

COVID-19 Weekly Update

6 August



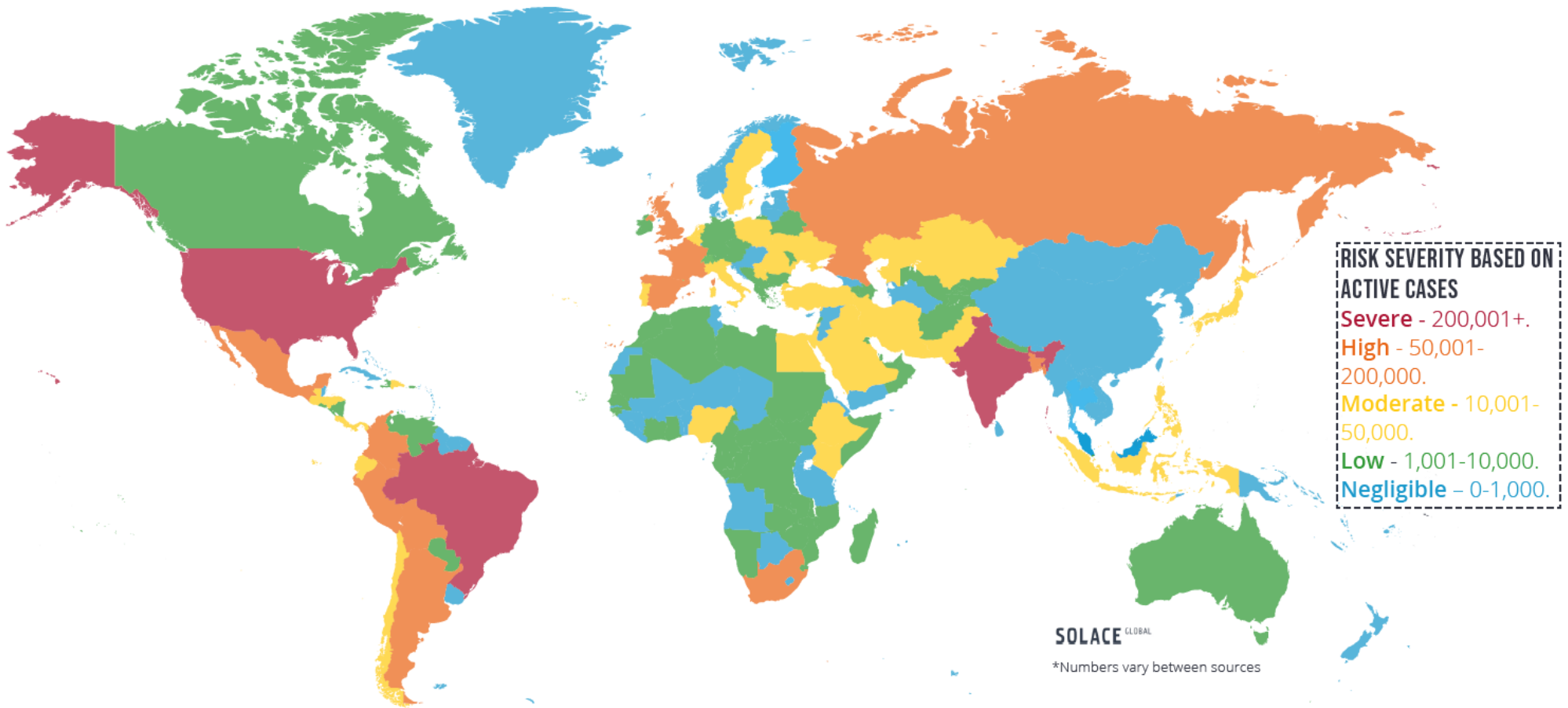
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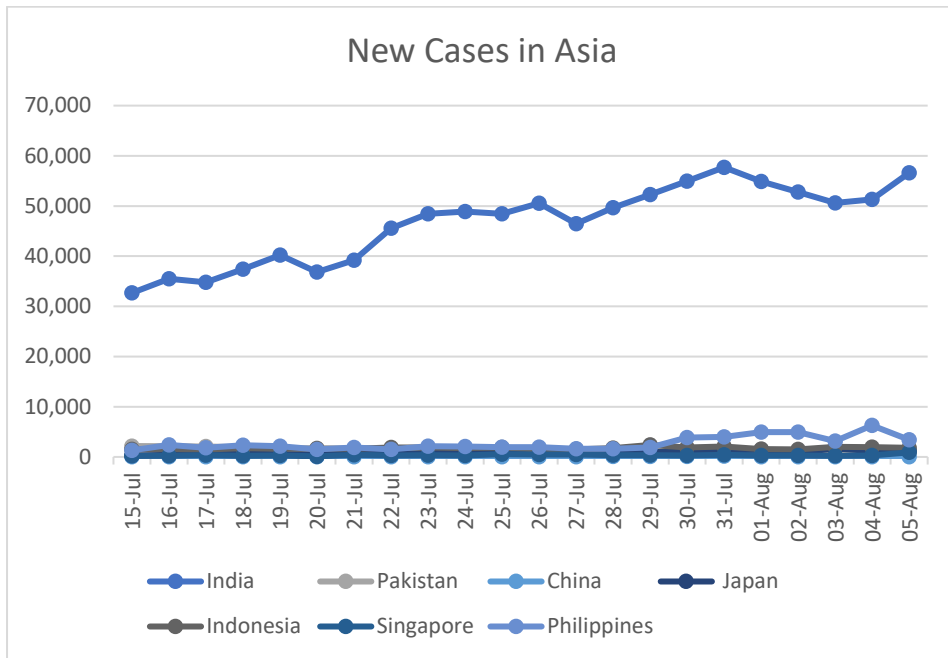
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	18,999,988	Total Active Cases	6,101,177	Total Confirmed Recoveries	12,187,188	Total Confirmed Deaths	711,623
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Asia



