NO Changes This Week:

Please be aware System Risk Management has asked all members to prohibit travel to extreme risk countries and regions. Please reference memorandum from the Chancellor regarding procedures relating to international travel to be followed by all System members found at this link:


Should you have any questions, please contact me directly. Thank you.

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Country Travel Advisory List:

Any travel to the below listed countries requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.

- Afghanistan
- Central African Republic
- Gaza Strip
- Libya
- North Korea effective August 31st
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen

Any travel to the specified regions within a country noted below requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.

Information on Electronic Devices Carry-On Items: Restrictions Lifted


Information on Travel Restrictions From Listed Countries: Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

• **Armenia**: Within 2km of the line of contact in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

• **Azerbaijan**: Within 2km of the line of contact in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

• **Cameroon**: Far North (Extreme-Nord) region and within 50km of Cameroon's shared border with Nigeria in the country's North (Nord) and Adamawa (Adamaoua) regions.

• **Chad**: Ennedi-Est, Ennedi-Quest, Wadi Fira, Quaddai and Sila (which border Sudan), the southern regions of Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Moyen-Chari and Salamat, the northern regions of Tibesti, Borkou and Ennedi-Qest (which border Libya) and the western Kanem and Lac regions.

• **Democratic Republic of Congo**: The eastern Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces, as well as the north eastern Ituri, Haut-Uele and Bas-Uele provinces and the southern Kasai Central province.

• **Egypt**: North Sinai governorate.

• **Eritrea**: Within 20km of Eritrea's borders with Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

• **Ethiopia**: Within 20km of Ethiopia's border with Eritrea in the Tigray and Afar regions, within 20km of the South Sudan border in the Gambela and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, and the Somali region (excluding the two northern zones of Fafan, formerly Jijiga, and Sitti, formerly Shinile).

• **Iran**: Sistan va Baluchestan province.

• **Iraq**: Baghdad, Anbar, Salah ad-Din, Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa, Karbala and Babil governorates and the northern Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)-held and disputed territory west of the Green Line.

• **Israel**: Within 2km of the shared Gaza Strip-Israel border in southern Israel and all travel to the Gaza Strip due to the threats of conflict and secondary threats of kidnapping and terrorism.

• **Japan**: Within a 20km radius of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma.

• **Kenya**: Within 50km of the Somali border in the Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu counties.

• **Lebanon**: An area within 15km of the shared border with Syria in the Bekaa and North governorates and Palestinian refugee camps across the country.

• **Mali**: Gao, Kidal, Mopti and Timbuktu regions.

• **Mexico**: Due to the high risks of kidnapping, violent crime and an escalating drug cartel-related conflict, red24 currently advises against non-essential travel to the countryside outside of major...
cities and primary resort areas as well as the states of Tamaulipas, Michoacan, Coahuila, Sinaloa, Nayarit and Guerrero.

- **Niger**: Within a 50km radius of Niger’s shared border with Nigeria in the administrative regions of Diffa and Zinder and to within a 100km radius of Niger’s shared borders with Chad, Algeria, Libya and Mali.

- **Nigeria**: Adamawa, Borno, Yobe and Gombe in the northeast. Rural and remote areas within Kaduna, Bauchi, Plateau, Benue, Zamfara, Enugu and Taraba states in the “Middle Belt” and the Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta and Rivers states in the south.

- **Pakistan**: Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces

- **Philippines**: The southern Mindanao region and the Sulu Archipelago.

- **Russia**: Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria (including the Mount Elbrus region).

- **Saudi Arabia**: Within 10km of the shared border with Yemen

- **Somalia**: Most of Somalia except Puntland and Somaliland.

- **Sudan**: Dafur region, South Kordufan state, Blue Nile state and the disputed Abyei region.

- **Tunisia**: The Djebel Chambi National Park (Kasserine governorate) and South of but not including the towns of El Broma and Dhehiba (Tataouine governorate)

- **Turkey**: Within 10km of the shared border with Syria in the Turkish provinces of Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Mardin and Sirnak.

- **Uganda**: Areas within 30km of Uganda’s shared borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, excluding major towns.

