

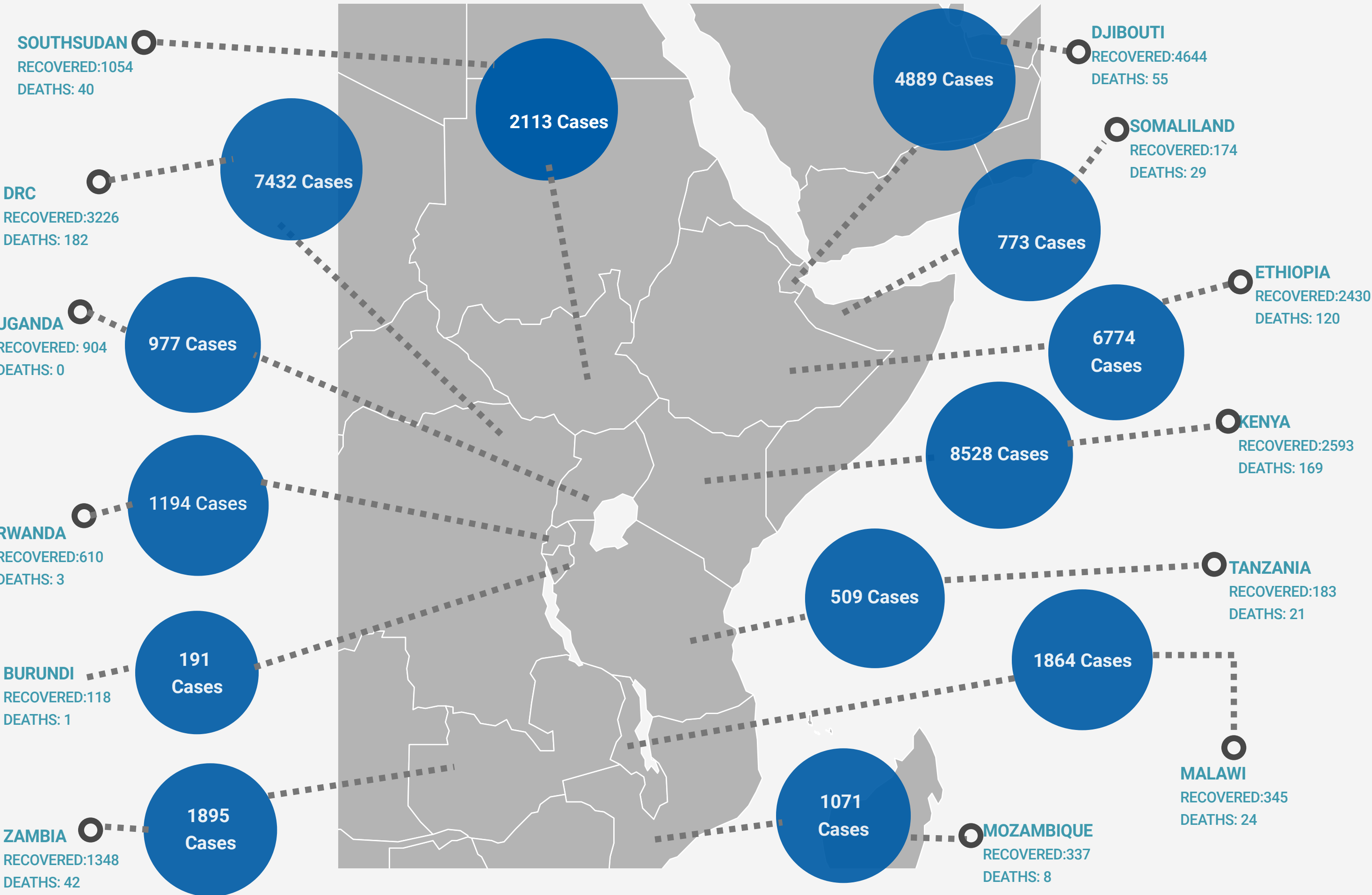
Impacts of COVID-19 on Eastern Africa Trade, Transit and Borders

July 6th-10th 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 09.07.2020)
** 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 The truck back-ups that have heavily affected the region over the last couple of months have greatly diminished due to progress on agreed protocols. As governments and citizens continue to learn how to balance lockdowns versus implementing appropriate precautionary measures, TMEA will continue to implement the Safe Trade Emergency Facility to boost border capacity for testing and information-sharing. Economies will continue to adapt to the “new normal” and operate as smoothly as possible. TMEA, in contact with many partners, including East Africa Business Council, observes that the private sector is no longer complaining about delays at the border, but rather are adjusting to the new reality.

Country and Regional Updates

Burundi

- Burundi launched a campaign of mass screening for Covid-19 on Monday, indicating that the new president is changing policies to more assertively combat the spread of the disease. [Read more](#)

DRC

- Food shortage looms as DRC border remains closed. [Read more](#)

Kenya

- TMEA had a fruitful initial discussion with Kenya Airways Group CEO, Head of Cargo and Commercial Cargo Director. KQ is looking to expand its cargo operations from the current 10% due to heavy projected falls in passenger volumes (projected at 50%). Initial areas of collaboration include Liberalisation of EAC skies with a focus on freight, ICT for Trade –digitisation and simplification of air freight customs clearance and infrastructure. EABC is scheduled to have a webinar of EAC's Aviation sector next week.
- Local air transport will resume on 15th July and International air transport on 1st August, subject to compliance with Covid-19 healthy and safety protocols.
- Horticulture shrugs off Covid-19 to earn Kenya Sh72bn (USD 672m) in five months. [Read more](#)
- Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) will resume services on July 13th the government has said. [Read more](#)
- The government will remove roadblocks and increase the number of Covid-19 testing centres to facilitate faster movement of goods from the port of Mombasa. [Read more](#)
- Cargo volumes remain low at Mombasa port. [Read more](#)



Ksh. 72 billion

Horticulture earnings in Kenya
over the last 5 months despite the
Covid-19 pandemic

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Mozambique

- The annual Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Fair of Mozambique (FACIM), the largest trade fair in the country, has been cancelled due to Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Rwanda

- Airports will reopen for scheduled commercial flights on 1 August 2020.
- Tea exporters in Rwanda are reeling as prices drop to an all-time low of below \$2 per kilogramme on the international market, due to low demand and oversupply amid Covid-19. [Read more](#)
- Reprieve for Rwandan importers as cargo is allowed to leave Dar es Salaam port. [Read more](#)

South Sudan

- Traffic flow of inbound trucks at Nimule have been high, but manageable as the border has not recently closed and there have been no new COVID-19 related requirement/restrictions. However, a recurring 3-km long queue for returning trucks to Uganda and beyond was observed.
- The number of trucks expecting to exit at the Elegu border has significantly increased at the parking yard, including empty trucks. Drivers for empty trucks are waiting for their COVID-19 results prior to departure.

Tanzania

- Swissport lowers profit projections over Covid-19 crisis. [Read more](#)



3KM

Recurring queue for returning trucks to Uganda from South Sudan during the Covid-19 pandemic