COVID 19 Response Measures In EASF region
11th September, 2020
This report will document the response measures taken by EASF Member States in an effort to flatten the COVID-19 curve. EASF has ten Member States at different stages of the corona virus curve with Ethiopia recording over 62,000 cases of the total 130,302 regional cases. The positive news is that the number of deaths are still relatively low. The recovery rate is on average over 50% of total recorded cases. On the other hand, testing is still limited in most EASF Member States and therefore most Member States have taken every precaution to protect their populations through a raft of socio-economic measures.
• Suspension of passenger flights in and out of Burundi commenced 22nd March 2020.
• All borders were closed except for cargo. Travelers are advised that if they plan to cross the border from Rwanda into Burundi, they may be denied entry.
• Mandatory quarantine for 14 days for those exposed or suspected of having the virus.
• As from 7th July 2020, mass testing campaign was launched in Bujumbura.
• Other measures put in place include:
  ○ Reduction on the price of soap and water to enhance and ensure accessibility,
  ○ Provision of masks to the citizens,
  ○ Health personnel equipped with protective masks,
  ○ Hygiene to be maintained in public transport vehicles and passengers to wear masks.

• Limited access to hotel premises.
• Sensitization and awareness campaigns have been created through TV and Radio.
• Installation of hand sanitizers and water for hand washing in public places.
• The authorities have asked hospitals to make beds available for potential cases (20 for each national hospital and 5 for each local hospital).
• From the new COVID 19 government measures, all borders are now open for cargo movement. Cargo flights are still operating.
• As from 11th August 2020, the wearing of protective face masks is mandatory in public places. In
  addition, all weddings and public gatherings remain prohibited until further notice.
• From 11th August 2020, the number of passengers in public transport remains limited to 10 people in
  buses and four in taxis.
• Adherence to measures as announced by the President including regular washing of hands, social
  distancing (1-2 meters), etc.
• From 20th March 2020, all schools and educational institutions of higher learning remain closed.
• Prohibitions of gatherings of more than 20 people
• Ban of collective prayers including Friday prayers (blessed day for Muslims)
• Flights between Comoros and the islands of Mayotte and the Réunion suspended
• Quarantine measures implemented for travelers from, or those who have transited through COVID-19-
  infected countries
• Night curfews to restrict movements from 20:00-05:00 hours.
• Closing of sea and air borders (except for cargo ships and/or special evacuations)
• Support for economic operators and households (reduction of customs duties, deferral of tax obligations,
  etc.)
• Import taxes on food, medicines, and items related to hygiene reduced by 30 percent.
• A fund to support employees associated with airport operations created.
• The Central Bank reduced reserve requirements to 10 percent.
• The authorities announced a restructuring of commercial loans and freezing of interest rates in some
  commercial loans.
On 28th March 2020, the Djibouti Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and subcommittees established as well to observe the COVID-19 situation and impact and conduct necessary responses.

A nation-wide lockdown has been in place since March 23rd 2020, except for essential services. Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport opened for commercial flights beginning 17th July 2020.

All passengers entering Djibouti are tested for COVID-19 upon arrival by Ministry of Health personnel. Sea ports and border posts are open to receive outsiders.

Upon arrival at Ambouli International Airport, travelers identified with the virus either go into isolation and treatment or depart Djibouti on the next flight without leaving the airport.

On 16th July 2020, the ministry of Health issued a circular note on the reopening of borders, specifying the health protocols for passengers.

Travelers coming to Djibouti by air/sea/land must be screened for COVID-19 upon arrival at ports of entry.

In addition, travelers coming to Djibouti must be equipped with protective masks at the time of departure or arrival at the points of entry, respect the physical distance of one meter, if possible, at all stages of the journey and carry a hydro-alcoholic gel throughout the trip.

Airlines may require passengers heading to Djibouti to show a negative COVID-19 test certificate before allowing them to board their flight.

Gatherings of more than ten people not allowed.

Use of facial masks in all public or private spaces in which social distancing cannot be observed is mandatory.

Public and private construction activities allowed to operate.

Traffic has been restricted to the minimum and is only allowed with administrative authorization.

Hotels resumed normal operations on 30th June 2020.

