

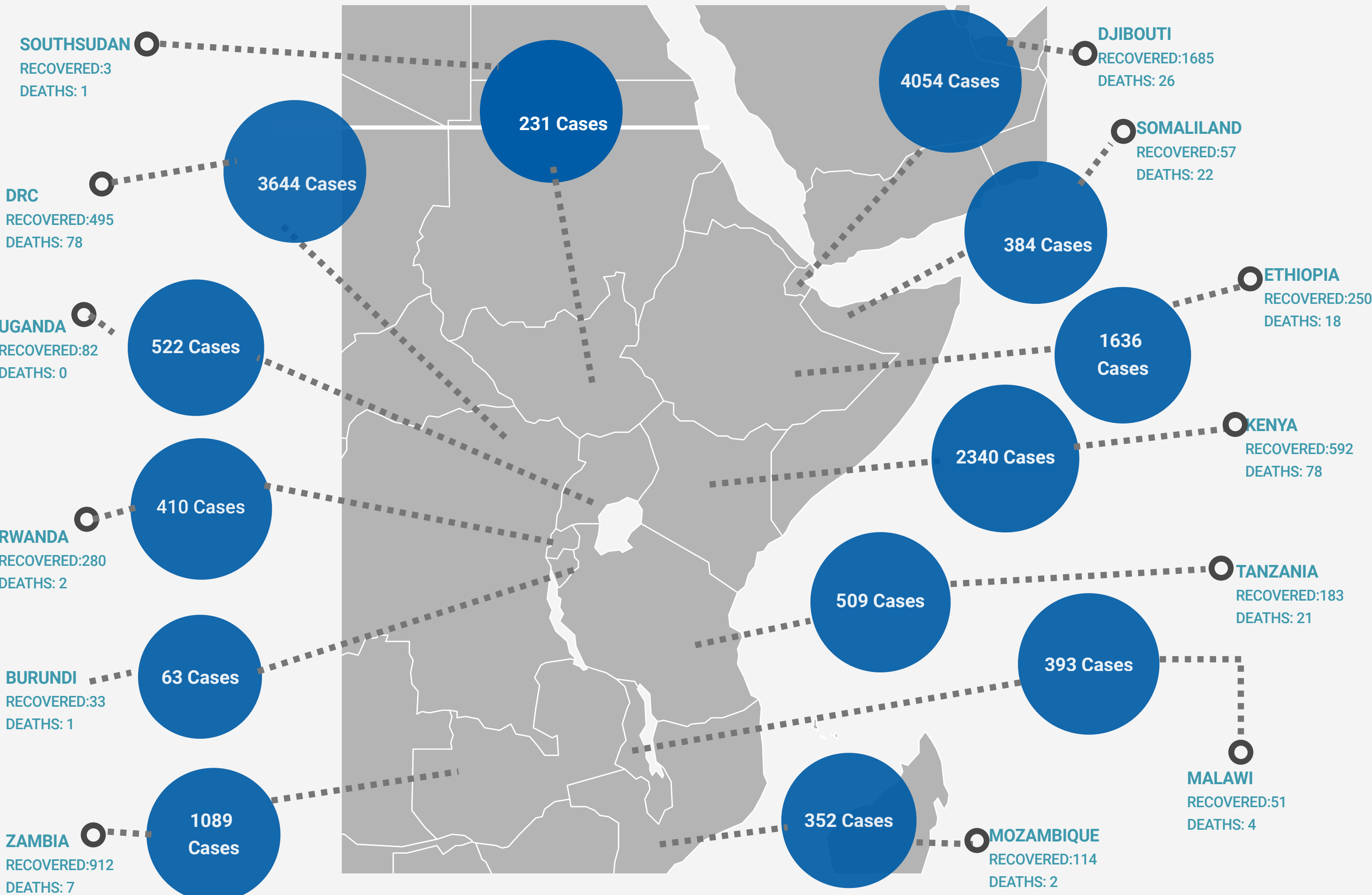
Impacts of COVID-19 on Eastern Africa Trade, Transit and Borders

June 1st-5th 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 (links provided). Please note that TMEA has not independently verified the media reports, and that the details below change rapidly and may become obsolete or overtaken by events as quickly as it is distributed.

Source of data is from Johns Hopkins Resource Centre
Here, Worldometers Here and Africa CDC Here
*Source from Govt situation database. Here
(Data last update 4.06.2020)
** Tanzania last reported new cases on 29 April 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

1.1 Formal progress was made early in the month through bilateral meetings between Kenya and Tanzania. However, tensions rose again towards the end of the week at Namanga border. It was alleged that Kenya sampled a few Tanzanian truck drivers holding Tanzania COVID-19 free certificates and found some positive. Tanzania then stopped Kenyan drivers from entering. Our partner, the East African Business Council (EABC) is attempting to navigate the impasse. In the meantime, Tanzania has directed trans-shipment of goods. See story [here](#).

1.2 This is a major step forward that should help to decongest the region's borders along the Northern Corridor. TMEA's role is seen as positive and recognised by the Ministers present. TMEA also undertook a demonstration of the RECDTS system for trucking and logistics providers prior to the meeting with EAC Ministers and received industry endorsement for the adoption of the system. TMEA is working out the privacy and terms of use with the industry to ensure data protection is in place as a safeguards issue.

