



COVID-19 RESPONSE

IOM Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
Situation Report 12 (03 – 16 September 2020)



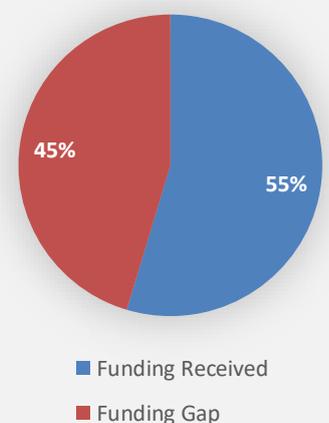
A displaced woman collecting clean and safe water from an IOM installed water tank at a displacement site in Al Berieen, Taizz ©IOM Yemen

Key Regional Updates

- As of 14 September 2020, a total of **1,385,918 COVID-19 cases** have been confirmed in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, out of which, **25,781 fatalities** have been reported.
- Several countries across the region continue to **confront multiple, complex crises and emergencies alongside the COVID-19 pandemic**. In Sudan, more than **557,000 people were affected by recent flooding** across 17 out of Sudan's 18 states, with more than 111,000 houses destroyed or damaged¹. This is combined with polio outbreaks and a currency fallout. In Yemen, **conflict, displacement and COVID-19 challenges have been compounded by torrential rains and flooding throughout July and August 2020**, which caused devastation across Yemen for the third time this year². This is on top of an estimated 17 to 19 million people in need of humanitarian food assistance, and around 137,00 individuals currently in situations of displacement³.
- In response to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 crisis, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) **updated its Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP)** on 09 September 2020 to continue in its efforts to delivering a well-coordinated, comprehensive, equitable and timely response. The revised funding required for IOM's planned interventions currently stand at **618.8 million globally**, with IOM's MENA regional appeal updated to **91.3 million**. This update seeks to respond to needs that have emerged through the current pandemic, in the short and medium-term, in national contexts currently affected by humanitarian situations. This is coupled with those that present more stable environments yet are equally vulnerable to the global pandemic.

IOM's appeal for the MENA region
91,360,418 USD

Funding contributions to COVID-19 to date:
49,915,633 USD, including **4.8 million USD** reprogrammed funding.



All IOM National Response Plans related to COVID-19 can also be found at [IOM's Crisis Response Site](#)

¹ Sudan Flood Situation Report (OCHA), September 2020

² OCHA, Yemen

³ IOM Yemen, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Rapid Displacement Tracking (12 September 2020)

Stories from the Field

IOM helps hundreds of vulnerable migrants in Egypt amid COVID-19 pandemic

Cairo, Egypt - COVID-19 has generated various socio-economic impacts on the estimated 6.3 million migrants currently hosted in Egypt. Many migrants have lost key sources of income, while others, who were waiting to return to their countries of origin, remained stranded due to travel restrictions that were put in place to curb the spread of the virus.

Ding*, a South Sudanese national and a father of seven, previously worked as an English teacher in private school in Alexandria. Due to the prevention measures that were adopted to slow the spread of COVID-19, the school where he used to work was closed and he lost his job.

"I am doing my best to provide for my family. Besides my job as a teacher, I used to work as a security guard and sometimes at construction sites. Now, I cannot find a job in any of these sectors," he explains.

Ding is considered by IOM to be one of 600,000 vulnerable migrants in Egypt who encounter a wide range of challenges, including inadequate access to food, health, and education services in addition to limited access to socio-economic opportunities.

To address Ding's emergent needs, IOM provided food boxes, and financial support to Ding, while he searched for a job to support his family. IOM continues to follow up on his situation to offer more support when needed in coordination with Ding and his community leaders.

In response to requests for support received from migrants, community leaders, partner organisations and embassies, IOM in Egypt has procured and distributed more than 2,500 food and hygiene kits in different cities across Egypt, with support from the European Union through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration. This includes Alexandria, Cairo, Hurgada and Al-Fayoum.

Since the start of the pandemic, IOM has worked closely with community leaders to identify and assist the most vulnerable migrants in Egypt, like Ding.



Colombian migrant workers receiving food and hygiene boxes in Hurgada
©IOM Egypt



Egyptian returnees receiving food and hygiene boxes in Al-Fayoum ©IOM Egypt

"Thanks to the collaboration with IOM, we managed to help many people in our community to cope with the pandemic and raise their awareness about COVID-19 prevention measures," said Ali Abdulrahman, the Eritrean Refugees Community Leader in Egypt. "IOM's support to the Eritrean Refugee Committee in Egypt is helpful during the challenging COVID-19 times."