Restaurants and cafes reopened on 16th June 2020 with social distancing and hygiene measures in place;

Conference rooms, event halls, and cinemas are closed until 1st September 2020;

Grocery stores and retail outlets reopened on 10th July 2020.
• Leisure and amusement sites as well as hotels have reopened.
• Closure of educational institutions, sports events and bars. Schools to remain closed until 2nd September 2020 – the start of the next school year;
• Places of worship reopened on 10th July 2020 but must follow very strict measures of ensuring protection including wearing of facial masks and social distancing.
• Quarantine sites to be established for infected persons and contact tracing procedures put in place.
• The World Bank provided Djibouti with US$5 million credit towards efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the rapid spread of COVID-19.
• The World Health Organization delivered protective equipment to the Ministry of Health including goggles, surgical gowns, gloves, face masks and hand sprayers. WHO has also ordered 500 test machines and 80 respirators for COVID-19 preparedness in the country.
• On 8th April 2020, the Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency for 5 months under Article 93 of the constitution, which allows it to impose more stringent measures.

• On 2nd August 2020 the Government officially launched a nation-wide one-month-long testing campaign, which will determine the next steps to be undertaken by the Government in the New Year which will start on 11th September 2020.

• Closing of all schools including institutions of higher learning and banning of public gatherings including sporting events was instituted from 16th March 2020

• Release of over 4,000 prisoners to prevent overcrowding in prisons and contain the spread of the coronavirus

• Postponement of elections from 29th August 2020 to a new date to be determined

• The mandatory 14-day quarantine of arrivals from abroad has been shortened to as few days as three. In addition, passengers from abroad who hold COVID-19 negative certificates are mandated to isolate themselves for only three days after giving samples and stay for 14 days at home before joining their communities.

• Closure of all-night clubs and places of entertainment effective 20th March until further notice

• Wearing of face masks is mandatory when visiting ‘service providing’ places such as shops and everyone must stand at least two strides apart.

• Government employees ordered to work from home

• Sporting activities at all levels are prohibited

• Greetings by handshake are banned

• As of 1st April, suspension of mass gatherings in places of worship including mosques and churches

• House to house screening and diagnostic testing conducted.

• COVID-19 Response Fund established for resource mobilization. Comprises both private and public institutions. Contributions are both financial and non-financial and include buildings, hotels, vehicles, sanitary items, masks, etc.

• Extra funding for healthcare facilities

• Removal of the restriction on floor price for flower exports that was previously set by the National Bank of Ethiopia
• National Bank of Ethiopia has availed 15-billion-birr (About USD 450 million) liquidity for private banks to enable them to provide debt relief and additional loans to their customers in need and especially the businesses adversely affected by COVID-19.
• Clamping down price gouging by retailers to protect low income households
• Emergency support of $82.8M from the World Bank to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19
• Ethiopia has relaxed rules for mobile banking and money transfers, opening the market to all local businesses to encourage people to go cashless to control the spread of coronavirus
• Commercial banks ordered to give priority to importers that import goods to combat COVID-19 like ventilators, sanitary goods and medical equipment, including testing kits, when providing forex.
• Ministerial level macro-economic management sub-committee has been set up
• Waived all duties and taxes on all medical supplies and equipment imported to fight COVID-19
• Border closure in effect but no restrictions on cargo movements from Djibouti to Ethiopia. Custom offices operating on both sides. However, shortage of trucks to Djibouti due to spike in demand
• Customs and Revenue authorities are facilitating continuity of business by implementing e-documents and e-payments and pre-arrival clearance procedures and exempting some required documents such as certificate of origin.
Coronavirus Task Force established as a national emergency response
Reopening of schools and universities deferred to January 2021.
On 27th August 2020 the Government provided guidelines on safe operation of second-hand clothes businesses after a ban on their importation was lifted.
On 26th August 2020 the Kenyan Government announced a 30-day extension of night curfews from 9:00 p.m. to 4 a.m alongside closure of bars and nightclubs in order to curb the transmission of COVID-19.
Beginning 26th August 2020, the maximum number of people allowed to attend weddings and funerals will be 100, but they will be expected to abide by Ministry of Health protocols to curb transmission of COVID-19.
From July 27th July 2020 restaurants to operate between 8:00 a.m - 5.p.m but not to sell alcohol.
As from July 7th, 2020 places of worship opened with strict adherence to health measures.
Fines and jail time introduced for those found in breach of the various measures in place.
Minimized congestion in public transport and limiting visitors to hospitalized patients in both public and private hospitals.
Public transport including all matatus, hospitals and shopping malls are encouraged to provide soap, water and hand sanitizers and ensure that all their vehicles and premises are regularly cleaned and disinfected.
Government registries and the courts closed except for the handling of emergency matters.
Government offices, businesses and companies encouraged to allow employees to work from home except for those working in critical or essential services.
Kenya Medical Research Institute develops a local testing kit.
Resumption of domestic air travel from 15th July and international flights to resumed on 1st August 2020.
Mandatory PCR-Covid-19-Free certificate for all international arrivals valid for 96 hours prior.
Mass production of sanitizers, masks and ventilators by private sector in Kenya.
Temperature readings for truck crews to be taken at entry points and at designated weighbridges which are: Namanga; Busia, Gilgil, Mariakani; Malaba and Taveta.
Truck occupants must keep temperature/readings/health forms until they exit Kenya unless they are Kenyan residents; stringent screening of the trucks; limited numbers of crew and passengers, and any truck crew member who exhibits symptoms occupants subject to a 14 days quarantine.
Cashless transactions encouraged and facilitated to limit contact.
• Stringent medical screening at all border points. Only drivers, loader plus the clearing agent are allowed across the border.
• A 100-percent tax relief for low-income-earning persons up to KES24,000
• Reduced the top Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) rate from 30 percent to 25 percent.
• Appropriation of KES 10 billion through cash transfers to the vulnerable members of society.
• Temporary suspension of listing with Credit Reference Bureau for persons who default on their loan obligations with effect from 1 April 2020.
• Disbursement of KES 1 billion for the recruitment of additional medical personnel.
• The government committed to pay the bills for all those in isolation centres thus encouraging testing.
Rwanda

