

2020

COVID-19 Situation Report #9

17 May – 2 June



UNITED NATIONS
DJIBOUTI

Expected date next report: 18 June



30,394
Tests carried out



3,779
Cases confirmed



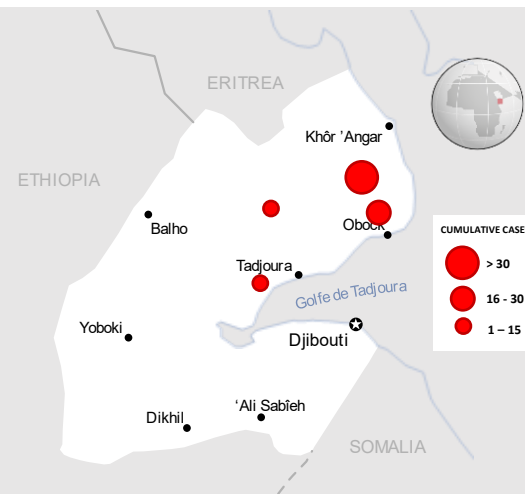
25
Deaths



1,607
Recovered

HIGHLIGHTS

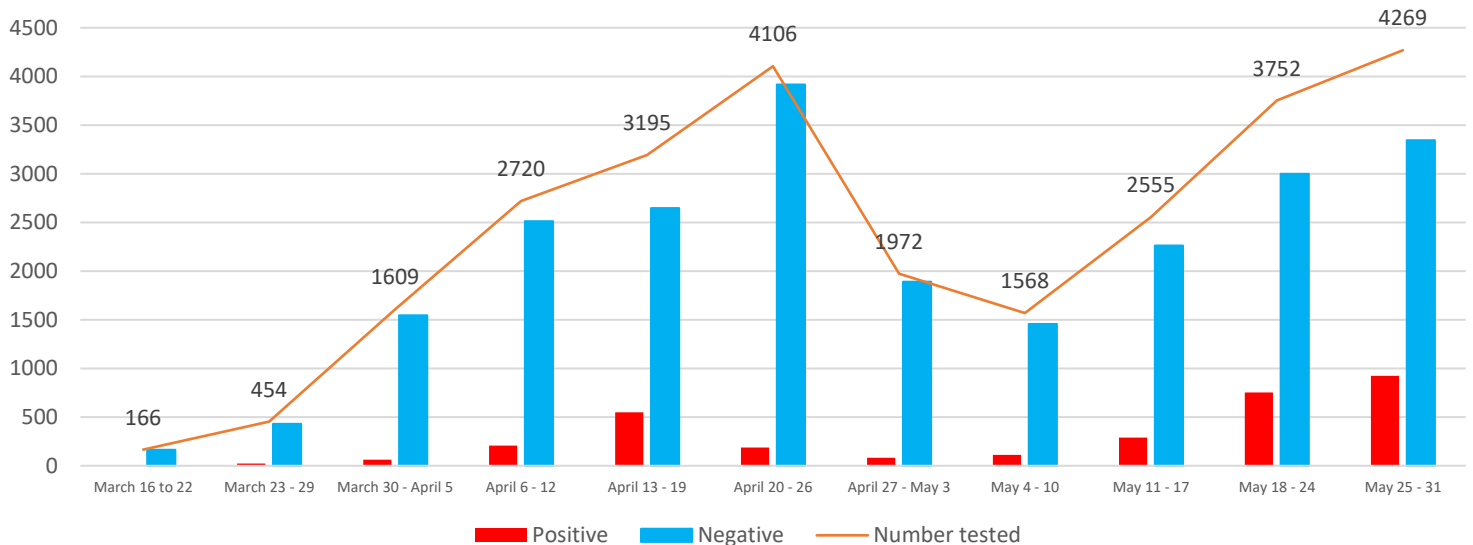
- Some 3,779 cases of COVID-19 and 25 fatalities have been confirmed by authorities in Djibouti to date. Continued and significant increase of reported cases in the last few weeks indicating an active circulation of the virus at the community level.
- Ease of the lockdown since 17 May.
- The Government launched a mass screening campaign aiming to test up to 50,000 additional people for COVID-19.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As of 2 June 2020, the Ministry of Health has confirmed 3,779 cases of COVID-19 in Djibouti (32% women). A total of 25 fatalities in Djibouti since the beginning of the crisis.

