Since 2017, the joint UNHCR-OIM-Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme helps Somali refugees who wish to return home from Yemen with documentation, transportation and financial support in Yemen to facilitate the journey, as well as return and reintegration assistance in Somalia. So far, since the beginning of the programme, in 2017, 5,087 Somalis have returned home with the help of UNHCR and IOM.

**Highlights (5 - 9 Jan 2020)**

- During the reporting period **38** refugees who approached the Return Help Desks (RHD) in Basateen, Kharaz and Mukalla received counselling on voluntary return information and the assisted spontaneous return programme led by UNHCR and IOM.
- A total of **15** Cases of **32** individuals signed Voluntary Repatriation Form - VRF (confirmation of intention to return) in Basateen, Mukalla and Kharaz.
- The next departure of refugees from Somalia through the assisted spontaneous return programme is tentatively scheduled for the end of January 2020. This will be the **40th** departure organised since 2017.

**Key indicators (24 April 2017 to 9 January 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counselling</th>
<th>Confirmed ASR intention</th>
<th>VRF signed</th>
<th>Departures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,131</td>
<td>7,049</td>
<td>5,931</td>
<td>5,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3,717 cases)</td>
<td>(3,391 cases)</td>
<td>(2,745 cases)</td>
<td>(2,419 cases)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Pending protection solutions: **22** individuals / **3** cases
- No show for VRF signature: **1,096** individuals / **643** cases

**Reasons for returning**

- Lack of income earning opportunities: **30.8%**
- Reunite with family: **11.5%**
- Seeking Medical treatment: **0.3%**
- Better education in CoO: **0.2%**
- Improved security in CoO: **0.1%**
- No other durable solutions: **0.1%**
- Social tensions: **0.0%**
- Lack of shelter: **0.0%**
- Health hazards in camps: **0.8%**
- Living costs outside camp: **0.0%**
- Access to education: **0.2%**
- Travel to third country in Africa: **0.0%**
- Other: **0.4%**

**Challenges**

- Boat rotation to Somalia has been temporarily suspended since mid-December 2019 and will resume after the maintenance of the vessel.

Source: UNHCR proGres database

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations