ACAPS Government Measures Dataset

Readme
Version 1.0

April 2020

> ReadMe paper to provide methodology and data coding insight to the ACAPS #COVID19 Government Measures Dataset.
>
> For any further inquiry please reach out to info@acaps.org

Introduction

This readme provides technical guidance to the ACAPS Government Measures published. ACAPS' report on government measures maps initial measures adopted by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dataset is structures as a registry of measures taken, extended or lifted, in order to allow chronologic analysis of introduction and phase-out of measures.

Methodology

Dataset structure

In ACAPS Government Measures dataset, every action taken by governments in response to COVID-19 falling into the identified measures' taxonomy corresponds to a data point. If a measure is extended, another data point is added. If a measure is phase-out another data point is added. This structure has been chosen for a variety of reasons, including the possibility to trace chronologically the evolution of government responses. This respond to the need of tracking carefully the measures taken: many times, government extend or phase-out measures in a different way compared to how they were enacted. Also, the phase-out would be likely more gradual than the introduction of measures. Utilising different datapoints for every action, allows a deeper and more accurate analysis.

Data collection

Data is collected and uploaded real-time by ACAPS analysts and volunteers from University of Copenhagen and University of Lund. Data collectors were trained on the measures taxonomy and in the dataset structure. The intended coverage of the dataset is global, with data available for 192 countries. The information comes from a variety of publicly available sources from the internet. Analysts navigate the web looking for information on governments measures, utilising sources from: governments (official sites, embassies), media, United Nations agencies and other organization. Priority is given to official/governmental sources.

Data coding

Data is uploaded in the dataset according to the following structure and coding system.

Column	Variable Name	Label	Format	Codes	Missing Values	Comments
A	ID	ID	Numeric	None	Not allowed	Progressive numbers of entries
B	COUNTRY	COUNTRY	Text	*See Country list*	Not allowed	Manual
C	ISO	ISO	Text	iso3 code	Not allowed	VLOOKUP function with "country"
D	ADMIN_LEVEL	ADMIN_LEVEL	Text	none	Blank	if necessary
E	PCODE	PCODE	Text	none	Blank	if necessary
F	REGION	REGION	Text	Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Pacific	Not allowed	VLOOKUP function with "country"
G	LOG_TYPE	LOG_TYPE	Text	Introduction / extension of measures, Phase-out of measures	Not allowed	Dropdown
H	CATEGORY	CATEGORY	Text	Movement restrictions, Public-health measures, Social and economic measures, Lockdown, Humanitarian exemptions	Not allowed	VLOOUP function with "measure"
I	MEASURE	MEASURE_TYPE	Text	*See Measures Taxonomy*	Not allowed	Dropdown
J	TARGETED_POP_GROUP	TARGETED_POP_GROUP	Text	Yes / No	Not allowed	Dropdown
K	COMMENTS	COMMENTS	Text	None	Blank	if necessary

L	NON_COMPLIANCE	NON_COMPLIANCE	Text	Fines, Arrest/detention, Deportation, Refusal to enter the country, Legal action, Not applicable, Not available, Up to detention, Other	Not allowed	Dropdown
M	DATE_IMPLEMENTED	DATE_IMPLEMENTED	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	None	Blank	Manual
N	SOURCE	SOURCE	Text	None	Not allowed	Manual
O	SOURCE_TYPE	SOURCE_TYPE	Text	Government, Media, UN, Other organizations, Social Media, Other	Not allowed	Dropdown
P	LINK	LINK	Text	none	Not allowed	Manual
Q	ENTRY_DATE	ENTRY_DATE	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	none	Not allowed	Manual
R	ALTERNATIVE SOURCE	ALTERNATIVE SOURCE	Text	none	Blank	

Data structure has been modified over time, following emerging new trends, and new analysis needs. After the cleaning process, the dataset is uploaded on ACAPS website and on HDX. The Dataset feeds an online dashboard realized with MapAction.