1.3 On June 6th, TMEA partner Kenya Transporter's Association (KTA) issued a statement regarding the challenges truck drivers are experiencing in meeting the Government of Kenya's requirements for testing:

- Nairobi and Mombasa: Testing centres have been closed due to lack of kits to collect and reagents to process the samples. The testing resources fall roughly quantity 100 short of driver traffic per day. For the few drivers that have been able to have their samples taken, it is taking up to three weeks to receive results. The Association claims this is inefficiency on the Government side.
- Malaba and Busia borders with Uganda: The Associated notes appreciation for driver testing is ongoing at both Kenya and Uganda sides of the border, noting that in Malaba results are released within eight hours. However, in Busia it takes more than 48 hours.
- Isebania, Holili and Namanga borders with Tanzania: There is no movement of cargo both ways at the Namanga border. The testing machine was brought in with a promise of releasing results within six hours, however it is taking seventy-two hours for the results to be released. In Namanga, drivers still move freely and mingle with people as they wait for results, which could increase the spread of Covid-19 for the population around the border both in Kenya and Tanzania.

KTA formally requests a single Covid-free certification document to be recognized by the Partner States and therefore ease movement.



8HRS

Time it takes to release truck
drivers' Covid-19 test results at
Malaba border

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Country and Regional Updates

Djibouti

- The World Bank approved two new projects totalling \$25 million in credit to help Djibouti address vulnerability, foster economic growth and improve service delivery amid Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Ethiopia

- Ethiopia launches COVID-19 Testing Cross Border Truck Terminal at Border. [Read more](#)
- Despite Ethiopia's decision to close all its border entrances from neighbouring countries, migrants have entered the country crossing borders illegally. [Read more](#)
- Ethiopian Airlines, which lost over half a billion dollars in revenue after coronavirus outbreak, is now recovering making \$120 million in a month from cargo, says CEO. [Read more](#)

Kenya

- The Kenyan private sector continued to face falling levels of output and demand despite business activity going up slightly in May, a new report shows. [Read more](#)
- Truck drivers are straining Busia resources due to Covid-19, says the Governor. [Read more](#)
- The Kenya Council of Governors has said no more trucks should be allowed to leave Mombasa until the back-up at Malaba border has been cleared. [Read more](#)
- The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) met virtually with the National Development Implementation and Communication Cabinet Committee to provide private sector proposals towards gradual and partial re-opening of the economy to preserve jobs and support health responses. KEPSA produced a Consolidated White Paper with Standard Operating Procedures for various sectors.
- World Food Programme monitoring of Kenyan borders notes that a new policy from the County Government of Turkana was issued stating that all truck drivers, irrespective of ownership of a valid Covid-19 certificate, should be tested. The process is taking about 3 days, causing slight delays at Nadapal border with South Sudan.



\$120 Million

Ethiopia's revenue from cargo in the past month

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Mozambique

- The Fitch Solutions consultancy lowered its forecast for the 2020 economy down from 4.3% to 0.7%, taking into account the Covid-19 pandemic and the global recession, while foreseeing a significant recovery in 2021 to 4.2%.
- The government has announced the creation of a credit line to support small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) to minimise the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Rwanda

- Rwanda faults cross-border movement for resurging virus cases. [Read more](#)
- Financial institutions are expected to be central in the bounce-back of small and medium enterprises post-Covid-19. [Read more](#)
- How new EAC electronic truck drivers tracking system will work. [Read more](#)

Somaliland

- Two Somaliland Ministers – for Investment and Technology -- test positive for Covid. [Read more](#)

South Sudan

- The spread of Covid-19 is increasingly hitting the country's ruling elite. [Read more](#)
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) entered into a partnership with the government and other UN agencies to ramp up surveillance at the borders. [Read more](#)
- TMEA received reports that challenges remain for cargo traffic at the Nimule border due to congestion and long periods for awaiting Covid test results.

Tanzania

- The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture has called on its members and non-members to submit challenges affecting businesses due to Covid-19. [Read more](#)
- Kenya, Tanzania agree on Covid-19 testing and cross-border movement. [Read more](#)



0.7%

Fitch Solutions Consultancy's 2020
economic forecast for
Mozambique

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Uganda

- Uganda's economy is expanding despite pandemic, says Museveni. [Read more](#)
- Uganda will lose \$1.6 billion a year in earnings from tourism, says Museveni. [Read more](#)
- Uganda coffee sales rise despite pandemic. [Read more](#)
- The recently installed GeneXpert machine at the Malaba border has been rendered idle due to lack of cartridges. [Read more](#)
- The business community has issued six-crossing cutting interventions that the government must address if the economy is to recover from the effects of Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Zambia

- Covid-19 is a destructor of our hard-earned economic progress, says Dr Lwipa Puma. [Read more](#)

Regional Eastern Africa

Eastern African countries will access up to \$15 million each in grants from the World Bank once the global lender starts pay-outs from its controversial pandemic bonds. [Read more](#)



\$15Million

Grants Eastern African countries
have received from the World Bank