

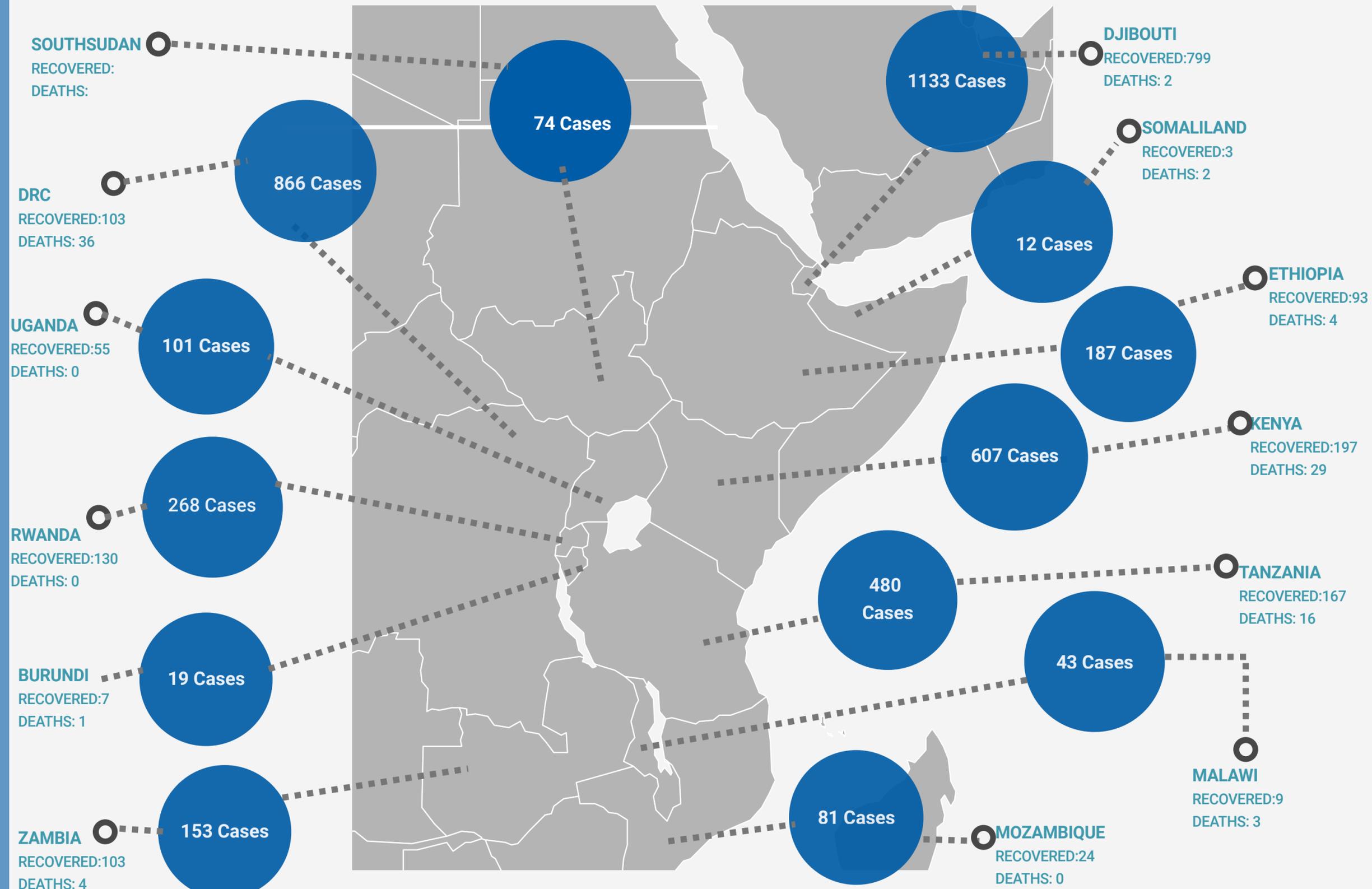
Impacts of COVID-19 on Eastern Africa Trade, Transit and Borders

May 4th-8th 2020

Introduction

TradeMark East Africa works closely with Government and Private Sector partners across the region. The following is a weekly compilation of the dynamic situation on the ground due to the current COVID-19 crisis. TMEA has captured daily updates as they became known to us through our partner contacts, as well as from media reports. Please note that this information changes rapidly and the details below may become obsolete or overtaken by events as quickly as it is distributed. The map on the right provides an update on the number of cases across TMEA's current and planned operating countries.

Source of data is from Johns Hopkins Resource Centre [Here](#), Worldometers [Here](#) and Africa CDC [Here](#)
*Source from Govt situation database. [Here](#)
(Data last updated 08.05.2020)



DISCLAIMER: The maps in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Representations and the use of boundaries and geographical names on these maps may include errors and do not imply judgment of the legal status of a territory, nor official recognition or acceptance of these boundaries by TMEA.

