The outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global mobility through various travel disruptions and restrictions. To better understand how the pandemic affects global mobility, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed an online tool and database to register points of entry (POE), exit and transit, where mobility restrictions and response measures are in place. To support these efforts, the Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM REMAP) team in Pakistan mapped and gathered data on the current statuses of POEs in the country.

Between July and August 2021, the DTM REMAP team in Pakistan monitored 17¹ POEs. These included nine airports, six land borders and two blue borders. The status of various POEs changed significantly between July and August 2021 due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, changes to the security situation and fluctuations in national and international mobility restrictions. At the end of July, twelve POEs were fully operational, five were partially operational and none were fully closed. At the end of August, thirteen POEs were fully operational, three were partially operational and one was fully closed.

During the first week of August, the Taliban closed the Chaman border crossing demanding a relaxation of visa requirements for Afghans. In response, Pakistan announced that Afghans who had a Tazkira (Afghan Identity Card) could enter Pakistan via the Chaman terminal without a Pakistani visa. On 15th August, Pakistan closed the Torkham border with Afghanistan for one day for all kinds of movement after the Taliban captured the Jalalabad area. Later in the week, thousands of Afghans entered Pakistan through the Chaman border crossing after the Taliban took over Afghanistan. In the wake of the deteriorating situation in Kabul, the Pakistani government decided to open all airports round-the-clock for foreign diplomats and high-level officials. By the end of August, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) announced that, from 30th September onwards, passengers would have to show proof of vaccinations for all inbound and outbound domestic and international flights.

ASSESSED POES BY TYPE
(As of August 2021)

17
9 Airports
6 Land borders
2 Blue borders
0 Internal transit points

LOCATIONS AND STATUSES OF POES
(AS OF AUGUST 2021)

Legend
- International border
- Disputed border
- Line of control
- Province border
- District border
- Districts

Disclaimer:
Dotted line represents approximately the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM or United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

¹Number only represents land borders, airports and blue borders.

Contact: dtmremapsupport@iom.int or iomisbdtmremapteam@iom.int
Timeline of Confirmed National COVID-19 Cases (weekly change) and Status of PoEs (March 2020 - August 2021)

Operational status PoE:
- Fully operational
- Partially operational
- Fully closed
- Unknown status

Timeline COVID-19 cases:
- Confirmed COVID-19 cases

Source of confirmed COVID-19 cases: World Health Organization (WHO)
PAKISTAN

Timeline of Confirmed National COVID-19 Cases (weekly change) and Status of PoEs (March 2020 - August 2021)

Inset graph of the last six months with country-level mobility restrictions

05 Mar
Government introduces new requirements for inbound travelers:
- Provide contact information through the PassTrack app/browser
- Undergo screening by a health official
- Provide a certificate of negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test

23 Apr
Government calls in army to help contain COVID-19 spread

03 May
Pakistan tightens borders as COVID-19 cases soar

25 Jun
Taftan border with the Islamic Republic of Iran opened for all travelers except pilgrims with COVID-19 vaccination as a pre-requisite

01 May
The CAA suspends flights for two weeks on Eid-ul-Fitr, mainly from Middle East

01 Jun
Pakistan and China open the Khunjerab pass for trade and travel activities from China to Pakistan only

22 Jul
Traffic on Karakoram Highway remains suspended for second consecutive day

25 Aug
China shuts down border with Pakistan after temporary opening

19 Aug
Pakistan opens doors to Afghan and foreign diplomats and officials

22 Jul
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issues warning to foreign airlines to suddenly cancel flights

06 Aug
Taliban close Afghan-Pakistan border port demanding visa-free travel for Afghans

Disclaimer: This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

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