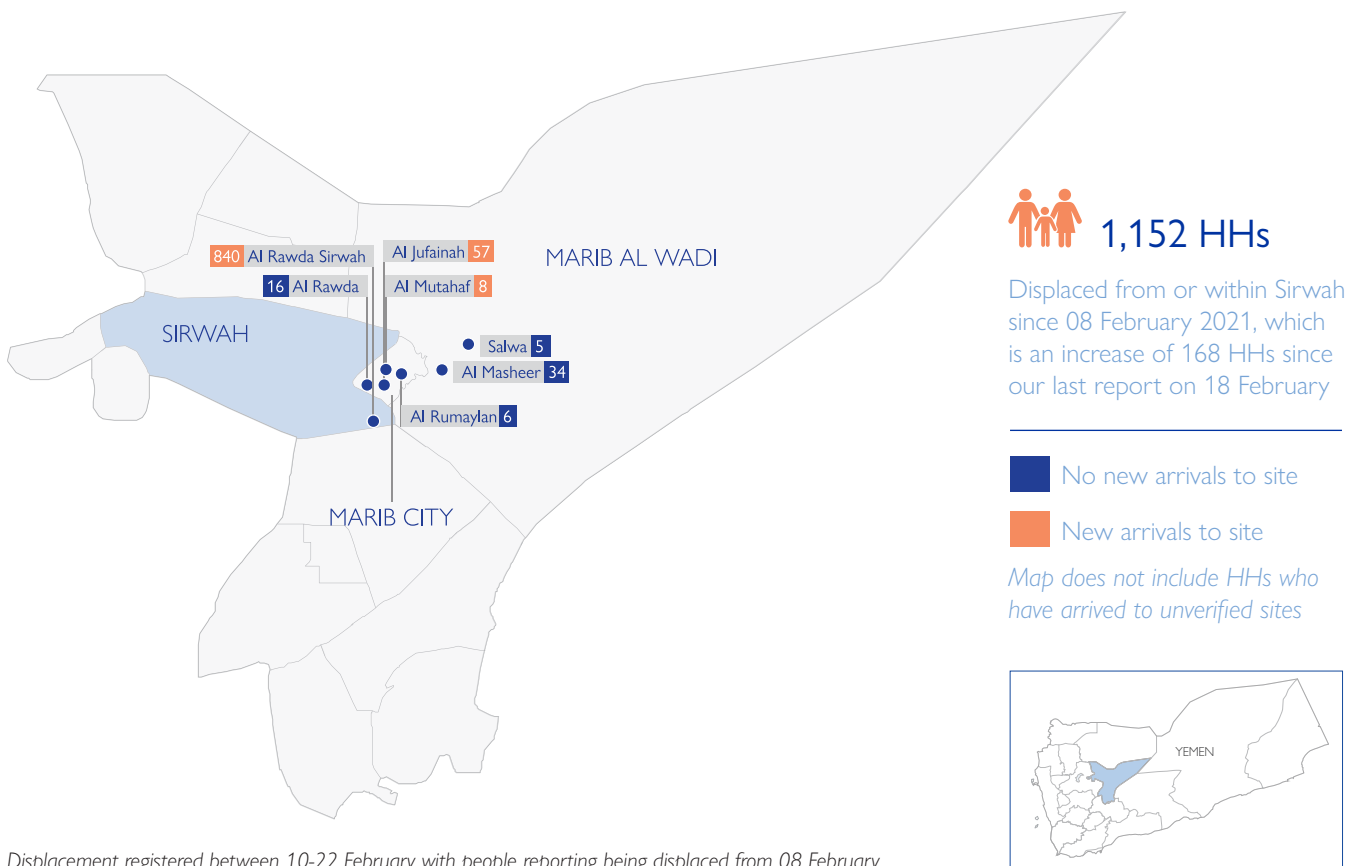


DISPLACEMENT IN MARIB | FLASH UPDATE

DISPLACEMENT FROM SIRWAH DISTRICT



Displacement registered between 10-22 February with people reporting being displaced from 08 February

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Since January 2020, fighting in Ma'rib, Al Jawf and Sana'a governorates has led to mass displacement, forcing more than 20,057 families (140,399 people) to flee from areas close to frontlines, mostly towards Ma'rib city, Marib Al Wadi and surrounding districts. More than a year later, the situation has once again escalated with renewed fighting across parts of western, northern and southern Ma'rib displacing more people mainly into Sirwah, Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts.

