



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Yemen

## MESSAGE FROM

### IOM YEMEN'S CHIEF OF MISSION



2020 was a challenging year for everyone. No person remained untouched by the global COVID-19 pandemic. For communities living in crisis, the pandemic added yet another layer of worry, suffering and need for support. In Yemen, where the conflict is entering its seventh year, the already dire humanitarian situation continued to spiral.

It has not always been easy for the world to see the mark the virus has made on Yemen, as there is limited testing and reporting, and a fear of seeking medical attention. However, the impact of the pandemic is clearly evident in nearly all facets of life across the country: communities have seen loved ones fall ill and die, and the economy has declined severely while remittances from abroad have dropped drastically, putting millions of people's survival on the line. The number of lives lost to COVID-19 in Yemen is sadly unknown but haunting images of mass grave sites tell their own story.

I am proud of everything that the IOM Yemen team achieved in 2020. We quickly adapted all our assistance by integrating strict hygiene practices so that neither our teams, their families nor local communities would contract or spread the virus. Additionally, we rapidly implemented a tailored COVID-19 response, including activities such as hygiene awareness raising and health support, and building isolation and treatment centres in locations hosting large numbers of displaced people. We also supported thousands of migrants stranded in Yemen as a result of the pandemic and advocated that they be included in any COVID-19 response plans—migrants should never be left behind. Overall, we reached over 6.1 million people with support over the course of the year.

2020 was also a challenging year for humanitarian organizations in Yemen. Around 98 per cent of people in need—17.8 million—are living in hard-to-reach areas, mainly designated as such due to bureaucracy-related factors like permit denials and movement blockages. IOM has reacted to this environment by adapting its footprint to ensure that we are working as effectively as possible and focusing on areas where we can access communities and monitor projects. The organization reduced its operations in some locations and expanded them in other areas where there are large needs and better access.

As we look towards 2021, we will continue to improve the quality of IOM's work to ensure we are helping as many vulnerable communities as possible with the right kind of support. We remain committed to providing humanitarian assistance to populations in need, wherever they are, and we will continue to find opportunities to scale up our programming and maximize the impact of all interventions.

Conflict, mass displacement, dangerous migrant routes and COVID-19 have taken their toll on people in Yemen, but nonetheless, they have remained resilient and strong in the face of adversity. The needs may be many, but IOM strives to continue making a difference in the lives of millions as they navigate these colossal challenges throughout 2021 and for years to come.

*Christa Rottensteiner,  
IOM Yemen Chief of Mission*

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'CR', written in a cursive style.

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## IOM'S NEEDS-BASED OPERATIONAL APPROACH

IOM takes a strong needs-based approach to its work in Yemen in order to reach the most vulnerable migrant, displaced and host communities. In 2020, through an integrated multisector response, the Organization continued to expand its support in underserved locations where access to communities is possible. With a presence established during the previous year, IOM enhanced its operations in Ma'rib where the highest number of persons were newly displaced to in 2020 and which hosts Yemen's largest displacement site. Additionally, throughout the year, thousands of migrants were stranded in the governorate and in need of assistance, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Organization also began assessments in the west coast part of the country, aiming at establishing a presence there—based out of Al Makha—where there are high needs and major gaps. Assessments were carried out throughout the year by all teams, engaging target communities, to inform the Organization's response and to target vulnerable communities where there is a likelihood of humanitarian needs increasing due to receiving large numbers of displaced people, returnees, migrants or other vulnerable groups. These assessments were not just carried out

in new locations of work like Al Makha but also in relation to all programmes carried out by IOM, for example, by the Aden team which also serves the neighbouring governorates. During project implementation, beneficiaries continue to be involved in the shaping of the project and have the ability to provide feedback to IOM via its field teams or independently to its community feedback hotline consisting of a phone number, email and social media. However, in some locations, particularly in northern governorates, project assessments and monitoring, along with implementation and movements, were not possible in 2020. As a result, IOM had to re-assess its operational presence in areas covered by its Al Hodeidah and Sana'a offices. In these locations, it has been challenging for IOM teams to visit project locations, verify beneficiaries and implement programmes in line with international humanitarian response guidelines. The Organization had to take the difficult step to close its sub-office in Al Hodeidah and reduce staff numbers in Sana'a. Should operational constraints be lifted, IOM hopes that activities and staffing can be increased again in the future.



