



COVID-19 RESPONSE

IOM Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa

Situation Report 16 (12 November – 09 December 2020)



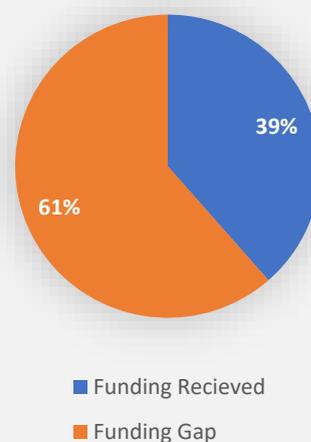
IOM distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to over four thousand foreign workers covering all six (6) governorates in the State of Kuwait ©IOM Kuwait

Key Regional Updates

- As of **09 December 2020**, a total of **2,807,699 COVID-19 cases** have been confirmed in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, out of which **49,307 fatalities** have been reported
- On 24 and 25 November 2020, the Narif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) co-organized a **virtual workshop on airport security with IOM and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**. The two-day event was attended by more than 300 officials from the League of Arab States and select EU Member States, with panellists from ICAO, IOM, the Saudi Civil Aviation, the French and German governments, and Frontex. The workshop included **discussions on innovative border and identity management solutions, as well as airport security during the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- In commemoration of World AIDS Day on 01 December 2020, **IOM continues to advocate for universal health coverage for displaced persons and migrants**. HIV services have been significantly challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has generated a shortage of supplies, reduced resources and impacted service delivery. **Ensuring continuity of essential medical services throughout the pandemic is critical to safeguard progress made to date and continue the fight against HIV/AIDS**.
- The IOM Regional Office for the MENA is facilitating engagement with local stakeholders within its Integrated Border Management (IBM) programming by **translating and disseminating relevant guidance tools into Arabic and French**. The effort is part of its regional COVID-19 response activities. These tools, developed by IOM and UN partner agencies, aim to improve the rights-based, gender-responsive, and technical approach to the **COVID-19 response at Points of Entry (PoE)**.
- Following the first successful meeting between the **KSA and Bangladesh United Nations (UN) Networks on Migration** that took place on 08 July 2020, the two networks met again on **23 November 2020**. The meeting included an update on the interventions that both Networks carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. The **Bangladesh Network** then presented its **strategic plan for returnee migrants post-COVID-19**, which was developed at the request of the Government.

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

Funding contributions to COVID-19 to date:
35,223,847 USD, including **5.03 million USD** reprogrammed funding.



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

Stories from the Field

Supporting Yemeni Communities Stay Health During the Pandemic

COVID-19 and conflict have impacted every part of life in Yemen.

“COVID-19 has touched the whole world. It has affected developed countries, so what impact do you think it has had on Yemen?” asked Ahmed, a pharmacy student at the University of Hadramaut.

Infection prevention and control measures are desperately needed across the country, while communities require the right information to fight the spread of the virus. In Hadramaut, IOM partnered with 60 pharmacy students eager to respond to the pandemic.

“We are producing hand sanitizer, in line with World Health Organization (WHO) standards. It is now well known that sanitizers are one of the most important substances that can prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus,” said Fatima, a fellow classmate of Ahmed, explaining why they are producing 10,000 bottles of sanitizers.

“First, we start by mixing the substances: ethanol, hydrogen peroxide, glycerine and distilled water. We fill the bottles and seal them. Then it’s on to delivery with the finished product,” added Ahmed, commenting on the process the student’s follow, with IOM support.

The bottles were distributed to communities in Hadramaut, the governorate where the university is located. Before working on the project, Fatima and Ahmed were waiting for the university to re-open.

“COVID-19 has affected us badly. It stopped all aspects of life and now our lives are paralyzed. As for us students, the university was shut, just like schools and mosques,” said Fatima.

Despite the difficulties, Fatima, Ahmed and their classmates were happy to be a part of their community’s fight against COVID-19. They also received financial incentives for their work. This activity fell under IOM’s transition and recovery work, which also includes, among other interventions, risk communications activities.

Complementing this, IOM’s water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team in Yemen have been long working on hygiene promotion. Their methods of how to promote key hygiene messages in local communities has become a vital part of first the cholera response and now the COVID-19.