To ensure adequate information sharing on COVID-19, IOM also increased its awareness raising activities through community leaders. To do this, information tools with guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) are provided to community leaders who these circulate more broadly.

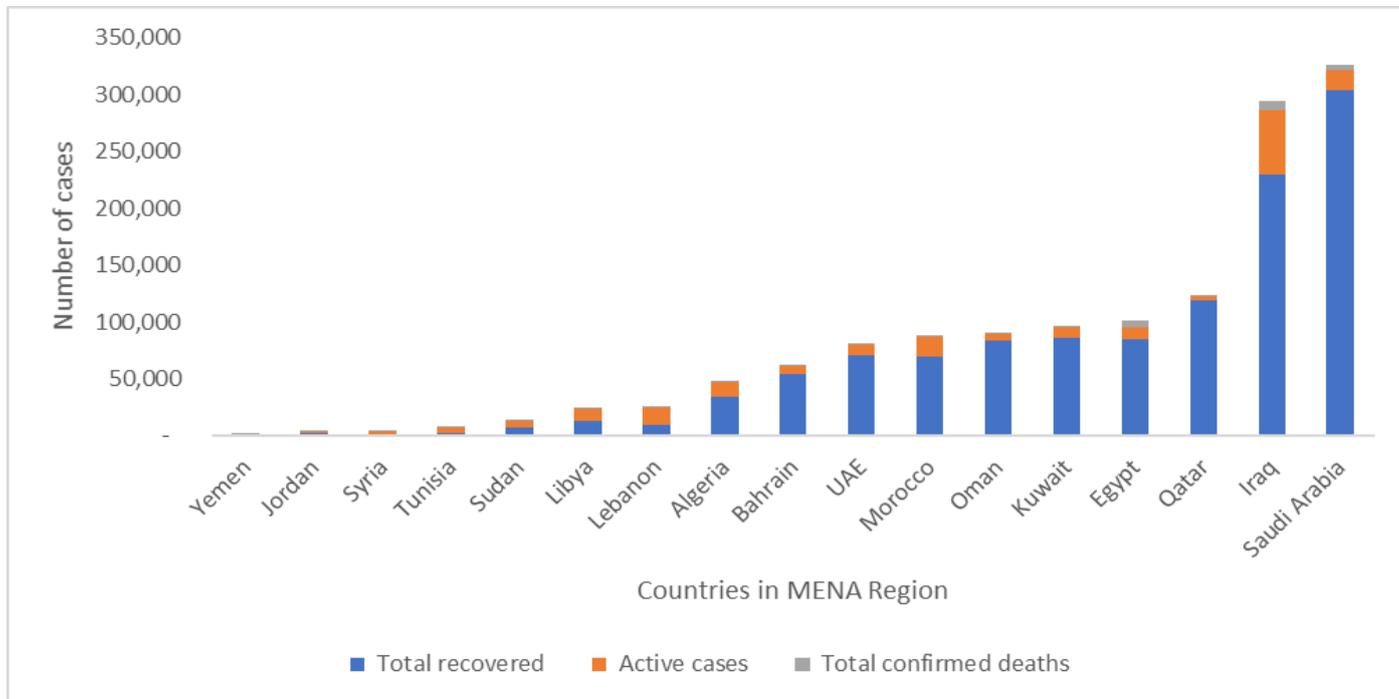
In addition to the distribution of the food and hygiene boxes, IOM provided socio-economic and medical assistance to 57 vulnerable migrants in Egypt. Housing assistance was also provided to 14 migrants that experienced delays in voluntarily returning to their countries of origin because of travel restrictions.

Despite the closure of the airport for a period of time, IOM also facilitated the voluntary and safe return of two stranded female migrants from Egypt to Kenya. The two migrants were flown back home through a repatriation flight that was organized by the Embassy of Kenya in Egypt on 21 June 2020.