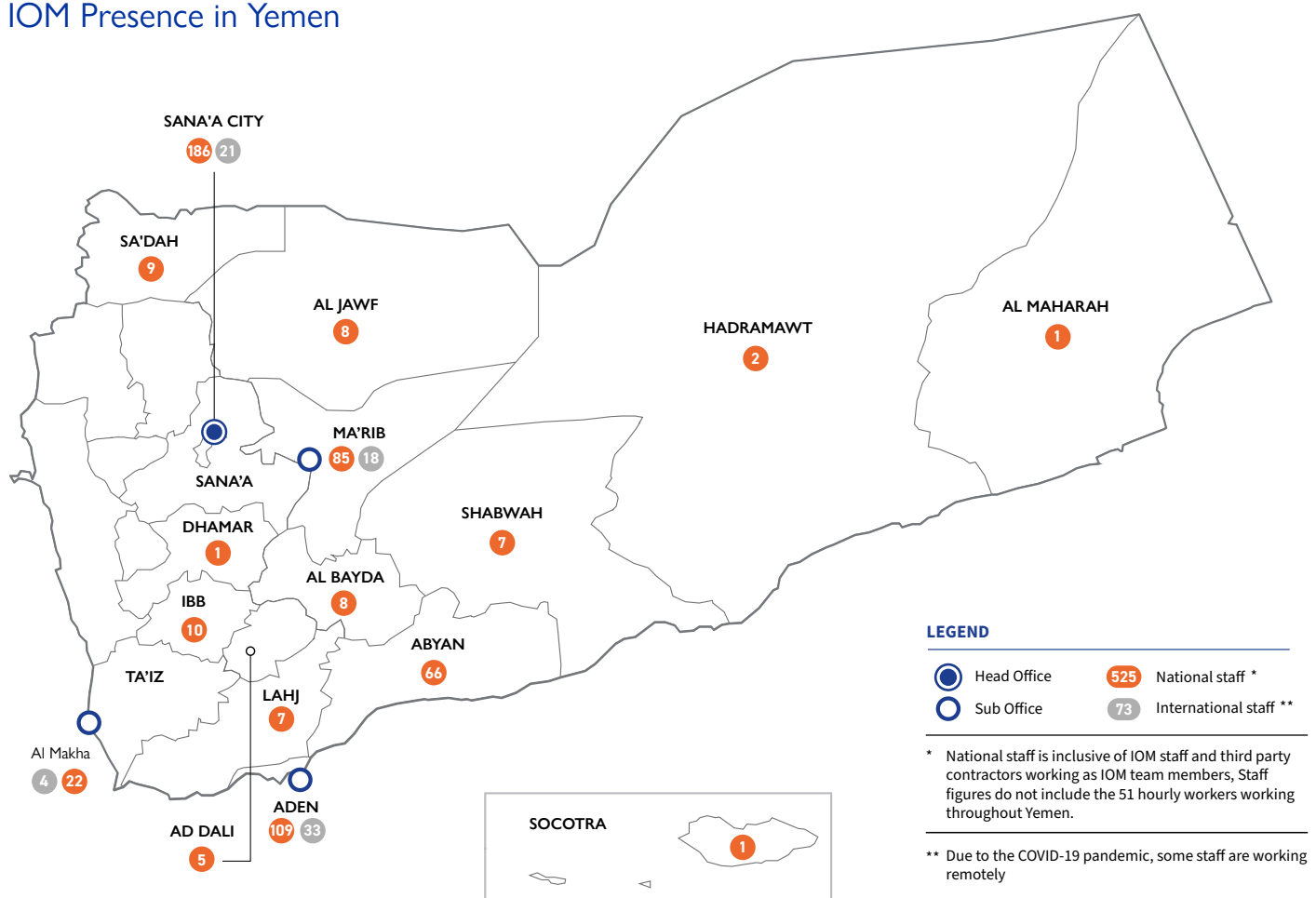
*A migrant women registers during an aid distribution outside Ma'rib city ©IOM 2020*

# STRENGTHENING RESPONSE CAPACITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Throughout 2020, IOM continued to be committed to delivering a principled, accountable and flexible humanitarian response in Yemen, while adapting to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic as effectively as possible. Understanding the risks involved in working in complex contexts such as Yemen, the Organization invested in human resource capacity to ensure adequate oversight for an emergency of this scale, in addition to strengthening accountability systems and internal controls. These efforts were a natural development from previous actions taken over the last three years to increase compliance and oversight – such as the internal audit in May 2017 and its follow up audit review in 2019, and risk assessments carried out in July 2019 that informed the mission’s Risk Management Framework and Mitigation Strategy. The actions taken included bolstering internal controls, which help ensure efficient management of resources, utilizing a value for money approach and facilitating detailed financial tracking of funds. In addition to implementing global IOM procurement,

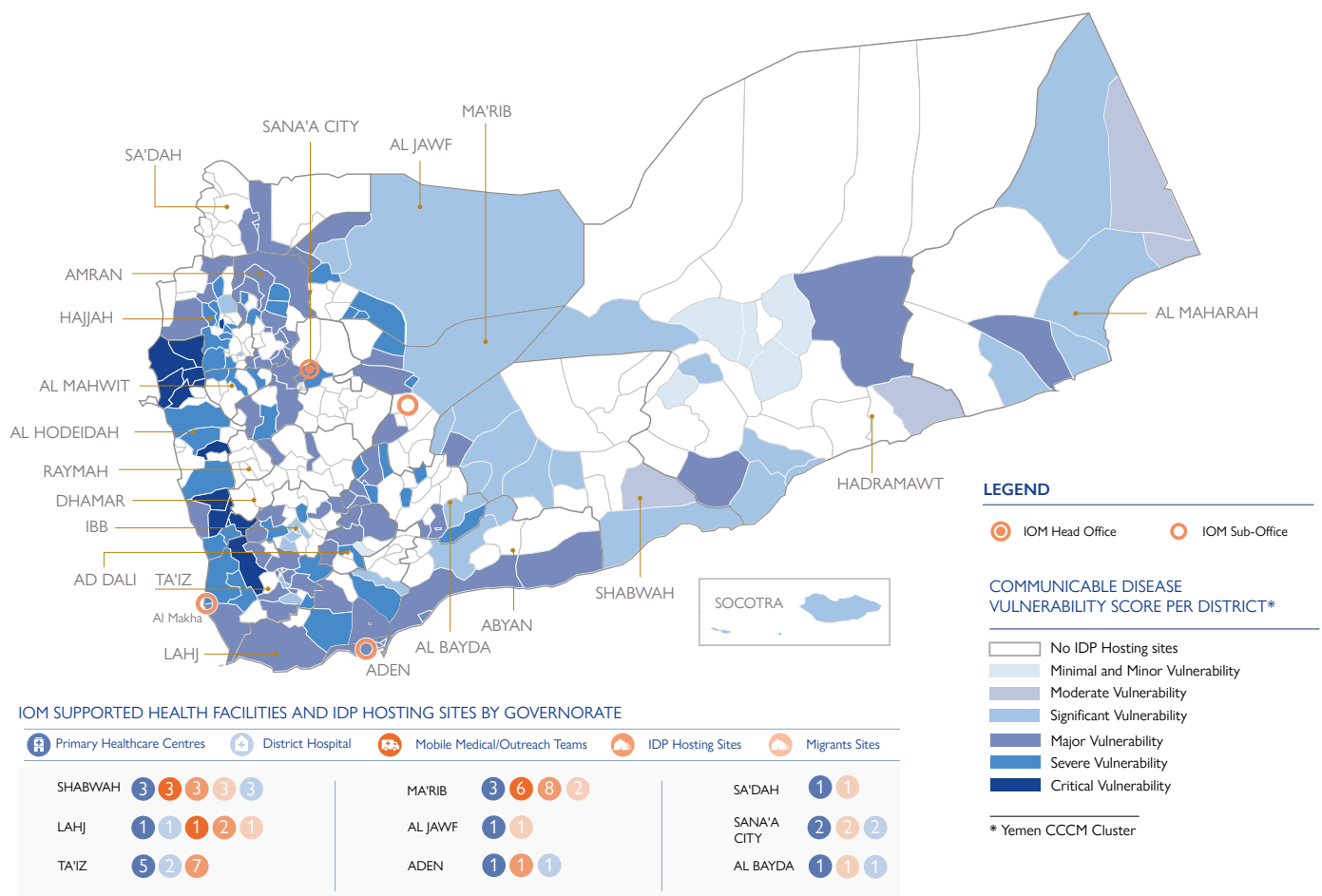
finance and programme management policies and procedures in order to ensure strong checks and balances throughout its work, IOM Yemen implemented additional measures to strengthen its internal procurement and finances processes, such as rolling out online procurement platforms with controlled access, implementing stricter rules governing procurement thresholds and methods, carrying out regular reporting and financial tracking, and facilitating periodic reviews from IOM administrative centres and headquarters. IOM Yemen’s programmes teams are led by an experienced senior management team, supported by a team of 63 international staff who provide oversight of all areas of programming and support. Operations are also supported by a large field team, and in 2020, the Organization expanded capacities in field offices like Ma’rib and Aden. Having strong human resource capacity across programme management teams allows IOM to monitor and evaluate aid delivery, apply controls and course-correct when needed.

