HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 5,383 cases of COVID-19 and 60 fatalities have been confirmed by authorities in Djibouti to date. A remarkable decline in the number of positive cases reported in the country in the last three weeks.
- Since the reopening of the borders on 18 July, some 3.8% of arriving passengers tested positive to COVID-19. Ethiopia resumed air and land transportation services with Djibouti on 7 August.
- The UN and its partners published the COVID-19 Response Plan including humanitarian and immediate development support, on the basis of government priorities as indicated in the ‘National Solidarity pact’

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As of 27 August 2020, the Ministry of Health in Djibouti confirmed 5,383 cases of COVID-19, with 60 fatalities reported since the beginning of the pandemic. The epidemiological situation over the last 3 weeks is marked by a remarkable decline in the number of positive cases reported, with the average number of positive cases detected in the last two weeks amounting to 4 and 3 respectively. Zero reporting was announced twice during the last week for the first time since April.
2020. One death was recorded during the last two weeks, bringing the total to 60 fatalities since the beginning of the pandemic, and an overall case-fatality rate of 1.1%. While the situation is evolving positively, concerns still exist in the region and globally, hence the need to ensure continuous vigilance and emphasis on respecting the prevention and distanciation measures.

- Since the official reopening of the borders on 18 July, all arriving passengers to Djibouti undertook a saliva test (EASYCOV) at the point of entry, and all positive cases were retested by PCR for confirmation. Out of 4,083 tests carried out among arriving passengers, 155 were found positive (3.8%). Health authorities are following all required measures to isolate and treat the positive passengers according to existing protocols. On 7 August, Ethiopia has resumed air and land transportation services with Djibouti. Djibouti handles about 95 percent of the import-export trade of landlocked Ethiopia.

- In a message published on the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Violence Based on Religious Belief, which falls on 22 August, UN Secretary-General (UNSG) António Guterres warned of a rise in racism since the spread of COVID-19 across the world. Mr. Guterres noted that the pandemic has been accompanied by “a surge in stigma and racist discourse vilifying communities, spreading vile stereotypes and assigning blame.” The UN Chief listed some of the disturbing examples of discrimination against religious minorities, such as attacks on people and religious sites, and hate crimes and atrocity crimes targeting populations because of their religion or belief. (Click here to read the UNSG message)

- Devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global tourism sector has suffered losses up to 320 billion USD in export revenue during the first five months of 2020, the UNSG said on 26 August. Tourism is the third largest export sector in the global economy, after fuels and chemicals, and it accounted for seven percent of the global trade in 2019. (See the video here)

- WHO stressed that COVID-19 is an extraordinary global health challenge that can only be met with unprecedented cooperation between governments, researchers, manufacturers and multilateral partners. The organization launched the COVAX initiative, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a partnership with developed and developing country vaccine manufacturers, co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and WHO. This is the only global initiative that - working with governments and manufacturers – aims at ensuring that safe and effective vaccines COVID-19 vaccines are equitably available worldwide, once they are licensed and approved. To date, 172 countries are engaged in discussions to potentially participate in COVAX, which has, at present, nine candidate vaccines, with a further nine under evaluation.

- **UN & PARTNERS COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN**
  - The UN country team (UNCT) developed with its partners a COVID-19 Response Plan organized around three interlinked and complementary pillars of the response: Health; Emergency requirements; and a set of initial, immediate development measures to address the Socio-Economic Impact of the crisis, in line with the April 2020 UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, based on evidence available to date. Activities identified respond to immediate priorities expressed by the authorities across key sectors of the response, as per the recently published ‘National Solidarity pact’ and other government’s sectoral plans.
  - (see full document at https://reliefweb.int/node/3665957).
UN & Partners Response Plan at a Glance

**Strategic Objective 1**
Contain the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic and decrease morbidity and mortality.

**Strategic Objective 2**
Mitigate the secondary impact of COVID-19 on essential services.

**Strategic Objective 3**
Ensure any response to the COVID-19 crisis protects the fundamental rights of those at risk and those affected, particularly the most vulnerable persons and groups.

