



COVID-19 AND IMPACT ON DELIVERY

The unprecedented speed and spread of the coronavirus pandemic has prompted Middle East and African (MEA) governments to undertake extraordinary measures.

As COVID-19 continues to impact the MEA region, our ability to access official registries and deliver findings to our customers for some countries is taking longer than usual.

We do still have access to registries, but restrictions are in place, and we are experiencing delays in receiving information from them as follows:

| REGION | CONTAINMENT MEASURES | IMPACT ON DELIVERY (WORKING DAYS) |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| GCC STATES & YEMEN | <p>With more than 2,800 confirmed cases of COVID-19 between them, the governments of the GCC have begun applying stringent measures to contain the spread of the pandemic.</p> <p>With the exception of Oman, which has not announced any stimulus packages to weather the crisis, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are rolling out stimulus measures to support businesses and the economy, allocating billions in support to private businesses. The UAE has a consolidated package valued at AED126 billion (\$34.3 billion), while Saudi Arabia's is worth \$32 billion and Qatar's totals \$23.3 billion. Bahrain's government unveiled an \$11.39 billion stimulus package to support the country's economy during the pandemic.</p> | |
| | <p>Bahrain confirmed its first COVID-19 cases on 21 February; 3 days later, the government suspended all schools, nurseries and universities, the Civil Aviation Affairs Department announced the suspension of flights to and from Iran and postponed its Formula One Grand Prix.</p> | 5-10 |
| | <p>Kuwait's government decided on 25 March to impose a nationwide curfew to contain the spread of the coronavirus, following its suspension of all commercial flights since 13 March. The government also decided to close stores, malls and barbershops.</p> | 5-10 |

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| GCC STATES & YEMEN | <p>Oman's Ministry of Health called on citizens on 25 March to observe the procedures for quarantine, not to go to public places or places of worship, and to ensure public hygiene.</p> | 5-10 |
| | <p>Qatar confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on 27 February. The country is the 2nd country in the Arab World, ranked by number of confirmed cases, at 549. On 21 March, the Ministry of Municipal and Environment closed all parks and public beaches in order to curb the spread of the virus. On 23 March, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry decided to temporarily close non-essential businesses and services.</p> | 5-10 |
| | <p>Saudi Arabia is proactively fighting the spread of COVID-19 by closing mosques, schools and universities and postponing large events, such as a temporary ban on non-compulsory umrah pilgrimages to Mecca. The authorities placed the entirety of Al Qatif, a Shia-majority province, under lockdown to contain the virus.</p> | 5-10 |
| | <p>The United Arab Emirates is fighting the spread of COVID-19 by closing schools and universities and postponing large events, such as the Art Dubai fair and the Dubai World Cup horse race. A disinfection programme is ongoing and has been extended until the end of March to curb the coronavirus outbreak. A nationwide curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. is in place and has been extended until early April.</p> | 5-10 |
| | <p>Yemen has not reported any coronavirus cases among its citizens so far.</p> | 10-15 |
| THE LEVANT, JORDAN & PALESTINE | <p>While the number of confirmed cases remains low for the moment, the virus seems certain to spread widely in the region, because of the strong links that Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon have with Iran and because these countries lack the state capacity to contain the disease.</p> | Access to registries restricted |
| | <p>Lebanon confirmed its first recorded case on 21 February. On 15 March, Lebanon declared a state of medical emergency. Subsequently the government closed airports, seaports and land entrances for 2 weeks, starting from 18 March. On 21 March, a "self-curfew," was implemented.</p> | 10-15 |
| | <p>Syria still seems to be in denial about the spread of the virus, with officials maintaining there are no cases within government-controlled territory. Northern and eastern Syria, which is controlled by a Kurdish-led civilian administration, is under curfew. Central Syria has been in lockdown since 23 March.</p> | 10-15 |

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| THE LEVANT, JORDAN & PALESTINE | Jordan continues to be under curfew. People are not allowed to leave their homes unless necessary. | 7-10 |
| | Palestine: In the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority adopted strong containment measures and has implemented a lockdown in Bethlehem, where the first major outbreak took place. Gaza has so far reported no infections. | 10-15 |
| IRAN | Iran is the Middle East epicentre of the COVID-19 crisis. As of 27 March, 29,406 people have tested positive for the virus, and 2,234 have died from the disease. The authorities have restricted access to the worst-hit towns and provinces, taken the unprecedented step of closing shrines, launched a campaign to promote social distancing, rolled out a nationwide online screening survey for the virus and are now considering imposing a nationwide lockdown. | 10-15 |
| NORTH AFRICA | So far, the coronavirus has had a fairly limited impact on north African countries, most of which have swiftly implemented containment measures. As of 27 March, 1279 COVID-19 cases were confirmed, with 61 having died of the disease. | |
| | Algeria has reported only a few dozen cases and has instituted a series of containment measures; suspending travel and closing schools and mosques, while importing equipment to support its strained healthcare system. | 5-7 |
| | Egypt is the north African country that is worst-hit by COVID-19. The government suspended all flights to and from its territory on 16 March, initially until the end of the month. On 25 March the authorities installed a partial curfew for the ensuing 2 weeks. Public transport has stopped, and government services have been suspended except for vital services, such as healthcare and the police. | 5-7 |
| | Libya , which has been protected by the relative lack of foreigners entering the country, recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 24 March. Both the Government of National Accord (GNA) and its counterpart in eastern Libya have taken measures to encourage social distancing, such as school closures, and have launched public information campaigns. | 5-7 |
| | Morocco has implemented a series of flight suspensions and containment measures that are largely voluntary, at this stage. | 5-7 |
| | Tunisia , despite only reporting a couple of dozen cases, has imposed strong containment measures, to limit the spread of COVID-19. These include a curfew, a ban on international flights, and the closure of its land borders. | 5-7 |

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| SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | Africa as a whole already has some 3,000 confirmed cases, with fatalities now appearing in Sub-Saharan countries, including South Africa, Kenya and others. Governments in the region are beginning to impose measures to try and limit the spread of coronavirus; South Africa and Ghana have imposed three week lockdowns and has banned visitors from China, the US, and some European countries, amongst others. Kenya has placed a night-time curfew, limiting its citizen's movements. | 5-10 |

We continue to do our best to complete tasks in a reasonable timescale. Due to the likelihood of longer delivery times, we recommend that you place your orders as early as you can to ensure that deadlines are met as far as possible.

Thank you.
The Diligencia team