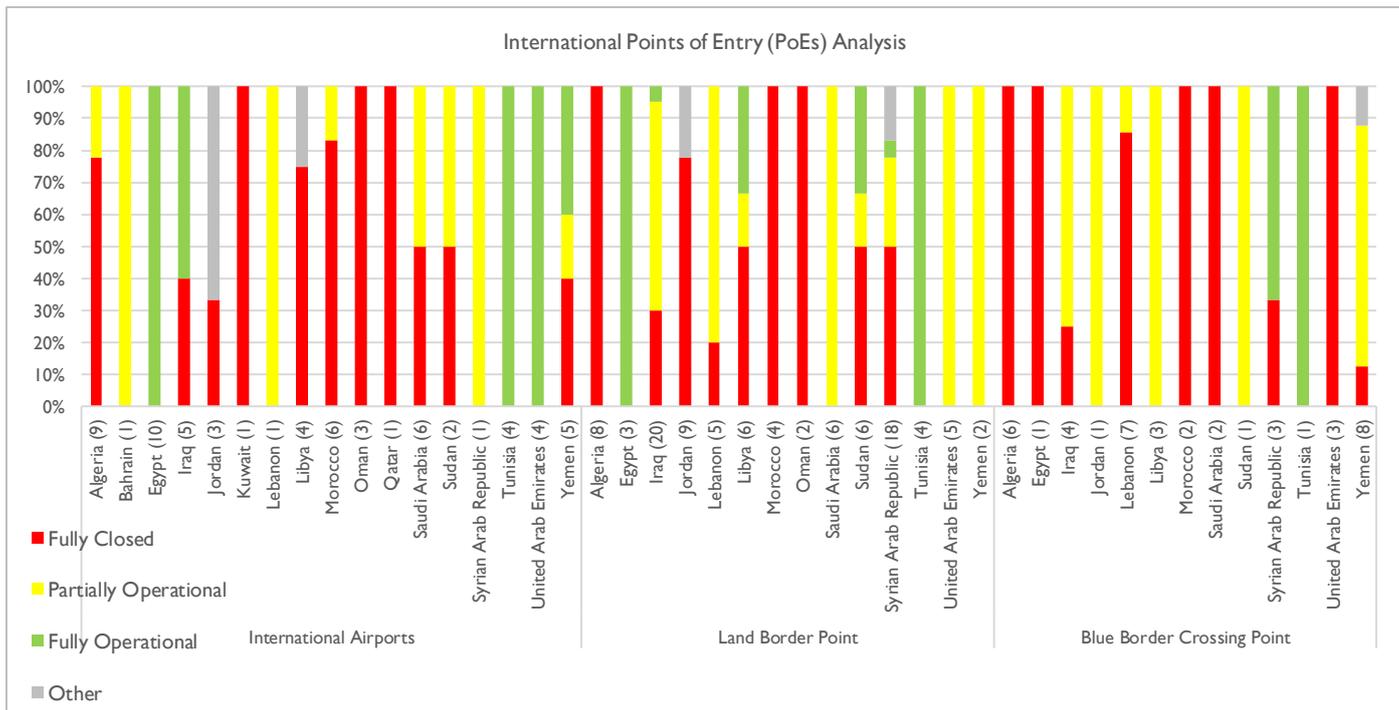
This assistance was made possible thanks to the European Union funding through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, a comprehensive programme that aims to save lives, protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in Africa. The programme was launched in December 2016 with funding from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF).

**Name changed to protect the beneficiary's identity.*

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt across the MENA region. As of 14 September 2020, a total of **1,385,918 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed** in the region, out of which, **25,791 fatalities have been recorded**. The **Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) for the region has stabilized at 1.9 per cent**, which is relatively low compared to the global CFR of 3.2 per cent. The region accounts for **4.7 per cent of the global burden of COVID-19 cases** and 2.8 per cent of global COVID-19 mortalities. However, **countries affected by conflict in the region continue to record higher than average CFRs, with Yemen recording the highest CFR globally**. Iraq, Morocco, Bahrain, Lebanon, and Libya recorded an upsurge of cases during the reporting period. **Iraq accounts for the highest number of daily cases in the region, averaging more than 4,000 cases per day**. The number of active cases has also increased in Iraq and Morocco. In Lebanon, the Beirut blast, coupled with ongoing humanitarian challenges, continue to impact the COVID-19 response, as the number of active cases continue to rise.



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact regional mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and mobility restrictions. **A slight reopening has been recorded in the operations status of Points of Entry (PoE)** - international airports, land and sea border crossing points- during the reporting period. To date, according to IOM’s Tracking Mobility Impact, around **44 per cent of monitored international airports are fully closed**, 17 per cent are partially operational and 35 per cent are now fully operational. **Fewer than half of the 98 land border crossing points, 44 per cent, remain fully closed** and 38 per cent are only partially operational while there are thirteen (13) land border crossing points classified as fully operational as of 10 September 2020. **Out of 42 monitored blue border crossing points in the region, twenty-four (23) of them are fully closed** and fifteen (15) are partially operational, while only three (3) blue border crossing points are fully operational for passengers.