“I love the work that we do because it connects us to our own humanity. Regardless of who you are and what you do, this work shows you that we are all human before anything else,” said Mohammed, a hygiene promoter with the team in Aden Governorate.

Mohammed visits displacement sites throughout Lahj, Abyan and Taizz governorates to train community leaders on awareness raising campaigns. He shares his knowledge and experience on message delivery and recording their work. Before COVID-19, when disease outbreaks would occur like cholera, he would voluntarily train committees in displacement sites with less access to support.

“We used to meet committees and people in our free time to educate them about cholera and dengue fever, but today my work has become even more urgent due to the COVID-19 outbreak,” he explained.

Despite movement restrictions and limited contact with people, Mohammed and his colleagues have incorporated infection prevention and control measures into their work, helping spreading lifesaving messages and not the virus.

“We have to support each other so that we can all get through this safely,” Mohammed concluded.



Hani and her colleague mixing materials to produce hand sanitizers in Mukkla, Yemen ©IOM Yemen

The effects and impact of COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt across the MENA region. As of 09 December 2020, a total of **2,807,699 COVID-19 cases** have been confirmed in the region, out of which, **49,307 cases have proven fatal**. The **case fatality ratio (CFR)** for the region has stabilized at **1.8 per cent**, which is relatively low compared to the global CFR of 2.3 per cent. The MENA region accounts for **4.1 per cent of global burden of COVID-19 cases** and **3.2 per cent of global COVID-19-associated deaths**. During the reporting period, an **increase of 21 per cent on the number of cases** and **21.2 per cent on the number of deaths associated with COVID-19** were recorded. **Iraq continues to report the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the region (568,138)** followed by Morocco (384,088) and Saudi Arabia (359,115). These top three countries, account for 46.7 per cent of the total burden of COVID-19 in the region. **Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia constitute countries with the highest proportion of active cases** of COVID-19 in the region. Concurrently, Yemen still has the highest CFR regionally and globally.

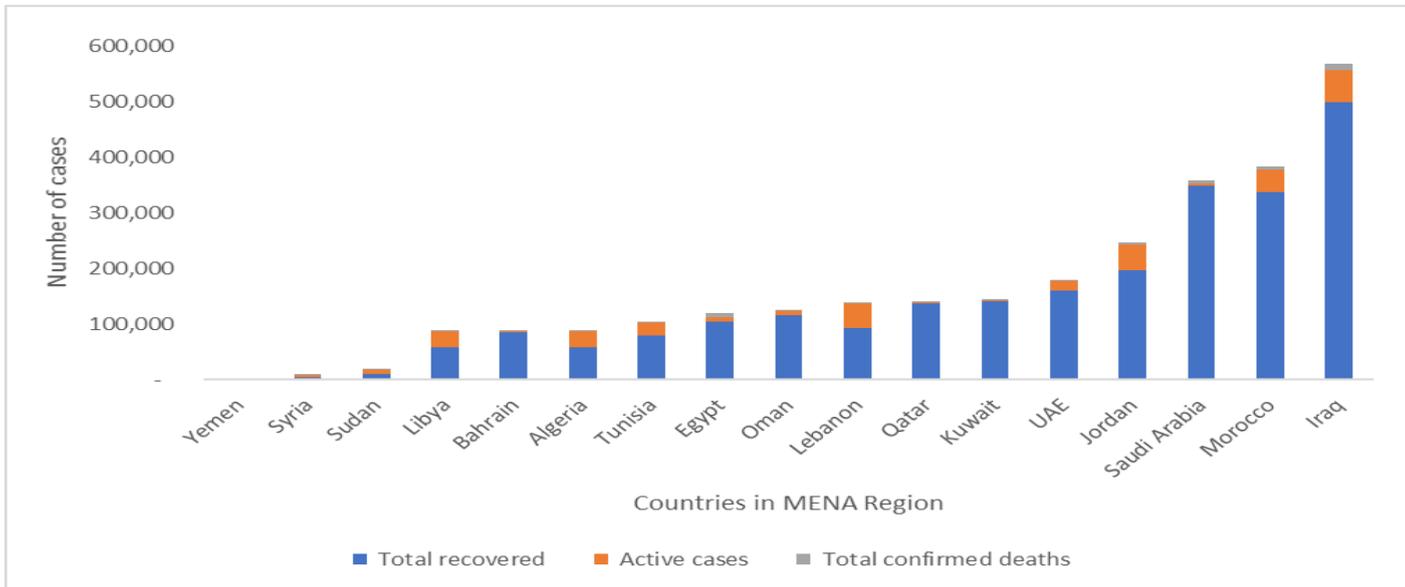


Figure 1: COVID-19 situation in MENA Countries as of 10 November 2020 ©WHO Situational Reports

