



COVID – 19 RELATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS A GLOBAL REVIEW FOR TOURISM

SEVENTH REPORT AS OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2020





COVID – 19 RELATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS A GLOBAL REVIEW FOR TOURISM

SEVENTH REPORT AS OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Prepared by
UNWTO
Sustainable Development of Tourism Department

Acknowledgments

This seventh report *COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism* was developed by the World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) Sustainable Development of Tourism Department. The report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Dirk Glaesser with lead contributions from Lorna Hartantyo, Marianna Stori and Cordula Wohlmuther. Virginia Fernández-Trapa reviewed and provided feedback to the report.

We wish to thank Hernán Epstein, Chief of the UNWTO Statistics Department, for the support in the analysis of destinations reliance on source markets and international tourism arrivals mode of transport.

We thank Maksim Soshkin from the World Economic Forum for the clarifications provided regarding the normalization techniques applied to the indices in the Tourism and Travel Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum in general and the pillar on Health and Hygiene in particular.

We would like to express our special gratitude and thanks to Fiona Barron and Rodolfo Losada from the World Food Programme for the clarifications, insights and continuous support provided.

Layout of the cover was provided by Alberto G. Uceda and layout of the report by Javier P. Spuch.

Table of contents

1. Key Facts	2
2. Introduction	4
3. Rationale and focus of the analysis	5
4. Methodological note.....	6
5. Overview of COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 1 September 2020.....	10
5.1. Volume, severity and evolution of travel restrictions on international tourism.....	10
5.2. Characteristics of destinations which eased travel restrictions.....	13
5.3. Characteristics of destinations that have their borders completely closed	16
5.4. Characteristics of the destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks	18
6. Further analysis of travel restrictions.....	21
6.1. Regional Analysis of travel restrictions	21
6.2. Travel restrictions in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).....	22
6.3 Travel restrictions in the Schengen Area	23
7. Conclusions	24
Proportionate and responsible opening of borders for international tourism	24
Annex 1 Overview on the different categories and applying destinations as of 1 September 2020	26
Annex 2 Clusters by economic importance of tourism.....	28
Annex 3 Groups of international source market and corresponding destinations.....	29
Annex 4 Overview on destinations which have eased and lifted travel restrictions for international tourism purposes.....	30
Annex 5 Overview of destinations, which have their borders completely closed and which eased or lifted restrictions, by mode of transport.....	31
Annex 6 Overview of destinations, which have their borders completely closed and which eased or lifted restrictions, by 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 inhabitants	32
Annex 7 Overview of destinations, which have their borders completely closed and which eased or lifted restrictions, by Health and Hygiene indicator.....	33
Annex 8 Overview on COVID-19 and pandemic measures, including travel restrictions.....	34

Table of Figures

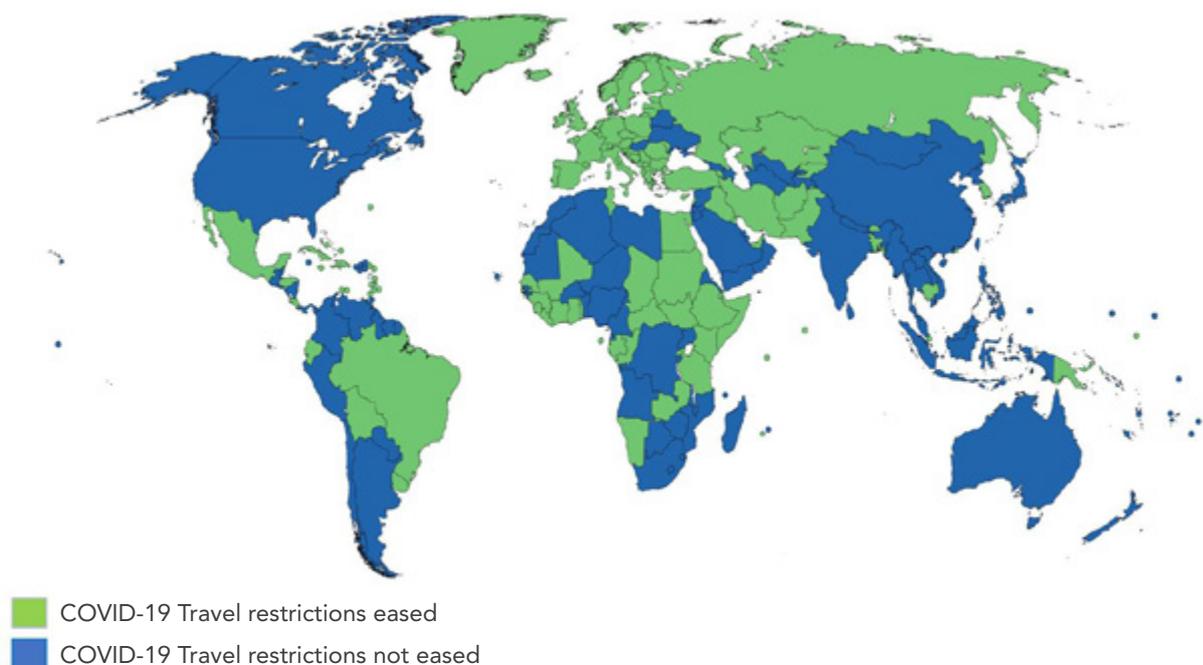
Figure A Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 1 September 2020	2
Figure 1 Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 1 September 2020	10
Figure 2 Category of travel restrictions by destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions.....	11
Figure 3 Changes in Type of travel restrictions over time	12
Figure 4 Number of destinations with complete border closure April-September 2020.....	12
Figure 5 Destinations with travel restrictions to international tourism as of 1 September 2020	13
Figure 6 Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per Health & Hygiene clusters.....	13
Figure 7 Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per clusters of 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population.....	14
Figure 8 Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per Tourism GDP dependency.....	14
Figure 9 Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per importance of modes of transport	15
Figure 10 Destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per economic status.....	15
Figure 11 Number of destinations with complete border closure per Health & Hygiene clusters	16
Figure 12 Number of destinations that have complete border closure per clusters of 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population.....	16
Figure 13 Number of destinations that have complete border closure per importance of mode of transport.....	17
Figure 14 Number of destinations that have complete border closure per tourism GDP dependency.....	17
Figure 15 Destinations that have complete border closure per economic status.....	18
Figure 16 Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per region	18
Figure 17 Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per dependence on tourism.....	19
Figure 18 Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per dependence on mode of transport.....	19
Figure 19 Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per Health and Hygiene clusters	20
Figure 20 Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population	20
Figure 21 Regional breakdown of travel restrictions as of September 2020	21
Figure 22 Global and regional breakdown of travel restrictions consisting of complete border closures applied by SIDS as of 1 September 2020.....	22
Figure 23 Overview of SIDS by travel restriction in place as of 1 September 2020.....	22

1. Key Facts

As of 1 September 2020

- 115 (53% of all destinations worldwide) **have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions** for international tourism. This is an increase of 28 destinations compared to 19 July 2020.
- **93 destinations** (43% of all destinations worldwide) **keep their borders completely closed** for international tourism. This is a decrease of 22 destinations compared to 19 July 2020.
- From a regional point of view, the destinations that have **eased travel restrictions** are:
 - **44 destinations in Europe**, including 25 out of 26 Schengen Member States
 - **27 destinations in the Americas**, including 18 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
 - **26 destinations in Africa**
 - **13 destinations in Asia and the Pacific**, including 5 SIDS
 - **5 destinations in the Middle East.**

Figure A – Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 1 September 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020*.

* The maps elaborated by UNWTO are for reference only and do not imply any judgement on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

- From a regional point of view, the destinations that apply **complete closure of borders** are:
 - **28 destinations in Asia and the Pacific** (61% of all destinations in Asia)
 - **27 destinations in Africa** (51% of all destinations in Africa)
 - **21 destinations in the Americas** (41% of all destinations in the Americas)
 - **9 destinations in Europe** (17% of all destinations in Europe) from which 2 destinations have recently reintroduced complete border closure
 - **8 destinations in the Middle East** (62% of all destinations in Middle East)
- **51 destinations (23% of destinations worldwide)** have travel restrictions in place for **30 weeks**, **27 of them maintain complete border closure**, among them are 10 SIDS, 1 LDC and 3 LLDCS.
- **26 SIDS** (48% of all SIDS) have their borders completely closed, while 25 SIDS (46% of all SIDS) have eased restrictions, the majority of those in the Americas (18 destinations).
- The following categories of COVID-19 related travel restrictions are being applied across destinations worldwide (total destinations are 217):
 - **Complete or partial closure of borders:**

161 destinations (74%) have completely or partially closed their borders (decrease from 189 destinations on 15 June 2020).

 - Out of these, **93 destinations have completely closed** their borders for international tourism, and
 - **68 destinations have partially closed** their borders
 - **32 destinations require the presentation of medical certificates with negative COVID-19 PCR test result** upon or after arrival in a destination and combine this with quarantine measures.
 - **Destination-specific travel restriction:**

9 destinations (3%) are banning the entry for passengers from specific countries of origin.
 - **Different measures:**

12 destinations (5%) are applying different measures that include suspension of flights and visa issuances.

2. Introduction

Some weeks after declaring COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 31 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a Pandemic leading to an unprecedented global lockdown.

Travel restrictions are being used by countries to limit the spread of COVID-19. While in March 2020 restrictions were observed mainly in Asia and the Pacific and Europe, with the spread of the pandemic also other regions followed and soon all destinations around the world had restrictions in place. As of 18 May 2020, 75% of destinations worldwide had their borders completely closed, thus bringing international tourism almost to a standstill. Since then, destinations have started easing travel restrictions to progressively allow the movement of people and reactivation of economic activities, including tourism. It is nevertheless difficult to foresee when tourism operations will fully resume.

This is the seventh issue of a series of reports on COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism. These reports aim to support the tourism sector address the global health crisis of COVID-19 by providing an overview and analysis of the travel restrictions implemented by governments. The reports are updated on a regular basis to support mitigation and recovery efforts of the tourism sector.

The monitoring of travel restrictions is carried out only from the standpoint of travel facilitation for tourism purposes (i.e. focusing

on temporary visitors/tourists) and therefore does not take into account any measures directed to residents, diplomats and other categories of travellers, nor consider travel advisories issued by governments for their respective citizens/residents.

This work is carried out by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Sustainable Development of Tourism Department (SDT) that, *inter alia*, monitors visa policies around the world since 2008 and produces the Visa Openness Reports, which focus on entry requirements for tourism purposes.¹

¹ World Tourism Organization, Travel Facilitation reports, available online at: www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/travel-facilitation.

3. Rationale and focus of the analysis

In line with the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, destinations have started preparing for the opening of borders for international tourism. Some destinations have completely lifted, others eased travel restrictions for international tourism, yet many continue to have their borders completely closed. Restrictions are continuously adjusted and renewed according to the epidemiological situation within the destinations themselves as well as in neighbouring destinations and source markets.

This seventh report focuses on further enhancing the understanding of the context of travel restrictions, their easing and lifting. It includes analysis of travel restrictions in selected economic and political blocs, in particular emerging and advanced economies, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Schengen area. Travel restrictions are also analysed in relation to the economic importance of tourism in destinations and the level of diversification of source markets. Furthermore, travel restrictions are analysed in connection with the mode of transport of international tourists to a destination.