## IOM Presence in Yemen



# RESPONDING QUICKLY TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- 531 health workers trained in COVID-19 prevention and case management in 5 governorates
- 1 COVID-19 isolation and treatment centre established
- 2 COVID-19 quarantine centres established
- 196,246 face masks and 10,000 bottles of hand sanitizer produced, engaging local communities and IDP women
- 392,662 individuals living in camps and/or camp-like settings, and surrounding host communities supported with enhanced Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities for COVID-19 prevention and response
- 632 handwashing facilities installed or rehabilitated
- 7,400,000 people reached through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities



The COVID-19 pandemic amplified underlying vulnerabilities across Yemen, compounding the impact of an ongoing economic crisis and prolonged conflict by further reducing access to livelihoods, incomes, remittances and access to basic services. By the end of 2020, a total of 2,101 cases and 611 deaths were reported in Yemen, with the low reporting rates demonstrating how the official epi-curve underestimates the prevalence of infections. The socio-economic impacts of the virus have also been concerning; the economic fall out of the pandemic, coupled with the prolonged conflict, meant decreased remittances and access to income, severely reducing household purchasing power, access to basic services and employment. A recent study from the Cash Consortium in Yemen (CCY), which is co-led by IOM and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), showed how COVID-19 has contributed to worsened living conditions for many people in Yemen. The 571 households surveyed in nine governorates reported suffering from a deteriorating economic situation, with nearly half of respondents reporting that breadwinners lost jobs and a third reporting reduced income as well as decreased remittances since the start of the pandemic.

Although this has been a very challenging time for communities, the response to COVID-19 in Yemen has been severely hampered by operational restrictions, along with a lack of suppression measures and community level adaptive behaviors. These challenges, in addition to fuel and funding shortages, often affected the delivery of medical and personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the country, as well as efforts to scale up surveillance and testing, and improve health service provision.

Along with the rest of the humanitarian community, IOM prioritized COVID-19 response activities from the onset of the pandemic in line with national and humanitarian response priorities. The Organization's COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts focused on meeting the needs of mobile populations – displaced persons and migrants – who were disproportionately affected by the crisis. This required maintaining a rapid response to emergency needs, integrating COVID-19 measures within all existing humanitarian activities and ensuring service continuity. At the height of the pandemic, IOM maintained health service provision through 32 health facilities, nine mobile health teams and in 64 IDP hosting sites across Abyan, Al Jawf, Aden, Al Bayda, Ad Dali', Sana'a City, Lahj, Ma'rib, Sa'dah, Shabwah and Ta'iz governorates. Working closely with the Health Cluster, World Health Organization (WHO), and the Ministry of Public Health and Population, IOM coordinated infection, prevention and control activities as well as case management, disease surveillance and national system strengthening activities. Isolations centres were set up in two IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib, while in Ma'rib city, an isolation and treatment center (with a 63 bed and ICU capacity) was equipped and handed over to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) before the end of the year. Trainings for health workers on COVID-19 case management, case definitions and infection prevention and control measures were also rolled out across the country, reaching 531 health workers. Aiming to address the widespread testing and surveillance challenges, IOM also launched activities to expand COVID-19 testing capacities, starting with increasing access for frontline workers in Aden and expanding to Ma'rib and other underserved locations. In Ma'rib and Hadramawt, the Organization scaled up vocational and livelihood activities, as well as multi-purpose cash assistance, aiming to empower conflict affected communities during this critical time.