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact regional mobility in the form of various travel bans and mobility restrictions. Several changes have been recorded in the operational status of international Points of Entry (PoEs) in the MENA region during the reporting period. To date, according to IOM's Tracking Mobility Impact , around **62 per cent of monitored international airports are fully operational**, nine (9) per cent are partially operational and 28 per cent remain fully closed. Around **25 per cent of the 106 monitored land border crossing points remain fully closed** and 25 per cent are partially operational, while there are **46 land border crossing points that are now classified as fully operational**. Out of 50 monitored **blue border crossing points** in the region, **25 of them are fully closed** and 15 are partially operational, while nine (9) blue border crossing points are fully operational for passengers.

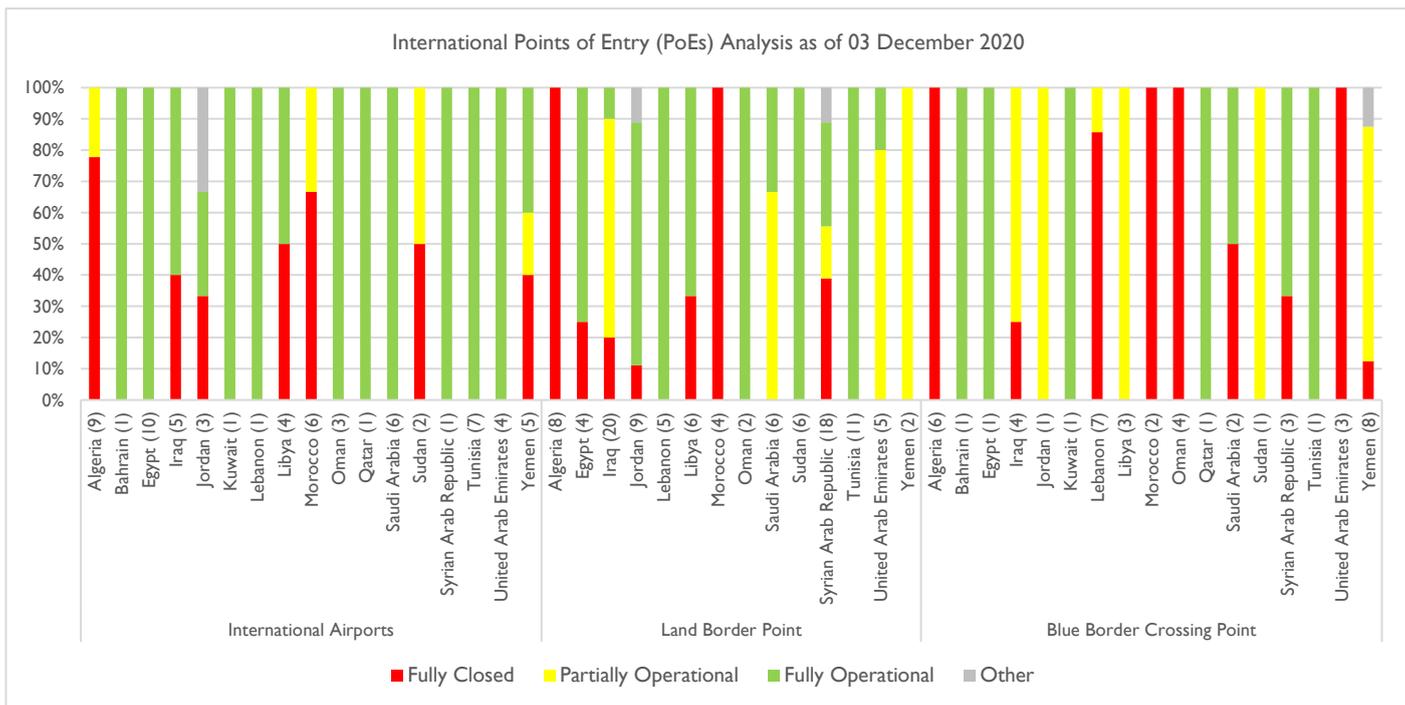


Figure 2: Operational Status of PoEs across the MENA Region ©IOM Tracking Mobility Impacts

