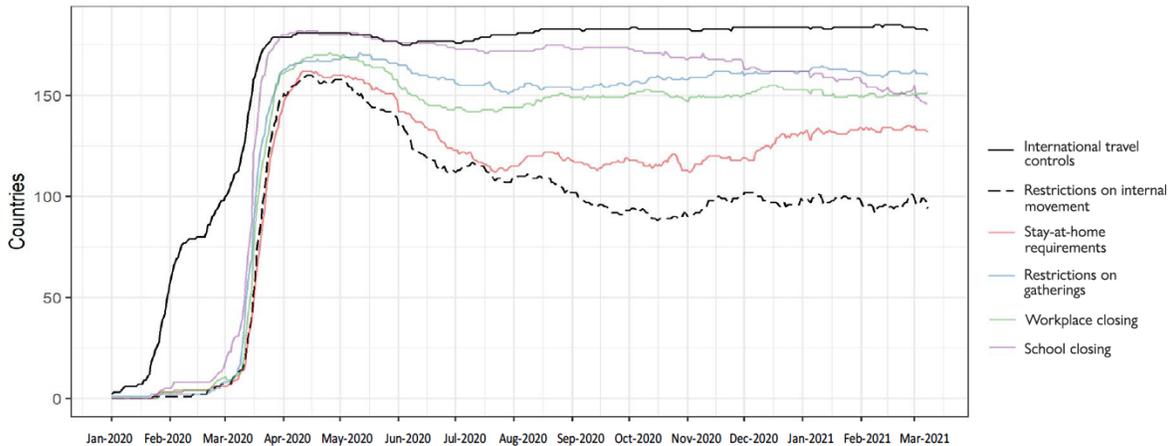


WORLD MIGRATION REPORT DATA SNAPSHOT

Government Responses to COVID-19

As the saying goes “a picture can be worth a thousand words”, so these data snapshots have been provided to help explain changes in migration through innovative data analysis. The “thousand words” can be found in the report itself—clicks on the link below.

Figure 3. Government responses to minimize COVID-19 transmission, by number of countries



Source: Hale et al., 2021.

Notes: As at 10 March 2021. The term “international travel controls” is used by Oxford, and includes screening arrivals, quarantining arrivals, banning arrivals or total border closure. It is also important to note that categories are COVID-19-related only and do not reflect other travel restrictions that may have already been in place, such as those related to visa restrictions, entry bans based on specific citizens, and departure/exit restrictions.

This Data Snapshot shows the range of measures governments around the world implemented to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and its impact on human mobility. The University of Oxford’s Government Response Tracker data (figure above) demonstrates how international travel controls remained in place over the course of the first year. Other interventions limiting human mobility included internal movement restrictions, workplace and school closures, which gradually declined over time, only peaking to respond to increases in transmission rates and the detection of new variants. International travel control was the first measure to be implemented on a large scale, globally by governments, and remained a constant during the first year while other measures reduced.

Read more about this data output on COVID-19 impacts on mobility in Chapter 5 (COVID-19 impacts on migration, mobility & migrants) of the World Migration Report 2022. The full report can be accessed [here](#). The interactive data visualization platform is [here](#).

This WORLD MIGRATION REPORT DATA SNAPSHOT has been produced by [IOM Research](#) (research@iom.int).

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Variations in government responses to COVID-19

As negative social and economic impacts arose due to the restrictions to movement, [governments had to adjust their responses to COVID-19](#). A close look at [Figure 4 in Chapter 5 \(COVID-19 impacts on migration, mobility and migrants\)](#) of the World Migration Report 2022 details variations in government responses among Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Different patterns by region were influenced by these key considerations:

- ⇒ Feasibility;
- ⇒ Public consensus;
- ⇒ Economic pressure; and
- ⇒ Market-related pressures, such as high tourism periods.

Impacts of mobility restrictions on migrants

Government imposed movement restrictions created many challenges for migrants. Drawing on Table 1 (McAuliffe 2020) in Chapter 5 (COVID-19 impacts on migration, mobility and migrants) of the World Migration Report 2022, the details below highlight some examples of the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants throughout the migration cycle.



Departure from countries of origin: People having to leave unstable conditions were prevented from doing so, including people seeking asylum, subjecting them to other [vulnerabilities](#) such as violence and abuse.



Entry into transit or destination countries: Asylum seekers, refugees, and other displaced people experienced [difficulties making claims at borders](#) during the pandemic.



Stay in transit and destination countries: Migrants in vulnerable societies may lack [social protection](#) and experience increased [xenophobia and racism](#) due to the spread of misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Return to countries of origin: The inability to return to origin countries left many migrants at risk and in the worst cases [stranded](#).