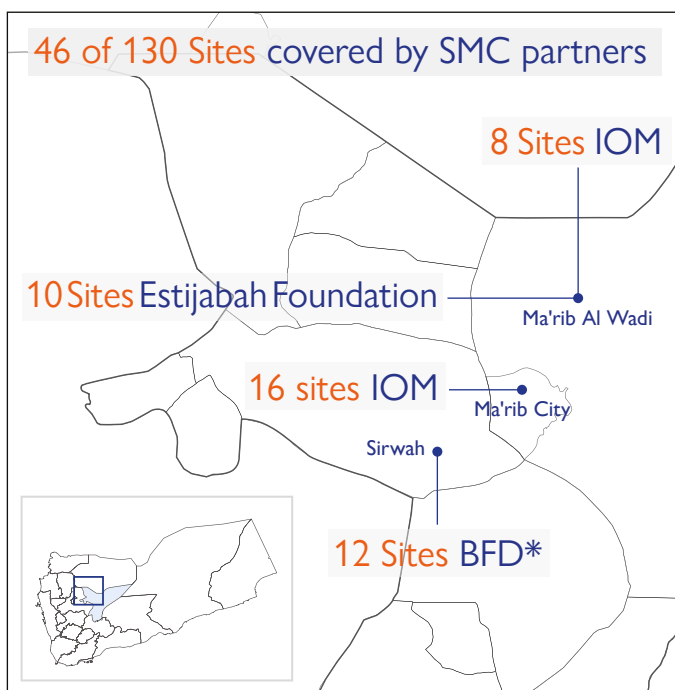
## SCALING UP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN MA'RIB

Since January 2020, conflict progressively escalated in Sana'a, Ma'rib and Al Jawf governorates, destroying communities and forcing over 100,000 people to flee. Before this escalation of hostilities, Ma'rib governorate already hosted the largest IDP population and the largest IDP camp in Yemen: IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Area Assessment from 2018 put the number of IDPs in the governorate at 800,000. In 2020, the increased fighting caused the largest displacement in country. Those displaced by the conflict were some of the most vulnerable: a majority were women (23%) and children (56%). IOM teams recorded unaccompanied children living in 24 sites, child headed households in 77 sites and households headed by women in 103 sites. A majority of people fleeing are being displaced for the second time, and close to 60 per cent are settling into already crowded displacement sites or informal settlements with inadequate services. Ma'rib city bore a majority of this, with 70 per cent of people displaced in the governorate estimated to be settling there and resources remained severely overstretched. As a testament to the expanding needs, 19 new IDP hosting sites or informal settlements opened in Medghal, Ma'rib city, Ma'rib Al Wadi and Sirwah districts this year, bringing the total number of verified sites in the governorate to 125. Of these, 46 sites received site management and coordination support by IOM and partners. However, there continued to be very limited availability of local and humanitarian human and financial resources, and ongoing response gaps around shelter and household items, food and medical assistance, as well as water and sanitation services.



The CCCM team help a displaced woman carry aid items during an RRM distribution in Ma'rib ©IOM 2020 / O. Headon

Throughout the year, IOM has sounded the alarm on the situation, advocating for increased humanitarian assistance as well as an urgent de-escalation of hostilities. IOM maintained a team of 15 international professionals in Ma'rib and increased its national team to over 100 team members to respond to the growing emergency. The Organization coordinated emergency response efforts across all sectors: operating the humanitarian hub, leading the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and Health sub-national clusters, managing the shelter and non-food items (S-NFI), Multi-sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline, and being the lead partner on protection. By the end of the year, 97 per cent of new IDPs received assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which IOM implements in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi; 7,666 households received non-food items (NFIs) and 6,817 households received shelter support, 19,510 received plastic sheets, and 1,452 latrines were constructed.



\* Building Foundation for Development, an IOM implementing partner



A displaced boy collects water for his family from a tank supplied with water by IOM in Ma'rib ©IOM 2020/ O. Headon

 <p><b>14,913</b> Newly displaced HHs registered by IOM</p>	 <p><b>14,432</b> 97% Received RRM</p>	 <p><b>6,667</b> Shelters provided</p>	 <p><b>7,436</b> NFI kits distributed</p>
 <p><b>19,510</b> Plastic sheets distributed</p>	 <p><b>68,368,700</b> Litres of safe drinking water provided<sup>1</sup></p>	 <p><b>819</b> Latrines constructed</p>	

\*Response updates from 21 January to 12 December 2020

<sup>1</sup> The monthly amount increased from 1,943,000 liters since January, because of the rise of IDPs in need.





## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

Operating across 11 governorates, IOM's S-NFI programming supports people affected by conflict and natural disasters through the provision of safe, dignified and appropriate S-NFI support. This assistance includes the provision of NFIs, emergency shelter, family tents and Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits to displaced people residing in collective centres, makeshift shelters and informal settlements. Where possible, IOM considers the use of multipurpose cash assistance to provide people with purchasing flexibility while supporting local markets. IOM's S-NFI programming also focused on medium and long-term shelter solutions in areas where protracted IDPs are residing and in locations of stability. This includes shelter rehabilitation activities and construction of transitional shelters.

In 2020, IOM's S-NFI support reached nearly 540,000 people through various shelter and NFI activities helping address increased vulnerabilities, including providing specialized winterization assistance. IOM's RRM distributions covered families in Ma'rib City, Ma'rib Al Wadi, Raghwan and Harib districts in Ma'rib governorate, approximately 109,900 individuals (2.5 times more than 2019). The standard RRM kit includes a ration box, basic hygiene kit, plastic jerry cans (20 litres), a water basin (20 litres) and a dignity kit, with clothes and hygiene items for women.

Torrential rain and flash flooding affected nearly 120,000 people across the country between April and August 2020, devastating local communities, farms and IDP hosting sites particularly in Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Al Bayda, Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Ibb, Ma'rib and Ta'iz governorates. IOM's S-NFI activities focused on providing dignified and safe shelter and NFI solutions to affected communities in six most affected governorates. IOM distributed enhanced emergency shelter kits, shelter repair kits and NFI and hygiene kits to displaced and host community families affected by the floods. In addition, in coordination with IOM's camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) team, IOM supported flood risk mitigation measures in IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib, thereby reducing damage caused by floods for an already vulnerable population.