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Situation Overview

Despite the fact that movement of trucks and cargo is [now classified as essential services in the East African Community \(EAC\)](#), concern over truck drivers as conduits of COVID-19 across borders has remained a key source of friction in the region this week. The Government of Kenya confirmed for the Government of Uganda that Kenyan drivers are undergoing testing at all entry border points. On May 4, [Tanzanian truck drivers staged a protest at the Rusumo](#) border with Rwanda, attacking Rwandan counterparts in protest of the relay trucking system, which was introduced by Rwanda as part of the efforts to curb the pandemic. In addition to the chaos at Rusumo, Tanzanian registered trucks were as of 6th May being denied entry to the Nairobi metropolitan area which starts at Isinya. [EAC relations are severely affected](#). TMEA remains closely engaged with its partners to monitor the situations and advocate for coordinated policies.

There was also much attention on AfCFTA this week following media reports that the [commencement date for implementation has been postponed from July 1](#) to January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The [AfroChampions business group quickly responded](#) pushing for continuing implementation, coming shortly after the issuance of their [report on AfCFTA implementation thus far](#). We will engage with the new AfCFTA Secretary General to share our experience and learning to assist the African Union to agreeing a harmonised approach to the flow of goods within a COVID-19 environment that is likely to be in place for another year.

Country and Regional Updates

Burundi

- Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, it's full blown campaign in Burundi ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections slated for May 20.

[Read more.](#)

Ethiopia

- Ethiopian Airlines continues its operations in cargo and repatriation amid Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)



JAN 2021

New commencement date for
implementation of the AfCFTA

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Kenya

- Truck drivers to be tested and issued with Covid-19 free certificates 48 hours before travel. [Read more](#)
- Kwale County enhances border surveillance for coronavirus with Tanzania. [Read more](#)
- Kenyan truck drivers have asked the Government to consider establishing a temporary port at the border with Uganda to enable them avoid the movement restrictions in Uganda. [Read more](#)
- Calls for boosting cross border surveillance at its border points with Tanzania and Uganda after two cases of Covid-19 were confirmed in Migori. [Read more](#)
- State orders truck drivers to re-test every two weeks. [Read more](#)

Malawi

- Malawi Revenue Authority has intensified Coronavirus preventive measures and adherence in all its border posts. [Read more](#)
- Tanzanian truck driver and the assistant test positive for Covid-19 in Malawi. [Read more](#)

Mozambique

- Thousands of desperate migrants are trapped in limbo without food, water or shelter, as governments close off borders and ports to limit the spread of the virus. [Read more](#)

Rwanda

- How the transport sector is adapting to Rwanda's Covid-19 lock-down restrictions. [Read more](#)
- Rwanda's local tourism sector will be one of the beneficiaries of the soon to be launched COVID-19 recovery fund. [Read more](#)
- Consumers to dig deeper into their pockets for goods as delays are experienced in clearing goods at the border. [Read more](#)
- The Government of Rwanda will do all it can to facilitate smooth movement of goods. [Read more](#)



48HRS

Duration it takes truck drivers to acquire Covid-19 free certificates in Kenya

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South Sudan

A report from TMEA-funded sociologist at Nimule OSBP notes issues Women Traders are facing:

- (i) Lack of income due to restrictions of movement across borders;
- (ii) Some women traders are using porous border points exposing them to rape, violence and abuse by security operatives;
- (iii) Lack of knowledge about the COVID-19 has caused stigma among the traders; and,
- (iv) Limited sources of water to enhance hand washing practices, and poor sanitation at the market centres. In other good news, however, cross-border women traders have established a trading network with Elegu cross-border women traders and transport service providers, in order buy and deliver products across Nimule community markets.

Tanzania

- Airlines and ground handler companies in Tanzania lay off workers and cut down salaries amid coronavirus outbreak. [Read more](#)
- Tanzanian livestock barred from Kajiado markets as a result of Kenya Government move to stop spread of COVID-19. [Read more](#)

Uganda

- Uganda continues to register more Covid-19 cases mainly from truck drivers arriving from neighbouring countries. [Read more](#)
- Police in Uganda mounted road checks on several major roads to enforce wearing of masks as per presidential directive. [Read more](#)

Zambia

- Malawi and Zambia District Councils share notes on coronavirus prevention at borders. [Read more](#)



Police checks to ensure
enforcement of wearing of masks

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Regional Eastern Africa

- Strong TMEA engagement with the EAC Secretariat this week with establishment of a joint task force to guide joint working in response to COVID-19 including the following key areas: deepening Safe Trade protocols, trade policy issues, driver and corridor tracing, border and trader engagement, airfreight and e-commerce regulation and recovery.
- The private sector associations and corporates in EAC are pushing for the six countries to embrace a recovery strategy in post Covid-19 pandemic dubbed BEABEA (Buy East Africa Build East Africa). [Read more](#)
- Failed attempts by EAC Heads of States to hold a virtual conference on the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the widening ideological rift between member countries. [Read more](#)
- EAC agrees to deploy mobile lab test kits at borders. [Read more](#)
- [EABC Business Survey](#) : Tourism, logistics, and retail sectors are the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic as cashflow falls by 92%, 75% and 63% respectively across the region .



92%

Fall in cashflow in the tourism sector across the region