



Latest updates highlighted in yellow.

### OBJECTIVE / OBJECTIF

This document provides a situational update on airport status and Customs entry points during the COVID-19 epidemic in Afghanistan.

### COVID-19 CASES

**Number of COVID-19 cases on the date of the GHRP: 74**

**Number of COVID-19 cases on 13 August 2020: 37,424**

### COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU

Internal restrictions have been imposed. There are only minor COVID-19-related restrictions on internal travel. Specific measures vary between provinces and domestic flights are operating on a limited basis. Restrictions also apply relating to non-critical public services. Please check with local government restrictions for the most up to date information.

The Humanitarian Response Plan for Afghanistan took note of the high risk of a situation in which the country’s health system was overwhelmed:

*“Afghanistan’s under-developed health system is thinly spread due to ongoing conflict with mass casualty incidents and recurrent outbreaks of communicable diseases, especially among internally displaced people (IDPs) and infrastructure challenges.”*

### IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<b>GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN</b>	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	Afghanistan was included in the United Nations’ 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).
<b>AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS</b>	
What is the status of international flights?	<p>International commercial air travel has resumed. Commercial flights to and from Afghanistan remain very limited, although there are no specific restrictions on entry to Afghanistan.</p> <p>The Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority announced that domestic flights have resumed.</p>



	<p>(source: OCHA, 26 July 2020, IATA, 25 June 2020).</p> <p>Turkey has suspended all flights to Afghanistan, until 1 September. Passengers arriving from Afghanistan are not allowed to enter Turkey (source: IATA, 25 July; WFP, 4 August 2020).</p>
What is the airlines cargo operational status?	<p>As of an update found on 27 July 2020, Coyne Airlines are operating flights to Afghanistan. More information can be found on the airline website <a href="#">here</a> (source: IATA, 27 July 2020).</p> <p>Ariana Airlines, Kam Air, and Emirates Airlines are providing round-trip international flight services to and from Kabul (source: OCHA, 26 July 2020).</p>
<b>IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE</b>	
What quarantine measures apply for travelers?	<p>All travelers are asked by the immigration officers regarding travel history to China and Iran over the past month, though no medical documentation is required to enter or exit the country.</p> <p>Travelers who have been to China and Iran in the past month are divided from other passengers for medical checks.</p> <p>Travelers with COVID-19 symptoms are taken to a designated medical facility for further medical tests while those without symptoms are advised to quarantine at home for 14 days.</p> <p>Aircrew entering Afghanistan will be confined to an isolated facility until departure in order to prevent the introduction or spread of infections by COVID-19.</p> <p>(source: IATA).</p> <p>Emirates Airlines announced that effective 1 August, passengers travelling from Afghanistan must carry a COVID-19 negative certificate issued by an Emirates-approved laboratory to be accepted on flights. Please see more information on the <a href="#">Emirates website</a>.</p> <p>(source: OCHA, 26 July 2020).</p>
What curfew and lockdown measures apply?	<p>A national lockdown remains in place. Provincial lockdown measures continue to periodically impede humanitarian movement.</p> <p>(source: OCHA, 26 July 2020).</p>
<b>IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES</b>	
What <b>border closure</b> measures apply (air, land,	<p><b>BCPs which are open for commercial traffic</b> (updated 6 August 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Islam Qala BCP (Iran) – importation and exportation is allowed;</li> </ul>



<p>sea) that affect the importation of goods?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abo Nasir Farahee BCP (Iran) – importation and exportation is allowed;</li> <li>• Sherkhan Bandar BCP (Tajikstan) - importation and exportation of goods is allowed with some conditions;</li> <li>• Takhar BCP (Tajikistan) - importation and exportation is allowed;</li> <li>• Torghondi BCP (Turkmenistan) – importation of goods is allowed, exportation is not allowed from Afghanistan;</li> <li>• Andkhoy BCP (Turkmenistan) – importation of goods is allowed, exportation is not allowed from Afghanistan;</li> <li>• Hairatan BCP (Uzbekistan) – importation and exportation is allowed;</li> </ul> <p>(source: various, 6 August 2020)</p> <p>At Kabul International Airport, normal exportation and importation is occurring for all-cargo flights.</p> <p>The following measures apply to some of the Afghan BCPs with Pakistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torkham border will remain open for 24 hours / six days a week (except Saturday) and an unlimited number of trucks will be allowed per day while ensuring proper SOPs and guidelines for both Afghan Bilateral Trade and Afghan Transit Trade.</li> <li>• Chaman (Wesh) border will remain open for six days a week (except Saturday) for specified timings (as already notified) and an unlimited number of trucks will be allowed per day while ensuring proper SOPs and guidelines for both Afghan Bilateral Trade and Afghan Transit Trade.</li> <li>• At the above BCPs, Saturdays will be reserved for pedestrian movement as per procedures already in place. Standard Quarantine Protocols / SOPs (as applicable for air passengers) will be implemented for pedestrians as well.</li> <li>• At Ghulam Khan (Khost) BCP border, importation and exportation of goods is allowed with some conditions. Transshipment applies for Afghan trucks and truck spraying procedures apply.</li> </ul> <p>(source: Pakistan Ministry of Interior, 15 May 2020)</p> <p><b>Customs which are closed for commercial traffic</b> (updated 6 August 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathan (Paktia) BCP (Pakistan) negotiation is ongoing on how to manage import/exports and the BCP remains closed.</li> <li>• Urgon (Paktika) BCP (Pakistan) negotiation is ongoing on how to manage import/exports and the BCP remains closed.</li> </ul> <p>(source: various, 6 August 2020)</p>
<p>What <b>other procedures</b> apply regarding the</p>	<p>According to an official regulation:</p>