# 539,728

PEOPLE REACHED



## 31,711 HHs

Received emergency shelter materials



## 14,859 HHs

Received NFI kits



## 7,165 HHs

Received both emergency shelter kits



## 7,979 HHs

Received winterization support



## 807 HHs

Received transitional shelter support

### IN FOCUS: Enhanced Preparedness for Acute Shocks (Contingency Pipeline)

IOM is ensuring the provision of coordinated, timely and relevant life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations across Yemen by facilitating the procurement, warehousing and transportation of WASH items (hygiene kits), and emergency shelter and NFI kits via the Multi-sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline. IOM manages the Pipeline in Yemen in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), helping strengthen the humanitarian community's capacity to provide emergency assistance to meet life-saving humanitarian needs as they arise, ensuring that critical life-saving assistance is provided to affected populations at the onset of conflict or natural disasters. The Pipeline also allows for an empowered localized response through the provision of emergency relief items and support to frontline responding partners, ensuring more efficient access in remote or hard to reach locations.

With the Pipeline activated across seven governorates (Aden, Ibb, Al Hodeidah, Hajjah, Ma'rib, Sana'a and Sada'a), 97,042 individuals affected by conflict, [flood or other natural disaster](#) received shelter, NFIs or other humanitarian relief items from the Pipeline. In 2020, IOM and 19 national and international NGOs provided 8,394 emergency shelter kits, 1,127 family tents, 10,082 NFI kits and 43 emergency latrines across 11 governorates from Pipeline stocks.



A newly displaced woman and her child after receiving emergency aid items in Aden ©IOM 2020 /R.Ibrahim

## IN FOCUS: Rapid Response Mechanism

As the co-lead of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Cluster, along with the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA), IOM is committed to timely, flexible and standardized RRM modalities. The RRM provides a minimum package of immediate most critical life-saving assistance for newly displaced persons who are on the move, in collective sites, hard to reach areas or stranded in the military frontlines until the first line response is mobilized. Nearly 90 per cent of households who received RRM in 2020 were in hard to reach areas. RRM support includes food rations, and hygiene and dignity kits within 72 hours of the displacement alert followed by one-off multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) for the most vulnerable households, covering their needs for the first month after displacement. The effective use and coordination of cash assistance in this way helps empower local communities and strengthen local markets, allowing aid to be delivered in a dignified manner.

In 2020, IOM reached 105,833 vulnerable newly displaced people in Ma'rib, Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Ta'iz and Ad Dali' with MPCA, with a transfer value based on the endorsed Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) in Yemen. IOM's cash distributions are enabled by a Financial Service Provider (FSP) with a network of branches across the country, which allows a swift response to displaced households in conflict-affected areas while maintaining accountability to affected populations and donors.



**105,833 people**

Received RRM multi-purpose cash assistance



**102,081 people**

Received in kind RRM kits



*A displaced father stands with his children in front of their tent outside Ma'rib city ©IOM 2020*



## HEALTH RESPONSE

IOM continued to prioritize emergency health support to Yemeni nationals, migrants and vulnerable communities in Yemen throughout 2020, taking immediate steps to streamline COVID-19 prevention and response measures into existing programming via ongoing support to Yemeni health institutions and mobile health teams. The arrival of COVID-19 in Yemen during the first quarter of 2020 quickly exacerbated existing weaknesses in Yemen's health infrastructure, affecting the access of vulnerable populations, such as migrants, to healthcare services. IOM's core response to COVID-19 focused on the provision of critical personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline health care workers, the procurement of testing machines, the continuous reporting of suspected and confirmed cases through the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS), and the incorporation of COVID-19 prevention and response measures into all health promotion activities.

Throughout the year, IOM continued to operate four mobile medical teams along Yemen's southern coast (Lahj and Shabwah), supporting 10,325 newly arrived migrants with emergency health and mental health and psychosocial support services. IOM continued to serve as the principal recipient of the Global Fund to support AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria in Yemen, supporting prevention, response and capacity building. Through the Global Fund, IOM supported public health facilities to reach 2,372,042 million people with surveillance, case management and treatment activities in 2020, including 1,831,726 individuals supported by a mass distribution campaign of long-lasting insecticidal nets for protection against Malaria in malaria-endemic districts.

### IN FOCUS: Strengthening National Laboratory Capacity

As part of IOM's efforts to build Yemen's capacity to respond to the pandemic, the Organization coordinated with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to scale up a COVID-19 response.

Given the limited testing capacity across Yemen from the onset of the pandemic, IOM launched efforts to establish additional COVID-19 testing for humanitarian workers, healthcare providers and vulnerable groups, starting in Ma'rib and Ta'iz.

IOM procured six GeneXpert machines in 2020, which can provide COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test results in under an hour. The machines are easy to set up and so they can be moved to new locations across the country based on response needs. This mobility is important as difficulties in transporting test samples long distances or from isolated areas to existing public health laboratories continue to cause delays in test results or prevent suspected COVID-19 cases from being able to undertake a test.

IOM coordinated with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the Health Cluster to ensure that machines are sent to locations that are in the greatest need of testing capacity. The first location will be Al Makha in Ta'iz governorate, and here, the machine will be used in an existing COVID-19 treatment centre to ensure that suspected cases are able to obtain accurate test results in a timely fashion. Currently, samples must be sent by road to either Aden or Ta'iz Public Health Laboratories, both several hours drive away and with inconsistent road access. The IOM team also carried out trainings for laboratory workers and other health care providers on general procedures, testing protocol and result interpretation.



A health worker examining samples at an IOM-supported isolation centre in Ma'rib ©IOM 2020 /R.Ibrahim



# 833,693

PEOPLE REACHED



## 799,541

Primary health consultations conducted



## 89

Health facilities received medical supplies



## 700

Health workers trained



## 201

Individuals benefiting from access to quarantine and isolation facilities

## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Active conflict continued to displace hundreds of thousands of Yemenis in 2020. IOM remained a reliable and proactive CCCM partner during this period, enhancing CCCM operations in 71 IDP hosting sites in Ta'iz, Ibb and Ma'rib governorates. In particular, the CCCM team has focused on improving services in these sites and used CCCM modalities to engage partners, ensuring that vulnerable displaced Yemenis have access to sustainable services. With the first positive COVID-19 case in April 2020, CCCM teams integrated prevention measures into their work at the site level and instituted community shielding approaches and site vulnerability assessments aimed at identifying and supporting households at high risk of contracting the virus.

