

MONTHLY UPDATE #17



IOM launched its 2019-2021 country strategy in coordination with the Ministry of Planing, Investment and Economic Development. © IOM Somalia 2019

SITUATION OVERVIEW

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. Due to decades of poverty, marginalization, armed violence, insecurity, political instability, natural hazards and lack of development, the humanitarian situation remains critical in the country. Prolonged drought conditions have been devastating for Somali communities and continue to drive displacement, while ongoing conflict impacts protection and human rights, reduce resilience and hinder access to basic services.

To address overall migration challenges in Somalia, IOM works closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, regional

authorities, the UN, donor governments and civil society by implementing programmes through three pillars: (1) Preparedness and humanitarian response; (2) Long term recovery and durable solutions; and, (3) Migration governance and development. Since 2006, IOM has delivered frontline services to crisis-affected populations, while steadily developing models and partnerships for longer term recovery and migration governance. With over 350 staff, IOM Somalia operates from a newly constructed main office in Mogadishu and seven field offices, as well as the Nairobi Support Office in Kenya.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

A highly erratic and abnormally performing Gu' rainy season (April – June) has exacerbated the humanitarian situation. Currently 2.2 million people are facing acute food insecurity, with dire consequences especially for marginalized and displaced communities. Critical levels of acute malnutrition prevail mainly among vulnerable groups such as children and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Drought-induced population displacement is on the rise. In July, the number of people reporting drought as the driver for displacement doubled in July compared to June, adding to the 2.6 million already displaced persons, who continue to face risks of evictions, marginalization and exclusion. Over 100,000 of the 250,000 of IDPs displaced in 2019 have fled deteriorating drought conditions. A shortage of food caused 5,179 people to enter IDP sites in Baidoa in July only.

Additional resources received after the launch of the Drought Response Impact Plan in May enabled humanitarian partners to ramp up efforts reaching 1.8 million people with food assistance compared to 1.4 million in June. (Source: OCHA Humanitarian Dashboard: July 2019)

HIGHLIGHTS (JULY 2019)



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

- 546 individuals entered into IDP sites in Kismayo, 7 exited
- 129 individuals entered into IDP sites in Doolow, 5 exited
- 5.179 indivduals entered into IDP sites in Baidoa, 15 exited
- 1,000 households relocated to the new public site in Baidoa



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

22,228 movements were observed at flow monitoring points. A 13 per cent decrease in movements compared to June



MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION

- 38 health clinics (26 Primary Health Care Centres, 8 Mobile Medical Teams, 3 Transit Centres, 1 Migration Resource Centre) supported
- 37,522 clinical consultations conducted
- 214 children with severe acute malnutrition treated



SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

• 26,162 individuals (6,332 of HHs) received S-NFI assistance



RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 2 socio-economic infrastructures completed
- 10 ongoing socio-economic infrastructure projects
- 9,200 beneficiaries of completed socio-economic infrastructures



MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

• 17 returnees were assisted from Libya, 1 from Sudan



IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

- 10 airports, 5 sea ports and 5 land posts are supported bij IOM
- 102 immigration border officials trained

IOM SOMALIA COUNTRY STRATEGY 2019-2021

On 8 July IOM launched its 2019-2021 country strategy for Somalia in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, led by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED). The strategy is in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) and is based on three main pillars: Humanitarian Response; Recovery and Durable Solutions; and Migration Governance and Development. IOM will work closely with MoPIED in Somalia to implement the strategy and provide support to the government and the Somali people to advance peace, stability and development.

IOM Somalia Chief of Mission, Dyane Epstein, opened the launch stating, "IOM is committed to contribute to a stronger, more resilient Somalia, a country that represents hope and growth, with immense potential and I am honoured to be part of the process."





HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

SAVE LIVES AND ALLEVIATE SUFFERING IN CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATIONS



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM's CCCM teams improve the living conditions and protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in sites and settlements and ensure equitable access to services and assistance of all persons in need in the regions of Kismayo, Doolow and Baidoa.

Baidoa

A steep increase in arrivals to the Baidoa IDP sites was recorded in July (5,179 individuals), with only 15 departures. This marks a nearly 300 per cent increase in arrivals over June (1,735 individuals). The majority of those arriving to IDP sites said they came to Baidoa due to a shortage of food, poor performance of the Gu rain and insecurity.