- The Kigali City Market re-opened on 3rd September 2020 following a thorough inspection by a coronavirus taskforce. The market was shut down for two weeks on 17th August 2020 after recording multiple cases of Covid-19. However, the Nyabugogo market also known as Kwa Mutangana, which was closed at the same time as the Kigali City Market, will remain closed following the spike in Covid-19 infections.
- Public transport between Kigali City and the rest of the country is prohibited as from 27th August 2020. Other prohibitions are that private transport between Kigali and other districts (except for Rusizi District) will continue while movements between Rusizi district and other districts are prohibited.
- From 1st September 2020, all public hospitals to start COVID-19 tests in a move to boost capacity and will apply the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology.
- Curfew reviewed as from 26th August 2020 and it will start from 7:00 p.m. to 5 a.m. the earlier curfew had been set at 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- As from 26th August 2020, the number of people working in public institutions at any given time should be reduced to 30% from 50% and will be required to work in shifts. Beginning 26th August 2020 employees working in the private sector including markets to continue observing the 50% quota of employees at any given time.
- As from 14th August 2020 new arrivals to Rwanda must present a negative COVID-19 tests certificate done within 5 days of departure from their point of origin. Initially, international travelers were required to have the tests done within 3 days (72 hours).
- Government established an online platform for people in need of essential services including visiting hospitals, attending to emergencies, shopping etc. to apply for clearance of movement.
- Mass testing of taxi moto operators carried out beginning 21st June 2020. It was also made mandatory that all taxi moto operators remove the helmet screens for passengers and use a hand sanitizer to clean the helmets. The passengers were further directed to wear a cloth to cover their heads before using the helmet.
- On 25th June six villages of Kigali City put under a 15-day total Covid-19 lockdown in a bid to prevent the spread of the virus to other areas. The six villages are Nyarugenge and Kicukiro districts and are Kamabuye, Zuba, Nyenyeri, Rugano, Kadobogo and Gisenga.
- From 22nd July 2020 three more villages in Kigali City which are Tetero, Indamutsa, and Intiganda which are all in Tetero Sector put on lockdown.
- Citizens or foreigners returning to the country are subject to a 7-day mandatory quarantine at designated locations at their own cost;
• Commercial flights to and from the country were allowed to operate as from 1st August 2020. Rwandair resumed international flights on 1st August 2020 starting with Africa routes. Health measures put in place to safeguard the health of passengers, crew, and airport staff as provided by Ministry of Health and ICAO.
• Places of worship resumed services from 16th July 2020 with approval by local authorities.
• From 15th July 2020 six administrative cells in Nyamagabe District (in Southern Province) and Nyamasheke District (in Western Province) placed in a 15-day COVID-19 lockdown after increases cases being recorded. The cells ar Kigeme and Ruhunga (Nyamagabe District) and Mubuga, Gitwa, part of Kivu-Butare road, and Jarama
• Beginning 1st August 2020 self-check in kiosks, thermal cameras, screening robots, and hand sanitizer dispensers have been put in place at Kigali International Airport as part of health measures.
• All visitors travelling to Rwanda by charter flights must test negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to arrival; a second test will be taken prior to visiting any tourist attraction.
• Domestic and international visitors travelling for tourism by charter flights allowed in the country as from 17th June 2020.
• Domestic tourists visiting Volcanoes National Park and Nyungwe National Park must test negative for COVID-19 within 48 hours prior to visiting the parks.
• All passengers arriving in Rwanda by commercial flights including those in transit required to show proof of a COVID-19 Polymerise Chain Reaction (PCR) negative test from a certified laboratory taken within 72 hours of arriving in Rwanda. A second PCR test to be conducted upon arrival – with results delivered after 24 hours.