The continent is experiencing a large-scale resurgence in the virus, which has forced several South and South-East Asian countries to reimpose lockdowns or similar restrictions. Initially, it Hong Kong started reporting a concerning growing in cases, leading to restrictions on restaurants and entertainment businesses, both continue to be shut.

Two weeks later, the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan are all seeing a concerning spike in numbers. On Monday, the day after its biggest spike in cases, Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte announced restrictions in Manila and several neighbouring regions for two weeks in an attempt to contain the outbreak. These will affect approximately 25 million people, considering that Metro Manila is one of the most densely populated areas in the Asia Pacific. Most businesses and public transportation will be shut in the capital and it is unclear whether domestic flights will continue to operate.

Over the past weeks, Vietnam has also witnessed a resurgence in the virus, despite three months of very little to no cases. The south-east Asian country that was initially praised for its successful handling of the pandemic, has recently reported that the second wave might have been caused by a modified strain of

Covid-19, which seems to be more transmissible than the original one, leading to increased rates of infection. The acting Health Minister, Nguyen Thanh Long, declared on Sunday that "The infection rate is about five and six people, compared to the older strains with the rate of 1.8 to 2.2 people".

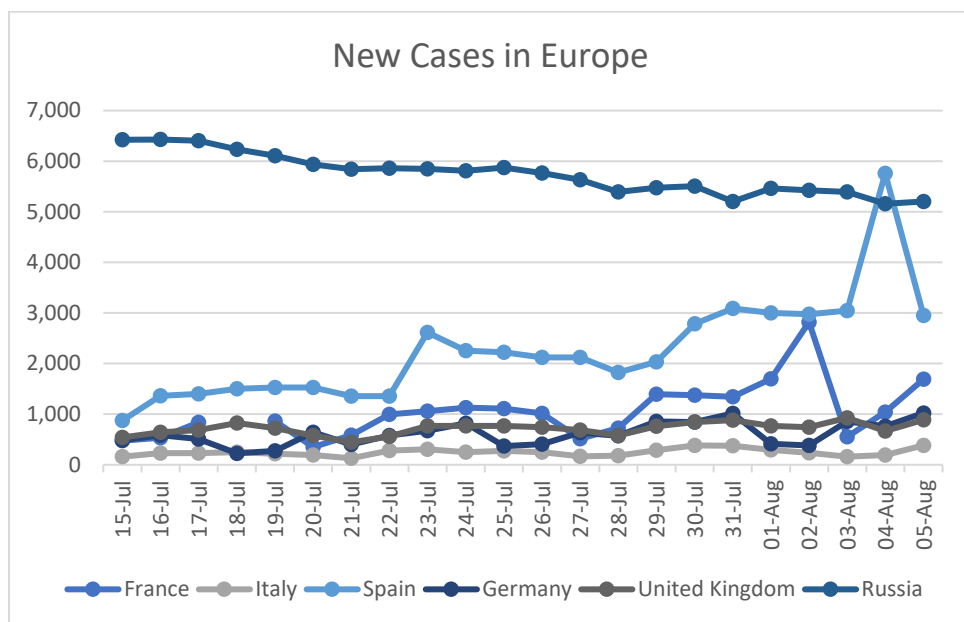
Additional medical resources have been sent to the city of Danang, the outbreak's hotspot, while parts of Hanoi and Ho Chi Min City have been put under lockdown. Most of the cases detected in the two cities were found to have recently returned from Danang, with the government's testing campaign now targeting specifically travellers that have visited the town in the past month. Official estimates, however, indicate that over 1.4 million people have travelled to the touristic hub in July alone.

Last week, existing restrictions on the Indonesian capital Jakarta were also extended until at least 13 August, after health officials reported no significant improvement despite two weeks of lockdown. The daily increase in cases continues to be well over 1,500, with many concentrated in large metropolitan areas. Several clusters have been found in office buildings, contributing to the concerns over interrupting teleworking. Moreover, the prevalence of testing in urban areas has sparked fears regarding the accuracy of the Covid-19 reporting, particularly from smaller, more isolated islands, which are both harder to reach and underequipped to handle an outbreak.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	597,902	Stable	Moderate	High
Pakistan	19,770	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	837	Increase	Light	High
Japan	12,079	Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	37,587	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	6,760	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	50,473	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High



Europe



The European region continues to face the prospect of a second wave, with some of its largest countries experiencing increase infection numbers and tackling the impact of localised lockdowns and travel restrictions.

On Tuesday, Spain reported its highest daily increase in cases since April, when the country was still under lockdown, with the Health Ministry announcing 5,760 cases. While most of the new cases are asymptomatic and have, instead, been attributed to the increase in testing capabilities of medical centres, the figures caused the government to impose additional lockdowns. The regions of Aragon, Madrid and Catalonia are the most affected and, while authorities have ruled out a full lockdown, they have committed to enhance their tracking and tracing tools and curtail the movement of the municipal epicentres. Nightclubs have been shut in all the affected locations, while bars and restaurants are required to shut at 01:00.

In Italy, the prominent statistical agency Istat has shown that 2.5 percent of the population have developed Covid-19 antibodies. This would indicate that the number of infections, particularly during the height of the outbreak, could have been six times higher than reported by official figures. The research also

highlighted a significant difference in the number of people with antibodies between the north, the outbreak’s hotspot, and the south, where infection rates remained lower, despite concerns over local compliance with the social distancing regulations.

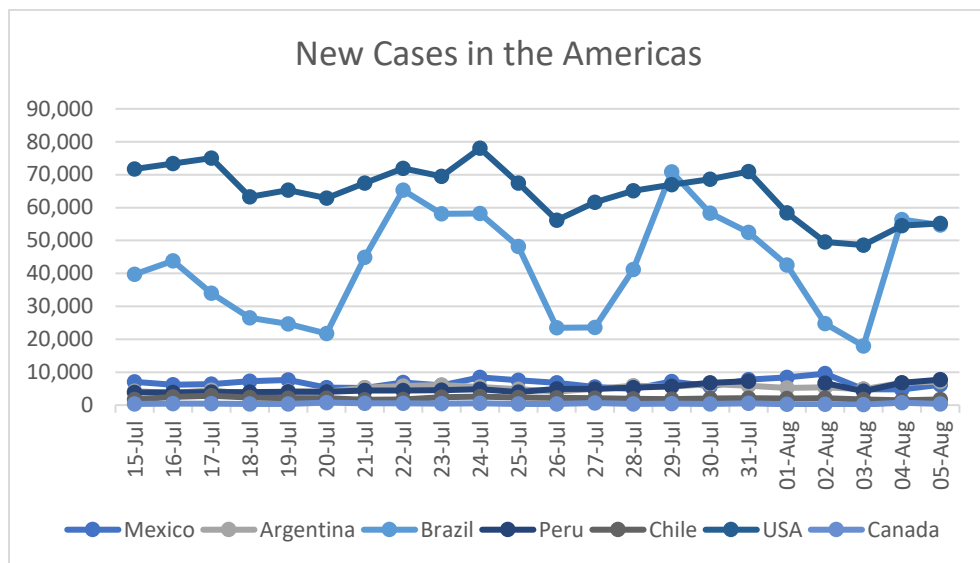
Further data, however, seem to confirm the trend reported in other European countries, where a large percentage of the people now testing positive for the antibodies experience mild or no symptoms at all. This has also been highlighted as one of the damaging factors in an environment with insufficient testing, where people do not seek medical care and fail to isolate unless affected by severe symptoms, thus contributing to the spread of the virus.

Amidst growing numbers of cases, French local authorities are taking new measures to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations. The Mayor in Lille has issued the authority to the police to levy a 135 EUR fine to anyone failing to wear a facemask in public spaces. On a national scale, the government has announced that all individuals arriving in France from areas considered at a higher risk will be required to show a negative Covid-19 test. Citizens of the following countries will be required to test before entering France: the US, United Arab Emirates, Bahrein, Panama, South Africa, Kuwait, Qatar, Israel, Brazil, Peru, Serbia, Algeria, Turkey, Madagascar, India and Oman.

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	81,558		Dramatic Increase	Light	Moderate
Italy	12,646		Stable	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A		Dramatic Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	8,759		Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A		Stable	Light	Light
Russia	180,931		Stable	Moderate	High



Americas



The month of July has been the worst for the US since the start of the pandemic, with a daily death toll remaining steadily over 1,000 people. The south and south-east have been the most affected areas, with Florida, Texas and California being the largest hotspots. While these have reinstated part of their lockdown restrictions, other macro-regions, such as the Midwest, remain at risk, as the process of reopening in different states generally corresponds to a concerning growth in cases.

In Latin America, the overall number of deaths has risen past 200,000, doubling over the past month, and amounting to approximately one-third of the total number of Covid-19 related deaths. On Monday, the number of confirmed cases also surpassed 5 million, potentially making it one of the worst affected regions in the world. The poor living condition and high density of the population living in the main cities have been partially blamed for the scale of the outbreak.

Brazil and Mexico, where restrictions have been lifted over the past month, make up the majority of cases and deaths in the region. Both countries have come under international scrutiny due to their political leaders, respectively President Bolsonaro and Obrador, often appearing in public and openly disregarding or ridiculing health and safety measures, such as wearing protective equipment.

The Brazilian president, after contracting the virus himself, has openly minimised its impact on his health

and wellbeing, contributing to the misinformation campaign. This week, the president's Chief of Staff, Army Gen. Walter Braga Netto, also tested positive for the virus. Netto is the seventh Brazilian government minister that has contracted the virus since the start of the pandemic.