**Strategic Objective 4**
Promote resilience to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in the medium- to long-term, particularly the most vulnerable persons and groups.

### Requirements by Sector

**Health**
- Health: 0.7M USD
  - Immediate: 56%
  - Emergency: 44%
- Overall requirements: $49.3M

**Social Measures**
- Food Security: 2.3M USD
- WASH: 2.5M USD
- Protection: 1.0M USD
- Education: 1.0M USD
- Overall: 11.1M USD

**Economic response**
- Livelihood & employment promotion: 7.1M USD
- Logistics: 0.3M USD
- Cross-pillar: 2.6M USD

### People in Need and Targeted by Sector

**Health**
- Overall: 600k people
- Immediate: 38%
- Emergency: 62%

**Social Measures**
- Food Security: 435k people
- WASH: 400k people
- Protection: 225k people
- Education: 130k people

**Economic response**
- Livelihood & employment promotion: 435k people

### Funding Status

- Emergency: $30M
- Immediate: $19.3M
- Overall: $49.3M

* Including migrants and Refugees. Since the beginning of the crisis, the UN and partners mobilized approximately $20.9M, of which $7.9M have been implemented by the end of May 2020, before the period covered by the UN response plan.

**COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan**
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

HEALTH – In support of Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF took part in 3 pre-testing sessions among local communities to seek their feedback on illustrations on maternal health in the context of COVID-19. Once approved by communities, these illustrations will be broadcasted, and this milestone will help materialize a crucial step of the risk communications strategy of the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Additional 10,000 COVID test kits were procured by UNICEF to keep improving the COVID-19 testing capacities, countrywide. IPC training of health care providers was launched to keep creating and maintaining a safer environment in health facilities for delivering health and nutrition services. UNICEF support to keep the continuity of health and nutrition services within the on-going COVID-19 context includes the intensification of field monitoring and supervision of activities with full consideration of barriers measures.

On 25 August, IOM donated 154 tents and 1,000 NFI kits (800 male and 200 female) to the quarantine site in Ali Sabieh region under CERF project.

WASH – UNICEF reached 370 migrants with WASH services in the quarantine camp in Ali Sabieh. The agency set up 60 handwashing stations with soap in several public areas in Djibouti city and surroundings to keep up with the handwashing with soap practice and procured five water pumps to keep improving the access to water in rural areas.

FOOD / FOOD SECURITY – In rural areas, WFP will start its third two-month dispatch of food, to 2,500 households in the five regions, while coupled with nutrition commodities targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under five within the scope of the malnutrition prevention linked to the COVID pandemic. Moreover, WFP is also implementing a two-month food distribution to small farmers affected by the COVID-19 and the locust invasion in order to recover their livelihoods. In Djibouti city, while collaborating with the Ministry of Social Affairs, WFP is continuing to provide food vouchers to 6,000 households affected by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. Beyond that, the distribution of food vouchers to households with one family member affected by the HIV/AIDS is still ongoing and the number of households is still maintained at 448 members.

Some 3,917 vulnerable families were reached by UNICEF with the cash transfer system set up by the government to mitigate the consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF has also advocated to give the vouchers primarily to poor families with under 5 children, families with pregnant and lactating women, and women-headed households.

