

2020

COVID-19 Situation Report #11

23 June – 10 July



UNITED NATIONS
DJIBOUTI

Expected date next report: 23 July



49,742
Tests carried out



4,955
Cases confirmed



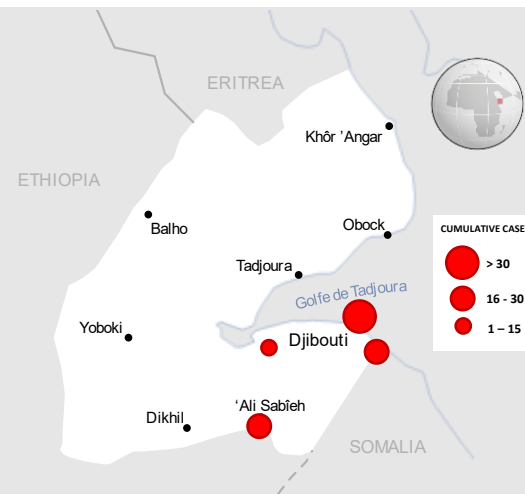
56
Deaths



4,671
Recovered

HIGHLIGHTS

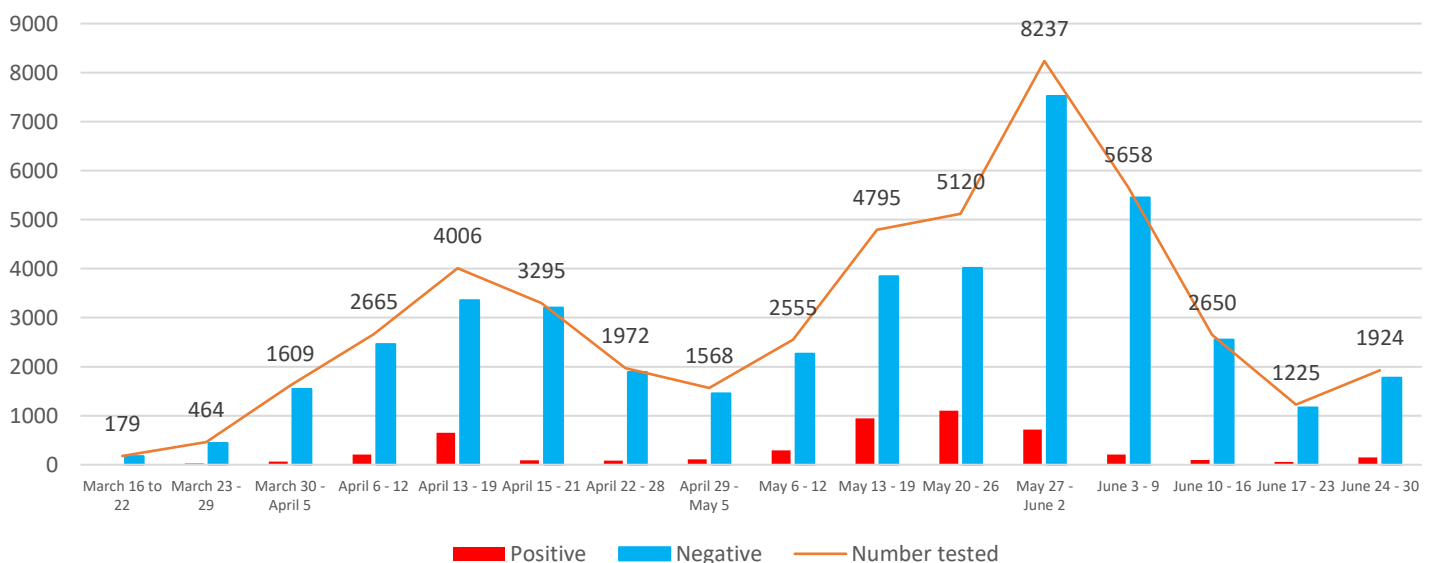
- Some 4,955 cases of COVID-19 and 56 fatalities have been confirmed by authorities in Djibouti to date.
- Increase of the positivity rate during the second wave (up to 22%), and higher proportions of severe and critical cases.
- Fatality rate remains significantly lower than neighbouring countries: 1.1%.
- Borders will be officially open on 17 July.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As of 10 July 2020, the Ministry of Health confirmed 4,955 cases of COVID-19 in Djibouti, with 56 fatalities reported since the beginning of the pandemic bringing the case fatality rate to 1.1%, which is significantly lower than the fatality rate in most neighboring countries and one of the lowest in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Results of COVID-19 tests carried out daily in Djibouti - by week



