



Latest updates highlighted in yellow.

OBJECTIVE

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

COVID-19 CASES

Number of COVID-19 cases on the date of the GHRP: 2

Number of COVID-19 cases on 16 August 2020: 133

COUNTRY BRIEF

Bhutan was not included in the United Nations’ 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), with a Humanitarian Response Plan. Bhutanese authorities announced a nationwide lockdown on 11 August. Bhutan has put measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. Travel outside of Thimphu, Paro, and Punakha remain limited.

IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	Yes.
AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS	
What is the status of international flights?	Bhutan has closed its borders with neighbouring countries and flight operations are significantly reduced. Paro International Airport remains closed. (source: WFP, 11 August 2020).
IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE	
What quarantine measures apply for travelers?	All travelers, including Bhutanese nationals, who are permitted to enter the country are subject to mandatory quarantine in a facility for 21 days. (source: IATA, 4 August 2020).
What visa restriction measures apply?	The visa on arrival procedure is suspended. Passengers with a visa, residence permit or other immigration permits issued by Bhutan



	<p>and airline crew are not allowed to enter Bhutan if they arrive from or have visited or transited through a COVID-19-affected country.</p> <p>(source: IATA, 4 August 2020).</p>
IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES	
<p>What measures have been introduced to facilitate the smooth clearance of goods related to COVID-19?</p>	<p>A notice from the Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs stated that changes have been made to normal importation procedures, under the ‘Relief of Duty and Taxes’ section, and under Section 47 and 75 of the Customs Act of Bhutan, 2017. The government has committed to the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring an uninterrupted supply of essential goods into the country, and that smooth cross-border business/trade transactions are maintained without hindrance. • Fast track clearance of all essential cargo relating to COVID-19 such as testing kits, Personal Protective Equipment, Ventilators, Hand sanitizers, medicines and other equipment. • Clearances of relief consignments and donations based on government directives. <p>(source: Department of Revenue and Customs, 7 May 2020).</p> <p>A number of operational measures have been undertaken. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero-contact Customs clearance procedures have been established at land borders where consignments and goods are brought into the country in foreign transport vehicles with foreign drivers; • Health measures have been put in place by the government to contain the spread of COVID-19 across land borders through Customs entry points. <p>(Source: Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs, 7 May 2020).</p> <p>The Government of Bhutan signed an agreement with the United Nations concerning measures to expedite the import, export and transit of relief consignments and possession of relief personnel in the event of disasters and emergencies.</p> <p>(source: Government of Bhutan, 8 August 2011).</p>
<p>What other/general procedures apply regarding the importation of goods relevant to humanitarian operators?</p>	<p>The contact points for the main border-crossing points are as follows:</p> <p>Contact point for Paro International Airport: Mr. Ugyen Tshering Regional Director, Regional Revenue and Customs Office, Paro,</p>



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COVID-19 Bhutan

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	<p>Bhutan. utshering@mof.gov.bt PABX: +975-08-272831 / 272832, Fax: +975-08-272830 Contact point for Land border Customs station: Ms. Bumpa Lhamo Joint Commissioner, Head of Customs and Excise Section, Regional Revenue and Customs Office, Phuentsholing Bhutan. blhamo@mof.gov.bt</p> <p>PABX: +975-05-252356 / 252237 / 252253, Fax: +975-05-252224 For detailed contact addresses, please visit: http://portal.drc.gov.bt/drc/node/100.</p>
OTHER	
Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the Kyoto Convention ? If so, when?	Not ratified
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention ? If so, when?	Not ratified
ASYCUDA user?	No
ASYREC user?	No

USEFUL LINKS

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

Country-specific:

Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs, [Zero contact Customs clearance procedure \(7 May 2020\)](#)

Bhutan Ministry of Finance, [Department of Revenue and Customs webpage](#)

Bhutan Ministry of Finance, [Webpage](#)

Government of Bhutan, [Customs Facilitation Agreement with the United Nations](#)

WFP, [Bhutan Country Brief \(31 May 2020\)](#)

Other links:

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

Bollere Logistics, [COVID-19 Impact Update](#)

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



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

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](#)

Wilhemssen, [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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