Response

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

In **Kuwait**, IOM signed the project agreement 'STRENGTH' with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, the Public Authority for Manpower and the United Nations Development Programme. The project aims to i) strengthen Kuwait's global positioning pillar under the Kuwait National Development Plan 2035 by promoting national mechanisms on good migration and mobility governance; and ii) enhance the facilitation of labour mobility for an improved recruitment experience.

TRACKING MOBILITY IMPACTS

IOM in **Lebanon**, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), continued to conduct various assessments in support of the response to the Beirut Port explosion and the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM is aiming to build upon the [Baseline Migrant Worker Vulnerability Assessment](#), which was recently released in 18 August 2020, with a Baseline Migrant Worker Vulnerability Assessment Follow-Up. IOM is also in process of rolling out a new DTM component called the Migrant's Presence Monitoring to better understand the number of migrants in the Governorate of Beirut and surrounding areas. IOM's DTM also presented findings from both the Migrant Worker Vulnerability Assessment conducted between May-June 2020, the [Foreign Nationals Multi Sector Needs Assessment Analysis](#), conducted in September 2020, as well as tentative findings from the Migrant Worker Vulnerability Assessment Baseline Follow-Up, at the IOM-ILO led Migrant Workers Coordination Group.

IOM in **Libya**, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix, is conducting key informant interviews on a rolling basis to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19-related mobility restrictions. The interviews are conducted with vulnerable populations on the move.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

In **Morocco**, IOM has reached more than 36,000 individuals with hygiene awareness and promotion activities. This was achieved through door-to-door sensitizations, which was provided when offering direct assistance, social media mobilization, and sensitization during distributions. Materials are available in three languages and published in [IOM Morocco website](#).

IOM in **Libya** conducted extensive outreach activities in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in Souq Al Jumai Municipality. The activities reached more than 1,000 Libyans and migrants, with an estimated 3,000 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials distributed in six languages (Arabic, English, French, Hausa, Tigrinya and Amharic). IOM also implemented 15 health awareness raising sessions covering COVID-19 symptoms and prevention. The sessions targeted a total of 320 migrants in Zwara, Sabha, Qatroun and Bani Waleed. Concurrently, IOM Libya's Medical Team also conducted six door-to-door COVID-19 awareness raising sessions in Sabha for a total of 60 migrants.

In **Iraq**, IOM organized more than 130 awareness raising activities and sensitization sessions on COVID-19, reaching over 1,300 individuals in camp and non-camp settings in Basra, Diyala, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din



COVID-19 testing prior to departure ©IOM Jordan

governorates. IOM also distributed 3,000 COVID-19 flyers and posters in Basra, Missan, and Thiqr governorates, with a further 8,800 COVID-19 flyers distributed in Hawija, Riyadh, Salah Al-Din/Tuz, Sulaymaniyah, Diyala and Mosul governorates. Additionally, IOM conducted a COVID-19 bulk messaging campaign between 17 August and 14 September 2020.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM in **Yemen** shared seven (7) disease surveillance reports with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The sharing of such reports supports community-level COVID-19 surveillance and the establishment of an electronic disease early warning system. From the reports shared, two suspected and four confirmed COVID-19 cases were referred for additional support.

IOM in **Libya**, in collaboration with the NCDC, rolled out syndromic and event-based health surveillance. The system links mobility information to surveillance data, especially in areas with dense migrant populations and border communities. As of 12 September 2020, IOM had surveyed 3,254 migrants in Emsaed, Ras Ejder, Kufra, Gatroun, Sebha, Bani Waleed, and Tripoli areas over a one-month period.

POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM in **Sudan** conducted a needs assessment visit to PoEs in the Northern State. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is planned to be delivered in the coming days together with Hygiene Kits (HKs) for overland arrivals. The IOM supported renovation of the isolation unit at Khartoum International Airport is ongoing and expected to be completed in the coming reporting period. The unit needs to be equipped with medical supplies. IOM has highlighted this to the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant partners for follow-up.

