The ongoing pandemic, COVID-19, requires a coordinated approach between government, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations Agencies. According to the WHO, over 290,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide, with a reported 12,784 deaths. Overall, Djibouti has been relatively unmarked by COVID-19 but given the voracity in which the virus spreads, the Government is currently taking unprecedented preparedness and response measures.

To date there has been only three confirmed cases of COVID-19; a member of a foreign contingent was diagnosed in Djibouti on 18 March 2020, and all soldiers and crew aboard the aircraft were immediately isolated, had no contact with the general population, and repatriated on 19 March. In addition, two other cases were confirmed on 23 March.

The Government of Djibouti closed the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport on 18 March as a preventative measure and health authorities are contacting passengers who arrived in country in the last 14 days to undergo testing. In addition, the Ministry of Health has activated a national coordination mechanism, in which IOM is an active member, and will be the channel for coordinating all COVID-19 preparedness and response activities, including disseminating results from the Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) to be conducted by IOM.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

On 15 March 2020, IOM Djibouti became part of the national COVID-19 preparedness mechanism in collaboration with the Government of Djibouti, including specialised doctors, the National Institute of Public Health, and the Ministry of Health (MoH), as well as WHO, WFP, UNHCR, and the UNRC. The Secretary General of the MoH chairs the national coordination platform which has several sub-groups working on capacity building, medical assistance, surveillance and communication. In addition, IOM will conduct a Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) exercise to support data-driven preparedness and response measures by the Government, IOM and other response actors.

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

The ongoing pandemic, COVDI-19, requires a coordinated approach between government, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations Agencies. According to the WHO, over 290,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide, with a reported 12,784 deaths. Overall, Djibouti has been relatively unmarked by COVID-19 but given the voracity in which the virus spreads, the Government is currently taking unprecedented preparedness and response measures.

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**MIGRANT RESPONSE**

IOM operates a Migrant Response Center (MRC) in Obock, Djibouti where migrants in need access food, water and other non-food items (NFIs). Currently the MRC is providing shelter for 43 vulnerable migrants (3 adults, 40 minors). Migrants access specialized services based on identified needs and referrals for services not provided by IOM. On 22 March, IOM distributed water and NFIs (sleeping mats and soap) to 527 individuals at the Masagara migrant site near Obock town.

Despite the current global pandemic, the Obock MRC continues to provide assistance and protection to vulnerable migrants. Additionally, IOM met with WFP, UNHCR and the national refugee agency, ONARS, to coordinate ways distributions will continue to support refugees and migrants, as well as efforts to maintain social distancing and other preventative measures.

**COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND COORDINATION**

IOM Djibouti, in coordination with the Government, will implement Population Mobility Mapping (PMM), which through analysis of the dynamics and characteristics of mobility aims to guide public health interventions focused on preventing, detecting and responding to the ongoing COVID-19 threats. The data collected will inform authorities and other response actors on current patterns of human mobility and support in the design of an action plan for public health emergency preparedness, prevention, detection and control.

In coordination with national authorities, the following locations have been identified for the PMM: Holl-Holl and Guelileh, Ali Sabieh region; Yoboki, Dikhil region; PK9, Tadjourah region; and Fantehero, Obock region.

The PMM exercise, starting 25 March, will target both regular and irregular movements utilizing teams from the relevant national entities and IOM. During this time, the need to strengthen surveillance at all border points, including unofficial points, is heightened. IOM will work with authorities on capacity building and training of officials, especially along the migration corridor. IOM may deploy its DTM teams to support with surveillance as early as the last week of March.

On 23 March, 60 IOM community mobilizers started sensitizing migrants, refugees and host community in Obock on the risks and dangers of COVID-19. IOM envisages reaching an estimated 3,000 migrants and 1,500 host community with COVID-19 awareness messaging.

**HEALTH**

On 18 March IOM donated 10 tents for screening and isolation points and 200 body bags to the Ministry of Health in support of preparedness efforts.

IOM Djibouti is actively involved in coordination efforts by participating in the national coordination platform chaired by the Ministry of Health, and IOM is evaluating its capacity to train Gendarmarie and Police on surveillance and detection.

A total of 60 IOM staff were reached with COVID-19 awareness messaging by IOM Senior Management and Health staff.