- **Ukraine**: The Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Crimean Peninsula.
21 August 2017

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Americas

CARIBBEAN; August 19 to 22; Tropical Storm Harvey dissipates in south central Caribbean

Tropical Storm Harvey was downgraded to a tropical wave after dissipating in the south central Caribbean Sea late on August 19. Meteorologists project the system will continue to move west-northwestward over the coming hours, potentially bringing the storm remnants into northern Honduras. The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami, Florida, estimates the tropical wave has a 50 percent chance of reforming into a tropical storm over this period. Even if the tropical storm does not regenerate, the remnants of Harvey will likely bring localised heavy rain and varying winds to areas along its track through August 22, including northeastern Nicaragua, northern Honduras, Belize, and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Advice: Keep abreast of the system's progress and update contingency plans if operating in coastal areas in the path of the tropical wave, including northeastern Nicaragua, northern Honduras, Belize, and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Remain prepared to activate emergency plans on short notice in the event Harvey's remnants reform into a tropical storm. Keep battery-powered devices charged, and maintain stockpiles of bottled water and nonperishable food in case of power outages, until it becomes clear that the system has fully dissipated and will not regenerate.

Asia and Pacific

BANGLADESH (Country risk rating: High); August 20; Rail service disruptions due to bridge collapse in Dhaka

A rail bridge over the Pungli River in Tangail District, Dhaka Division, partially collapsed at around 0500 on August 20. Authorities suspended rail services between Dhaka and northern and south western districts in western Bangladesh following the accident. The disruption is affecting service on the Sundarban, Ekota, Rangpur and Nilsagar express lines, cutting rail links between the capital and Khulna, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Chilahati. Officials also halted the Moitri Express service to Kolkata, India, through August 22. Repair work on the bridge is ongoing; officials have not confirmed when operations will resume. Partial service could begin as soon as August 21, but full operations are not expected until August 23. There are no indications that the incident is impacting rail travel in eastern Bangladesh. Expect increased demand for alternative forms of inter-city transport through at least August 23. The rail disruptions are likely to lead to shipping and delivery delays throughout western Bangladesh.

Advice: Book alternative transport for time-sensitive travel and shipments between the affected cities. Plan for increased demand for private car and bus services. Confirm all rail transport reservations and shipping arrangements after operations resume due to possible overbooking.

FIJI (Country risk rating: Medium); August 19; Magnitude-6.4 earthquake reported

A magnitude-6.4 earthquake occurred in the Western Pacific Ocean, about 288km (179 miles) east of Suva at 1400 on
August 19. The temblor struck at a depth of 538km (334 miles); while light shaking may have occurred throughout Fiji, there have been no reports of damage or casualties. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre did not issue a tsunami warning. Moderate aftershocks were reported.

Advice: Confirm business and transport status before departure. Heed all instructions from security personnel. Plan accordingly for moderate aftershocks. Allow additional time for air, rail, and road travel, as aftershocks may prompt brief disruptions. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving in hilly areas in the affected region due to potential landslides.

HONG KONG (Country risk rating: Low); August 20; (Update) Additional pro-democracy political protests possible in Hong Kong

Pro-democracy groups and political parties could organise additional demonstrations in Hong Kong to protest the jail sentences of three prominent activists for ‘unlawful assembly’ linked to the pro-democracy Occupy protests in 2014. Thousands of supporters gathered in the city on August 20, marching from Wan Chai to the Court of Final Appeal. Future demonstrations could take place near the court or other popular sites, especially government buildings, in central Hong Kong. Pro-Beijing citizens could also stage counterprotests in support of the ruling; though these gatherings will probably be relatively smaller in size, pro-China activists have staged large rallies in support of the government in the past. Police will likely increase security near probable protest sites as a precaution. While violence is unlikely during any protests, minor skirmishes cannot be ruled out, particularly if police attempt to disperse any gatherings or block access roads to protest sites. Localised traffic disruptions are possible if larger demonstrations take place, though major disruptions are unlikely. The activists were convicted on unlawful assembly charges last July; two of them were sentenced to community service, and the third received a three-week suspended jail sentence. However, the Court of Final Appeal increased the punishments of the activists on August 17, sentencing them to between six and eight months in jail. As the jail terms exceed three months, the activists will be prevented from running in elections for public office, including the Legislative Council and District Council, for five years. Critics have alleged that the recent convictions are an attempt by Beijing to crush Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

Advice: Monitor local media or check with trusted sources for updates on possible protests and associated disruptions. Plan for traffic disruptions if larger demonstrations take place, especially if operating near government buildings.