For this edition a special focus has been put on the health and hygiene infrastructure of destinations. A specific health and hygiene indicator has been developed for this purpose, in order to assess the influence of the level of health infrastructure in the context of travel restrictions and a destination's willingness to ease the restrictions. Furthermore, COVID-19 infection rates were analysed in relation to the travel restrictions.

4. Methodological Note

All reports in this series are based on desk research carried out since the end of January 2020.² They contain the results of monitoring travel restrictions that have been implemented during this period by destinations worldwide.³

For the first two reports in this series, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Travel Centre⁴ was the main source of information. In addition, websites such as International SOS⁵ and the World Health Organization (WHO) Extranet were consulted for destinations that were not featured on the IATA website.

For the third report, in order to gain a better understanding of the different categories of travel restrictions, and further insights on the distinction between complete and partial closure of borders, the information from IATA and International SOS were analysed, compared and validated for all destinations.

As from the fourth edition, reports build on data received from the UN World Food Programme (WFP).⁶ For each report, the information was further analysed and validated by UNWTO using additional online sources that allowed fine-tuning of the data and focussing on the situation for international tourism. In addition, the website “Reopen Europe”⁷ was used for validating information for travel within Member States of the European Union (EU).

The seventh report on *COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism* presents travel restrictions in place for international tourism in destinations worldwide as of 1 September 2020.

Furthermore, for this edition analysis on destinations that a) have eased travel restrictions, b) maintain complete border closure and c) destinations that have travel restrictions in place for a long period of time, has been carried out.

In this context available datasets were analysed, further developed and used as follows:

- 1) A **Health and Hygiene Indicator** was created specifically for this seventh report. The indicator is based on the Health and Hygiene Pillar used in the Tourism and Travel Competitiveness Index (TTCI) prepared by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for 140 destinations.⁸ This Health and Hygiene pillar is one of the 14 pillars that comprise the TTCI. It is composed of 6 different indicators, namely i) Physician density, ii) Use of basic sanitation, iii) Use of basic drinking water, iv) Hospital beds, as well as v) HIV prevalence and vi) Malaria incidence. For the present report the same methodology was applied, excluding the HIV and Malaria indicators, in order to focus mainly on the health infrastructure of

2 Disclaimer about Information Accuracy: Although every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information, UNWTO cannot make warranties as to the accuracy of content. If inaccuracies are observed, please revert to sdt@unwto.org. As changes in travel restrictions are occurring very fast, changes after the time of this publication may also impact on the accuracy of the information.

3 For more information on the previous five editions of the Report COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism, visit: <https://www.unwto.org/covid-19-travel-restrictions>.

4 IATA Travel Centre, available online at: <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/>.

5 International SOS is a medical and travel security services company, for more information, please see: <https://www.internationalsos.com/>.

6 World Travel Restrictions - UN World Food Programme, available online at: <https://unwfp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/db5b5df309ac4f10bfd36145a6f8880e>.

7 For more information visit the official website of the European Union: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>.

8 World Economic Forum, Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019, available online at: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-travel-tourism-competitiveness-report-2019>

destinations. Indicators were normalized to a 1-to-7 scale following WEF TCI methodology. In addition, data available from the World Bank Data Bank⁹ beyond the 140 destinations that are included in the WEF TCI, was used to gather data on the four selected indicators for destinations not included in WEF report. As a result, a health and hygiene indicator, obtained as an average of the four component indicators, was prepared for 197 destinations. The quartiles of the index score were used to form 4 clusters (Table 1).

2) The **Tourism Gross Domestic Product (T-GDP)** clusters, which relate to the importance of tourism in the economy of a destination as percentage of the overall GDP. For this purpose, destinations were grouped in four clusters of economic importance, namely: low, moderate, considerable and high. Clusters were aligned with the World Bank report on “Rebuilding tourism competitiveness, Tourism response, recovery and resilience to the COVID-19 crisis”.¹⁰ Information is available for 181 destinations (Table 2).

Table 1 - Destination clusters by health and hygiene standard

Health and Hygiene Indicator	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
Cluster 1: Low	49 destinations: 39 in Africa, 8 in Asia and the Pacific, 1 in the Americas and 1 in the Middle East.
Cluster 2: Moderate	50 destinations: 23 in the Americas, 19 in Asia and the Pacific, 5 in Africa and 3 in the Middle East.
Cluster 3: High	53 destinations: 17 in Europe, 12 in Asia and the Pacific, 11 in the Americas, 9 in the Middle East and 4 in Africa.
Cluster 4: Very high	45 destinations: 36 in Europe, 5 in the Americas, 4 in Asia and the Pacific.

Table 2 - Destination clusters by economic importance of tourism

Economic Importance of Tourism	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
Low: T-GDP <=5%	25 destinations: 10 in Africa, 5 in the Americas, 4 in Asia and the Pacific, 5 in Europe, 1 in the Middle East.
Moderate: T-GDP >5% and <= 10%	80 destinations: 19 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 28 in Europe and 8 in the Middle East.
Considerable: T-GDP >10% and <=20%	47 destinations: 12 in Africa, 10 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 10 in Europe, 4 in the Middle East.
High: T-GDP >20%	29 destinations: 3 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 6 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Europe.

⁹ The World Bank Open Data, available online at: <https://data.worldbank.org/>

¹⁰ World Bank Group, Rebuilding tourism competitiveness, Tourism response, recovery and resilience to the COVID-19 crisis, July 2020, available online at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34348>

3) The **mode of transport** of international tourism to destinations was analysed and organized in six groups. The different modes of transport are air, land, water. Each mode was divided into high, when arrivals make more than 70% of International Tourist Arrivals and medium, when arrivals make between 40% and 70% of ITA. Information is available for 194 destinations (Table 3).

Table 3 - Groups of mode of transport and corresponding destinations

Mode of transport per share of International Tourist Arrivals (ITA) in a destination	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
AIR High: >70% of ITA	100 destinations: 17 in Africa, 36 in the Americas, 30 in Asia and the Pacific, 12 in Europe, 5 in the Middle East.
AIR Medium: >40% and <70% of ITA	22 destinations: 11 in Africa, 5 in the Americas, 3 in Asia and the Pacific, 2 in Europe, 1 in the Middle East.
LAND High: >70% of ITA	36 destinations: 9 in Africa, 2 in the Americas, 5 in Asia and the Pacific, 18 in Europe, 2 in the Middle East.
LAND Medium: >40% and <70% of ITA	35 destinations: 9 in Africa, 8 in the Americas, 3 in Asia and the Pacific, 12 in Europe, 3 in the Middle East.
WATER Medium: >40% and <70% of ITA	1 destination: 1 in Europe.

4) The **amount of international source markets** that make 60% of total International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) in a destination were collected and analysed. Subsequently, four groups of destinations were formed according to the diversification of their source markets. Information is available for 207 destinations (Table 4).

Table 4 - Groups of international source market and corresponding destinations

Amount of source markets that make 60% of International Tourist Arrivals (ITA) in a destination	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
Group A: 1-2 International source markets make 60% of the total ITA	57 destinations: 5 in Africa, 28 in the Americas, 14 in Asia and the Pacific, 7 in Europe, 3 in the Middle East
Group B: 3-5 International source markets make 60% of the total ITA	64 destinations: 13 in Africa, 16 in the Americas, 19 in Asia and the Pacific, 13 in Europe and 3 in the Middle East.
Group C: 6-9 International source markets make 60% of the total ITA	51 destinations: 10 in Africa, 5 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 24 in Europe, 1 in the Middle East
Group D: 10+ International source markets make 60% of the total ITA	35 destinations: 16 in Africa, 2 in the Americas, 1 in Asia and the Pacific, 10 in Europe and 6 in the Middle East.

5) The **14-day COVID-19 case notification rate per 100.000 population**. For this purpose, data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control¹¹ was collected for 197 destinations as of 24 August 2020 and subsequently grouped into five clusters. This corresponds to the same clusters as used by the World Health Organization. In addition, notification rates from April onwards have

been analysed in relation to the time of easings of restrictions, meaning reported COVID-19 cases per 100.000 population at the moment when travel restrictions were lifted (Table 5).

Table 5 - Destination clusters by 14-day covid-19 infection rate per 100.000 inhabitants

Clusters of 14-day cumulative number of COVID-19 new cases per 100.000 population as of 24 August 2020	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
Cluster 0: No new cases reported	12 destinations: 1 in Africa, 7 in the Americas, 3 in Asia and the Pacific, 1 in Europe
Cluster 1: < 20 new cases reported	94 destinations: 44 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 20 in Asia and the Pacific, 12 in Europe and 4 in the Middle East
Cluster 2: >=20 and <60 new cases reported	38 destinations: 3 in Africa, 4 in the Americas, 5 in Asia and the Pacific, 23 in Europe, 3 in the Middle East
Cluster 3: >=60 and <120 new cases reported	26 destinations: 4 in Africa, 6 in the Americas, 2 in Asia and the Pacific, 12 in Europe and 2 in the Middle East.
Cluster 4: >=120 new cases reported	27 destinations: 17 in the Americas, 1 in Asia and the Pacific, 5 in Europe and 4 in the Middle East.

11 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, more information available online at: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-pandemic>

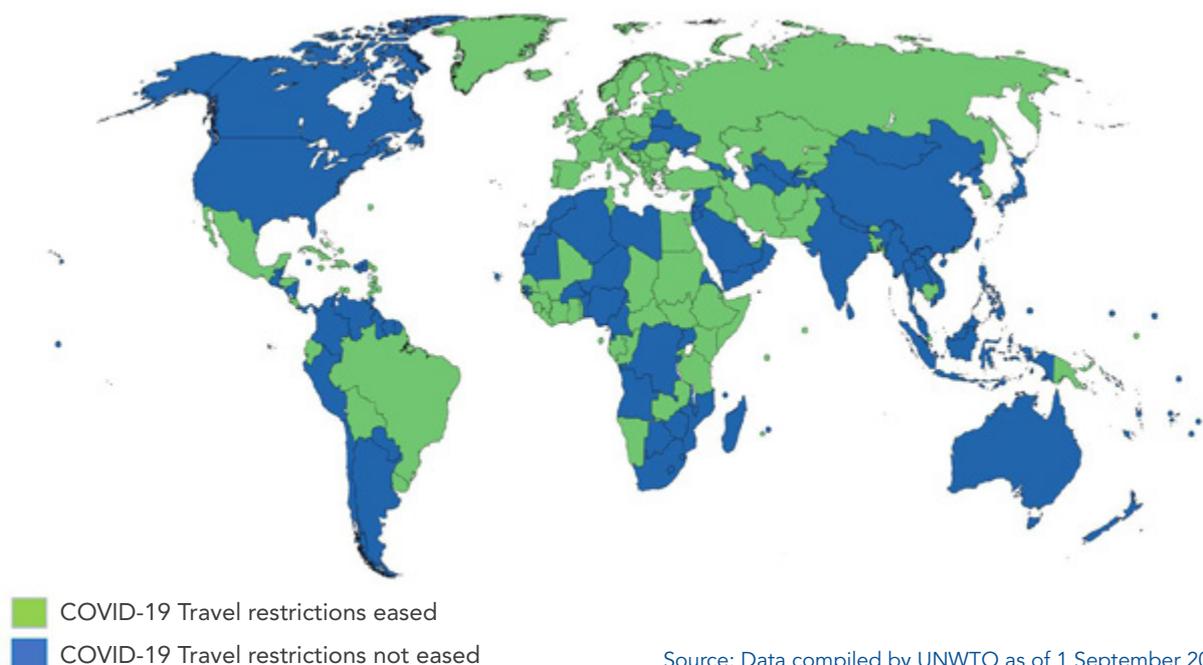
5. Overview on COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 1 September 2020

5.1. Volume, severity and evolution of travel restrictions on international tourism

As of 1 September 2020, a total of 115 destinations (53% of all destinations worldwide) have eased travel restrictions confirming an upward trend to facilitate the restart of international tourism (Figure 1). The first easings of measures were observed on 18 May 2020, when a total of 7 destinations had eased restrictions which became 48 destinations by 15 June 2020 and 87 destinations by 19 July 2020. At present, more than half of the destinations worldwide have started easing travel restrictions.