A priority was to ensure that vulnerable displaced Yemenis had access to sustainable services, particularly in Ma'rib where IOM leads the CCCM sub-national cluster. A component of this included providing material and technical support to camp managers and local partners/authorities and IDP camp committees on site management, coordination and improvement. IOM also carried out a range of site improvement activities and site risk mitigation activities, for example, expanding/constructing flood ways, repairing roads, improving electrical systems and repairing damaged site infrastructure. The Organization also established eight community centres and 12 playgrounds in IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib.

In order to promote IDPs' resiliency, IOM's CCCM team provided displaced communities with the tools and support necessary to self-manage displacement sites. IOM provided formal trainings to site representatives, focusing on key skills such as coordination, information management, community participation and monitoring of site risks. Trainings included representatives from women's committees as well as marginalized groups. While IOM CCCM teams continued to provide frontline responses to acute displacement, areas for longer term shelter interventions were sought out in coordination with authorities and local community leaders. Additionally, IOM is working with partners to respond to land and property issues in informal settlements and collective sites where IDPs face threats of eviction. IOM and partners assisted 2,854 HHs with urgent shelter and relocation assistance in 2020.



# 138,309

PEOPLE REACHED



## 71

Displacement sites supported



## 130,445

Internally displaced persons registered and verified in displacement sites



## 82

Infrastructure and maintenance projects conducted in IOM-supported sites



A group of displaced children practice physical distancing during a COVID-19 awareness raising session with the CCCM team in Ibb ©IOM 2020

## PROTECTION

IOM works to prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to protection threats against persons, groups and communities affected by displacement, conflict and migration in Yemen, while reducing their acute vulnerability and strengthening their coping capacities. The selection criteria of beneficiaries, as well as the assistance provided, are grounded in area-based analysis and prioritization of threats, risks and vulnerabilities. IOM's protection team provides services to displaced people, migrants and vulnerable members of the community hosting them.

In 2020, the team provided protection support to 3,035 vulnerable individuals living in IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib governorate through individual assistance, including shelter, relief items, access to health care, psychosocial support and referrals to specialized services. In Sana'a, Ibb and Aden, the team assisted 73,479 children through IOM Community Response Points by providing mental health and psychosocial support, awareness raising on mental and physical health, reintegration activities and support such as vocational training and provision of material assistance for the parents of survivors of child labour.

In addition to displaced people, IOM provided support to vulnerable migrants in Yemen. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Organization helped 247 Ethiopians and 22 people of other nationalities return home through its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme. Additionally, the Organization supported the return of 329 Somali refugees through the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) mechanism in coordination with UNCHR. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the ASR programme to Somalia and the VHR programme to Ethiopia being put on hold. By the end of the year, only an additional 50 people were supported through VHR and returned to countries such as Egypt, India and Sudan.



# 163,654

## PEOPLE REACHED



### 50,308

Migrants supported with emergency health-care services



### 648

Migrants and refugees provided with voluntary humanitarian returns and assisted spontaneous returns assistance



### 648

Individuals received dedicated case management support



### 3

Community Response Points established



### 12

Protection monitoring reports developed and disseminated to decision-makers and response actors



An Ethiopian migrant receiving his boarding pass in Aden airport during voluntary return process ©IOM 2020

## IN FOCUS: Scaling up to Support Stranded Migrants

The global COVID-19 pandemic had a major effect on the migrant route between the Horn of Africa, Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). As a result of movement restrictions and increased security, only 37,535 migrant arrivals in Yemen were recorded by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix in 2020, compared to over 138,000 in 2019 and similar numbers in 2018. As with previous years, the vast majority continued to be Ethiopians, with a small percentage of Somalis. Border closures, particularly between Yemen and KSA, and enhanced checks on internal movements led to thousands—at least 15,000—becoming stranded in the country's main migrant transit hubs like Aden, Ma'rib and Sa'dah. Initially hoping to make it to KSA, the stranded migrants found themselves living in dire conditions, often on the side of roads or in dangerous abandoned buildings, and without access to basic necessities like water, food, sanitation and health care. Migrants also faced xenophobia and discrimination, particularly when they were labelled as carriers of the virus at the start of the outbreak.