HONG KONG / PHILIPPINES / TAIWAN; August 21 to 23; Tropical Storm Hato to impact region

Tropical Depression 15W strengthened to Tropical Storm Hato early on August 21, after forming in the Philippine Sea the previous day. The system is tracking west-northwestward through the Philippine Sea. Current models project that Hato will transit the Luzon Strait, passing between Taiwan and the Philippines without making landfall early on August 22, before entering the South China Sea. The storm is forecast to continue along its current track and begin slowing weakening as it crosses the South China Sea, making landfall near Hong Kong early on August 23. Heavy rainfall and strong winds are likely to begin affecting the far north of Luzon in the Philippines, including the Babuyan and Batan Island chains, as well as the far southern counties of Taiwan, late on August 21. Flash flooding could occur in affected areas. Coastal flooding may occur in the far south of Taiwan and far northern Philippines. Flooding and landslides could force road closures, leading to traffic disruptions. Rail services may also face delays. Flight disruptions are likely, including at Taitung (TTT), Kaohsiung (KHH), and Tainan (TNN) airports. Ports in southern Taiwan may also temporarily shut down as the storm passes.

Advice: Review contingency plans. Heed all instructions from local authorities. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving in low-lying and hilly areas, which are prone to flash flooding and mudslides. Store important documents in watertight containers. Use caution around streams, rivers, and other flood-prone areas. Plan accordingly for potential transportation disruptions and confirm all flights. Prepare for possible power outages, particularly in rural areas; keep battery-powered devices charged.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); August 21; Anti-government protests underway in Chennai

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) leader, V. Gopalsamy (also known as Vaiko), has called for demonstrations in Chennai on August 21 to demand the resignation of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami. Vaiko alleges that the government has not protected the state's water interests and has not sufficiently supported farmers. Protesters have begun gathering near the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Fort St. George. A
large turnout remains possible if opposition parties join the demonstration. Farmers could also support the action, further boosting participation. Increased security, road closures, and localised traffic disruptions are possible during the event. Violence is unlikely, though minor skirmishes between police and protesters cannot be ruled out, especially if the protests escalate and police move to forcibly disperse demonstrators. Clashes between rival party workers cannot be ruled out if opposition parties join the protest. Opposition parties allege the local government did not legally challenge the construction of a dam on the Cauvery River near Mekedatu, Karnataka State, during court proceedings on August 18. Opposition groups have called on Palaniswami to abandon the decision and challenge the dam's construction at the supreme court. The chief minister claims the government only postponed a discussion of future dam projects in Karnataka. Palaniswami announced on August 19 that the government remains opposed to future dam construction on the Cauvery River. Despite the government's announcement, the main opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) could join the MDMK protest.

**Advice:** Avoid the protest as a precaution. Use caution near MDMK and DMK offices, which could be gathering points for the protesters. As rally sites may not be widely announced in advance, check with trusted local contacts for updates. Prepare for traffic disruptions near demonstrations; allow additional time for travel, especially near prominent government buildings.

**INDIA (Country risk rating: High); August 21; Increased security following bomb threat in Delhi**

Authorities are on high alert at the New Delhi Railway Station in Delhi after receiving a bomb threat early on August 21. A caller reportedly warned that a bomb was placed inside one of the trains at the station at about 0410 on August 21. Police are carrying out searches on all trains arriving and departing from the railway station. Officials have not found any suspicious objects after several searches, but operations are likely to continue as a precaution. Increased security screenings and searches may cause congestion at the railway station, particularly throughout the morning when the station is at its busiest. Train delays are also possible.

**Advice:** Confirm railway reservations through August 21. Plan accordingly for potential transport disruptions and allow additional time to clear security. Report all suspicious persons, packages or vehicles to the local authorities.

**INDIA (Country risk rating: High); August 19; Train derailment in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh**

The Kalinga Utkal Express train derailed at Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh State at about 1750 on August 19, leaving at least 23 people dead and 72 others injured. About 14 of the train's cars jumped the track in the incident. The accident will likely result in significant rail disruptions along the Kalinga Utkal line for several days at least, as crews remove the wreckage and technicians repair any damage to the infrastructure. The Kalinga Utkal route extends from Puri, Odisha State, on India's east coast, to Haridwar, Uttarakhand State, in the country's north. Disruptions will almost certainly be heaviest between Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin Station and points north of the city. Delays of varying duration are also likely at other stops along the Kalinga Utkal route, including Gwalior, Bina, Katni, Bilaspur, Tatanagar, and Cuttack.