Response

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM in **Kuwait** conducted a three (3)-day workshop on ethical recruitment with government officials, rolling out the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) in Kuwait. The workshop, which was instigated under the 'STRENGTH' programme, was implemented in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, the Public Authority for Manpower and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It contributes towards strengthening Kuwait's global positioning pillar under the Kuwait National Development Plan 2035, predominantly in the context of the country's COVID-19 response, by promoting national mechanisms on good migration and mobility governance. It also aims to enhance the facilitation of labour mobility for an improved recruitment experience.

IOM **Algeria** met with the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire, the Embassy of Zimbabwe and the Embassy of Mali to identify the best options available to assist stranded migrants and students in Algeria. Commercial flights have been grounded in Algeria since the closure of international borders during March 2020. IOM also participated to the United Nations (UN) COVID-19 Task Force in Algeria meeting to discuss updates of the UN Joint Contingency Plan.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

In **Jordan**, IOM's community health volunteers have reached more than 3,000 refugees, providing awareness on infection prevention and control (IPC) and non-communicable diseases. Brochures with messaging on IPC and non-communicable diseases have also been created and distributed among the refugee community.

IOM in **Algeria** partnered with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and two local civil society organizations on the occasion of World AIDS Day, to hold awareness-raising sessions for migrants hosted at the transit centre DARV. The health promotion activity was also used as an opportunity to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention and address general health-related questions from migrants. IOM Algeria continues the implementation of a digital communication campaign on COVID-19 through Facebook. The campaign focuses on prevention messages and raising awareness about COVID-19 prevention measures adopted by the Algerian authorities.



A displaced woman consulting IOM doctor on her child's condition in a health clinic for displaced people in Marib, Yemen ©IOM Yemen



Emergency food distribution at the Ethiopian community safe house in Khartoum ©IOM Sudan

IOM in **Iraq** organized approximately 347 awareness raising and sensitization activities related to the COVID-19 response. This included specialized mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) activities, reaching more than 1,190 individuals in camp and non-camp settings in Basra, Diyala, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Najaf and Ninewa governorates. IOM Iraq also distributed 15,161 COVID-19 flyers in Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar, and Ninewa, 2,110 handwashing station posters, flyers and materials with CCCM in Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din, 1,000 COVID-19 card games in Kirkuk, 58,500 COVID-19 general precaution leaflets and 5,520 COVID-19 posters in Anbar, Baghdad, Ninewa, and Erbil governorates among other materials. IOM conducted hygiene promotion sessions in Anbar and Salah Al-Din, to raise awareness about COVID-19 hygiene precautions. In Anbar, sessions were attended by ten (10) children, ten (10) community mobilizers, and 20 community members. In Salah Al-Din, sessions were attended by ten (10) children, and 20 community members, with distribution of 5,020 COVID-19 IEC materials, 600 card games, 1,000 coloring books, and 600 board games.

IOM in **Tunisia** is combining in-person outreach, a toll-free counselling helpline and online social media activities to develop and communicate information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on COVID-19. IOM responded to seven hundred (700) calls on its toll-free helpline and reached 1,192 migrants with online awareness and information materials to highlight available health services and migrants' rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. Outreach activities aim to provide up-to-date information and increase migrants' awareness of the Tunisian governments COVID-19 containment measures. IOM also conducted twelve (12) awareness raising sessions for 736 migrants. The sessions aimed to improve knowledge on COVID-19 personal protection measures. Awareness raising sessions were primarily implemented in Nabeul, Sfax, Monastir and Tunis cities. Concurrently, IOM implemented one (1) outreach campaign, in partnership with Amitié et Action Sociale (AAAS) Association, during the provision of direct socio-economic assistance to migrants in the city of Nabeul. The session aimed to increase knowledge of COVID-19 precautions and preventive measures, provide mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), and highlight coping stress coping strategies.