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



COVID-19
RESPONSE

- WHO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners, developed a preparedness and response plan for COVID19 back in February 2020, and opted to use the comparative advantages of Djibouti to respond to the pandemic. The strategic plan was based on a proactive testing modality, with isolation and treatment of positive cases and extensive contact tracing around every positive case. Since the reporting of the first case of COVID-19 in Djibouti on 17 March 2020, the Ministry of Health implemented the strategy as previously agreed and largely based on the WHO recommendations in a very systematic and strict way that lead to one of the most successful responses to COVID-19 in the Region and in Africa. The tremendous work done by the government of Djibouti and the Ministry of Health was highly appreciated on the global level and praised by the UN Secretary General and WHO Director General.
- In the last few weeks the curve of COVID-19 epidemic in the country started to remarkably change, with a significant upward increase suggesting that the epidemic entered a phase of extensive community transmission. The worsening epidemic curve comes at a time when the socio-economic situation forced the lifting of the lockdown put in place since the start of the pandemic. According to WHO, the pandemic has more chances to be controlled when the response strategy is adapted to the current epidemiological situation and refocused on the principles of testing, isolating, treating and contact tracing (especially the elderly and the vulnerable populations) supported by a strong risk communication campaign. As the number of reported cases continue to climb, it is highly recommended to come back to the pillars of the original strategy in order to contain the pandemic and limit the morbidity and mortality linked with the disease, and regain the success achieved by the country during the first two months. The whole United Nations system continues to stand ready to support the response to COVID19 in Djibouti both in the health sector and beyond.
- The Ministry of Health launched a mass screening campaign aiming to test up to 50,000 additional people for COVID19 in Djibouti.
- In the framework of the fight against Covid-19, the President of the Republic visited the University of Djibouti on 19 May to see the devices set up by the creative space, Fablab, financed by IOM and provisions made by young engineers to facilitate the resumption of courses. The FabLab presented prototypes of disinfection tunnels and 3D printed protective visors for nursing staff as well as a mechanical ventilator for patients with respiratory complications created using 3D modeling and the lab's CNC (computer numerical control) machines. The President appreciated the University of Djibouti 'valuable contribution to the national coronavirus control programme' and the engineers created items conducive to the protection and treatment of coronavirus through the new technology. Furthermore, he urged the academic community to respect barrier measures and called for individual responsibility and collective awareness to continue relentlessly in the fight against the current pandemic worldwide.
- On 27 May the Minister of Muslim Affairs, Culture and Waqf Assets, took part in the virtual forum of Ministers of Culture of the African Union, that allowed participants to share experiences for the sector to cope with the pandemic. A plan of action to support the arts, culture and heritage sector in Africa, to examine social security schemes to limit the impact of COVID-19 on cultural workers and to share good practices was adopted.
- On 28 May, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Jamaican Prime Minister and Canadian Prime Minister led a call for global cooperation to mitigate the devastating social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the UN, if countries don't band together to establish a recovery plan, the pandemic could cost the world USD 8.5 trillion and drive 34.3 million people



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into severe poverty this year alone. “We are in an unprecedented human crisis because of a microscopic virus,” and “we need to respond with unity and solidarity and key aspect of solidarity is financial support,” the UN Secretary General said.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

HEALTH –WHO supplied the crisis management cell with IT equipment to support the Information Management work, including the COVID19 Data analysis and reporting. WHO continues to work extensively with the Ministry of Health to further update and refine the list of requirements for the COVID-19 response plan in Djibouti. Based on information provided by health professionals working in isolation and case management sites, this updated list reflects more accurate needs of the medical teams working in the field. The new list has been shared with all stakeholders for assistance. WHO will continue to coordinate with UN stakeholders for provision of a comprehensive support to address the needs and priorities outlined by the Minister of Health. WHO also supported the national Laboratory with 4,000 sampling kits. UNICEF has delivered 10 oxygen concentrators to the MoH to reinforce case management.