<p>importation of relief relevant to humanitarian operators?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trucks are sprayed with disinfectant by Afghan Ministry of Health personal while arriving into Afghanistan;</li> <li>• After trucks are unloaded on the Afghanistan side to go back to Pakistan, the empty truck is sprayed by Pakistan Health authorities.</li> </ul> <p>(source: Afghan Ministry of Income and Trade, 28 March 2020)</p> <p>An update on 13 May regarding Customs procedures indicated that non-COVID-19-related goods from humanitarian partners are impacted by high demand at Customs offices. Also, humanitarian goods to Afghanistan require a ‘Donation letter’ received from donor organization. Based on the Exemption Department of the Afghan Customs Department (ACD), the Exemption procedure will be applied to humanitarian goods in crossing Afghan borders/Customs.</p> <p>(source: various, 13 May 2020).</p>
<b>RESTRICTIONS to EXPORTS</b>	
<p>What <b>restrictions to export</b> certain goods apply in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Regulations imposed by Pakistani Customs authorities affect cross-border trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For importation into Afghanistan, cross-border land cargo is only for food and essential items. Rail freight still operational;</li> <li>• Exportation bans from Pakistan on some medical items apply;</li> <li>• Cargo shipments (import and export) will be subjected to mandatory inspections.</li> </ul> <p>(source: Government of Pakistan, 15 May 2020).</p>
<b>OTHER</b>	
<p>What is the availability of UNHAS flights to the country?</p>	<p>The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has a hub in Afghanistan with flights between Kabul, Afghanistan and Doha, Qatar. UNHAS Afghanistan has connections with Kabul, Bamian, Chaghcharan, Faizabad, Farah, Gardez, Ghazni, Herat, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz, Jalalabad, Lashkar Gah, Lal/Sanghi, Lashkar Gah, Mazar, Maimana, Nili, Qala-i-Naw, Sharana, and Zaranj. For enquiries and bookings, please write to <a href="mailto:unhas.afghanistan@wfp.org">unhas.afghanistan@wfp.org</a> or <a href="mailto:unhas-afg.reservation@wfp.org">unhas-afg.reservation@wfp.org</a>.</p> <p>(source: <a href="#">Humanitarian Booking Hub</a>, undated)</p> <p><b>UNHAS Afghanistan on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between Kabul and Doha. For enquiries and bookings write to <a href="mailto:unhas.afghanistan@wfp.org">unhas.afghanistan@wfp.org</a></b></p> <p><b>Contacts: <a href="mailto:UNHAS-AFG.RESERVATION@WFP.ORG">UNHAS-AFG.RESERVATION@WFP.ORG</a></b></p> <p><b>(source: OCHA, 14 August 2020)</b></p>



Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the <b>Kyoto Convention</b> ? If so, when?	Not ratified.
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the <b>Istanbul Convention</b> ? If so, when?	Not ratified.
ASYCUDA user?	Yes.
ASYREC user?	No.

### USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES

**CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available [here](#).**

#### **Country-specific:**

Government of Afghanistan – Ministry of Industry and Trade, [Mechanisms for unloading and loading commercial and transit goods \(Dari\) \(28 March 2020\)](#)

Government of Pakistan – Ministry of Interior, [Sealing of Western Border of Pakistan \(15 May 2020\)](#)

Various, [COVID-19 Multi-Sector Humanitarian Country Plan \(24 March 2020\)](#)

[UN OCHA, Afghanistan Strategic situation report No. 68 \(13 August 2020\)](#)

[UN OCHA, Afghanistan COVID-19 Access Impediment Report - 17 May-7 June \(10 June 2020\)](#)

[UN OCHA, Afghanistan Immediate Humanitarian Funding Gaps \(24 July 2020\)](#)

[UN OCHA, Afghanistan: COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Response Operational Report \(12 August 2020\)](#)

[UN OCHA, Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(12 August 2020\)](#)

Humanitarian Booking Hub, [UNHAS hub – Afghanistan](#)

#### **Other links:**

Agility, [Global Shipping Updates: COVID-19](#)

International Air Transport Association (IATA), [Coronavirus Outbreak – Update](#)

IATA, [Government Measures Related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



**IMPACCT**

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

# COVID-19 Afghanistan

**Bulletin n° 7 - CIQP : 14 August 2020**

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

*IATA, [Air Cargo Operations status - COVID-19](#)*

*International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), [COVID-19 airport status](#)*

*International Organization for Migration, [Points of Entry Status](#)*

*International SOS, [Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening](#)*

*United Nations, [Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19](#)*

*United Nations, [Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19 – May Update](#)*

*United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, [Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19](#)*

*Wilhelmsen, [COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map](#)*

*World Customs Organization, [HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies \(3rd edition\)](#)*

*World Customs Organization, [COVID-19 – WCO Updates](#)*

*World Customs Organization, [List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19](#)*

*World Customs Organization, World Health Organization, [List of priority medicines for customs during COVID-19 pandemic](#)*

*World Health Organization, [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-2019\) situation reports](#)*

*World Trade Organization, [COVID-19: Trade and Trade-related measures](#)*

[If you have any questions / comments / additions, please contact:](#)

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