



Registration of forced returnees by IOM staff

OVERVIEW

Flights from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue to arrive in Mogadishu daily. A total of 4879 have arrived between 1-18 February.

On 15 February, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mrs. Zahra Omar Hassan visited Mogadishu International Airport where IOM is currently undertaking an operation to assist the returnees from Saudi Arabia, and she participated in the operation. She thanked IOM for the help it is offering to the forced returnees and assured her support to assist these vulnerable migrants.

IOM RESPONSE

While the IOM operation is still limited due to operational constraints, since the start of the

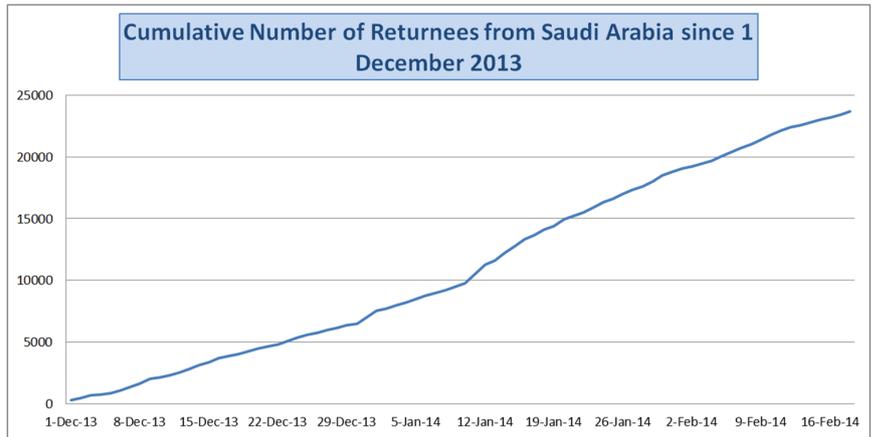
HIGHLIGHTS

- ▼ As of 13 February 2014, 23,692 returnees had arrived in Mogadishu since December 2013.
- ▼ 621 adults (506 men, 115 women) have been registered so far. In addition, 186 children have been registered and 50 assisted with onward transportation.
- ▼ The First Lady of Somalia made a surprise visit to the airport and participated in the operation.

operation on 12th February 2014, IOM has successfully:

- Registered 621 adults (506 men and 115 women) and 186 children (accompanied);
- Provided water and biscuits to 416 people;
- Provided accommodation to 108 people;
- Assisted 50 people with travel allowance.

On 18 February, IOM provided medical referral assistance to one of the returnees, a 22 year-old boy who was hit by a car. He broke his arm and received only minimal medical assistance in Saudi Arabia, while waiting to be returned to Mogadishu. IOM referred him to the Ministry of Health and he was taken to hospital for examination.



Operational Challenges and Gaps

Due to the limited space within the Airport, it's been difficult to place adequate human resources to the operation. There is an urgent need to set up a medical station to evaluate and assist returnees in need of medical attention. Also, in order to create comfortable environment for female returnees in need of assistance, IOM requested government to avail of the assistance of some female registration staff.



The First Lady hands out refreshments.

According to UNHCR, two returnees who had just arrived on the day were killed, while four others were injured during the explosion incident near the main airport gate on 13 February. IOM is working with the Police to ensure safety of the returnees as well as humanitarian agencies on the ground assisting the operation.

Migrant Stories



“Authorities came to our home and arrested my 2 children and I while my husband was at work. While I was in detention, I was not able to communicate with my husband. I thank IOM who assisted me with a cell phone to contact my husband when we arrived in Mogadishu. I am also grateful for the accommodation, meals, and onward transport that IOM has provided. I was last in Somalia five years ago.” - A stranded 25-year-old migrant at the Mogadishu International Airport