In order to strengthen disease surveillance in refugee sites, a sample testing of 1,000 refugees will be carried out. So far only 80 tests were conducted and all were negative and there are no suspected cases among the refugees to date. As some refugees are reluctant to take the COVID19 test, UNHCR and MoH community health workers are stepping up sensitization on the testing as a prevention tool to avoid the spread of the infection, with 1,500 refugees reached out every week.

On 20 May, IOM started the rehabilitation of the polyclinic in Arhiba and a ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone was held in the presence of the Minister of Health and Minister of the Interior. The ongoing EU-funded project intends to support the Government of Djibouti to strengthen its health system and protect the population against different diseases, including COVID-19.

Public infrastructure disinfection operation in health post, public schools, large spaces, etc. was carried out by HCR in Obock last week to ensure the implementation of the gradual deconfinement in public and private sectors.

WHO and UNICEF continue to provide technical knowledge on risk communication plans and tools, target populations, key messaging and activities needed to engage communities in the fight against COVID-19 in a context of community transmission. A risk communication strategy is being finalized, with support of UN Djibouti communications group, to increase population awareness and health seeking behavior. In the field, the ongoing partnership between UNICEF with national NGOs (CRD, WID, ADIM, ADSEG) has just been renewed to extend the door-to-door sensitization activities to new areas of the country. Some 3,229 people were reached and 620 of them provided feedback.

WASH – The partnership between UNICEF and Djibouti municipality to extend the soap hand washing stations has been renewed for an additional three months. The partnership with the Ministry of Decentralization includes the coordination of awareness-raising activities for the population in the regions under the leadership of the prefects and regional councils.

UNICEF has set up provisional water, hygiene and sanitation services in the quarantine camp for migrants and road travelers in the Ali Sabieh region, which currently hosts a total of 511 migrants. Hygiene promotion activities are also underway in the camp to prevent any risk of epidemics.

FOOD / FOOD SECURITY – On 18 May the State Secretary for Decentralization went to Sankal, Dikhil Region to deliver food assistance as part of the government’s solidarity caravan to mitigate the socio-economic consequences and curb the spread of COVID-19.

Food distribution activities in refugee sites are carried out by ONARS staff with a limited staff from WFP and UNHCR. As the Government announced the gradual deconfinement in public and private sectors since the 17 May, implementing partners and government counterparts expressed the need of discussing the gradual access to sites during a virtual coordination meeting on 20 May. Particular attention was called to the access to PPE for the partner staff and refugee community workers.



Participants agreed to explore further the possibility of producing masks locally based on the prototype agreed by the Ministry of Health and implemented by UNFD.

WFP and UNHCR, in coordination with ONARS, finalized the in-kind and cash food distribution to 6,100 refugees at the Markazi' and Holl-Holl settlements on 23 May. A total of 5,400 individuals from the village of Holl-Holl benefited from the general distribution of food / cash and firewood which took place on 17-22 May. In Markazi, on 19-20 May, 339 families (1,035 individuals) benefited from a two-month (May and June) in-kind and cash support. During the distribution of food and firewood in Holl-Holl, 535 attestations were issued to refugees and asylum seekers. On 28 May, in Djibouti city, based on the MASS beneficiary list, WFP and MASS launched cash-based transfers distribution to 6,100 households affected by the COVID crisis and the April flash floods with a value of 10,000 FDJ per household. UNICEF has contributed to the social assistance system set up by the MASS through the transfer of cash to 590 vulnerable households affected by confinement. Each household receives a financial allowance over a period of three months. This effort will continue to reach a total of 5,000 vulnerable households.

PROTECTION – On 21 May, IOM registered and provided a non-food item to 126 migrants who have been admitted to the ONARS-managed quarantine site in Ali Sabieh. The visit was carried out in the presence of the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Health, the Prefect of Ali Sabieh, the UN Resident Coordinator and the IOM Head of Mission. IOM is currently supporting 406 migrants in the site and has provided registration support, NFI kits, mats and cooking utensils.



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IOM trained 18 migrants at the Obock Migration Response Centre (MRC) on psychological first aid adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic on 17-18 May. In Khor Angar, IOM provided basic needs such as food and NFIs to 97 Ethiopian migrants who arrived from Yemen on 19 May and who are now in the quarantine site at Ali Sabieh. From 13 to 18 May, IOM sensitized 3,887 migrants and travellers on COVID-19 at flow monitoring points in the regions of Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah.

