

2020

# COVID-19 Situation Report #13

## 24 July – 6 August



UNITED NATIONS  
DJIBOUTI

Expected date next report: 20 August



**59,425**  
Tests carried out



**5,334**  
Cases confirmed



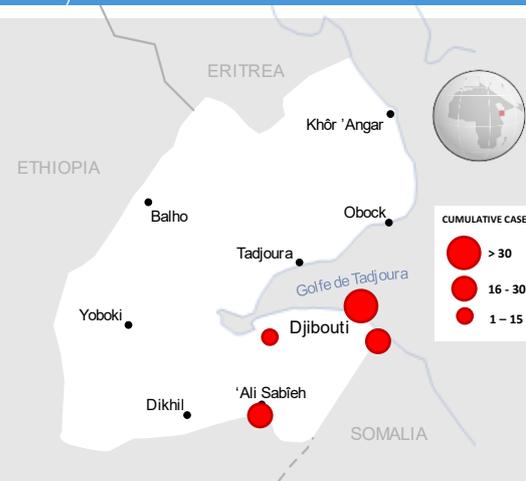
**59**  
Deaths



**5,066**  
Recovered

### HIGHLIGHTS

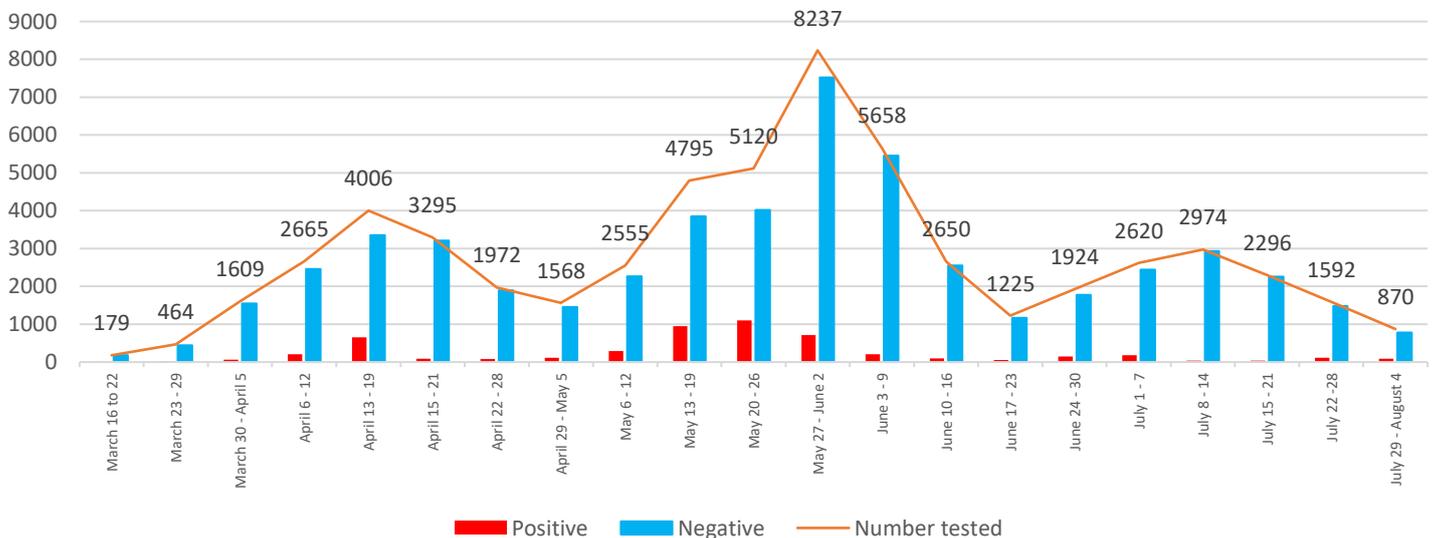
- Some 5,334 cases of COVID-19 and 59 fatalities have been confirmed by authorities in Djibouti to date. The positivity rate increased in the last days to over 10%. Case-fatality rate remains constant at 1.1%.
- The UNSG launched a policy brief on education and COVID-19, to look at solutions for over one billion children to safely go back to school.
- AfDB approved a 41.16 million USD budget support grant to Djibouti to fight the pandemic.
- The number of returning migrants from Yemen is substantially increasing, with over 700 new arrivals recorded in July.



### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As of 6 August 2020, the Ministry of Health confirmed 5,334 cases of COVID-19 in Djibouti, with 59 fatalities reported since the beginning of the pandemic. A slight epidemiological change occurred since the official opening of airports on 18 July. All arriving passengers at the entry gates for international travel were tested. Out of 1,367 tests carried out among arriving passengers, 91 were positive (positivity rate of 6.7%). All positive cases are being cared for by the health authorities and those who were in contact with positive cases are being quarantined. Engagement is ongoing to

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



COVID-19  
RESPONSE

advocate for question the application and standardization of public health measures applied to international travel in all countries airports on departure and arrival, in accordance with the 2005 International Health Regulations.

- The trend of number of tests performed is gradually decreasing (279 daily). This may be explained by the recent celebration of the religious holiday of aid el Adha. On the other hand, the positivity rate increased from 1% in the second week of July to 2%, 7%, and 10% in the last three weeks, respectively. The selective nature of the tests carried out on people presenting at least one symptomatology related to the case definition may be a reason for this increase, but also to a relaxation of mitigation and prevention measures among the population. Despite three recorded deaths in the last two weeks; the overall case-fatality rate remained constant (1.1%).
- Describing education as “the key to personal development and the future of societies”, the UN Secretary-General issued recommendations to get children back in the classroom in a policy brief launched on 4 August, alongside a new global campaign called *Save our Future*. Antonio Guterres said that the pandemic has led to the largest disruption of education in history, with schools closed in more than 160 countries in mid-July, affecting over 1 billion students. the UN chief said at least 40 million children worldwide have missed out on education in their critical preschool year. As a result, Mr Guterres warned that the world faces "a generational catastrophe that could waste untold human potential, undermine decades of progress, and exacerbate entrenched inequalities." The brief calls for action in four areas: reopening schools, protecting education financing, strengthening the resilience of education systems and using this opportunity to accelerate change in teaching and learning. “The decisions that governments and partners take now will have lasting impact on hundreds of millions of young people, and on the development prospects of countries for decades to come.” ([Click here to read policy brief](#))
- WHO has extended its emergency of international concern over the coronavirus pandemic for another three months, the WHO Emergency Committee said Saturday, following its meeting on 31 July that took place in Geneva. WHO says coronavirus pandemic is likely to be “lengthy” and warns of risk of “response fatigue”. ([Read official statement here](#))

## PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

**HEALTH** – WHO donated to the Ministry of Health (MOH) three ambulances that will strengthen the Ministry's capacity and preparedness to respond to COVID-19. These 3 fully equipped and more adapted ambulances will help manage severe cases that require additional medical care.

On 3-4 August, IOM and MOH organized a training for 17 male participants, including point-of-entry Officers, on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures and compliance with the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR) in Dikhil region. This training allowed front-line workers to become aware of the importance of hygiene and to adapt their working conditions at points of entry and to understand the integration of the principles of IHR in disease surveillance at epidemic potential at the border.

Following the online hackathon organized on 16 July with the aim of mobilizing Djiboutian talents capable of proposing innovative solutions in support of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, winners of this initiative were welcomed at MoH. Being a direct recipient of the innovative projects, the MoH is also an enabler for growth and finalization of the projects.



**FOOD / FOOD SECURITY** – In Djibouti city, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MASS), is continuing to provide food vouchers to 6,000 households affected by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19, in addition to its 'regular' 4,000 beneficiaries. Furthermore, the distribution of food vouchers to 448 households with one family member affected by the HIV/AIDS is ongoing. In rural areas, WFP finalized the second two-month dispatch of food and nutrition commodities for pregnant and lactating women and children under five within the malnutrition prevention program linked to the COVID pandemic. A two-month food distribution to small farmers affected by the COVID-19 in order to recover their livelihoods is ongoing.