• Apart from the national Kigali National Reference Laboratory, other satellite testing labs set up in COVID-19 hotspots areas of the country which include the districts of Kirehe, Rubavu, Rwamagana, Nyagatare, and Rusizi, this is to hasten the process of generating results for patients to ensure timely interventions.
• Hotels to operate and offer tourism and conference services but must adhere to the provided health guidelines.
• Religious wedding ceremonies allowed to take place but should not exceed 30 people.
• Educational institutions (schools and colleges), and bars remain closed since March 2020.
• Restaurants and cafes allowed to operate until 7:00 p.m.
• Social distancing to be observed in public places.
• Wearing of face masks is mandatory in public places and multi-family settings.
• All borders closed except for goods and cargo services.
• Internal travel between districts and cities not authorized except for medical reasons or essential services.
• Markets to operate at 50% capacity with prevention and rotation measures in place.
• Deployment of five high-tech robots from 20th May 2020 to limit the risk of healthcare.
• As from 22nd July 2020 all staff of national parks, airports, and hotels near tourist sites to be tested every two weeks for COVID-19 as the country prepares to start receiving international flights beginning 1st August 2020.
• Citizens urged to use mobile money and online banking whenever possible to limit the transfer of paper money and minimize person to person contacts
• The World Bank on April 7th, 2020 approved a USD 14.3 million (RWF 13.65 billion) International Development Association (IDA) credit as emergency response towards efforts to contain COVID-19.
• New Guidelines for the Mining sector issued on 5th June 2020 and included: mining operators and quarry owners to provide relevant personal protective equipment (PPEs) to all workers, and miners to put in place contact tracing programmes.
• On 4th June 2020 both Kamembe Town in Rusizi District put under total lockdown for two weeks. Travel in and out of the district restricted.
• Public transport within the district of Rusizi is restricted and only cargo transporting vehicles either transiting or destined for the district would be allowed to continue operating.
• Beginning 1st July, the Ministry of Health launched a random street testing survey in Kigali City to assess COVID-19 situation.
• Maximum utilization of non-intrusive cargo scanners for homogeneous goods.
• The whole clearance process for imports, exports and transit is conducted in the Rwanda Electronic Single Window (RESW) which minimizes to a great extent any human intervention.
• Authorized trucks carry not more than two people including the driver.
• All cargo and conveyors shall be offloaded and transshipped at the Customs point of entry (i.e. Rusumo and Kagitumba Customs Border Posts).
• Warehousing facilities available for loading, offloading and warehousing of cargo at the entry points; Inland Cargo depots shall be availed for effective loading and transshipment exercises at the Customs entry point; Clearing of goods to be done using the pre-clearance mechanisms currently in place i.e. SCT Clearance framework and payment of duties and taxes before the arrival of the goods. quick release at the entry border posts;
• All declaration documents accompanying cargo must be submitted electronically to customs administration to avoid paper manipulation;
• Clearing agents must declare the full detailed description of goods to expedite the clearance and release of goods;
• Clients with perishable goods and consignments that require special warehousing facilities such as petroleum products shall be allowed to proceed to destination after change of crew members (truck drivers) in respect with the current health guidelines in places;
• Transit cargo to be escorted upon entry to the final destination and truck drivers to stop only at designated points.
• The Central Bank of Rwanda provided a Rwf50 billion ($54 million) facility and reduced the reserve requirement ratio for commercial banks from 5 per cent to 4 per cent to support the country’s banking sector.
• The IMF emergency support under the Rapid Credit Facility in March 2020 provided Rwanda with a $109.4 million (Rwanda Francs 104 billion) for Covid-19-related pressures on trade, tourism and foreign exchange reserves. The support will also provide much-needed resources for health expenditure and for households and firms affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
• From 14th April 2020 Rwanda benefited from USD $11 million (RWF 10.5 billion) debt service relief from the International Monetary Fund for an initial period of 6 months.
SEYCHELLES