Measures taxonomy

With an initial "inductive" process, ACAPS analysts identified the measures types and categories by an initial work of data collection. As the data collection proceeds, there is a real-time review of categories, open to discussion within the analysis team. At the same time there has been inter-agency discussion on categories and measures, in order to improve, better-organize and better-harmonize data collection.
As of 16 April, these is the taxonomy:

CATEGORY	MEASURES	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Movement restrictions	Additional health or other document requirements upon arrival	Authorities upon arrival to a country may request a health declaration format or doctor's certifications to allow entry.
	Border checks	Authorities may travel and identification document checks in land and sea entry points in a country.
	Border closure	A country may close the land or sea border with the neighbouring countries. Only nationals and residents are allowed through.
	Complete border closure	A country has completely closed the borders for all - including nationals.
	Checkpoints within the country	Authorities may have installed check points within the country on regional borders or main road to a) conduct health checks and b) stop the internal movement of people.
	International Flights suspension	International and/or internal flights may be suspended by government authorities.
	Domestic travel restrictions	Authorities are limiting the movement of people within a country.
	Visa restrictions	Authorities are limiting specific nationalities from entering the country or they are adding visa restrictions that did not exist before.
	Curfews	Introducing curfews in some regions or in the whole country.
	Surveillance and monitoring	Authorities may conduct electronic surveillance via mobile phones or other ways to do case tracing or to monitor the movement of people.
Public health measures	Awareness campaigns	Authorities are conducting awareness campaigns on media, social media, public spaces, or elsewhere around hygiene methods, social distancing, of other measures.
	Introduction of isolation and quarantine policies	1. People have to self-quarantine or to be put in isolation units upon arrival to a country. 2. People with symptoms have to self-quarantine or to be put in isolation unit. 3. People who have been in touch with confirmed COVID-19 cases have to self- quarantine.

	General recommendations	The government has made general recommendations to people to be careful or given some general hygiene guidelines. This usually implies a weak response where other measures are not really taken.
	Health screenings in airports and border crossings	Health screening and body temperature controls are conducted by authorities in airports and border crossings.
	Obligatory medical tests not related to COVID-19	There are reports of governments having forced people to take health checks for conditions not related to COVID-19 (such as HIV).
	Psychological assistance and medical social work	Authorities have implemented measures for the phycological assistance of the patients, their families, as well as people in quarantine or lockdown.
	Mass population testing	Authorities are screening all the population of a country or of a region within a country.
	Strengthening the public health system	Authorities put in place measures to strengthen the health system. These could be: 1. hiring more doctors or other medical personnel. 2. building new hospitals and medical centres or expanding current ones. 3. Other
	Testing policy	Conducting tests to identify infected people.
	Requirement to wear protective gear in public	Masks/ gloves etc when required by law.
	Others public health measures enforced	I.E. sanitation of transports, additional health regulations not falling under other categories
	Amendments to funeral and burial regulations	Changes in burial regulation for example in order to limit the number of people who can attend or change the way the burial is conducted.
Governance and Socio-economic measures	Economic measures	Authorities have taken economic measures in order to mitigate the impact of the other restrictions to the economy and the society.
	Emergency administrative structures activated or established	Authorities have put in place emergency administrative structures such as Emergency Response committees etc. in order to coordinate the response and/or decide on measures and/or monitor the implementation.
	Limit product imports/exports	Authorities are limiting the import or export of either food or health items.
	State of emergency declared	Authorities have declared a state of emergency. Usually this measure is used to be able to implement other measures that are not allowed by constitutions in a regular situation. This may also include state of necessity, exceptional state, state of public health emergency.
	Military deployment	The military has been deployed to support the medical operations and ensure compliance with the measures.
Social distancing	Limit public gatherings	Cancelation of public events. Limit to the number of people that can meet in public and private spaces.
	Public services closure	Public services and facilities are closing access to the public. In some countries, services are available online.
	Changes in prison policies	Change in policies around prisons to mitigate the spread of the disease. This may include early release but also suspension of day-release programs, suspension of visits etc.
	Schools closure	Authorities have closed schools.
Lockdown	Partial Lockdown	Partial lockdown includes: 1. The population cannot leave their houses apart for specific reasons that they have to communicate to the authorities. 2. All stores that are not related to alimentation or pharmacies are not open.
	Full lockdown	Full lockdown includes: 1. The population cannot leave their houses apart for specific reasons that they have to communicate to the authorities. 2. All non-essential services closed and production stops.
	Lockdown of refugee/IDP camps or other minorities	Limitations to the population living in camps and/or camp like conditions.
Humanitarian Exemptions	Humanitarian Exemptions	This includes every exemptions government decide applicable for humanitarian actors in delivering aid.