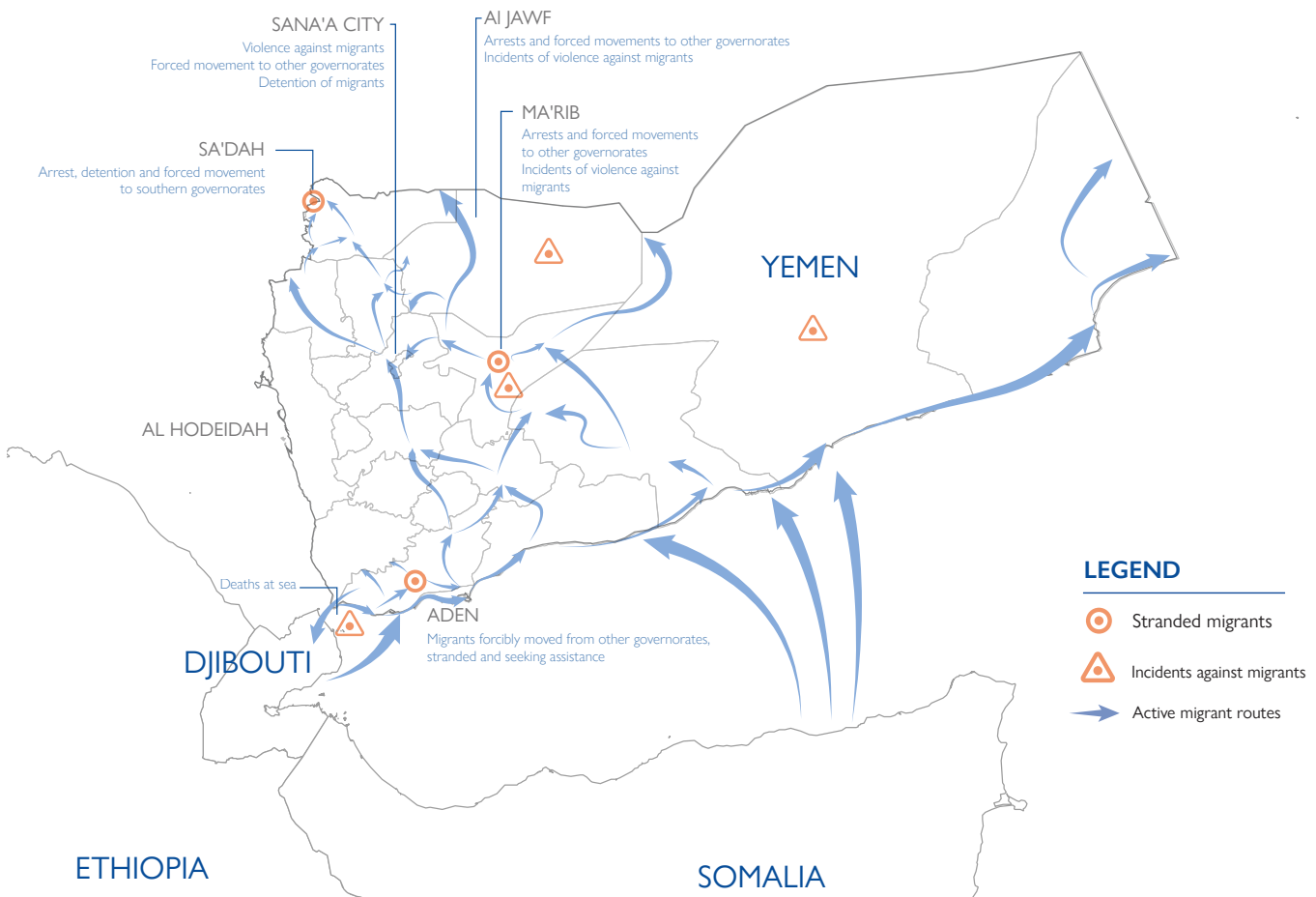


5,600

Migrants registered for return assistance

All these issues combined with the risks already faced by migrants in Yemen — like discrimination, abuse, exploitation, torture, trafficking and injury related to the conflict — made the situation untenable for most stranded migrants, who increasingly requested support from IOM to return home. By the end of 2020, over 5,600 people had been registered for VHR. With the pandemic making international movements more difficult, IOM worked with the Government of Ethiopia to restart the Organization's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) to the country, which was on hold since March 2020, and in December, officials from the Government came to Yemen to begin the verification of nationality for registered returnees, verifying 1,100 people. The VHR programme is expected to resume in early 2021. However, sadly for some it is coming too late, as migrants desperate to leave the dire conditions in Yemen put their lives back into the hands of smugglers to travel home to the Horn of Africa. At least 20 people lost their lives on this dangerous sea journey. While migrants wait to return home, IOM began a cash-for-work programme in November, through which migrants contributed to improved environments in Aden city through cleaning campaigns. The programme has been received well by the local community. Additionally, IOM enhanced its emergency response in Aden and Ma'rib cities to ensure that more migrants in those locations were reached with health care, protection assistance, COVID-19 and other awareness raising and relief item distributions, assisting a total of 49,654 migrants since the beginning of the pandemic. IOM's migrant assistance in northern governorates was scaled down due to lack of access and operational space.

### SAUDI ARABIA



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In 2020, IOM's WASH activities focused on the most vulnerable populations in Yemen, including displaced people, migrants and host communities, people living in cholera or malaria-affected areas, and those most at risk of contracting COVID-19 or other infectious diseases. IOM continued to prioritize the construction, restoration and maintenance of existing water and sanitation systems, water trucking, cleaning campaigns (solid waste management), and the distribution of basic hygiene kits and mosquito nets, accompanied by hygiene promotion on practices to prevent water-borne and other infectious diseases. Capacity building activities for local partners, water and waste management committees, and local water institutions to ensure a sustainable WASH response were ongoing throughout the year.

IOM Yemen reached over 356,000 vulnerable displaced and host community members through the rehabilitation and construction of water and sanitation systems across seven governorates and over 600,000 individuals benefited from solid waste management support in five governorates. In 2020, the WASH team led IOM's rollout of risk communication and community engagement activities in response to COVID-19, reaching 140,902 individuals in Abyan, south Ta'iz, Shabwah, Lahj, and Aden through house-to-house visits conducted by 106 trained community hygiene volunteers, the distribution of information, education and communication materials and awareness raising campaigns. To further support infection prevention and control, IOM distributed 28,599 hygiene kits, 635,663 bars of soap and installed 632 handwashing facilities for IDPs living in sites in Ma'rib, Ibb, Ta'iz, Abyan, Dhamar and Sana'a governorates.



# 2,100,000

PEOPLE REACHED



## 334,102

People served by water supply system rehabilitation activities



## 1,498,028

People receiving improved service quality from solid waste management, drainage, or vector control activities



## 549,861

People supported with access to at least 7.5 litre per day of safe water



## 1,324,382

people reached through hygiene promotion and community engagement activities

### IN FOCUS: Sustainable WASH Responses

Access to safe water remains a challenge with conflict having damaged water points and networks or leading to broken infrastructure left unmaintained. High levels of displacement or returnees in certain locations in Yemen put pressure on functioning water services. In many rural communities, residents have to either pay high prices for fuel to operate pumps or travel long distances for water. Access to safe water also became increasingly important in 2020, with the increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. To address these challenges, in 2020, IOM worked with local water authorities, host communities and IDPs to find sustainable solutions to expand solar-powered water projects in the governorates of Shabwah, Ta'iz, Abyan, Aden and Lahj.