Local communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to be impacted the most by the recent escalation of hostilities in parts of Ma'rib. As reported previously, people in Sirwah district have been impacted by the heavy fighting. At least 1,152 households (8,603 individuals) have been forced to flee in the past two weeks alone. Sirwah District hosts more than 4,300 displaced families and at least 14 displacement sites, and many of those fleeing were already displaced before the situation deteriorated again. A majority of new arrivals (840 HHs) have moved from Sirwah Sub-district to safer areas in Arak Sub-district (Al Rawdah Sirwah IDP hosting site). Intention surveys carried out with a group of arriving IDPs in this location indicate major concerns over the security situation and intentions to move to other areas in Sirwah District – Al Minsah and Al Dushoush Sub-districts (closer to Ma'rib city) should the fighting come to their area. Some IDPs have, however, also expressed fatigue with repeated displacement, as most of them are being displaced for the third time or more. Ma'rib city (273 HHs) and Ma'rib Al Wadi (39 HHs) Districts also continue to receive new arrivals from Sirwah and other districts, as the conflict situation remains unstable and frontlines fluid.

There are several IDP hosting sites in close proximity to frontlines in Sirwah and already, there have been reports of three sites being impacted by the fighting. With continued fighting, people are expected to continue to flee towards the eastern outskirts of Sirwah and into Ma'rib city, where IDP sites are already crowded and response capacities are overstretched. According to local officials, Ma'rib city hosts around 3 million people, including the largest displacement site (37,498 IDP residents) in the country, and the escalating conflict threatens to have catastrophic consequences on the humanitarian situation. Should hostilities move towards the city and surrounding areas, it could displace another 385,000 people outside of the city and into Hadramawt, while limiting humanitarian access and placing significant strains on the already limited resources. IOM and partners are scaling up assessment and contingency planning efforts, and IOM is joining the humanitarian community in calling for an urgent de-escalation of hostilities.

IOM has a team of 16 international and 90 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. 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. With very few partners responding in Ma'rib, there are significant concerns about the response's capacity to meet the rising needs. IOM joins the humanitarian community in calling for an urgent de-escalation of hostilities and for humanitarian partners to immediately scale up interventions to respond to the dire situation.



A displaced family outside their shelter in an IDP hosting site in Sirwah, Marib ©IOM 2020

IN FOCUS AL RAWDA SIRWAH SITE

IOM assessments in Al Rawda Sirwah indicate significant gaps on WASH, shelter, food and protection. Since the recent influx of IDPs, WASH facilities, including latrines, bathing and water supply facilities, are inadequate, and gender segregated facilities are not available. Some IDPs also report leaving behind identification papers, and there is very limited access to primary education – the two schools in Al Rawda Sirwah (one of which is a tent) are no longer sufficient to safely cover all students. Traditionally, a source of income for IDPs has been farming, primarily breeding and selling livestock. These livelihood options have become limited due to displacement, and IDPs are in need of multi-purpose cash assistance to meet their basic needs. A majority of new arrivals are also being hosted by IDPs in makeshift tents, leading to overcrowding and raising concerns over safety and the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

So far, IOM has provided 2,225,000 litres of water to IDPs in Al Rawda Sirwah, and efforts are ongoing to distribute vouchers and provide water tanks to the full case load (840 HHs). IOM is also coordinating with the Ministry of Health to for a mobile medical team to be deployed to increase access to medical services in the site. In its role as leading the CCCM, Health and WASH sub national clusters, the S-NFI contingency stock pipeline, and co-leading the RRM national cluster, IOM is coordinating partner assessment and response activities, ensuring that RRM caseloads are also referred for further assistance. So far, response partner priorities are centred on scaling up efforts to provide food baskets, provide shelters, distribute RRM kits and provide health assistance.



Displaced people transporting their belongings from one IDP hosting site in Sirwah to another in search of safety ©IOM 2020

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