The humanitarian crisis in Somalia, characterized by both natural and man-made factors, is one of the most complex and longstanding emergencies in the world. Somalia is currently facing Locust crisis, whilst simultaneously preparing for the Gu raining season. With 2.6 million displaced persons, COVID-19 poses an additional challenge in already fragile context where it may further hinder access to basic services, leaving the population highly vulnerable. The durable solutions and resilience efforts invested over the last years could easily be reversed if the humanitarian and development actors do not act quickly towards preparedness and response of COVID-19.

As a key source, transit and, to some extent, destination country for migratory flows, Somalia continues to have an influx of migrants from neighboring countries through irregular migration routes, especially from Ethiopia and migrant returnees coming from Yemen. In 2019 alone (January-October), IOM observed over 260,000 migrants crossing the borders in seven points across the country. In addition, the Assisted Voluntary Returns from Yemen have been suspended with the closure of seaports along the Somali coastline, which may increase the number of spontaneous returns. As such, the dangers of being dropped at sea before reaching the shorelines by smugglers may increase for the migrants but also the potential of stigma by host communities should the COVID-19 outbreak happen in areas of return. Similarly, with the border closures, vulnerable Ethiopian migrants who may wish to return home are now stranded in Somalia. There is an urgent need for data collection of migrants that are stranded in Somalia in order to assess their number and vulnerability to COVID-19.

Majority of migrants are either unaware of COVID-19 or fail to see it as a serious health issue. Recognizing that mobility is a determinant of health and risk exposure, there is a need to urgently adopt innovative, systematic, multisectoral and inclusive response to mitigate, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 amongst the migrant population.
97 CASUAL WORKERS are conducting community awareness sessions

13 INFO CENTRES to inform people on COVID-19

12,102 INDIVIDUALS reached with hygiene promotion activities and COVID-19 guidance

24 ENUMERATORS at 8 BORDER POINTS collecting information

IOM SOMALIA COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATIONS

As of 27 of March 2020

IOM PRESENCE PER UNIT
- CCCM - Camp Coordination and Camp Management
- MHD - Migration Health Division
- SNFI - Shelter and Non-Food Items
- WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- DTM - Displacement Tracking Matrix
- IBM - Immigration and Border Management

PORTS OF ENTRY (PoEs) IOM SUPPORTS:
- Landpost
- Seaport
- Airport

- MPA - Migrant Protection and Assistance
- LHD - Labour Mobility and Human Development

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PROGRAMME UPDATES

In coordination and partnership with relevant actors at the national, regional and global levels, IOM will contribute to the overall objective of the National Response Plan for COVID-19, Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan, the COVID-19, as well as the IOM and WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plans to halt further transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the impact of the outbreak, including the social impact along the migratory route. IOM Somalia is currently mobilizing resources and preparing a country specific COVID 19 Preparedness and Response Plan, which will be shared shortly. To ensure continuation of critical operations, IOM Somalia has activated its Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to maintain priority operations. Humanitarian services are among the priority operations that will not be reduced or scaled back in the current context.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

CCCM teams are disseminating information to ensure IDPs receive clear information on COVID-19.

In coordination with:
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- HEALTH CLUSTER
- WHO
- IDP COMMISSION OFFICES
- IDP LEADERS
- IDP GROUPS & COMMITTEES
- IDP COMMISSION OFFICES
- IDP LEADERS
- IDP GROUPS & COMMITTEES
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- HEALTH CLUSTER
- WHO
- IDP COMMISSION OFFICES
- IDP LEADERS
- IDP GROUPS & COMMITTEES
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- HEALTH CLUSTER
- WHO
- IDP COMMISSION OFFICES
- IDP LEADERS
- IDP GROUPS & COMMITTEES