COVID-19
RESPONSE

- There have been two peaks shown in the epidemiological curve of COVID-19 in Djibouti. Each peak was within two different waves of cases. The first peak was around the end of April, while the second peak of the curve was at the end of May and beginning of June. The first wave of the epi curve was characterized by a very low number of symptomatic cases (98% asymptomatic or pauci-symptomatic) and a very low case fatality rate (CFR) between 0.2% and 0.4%. The second wave started in mid-May and had a different epidemiologic profile, with 3,303 cases reported between 17 May and 30 June and a peak on 27 May, with 229 cases confirmed.



During the last month, the positivity rate increased during the second wave (up to 22%), as well as, the proportions of severe and critical cases have increased (up to 10% severe cases), and the CFR is significantly higher (1.1%). While more retroactive studies need to be performed to fully understand the underlying reasons for this change in the epidemiologic profile. The increase in the symptomatic, severe and critical cases could also be explained by the less aggressive contact tracing, which led to a later cases notification, which in turn resulted in more time for affected people to develop symptoms and complications. There are currently no active COVID-19 cases among the refugee population, after the last active case was tested negative and released on the first week of June.

- The Republic of Djibouti will reopen its air traffic on 17 July. Civil, military and humanitarian cargo flights were already in service to and from Djibouti. According to the Government spokesperson measures to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 will be taken within the airport, including systematic testing of passengers on arrival. The government will also work with neighboring countries to reopen land borders to allow Djiboutians to travel in the region during the summer.
- The Ministry of the Economy and Finance, in charge of the industry, has created a new product within the Djibouti Partial Credit Guarantee Fund (*Fonds de Garantie Partielle des Crédits de Djibouti - FGPCD*) entitled "*Crédit de Trésorerie Amortissable Exceptionnel*" (Exceptional Amortizable Cash Credit), which is designed to provide exceptional bank financing for companies whose cash flow has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 health crisis.
- The Minister of Communication and the Minister of National Education and Vocational Training co-chaired on 1st July the virtual meeting of the partners of the Global Coalition for Education, organized by UNESCO's Regional Office for East Africa. Discussions at this virtual meeting focused on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the education sector to provide inclusive learning opportunities for children and youth during this period of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Following the call for solidarity launched by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) regarding the crews of ships stranded on the high seas due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Djibouti has carried out the first crew change of merchant sailors. This first operation took place on 27 June and involved 19 seafarers who had been at sea on a merchant ship for over a year. Organized by the Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority (DPFZA), these humanitarian operations are expected to enable some 400,000 sailors stranded in the seas to return to land.
- The 2020 UN Sustainable Development Goals Report finds COVID-19 is reversing decades of progress on poverty, healthcare and education. In only a short period of time, the COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented crisis, causing further disruption to SDG progress, with the world's poorest and most vulnerable affected the most, according to this new report released



on 7 July by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. “As Member States recognized at the SDG Summit held last September, global efforts to date have been insufficient to deliver the change we need, jeopardizing the Agenda’s promise to current and future generations,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. “Now, due to COVID-19, an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis is threatening lives and livelihoods, making the achievement of Goals even more challenging.” The Secretary-General stressed that COVID-19 was not affecting everyone the same. “Although the novel coronavirus affects every person and community, it does not do so equally. Instead, it has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities and injustices.” ([See the full report here](#))

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

HEALTH – UNICEF has ordered and delivered 4,000 COVID-19 test kits to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to strengthen COVID-19 testing in the country. A micro-planning of immunization activities has also been carried out by UNICEF and will allow to better target children in need of this service and also improve the results of the next immunization campaign in the context of COVID-19. UNICEF continues to work with the MoH to cover the gaps in the COVID response (PPE materials for health facilities, COVID test kits, laboratory equipment, IPC materials in health centers, capacity building of health providers).