IOM in **Libya** successfully installed two thermal cameras in Benina and Misurata airports and three thermal cameras in Amsaad, Ras Jdeer, Wazen PoEs. The camera installations aim to support efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. IOM medical teams also supported the

NCDC staff at Ras Jdeer and Wazen airports by providing medical check-ups to all passengers returning to Libya. A total of 101 travellers, including 63 men and 38 women, were screened, while samples for PCR tests were collected. The travellers were also provided with health awareness sessions.

In **Iraq**, IOM continued to coordinate closely with officials from Erbil International Airport, the Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO, and other key partners to assess PoE activities as the airport reopened. IOM is providing ongoing technical support at the request of airport officials and WHO.

NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEMS

IOM in **Yemen** trained staff from the National Tuberculosis Laboratory in Aden Governorate on techniques and procedures to conduct COVID-19 testing. The one-day training aimed to strengthen laboratory staff's capacity on COVID-19 sample collection methods, testing procedures and GeneXpert test result interpretations. This supports wider IOM-initiatives to boost COVID-19 testing capacity in Yemen. Additional phases of the programme will focus on establishing a COVID-19 testing laboratory in Marib and deploying GeneXpert systems, which are easy to transport and use, in underserved governorates across Yemen.

IOM in **Libya** trained 39 health workers on COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, lab diagnostics and medical waste management in Sabha district. An additional day of training was subsequently conducted specifically targeting 18 laboratory technicians on the same topics. IOM also organized a four-day training for 15 laboratory health care workers on quality assurance in the molecular diagnostic laboratory on IPC measures and waste management in Benghazi district.

INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL (IPC)

In **Yemen**, IOM continues to improve Water, Health and Sanitation (WASH) services at displacement sites and communities hosting significant numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). IOM water trucking activities are ongoing at 88 sites in Hudaydah, Taizz, Ibb and Marib governorates, reaching 12,475 people. IOM also distributed 3,513 long lasting insecticide nets (LLINs) to immunocompromised and high-risk individuals in Marib governorate.

In **Lebanon**, as part of IOM's response to support migrant workers affected by the Beirut Port explosion and within the context of IOM's overall COVID-19 response in the

country, IOM Lebanon has conducted seven rounds of health promotion as well as provided PPEs for more than 60 migrant workers during 10-11 September 2020 through its medical campus that was established in coordination with the embassies of migrant workers. This is alongside IOM conducting health assessments for returning migrant workers.

In **Syria**, IOM distributed more than 2,000 COVID-19 hygiene kits to households residing in the planned camps, reception centres, and other locations.

IOM in **Libya** conducted a fumigation, disinfection, and cleaning intervention at departure points (DPs) in Tajoura Port, Tripoli Naval Base Abu Sitta, Tripoli Com Port Mena Tijari, Alkhums Sea Port and Zliten. To mitigate the risk of infection in detention centres (DCs), IOM also facilitated the repair of a water pump and conducted a fumigation, disinfection, and cleaning intervention in Abusliem DC. Non-Food Items (NFIs) and HKs were also distributed to migrants within the DC.

LOGISTICS, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

IOM in **Yemen** continues to rapidly respond to the needs of those affected by a combination of flooding, displacement and COVID-19 through its Common Contingency Pipeline (CPP). Since August 2020, IOM has released critical household, shelter and hygiene items to partners in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Ibb, Taizz and Marib governorates, serving 9,631 households. Through the CCP, IOM has also provided partners in Marib and Al Jawf governorates with shelter and aid items, enabling them to respond to 2,500 households newly displaced by conflict. These emergency and preparedness response activities have been critical in alleviating the burden on displaced communities and improving living conditions at displacement sites.

IOM in **Syria**, through a partner organization, has supported the release of SCHF-funded PPE stocks that were previously being held in an IOM warehouse. The PPE was distributed to a total of 94 non-health NGOs under an OCHA non-health partner initiative. Items included more than 52,000 disposable aprons, 37,600 face shields, 1,000,000 gloves, 13,600 goggles, 68,700 gowns and 4,260,000 masks.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM in **Yemen** continues to engage IDP communities in mask making activities in Ibb and Marib governorates. Activities are facilitated through a combination of cash-for-work and training. Women from IDP communities have sewn more 30,000 masks in both governorates. The masks were distributed, along with COVID-19 information, education and communication (IEC) materials, to IDPs in IOM-supported displacement sites.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

IOM in **Yemen** is providing support to 22 health facilities and eight (8) mobile health teams across Al Jawf, Aden, Sada'a, Al Baydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib, Shabwah and Taizz governorates. A total of 8,426 IDPs, migrants and host community members received access to health services during the reporting period, ensuring that primary and secondary health care, cholera treatment, and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) continue to be accessible to affected populations.