PROTECTION – IOM collects data at migrant sites across the country on daily basis (see here). As of 23 August, 958 stranded migrants have been identified across 16 sites. Immediate needs include water, food, hygiene kits and NFIs. Between 6 to 24 August, IOM reached 12,997 persons including 2,969 migrants with COVID-19 awareness raising across flow monitoring points in PK51, Arta region; Holl-Holl and Guellieh, Ali Sabieh region; Yoboki, Dikhil region; PK9 and Tadjourah city, Tadjourah region and Obock city, Obock region. In Obock region, IOM continues to provide water, food and medical assistance for migrants arriving from Yemen. On 15 August, 45 male migrants were assisted in Khor Angar and 50 migrants (45 male and 5 female) assisted in Gehere. On 17 August, 9 male migrants were assisted in Gehere. On 19 August, 42 migrants (39 male and 3 female) were assisted in Khor Angar. On 21 August, 60 migrants (59 male and 1 female) were assisted in Gehere and 36 migrants (27 male and 9 female) in Ras bir. On 24 August, IOM assisted 34 migrants (29 male and 5 female) in Khor Angar. As part of a non-food item distribution, hygiene and shelter project funded by CERF, IOM organized a training on vulnerabilities on 16 and 17 August. Some 12 agents designated by the prefecture of Arta, Obock, Tadjourah and Dikhil as well as four people from the vulnerable migrants unit of the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS) worked for two days on criteria for identifying vulnerable people in their communities. They were also made aware of the risks of COVID-19 by a health officer from the National Institute of Public Health (INSIDP). On 8 August, IOM provided hygiene and NFI kits, food and WASH items for 91 migrants (83 male and 8 female) in Masagara site, Obock city. IOM proceeded with the distribution of 300 NFI kits for vulnerable migrants and host population in Dikhil region on 25 August.
UNICEF’s on-going partnership with CARITAS keeps providing alternative care to vulnerable children (street children, children in the move, children unaccompanied and/or separated) in terms of food assistance, hygiene kits, health care and family reunification services. Some 11 migrant children benefited from family placement, 15 family were reunified, and 35 visits were conducted. UNICEF also partnered with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to ensure support to refugees’ children with psychosocial needs, as well as helping family placement for unaccompanied and/or separated children. Some 175 refugee children (94 boys and 81 girls) were reached with protection services; 57 children (38 boys and 19 girls) with specific needs benefited therapy sessions and; 13 women foster families supported on positive and responsive caregiving.

A delegation of the Ministry of Health and IGAD led by the UNHCR field office in Obock has visited Markazi settlement on 12 August and handed over to ONARS some IPC materials for refugees made of 250 hand sanitizer (500ml each) and 250 boxes of 50 masks as part of the ongoing protection campaign against COVID-19.

On 23 August, as part of the resumption of recreational activities at the Child Friendly Space, ICAN, the UNHCR’s partner in charge of Child Protection, organized a participatory demonstration on learning hygiene and prevention gestures against COVID-19 with 40 children from the village of Markazi.

UNDP provided protection kits against covid-19 consisting of 2,000 protective fabric masks and hydroalcoholic gels for people with specific needs through the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANPH). This donation was made by the Green Generation association which won the 3rd prize in the "covid-19 challenge" competition organized by the UNDP, UNICEF and CLE. Regarding the response to the special needs of persons with disabilities, UNDP is in discussion with TİKA and ANPH, and will have a meeting next week to define activities that protect persons with disabilities from the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact.

On 18th August 2020, ONARS and UNHCR welcomed a delegation composed of the Prefect of Ali-Sabieh, the UNICEF ‘Representative and the Manager of Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in the refugee village of Holl Holl. Their visit is part of the inauguration and delivery of the Child and Youth Friendly Space; this community center dedicated to children and young people is intended to serve as a setting for recreation and games that contribute to their development and socialization. It will also strengthen cohesion between the different communities of people of concern to UNHCR. The Child and Youth Friendly Space, which was funded by UNICEF, is part of the memorandum of understanding between the two agencies in Djibouti.

EDUCATION – National back-to-school safe plan developed with the Ministry of Education is under implementation with actions to be carried up with UNICEF prior to the re-opening of schools scheduled in September (health protocol to apply in all schools before and during the re-opening of school, handwashing with soap stations set up together with the provision of soap, alcoholic solutions in all schools, provision of masks to school children of college and secondary levels, etc).

As a prelude to the start of the 2021 school year, the administrative staff and teachers of primary and high school in Markazi refugee site agreed, during a meeting attended by UNHCR field office on 23 August, on protective measures against the spread of COVID-19. Respect and the application of barrier measures were at the heart of the discussions with UNHCR. Prevention devices such as buckets of water, liquid soaps, masks, hydroalcoholic gel will be installed at the main entrance of the primary and of the high school in Markazi.

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