IOM in **Libya** conducted more than 120 outreach campaigns and information sessions to raise awareness on COVID-19 symptoms and precautionary measures in Sabha, Ubari,

Tripoli and Benghazi cities. IOM also distributed COVID-19 awareness raising posters and flyers in English, French and Arabic during the sessions. The activities reached 6,384 migrants, helping to improve their knowledge of COVID-19 precautionary measures and behaviour to adopt when confronted with suspected infections.

IOM in **Sudan**, in collaboration with CARE International, reached 376,069 individuals with risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities in Kasala State. Most of the people, approximately 350,000 individuals, were engaged through radio broadcasts with scripts translated into seven local languages. Communications included key messages on prevention, symptom identification, physical distancing, contact protocols for the Ministry of Health (MoH), and protection measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community outreach volunteers also reached at least 18,417 individuals or 3,430 households with COVID-19 public health messages as well as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and gender-based violence (GBV) key messages. IOM and CARE trained 20 health care workers and rapid response teams (RRTs) in infection prevention and control (IPC), and five (5) radio broadcasters on public health messaging. In addition, at least 2,019 patients have been supported with COVID-19 triaging system, outpatient department (OPD) consultation and treatment, as well as public health information in the three primary health facilities in Kasala. Separately, 3,200 patients have been reached with similar services in the Kassala Hospital. IOM and CARE continue to support the Kassala hospital triage and health facilities with information education communication (IEC) materials, including posters and flyers; personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and soaps; and infection prevention and control (IPC) materials such as disinfectant supplies. IOM and the American Refugee Committee (ARC) also conducted an assessment and project introductory activities in Girba hospital. The team started its first group counseling activities for COVID-19, reaching 20 females who have access to GBV response services and counselling.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

In **Morocco**, IOM continues to conduct disease surveillance mapping in collaboration with its implementing partner the Association Marocaine de Planning Familial (AMPF). A community-based surveillance unit within the migrant community in Marrakech organized a set of activities,



IOM Kuwait distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to more than four thousand foreign workers ©IOM Kuwait



IOM Kuwait distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to more than four thousand foreign workers ©IOM Kuwait

including sensitisation activities and the mapping of suspected cases of COVID-19. A total of ten (10) community leaders were trained on identification of COVID-19 cases, reporting on suspected cases and sensitization tools. More information on these activities can be found [here](#).

IOM in **Libya** continues to implement syndromic and event-based health surveillance in areas at, or near Points of Entry (PoEs). Activities are implemented in collaboration with the Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). A total of 11,862 migrants have been surveyed as of 05 December 2020. The NCDC publishes a weekly bulletin online, including IOM data and analysis,

In **Iraq**, five (5) community-based surveillance (CBS) officers completed their virtual onboarding, including capacity building from risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) colleagues on RCCE, rumour tracking, and community feedback mechanisms. IOM is furthermore implementing trainings for a network of community surveillance focal points within targeted internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Community-based surveillance officers completed the training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions with an IOM's training consultant during the reporting period. These trained CBS staff are now planning the logistics for field-based trainings for community-based surveillance focal points, who will conduct daily surveillance activities in targeted camps.

POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

In **Libya**, IOM supported NCDC staff at Ras Jdeer and Wazen PoEs by providing medical check-ups to all passengers returning to Libya as part of the IOM COVID-19 preparedness and response plan. A total of 30,594 travellers have been screened and had their temperatures checked, while samples for PCR tests were collected. The

travellers also benefitted from health awareness sessions at the airport.

In **Iraq**, IOM's migration health unit (MHU) delivered banners to authorities at Erbil International Airport with information for travellers on new health and safety measures. IOM also delivered floor stickers to guide social distancing. Concurrently, IOM coordinated with officials at Erbil and Baghdad International airports, Ibrahim-Khalil ground crossing in Dohuk, and Haj Omran ground crossing in Erbil to plan additional support and discuss technical guidance and needs. IOM also conducted a ToT for MHU staff to build their capacity to train officials at both airports and land crossings on COVID-19 measures. A training plan was developed with officials to ensure that trainings will not disrupt daily PoE services. Separately, a total of 21 staff from Erbil International Airport participated in a training for health officers at PoE. Training topics included an overview of COVID-19, an introduction to the public health response and international health regulations (IHR), management and referral of ill travellers, risk communication and more.