Limitations

ACAPS relies on the open-sources and on Expert Judgment of trained analyst in selecting the most reliable sources. This means that some measures might be not recorded yet in the dataset. Linguistic barriers also might have prevented ACAPS to identify all the available information. Some measures are also extremely "nuanced", so the data coding in some cases relies again on the "expert judgement" of the analyst. However, in most cases, an analytical discussion is put in place to reach a common analysis agreement for coding some "ambiguous" data.

Annexes

Country list, ISO codes and region

Country name	ISO3	REGION
Afghanistan	AFG	Asia
Albania	ALB	Europe
Algeria	DZA	Africa
Angola	AGO	Africa
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG	Americas
Argentina	ARG	Americas
Armenia	ARM	Asia
Australia	AUS	Pacific
Austria	AUT	Europe
Azerbaijan	AZE	Asia
Bahamas	BHS	Americas
Bahrain	BHR	Middle East
Bangladesh	BGD	Asia
Barbados	BRB	Americas
Belarus	BLR	Europe
Belgium	BEL	Europe
Belize	BLZ	Americas
Benin	BEN	Africa
Bhutan	BTN	Asia
Bolivia	BOL	Americas
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	Europe
Botswana	BWA	Africa
Brazil	BRA	Americas
Brunei Darussalam	BRN	Asia
Bulgaria	BGR	Europe
Burkina Faso	BFA	Africa
Burundi	BDI	Africa
Cabo Verde	CPV	Africa
Cambodia	KHM	Asia
Cameroon	CMR	Africa
Canada	CAN	Americas
Central African Republic	CAF	Africa
Chad	TCD	Africa
Chile	CHL	Americas
China	CHN	Asia
Colombia	COL	Americas
Comoros	COM	Africa
Congo	COG	Africa
Congo DR	COD	Africa
Costa Rica	CRI	Americas
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV	Africa
Croatia	HRV	Europe
Cuba	CUB	Americas
Cyprus	CYP	Europe
Czech Republic	CZE	Europe
Denmark	DNK	Europe
Djibouti	DJI	Africa
Dominica	DMA	Americas
Dominican Republic	DOM	Americas
Ecuador	ECU	Americas
Egypt	EGY	Africa
El Salvador	SLV	Americas
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ	Africa
Eritrea	ERI	Africa
Estonia	EST	Europe
Ethiopia	ETH	Africa
Fiji	FJI	Pacific
Finland	FIN	Europe
France	FRA	Europe
Gabon	GAB	Africa
Gambia	GMB	Africa
Georgia	GEO	Europe
Germany	DEU	Europe
Ghana	GHA	Africa
Greece	GRC	Europe
Grenada	GRD	Americas
Guatemala	GTM	Americas
Guinea	GIN	Africa
Guinea-Bissau	GNB	Africa
Guyana	GUY	Americas
Haiti	HTI	Americas
Honduras	HND	Americas
Hungary	HUN	Europe
Iceland	ISL	Europe
India	IND	Asia
Indonesia	IDN	Asia
Iran	IRN	Middle East
Iraq	IRQ	Middle East
Ireland	IRL	Europe
Israel	ISR	Middle East
Italy	ITA	Europe
Jamaica	JAM	Americas
Japan	JPN	Asia
Jordan	JOR	Middle East
Kazakhstan	KAZ	Asia
Kenya	KEN	Africa
Kiribati	KIR	Pacific
Korea DPR	PRK	Asia
Korea Republic of	KOR	Asia
Kuwait	KWT	Middle East
Kyrgyzstan	KGZ	Asia
Lao PDR	LAO	Asia
Latvia	LVA	Europe
Lebanon	LBN	Middle East
Lesotho	LSO	Africa
Liberia	LBR	Africa