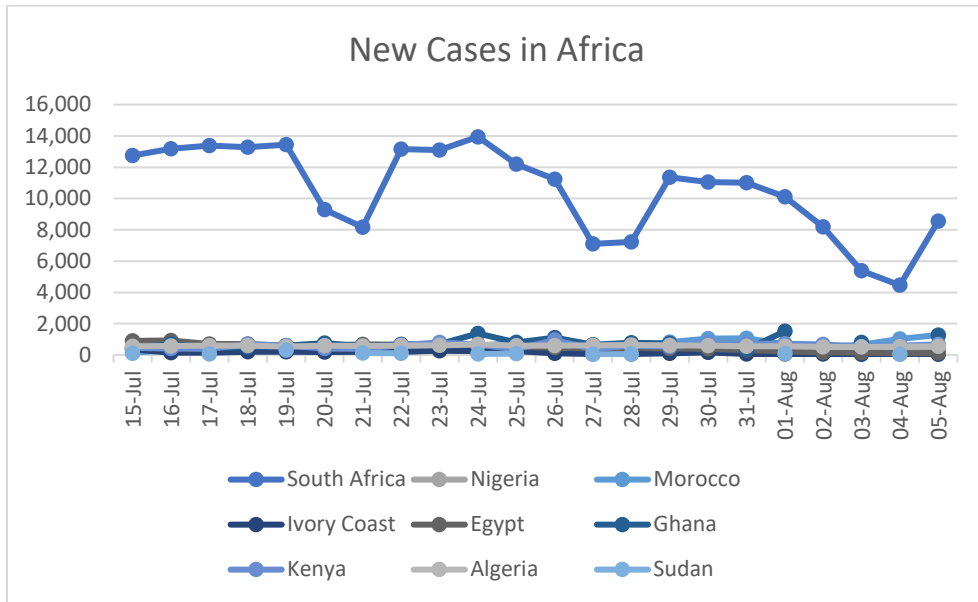
Argentina is struggling with a surge in cases and increasingly dire economic situation, which has been exacerbated by the prolonged lockdown in place in the country. The restrictions were scheduled to be eased on Sunday, 2 August, but the decision was later reversed by the government, after considerations over the human cost of reopening businesses.

In Buenos Aires and other main cities, the working class is being forced to squat on open land in the outskirts of the cities, as the demand for manual labour has plummeted, causing large numbers of families to be evicted from their homes, unable to afford rent. Makeshift settlements are, however, unable to provide adequate shelters for the winter season and the lack of hygiene, sanitation and clean water presents health risks that go beyond the pandemic.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	101,694	Stable	Light	Moderate
Argentina	95,093	Slight Increase	High	High
Brazil	744,706	Stable	Light	High
Peru	120,966	Increase	Moderate	High
Chile	16,640	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High
USA	2,271,254	Slight Decrease	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	6,437	Slight Decrease	Light	High



Africa



While official figures seem to indicate that several countries on the African continent are having relative success in containing the first wave of Covid-19, numbers in South Africa continue to grow.

Confirmed cases in the country have now surpassed 500,000, with an average daily increase staying well above 10,000. The government had imposed a nationwide lockdown in March, but, largely due to the overwhelming socioeconomic costs, often resulting in outbursts of civil unrest, it has to ease its restrictions. A significant level of non-compliance with subsequent government behavioural guidelines, coupled with the inability to enforce social distancing in more urban areas have been highlighted as the main causes for the spike in infections that have occurred since.

President Cyril Ramaphosa released a statement this week reassuring over the effectiveness of the lockdown and suggesting that cases in the worst-hit areas, such as Western Cape, Gauteng and Eastern Cape provinces. While his statement might be truthful, the situation in the country remains volatile and the potential for the pandemic to overwhelm medical service is high.

Elsewhere in Africa, the numbers seem to have somewhat stabilised. This week, Egypt has reopened its churches for open services, after months under lockdown. According to the Health Ministry, the recorded

daily increase in cases has reduced from approximately 600 to 160 over the past week, resulting in an environment safe enough for religious gatherings. Strict distancing and safety rules will have to be followed by worshippers and mosques will stay closed during Friday prayers and major holidays.

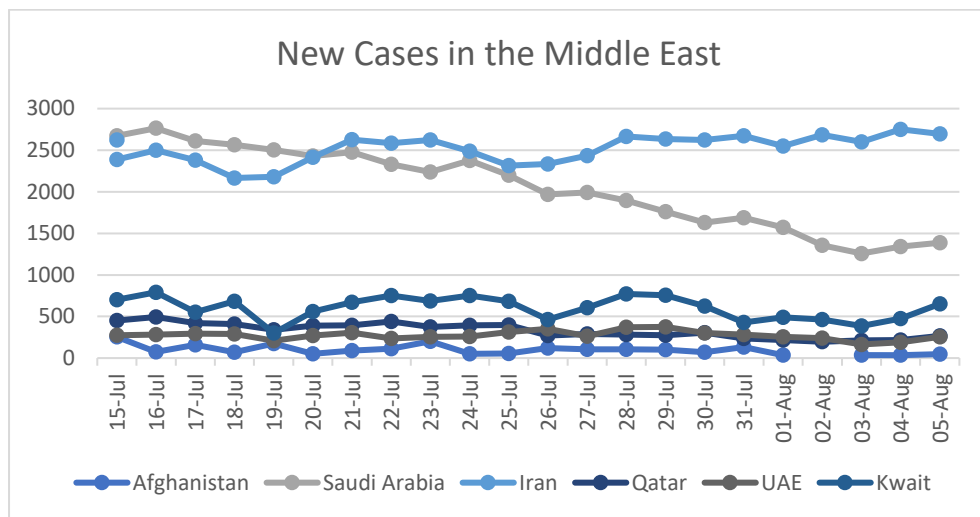
On the other hand, unofficial reports seem to indicate that Libya is experiencing a considerable spike in cases, despite official numbers displaying an only marginal increase. According to local news, Misrata, a key port on the coastal area known as the “Oil Crescent”, has been put under curfew by the Islamic militias currently holding the city.

The growth in cases is not surprising, considering the ongoing conflict in Libya, during which tactical considerations take precedence over social distancing. Some scholars, however, have suggested that the spike in cases might be the result of militias, both Libyan and mercenary, converging in the region and a current key battlefield.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	143,313	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	11,798	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	8,071	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Ivory Coast	4,055	Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	42,763	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	3,313	N/A	Moderate	High
Kenya	13,552	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	8,992	Stable	Moderate	High
Sudan	4,823	N/A	High	High



Middle East



The Middle East seems to be slowly recovering from the pandemic, with most of the GCC countries in the advanced stages of reopening their economies. Saudi Arabia has successfully hosted the yearly Hajj pilgrimage, for which it had limited participation, and issued strict hygiene and distancing guidelines. Concerns remain high for countries currently experiencing conflicts, as well as Iran, where there seems to be significant underreporting of both cases and deaths.

Recently Iranian officials, including President Hassan Rouhani, have suggested that government estimations might indicate that the number of infections could be much higher than what reported based on testing, as people with mild symptoms continue to be unlikely to seek a PCR test. This week, the Health Ministry spokesman was quoted on state TV providing a similar estimate for the death toll, which could be much higher than official figures, which only take into consideration deaths occurred in medical facilities.

The statement could have been broadcasted with the purpose of encouraging individuals to comply with the health and safety rules in place, as it showed crowds of people walking in Tehran without wearing masks or implementing adequate social distancing measures. Health authorities have also suggested that lockdown measures will be reintroduced if such regulations will not be observed.

In Bahrain, the government has announced that gyms, sport centres and swimming pools will be reopened starting from 6 August. Similarly, it will also start allowing international transit through its airport

to other Gulf States, while maintaining limitation on entry to its citizens.

In Syria, the outbreak continues to worsen at a rapid pace, with infection cases tripling over the last three months and overwhelming an already fragile healthcare system. According to reports from humanitarian agencies, hospitals have been ordered to stop accepting Covid-19 patients, as a large portion of the country's medical staff has already contracted the virus, largely due to the lack of personal protection equipment.

The limited testing capacity, combined with poor living conditions, particularly in the camps built to host displaced persons, suggests that the figures could be much higher than any estimate currently available.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Afghanistan	9,758	Stable	High	Severe
Saudi Arabia	34,490	Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	24,749	Stable	Moderate	High
Qatar	3,088	Decrease	Moderate	High
UAE	5,868	Dramatic Decrease	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	8,051	Decrease	Moderate	Moderate