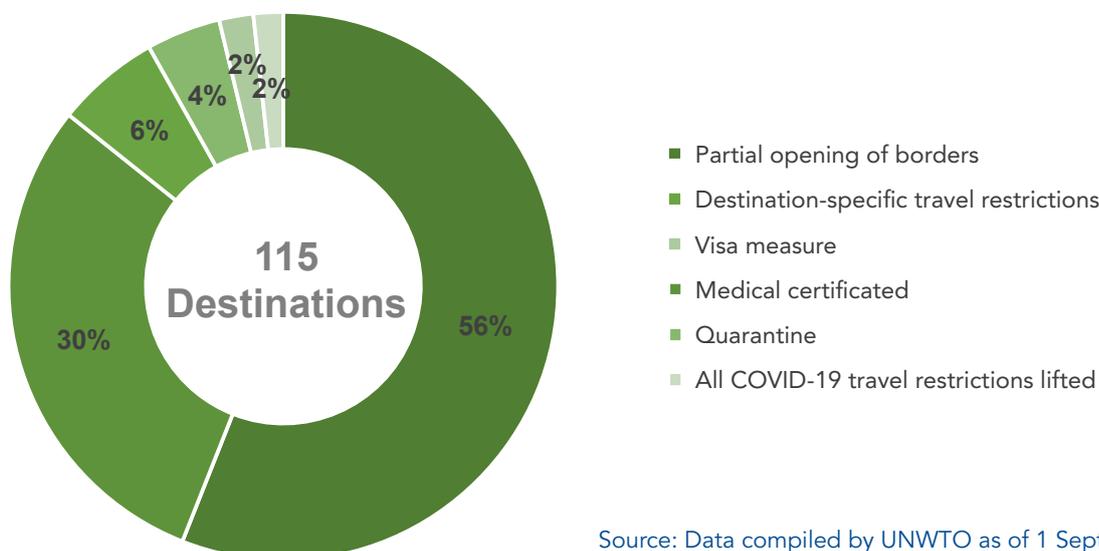
Out of the 115 destinations which have now eased travel restrictions, there are 2 destinations which have lifted all COVID-19 related travel restrictions, while the remaining 113 destinations continue to have certain restrictive measures in place.¹² Such easing measures aim to progressively allow the movement of people and reactivation of economic activities and include the partial opening of borders (68 destinations); destination-specific travel restrictions allowing only passengers originating from certain source markets to enter (9 destinations); the request of medical certificates including the presentation of negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results upon or after

Figure 1 – Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 1 September 2020



¹² For the purpose of the analysis, the report distinguishes destinations that have eased travel restrictions (i.e. destinations that have eased entry procedures related to COVID-19 but still apply some restrictive measures), from destinations that have lifted travel restrictions (i.e. destinations that have removed completely travel restrictions related to COVID-19 for international tourism purposes). See Annex 4 for a complete list of destinations that have eased and lifted travel restrictions.

Figure 2 - Category of travel restrictions by destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

arrival (35 destinations); quarantine upon arrival (6 destinations); and visa measures (3 destinations) (Figure 2).

Destinations are increasingly applying the request for medical certificates upon or after arrival, 35 destinations currently apply this measure against the 22 destinations reported as of 19 of July, 11 destinations as of 15 June, 12 destinations as of 18 May and 1 destination as of 27 April (Figure 3). While these requests differ significantly from destination to destination, all of them have the aim to facilitate the identification of potentially affected travellers and their subsequent tracing. Some destinations request the registration of international tourists through “passenger locator forms”¹³ and health declarations. In some cases these are temporarily paper-based forms while technological solutions, such as QR codes

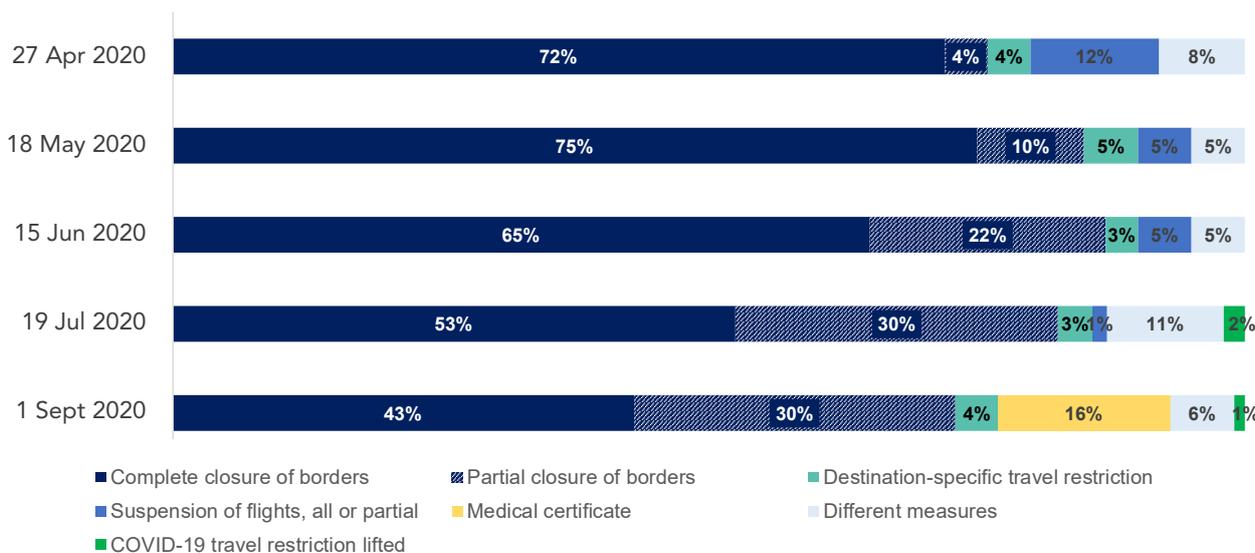
to be presented upon arrival, are deployed. Other destinations request international tourists to obtain specific authorisations via online form prior to entering the destination, which include requests for information on health insurance coverage and often recommend the download of national tracing apps. It is also common that health screenings are in place at entry points into a destination, especially the measuring of the temperature of arriving passengers.

Out of the 35 destinations applying the medical certificate measure, 3 destinations are asking for medical certificates as health declarations and 32 destinations are now requesting the submission of a negative PCR test result.¹⁴ Quarantine from 7-14 days would apply for those cases where the test results are not presented within the requested timeframe.

¹³ Passenger locator forms (PLF): Some countries’ immigration and health authorities require passengers to leave a health and travel history record.

¹⁴ Options include that PCR-test results are submitted upon arrival, or testing is offered at the point of entry (e.g. airport) or results are presented after the arrival within a certain period of time, during which self-isolation/quarantine needs to be observed.

Figure 3 - Changes in type of travel restrictions over time



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

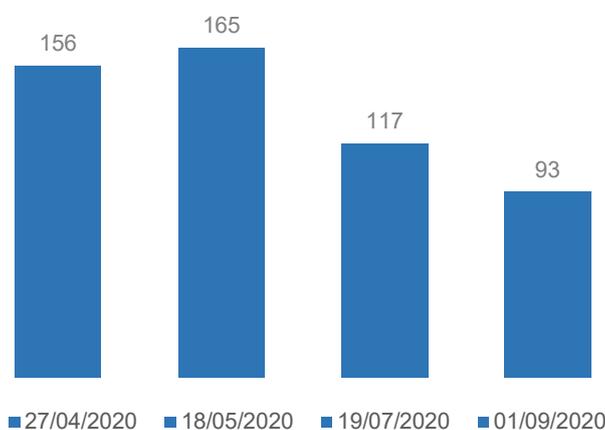
The opening of borders for international tourism continues to be an element of high political importance among governments as there are still 93 destinations (43% of all destinations worldwide) which borders are completely closed (Figure 4). It appears that the implementation of plans such as the creation of the so called “bubbles”, “tourism corridors” or “green lanes” was either partial or did not take place.

As health concerns and uncertainties prevail, the reintroduction of restrictions remains very possible. In fact, since reporting last on 19 July

2020, two destinations have reintroduced the complete closure of borders, some scheduled border openings have been cancelled or postponed and additional 5 destinations have reintroduced some restrictions directed at passengers coming from specific countries with high infection rates.

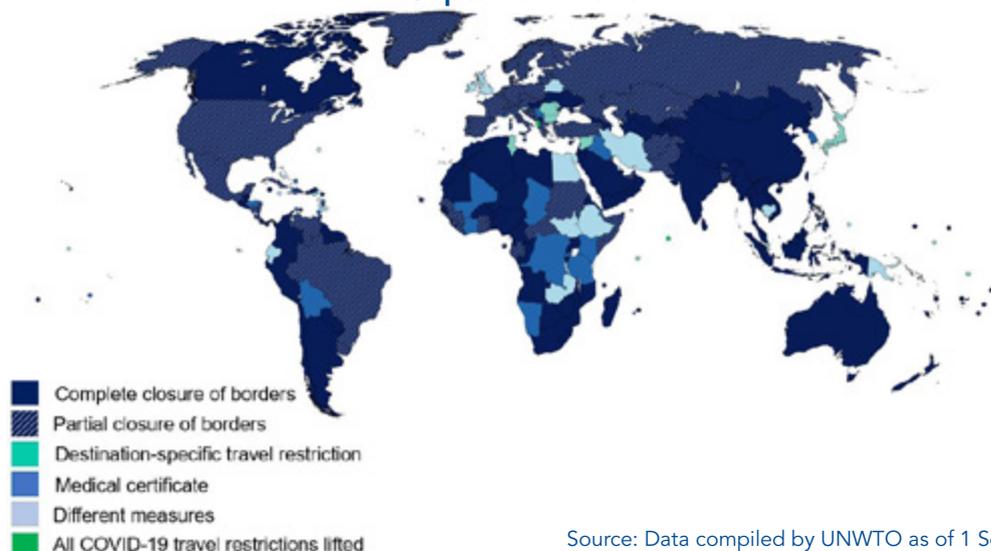
In addition, tourists are affected increasingly by travel advisories issued by their own governments as well as by measures they apply such as quarantine or testing upon return to the home country.