Libya	LBY	Africa
Liechtenstein	LIE	Europe
Lithuania	LTU	Europe
Luxembourg	LUX	Europe
Madagascar	MDG	Africa
Malawi	MWI	Africa
Malaysia	MYS	Asia
Maldives	MDV	Asia
Mali	MLI	Africa
Malta	MLT	Europe
Marshall Islands	MHL	Pacific
Mauritania	MRT	Africa
Mauritius	MUS	Africa
Mexico	MEX	Americas
Micronesia	FSM	Pacific
Moldova Republic of	MDA	Europe
Mongolia	MNG	Asia
Montenegro	MNE	Europe
Morocco	MAR	Africa
Mozambique	MOZ	Africa
Myanmar	MMR	Asia
Namibia	NAM	Africa
Nauru	NRU	Pacific
Nepal	NPL	Asia
Netherlands	NLD	Europe
New Zealand	NZL	Pacific
Nicaragua	NIC	Americas
Niger	NER	Africa
Nigeria	NGA	Africa
Norway	NOR	Europe
Oman	OMN	Middle East
Pakistan	PAK	Asia
Palau	PLW	Pacific
Palestine	PSE	Middle East

Panama	PAN	Americas
Papua New Guinea	PNG	Pacific
Paraguay	PRY	Americas
Peru	PER	Americas
Philippines	PHL	Asia
Poland	POL	Europe
Portugal	PRT	Europe
Qatar	QAT	Middle East
Romania	ROU	Europe
Russian Federation	RUS	Europe
Rwanda	RWA	Africa
Saint Kitts and Nevis	KNA	Americas
Saint Lucia	LCA	Americas
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT	Americas
Samoa	WSM	Pacific
Sao Tome and Principe	STP	Africa
Saudi Arabia	SAU	Middle East
Senegal	SEN	Africa
Serbia	SRB	Europe
Seychelles	SYC	Africa
Sierra Leone	SLE	Africa
Singapore	SGP	Asia
Slovakia	SVK	Europe
Slovenia	SVN	Europe
Solomon Islands	SLB	Pacific
Somalia	SOM	Africa
South Africa	ZAF	Africa
South Sudan	SSD	Africa
Spain	ESP	Europe
Sri Lanka	LKA	Asia
Sudan	SDN	Africa
Suriname	SUR	Americas
Eswatini	SWZ	Africa

Sweden	SWE	Europe
Switzerland	CHE	Europe
Syria	SYR	Middle East
Tajikistan	TJK	Asia
Tanzania	TZA	Africa
Thailand	THA	Asia
North Macedonia Republic Of	MKD	Europe
Timor-Leste	TLS	Asia
Togo	TGO	Africa
Tonga	TON	Pacific
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO	Americas
Tunisia	TUN	Africa
Turkey	TUR	Middle East
Turkmenistan	TKM	Asia
Tuvalu	TUV	Pacific
Uganda	UGA	Africa
Ukraine	UKR	Europe
United Arab Emirates	ARE	Middle East
United Kingdom	GBR	Europe
United States of America	USA	Americas
Uruguay	URY	Americas
Uzbekistan	UZB	Asia
Vanuatu	VUT	Pacific
Venezuela	VEN	Americas
Viet Nam	VNM	Asia
Yemen	YEM	Middle East
Zambia	ZMB	Africa
Zimbabwe	ZWE	Africa
San Marino	SMR	Europe
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	HKG	Asia