As of 19 March 2020

Yemen | Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR)

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, 5,221 Somalis have returned home with the help of UNHCR and IOM.

**Highlights (15-19 March 2020)**

- On 16 March, UNHCR and IOM helped 80 Somali refugees return to Somalia from Yemen. Since the beginning of the programme over 5,400 Somali refugees have returned home.
- During the reporting period, 43 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 14 cases of 17 individuals signed Voluntary Repatriation Form - VRF (confirmation of intention to return) in Basateen, Mukalla and Kharaz.
- Movement from Yemen to Somalia have been temporarily suspended as of 18 March.

**Statistics (24 April 2017 to 19th March 2020)**

- **Counseled**: 8,372 (3,863 cases)
- **Confirmed ASR intention**: 7,290 (3,537 cases)
- **VRF signed**: 6,140 (2,891 cases)
- **Departures**: 5,416 (2,569 cases)

Pending protection solutions: 18 individuals / 4 cases
No show for VRF signature: 1,132 individuals / 642 cases

**Reasons for returning**

- Lack of income earning opportunities: 64.6%
- Return with family: 11.5%
- Seeking Medical treatment: 3.18%
- Better education in CoO: 1.5%
- Improved security in CoO: 1.2%
- No other durable solutions: 0.8%
- Lack of shelter: 0.0%
- Social tensions: 0.0%
- Health hazards in camps: 0.0%
- Living costs outside camp: 0.0%
- Access to education: 0.2%
- Travel to third country in Africa: 0.0%
- Other: 0.4%

**Monthly trend of individuals approaching ASR-RHD for counseling**

Source: UNHCR proGres database  Creation date: 20 September 2018  Contact: durranij@unhcr.org, arreneke@unhcr.org  Partnership: INTERSOS, IOM, IPNA, NCRI, SHS, General Consulate of Somalia

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