**Advice:** Confirm travel arrangements if booked on the Kalinga Utkal Express, especially between Delhi and Haridwar. Do not check out of accommodations until onward travel is confirmed. Consider alternative transport for critical travel.

**INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); August 17; PTFI closes roads in Papua Province following shooting**

PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) shut down access between Mile Point 40 and 66 on the mining road between Timika and Tembagapura in Mimika regency, Papua Province, following a shooting incident on August 17. The mining company halted all vehicle convoys along the affected road after an unidentified assailant opened fire on a PTFI vehicle at Mile Point 60, headed towards Mile Point 58, at about 1300, wounding a member of the Mobile Brigade Corp (Brimob). A Brimob employee and the driver were in the vehicle during the shooting. Even though dozens of unsolved shootings have occurred along the mining road between Timika and Tembagapura in the past, there have been no reported shootings in recent years, likely due to increased security. Security forces have previously blamed the Free Papua Organisation (OPM) for such attacks. Papua and West Papua provinces have experienced a low-level separatist insurgency for decades, with rebels frequently targeting police and military personnel, which the rebels perceive as representing a Javanese-dominated and majority-Muslim state.
Advice: Check with trusted local contacts on the security situation and associated disruptions if operating in the affected area. Use maximum caution if driving to Tembagapura is necessary.

PHILIPPINES (Country risk rating: Medium); August 21 to 23; Activist rallies ongoing and expected in multiple urban centres

Activists are staging rallies in multiple locations in the Philippines on August 21 and 23 to protest a surge in extrajudicial killings, including the recent killing of a student, in the government’s anti-illegal drugs operation. Witnesses claim the student, who was shot by police officers late on August 17, was framed by officials. On August 21, activists are staging protests in Plaza Miranda, Metro Manila, as well as at Metro Cebon in Cebu and Penaranda Park in Legazpi. On August 23, another rally dubbed the ‘Shout for Life’ will be held in front of the Philippines National Police headquarters, Camp Crame, in Metro Manila. Additional protests are also possible in other locations. Thousands of people may participate in the demonstrations. Authorities will likely increase security near all rally sites. A massive turnout could cause localised traffic disruptions. Skirmishes between security forces and protesters could occur, especially if demonstrators engage in disruptive behaviour. Activists have called for the series of protests after 69 suspects were killed and hundreds of others were arrested in drug raids in Bulacan, Manila, and Caloocan City since mid-August. The government has denied that state-sanctioned killings happen in its war on drugs, and claims the high casualty count is a result of suspects that were either armed or resisted arrest. More than 3,000 drug suspects have been killed in the anti-illegal drug campaign since President Rodrigo Duterte took power in July 2016.

Advice: Avoid all demonstrations as a precaution. Allow additional time if travelling in the affected area or consider taking alternative routes.

PHILIPPINES (Country risk rating: Medium); August 18 to 21; Volcanic activity on Negros Island

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has raised the alert level for Mount Kanlaon, which straddles the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, from 0 to 1 (on a 5-point scale) following an increase in seismic activity on August 18. Authorities have recorded 244 volcanic earthquakes since June 24. The alert prohibits activity within a 4km (2.5-mile) radius of the Permanent Danger Zone due to the possibility of sudden and hazardous steam-driven eruptions. Civil aviation authorities have also warned pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit in case a sudden eruption occurs. Authorities have not recommended any evacuations. Mount Kanlaon is one of the most active volcanos in the central Philippines; Phivolcs had just lowered the volcano’s alert from 1 to 0 in May. While it usually emits large amounts of steam and relatively low amounts of ash, a significant eruption could affect flight operations at Bacolod-Silay International Airport (BCD). Flights could also potentially be affected at airports serving Cebu (CEB), Ililo City (ILO), Tagbilaran (TAG), and Dumaguete (DGT), depending on the size of the eruption, ash consistency, and prevailing winds.

Advice: Avoid travel to the volcano and Mount Kanlaon National Park while alert levels are elevated. Heed the instructions of local authorities. Consider carrying a face mask in case a large eruption occurs. Confirm flights if volcanic activity continues.

TAIWAN (Country risk rating: Low); August 18; Authorities boost security in Taipei following security incident at Presidential Office

Authorities boosted security around key government buildings in Zhongzheng District, central Taipei, following a security incident at the Presidential Office on August 18. Police said that a man carrying a sword tried to enter the No. 4 entry point of the Presidential Office, and attacked and wounded the military policeman who stopped him. Other security personnel quickly detained the assailant. Initial investigations suggest that the incident was politically motivated. The assailant was carrying a Chinese flag, and he allegedly told police that he was trying to demonstrate his political position. There is no indication that anyone else was involved in the incident. President Tsai Ing-wen was inside the Presidential Office at the time of the incident.

Advice: Prepare for heightened security in Taipei, especially near major government buildings in Zhongzheng District. Allow additional time for travel on adjacent roads, as security personnel may establish checkpoints as a precaution. Remain polite and non-confrontational if questioned by security personnel.

VIETNAM (Country risk rating: Medium); August 16; Nationwide dengue fever outbreak
ongoing

As of August 16, Vietnamese health officials reported 90,626 dengue fever cases nationwide since the start of 2017, which represents a 67 percent increase in activity when compared to the 54,003 cases identified during the same period in 2016. Disease activity is highest in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. Though further information regarding the situation in Ho Chi Minh City is unavailable, more than 17,630 dengue fever cases have been identified in Hanoi this year. Vietnam reports roughly 150,000 cases of dengue fever each year, including 50 to 100 deaths. Disease activity occurs year-round but is typically highest from April to October in northern areas, and June to December in southern areas. Peak activity generally occurs from July to August. Dengue fever is a potentially fatal virus transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Infection produces a spectrum of clinical symptoms 4 to 10 days after exposure, ranging from influenza-like illness to severe and potentially fatal haemorrhagic fever. No vaccine is currently available to prevent dengue infection.

Advice: As weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks, or use insect protection containing DEET, picaridin, or another approved repellent. Remove standing water to reduce the number of biting mosquitoes. Seek medical attention if symptoms develop within three weeks of being in affected areas. Do not use aspirin or ibuprofen products if you suspect you may have dengue, as these could exacerbate bleeding tendencies associated with the disease.

Europe and Russia

FINLAND (Country risk rating: Low); August 18; Stabbing attack in Turku treated as act of terrorism

Police confirmed that two locals were killed and eight others, including one Italian and two Swedish nationals, were wounded during a stabbing attack at Market Square in central Turku on August 18. Security forces shot and wounded the assailant before arresting him. The authorities are treating the incident as an act of terrorism; further details have not been disclosed. Finnish authorities raised the country's emergency readiness nationwide after the stabbing; security has been increased at airports and train stations and additional police personnel have been deployed on the streets.

Advice: Report all suspicious persons, packages or vehicles to the local authorities.

GERMANY (Country risk rating: Low); August 19; Rival demonstrations held in western Berlin

Right-wing supporters and their opponents held demonstrations in Spandau borough in western Berlin on August 19. Right-wing groups staged the march and rally in the area to mark the death of former Nazi Party leader Rudolf Hess. Protesters were forced to gather at the Spandau Train Station after counterprotesters blocked their march route along nearby streets. Organisers estimate that at least 500 right-wing supporters participated in the demonstration. The Spandau Alliance against Right held a demonstration at the intersection of Gatower and Wilhelm streets on the same day, while anti-Nazi group Union of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime (VVN-BdA) held its rally along the march route, with organisers claiming as many as 1,000 people participated in the action. Security forces implemented enhanced security measures, including street closures and the deployment of additional security forces in the affected area. The event concluded without major incident.

GERMANY (Country risk rating: Low); August 18 and 19; Stabbing incidents in Wuppertal

At least one person was killed and two others were wounded in two separate stabbing incidents in Wuppertal on August 18 and 19. On August 18, unidentified men attacked victims at a local shopping centre in the Kipdorf area, killing one person and wounding another. In a separate incident on August 19, at least one other person was wounded in a stabbing incident in an unspecified locale in the city. Investigations into the incidents are ongoing; however, authorities have stated that the incidents arose out of personal disputes and are being treated as isolated criminal incidents. Terrorism-related motives have been ruled out.

Advice: Exercise heightened caution and monitor local media for updates and associated security operations in relation to the incidents. Anticipate related travel disruptions.

