



IOM Somalia KSA Response Coordinator interacting with the KSA returnees.
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HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ IOM strengthens its partnerships with all stakeholders to maximize service delivery.
- ◆ 29,729 returnees have arrived from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since December 2013.
- ◆ A standby ambulance staffed with nurse/driver (made available by Muslim Hands) as well as referral agreement with Benadir Hospital is now in place.
- ◆ In total, IOM has provided direct assistance to a total of 3,340 Somali nationals from KSA.

OVERVIEW

In total, approximately 3,106 Somalis have been returned to Somalia from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in March, and another 627 as of 13 April, bringing the total number of returnees since December 2013 to 29,729. While the number of returnees to Mogadishu in the month of March has declined considerably, this may not indicate the reduction or winding up of the emergency. Reports from the team on the ground indicate that KSA plans to continue the removal of foreign nationals for the foreseeable future.

The response has continued to receive support from humanitarian partners. On 23 March, UNFPA made a contribution of 1,000 dignity kits and UNICEF donated 180 cartons of soap. On 23 March, the administration of Benadir Hospital met with

IOM operations and medical staff to initiate discussions on the use of the hospital for referral cases as well as IOM's proposed donation of medical supplies to the Benadir hospital.

Further, the IOM KSA Returns Emergency Response now has the services of two counsellors from Somali Women's Development Center as well as an ambulance, an auxiliary nurse and a driver on stand-by, charitably made available by Muslim Hands, an international NGO. Moreover, IOM has taken measures to ensure that reported cases of third-country nationals are adequately attended to. For example, four migrants were received on 5

April and stated that they were of Ethiopian nationality. IOM coordinated with the Ethiopian Consulate in Mogadishu and the Somali government as well as other agencies such as UNHCR to ensure timely and adequate assistance—including food, accommodation, status verification and onward travel—was provided.

Rapid Needs Assessment: Initial Findings

To better understand the overall picture of KSA Returns (trends, numbers and potential profiles of future returnees) as well as to improve IOM's response, IOM is currently administering a profiling assessment for vulnerable migrants. Preliminary findings indicate that the large majority of the Somali migrants in KSA migrate for economic reasons. Many young men see migration to work in KSA as an escape from difficult socio-economic conditions and as an opportunity to earn and remit money.

IOM's data reveals that most Somali migrants have no travel documents, suggesting that the majority of Somalis migrate irregularly to KSA. 75% of the surveyed sample were male while 12.5% were female and the remainder was non-responsive on gender. Of the same sample, all respondents stated that (higher) incomes was the pull/push factor for migration. Based on age, education and gender, the profile of Somali migrants is reflective of the demographic group (young, male and low-skilled) that typically engages in economic/labour migration to Saudi Arabia. A high number of Somali nationals find their way to KSA using irregular migration routes or remain in the country after traveling to KSA for Hajj and Umrah.

IOM RESPONSE

With the generous support of its donors, IOM has continued to provide health, transport and food assistance to Somali returnees from KSA. Some highlights include:

General

- ♦ A total of 3,340 individuals have been assisted since December 2013: 1,837 men and 1,068 women have been received at the reception centres while 219 boys and 216 girls under 18 have been assisted.
- ♦ 8 pregnant women/girls have been received and assisted.

Food and Non-Food Items

- ♦ Over 3,713 persons have received water and biscuits.
- ♦ More than 267 Somalis have received NFI assistance including blankets, shelter kits, cooking items.
- ♦ 78 dignity kits, provided by UNFPA, have been made available to vulnerable female migrants.

Health

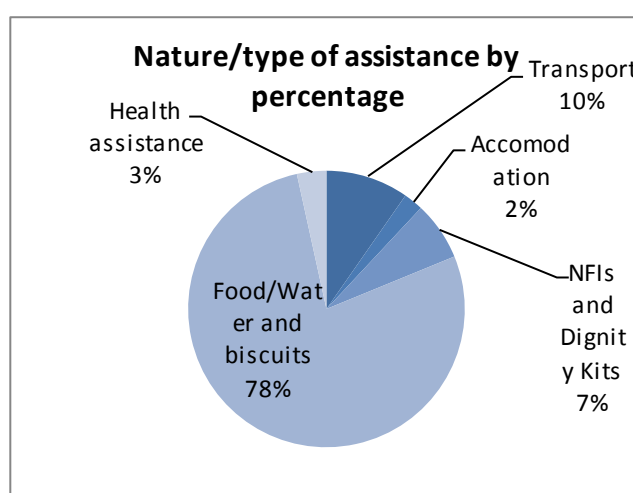
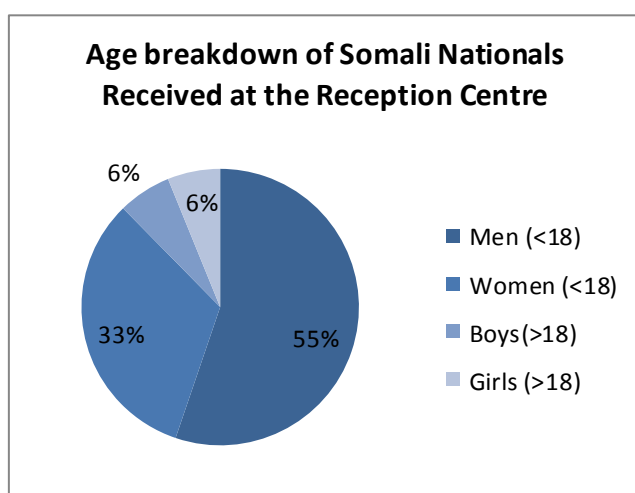
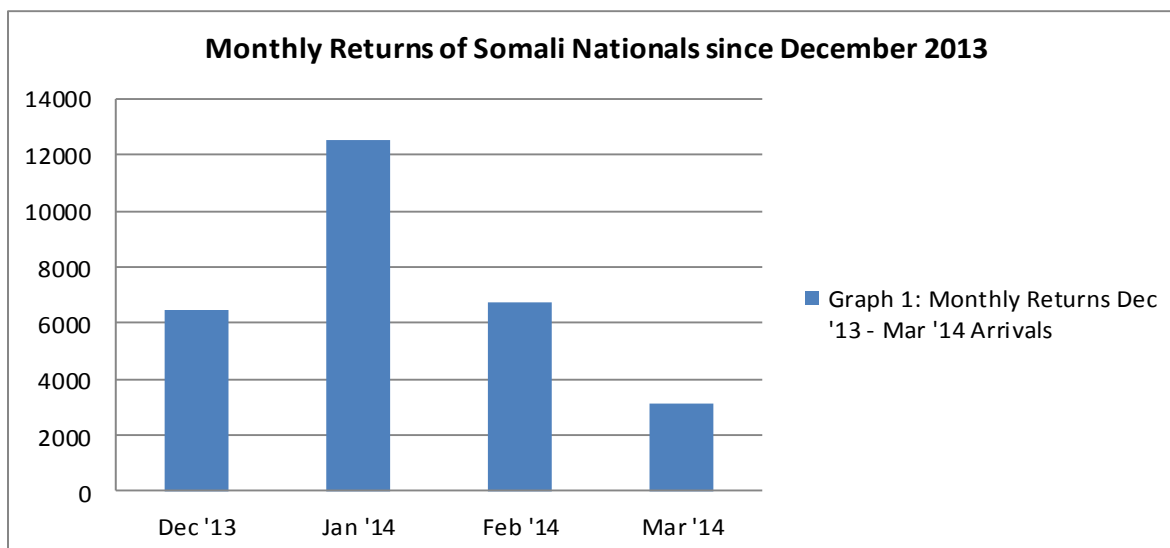
In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, IOM has provided basic healthcare assistance to 80 men and 95 women including medicines, consultations, ante/postnatal care, psychosocial support, vaccination, referral etc.

Others (accommodation, transport etc)

- ♦ 95 men and 18 women have received accommodation assistance.
- ♦ 141 Somali nationals received onward travel/transport assistance by road while 312 persons received onward travel/transport assistance by air.
- ♦ Over 1,316 persons received awareness-raising messages on health, sanitation and mines.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

- Unpredictability:** It is increasingly difficult to plan for migrant assistance as flights have become erratic and unpredictable. In a similar vein, IOM has no way of confirming numbers of pending deportations.
- High expectations:** Some of the returnees have high expectations with reference to the type and level of assistance offered by IOM and other agencies. The response team is working to ensure that relevant communication is clear, easy-to-understand and targeted (at returnees).



MIGRANT STORIES



Muktar, a 22-year old man from Medina, left Somalia five years ago to find employment as a tailor in a clothing warehouse in KSA. While in the detention centre, where he spent five months, he slept on cold concrete floors resulting in severe back pains. The IOM medical team provided medication to ease the pain as well as refreshments and a telephone to communicate with his family in Medina. He expressed his gratitude for IOM assistance.

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