Figure 4 - Number of destinations with complete border closure April-September 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

Figure 5 - Destinations with travel restrictions to international tourism as of 1 September 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

5.2. Characteristics of destinations which eased travel restrictions

The following paragraphs present the results of the analysis of destinations that have eased travel restrictions in connection with all available datasets.¹⁵

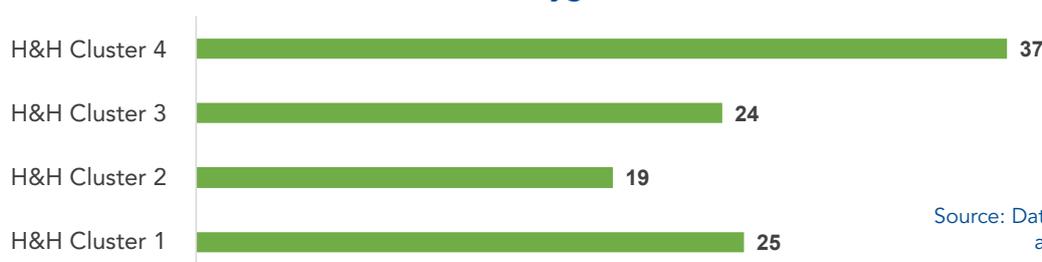
Out of the 115 destinations that have eased travel restrictions, 44 are from Europe (including 25 of 26 Schengen Member States), 27 from the Americas, 26 from Africa, 13 from Asia and the Pacific and 5 from the Middle East.

Europe is the region in which more destinations (81%) have eased travel restrictions. On the contrary, in Asia and the Pacific destinations

are taking longer to ease restrictions with 28% having eased. This is of particular interest as the destinations in Asia and the Pacific were among the first ones that introduced travel restrictions from the very beginning of the outbreak of the virus.

The analysis confirms the importance of health and hygiene infrastructure for the easing of travel restrictions as 82% of destinations (37 destinations out of a total of 45 destinations worldwide under H&H cluster 4) which have eased also have a very high score in the health and hygiene indicator and 45% (24 destinations out of a total of 53 destinations worldwide under H&H cluster 3) have a high score in the health and hygiene indicator (Figure 6).

Figure 6 - Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per Health & Hygiene clusters¹⁶

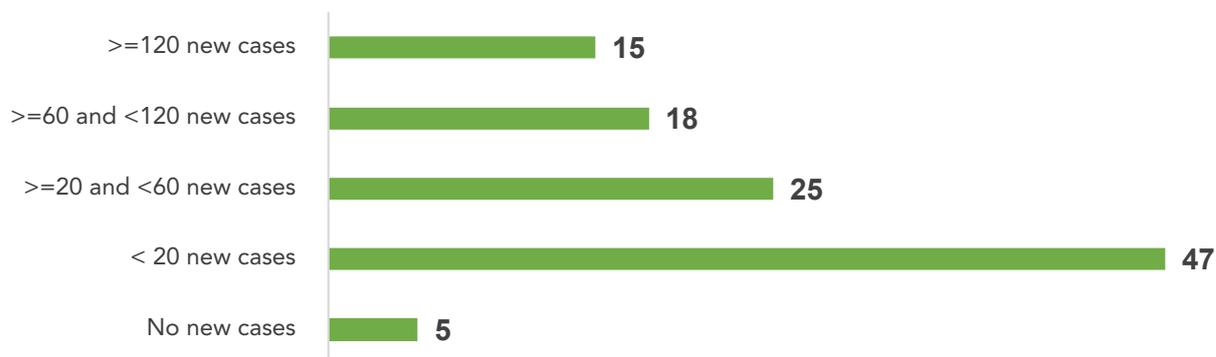


Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

¹⁵ For more information on the methodology applied for the analysis of the 115 destinations that have eased restrictions see the Chapter on "Methodological Note".

¹⁶ Health clusters were built on the available data for 197 destinations. Out of the 115 destinations which eased restrictions, the chart displays those 105 destinations for which data was available.

Figure 7 - Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per clusters of 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population



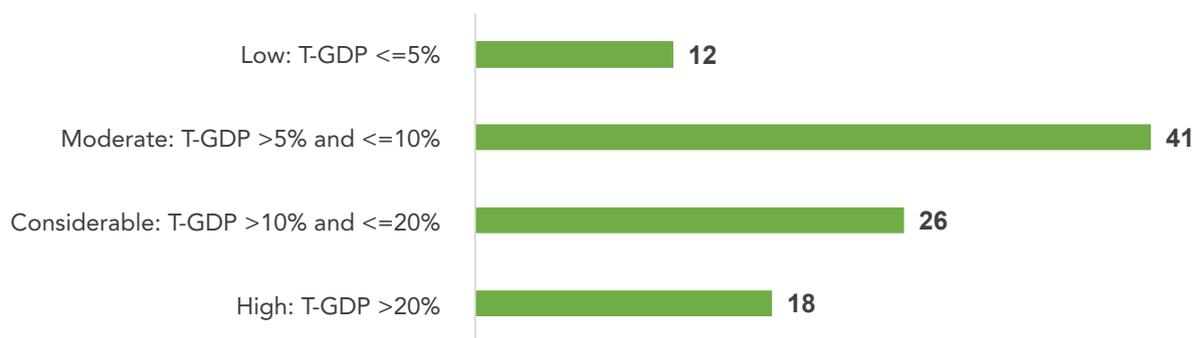
Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020

It is also observed that when easing the restrictions, 47% of destinations (52 destinations out of 110 destinations with data available) had on average low infection rates usually not higher than 20 cases according to the 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population. 39% of destinations (43 destinations) had between 29 and 119 new cases; and 14% (15 destinations) had more than 120 new cases (Figure 7).

The analysis also confirms a relative relevance of the economic importance of tourism¹⁷ with regards to the easing of travel restrictions as 45% of destinations having eased restrictions (44 destinations) are highly or considerably dependent on tourism (respectively 18 and 26 destinations) (Figure 8).

There is also an interesting connection between the dependence on mode of transport¹⁹

Figure 8 - Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per T-GDP dependency¹⁸



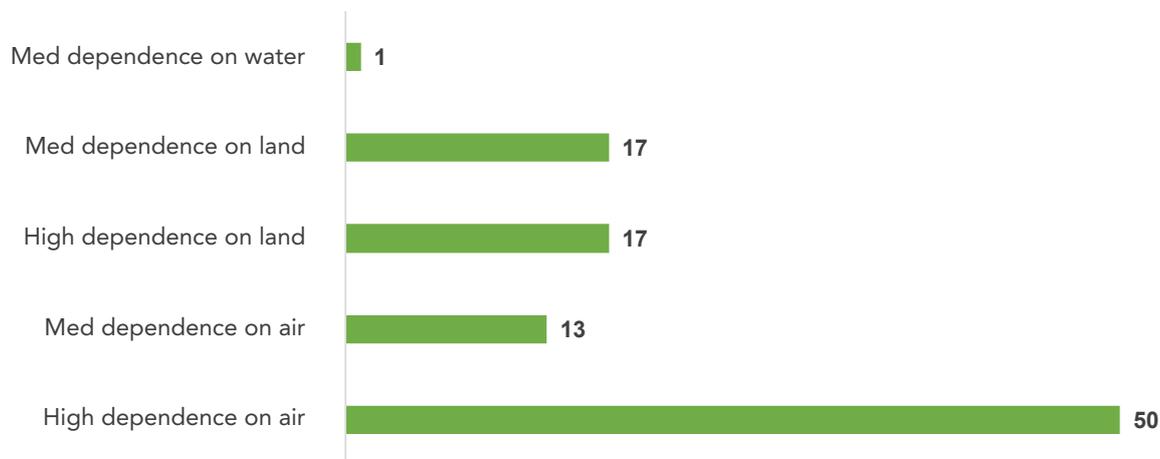
Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020

17 T-GDP data is available for 97 out of the 115 destinations, which have eased restrictions.

18 Clusters of T-GDP were built on the available data for 181 destinations. Out of the 115 destinations which eased restrictions, the chart displays those 97 destinations for which data was available.

19 Transportation data is available for 98 out of the 115 destinations, which have eased restrictions.

Figure 9 - Number of destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per importance of modes of transport²⁰

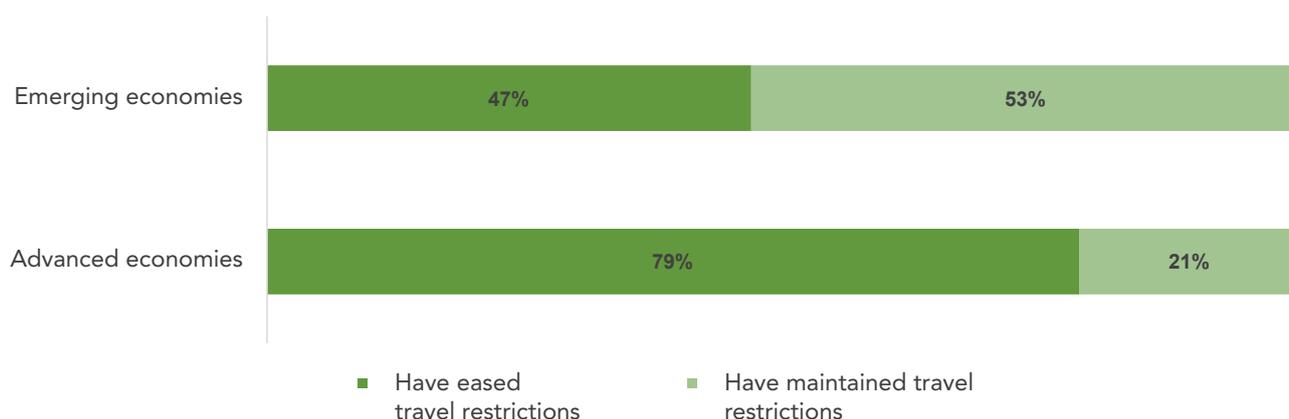


Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020

and the easing of travel restrictions as 64% of the destinations which have eased (63 destinations) have a high or medium dependence on air as a mode of transport for international tourism arrivals (respectively 50 and 13 destinations) (Figure 9).

Lastly, it is observed that 33 of the 42 destinations classified as advanced economies of the world have eased restrictions. This represents 79% of all the advanced economies, while only 47% of the destinations (82 out of the 175), classified as emerging economies have eased restrictions (Figure 10).

Figure 10 - Destinations that have eased COVID-19 travel restrictions per economic status²¹



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020

20 Clusters of mode of transport were built on the available data for 194 destinations. Out of the 115 destinations which eased restrictions, the chart displays those 98 destinations for which data was available.

21 Out of the 115 destinations which eased restrictions, the chart displays the share of emerging and advanced economies.