IOM conducted an awareness-raising activity for 1,411 truck drivers at rest sites located in Ali Sabieh from 15 to 18 June. IOM installed handwashing sites in rest areas, conducted awareness-raising activities in Amharic, Oromo and Tigrigna languages on the risk and prevention of COVID-19, as well as spraying agents disinfecting places such as restaurants, hotels, shelters and trucks. In Ali Sabieh city, awareness raising activities were conducted for three days from 16 to 18 June reaching a total of 5,633 persons.



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From 15 to 25 June, IOM also conducted COVID-19 awareness raising for 9,686 migrants and travelers at six flow monitoring points (FMPs) in: PK51, Arta region; Holl-Holl and Guelileh, Ali Sabieh region; Yoboki, Dikhil region; and PK9, Tadjourah region and Obock region.

On 15 June, 61 migrants were tested in the government-led quarantine site in Ali Sabieh region. On 23 June, 126 migrants arrived to the site and IOM provided registration support and hygiene and non-food items (NFI) kits in coordination with ONARS. As of 29 June, IOM is supporting 127 migrants in the site in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP.



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An international expert was deployed by IOM to the Ministry of Health to support the Government's efforts in the fight against COVID-19 and to consolidate coordination between the various partners.

From June 25 to July 2 in Markazi, ONARS worked in collaboration with ICAN in the context of an awareness campaign against COVID-19 by posting a hundred posters on prevention, mitigation and response against COVID-19 in the places most frequented by the refugee population (community center, school, village health post, etc.).



On 5 July, UNHCR donated masks to persons of concern and to the host community as part of the application of barrier gestures against COVID-19. ONARS therefore received 10,300 masks for Ali-Addeh, 4,340 for Holl Holl and 2,000 masks for Markazi. Distribution of masks to refugees and host communities started the same day upon receipt. Furthermore, on 5 July, UNHCR and the MoH organized a second coordination meeting on the

1,000 COVID-19 tests planned for points of care and on other health activities in accordance with the partnership agreement between both entities.

During the last two weeks, to cope with the increase in consultations, especially of pregnant women, for prenatal care, UNDP, through global fund resources, supported the Mother and Child Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health in two health facilities in Balbala, mainly PK12 and Hayableh. To this end, female community workers promoted the respect of hygiene measures, mainly for hand washing, physical distancing and correct use of masks. At the same time, they used this opportunity to create awareness on HIV during pregnancy and referral for HIV testing.

In addition, UNDP, through UBRAF funds, supported the National TB and HIV programs, the Network of People Living with HIV and *the Union des femmes Djiboutiennes* (UNFD), to conduct a training on HIV, TB and COVID19. During this three-day training, Female community workers were equipped with prevention messages on HIV, TB and COVID19. The training was preparatory for the education campaigns that we will be conducted during next weeks in the neighborhoods and at the health facility level.

HCR, WFP and the Ministry of Health organized three coordination meetings regarding the prevention of malnutrition of elderly, pregnant and lactating women, children between 6 months and 5 years old and 6-14 years old and for the management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases.

IOM organized a training workshop on Humanitarian Border Management and COVID-19 which took place at the Palais du Peuple in Djibouti from 1 to 2 July with 18 participants from border agencies (Immigration, Customs and the National Army). The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of front-line officers on border crisis preparedness and response (including COVID-19) and to improve inter-agency operational coordination.



WASH – The partnership between UNICEF and national NGOs (CRD, WID, ADIM, ADSEG) continues in the field for the promotion of hygiene and good practices of barrier measures. Thanks to the partnership with the city hall of Djibouti and the Red-Crescent Djibouti (CRD) 237 hand washing stations with soap were installed in public places throughout Djibouti City.

Water, hygiene and sanitation services were set up in partnership by UNICEF, IOM and WFP in the temporary migrant camp of Aouarssa in the region of Ali Sabieh. Activities include rehabilitation of the water point with a main and intermediate tank, construction of 60 permanent latrines and promotion of hygiene and barrier measures in the camp. So far, a total of 760 migrants have benefited from these services, including the surrounding population.