RUSSIA (Country risk rating: High); August 19; Eight wounded following stabbing attack in
Surgut

An attacker stabbed at least eight pedestrians in Surgut at around 11:20 on August 19. Police responding to the incident shot and killed the assailant. Officials did not announce any additional information about the attack, including where it took place, though reports say it occurred along central streets. The Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for the attack; however, an investigation into the incident is ongoing.

SPAIN (Country risk rating: Low); August 18; Barcelona airport spike suspended

Airport security workers employed by Eulen at Barcelona El-Prat Airport (BCN) announced on August 17 that they suspended their indefinite strike. The workers stopped their industrial action following a terrorist attack on Las Ramblas in Barcelona on August 17. Authorities and union staff have yet to reach an agreement over the workers’ demands for hiring more workers, better employment conditions, and bonus payments. Airport security staff could resume their strike action in the coming weeks if their demands are not met.

Advice: As a precaution, confirm flights if departing from BCN.

Middle East and North Africa

MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA; September 1 to 5; Eid al-Adha to be observed

Muslims throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will celebrate the Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) holiday from September 1 to 5. Government and business offices are highly likely to close for 2 to 4 days, though some holidays may be longer. Diplomatic missions will also close in observance of Eid al-Adha. The holiday is a popular time for vacations; expect increased road traffic and large crowds at airports and other transport centres. Hotel rooms may be difficult to book, and public transportation and rental cars will be in high demand. Heightened security is highly likely around usual terrorist targets, including religious observances and other large gatherings. Areas frequented by expatriates and government and security installations may also be targeted. Eid al-Adha, one of the most sacred holidays in Islam, is a celebration marking the climax of the Hajj (pilgrimage) in Saudi Arabia.

Advice: Exercise caution around popular terrorist targets. Ensure someone is aware of your travel plans and emergency contact information. Be cognisant and respectful of Islamic customs; avoid sensitive topics of discussion, including religious or political issues. Reconfirm transport bookings, hotel reservations, and business meetings. Drive defensively, and allow additional time to reach destinations; traffic fatalities increase sharply during this busy travel period.

Sub-Saharan Africa

BURUNDI (Country risk rating: High); August 17; Fatal grenade attack in Bujumbura

Unidentified assailants threw grenades into two bars in the Buyenzi district of Bujumbura late on August 17, causing blasts that killed at least three people and wounded at least 27 others. Emergency responders evacuated the wounded to local hospitals for treatment. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify the perpetrators. Reports suggest that the attacks were possibly associated with an ongoing dispute between banana wine brewers. The business conflict also reportedly played a role in an early August grenade attack at a bar in Buyenzi that killed two people and wounded four others. A long-standing political crisis is also likely to motivate additional grenade attacks nationwide. Such attacks tend to target security personnel, entertainment venues, and the residences of locals. Similar attacks have occurred in other parts of Burundi, including other areas of the capital, since the rejected re-election of President Pierre Nkurunziza in 2015. A low-level insurgency affects several areas of the country, but the absence of independent media in Burundi significantly limits reporting on the conflict.

Advice: Exercise increased vigilance while operating in Burundi. Avoid crowded areas, including bars, pubs, public squares, government buildings, military installations, and other sensitive areas with a substantial security presence.

KENYA (Country risk rating: High); August 20; Two Swiss nationals killed in Mombasa
Two elderly Swiss nationals were found murdered in Mombasa's Kiembeni neighbourhood on August 20. The victims' bodies were discovered along a roadway the day after they had entered Kenya from Switzerland. The couple had reportedly been staying at a residence on Links Road in the Nyali neighbourhood; it remains unclear whether they were tourists or expats. Police believe robbery was the motive and are investigating two locals employed at the victims' residence as potential suspects. The rate of violent crime is high in Kenya, including in Mombasa, which has long served as a major tourism hub for the country and the broader region. Foreign nationals are sometimes targeted by criminals. The threat of violent crime includes carjacking, mugging, robbery, kidnapping, and burglary.