Figure 11 - Number of destinations with complete border closure per Health & Hygiene clusters²⁵



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

5.3. Characteristics of destinations that have their borders completely closed

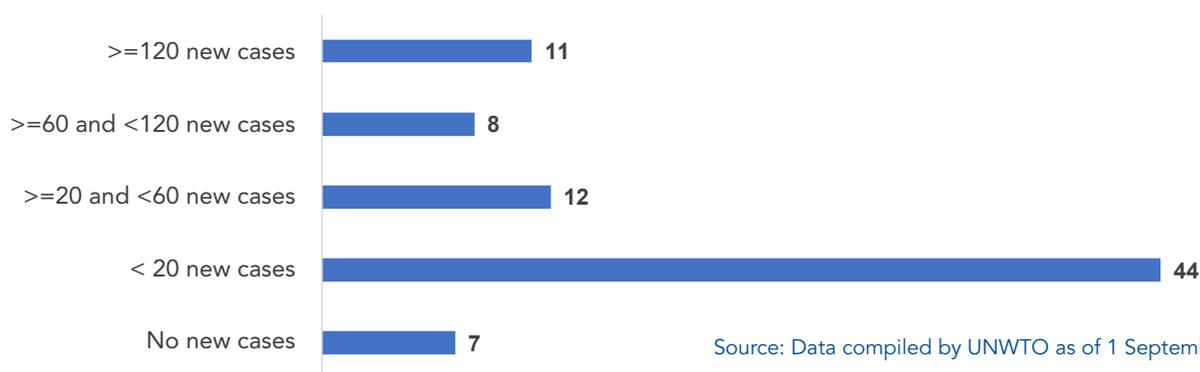
The following paragraphs present the results of the analysis of destinations that have their borders completely closed in connection with all available datasets.²²

As of 1 September 2020, 93 destinations have their borders completely closed. Two of them are European destinations that had already opened their borders but closed them again by the end of August and

beginning of September 2020 respectively (Hungary²³ and Ukraine²⁴).

In line with the findings of the previous chapter, the analysis further confirms the importance of health and hygiene infrastructure from the perspective of destinations with closed borders (Figure 11) as the majority of these destinations have either low, moderate or high health and hygiene infrastructure scores (H&H clusters 1-3) with only a few destinations with closed borders have a very high health and hygiene (7%) infrastructure score (H&H cluster 4).

Figure 12 - Number of destinations that have complete border closure per clusters of 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population²⁶



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

22 For more information on the methodology applied for the analysis of the 93 destinations with complete border closure see the Chapter on "Methodological Note".

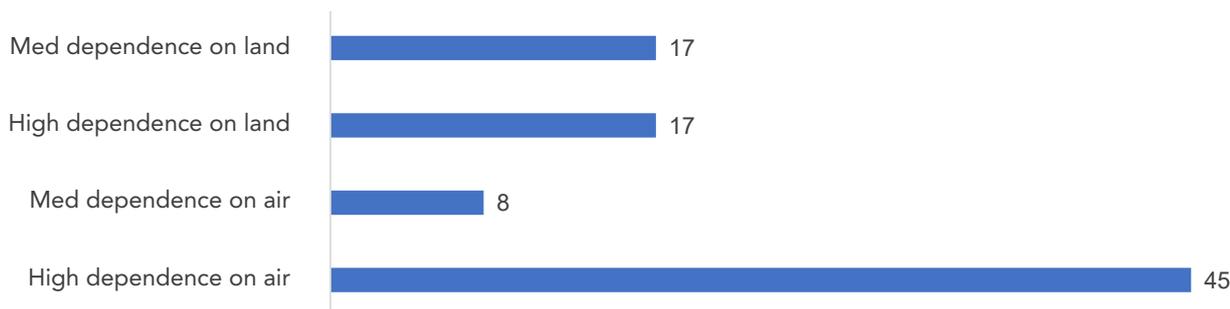
23 For more information see at: <https://www.kormany.hu/en/prime-minister-s-office/news/border-protection-rules-applied-during-first-wave-to-return> and at: <https://www.euronews.com/2020/08/28/hungary-to-close-its-borders-in-bid-to-curb-covid-19-resurgence>

24 For more information see at: <https://covid19.gov.ua/en> and at: <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/ukraine-shuts-borders-to-foreigners-until-october-to-contain-covid-19-spread.html?cn-reloaded=1>

25 Health clusters were built on the available data for 197 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 84 destinations for which data was available.

26 Clusters of 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population were built on the available data for 197 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 82 destinations for which data was available.

Figure 13 - Number of destinations that have complete border closure per importance of mode of transport²⁷



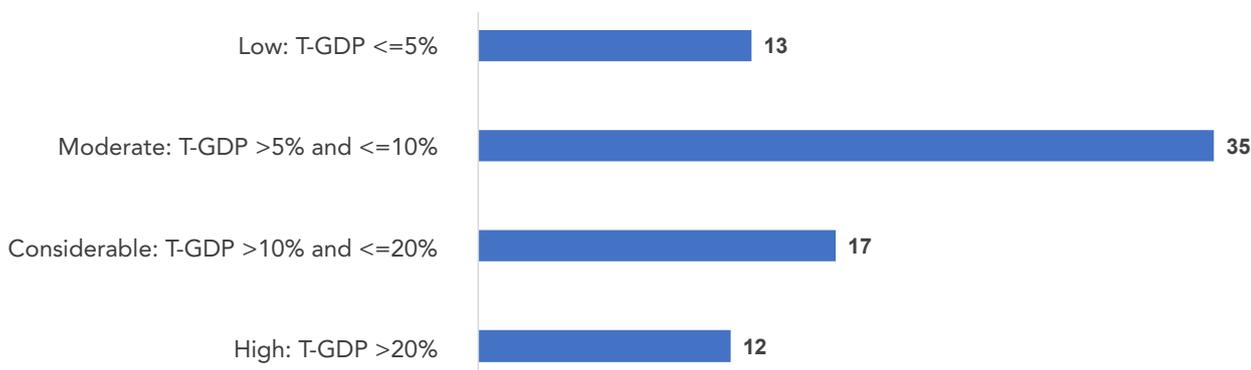
Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

Interestingly, 62% of destinations with borders closed (51 destinations out of 82 destinations with data available) are reporting low infection rates with not more than 20 new COVID-19 cases per 100 000 inhabitants (Figure 12).

When analysing those destinations' international tourism structure by mode of transportation in the 53 destinations, which have their borders closed, aviation plays a crucial role for international tourism (45 destinations highly depending on aviation and 8 with a medium dependency) (Figure 13).

It is furthermore observed that destinations with complete border closure are characterized by having a low or moderate dependence on tourism with no more than 5% of Tourism GDP (48 destinations). They are also mainly characterized as emerging economies, with 50% of all destinations classified as emerging economies worldwide currently having their border closed for international tourism (Figure 14).

Figure 14 - Number of destinations that have complete border closure per tourism GDP dependency²⁸

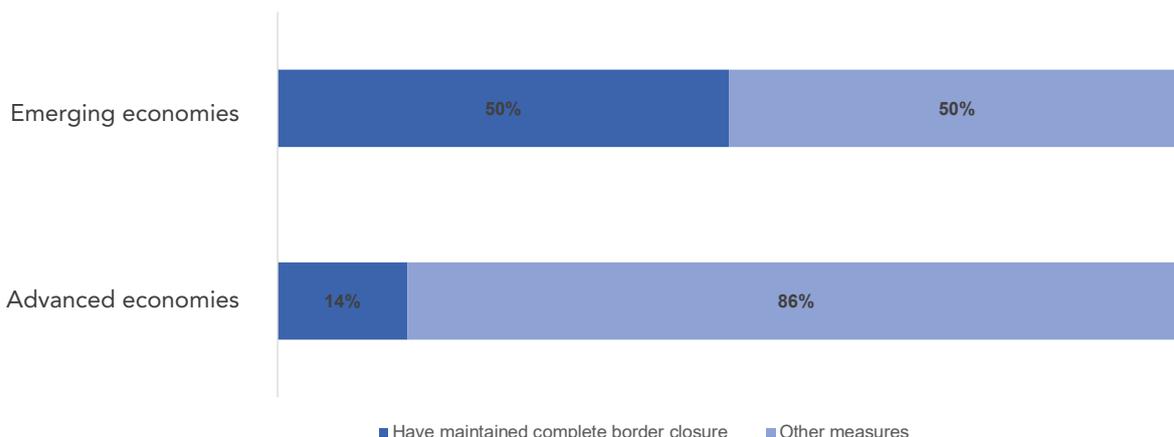


Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

²⁷ Clusters of mode of transport were built on the available data for 194 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 87 destinations for which data was available.

²⁸ Clusters of T-GDP were built on the available data for 181 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 77 destinations for which data was available.

Figure 15 - Destinations that have complete border closure per economic status²⁹



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

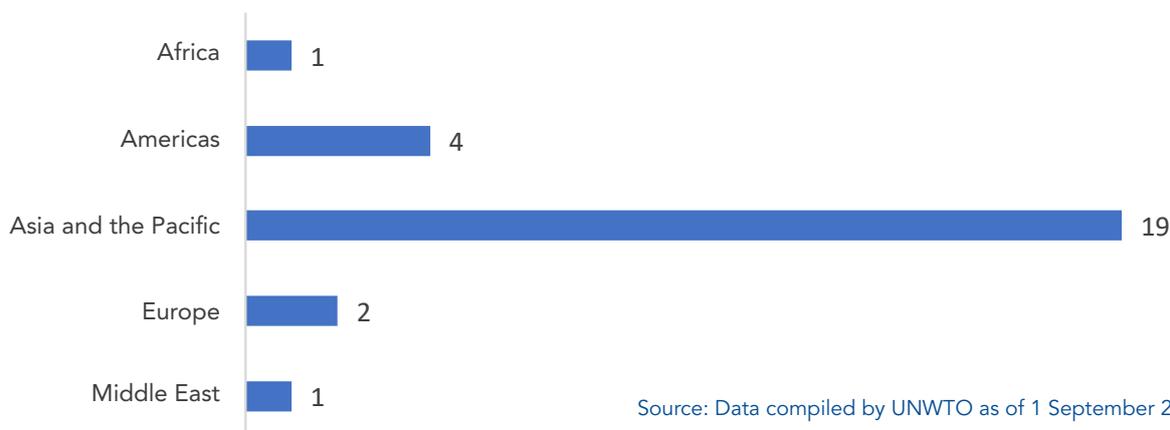
5.4. Characteristics of the destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks

A total of 27 destinations (12% of all destinations worldwide) have not eased the travel restrictions and maintain their borders completely closed for at least 30 weeks. One of these destinations is located in Africa, 4 in the Americas, 19 in Asia and the Pacific, two in Europe and two in the Middle East.

More than half of these destinations (52%) are classified as the World’s Vulnerable Countries³⁰, among them 10 SIDS, 1 LDC and 3 LLDCS.