CCCM trained:
- FRONTLINE STAFF
- IDP COMMISSION
- LOCAL NGO STAFF
- SITE LEADERS

to raise awareness on practices for COVID-19 prevention

IDPs reached:
- 200 INDIVIDUALS reached in Doolow
- 11,502 INDIVIDUALS reached in Kismayo
- 400 INDIVIDUALS reached in Baidoa

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH teams are scaling community mobilization and sensitizations sessions on good community hygiene and sanitation practices to IDP community leaders in coordination with MHD and CCCM on COVID-19. Key issues include:

- OUTBREAK CAUSES & MYTHS
- PREVENTION MEASURES
- TRANSMISSION MODES
- HEALTH PRACTICES

3 AWARENESS SESSIONS for frontline teams in Mogadishu, REACHING 35 PARTICIPANTS

MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD)

MHD has implemented the following activities at IOM offices, in line with WHO’s guidance on getting the workplace ready for COVID-19:

- Procured HAND SANITIZER
- Procured personal protective equipment: GLOVES & MASKS
- SCREENINGS AT IOM OFFICES
- Developed a PROTOCOL FOR QUARANTINE
- Adapted IEC MATERIALS for IOM offices
- COVID-19 UPDATES to MHD staff and health workers
**SOMALIA**

**COVID-19 Preparedness and Response**

**MISSION UPDATE**

23 - 27 March 2020

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**MIDA HEALTH EXPERTS IN SOMALIA**

Through IOM’s MIDA programme, 27 diaspora health experts and 52 local health experts work across Somalia and stand ready to support the COVID-19 preparedness and response. See map.

**LABOUR MOBILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (LHD)**

Somalia continues to receive migrants from neighbouring countries, especially from Ethiopia. To prevent a possible outbreak, MPA teams are taking measures at the Migration Reception Centres (MRC) in Hargeisa and Bossaso, as well as Ethiopian Community Centres.

- **MEDICAL CHECKUP** for all returnees & migrants
- **SELF-ISOLATION SPACE** for 10-14 days
- **AWARENESS SESSIONS** on COVID-19
- **HAND SANITIZER** to returnees & migrants
  
  New measures to maintain **SOCIAL DISTANCE**

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**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)**

IBM has been coordinating with the Immigration and Naturalization Department (IND) to obtain their priorities list for Point of Entry (PoE) support, especially those on the land borders. IOM has also requested information on sanitation and areas suitable for screening and or quarantine at PoEs. Many PoEs have limited connection to Mogadishu, and there is an urgent need to support communications upgrade (VHFs).

**MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE (MPA)**

DTM sent field assistants to Dollow, Dhobley, Bossaso, Elayo, Cabudwaq, Harirad (next to Ethiopian border) and Lowyacado (next to Djibouti border) to sensitize enumerators who are helping in data collection on COVID-19 and informing migrants about the new disease.

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**DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)**

DTM field staff conduct an awareness session at Flow Monitoring Point in Harirad, to educate enumerators on COVID-19. © IOM Somalia 2020
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IOM GLOBAL INITIATIVES

The current outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global mobility in the form of various travel disruptions, restrictions and blockages. To better understand how COVID-19 affects global mobility, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been working to map the impacts on human mobility, at Global, Regional and Country level. Subsequently, the IOM globally have initiated the following activities:

- COVID 19 Travel Restriction Monitoring;
- COVID 19 Country Points of Entry (POE) Status Baseline Assessment.

The different products (Interactive Dashboards, Reports, Static Maps, Databases), along with the different methodologies can be found here.

MIDA DIASPORA EXPERT DR. ABDIAZIZ AT THE FRONTLINE OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SOMALIA

Through IOM’s MIDA programme, infectious disease Dr. Abdiaziz Mohamed Ali is playing a crucial role in the National Emergency task force set up by the Federal Government of Somalia to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Abdiaziz is working non-stop to train fellow health colleagues at De Martino Hospital in Mogadishu to be prepared for a possible outbreak. He is one of the two doctors with this expertise in Somalia.

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