FOOD / FOOD SECURITY – In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP finalized the assessment of small farms and gardens affected by the COVID-19 and the locust. Following the assessment, WFP started a two-month food distribution. The double distribution of July/August will cover a total of 1,400 households approximately in addition to the regular ‘Food For Assets’ interventions which already covers approximately 1,200 households.

WFP started the second dispatch of food to the five regions: Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah. In total, two months of food assistance will be provided to 12,500 households coupled with nutrition commodities targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under five as a mean of preventing malnutrition. In addition and for the first time, WFP, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNDP and the Ministry of Health, provides food voucher to 264 households with one family member is affected by the HIV/AIDS.

Concerning the school feeding programme, all food dispatches in the schools have been finalized. In addition to meals provided at school, school directors are now distributing take-home rations to the schoolchildren as well.

UNICEF has mobilized resources to cover a total of 1,290 households through the cash transfer system to vulnerable households over a period of 3 months.

LOGISTICS – Supply Chain Service requests continue to be received from local and regional partners despite the impact of COVID-19 on logistics systems and partner agencies.

Bilateral services for the customs clearance, transport and storage of non-COVID related medical and other Non-Food Items (NFI) were received and are ongoing for FAO Yemen (storage of NFI), PUAMI Yemen (storage of Nutrition items), WHO Yemen (Disposal of medicines and shipment of NFI), UNDP Yemen (Goods processing & shipment), WHO Djibouti (storage) and UNFPA Yemen (storage of cold chain items).

PROTECTION – IOM organized a training workshop on Humanitarian Border Management and COVID-19 which took place at the Palais du Peuple in Djibouti from 1 to 2 July with 18 participants from border agencies (Immigration, Customs and the National Army). The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of front-line officers on border crisis preparedness and response (including COVID-19) and to improve inter-agency operational coordination.

On 17 June, 114 migrants in Khor Angar benefitted from food and water, NFI and hygiene kits. On 23 June, 127 migrants benefitted from food and water. On 25 June, 19 migrants arrived from Yemen received NFI and hygiene kits, medical assistance and awareness sessions on mental health and COVID-19 in Khor Angar. On 17 June, 114 migrants in Khor Angar benefitted from food and water, NFI and hygiene kits. On 23 June, 127 migrants benefitted from food and water. On 25 June, 19 migrants arrived from Yemen received NFI and hygiene kits, medical assistance and awareness sessions on mental health and COVID-19 in Khor Angar.

UNICEF continues its partnership with Caritas to reach 200 street children, unaccompanied and/or separated, with a package of basic social services, including: food distribution, hygiene kits/services, family reunification, health care and para-counselling services.

The past two weeks were particularly marked by the resumption of the sessions of the National Eligibility Commission (NEC). It should be recalled that the sessions had been interrupted due to the containment measures due to COVID-19. A total of 20 asylum seekers' files were examined on 29 June and 2 July by the NEC. At the end of these 2 sessions, 16 asylum seekers were recognized as refugees, three were referred for further interviews and one was rejected.

The Ministry of the Environment distributed solar lamps to 500 families in the village of Ali-Addeh on June 29 before starting to distribute firewood in July 5 in this village, serving 252 families. NRC also distributed solar lights to 200 families from Ali-Addeh and 100 families from Holl Holl.



EDUCATION – UNICEF has supported the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) to reach about 10,000 children through online education. This support also concerns the development of a national plan for the return to school and the opening of early childhood centers and has enabled the country to mobilize additional resources from the Group of Partners for Education (GPE) and the World Bank to support the interventions.

COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY– Communication efforts of all UN agencies through social media have been intensified to encourage people to maintain the practice of barrier measures. Several multisectoral meetings were organized between the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF to review the risk communication strategy and validate the communication messages and models of communication media to be designed for visibility in health facilities and for the general public on COVID-19.

A survey for the COVID-19 perception targeting the general public has been validated and discussions are underway with the National Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSD) for actual implementation.

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