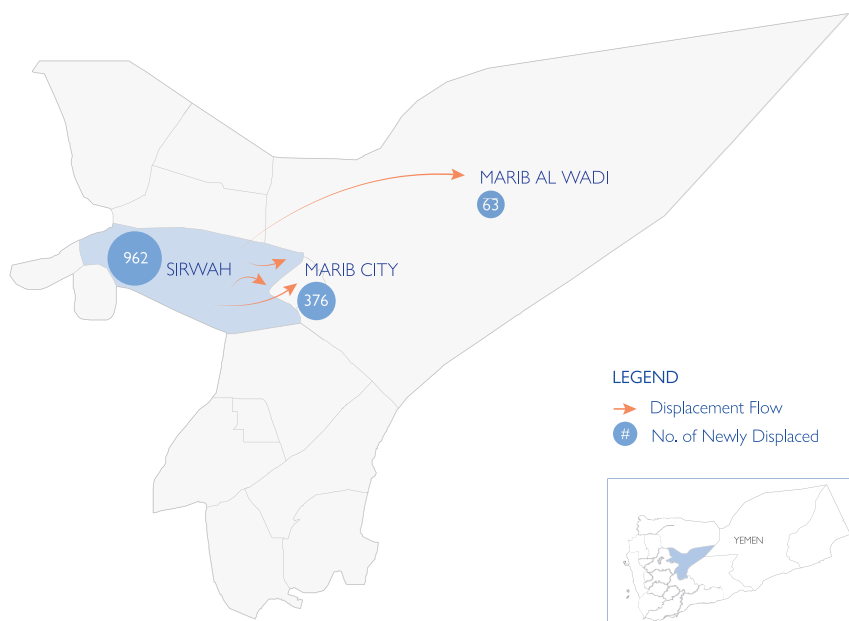


DISPLACEMENT IN MA'RIB | FLASH UPDATE

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The escalating conflict in Ma'rib continues to cause the largest displacement in Yemen. Some 21,000 households (HH) have been displaced since the fighting started in January 2020. More recently, starting on 08 February, hostilities increased across parts of western, northern and southern Ma'rib, leading to the displacement of more than 1,400 HHs. The actual number of displaced is likely higher, with IDP registration activities ongoing by IOM and partners. Overall, people are moving mainly within Sirwah (962 HH), Ma'rib city (376HH) and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts (63HH), where IDP sites are already crowded, and response capacities are overstretched.

The situation requires humanitarian partners to urgently scale up response activities. Already, Ma'rib Governorate hosts an estimated one million internally displaced persons (IDPs) – the largest IDP population in Yemen. IDPs are living in approximately 125 IDP sites across the governorate, one of which is the largest IDP site in the country: Al Jufainah Camp, hosting 10,000 IDP HHs in Marib city. Over the course of the conflict since January 2020, a majority of IDPs have moved into Marib city (70%) and the burden on resources in the district – which was home to only 40,000 people in 2014 – has been overwhelming. Across all sites and sectors, service gaps are widespread. In 2020, IOM and partners estimated that 19 IDP hosting sites or informal settlements opened; the last time partners saw this many new sites open in Marib was in 2016 when 24 new sites were formed in a year. With continued fighting, the situation is expected to continue to worsen and service gaps are expected to widen as people continue to flee towards the eastern outskirts of Sirwah and into Ma'rib City. Humanitarian partners are operationalizing plans to respond to up to 15,000 HHs (105,000 people) are displaced over the next six months into Ma'rib City and Marib Al Wadi. Should fighting reach Marib city, IOM and partners estimate that a further 385,000 people will be displaced into Hadramawt and Shabwah. The most significant challenge is the limited partner presence and insufficient resources to sustain response and preparedness activities.