SIERRA LEONE (Country risk rating: Medium); August 14 to 22; Further heavy rainfall forecast for Western Area

As of August 21, further heavy rainfall is forecast for the Western Area in the coming days and could cause additional landslides near Freetown. The areas most at risk include Culvert, Dworzek, Kamayamah, and Kaningo. The downpours could also prompt flooding in low-lying areas of Freetown, including near Bai Bureh Road, Brook Street, Falcon Bridge, Kroo Bay, Kissy Brook, Lumley, Peacock Farm, Spur Road, and Wilkinson Road. Flooding often lags behind actual rainfall by several days due to poor drainage. Expect significant transport disruptions over the coming days; roads could remain blocked by debris, and floodwater could damage bridges. Floodwater could inundate electrical substations and generators, causing sudden electricity outages and exacerbating ongoing power cuts. Electricity outages could adversely affect security measures, including alarm systems and electronic fences; criminal activity has historically increased during power outages. Communications disruptions, including internet outages, are possible. Flooding may also increase the incidence of insect- and waterborne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and cholera. Authorities have declared a national mourning period through August 22 to commemorate those killed in an August 14 landslide that struck informal settlements in the capital's Regent outskirts. Public office closures and commercial disruptions, including freight delivery delays, are likely nationwide during the mourning period.

Advice: Avoid low-lying and flood-prone areas in the event of additional heavy rainfall. Confirm route viability before conducting ground movements or planning freight transport, and allow additional time to reach destinations. Use vehicles equipped for off-road driving if possible; carry a sufficient supply of water, nonperishable food, and emergency equipment if travelling through flood-affected areas. Confirm business appointments and delivery schedules through August 22. Charge portable electronic devices when possible, and restrict cellular phone use to emergencies, if operating in an area without power.

SOUTH AFRICA (Country risk rating: High); August 18; Service delivery unrest possible in and around Emalahleni

Unrest remains possible in Emalahleni (Witbank) after authorities reopened the N4 Highway and dispersed a violent protest by residents over service delivery and unemployment on August 18. Protesters hijacked and torched a bus to block the highway, wounding the driver. Residents also dumped large quantities of coal on the N4 to impede traffic. Police are likely to forcibly disperse further attempts to protest, possibly with tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades. Unrest could materialise in Emalahleni over the coming hours with little warning; protesters could target vehicles passing through affected areas. Expect additional traffic disruptions near any demonstrations. Emalahleni is located near the convergence of the N4 and N12 highways, around 105km (65 miles) east of Pretoria (Tshwane) and 125km (77 miles) northeast of Johannesburg.

Advice: Avoid all protests. Seek updated information on traffic and security conditions from trusted local contacts before conducting ground movements near Emalahleni. If unrest occurs or demonstrations materialise, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location. Keep vehicle windows closed and doors locked at all times.

TANZANIA (Country risk rating: Medium); August 16; Foreign national killed in Masaki, Dar es Salaam

An unidentified gunman killed Wayne Lotter, a South African anti-poaching activist, in the Masaki area of Dar es Salaam on the evening of August 16. The perpetrator forcibly opened the door of a taxi transporting Lotter from Julius Nyerere International Airport (DAR) after blocking its passage with another vehicle, and then shot him. The assailant reportedly stole Lotter's laptop during the attack. The assailant's methods strongly indicate that he specifically targeted Lotter, probably due to his anti-poaching work; economic criminal motivations cannot be ruled out due to the theft. The victim has actively supported government operations to prevent poaching and counter ivory trafficking in east Africa since 2009. Lotter's efforts led to the arrest of both individual poachers and suspected leaders of organised crime syndicates. Lotter
reported receiving several death threats thereafter.

**Advice:** Practise vigilance due to the prevailing risks of petty and violent crime.

**TOGO (Country risk rating: **Medium**); August 18 and 19; Fatalities amid nationwide opposition-led protests**

Unconfirmed reports indicate that at least seven people were killed and dozens more were wounded following clashes between protesters and security forces in several major urban centres in Togo, on August 19. The unrest is said to have taken place during Pan-African National Party (PNP)-led demonstrations in Anie, Bafil, Kara, Lome and Sokode, which had been banned by authorities earlier on August 18. Baton charges, tear gas and rubber bullets were reportedly used by security forces to disperse the prohibited gatherings on the day. Given currently elevated tensions in the wake of the aforementioned fatalities, further agitations are possible in the coming days. Precedent suggests that such events may be forcibly dispersed by security forces and could pose an indiscriminate risk to protesters and bystanders alike.

**Advice:** Monitor local media in the coming days for announcements of forthcoming protest actions and related advisories from the authorities. Avoid all demonstrations, large street gatherings and concentrations of security forces as a standard precaution. Clients are further advised to make allowances for localised travel and business disruptions in the vicinity of any protest activity.