ICAN targets 103 children from Holl-Holl and Ali-Addeh refugee sites whose parents / caregivers were unable to reach their places when the lockdown measures came into force. So far, 41 children separated from their parents / caregivers due to containment measures have benefited from a food distribution in the village of Ali-Addeh. UNHCR, ICAN and ONARS have undertaken parent searches to reunite these separated families.

On 19 May, UNHCR Regional Senior Child Protection Officer (also acting as SGBV focal point) and UNHCR Djibouti held a discussion on activities to combat SGBV conducted in the COVID-19 context and identify good practices. The latter include digitalization of the VBG service assessment form, development of a coaching program for UNFD case managers and UNHCR SGBV focal points with a view to improving the management of SGBV cases in general and specifically in this context of COVID-19.

On 21 May, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Family, UNFD and UNHCR discussed the ToRs of the SGBV individual case management committee in the refugee context, and the concept note drawn up as part of the SGBV needs assessment. Participants contributed to the development of a questionnaire for national and humanitarian actors in charge of GBV survivors' support, which was provided to national partners so their employees could familiarize with it. UNFD and members of the SGBV committee continue to carry out regular monitoring of cases of sexual and gender-based violence in refugee villages.

EDUCATION – UNICEF continues its support to MENFOP for the establishment of distance education programmes in order to maintain the continuity of education services for children. UNICEF has



supported MENFOP in planning the reopening of schools in coordination with the World Bank and education partners.

Respecting the preventive measures indicated by the Ministry of Health, MENFOP carried out a distribution of self-learning pamphlets to students in the villages of Ali-Addeh (from May 11 to 18) and Holl-Holl (20 May). This distribution aimed to enable them to continue the education programme in the context of COVID-19. In Ali-Addeh, all refugee students from 1st to 12th grade levels (2,650 pupils) and those from 1st to 9th grade levels in Holl-Holl (900 pupils) have received their pamphlets. In Markazi, the regional education bureau has undertaken awareness-raising activities on COVID-19. Prints translated into Arabic were posted in all the places frequented by the population (school, food distribution center, main entrance, etc.). In addition, the 5th edition of the school newspaper prepared by teachers and students of Markazi focused on raising awareness against COVID-19. MENFOP has extended the enrollment in kindergarten and 1st grade until 15 June in Markazi to allow parents to overcome fears related to COVID-19. Postponement to June of the 2019-2020 school year-end results, for grades 1 to 4 and 6 to 11 in Markazi. As part of the catching up of the Yemeni school program, the additional support courses offered to high school students at Markazi High School have ended. In this school, the garden project has started with the cultivation of melon and okra in its courtyard. The activity followed social distancing and other preventive measures.

LOGISTICS – The WFP Djibouti Humanitarian Logistics Base (HLB) remains operational all through the COVID19 crisis, delivering lifesaving assistance. The Djibouti gateway is a primary entry corridor for WFP projects in landlocked Ethiopia and South Sudan. The HLB provides vessels discharge, storage, transit and re-forwarding services.

COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY – A webinar series on the impact of COVID-19 on Djibouti’s ability to achieve the SDGs, with the participation of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Canadian Ambassador, and the European Union Ambassador to Djibouti. The speakers provided a perspective on the interlinked nature of the SDGs in the context of Djibouti’s fight against COVID-19, and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts and cooperation.

The image shows a promotional poster for a webinar on the left and a screenshot of the webinar grid on the right. The poster includes the title 'Webinar series 2: Covid19 and SDGs', the specific topic 'Covid19 impact on Djibouti ability to achieve SDGs', the date and time '27 May 2020 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (EAT)', and the platform 'Via zoom platform'. It lists four speakers with their photos and titles: Antoine Chevrier (Ambassador of Canada to Djibouti), Barbara Manzi (United Nations Resident Coordinator Djibouti), Aidan O'Hara (European Union Ambassador to Djibouti), and Fathi Bashe (SDGs Advocate). Logos for UNCT Djibouti, UN7, and UN Women are also present. The screenshot on the right shows a grid of 16 video feeds from participants, each with a name tag at the bottom.

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