For a total of 10 of those 27 destinations, tourism is a significant economic activity, with 2 destinations highly and 8 depending considerably on tourism. 9 destinations still rely on tourism on a moderate level for their economies, while only 2 destinations have a low dependence on tourism.³¹

Figure 16 - Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per region



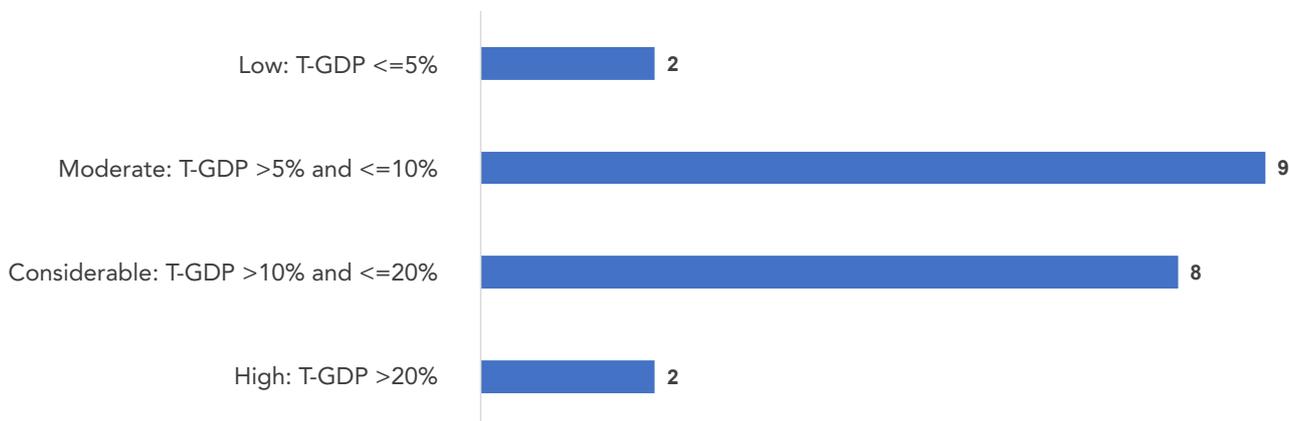
Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

²⁹ Out of the 93 destinations with complete borders closure, the chart displays the share of emerging and advanced economies.

³⁰ Please see at: <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/>

³¹ T-GDP data is available for 21 of the 27 destinations.

Figure 17 - Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per dependence on tourism³²

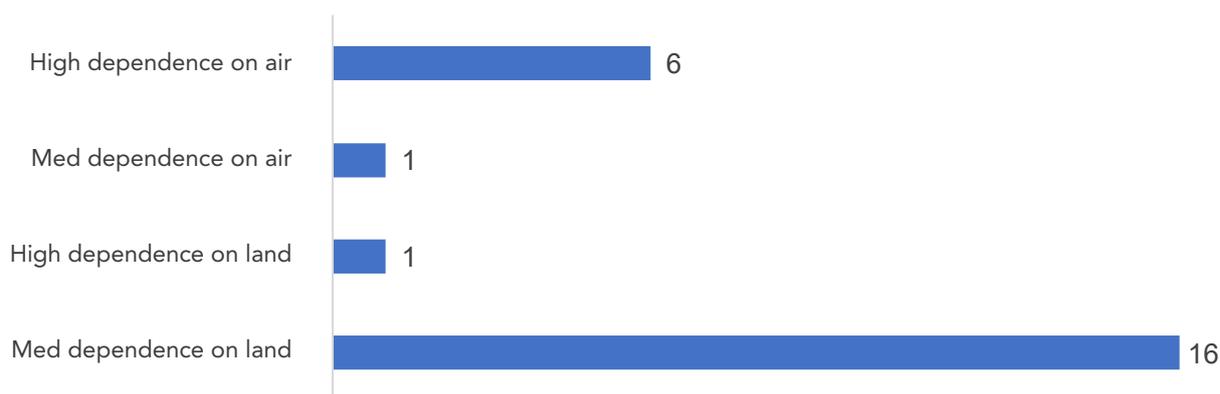


Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

The secondary effects of the border closures become visible when analysing those destinations’ international tourism structure by mode of transportation, with 16 destinations of all those 27 destinations highly depending on aviation, i.e. that at least 70% of their international tourists arrive by air.

Interestingly, the majority (81%) of these destinations count on moderate and good health and hygiene infrastructure and report in 13 destinations (48%) relatively low infection rates below 20 new cases per 100.000 population.³⁴

Figure 18 - Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per dependence on mode of transport³³



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

³² Clusters of T-GDP were built on the available data for 181 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 21 destinations for which data was available.

³³ Clusters of mode of transport were built on the available data for 194 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 24 destinations for which data was available.

³⁴ As of 24 August 2020. Data is available for 19 destinations concerning the 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population.

Figure 19 - Number of destinations with complete border closure for 3 0 weeks per Health and Hygiene clusters³⁵

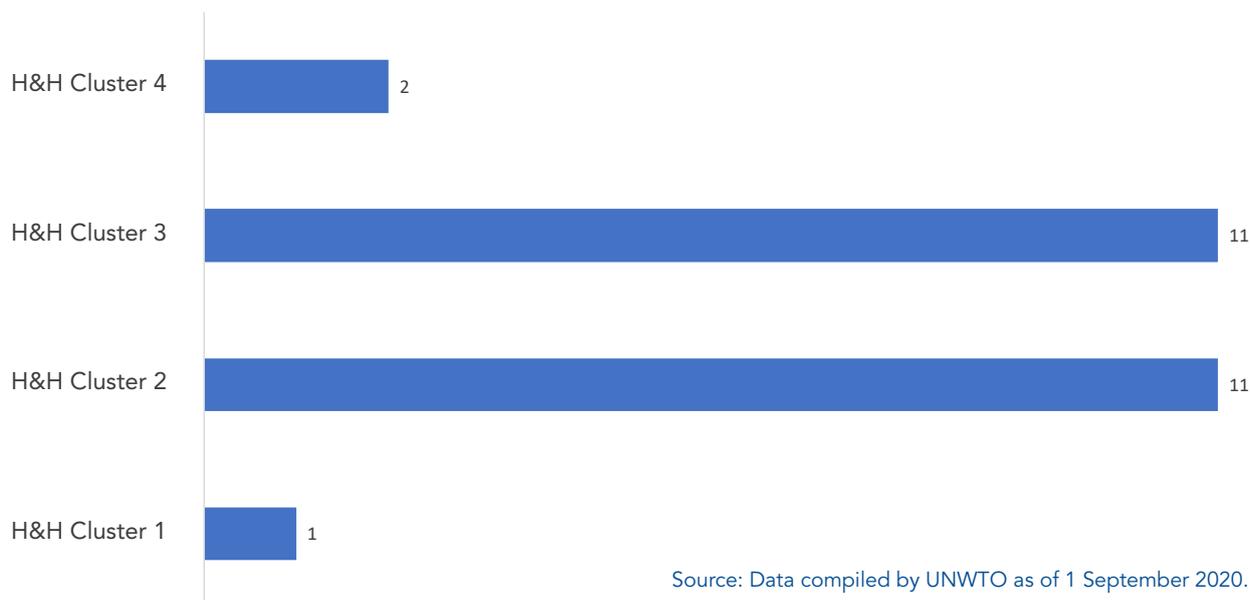
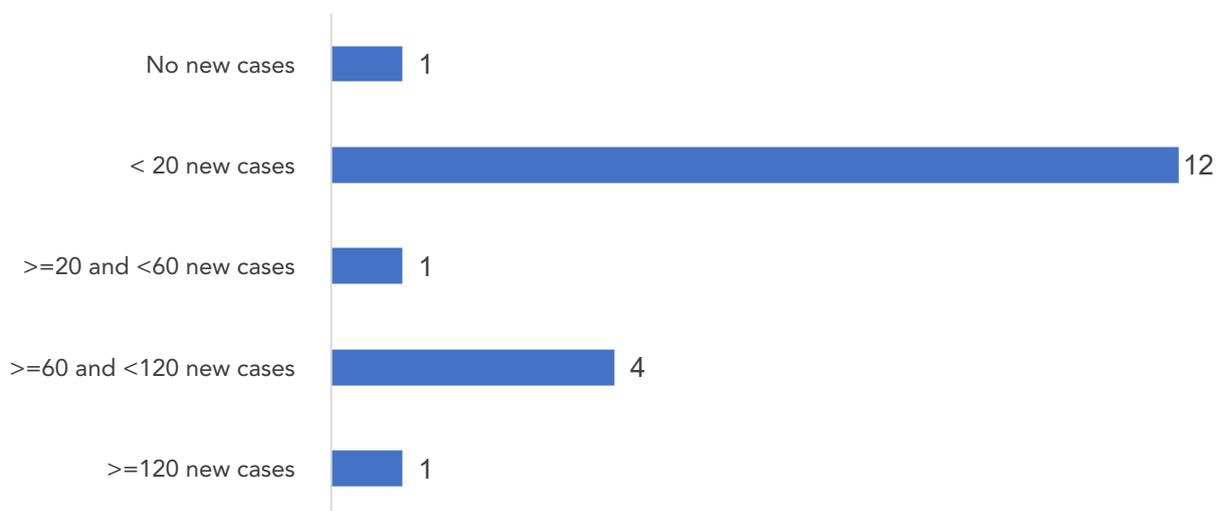


Figure 20 - Figure 20 - Number of destinations with complete border closure for 30 weeks per 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 population³⁶



³⁵ Health clusters were built on the available data for 197 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 25 destinations for which data was available.

³⁶ Clusters of 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100,000 population were built on the available data for 197 destinations. Out of the 93 destinations with complete border closure, the chart displays those 19 destinations for which data was available.

6. Further analysis of travel restrictions

6.1. Regional Analysis of travel restrictions

Despite the easing of travel restrictions in 115 destinations worldwide, the complete closure of borders continues to be the most dominant type of travel restrictions across regions on 1 September 2020. It is applied in 93 destinations worldwide.

The **complete closure** of borders is observed in:

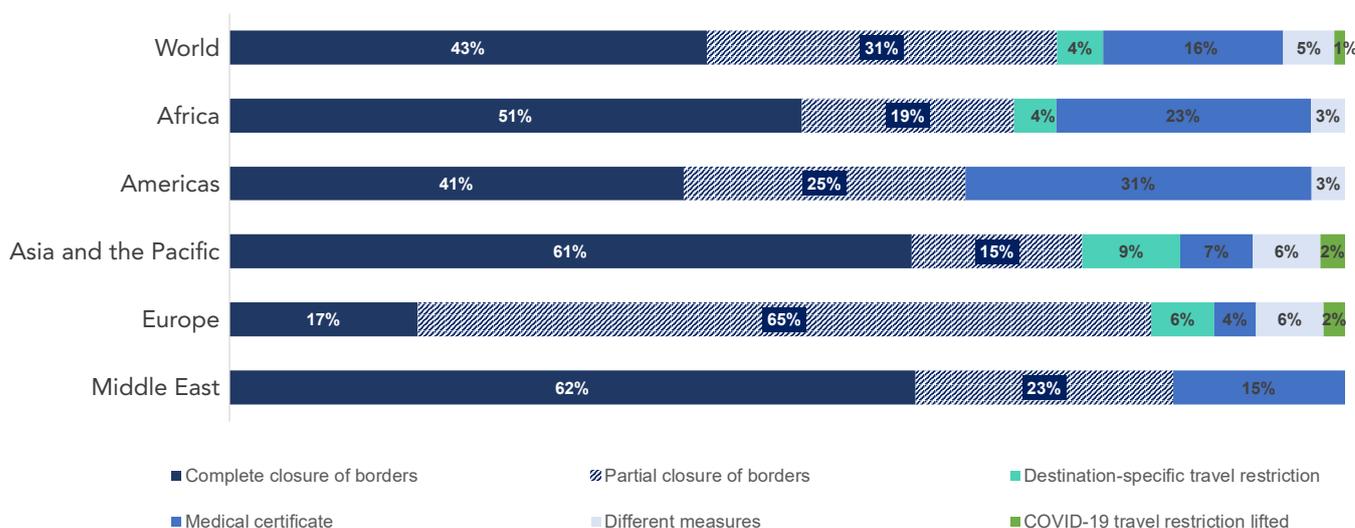
- 62% of the destinations in the Middle East (a decrease from 77% on 19 July 2020)
- 61% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific (a decrease from 63% on 19 July 2020)
- 51% of the destinations in Africa (a decrease from 70% on 19 July 2020)
- 41% of destinations in the Americas (a decrease from 55% on 19 July 2020)
- 17% of destinations in Europe (a decrease from 20% on 19 July 2020)

Looking at the regional analysis it is noticed that Europe, with 81% of all destinations having eased restrictions and 17% maintaining complete border closure, is the region with most easings of travel restrictions. On the contrary, in the Middle East 62% and in Asia and the Pacific 61% of destinations remain completely closed.