• Ban on all cruise ships in Port Victoria until end of 2021.
• With effect from 24th August 2020, individuals from 20 selected countries will be permitted to travel to Seychelles. The countries include Austria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand and United Arab Emirates.
• International Airport opened on 1st August 2020 to commercial passenger flights from low and medium risk level COVID-19 countries. Process guided by the national framework for the integrated management of reopening of Seychelles borders which has a criterion for classifying countries into low, medium and high risk.
  o Application for international flights carrying passengers to be made to Public Health Commissioner (PHC).
  o A standard form (application for entry into Seychelles by air and sea) available on DoH website to be completed and submitted.
  o Applications to be processed on a case by case basis as per Public Health Order
• Guy Morel Institute and the University of Seychelles Primary and Secondary Schools will reopen in May 2020.
• Improvement of handling capacity of quarantine and treatment facilities, including the finalization of a programme to receive additional human resource support if necessary.
• Additional $3.6 million provided to health sector through national budget amendments.
• Seychelles secured an African Development Bank (AfDB) loan of US$10 million to support the Government’s COVID-19 response programme.
• All restrictions on the movement of people removed.
• Religious services, including funeral services, have resumed following guidance from the Department of Health.
• All shops able to stay open until 8 pm in the evening.
• The majority of services and businesses reopened. Construction companies have resumed their work as per guidance issued by the Department of Health.
• Conduct of funeral procedures at the cemetery under strict guidelines as set out by the Department of Health.
• Government issued new Seychelles Safety Travel Guidelines
• Gymnasiums and fitness facilities opened, sporting activities have resumed, following guidance from the Department of Health.
• Leisure boats and yachts able to enter Seychelles territory, respecting any guidance from the Department of Health.
• Indoor seated public shows or gatherings, conferences and meetings held per health guidelines and sports competitions that will take place without spectators allowed to resume.
• Seychellois will be able to travel abroad as per guidance and regulations issued by the Department of Health.
• Three islands that include Cousine Island, Fregate Island and North Island authorized to resume tourist activities.
• Criteria for allowing entry into Seychelles and management of visitors
  o All passengers must have proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test that is 48 hours or less prior to boarding the flight to Seychelles.
  o Aircraft/Airline are not to board any passengers or crew who are symptomatic of COVID-19.
  o Any passengers who arrives in Seychelles without this proof will be turned back on the same aircraft.
  o Exit screening must have been completed by all incoming passengers and crew.
  o Entry screening will be done upon arrival starting with completion of the health check form, symptomatic check, temperature scanning. The passenger may be required to undergo a rapid antigen test.
  o All passengers must provide proof of accommodation in an approved establishment for the entire period of stay and must show booking vouchers at Immigration on entry.
  o Visitors not to change accommodation during their stay and must not interact with the community apart from those at their place of residence.
  o In order to minimize interaction between groups of clients arriving on different dates client groups should be segregated within the Establishment. The Establishments will be visited prior to re-opening to verify that this can be done.
  o For 14 days after arrival the client will be monitored daily by the designated Health and Safety officers or focal person.
  o All clients to ensure strict hygiene measures and physical distancing are enforced.
  o All staff to be monitored daily by the designated Health and Safety Officer or focal person and record kept.
  o Any illness to be reported immediately to the nearest Health Facility who will provide appropriate guidance.
  o All cost of screening and test will be borne by the passenger.
• Businesses to prepare their own standards of operation to ensure the guidelines are implemented.
• Tourism businesses to be issued with a Safe Tourism Certificate by the Government before they can reopen.
• The government announced measures to subsidize wages for companies facing distress caused by COVID-19
• On 20 March 2020, Government announced reduction of loan repayments for six months.
• Tax payments due in March postponed until September.
• The Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) reduced the policy rate by 100 bps to 4 percent on March 23.
• Central Bank provided a credit facility of approximately US$36 million to assist commercial banks with emergency relief measures to assist businesses and individuals struggling with the financial impact of the pandemic.
• A limited credit provided to government by the Central Bank up to SCR 500 million (US$30 million). In addition, credit line facility worth SCR500 million ($28 million) set up for small businesses and accessible through commercial banks as well as Seychelles Credit Union and the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS).
• Maturity of credit to commercial banks extended to 3 years.
• Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies include: Fast-tracking the processing and release of urgent medical cargo and relief supplies through simplified procedures; Accepting scanned copy of preferential certificate of origin during the COVID-19 pandemic subject to the original
copy being submitted once the crisis is over; Taking deposit for the release of consignment benefiting from preferential treatment but unsupported by preferential certificate of origin because of lock down from exporting countries.