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HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

The escalating conflict in parts of Ma'rib is forcing more and more people to flee their homes. Newly displaced persons are mainly arriving from IDP hosting sites in other parts of Sirwah – Al Zur, Dhanah Al Sawabin, and Danah Al Hayal sites. For the most part, IDPs have moved into Al Rawdah IDP site in Sirwah likely because of its proximity to their locations of origin, family connections here and overcrowding in Marib city. A majority of IDPs have been displaced multiple times and report fatigue and uncertainty over repeated movements. Prior to the recent displacement Al Rawdah Sirwah IDP site hosted an estimated 677 HH in a large, flat rocky area between two mountain ranges near Ma'rib Dam – today the camp population is close to two times that size. Al Rawdah is to the east of the lake that was formed by Ma'rib Dam, the IDPs moved from the western side where their camps were located. The road between Al Rawdah Sirwah and Ma'rib city cuts through a gap in a mountain range, and while checkpoints are positioned here, they have not imposed any movements restrictions to Al Rawdah thus far.



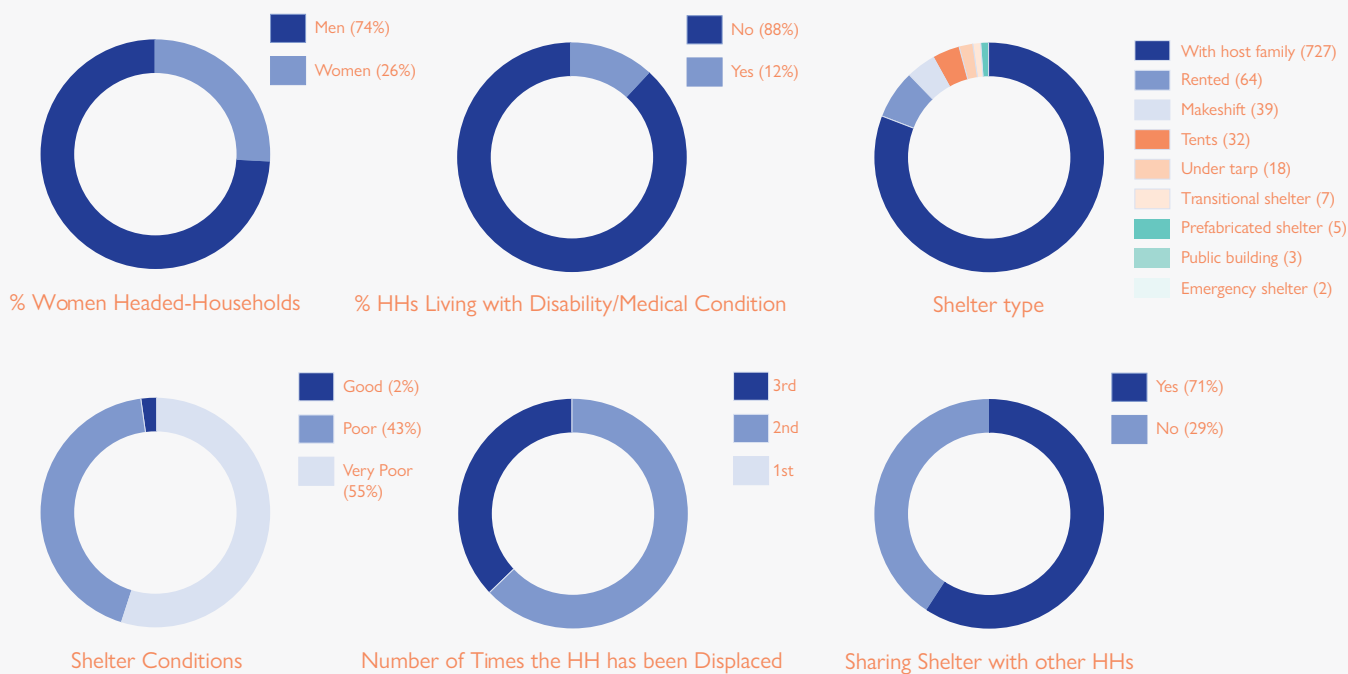
An elderly displaced woman stands in front of some shelter materials in a displacement site in Sirwah © Elham Al Oqabi/IOM 2020

The environment in Al Rawdah Sirwah IDP site presents several difficulties for the new IDPs. The IDP site is still in close proximity to the ongoing armed conflict and the sound of gunfire and shelling are a frequent occurrence. IDPs there report being concerned for their safety, alongside the uncertainty of whether or not the front line will shift in the direction of the site. The fighting is also having an impact on IDPs collecting water for household use from the nearby lake, as they fear being caught in crossfire.