From a regional point of view, the destinations that have **eased travel restrictions** are:

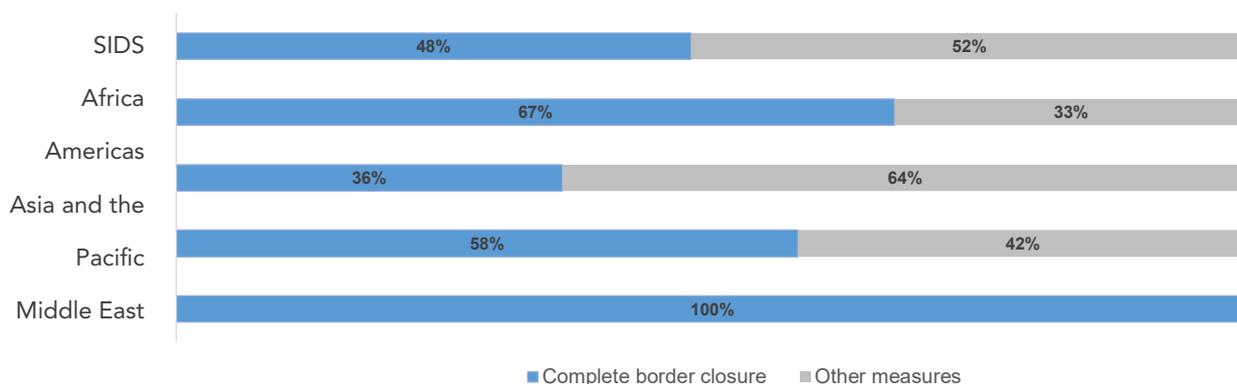
- **44 destinations in Europe**, including 25 out of 26 Schengen Member States
- **27 destinations in the Americas**, including 18 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- **26 destinations in Africa**
- **13 destinations in Asia and the Pacific**, including 5 SIDS
- **5 destinations in the Middle East.**

Figure 21 - Regional breakdown of travel restrictions as of September 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

Figure 22 - Global and regional breakdown of travel restrictions consisting of complete border closures applied by SIDS as of 1 September 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

6.2. Travel restrictions in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

As of 1 September 2020, 26 SIDS (48% of all SIDS) continue to have their borders completely closed (Figure 22). Out of those 26 SIDS, 10 have been closed for the past 30 weeks.

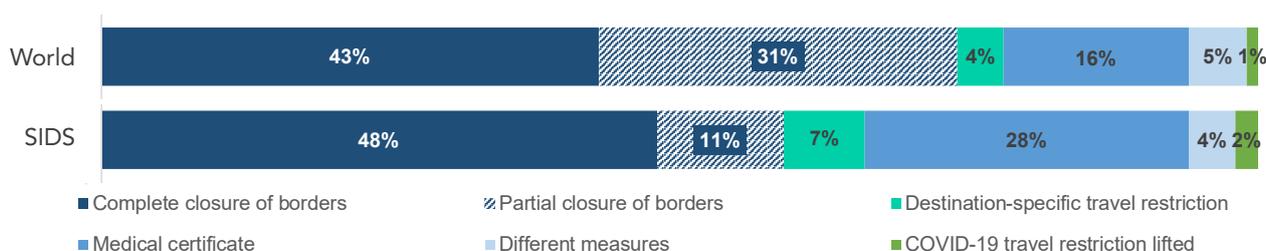
From a regional perspective, it is observed that complete border closure is applied by 1 SIDS in the Middle East, 4 out of the 6 SIDS in the African region, 11 out of the 19 SIDS in Asia and the Pacific and 10 out of the 28 SIDS in the Americas.

The complete border closure continues to be more common among SIDS in comparison to global averages, 48% of SIDS having complete border closure in place, while this number amounts worldwide to 43% (Figure 23). In fact, many SIDS (41% of all SIDS) were

among the first destinations that introduced travel restrictions at the very beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, as early as January 2020. At the same time, 25 SIDS have now eased the travel restrictions and are facilitating international tourism: 18 are from the Americas (increase of 10 since 15 June 2020), 5 from Asia and the Pacific and 2 from Africa (increase of 1 in each region) .

The majority of SIDS which have eased restrictions (25 destinations), besides counting on a high (12 destinations) and considerable (4 destinations) contribution of tourism to their economies³⁷, had already prior to the COVID-19 outbreak a high level of facilitation in place and belonged to the most open destinations in the world.³⁸ They are furthermore highly dependent on air connectivity, and have had low infection rates when opening their borders again.

Figure 23 - Overview of SIDS by travel restriction in place as of 1 September 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 1 September 2020.

37 T-GDP data available for 20 out of the 25 SIDS that have eased restrictions.
 38 9 destinations have a very high openness score and 6 destinations a high score (15 in total), while 10 have a low and very low score). See at: UNWTO 2019 Visa Openness Report for Africa available at: <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284421039>.

6.3 Travel restrictions in the Schengen Area³⁹

The **external borders** of the European Union (EU) have been closed to many non-EU citizens for more than four months.⁴⁰ On 11 June 2020, the European Commission (EC) invited Member States to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel in the EU until 30 June 2020. On 30 June 2020, the European Council agreed to start easing travel restrictions for residents of 15 “third-countries”.⁴¹ For this purpose, specific criteria and conditions set out in recommendations⁴² were elaborated, including the assessment of the epidemiological situation in such countries, which shall show a similar or lower number of new COVID-19 cases over the last 14 days than the EU average, as well as the ability to apply containment measures during travel and reciprocity considerations”.⁴³ Based on these recommendations, most Schengen countries have permitted entry of those “third-countries” into their destinations. On 16 July 2020, the European Council reviewed the initial list of the 15 “third-countries” and adjusted it to 12 destinations.⁴⁴ On 7 August 2020, the European Council reviewed again this list and further reduced the number of destinations to 11 destinations.⁴⁵ The criteria applied in this context are based on epidemiological situation and containment measures, including physical distancing, as well as economic and social considerations.⁴⁶

For the **internal borders** in the Schengen area, various restrictive measures have been applied

during the last months by each Member State. Such measures have significantly limited the movement of tourists between destinations of the region and subsequently brought international intraregional tourism⁴⁷ almost to a complete standstill during April and May 2020. On 11 June 2020, the European Commission recommended to its Member States partial and gradual lifting of such restrictions by 15 June 2020.⁴⁸ On 15 June 2020, 92% (24 destinations) of the 26 Member States of the Schengen Area had partially opened their borders to other EU countries. This was of particular relevance towards the restoration of intraregional tourism within the EU area, and in view of the summer holiday season. In addition, a specific website “Re-open EU” was established that contains all the information on travel restrictions within the EU area.⁴⁹ As of 19 July 2020, all 26 Member States have eased travel restrictions, including the 2 Member States which still had them in place on 15 June 2020.

Schengen Member States are closely monitoring the evolution of the pandemic in the other States and reintroduce restrictions when the epidemiological situation worsens. For this purpose, countries have introduced a system that categorizes destinations according to the epidemiological situation. Based on this, several European States have applied travel advisories for destinations in the higher infection categories, as well as the request for a PCR test upon arrival or within a certain time after arrival or alternatively a period of quarantine.

39 The Schengen area covers 26 countries (“Schengen States”) without border controls between them, for more information see: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/schengen_visa_en.

40 On 16 March 2020, the European Commission proposed the temporary restriction of all non-essential travel from third countries to the EU+ area for 30 days. For more information see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0115&from=EN>.

41 This restriction was extended by another 30 days on 8 May 2020. See at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_823.

42 Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay and China. See at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/06/30/council-agrees-to-start-lifting-travel-restrictions-for-residents-of-some-third-countries/>

43 <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9208-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

44 European Commission, Travel and transportation during the coronavirus pandemic, see section “Temporary non-essential travel restrictions”, online page available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/travel-and-transportation-during-coronavirus-pandemic_en.

45 Schengen Visa Info News, available online at: <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/council-updates-list-of-epidemiologically-safe-third-countries/>

46 Council of the European Union, Press Release, 7 August 2020, available online at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/08/07/lifting-of-travel-restrictions-council-reviews-the-list-of-third-countries/>

47 EU Council Recommendation amending Council Recommendation 2020/912 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction available at: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10095-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

48 Intraregional tourism refers to tourist movements from one country to another country within the same region.

49 Ibid.

50 <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>

7. Conclusions

Destinations continue to ease travel restrictions. The analysis shows that there are various factors influencing this trend. Destinations with a higher score of the health and hygiene indicator as well as low infection rates are among those which eased restrictions faster than destinations of different characteristics. Also, the importance of tourism is, although not in all countries, influencing that borders are getting reopened.

However, many countries still keep their borders closed with impacts not only for international tourism but significant side effects for their economies and societies.

Governments in destinations that have eased restrictions continue to indicate that travel restrictions will be reintroduced in case of increasing infection rates at any time. These often rapid changes in travel restrictions remain a major challenge. Consequently, immigration procedures and requirements will differ from destination to destination, which is especially challenging for the consistency of information on procedures and requirements across the different national authorities, namely health, foreign affairs, immigration and tourism authorities of a country.

Providing reliable, consistent and easy to access information on immigration procedures for international tourists has created already in the past, in the context of visa, unnecessary burdens for travelers, which could have easily been avoided.

It is now, especially in view of the upcoming fast changing procedures and requirements, even more important that national authorities ensure that immigration procedures and requirements are provided in a timely, reliable

and consistent manner across all information systems and platforms, to maintain confidence and trust.

This is in line with the recommendations made by the One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector which was released on 5 June 2020 and calls for the integration of epidemiological indicators in tourism monitoring as “strengthening monitoring mechanisms in this direction has the potential to lead the way for tourism to recover as an economic activity, ensuring that the easing of travel restrictions is based on evidence”.⁵⁰

Proportionate and responsible opening of borders for international tourism

With seven months of the pandemic in place, lessons learned from attempts of limiting the spread of COVID-19 have become available.

One of the lessons might be that through testing and tracing, social distancing and relevant hygiene measure such as hand washing and the wearing of mask the spread of infection can be limited. Based on this and on the introduction of protocols and procedures in general and in tourism in particular, reasons and justification for lifting and easing travel restrictions might be provided.

In this context complete border closure might be replaced by lesser stricter measures, such as partial closure, testing upon arrival and related quarantine measures.

In any case, border openings must occur in a proportionate and responsible manner with a clear communication strategy for citizens and tourists and visitors alike.

⁵⁰ One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme (2020) – One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, available online at: <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-06/one-planet-vision-responsible-recovery-of-the-tourism-sector.pdf>.



