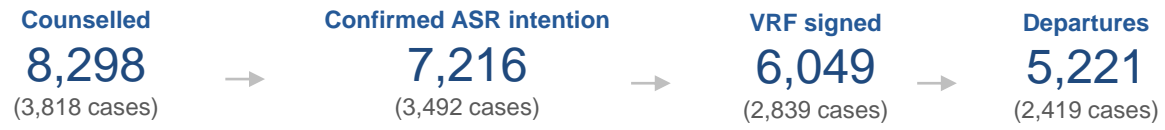


Since 2017, the joint UNHCR-IOM-Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme helps Somali refugees who wish to return home from Yemen with documentation, transportation and financial support in Yemen to facilitate the journey, as well as return and reintegration assistance in Somalia. So far, since the beginning of the programme, in 2017, 5,221 Somalis have returned home with the help of UNHCR and IOM.

**Highlights (12-23 February 2020)**

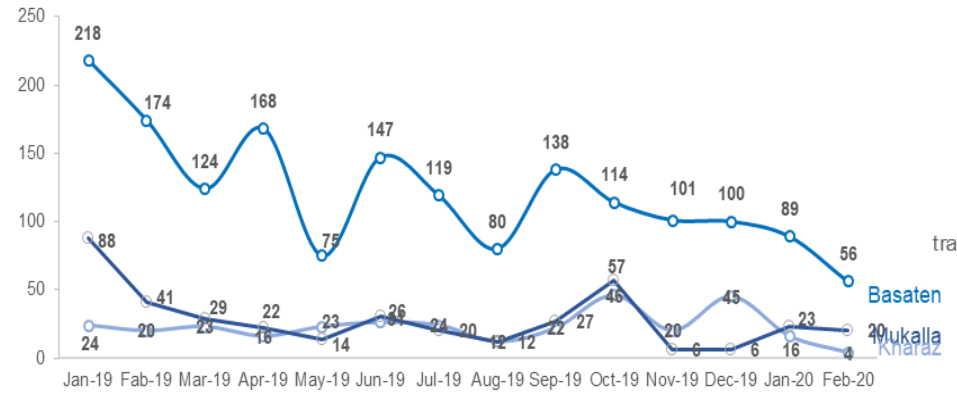
- On 23 February, UNHCR and IOM organised the 40th departures from Yemen to Somalia with 134 Somali refugees onboard. Since the beginning of the programme 5,221 Somali refugees have returned home.
- During the reporting period, 39 refugees who approached the Return Help Desks (RHD) in Basateen, Kharaz 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)**

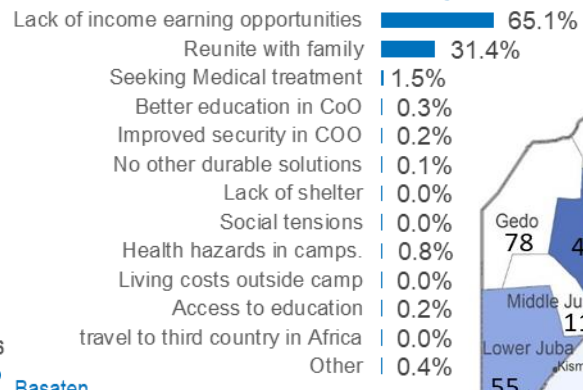


Pending protection solutions: 14 individuals 3 cases  
 No show for VRF signature: **1153** individuals / **650** cases

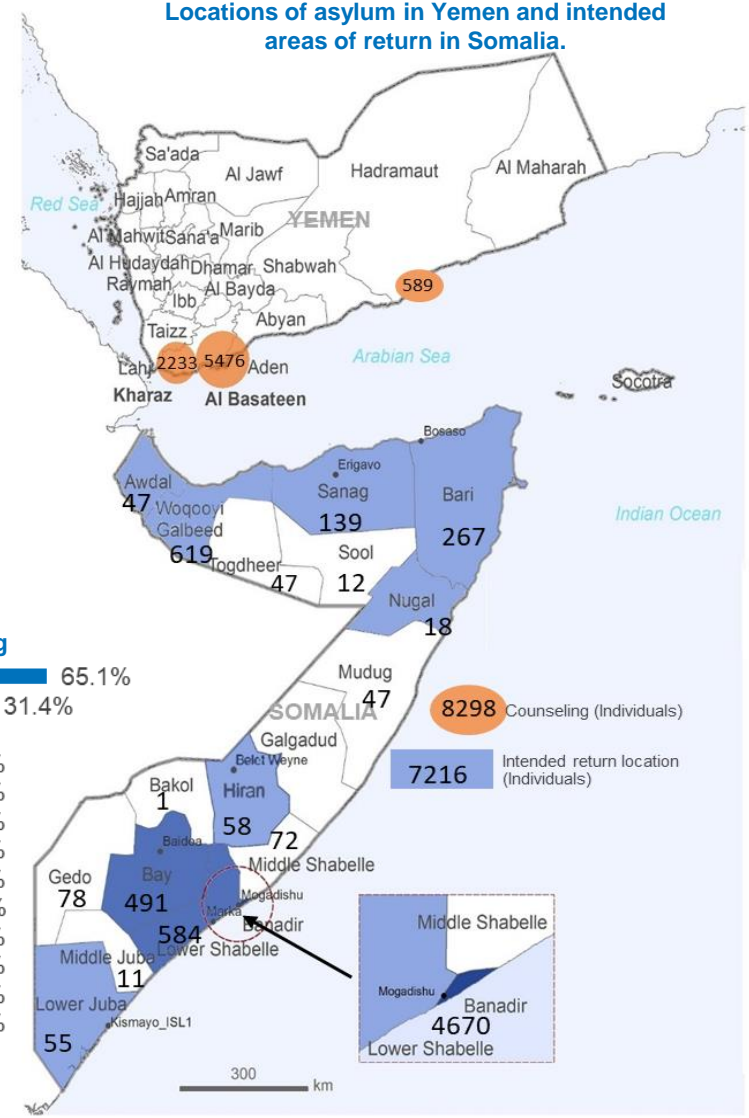
**Monthly trend of individuals approaching ASR-RHD for counseling**



**Reasons for returning**



**Locations of asylum in Yemen and intended areas of return in Somalia.**



8298 Counseling (Individuals)  
 7216 Intended return location (Individuals)

**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.