In Marib City and Marib Al Wadi, the situation remains dire. IDPs have continued to arrive from other locations, though in smaller numbers than from Sirwah. However, the existing service gaps across informal and formal sites continue to be largely unmet, and local authorities and host communities are under immense pressure. Marib City, and Al Jufainah camp in particular, has received the largest caseload of IDPs since 2020. In 2019, Al Jufainah camp was already the largest displacement site in Yemen; today, the population has increased threefold, from 3,000 HHs to 10,000 HHs by December 2020.

IN FOCUS RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

When families are newly displaced IOM and partners provide emergency kits to help them adjust to their new surroundings through the Rapid Response Mechanism. During registration of newly displaced for RRM assistance, key data is also collected from the families. Below are findings from 897 of the people displaced from Sirwah since 08 February.



Men unload shelter materials and household items for displaced families in their new displacement site ©Elham Al Oqabi /IOM 2020

ADVOCACY POINTS

1. IOM continues to call for partners to provide a dedicated response in Ma'rib. There are widespread, acute humanitarian needs that are not being met, and at the same time, the displacement forecasted in 2020 is currently occurring and placing increased pressure on partners and local authorities. IOM, in line with humanitarian preparedness plans, anticipates further shocks and increased gaps in the months to come. IOM operates a shared humanitarian hub and can provide logistical support and office space to facilitate partner response.
2. Maintaining the relative stability of Ma'rib is a priority and IOM is concerned about further displacement as well as the humanitarian impact on civilians. Those that have influence should continue to advocate against an escalation of hostilities.



A displaced family sharing the shelter with newly displaced people cooks food and washes dishes. ©Elham Al Oqabi/IOM 2020

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

IOM has a team of 18 international and 125 national support and programme staff in Ma'rib as well as nearly 200 community mobilizers and enumerators. The team is leading response activities, prioritizing critical needs assessments and registering newly arrived IDPs for assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). Together with local authorities, the Organization is coordinating response efforts in Ma'rib through its leadership of the CCCM and Health sub-national clusters, co-leadership of the WASH sub-national cluster, Ma'rib-based focal point of the protection cluster, and as S-NFI Contingency Pipeline Manager.

IOM continues to implement multi-sectoral activities to respond to the widespread needs across Sirwah, Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi. In Al Rawdah Sirwah IDP hosting site, IOM is providing WASH services to 1,689 HHs (daily average of 93,000 litres). IOM plans to distribute additional water tanks to cover additional needs of 527 HHs. However, latrines, bathing facilities and water supply facilities remain inadequate, with no options for gender segregation due to the limited number of facilities. In Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi, IOM is also providing RRM support and shelter assistance to arriving IDPs; 420 HHs displaced from Sirwah have received RRM, and IOM has verified 286 newly displaced IDPs in Ma'rib city and Al Wadi for S-NFI assistance and requested stock through the contingency pipeline. In its various sub-national cluster co/leadership roles, IOM is working closely with partners to respond across shelter and non-food items (S-NFI), camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), protection and rapid response mechanism (RRM) clusters.

A priority for the humanitarian community is to scale up preparedness and response efforts. IOM is working through its various cluster roles, IOM is contributing to the creation of an inter-cluster operational plan that will help to guide the response. Through the Multisector Contingency Pipeline, IOM is also making critical emergency shelter, NFI and WASH stock available to partners and is in the process to deploying additional stock to Marib. Currently, items are available to support 2,000 HHs in the immediate term.

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MARIB IS SUPPORTED BY