ANNEXES



Annex 1

Overview on the different categories and applying destinations as of 1 September 2020 ⁵¹

Complete closure of borders

Applied by 93 destinations (43% of all destinations worldwide)

Algeria, Angola, Anguilla, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros Islands, Congo, Cook Islands, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, French Guyana, Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mongolia, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonie, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, (The) Philippines, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Saba, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Eswatini, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Virgin Islands British, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Partial closure of borders

Applied by 68 destinations (31% of all destinations worldwide)

Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bonaire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guadeloupe, Guinea (Republic of), Hong Kong SAR, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Malta, Martinique, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Medical certificate before, upon or after arrival (including PCR negative test)

Applied by 35 destinations (16% of all destinations worldwide)

Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Chad, Congo (Democratic republic of), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, French Polynesia, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Republic of), Mali, Monaco, Namibia, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, South Sudan, St Eustatius, St Lucia, St Marteen, St Vincent and Grenadines, Tanzania, Turks and Caicos.

⁵¹ Some destinations apply more than one measure, in this case the measure affecting tourists most is used for the purpose of this analysis.

Destination-specific travel restrictions aimed at passengers from specific countries

Applied by 9 destinations (4% of all destinations worldwide)

Bulgaria, Japan, Moldova, Nauru, Romania, Seychelles, Singapore, Tunisia, Tuvalu.

Quarantine or self-isolation related measures

Applied by 6 destinations (3% of all destinations worldwide)

Bahamas, Belarus, Ethiopia, Ireland, Slovenia, United Kingdom.

Visa measures - Visa are invalidated or no longer visa exempt or visa cannot be obtained any longer upon arrival

Applied by 3 destinations (1% of all destinations worldwide).

Zambia, Cambodia, Iran.

Suspension of flights - partially or completely

Applied by 1 destination

Palau.

Annex 2

Clusters by economic importance of tourism

HIGH T-GDP >20% (29 destinations)

Albania, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cayman Islands, Croatia, Dominica, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Jamaica, Macao SAR, Maldives, Montenegro, The Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines, Vanuatu, Virgin Islands British.

CONSIDERABLE T-GDP >10% and <=20% (47 destinations)

Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bermuda, Botswana, Bulgaria, China, Comoros Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Gambia, Honduras, Hong Kong SAR, Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay.

MODERATE T-GDP >5% and <= 10% (80 destinations)

Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia,

Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Martinique, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, The Netherlands, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Reunion, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

LOW T-GDP <=5% (25 destinations)

Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea (Republic of), Guyana, Ireland, Korea (Republic of), Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Puerto Rico, The Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Uzbekistan.

Annex 3

Groups of international source market and corresponding destinations

GROUP A: 1-2 international source markets (57 destinations)

Botswana, Comoros Islands, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Canada, Cayman Islands, El Salvador, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Saba, St Eustatius, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Suriname, Turks and Caicos, Uruguay, Virgin Islands British, Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong SAR, Laos, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Macao SAR, Myanmar, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Andorra, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, San Marino, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman.

GROUP B: 3-5 international source markets (64 destinations)

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, French Polynesia, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonie, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Peru, The Philippines, The Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St Maarten, St Vincent

and Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

GROUP C: 6-9 international source markets (51 destinations)

Angola, Australia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guinea (Republic of), Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor Leste, United Kingdom, Venezuela.

GROUP D: 10+ international source markets (35 destinations)

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Rep. of), Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Qatar, Reunion, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Annex 4

Overview on destinations which have eased and lifted travel restrictions for international tourism purposes

Destinations which have eased travel restrictions for international tourism purposes

Applied by 115 destinations

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bonaire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guinea (Republic of), Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong SAR, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Reunion, Romania, (The) Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, St Eustatius, St Lucia, St Maarten, St Vincent and Grenadines, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turks and Caicos, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia.

Destinations which have lifted travel restrictions for international tourism purposes

Applied by 2 destinations

Albania, Maldives.

Annex 5

Overview of destinations, which have their borders completely closed and which eased or lifted restrictions, by mode of transport

Borders completely closed

Eased or lifted restrictions

High dependence on air transport (air share > 70%)

Angola, Anguilla, Australia, Belize, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Comoros Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Guyana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Montserrat, Nepal, New Caledonie, New Zealand, Niger, Niue, Panama, The Philippines, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Saba, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Taiwan Province of China, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Virgin Islands British.

Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Bonaire, Central African Republic, Chad, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, French Polynesia, Gabon, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Korea (Republic of), Lebanon, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique, Monaco, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Reunion, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, St Eustatius, St Lucia, St Maarten, St Vincent and Grenadines, Turkey, Turks and Caicos, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Medium dependence on air transport (air share > 40% and <70%)

Algeria, Canada, Congo, Eritrea, Indonesia, Morocco, Peru, Turkmenistan.

Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Congo (Democratic Rep. of), Guinea (Republic of), Honduras, Kenya, Kuwait, Norway, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo.

High dependence on land transport (land share >70%)

Bahrain, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Georgia, Hungary, Laos, Lesotho, Malawi, Paraguay, South Africa, Eswatini, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe.

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hong Kong SAR, Iran, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, (The) Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Slovenia, Zambia.

Medium dependence on land transport (land share > 40% and < 70%)

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, El Salvador, Gambia, Guatemala, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Uganda, Yemen.

Armenia, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cote D'Ivoire, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uruguay.

Medium dependence on water transport (water share >40% and < 70%)

Estonia.

Annex 6

Overview of destinations, which have their borders completely closed and which eased or lifted restrictions, by 14-day COVID-19 notification rate per 100.000 inhabitants

Borders completely closed	Eased or lifted restrictions
Cluster 0: No new cases reported	
Anguilla, Laos, Montserrat, New Caledonie, Saba, St Kitts and Nevis, Taiwan Province of China.	Bonaire, Grenada, San Marino, St Eustatius, Tanzania.
Cluster 1: <20 new cases reported	
Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, China, Comoros Islands, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.	Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Bhutan, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Democratic Rep. of), Cote D'Ivoire, Cuba, Curaçao, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guinea (Republic of), Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Mali, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zambia.
Cluster 2: >=20 and <60 new cases reported	
Gambia, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Philippines (The), Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Virgin Islands British.	Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation (The), Serbia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.
Cluster 3: >=60 and <120 new cases reported	
Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Libya, Paraguay, South Africa, Eswatini.	Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ecuador, France, French Polynesia, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, North Macedonia, Romania.
Cluster 4: >=120 new cases reported	
Argentina, Bahrain, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Israel, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Suriname.	Andorra, Aruba, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kuwait, Maldives, Malta, Moldova, Spain, St Maarten, Turks and Caicos.

Annex 7

Overview of destinations, which have their borders completely closed and which eased or lifted restrictions, by Health and Hygiene indicator

Borders completely closed

Eased or lifted restrictions

Cluster 1 (indicators scoring from 0 to 2,4)

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros Islands, Congo, Gambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Eswatini, Timor Leste, Uganda, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Afghanistan, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Democratic Rep. of), Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea (Republic of), Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia.

Cluster 2 (indicators scoring from 2,5 to 3,4)

Belize, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cayman Islands, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Laos, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Morocco, Myanmar, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines (The), Puerto Rico, Samoa, South Africa, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tonga, Vietnam.

Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Grenada, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Nauru, Pakistan, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines.

Cluster 3 (indicators scoring from 3,5 to 4,2)

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Israel, Jordan, Korea (Democratic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, New Caledonie, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Barbados, Bermuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cyprus, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Seychelles, Singapore, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Cluster 4 (indicators scoring from 4,3 to 7)

Argentina, Australia, Georgia, Hungary, Ukraine, Virgin Islands British.

Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation (The), San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay.

Annex 8

Overview on COVID-19 and pandemic measures, including travel restrictions

On 31 December 2019, a pneumonia of unknown cause was detected first in Wuhan, China and reported to the local WHO office. Four weeks later, on 30 January 2020 the WHO declared the outbreak of this virus, initially named 2019-nCoV, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). At that stage WHO referred to 83 cases in 18 countries⁵² and did not recommend any travel or trade restriction. In a joint statement by UNWTO and WHO released on 26 February 2020, it was indicated that “Tourism’s response needs to be measured and consistent, proportionate to the public health threat and based on local risk assessment, involving every part of the tourism value chain”.⁵³

While from end of December 2019 until end of February 2020 China reported the largest amount of COVID-19 cases, by February 2020 the virus had already spread almost all over the globe. When WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020, 114 countries had reported 118,000 cases with Europe becoming the worst-affected region. In the following weeks all destinations around the world reported cases of COVID-19 and as of the date of this report, the Americas is the worst-affected world region. WHO reported

for the week ending on 30 August 2020 over 1,8 million new COVID-19 cases and 38 000 new deaths. This brings the total to nearly 25 million cases and 800 000 deaths since the start of the outbreak.⁵⁴

Based on the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response guidance document for governments⁵⁵, a variety of measures have been implemented worldwide in order to reduce the spread of the virus. These include individual measures, such as the promotion of hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as societal level measures, such as protocols related to social distancing which include the suspension of school classes, adjusting work patterns, the reduction of unnecessary travel and overcrowding of mass transport systems as well as the development of frameworks for cancellation/restriction of mass gatherings.⁵⁶ Moreover, with regards to international travel, measures to “develop capacities for emergency public health actions at designated points of entry in accordance with International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) Annex 1 B.2.”, which include relevant control mechanisms for arriving and departing travellers, have been implemented.

Furthermore, additional provisions of the IHR⁵⁷ have guided the introduction of measures. For instance, under Chapter III on special provisions for travellers, the treatment of suspected travellers when entering a destination is

52 World Health Organization (2020), *Statement on the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*, 30 January 2020, available online at: [www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

53 World Tourism Organization, World Health Organization (2020), *Joint statement on tourism and covid-19: UNWTO and WHO call for responsibility and coordination*, 26 February 2020, available online at: https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-03/31012020%20Coronavirus_Feb_2020%20EN_3.pdf.

54 World Health Organization, *Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)*, Weekly epidemiological Update as of 30 August 2020, available online at: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200831-weekly-epi-update-3.pdf?sfvrsn=d7032a2a_4

55 International Health Regulations (2005), Third Edition, WHO, pp. 40-42, available online at: www.who.int/ihr/publications/9789241580496/en.

56 International Health Regulations (2005).

57 International Health Regulations (2005).

outlined, ranging from medical examination to providing the person with food and water.⁵⁸ Also under IHR Article 43, it is stated that additional health measures shall be based on scientific principles, available scientific evidence and available specific guidance of WHO. In this context, the implementation of additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic shall be reported to WHO within 48 hours, including the public health rationale and relevant scientific information. Significant interference means “refusal of entry or departure of international travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, and the like, or their delay, for more than 24 hours”. The IHR stipulates that WHO shall share this information with other governments and request that the measure is reviewed within three months. Furthermore, WHO may request a government that implemented such measure to reconsider its application.⁵⁹ Article 23 on Health Measures on arrival and departure indicate that with regard to the traveller, a “State Party may require for public health purposes, information concerning the traveller’s destination so that the travellers may be contacted; information concerning the traveller’s itinerary to ascertain if there was any travel in or near an affected area or other possible contacts with infection...”, as well as “a non-invasive medical examination.”⁶⁰

58 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 23-24.

59 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 29.

60 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 20.



UNWTO

World Tourism Organization