In **Sudan**, IOM is in the process of procuring temperature check equipment for Red Sea State and Northern State. Furthermore, IOM is also in process of delivering air condition units to PoEs in Red Sea State. In addition, IOM continued to support the delivery of disinfecting gates to northern state PoE that receive stranded Sudanese migrants. Hygiene kits are also being purchased and delivered.

IOM in **Lebanon** donated an emergency medical bag and COVID-19 prevention and protection kits, supplies and equipment to the Port of Tripoli General Director of General Security (GSD) and the Aboudiyeh border crossing point.

At the **Regional level**, IOM's Migration Health Division (MHD) conducted a technical training attended by a total of 53 IOM regional and country office staff from 13 countries on implementation of international health regulations (IHR 2005) at PoE. The training aimed to build capacity to better support COVID-19 response especially at PoEs. The training covered IHR operational framework, IHR core capacities, IHR implementation at PoE, how IOM can be involved in supporting implementation of IHR at PoEs, joint external evaluations and the different approaches to public health emergency response at POEs. The training was supplemented by experience sharing from IOM Jordan and Libya on work done at PoE.



ID registration of migrants in Kufra detention centre ahead of the first-ever VHR flight from Kufra to Khartoum ©IOM Libya



Emergency food support for migrant students in Khartoum ©IOM Sudan

NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEMS

In **Yemen**, IOM continues to expand programming to support Yemen's national laboratory system in a country where only six laboratories have COVID-19 testing capacity. IOM is in process of procuring six (6) GeneXpert machines to increase testing capacity in underserved locations.

INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL (IPC)

IOM in **Kuwait** distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to more than four thousand foreign workers, covering all six (6) governorates in the State of Kuwait. Recipients included residents at the Public Authority for Manpower's (PAM) government-run shelter for female foreign workers alongside other vulnerable foreign workers who continue to perform daily tasks without protective equipment. The initiative, which was funded by private sector partners, aimed to support the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The distribution took place in partnership with the Social Work Society (SWS), and in cooperation with a community volunteer group.

In **Yemen**, IOM continues to provide water, either through water trucking, vouchers, supplying family tanks and water points, in more than 55 sites in Ibb, Marib and Taizz governorates, reaching 102,734 people. IOM distributed 78,768 bars of soaps, 7,067 long lasting insecticide nets (LLINs) and 3,000 hygiene kits in Marib Governorate. In addition, IOM is also establishing another isolation centre at an IDP site in Al Mardaa, Marib Governorate, to allow suspected cases within IDP communities to safely isolate.

In **Jordan**, IOM distributed more than 600 hygiene kits to refugees and more than 400 washable masks to migrants during the reporting period.

IOM in **Iraq** conducted IPC trainings for clinical and non-clinical staff at IOM-supported clinics in Erbil governorate. A

total of 19 participants were trained during the reporting period on topics including IPC, screening and triage of COVID-19, transmission prevention measures and correct use of PPE. Screening and triage activities continue to be implemented at IDP health clinics prior to patient consultations. These processes are being implemented at more than 20 community clinics in Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, and Ninewa governorates ensuring patients are screened for COVID-19 prior to health consultation.

In **Egypt**, IOM distributed hygiene kits to 195 migrants from four (4) different nationalities, including 87 children, in Cairo Governorate. These were distributed as part of pre-departure orientation packages, before the returnees embarked on flights to their countries of origin.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In **Yemen**, IOM continued COVID-19 awareness raising efforts across 55 IOM-supported IDP hosting sites. IOM also rolled out community shieling approaches and IPC efforts at the sites. These efforts are supported by site vulnerability assessments, which aim to identify and support households at high risk of contracting COVID-19.

In **Syria**, IOM, through its implementing partners, continues to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread within IOM-supported displacement sites. This has included providing isolation tents for suspected cases, partitioning rub-halls, identifying and training health focal points, providing awareness raising sessions, increasing safe water access, distributing PPE for humanitarian responders and hygiene kits for displaced households. Community health workers in IOM-supported displacement sites will also be trained in active case search in camps and actively participate in the operation. These activities are now more critical than ever as Syria enters its harsh winter season where existing vulnerabilities are exacerbated and low temperatures drive populations into even more confined spaces.