- The Port is operational with Customs staff working to ensure that import and export procedures are completed in a timely manner with priority given to consignment directly related to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Encouraging declarant to use pre-payment account and pre-lodgment (pre-arrival declaration)
- Part of the US$10 million and US$15 million loan secured an African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank, respectively, to be used for macro-economic stabilization Central Bank of Seychelles cut Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to 3% from 4% to promote economic stability.
- 37,409 private sector workers provided with wage grants as support to private sector.
SOMALIA

• All educational institutions both private and public closed and large gatherings prohibited. However, beginning 15th June, the Galmudug State Ministry of Education opened primary schools for Grade 8 students and exams to start on 11th July.
• Public meetings banned.
• A night curfew declared on 15th April 2020 for Mogadishu and to be observed between 7:00 and 5:00 a.m. The curfew prohibits opening of business premises and traffic. However, shops selling dry foods, hospitals, and pharmacies are exempted.
• Minibuses which usually carry 15 passengers will only be allowed to carry 10 in order to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles.
• International commercial flights suspended with exceptions for humanitarian flights.
• Domestic flights which were suspended in April 2020 to resume services on 5th July 2020 with adherence to strict health guidelines.
• A quarantine unit established at Aden Adde International Airport (AAIA) in Mogadishu to isolate passengers who demonstrate symptoms of Coronavirus.
• Cancellation of all flights except medical equipment and foodstuff flights.
• Restriction on imported KHAT to Somalia from our neighbouring countries (Kenya and Ethiopia).
• National health institutions assisted by WHO - to conduct case findings and contact tracing, testing and treatment, and quarantine activities.
• A toll-free number 449 has been set up for the public to seek advice and report suspected cases of COVID-19 across the country.
• Banned re-export of medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) due to domestic shortages.
• Exemption of tariffs on all imported foodstuffs including rice, dates, wheat flour, and cooking oil ahead of the month of Ramadan.
• Sea ports and road transport are operational but medical screening of crew in effect.
• Dropping charges for cash withdrawals from ATMs. Ministerial level macroeconomic management sub-committee has been set up.
• Waived all duties and taxes on all medical supplies and equipment imported to fight COVID-19.
On 12th April 2020 Prime Minister issued Emergency Order No. 1 of 2020 which criminalizes attacks on health personnel, smuggling, and illegal hoarding of goods and medicines.

On 16th August 2020 the Government eased coronavirus curfew measures in Northern Sudan State whereby markets reopened with a requirement for people to wear face masks and follow health emergency measures, and vehicles disinfected.

On 10th August 2020, the Government with the support of its partners increased intensive care capacity from 16 beds to 30 beds at the isolation centre for the Jabra Emergency Hospital in southern Khartoum.

Establishment of a National Covid-19 Response Plan with a budget of $82 million to manage arrivals at points of entry, isolation, patient care, infection prevention and control, supplies, risk communication, surveillance and capacity building.

Daily reporting has been activated at 10 points of entry: Northern Red Sea, Khartoum, Kassala, Gedarif and West Darfur states; seaports, airports and ground crossings.

Sudan on 14th July 2020 suspended the special entry arrangement for special business representatives and foreign diplomats and their families that was introduced on 1st July 2020. This followed a case where a 9-year-old daughter of the Sudanese attaché in Bangkok tested positive for COVID-19 upon return.