Notably in July, the IOM team finalized the relocation of IDPs to the Baidoa public relocation site (Barwaqo 2 section). A total of 1,000 households (6,112 individuals) were relocated and provided with shelter reinforcement materials. An official visit to the new site was conducted by IOM officials together with Mr. Abdullahi Ali Wattin, the District Commissioner and Mayor of Baidoa. The team assessed the services available at the site and at the end had a meeting with the 'temporary' block leaders drawn from the newly relocated households. The IDP leaders thanked the government, IOM and our donors for giving them land and they raised concerns of the sustainability of the current water provision. The mission informed the IDP leaders that plans for drilling a borehole at the site are underway and IOM is working on a solution.

The CCCM team continues to focus on strengthening skills of community leaders, with a camp management training held for 150 community leaders (65 female, 85 male) from 12 different IDP sites in Baidoa. A meeting was also organized

for 54 community leaders (including females) as part of regular communication efforts. In July, 42 complaints were received through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism. Out of these cases, 29 were referred to camp management committees, 12 cases were referred to the IOM CCCM, while 38 cases were closed.

Additionally, IOM conducted an initial mapping exercise which will be updated and analyzed by camp management and humanitarian partners on a monthly basis. The mapping provides a comprehensive understanding of which actors are operating in different sections of the IDP sites so that any gaps can be identified and addressed.





IDP families in Baidoa preparing to move to their new homes at the public reloation site. © IOM Somalia 2019

Doolow

Individuals continue to arrive at IDP sites in Doolow, with 129 entries recorded in July and five exits. Just over half of all arriving individuals came to Doolow from Ethiopia and said they left due to insecurity. Currently, the total population of both IDP sites in Doolow is 50,724 individuals.

IOM and partners are currently conducting a Joint Multi Cluster Needs Assessment to find out the needs of IDPs and the host community in Doolow. Water is a known need, with a shortage of water in Kabases IDP site. The IOM team is finalizing the construction of shallow wells to reduce these shortages. In Qansaxley, the new health centre constructed and supported by IOM was officially opened and is already serving an average of more than 100 patients a day.

Meanwhile, IOM and partners started the registration process for 150 newly arrived individuals to provide them with shelter and non-food item support.

As part of community outreach, consultations meetings were held with IDPs in Qansaxley and Kabasa site in order to identify their main priorities. In addition, 50 community members were reached through a hygiene promotion campaign. A total of 69 complaints were received at the community feedback mechanism desk, with 14 cases still pending. The most pressing concern for IDPs is the lack of water in two sectors of Qansaxley and Kabasa IDP sites.

Kismayo

The number of individuals entering (546) and exiting (7) from Kismayo slightly decreased in July. Those entering said they left their homes because of food shortages and insecurity. As of July, there are a total of 49,754 IDPs in Kismayo.

Site-eviction continues to be a concern in Kismayo, as many IDPs are currently living on privately owned land. To address any concerns among the IDPs living in Kismayo, IOM held an outreach session. In July there were no reported cases of eviction; however, the IOM team is still following up with the

government to mitigate former reported cases of evictions.

To further support IDPs living in Kismayo, IOM conducted a sensitization campaign on the prevention of fraud in which 77 people participated (64 female). The training provided information about fraud and provided tips to detect corruption and how to report it. Another session was organized on hygiene promotion, educating people on the importance of good hygiene, washing hands and drinking of clean water. Related to this clean-up campaigns were organized in three IDP sites with the participation of 169 individuals.

The complaint and feedback mechanism desk in Kismayo reported a total of 44 open cases in July with 18 cases closed by the end of the month. Most IDPs reported concerns related to shelter and non-food items.





DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM Somalia's Displacement Tracking Matrix strives to provide localized, up-to-date information on the basic needs of the target population, cross border mobility, displacement figures and trends in drought-affected areas.

As part of continued efforts to accurately monitor the movement (entries/exits) of individuals at key border crossing points and IDP camps, the DTM team conducted several trainings in June. A training for 128 enumerators on mobility tracking was organized in Hargeisa, Dhobley, Kismayo, Galckayo, Bossaso and Doolow.

In July, mobility tracking was completed in Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, Lower Juba and Gedo region. The IOM team managed to conduct data collection in 37 districts across Somalia.