In **Iraq**, IOM in Baghdad conducted awareness raising sessions on COVID-19 during the reporting period. Sessions included information on how to reduce the risk of infection and how to manage infected persons and were implemented for IDPs at informal sites in Latifiya area. IOM also conducted awareness sessions for children about COVID-19 and distributed game cards for children at targeted sites in Sinjar and Tal-Abta areas, Ninewa governorate. In addition, IOM distributed 756 COVID-19 prevention kits, which covered 189 households across eleven (11) informal sites in Baiji area, Ninewa governorate. In Tal Abta and Ba'aj areas, IOM has been distributing handwashing stations posters to showcase how to operate the handwashing stations previously installed throughout informal sites. IOM also completed the installation of hand-free wash stations in AAF camp and continues coordination with partners to establish a quarantine area at the site.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

In **Jordan**, IOM mobile clinics have reached more than 950 refugees and migrants, providing primary, secondary and tertiary health support.

IOM in **Morocco** continues to offer a wide range of protection services to migrants in need, such as continuous care for individuals with chronic health conditions as well as support to meet maternal and childcare needs. IOM provided around 176 psycho-social support consultations to



IOM Iraq's migration health team delivering International Health Regulations (IHR) trainings to staff working at official Points of Entry (PoE) in the Kurdistan Region ©IOM Iraq

beneficiaries, focusing on the most vulnerable as well as on unaccompanied and separated children. These included focus group therapy and individual case follow up via phone consultations.

IOM in **Libya** is supporting six primary healthcare centres with medicines, medical consumables, and IEC materials on COVID-19. A total of 1,512 IDPs, migrants and host community members were provided with primary health care medical consultations at targeted facilities. IOM also handed over two mobile clinics to Souq Al Jumaa and Tajoura municipalities and medical supplies to Zwara isolation centre. In addition, IOM donated medical equipment and medication to the Nalut COVID-19 isolation centre and Misrata hospital. The donations aim to address a significant shortage of medicine and equipment needed to provide essential healthcare services amidst the increase in suspected COVID-19 cases.

PROTECTION

IOM in **Yemen**, through its migrant and community response points and mobile teams, has provided aid, hygiene items and emergency food assistance to more than 3,500 migrants and IDPs in Aden, Marib and Sana'a Governorate. In Aden Governorate, IOM has registered more than 3,400 migrant applicants for voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) since October 2020. Efforts to restart return flights are progressing positively. On 30 November, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and immigration officials from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia arrived in Aden Governorate to conduct nationality verification activities, which will take place over a two-week period. IOM is also engaging 1,200 migrants in Aden City with cash for work cleaning campaign. IOM is also planning to expand this initiative to support host community members, which will contribute to alleviating community tensions.

IOM in **Tunisia**, as part of its Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programme, supported 47 migrants to return from Tunisia to their countries of origin. Assistance and services included pre-departure cash, support at airports from departure until arrival, and COVID-19 testing prior to departure from Tunisia. Additionally, for migrants that tested positive for COVID-19, IOM has covered the costs of their accommodation and food during the mandatory quarantine period and has ensured individual online follow up of their cases. IOM continued to provide medical, legal, and social counselling to migrants, conducting 216 individual interviews

during the reporting period. During these interviews, migrants were provided with information on rights and services through dedicated protection help desks located in IOM safe spaces, helping migrants to access services through referrals, when appropriate. In addition, IOM in Tunisia provided medical assistance to 165 beneficiaries to ensure the continuity of psycho-social and medical assistance to vulnerable migrants. This assistance included coverage of medical costs for 100 beneficiaries, health counselling and psychological support (PSS) for 19 migrants, in-kind donation of 238 baby/infant supplies and the provision of non-food items (NFI) to 28 men and 16 women. IOM also provided reintegration assistance and counselling to six (6) Tunisian migrants, who received in-kind donations and cash grants upon their arrival to Tunisia. In addition, IOM continues to offer legal counselling and a range of services to migrants in needs in the light of the socioeconomic repercussions of COVID-19. During the reporting period, 25 legal consultations were provided to the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

