COVID-19
Government measures

About this report

An outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (abbreviated "COVID-19") (CDC 2020) was first reported in China in December 2019. The outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020 (WHO 11/03/2020).

This report provides an update to previous ACAPS reports that explore measures adopted by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be found here. Our reports are a component of ACAPS' broader effort to monitor the secondary impacts of the pandemic and are based on publicly available data assembled by our team through a wide scanning of information across the globe.

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

Contents

Methodology

This report explores government measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been identified using data collected in the **ACAPS #COVID19 Government Measures Dataset** (updated 19/05/2020). Data is available for over 190 countries.

The Secondary Data Review that populated the dataset was structured around **five broad categories of measures** used to group the interventions governments were taking in response to COVID-19:

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

For an overview of the **Government Measures Taxonomy**, including overall structure and definitions, please see the *Annex*. The taxonomy is frequently updated to reflect the evolving situation as governments adopt and amend measures.

Limitations

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

This report includes information on government measures available as of 19 May 2020.
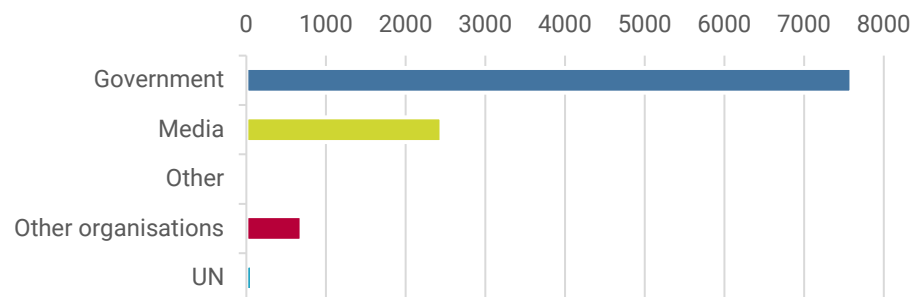
Government measures are changing rapidly. Often information is outdated by the time it has been identified. The number of countries implementing or amending measures increases daily. Given the speed in which governments are amending or introducing new measures in response to COVID-19, the dataset and analysis are likely to have information gaps. There are information gaps for some countries.

Information gaps exist for some countries.
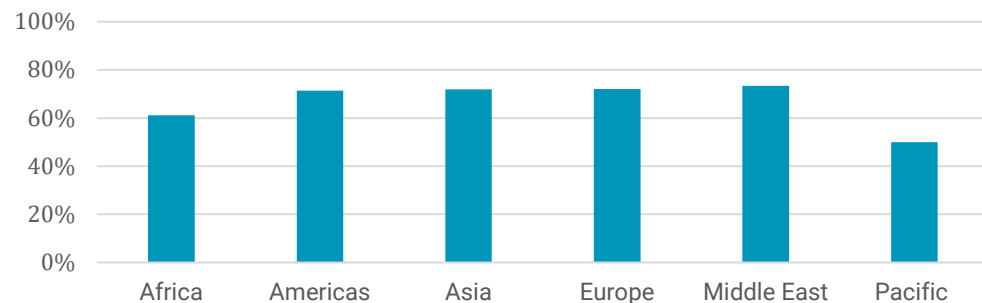
Overview government measures

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

Type of Sources

As of 19 May 2020, 131 countries have implemented at least one measure from each of the five categories identified.

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

Movement Restrictions

As of 19 May 2020, around 190 countries have taken measures that restrict movement. Measures identified in this category are either introduced to control entry onto the territory of a State or to control movement within a territory. Measures directed at control of entry are the most commonly implemented movement restrictions. They include partial border closures (159 countries) and international flight suspensions (153 countries). Other measures that fall into this sub-category are visa restrictions or suspensions, requirements of additional health documents at entry points and intensified border controls. Among measures introduced to control internal movement, domestic travel restrictions are the most commonly implemented measures (138 countries). Other measures directed at control of internal movement are curfews, and the establishment of surveillance and monitoring systems such as movement tracking through mobile phone data.

Top 3 Movement restrictions measures implemented	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Border closure (partial)	159	43	32	22	38	12	12
Int. flight suspension	153	47	24	26	32	13	11
Domestic travel restrictions	138	43	25	21	28	13	8

Social distancing

As of 19 May 2020, more than 185 countries have implemented social distancing measures, which seek to reduce physical social contact and ensure physical distance between individuals, particularly in public spaces. In terms of government actions, the measures being taken include limiting public gatherings, closure of businesses and public services, school closures, and changes to prison policies. The most common social distancing measure is limiting public gatherings, currently implemented in 177 countries.

Top 3 Social distancing measures implemented	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Limit public gatherings	177	52	29	30	43	13	10
Schools closure	166	49	31	22	39	15	10
Closure of businesses and public services	143	38	26	16	39	15	9

Public health measures

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

Top 3 Public health measures implemented	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Isolation and quarantine policies	175	47	30	31	40	14	13
Strengthening public health systems	163	37	32	28	42	10	14
Health screenings at border points	136	45	22	26	24	9	10

Governance and socioeconomic measures

Over 180 governments are implementing a variety of governance and socioeconomic measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the five measure types identified in this category is the introduction of emergency legislation, which grants governments extended powers. As of 19 May 2020, over 130 governments operate under emergency legislation frameworks. Other measures in this category include the specific economic measures, the deployment of military forces, and changes to import/export regulations.

Top 3 Governance and socioeconomic measures	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Economic measures	163	40	33	28	40	9	13
Emergency administrative structures activated or established	139	35	27	22	38	6	11
State of emergency declared	106	31	23	10	26	3	13

Lockdown

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

Lockdowns imposed	Total	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Pacific
Partial lockdown	129	32	25	24	28	12	8
Full lockdown	33	4	9	8	5	5	2

Annex - Government measures taxonomy

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

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