**PROTECTION** – As part of joint efforts to assist stranded migrants in the country, the Minister of Interior led a delegation composed by the IGAD Executive Secretary, the EU and France Ambassadors, the UN Resident Coordinator, the Ali Sabieh Prefect, and the WFP, UNICEF and IOM representatives as well as the ONARS Director to the government-run quarantine site in Ali Sabieh on 26 July.



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The number of migrants arriving from Yemen is substantially increasing, with over 700 new arrivals recorded in July. IOM is providing lifesaving assistance to these vulnerable migrants. On 24-27 July, a total of 278 migrants were assisted via IOM's mobile unit in Obock region. On 24 July, 47 migrants (44 male and 3 female) were assisted with food, water and medical assistance. On 26 July, 225 migrants (170 male and 55 female) and on 27 July, 6 male migrants received food, water and medical assistance. On 25 July, 48 of them (45 male and 3 female) located in the government-run Masagara site in Obock town received food, water and NFIs and on 27 July, 236 newly arrived migrants (178 male and 58 female) received food and hygiene and NFI kits. On 1 August, 78 migrants (60 male and 18 female) received food, hygiene and NFI kits in the Masagara site.

IOM collects data at migrant sites across the country on daily basis. As of 3 August, 996 stranded Ethiopian migrants have been identified across 19 sites. Immediate needs include water, food, hygiene kits and NFIs. Between 23 July to 3 August, IOM reached 8,573 persons including 2,396 migrants with COVID-19 awareness raising across flow monitoring points in PK51, Arta region; Holl-Holl and Guelileh, Ali Sabieh region; Yoboki, Dikhil region; PK9 and Tadjourah city, Tadjourah region and Obock city, Obock region.



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On 4 July, 30 refugee children of Holl Holl separated from their parents during the lockdown received food distribution from ICAN.

**SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT** – UNDP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSD) and MASS, is preparing a household level rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact (SEIA) of COVID-19 in Djibouti. This assessment will complement the missing data at the MASS Social Registry level and will help understanding the socio-economic conditions of targeted households to adjust the government response. UNDP provided technical support to the training of 10 enumerators of the call Center "Virtual Solution" (8 enumerators and 2 controller) with the active participation of INSD and MASS. The training mainly concerned understanding the questionnaire, filling in the data directly in the e-tool application and managing the survey.

On 28 July, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, with UNDP support, organized the workshop to bring forward COVID recovery planning and the "Djibouti ICI" National Development Plan. Relevant

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Ministries and partners participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed at ensuring a better understanding of priorities of these nationally led processes.

UNDP provided five tablets and technical support to the reform of the administration department around procurement, transport and communication; and funded three TOT initiatives on measures of protection and control of infections in the workplace in a pandemic context; telework; and use of e-meeting tools.

The African Development Bank approved a 41.16 million USD grant to Djibouti in the form of budget support to fight the pandemic. These funds will help reduce socio-economic and social impacts and further support the health system; safeguard livelihoods and provide social protection. This budget support will also help to reduce the risk of contamination of cross-

border populations. The latter will also benefit from regional and structural support for greater resilience to climate shocks.

The Ministry of Labor, the Japanese Embassy and UNDP signed an agreement on the Youth Resilience Building project, which aims at supporting youth and small and medium size enterprises affected by COVID-19. The project aims to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on local businesses through the provision of necessary healthcare items to the vulnerable and sensitization to leaders in public and private sectors and will last until March 2021.



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As part of the government's support to families heavily impacted by the socio-economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the Ministry of Women and the Family and the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD) jointly organized on 29 July a ceremony for the distribution of work kits. The event, which is part of the women economic empowerment and strengthening of vulnerable families programme, carried out by these two institutions for more than 4 years, enabled some 117 widows in charge of young children to benefit from materials needed to carry out income-generating activities.

**COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY**– Communication efforts of all UN agencies through social media have been intensified to encourage people to maintain the practice of barrier measures.

On 6 August, the Prefect, the President of the Council Regional of Ali Sabieh and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) organized the Grand Finale of the Ali Sabieh's Got Talent, 2020 show. Senior personalities from the government, UN, INGO and NGO partners took part at the Ali Sabieh Stadium. This year, the event aims to strengthen social cohesion, mental health and peaceful coexistence between the refugee population and the host community in the context of COVID-19.



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