go uncounted.



With more than 120 countries scheduled to conduct census enumeration in 2020 and 2021, the 2020 census round will be severely impacted by the pandemic, risking many censuses to fall behind.

The pandemic threatens the successful conduct of censuses through delays, interruptions, diversion of funding, or complete cancellation of census projects.

Of all countries/areas planning or undertaking a population and housing census in the 2020 round, sixty-four have already communicated adverse impacts of COVID-19, with the exception of countries/areas implementing registers-based production of census-like small area statistics.

In calendar year 2020, 59 countries were scheduled to undertake their census: 23 countries have already postponed, and 26 are considering delays or

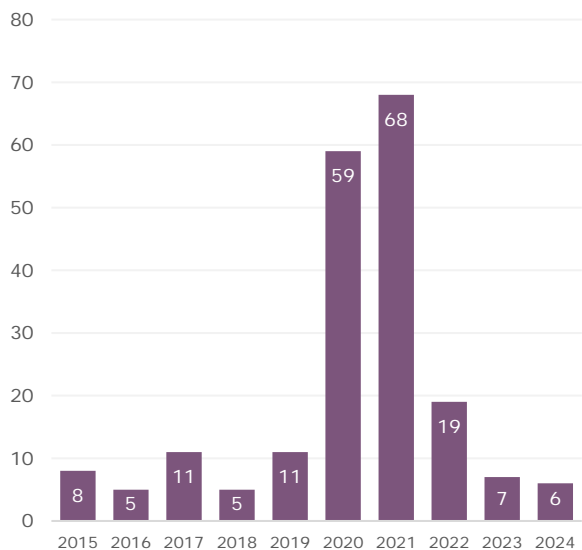
postponement. In some cases, preparatory activities have been postponed. Many more have reported disruptions that threaten the quality of pre- or post-enumeration activities. As domestic and donor financing for census are diverted to address the urgent clinical and economic consequences of COVID-19, postponed censuses will move into financial uncertainty.

At this stage of census taking in these countries UNFPA and UNDESA do not recommend to attempt switching the initially adopted census enumeration methodology – for example, moving from face-to-face enumeration with tablet computers to internet self-enumeration. One of the perceived consequences of this pandemic in terms of future census taking activities points to the drastic shift from canvassing the country door-to-door to the use of registers and internet self-enumeration.

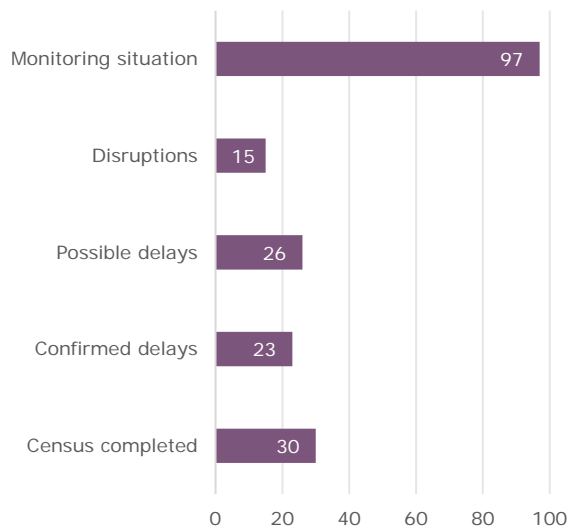




2020 census schedule



Impact of COVID-19 on census



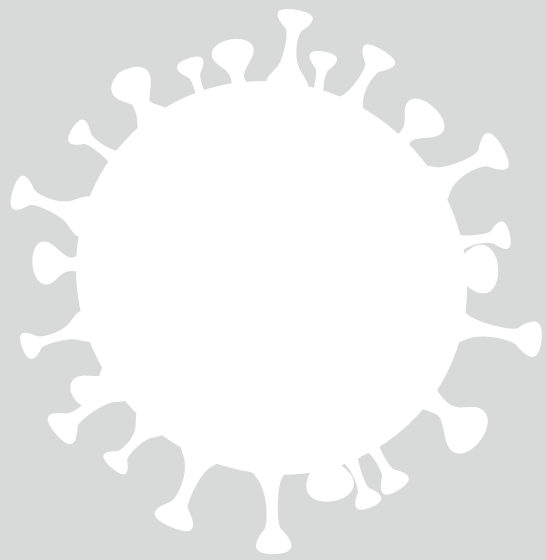
**Note:**

The UNFPA census dashboard provides most recent information, in map and tabular view, on the impact of COVID-19 on individual census conducts and a video on how to use the dashboard itself. The UNSD platform - <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/COVID-19/> provides the latest information on the impact of COVID-19 on national census activities.

**Sources:**

Information displayed in the dashboard is based on data coming from our UNFPA regional and country offices. The dashboard will be updated on a daily basis as replies and updates from national staff are received and processed.





#StatisticalCoordination