The Qastal-Ashkeet land border crossing with Egypt reopened on 11th June 2020, having been closed in March 2020 over coronavirus concerns.

Sudan Joined the United Nations’ Better Than Cash Alliance - a digital payments platform to Drive Financial Inclusion and Transparency.

As of 8 July 2020, night curfew to be maintained in Khartoum State, but from 6pm to 5.00am.

New coronavirus protocol for banks issued by the Central Bank of Sudan to guide banking operations in handling of paper money as well as basic hygiene.

Postponement of basic certification exams in all states until further notice.

Measures introduced to shorten the time worshipers spent in mosques to avoid crowding.

Establishment of a national fund to collect donations to combat the pandemic.

Khartoum International Airport (KIA) allowing flights from Egypt, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. All passengers arriving at KIA will be tested for COVID-19 as of July 14 if they do not possess a certificate for being COVID-19 free.

Sudan authorities have opened up gold export trade to private firms including the handling of all exports through Khartoum International Airport.

Ban on maize exports from 15 March 2020 until further notice.

Local travel within Sudan allowed including fuel and other essential commodities.
• Port Sudan operational but Cargo vessels must meet 14 days quarantine from last departure.
• Sudan exports on Egyptian trucks are allowed to leave through Ashkit border crossing as from 3rd June 2020.
• Lockdown measures on shops and restaurants lifted as they have been allowed to reopen as from July 6th, 2020.
• Sudan announced on 22nd July 2020 about the launch of an online project to help in testing and containing COVID-19.
As from 10th August 2020, borders opened for Ugandans stuck in the East African Region to get back to the country.

- Private cars to carry a maximum of 4 passengers including the driver to ensure social distancing.
- Public service vehicles to carry half their capacity to ensure social distancing and to adhere to strict Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs)
- As from 22nd July 2020, curfew hours have been adjusted to start from 2100hrs to 0530hrs. Initially the curfew was starting from 1900hrs to 0600hrs.
- Hair salons and shopping arcades allowed to open effective 22nd July subject to adherence to strict operating procedures.
- Commercial motorbikes locally known as “boda boda” were allowed to resume passenger services effective 27th July 2020 subject to strict adherence of Standard Operating procedures including keeping records of all passengers carried. Since the lockdown started, their operations were restricted to transportation of cargo only.
- Compulsory wearing of face masks in all public places.
- Testing of all truck drivers entering the country from all entry points in place including testing the crew of cargo planes.
- Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher as from 20th March 2020.
- Release of over 800 prisoners in July 2020 to lessen congestion in the prisons sector and ensure social distancing.
- Suspension of religious gatherings including Friday prayers in mosques, Sunday church services effective 18th March 2020.
- Ban of all international passenger flights and closure of all borders.
- All incoming travelers are quarantined at designated facilities for 14 days
- Public gatherings limited to a maximum of 7 persons for weddings and 10 persons for funerals
- Presidential Directive to allow free movement of cargo within the country and across borders issued on 16th April 2020.
- Trucks may carry a maximum of three persons with duties in connection with the movement and clearance of conveyance and or cargo.
- All drivers on Uganda side are to go through a mandatory “blood test” upon arrival at the borders.
- Shops and shopping malls have been allowed to open but to abide by strict SoPs
- Civil servants to work from home as from 8th April 2020
- Use of electronic cargo tracking technology to track drivers whose results test positive for COVID-19.
• Ensured that operational guidelines issued during the period are relayed to clients and the public through all available channels of communication including social media.
• Encouraged importers and manufacturers encouraged to take on tax exemptions as provided for under the laws and allowed general extension of payment of duties upon request.
• Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) is facilitating Bond owners and clearing agents to access the bonded warehouses.
• Use of Online systems for cargo clearance and to respond to queries and inquiries, e.g. ASYCUDA, Help tool to respond to queries.
• Categorization of Customs officials as providers of essential services and thus enabling them to continue to work during lock down
• Restrictions have been lifted and the following allowed to be operational: -
  o Hardware shops
  o Wholesale shops
  o Garages for repair and servicing of automobiles
  o Metal fabrication and wood workshops
  o Insurance providers to start operations
  o Restaurants operate but only on takeaway basis
  o Warehouses