Through the construction or rehabilitation of 32 solar-powered water sites in 2020, 299,578 people now have increased access to safe water. Following the construction and rehabilitation process—to ensure the sustainability of all projects—IOM worked in coordination with the General Authority for Rural Water Supply and local communities and water committees to provide training on water management and maintenance of the solar water systems.



IOM WASH engineers inspect newly installed solar panels in Abyan ©IOM 2020 / R. Ibrahim



## TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM transition and recovery programming aims to restore and preserve basic access to and delivery of services through the rehabilitation of community assets such as schools, health facilities and infrastructure like roads, drainage, sewage and water systems. Additionally, the team carries out capacity building of local stakeholders and supports the generation of livelihoods and income opportunities for conflict-affected populations. In 2020, IOM engaged 573 beneficiaries in Ma'rib and Hadramawt on activities such as hairdressing, incense and perfume making, mobile maintenance and graphic design, providing them with in-kind grants following the training. To support Yemen's COVID-19 response, IOM and its implementing partner conducted risk communication and community engagement activities and produced 50,000 face masks and 10,000 bottles of hand sanitizer in cooperation with local institutions.

All items were distributed in public offices/service points and public places in Hadramawt governorate to support the local community. IOM, in coordination with the public Cleaning and Improvement Funds in Ma'rib and Hadramawt, procured and distributed over 200 waste containers to support the improvement and expansion of public waste collection systems, reaching 11,982 beneficiaries. IOM also completed needs assessment reports in seven governorates and market and livelihood assessments in five governorates to identify viable economic development and livelihood opportunities for ongoing and future interventions.



# 504,508

PEOPLE REACHED



## 17,290

People benefiting from multi-purpose cash assistance



## 9,751

People benefiting from cash for work, vocational training and small grants assistance



## 11

Assessments conducted to inform programming and assess needs



## 11,802

People benefiting from access to improved services

### IN FOCUS: Assessing Socio-Economic Needs to Inform Programming

While Yemen is wrought by conflict, there are pockets of stability and opportunities to support stable areas to maintain gains made. In 2020, IOM continued to support conflict-affected Yemenis, with the rehabilitation and construction of schools and other core infrastructure, the establishment of livelihood opportunities to increase household incomes, and building local capacities to resolve community-level conflicts.

With a focus on transition and recovery, IOM conducted conflict analyses, vulnerability assessments and multi-sector needs assessments in seven governorates in 2020: Ma'rib, Hadramawt, Aden, Lahj, Shabwah, Abyan and Ta'iz.

Through the assessment process, key trends were identified in relation to women's access to services and decision-making processes; the prevalence of COVID-19 and poverty as the primary concern among Yemenis; and the need for increased opportunities for livelihoods and income that were identified as the primary drivers of community tensions.

Following the completion of the assessment process, the results served to further inform IOM's transition and recovery programming, providing a basis for strategic expansion and the selection of key districts and projects for rehabilitation, construction and cash-for-work support.



Pharmacy students making sanitisers to help combat COVID-19 in Sayun  
©IOM 2020



## DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

Throughout 2020, IOM's DTM network of enumerators continued to cover 13 governorates across Yemen and capture the needs, numbers, locations and living conditions of mobile populations, including displaced people, migrants and returnees. Through this data collection network, IOM Yemen produced regular reports (Flow Monitoring Reports and Rapid Displacement Tracking), datasets and maps for public and partner use. Conflict continued to be the main driver of displacement across Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah, Ad Dali' and Ta'iz, with 79 per cent of the total displaced population being displaced to or within those four governorates. IOM is hoping to be able to re-start DTM in northern governorates in 2021 which had been stopped by the authorities at the beginning of 2020. In keeping with recent IPC and malnutrition analysis for Yemen, IOM teams also observed high food needs among IDPs, particularly during the latter part of the year, which can be likely attributed to the impact COVID-19 on livelihoods and access to goods. In Lahj (85%), Shabwah (67%), Ad Dali' (59%) and Abyan (58%), food was reported as the top priority need for the displaced population, and IDPs noted increased prices of essential commodities in the local markets.

In Ad Dali' where 73 per cent of IDPs were displaced within the same governorate and a majority were farmers, IDPs reported being unable to find new income sources to support their families while displaced. IOM programme teams and partners utilized DTM data on needs to inform S-NFI, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) interventions across Yemen.



### 172,386

IDPs in 13 governorates



### 10,788

IDP returnees



### 37,535

Migrant arrivals



### 14,161

Yemeni returnees



Displaced people in a site in Ta'iz carrying hygiene materials to protect them from the danger of COVID-19 ©IOM 2020

While migrant and returnee arrivals drastically decreased in 2020 due to COVID-19 movement restrictions within the region and on the Horn of Africa, DTM continued to monitor key migrant arrival points along the southern coastal border and Yemeni return locations on Yemen's northern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Numbers recorded by IOM fell from 138,213 migrants and 50,065 Yemeni returns in 2019 to 37,535 migrants and 14,161 Yemeni returns in the past year (73% and 72% decrease respectively). The largest number of migrant arrivals were recorded along the Shabwah and Hadramawt coastline. Enumerators placed at seven Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) recorded arrivals of migrants and Yemeni nationals and identified different patterns and types of migration (see IOM's Quarter 4 Migration Overview for further information). One new trend observed in 2020 linked to COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen was stranded migrants attempting the return to Ethiopia via Djibouti. IOM in the Horn of Africa region recorded over 6,000 migrants arriving in Djibouti from Yemen between May and December 2020, intending to return back home.

The Multi-Cluster Location Assessment (MCLA), which in 2018 provided a nationwide evidence base for the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), was not conducted in 2020 due to obstacles in accessing target locations, as well as to COVID-19 prevention measures. In the last quarter of 2020, preparations advanced through ongoing liaison and coordination with authorities to acquire renewed permissions for moving forward in the first quarter of 2021, finalize the Household Level Questionnaire and kickstart enumerator training.



IOM's mobile medical team provides emergency health care assistance to migrants on the Lahj coast ©IOM 2020/ R. Ibrahim

## Migrant Arrivals