IOM screening and triage activities at an IOM health clinic in Degaba Camp, Erbil ©IOM Iraq

IOM in **Iraq** continued screening and triage processes at IDP health clinics prior to patient consultations. To date, the process has targeted camps in Ninewa, Erbil, Kirkuk and Anbar governorates. These processes are also being initiated in an additional 20 clinics across Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, and Ninewa governorates. IOM also delivered a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for ten newly onboarded IOM Health Unit national programme officers from across Erbil, Baghdad, Anbar, Ninewa governorates. The training covered IPC, screening and triage of COVID-19, transmission prevention, PPE usage in addition to other topics. In Kirkuk governorate, IOM also supported six (6) COVID-19 response teams monitoring individuals in self-quarantine and suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases in home isolation. The teams are integrated into IOM-supported health facilities. To date, a cumulative total of 549 individuals have been monitored.

In **Morocco**, IOM continues to promote continuity of care for migrants, especially for individuals with chronic health conditions and those with maternal and childcare needs. To date, 2,660 migrants have been assessed through referral and follow up mechanisms. IOM continue to advocate for access to education for unaccompanied and separated children as well.

In **Syria**, IOM supported the COVID-19 Taskforce in its efforts to conduct a monitoring assessment of a portion of primary healthcare facilities in North West Syria. To date, assessments were conducted in 117 Primary Healthcare Facilities. This will enable the taskforce and health partners to understand the functionality of triage systems, COVID-19 protocols, and gaps in service provision.

PROTECTION

IOM in **Jordan**, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and MedLabs, assisted 81 migrant workers who are voluntarily returning to their country of origin by testing them for COVID-19 prior to departure. This activity is part of a project funded by the Government of Denmark, which aims to provide healthcare and protection services to vulnerable migrant workers in Jordan.

IOM in **Algeria** provided seven (7) migrants, currently hosted at the DARV II transit centre, with a virtual Psychosocial Support (PSS) session. IOM also provided stranded migrants hosted at the DARV transit centre with NFIs, including COVID-19 prevention kits and clothing, while they awaited

their return to their countries of origin.

IOM in **Sudan**, through its Migrant Resource and Response Centre (MRRC) in Khartoum, continues to implement a range of protection activities. These include phone-based medical and PSS counselling to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable migrants and phone-based medical information and medical counselling, including issuance of prescription and medicine delivery. The MRRC was able to reach 135 new cases with phone-based medical counselling, and three (3) new cases with prescriptions to obtain needed medication for during the reporting period. In addition, 1,194 PPE items were distributed to the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), Alien Unit, Ethiopian and Eritrean safe houses and Omdurman Quarantine /Isolation Centre. Hygiene items were also distributed to 170 women and 25 children at Omdurman prison, while four lactating mothers were also provided with milk formula.

IOM in **Tunisia** provided emergency assistance to 24 migrants rescued at sea on Kerkennah Island, in the form of HKs, PPEs, food and clothing.

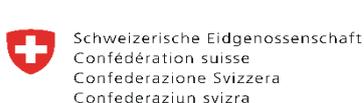
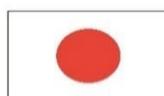
IOM in **Egypt** delivered a total of 607 care packages that included food and hygiene items as part of its contribution to the COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan in support of migrant and Egyptian communities. The distribution took place in three (3) governorates: Cairo, Alexandria and Bani Soueif. Furthermore, IOM distributed more than 375 packages to vulnerable migrants in coordination with the Ethiopian Embassy, Fulani community, Eritrean community, and Burkina Faso community in Cairo. An additional 200 care packages were distributed to affected individuals and households from the Sudanese migrant community in Alexandria.

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS

IOM in **Algeria** assisted 16 migrants with cash-based assistance, and 20 migrants with in-kind assistance.

IOM in **Tunisia**, in collaboration with the Municipality of Raoued and La Goulette, organized the distribution of vouchers to 231 migrants whose livelihoods have been affected by COVID-19. IOM also distributed vouchers to 210 migrants in the Municipality of Kram. During these vouchers' distributions, awareness-raising sessions were also organized for beneficiaries on protective measures against COVID-19.

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