In **Lebanon**, IOM's MHPSS team implemented a range of support activities for migrants and displaced populations during the reporting period. This included: PSS individual counselling for migrants and displaced persons in need, referred from the registration teams, other colleagues, or migrant community leaders. IOM implemented awareness raising sessions on how to cope with stress during COVID-19 for more than 650 Syrian refugees and 100 migrants from different nationalities. Additionally, IOM implemented self-care workshop targeting 16 migrant community leaders on how to take care of themselves to be able to support other vulnerable people in their community. IOM also implemented PSS group-based activities, including arts and sports-based activities, and life skills development activities implemented in community centres. These activities targeted refugees and Lebanese women and children.

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS

In **Morocco**, IOM and its partners distributed 1,855 hygiene kits and helped provide food for almost 2,700 vulnerable persons. Urgent shelter has been secured for 92 beneficiaries in different facilities such as schools, furnished apartments and shelters run and/or rented by local civil society partners. IOM has also provided PSS for around 176 beneficiaries through phone call consultations and group therapy. The assistance covers eight regions in Morocco. IOM continues to be an active member on the protection working group "GTP" platforms in the regions of Tanger Tetoan al-Hoceima, Oriental and Casablanca-Settat. Through these platforms, IOM is ensuring that its partners are coordinating their activities with other non-governmental organizations (NGO) and local authorities. This ensures complementarity of actions and helps identify other vulnerable persons to be provided with assistance. IOM continues to work with national and regional authorities to analyse the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 on migrants and is developing regional plans to address this issue and facilitate the development of strategies to improve the delivery of services to migrants, especially in the Oriental, Tanger-Tetouan-Alhoucemas and Souss-Massa regions. IOM also provided support to translate the 'Toolkit for Development Partners: Integrating Migration into the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response' into French to make it accessible to national and local actors. The toolkit aims to provide information and tools for development partners to integrate migration, in all its forms, into development-



Shelter and hygiene aid for displaced people in Marib, Yemen ©IOM Yemen

centred plans, programmes and projects linked to the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

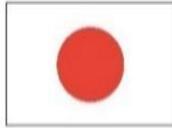
In **Yemen**, IOM continues to roll out various socio-economic initiatives to support conflict-affected communities. Activities aimed to improve their access to livelihood and income generation opportunities. In the reporting period, 15,624 IDP and host community members received multi-purpose cash assistance to meet their household needs in Marib Governorate.

IOM in **Lebanon** assisted a total of 104 stranded and vulnerable migrant workers with one-off emergency multi-purpose cash assistance. In total, IOM has assisted a total of 443 vulnerable migrants through the basic assistance programs.

In **Libya**, IOM, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) published, "A Long Way from Home - Migrants' Housing Conditions in Libya". The report underlines that, in light of the pandemic and its socio-economic impact, all migrants, regardless of nationality or migratory status, should be included in national COVID-19 response plans. This should include measures to ensure that migrants have access to adequate accommodation, as well as information, health services, food, and other social support systems, to mitigate the economic downturn. The findings of this report also highlight the importance of interventions targeting the supply of and access to water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) services, especially in a context where the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the protracted conflict are exacerbating health risks associated with poor sanitation and unsafe water.

IOM in **Iraq** continued to implement a wide range of cash for work (CfW) activities to support individual livelihoods. A total of six (6) CfW activities are ongoing, supporting 542 beneficiaries. During the reporting period, 39 CfW activities were completed, which benefited 1,286 individuals. From this, eight (8) COVID-19-related CfW projects were completed during the reporting period in Ninewa, Thi-Qar, and Salah al-Din governorates, benefited 171 individuals. IOM also delivered business development support (BDS) training to 117 beneficiaries in Babylon, Kerbala, Ninewa and Sulaymaniyah governorates. These 117 beneficiaries are currently working on their business plans. Following business plan approval, they will receive a business support package (BSP) grant. IOM Iraq also profiled 134 beneficiaries and shortlisted 90 beneficiaries to access individual livelihood activities services in Ninewa governorate. Through its enterprise development fund (EDF), IOM launched two (2) expression of interests (Eols) for the EDF -Women and EDF - Renewable Energy. The Eols closed on 22 November 2020, and the preliminary selection process has started.

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