A total of 22,228 movements were observed in July at Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), a decrease of 13 per cent compared to June 2019. Three FMPs (Dhobley, Harirad, and Lowyacado) recorded an increase in movements while four FMPs (Bosasso, Buuhoodle, Cabudwaaq, and Doolow) saw a decrease in movements. The main decrease from June to July 2019 occurred at the Bosasso point and is attributed to bad weather limiting travel by boat from Northern Somalia to the Arabian Peninsula; a similar trend is expected for August 2019. Additionally, the majority of movements in July were incoming to Somalia (56 per cent).



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Adequate access to WASH is essential to prevent dehydration and reduce the risk of water-related diseases. Moreover, good hygiene practices reduce the risk of diarrhoea, cholera and other disease outbreaks. The provision of WASH interventions is usually one of the highest priorities following the onset of any crisis, whether sudden or protracted, following a natural disaster or complex situation. IOM Somalia's WASH emergency programmes are focused on the immediate provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene services to affected populations across Somalia.

A handover ceremony took place at the end of July, in which the IOM Chief of Mission handed over the newly constructed office building for the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources in Baidoa. The office buildings for the Ministry of Energy, Minerals and Water for Puntland State were handed over by the Head of Sub-Office in Garowe. The construction of these buildings was funded by the African Development Bank.

Additionally, the WASH team distributed 1,500 hygiene kits to communities in Belethawa town in Gedo.







Distribution of 1,500 hygiene kits in Belethawa town in Gedo region. © IOM Somalia 2019



MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD)

The Migration Health Division delivers and promotes comprehensive, preventive and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equitable for migrants and mobile populations. MHD, in close collaboration with partners, contributes towards the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants, enabling them and host communities to achieve social and economic development. IOM Somalia aims to deliver basic health care services for migrants and mobile populations who face many obstacles in accessing essential health care services due to a number of factors including the reoccurring drought and continuous conflict.

MHD continues to provide emergency primary healthcare services at 38 health clinics (26 primary healthcare centers, 8 mobile medical teams, 3 transit centers, 1 Migration Resource Center). A total of 37,522 clinical consultations were conducted in July. Nutrition programming also continued, with ten outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTPs) for the treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition integrated into static and mobile primary healthcare facilities. A total number of 214 children were treated during the reporting period.

(Continuing Medical Education, CME) and case management support were provided to the mobile teams.

Two mobile teams were recruited and are set to deploy in early August to hard-to-reach areas of Kismayo district with drought-induced displacement, including Dalsan and Yoontoy. Meanwhile in Lower Shabelle, IOM and the Southwest State Ministry of Health conducted a five-day capacity building workshop for the mobile medical teams reaching the recently

Health Centres

At the Gar-adag and Huluul health centres in Somaliland, the antenatal care departments were renovated, and a dedicated private area for examinations and a maternity ward were created. Renovation of the Allanley Health Centre is ongoing and will be completed in August. The centre will provide health care and maternity services to IDPs. OTPs were integrated into three health facilities in the remote Dhahar region in northern Puntland. At the Waberi health center, IOM conducted a training on Infection Prevention and Control for midwifes. This training is crucial to reduce maternal infection during labour and delivery.

Mobile Teams

In the remote region of Sool, IOM conducted supportive supervision to the mobile teams providing integrated primary health and nutrition services to hard-to-reach drought-affected communities in Hudun and Awrbogays. On-the-job training





LISAID/OFDA

liberated areas within Afgooye district. Nutrition services for severely malnourished children will be integrated into the Afgooye mobile medical teams starting in mid-August, providing access to therapy in these hard-to-reach newly liberated communities where malnutrition rates are high.

Assessments

IOM and the Somaliland Ministry of Health conducted a joint monitoring and supportive supervision visit to health facilities in Sool region to assess the medical service provision, identify challenges, and conduct on-job capacity building. The findings will be used to improve the health care service delivery in the coming months.

In Bardhere (Gedo region), IOM in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Jubaland Ministry of Health conducted a nutrition mass screening to determine the malnutrition rate in the town and surrounding areas. The drought has driven large influxes of IDPs into Bardhere, and malnutrition rates are expected to be high.

