As of 23 February 2020

Yemen | Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR)

Since 2017, the joint UNHCR-IOM-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 (12-23 February 2020)

- On 23 February, UNHCR and IOM organised the 40th departures from Yemen to Somalia with 134 Somali refugees onboard. Since the beginning of the programme 5,221 Somali refugees have returned home.
- During the reporting period, 39 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 seven cases of seven 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 early March 2020.

Statistics (24 April 2017 to 20 Feb 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counselling</th>
<th>Confirmed ASR intention</th>
<th>VRF signed</th>
<th>Departures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,298 (3,818 cases)</td>
<td>7,216 (3,492 cases)</td>
<td>6,049 (2,839 cases)</td>
<td>5,221 (2,419 cases)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pending protection solutions: 14 individuals / 3 cases

No show for VRF signature: 1153 individuals / 650 cases

Reasons for returning

- Lack of income earning opportunities: 65.1%
- Reunite with family: 31.4%
- Seeking Medical treatment: 1.5%
- Better education in CoO: 0.3%
- Improved security in CoO: 0.2%
- No other durable solutions: 0.1%
- Lack of shelter: 0.0%
- Social tensions: 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%

Monthly trend of individuals approaching ASR-RHD for counseling

Challenges

- Delays in the boat rotations impacts on refugees engagement with the programme. UNHCR and IOM are actively working to ensure a smooth running of the operation and reassure volunteers.

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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