Medical Services to Migrants

Medical screening, care and support were provided to 17 Somali returnees from Libya in Mogadishu. All 17 returnees received a comprehensive medical assessment, and seven were provided with acute medical care. Four were referred to a hospital for higher level secondary care and followed up until successful discharge.

Also, a mission was organized to strengthen and support the medical service provision at the Migration Resource Centre (MRC) and at the Reception Centre (RC) for migrants arriving from Yemen. The team worked with the clinical and programmatic staff to improve implementation of the referral systems, registration and reporting, and quality of post-arrival and pre-departure medical screening, and management of medical supplies and drugs.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEM (S-NFI)

The Shelter team continues to consult with internally displaced people and local authorities on the provision of shelter and non-food items (NFI) to vulnerable populations. Depending on the affected community's vulnerabilities, assets, capacities, and preferences, identified populations are either provided with transitional shelters or more permanent structures where appropriate.

The IOM S-NFI team supported the relocation of households in Baidoa by providing 1,000 shelter upgrade kits through Cash Based Intervention (CBI) and provided construction supervisors to assist the most vulnerable. The team trained 100 beneficiaries in shelter construction.

Importantly, the stock of the S-NFI contingency stock was transferred from the containers to the new warehouse. In

Somalia, shelter and non-food item kits include: plastic sheeting, a blanket, sleeping mat, mosquito nets, collapsible jerry can, rope, NFI bag and kitchen set. The S-NFI pipeline supported a response to Baclad of 400 households (HH). The kits were transported by road and handed out to the affected community in Balcad.





STABILIZATION & TRANSITION

ESTABLISH FOUNDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS



DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)

The DDR Unit works with marginalized youth at risk in Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism (C/PVE) and social cohesion, and supports the Federal Government of Somalia's National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants.

The IOM DDR team continues to implement project activities in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. As of July, 150 beneficiaries are receiving community-based rehabilitation and reintegration services including case management, religious and psychosocial counselling, literacy and numeracy education, and access to livelihoods initiatives. More classes tailored to beneficiaries' individual needs will start in August, including classes on life skills, business development, and vocational trainings selected based on local market gaps. Partner social workers are helping

the beneficiaries to set personal goals based on what they expect to achieve at the end of the project.

On 14 July, the UN's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC), Ms. Pramila Patten, visited Baidoa, South West State of Somalia. Ms. Patten met with the local women organization implementing the Peacebuilding (PBF) project to discuss the needs of women formerly associated with armed groups. The Special Representative applauded local partners' hard work and encouraged them to continue mobilize men

and women in their communities to build resilience against armed conflicts. A Press Brief Note was released on the visit: https://www.iom.int/news/uns-special-representative-sexual-violence-conflict-visits-iom-project-somalia

The Government of Germany is funding the construction of a new rehabilitation centre. The construction of the Baidoa Male Rehabilitation Centre started last month and is progressing well. Once complete, the facility will house male disengaged combatants while undergoing the rehabilitation phase of their training. The centre will provide vocational training including electrical, masonry, tailoring and welding classes as well business development training, numeracy and literacy classes and religious and psychosocial support. The construction of the new centre is expected to be completed by November 2019.

Four IOM staff attended a one-week training of trainers on International Labour Organization's Start and Improve Your

Business Programme. The training taught participants how to teach emerging entrepreneurs to develop a concrete, feasible, and bankable business plan to start their own small business. The competency-based certification training was followed by a 3-day practical in which participants applied concepts learned during the training to teach a group of IDPs the curriculum. This curriculum will subsequently be adapted for illiterate populations and rolled out in both male rehabilitation centres and three centres serving females through implementing partners.

IOM provided trainings on case management for male rehabilitation centre staff and PBF partner social workers supporting women formerly associated with Al Shabaab. The training introduced the concept and principles of case management, participants jointly reviewed the forms to be used at the centre and by the social workers, including assessment forms and case plan forms.

IN MEMORIUM

IOM stands in solidarity with the people of Somalia. We are deeply saddened by the terrible loss of one of our colleagues Abdifatah Adow Mohamed who dedicated his work to Somalia. Our deepest condolences to families and loved ones of all those who lost their lives in Kismayo in July.





RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS (RDS)

The Recovery and Durable Solutions (RDS) Unit promotes durable solutions to displacement for IDPs and returnees, and works to prevent displacement in conflict prone areas through community stabilization and early recovery activities. RDS programmes are guided by the Midnimo methodology: a government-led, community-driven approach that aims to build capacity and accountability of governance structures to lead on solutions, and provide (re)integration support to Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) whilst supporting locally led, participatory processes that promote intra- and inter- community cohesion, peace, and ownership. IOM RDS programming is operational in Jubaland, South West State, and Hirshabelle

Several construction projects were started, ongoing or finalized by the IOM RDS team in July. The ground breaking ceremony of Balad hospital took place, attended by the Balad district commissioner, hospital committee, elders and other community members. The ground breaking ceremony and laying of foundations of the Galkayo peace house was organized and attended by the Prime-Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The construction of the Hudur butcher is ongoing, as well as the construction of the Adale primary school. The Dr. Ayub stadium in Baidoa was handed over and the Qansaxley mother and child health centre in Doolow was finalized, as well as the Hudur prison.

A handover ceremony was organized for the infrastructure projects completed in Gogal, including the mother and child



The Prime Minister of Somalia Hassan A Khaire laid the foundations of the Joint Gaalkayo Peacehouse. © IOM Somalia 2019

health centre, Gogol primary school and meat market.

In Mataban the installation of solar lights was finished, while the construction of the market and the Bayhaw gravel road is ongoing. While in Jubaland, the groundbreaking ceremony of administrative buildings in Qam Qam took place. Cash-for-Work activities, including sanitation and street cleaning, started in Benadir Regional Administration. IOM met with the Benadir Ministry of Interior to organize and coordinate these activities.





The rehabilitation of the Gogol primary school in Garbaharey in Gedo is finalized. The photos show the before (left) and after (right). © IOM Somalia 2019



MIGRATION GOVERNANCE & DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCE THE WELLBEING OF SOCIETY AND MIGRANTS THROUGH STRONGER MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

IOM's Immigration and Border Management programme supports the Government of Somalia in promoting safe and orderly migration, securing borders and building the capacity of immigration officials.



IOM organized a training of trainers in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The training focused on Humanitarian Border Management, bringing together 12 immigration and coast guard officers from Hargeisa and Berbera. The training was facilitated by IOM's Africa Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) with the aim of equipping participants with principles of adult learning, teaching techniques and advanced communication skills.

The IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa in coordination with ACBC conducted a pilot Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) training in Moshi Tanzania. The aim of the training was to equip managers and shift officers with the skills to facilitate MIDAS User Training. The training also included a one-day training focused on the use and production of

MIDAS data for enhanced border management.

The construction of the El-Barde land post was completed by IOM and officially opened by the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND). The land post signifies regularization of formal channels for border management along the Somalia-Ethiopia border and will enable the IND to better monitor movement along this border. IOM also equipped the new land post with a generator, a generator room with fuel storage, two gates, two booths and office furniture.

IOM organized an Intergovernmental Coordination Workshop in Hargeisa, Somaliland through the RMRP project. The meeting brought together representatives from ten government agencies working in border management with a purpose to; sustain cooperation between border agencies, to review the existing standard operational procedures, and to enhance the foundation of the interagency working group at national and regional levels.

A MIDAS Alert list training for immigration officers from eight ports of entry (POE) in Mogadishu was held at the request of the INDs Director General and was conducted by IOM's MIDAS IT officer. The purpose was to familiarize the participants with the MIDAS alert list feature that identifies wanted individuals or flagged travel documents. The training was attended by 11 immigration officers from Mogadishu Airport, Garowe Airport, Galckayo Airport, Bossaso Airport and Seaport, Baidoa Airport and Kismayo Seaport and Airport. These selected POEs for the training are among the few POEs with internet connectivity linked with the IND headquarters in Mogadishu, where they provide the Directorate with real-time data.



MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE (MPA)

IOM MPA division provides technical expertise in areas of migration policy, administrative and operational practices, procedures for countering human trafficking and smuggling, and direct assistance to migrants.

The IOM MPA organized a Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) and Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) rollout training on basic services for returnees and vulnerable migrants approaching the Migrant Response Centre (MRC) in Hargeisa. Relevant stakeholders, including the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA), Somaliland government, the Ethiopian consulate, Migrant Response Centre (MRC), and actors on the ground participated. This training was co-facilitated by key members from NDRA and IOM and also served to strengthen collaboration to fully support national efforts to produce standard operating procedures on return and reintegration. In addition, the same training was held in Bossaso in July. In this training, key partners, including Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA), MRCs and representatives from the Migration Management Task Force (MMTF), promised to provide more comprehensive support to vulnerable migrants in Puntland (Bossaso), improve collaboration and strengthen efforts aimed to provide temporary shelter to

Ethiopian migrants in remote areas. Also, participants suggested to involve police and other relevant authorities to limit smugglers' activities and protect migrants.

Also in Bosasso, IOM and MRC staff conducted the vulnerability screening and registration for 139 migrants (128 male, 11 female) as part of initial screening for AVR eligibility, while 58 migrants (36 male, 22 female) were registered in Hargeisa. A total number of 58 migrants were assisted back to Ethiopia.

In July, a total of 18 Somali returnees arrived in Somalia, 17 were assisted home from Libya, one from Sudan.

Finally, in Bosasso, the Generate Your Business Idea (GYBI) and Start your Business Idea (SIYB) training was held by IOM facilitators and previously trained government stakeholders. A total number of ten returnees were trained.



LABOUR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (LHD)

The Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD) programme focuses its interventions on promoting pathways of labour migration, enhancing coordination for diaspora engagement, strengthening institutional capacity and, mitigating the drivers of irregular migration.

In July, IOM Somalia signed an agreement with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, which will allow for the start of the MIDA Somalia II project.



HUMAN INTEREST STORY

A CLASH OF CULTURES

Meet Ms Yusuf, a Somali migrant assisted to return home safely by IOM in June 2019, as part of the IOM Somalia Migrant Protection and Assistance Programme - with funding from King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.

Yusuf is a 19 year old Somali women, who left Somaliland in late 2017 following the death of her father.

She travelled on her own to Yemen and experienced a very new culture from the time of her arrival. "The culture was different from the Somaliland culture I was used to, someone had to accompany me when I wanted to go to the market."



"After my father died I could not find anyone that could provide the same support to me so I decided to leave the area."

After a difficult year in Yemen, Ms Yusuf decided to return to Somaliland in November 2018. "It is very difficult to start a small business in Yemen as the nationals will tell you that they are unemployed, hence how can a foreigner make a business in their country. The security also got worse and resulted in explosions in Sana, Yemen. You live in fear."

"IOM provided me with health support and transportation from Yemen and to our final destination in Somaliland." In the future Ms Yusuf hopes to specialize in health and technical skills.

She wants other Somalis especially women to know that:

"life in Yemen is very difficult and only housemaid work is available. For women it's very difficult to get out as you risk your life. It's also difficult to use public taxis without anyone accompanying you as they could take you."

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

MOTHERS BENEFIT FROM HEALTH SERVICES IN DHOBLEY TOWN, SOMALIA

Every mother wants their children to be healthy and happy, and to have a safe pregnancy and delivery. Unfortunately, many Somali women living in remote areas of the country are forced to make choices no mother should have to, either use their limited funds for transportation to a regional hospital or forego treatment. To close this gap IOM, funded by the German government, is now providing emergency primary health care services in Afmadhow district, Dhobley town and its surrounding area. In addition to static facilities in the main settlements, IOM also runs mobile and outreach clinics twice a week in internally displaced person (IDP) settlements and the outskirts villages.



"This has really changed my perception of seeking health services and until today I haven't miss my antenatal visits up to delivery."

Fatuma Mohamed is a mother of six children, she lives in Bula Bigeys IDP settlement in the outskirts of Dhobley town. She was among the first individuals to receive treatment at the IOM mobile clinic. Instead of having to travel 2-3 KM to the nearest hospital, Fatuma was easily able to access health services at the IOM clinic. She also expressed the importance of the outreach clinic, for example with health services so near the whole family can be treated the same day without incurring any expenses unlike going to the hospital where only the very sick are taken due to the distance and transport cost.

Fatuma says that having these free health services available close to her village has allowed her to avoid incurring expensive transportation costs and she requests IOM to increase the frequency of outreach clinic visits in her village.

"We are requesting IOM to increase outreach visits or put up a health centre for us, and now that this service was brought near to us, I am saving the transport cost to buy milk for my children. As per my request if the outreach frequency is increased or we get health centre in our village I could save more money that would uplift my living condition."

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