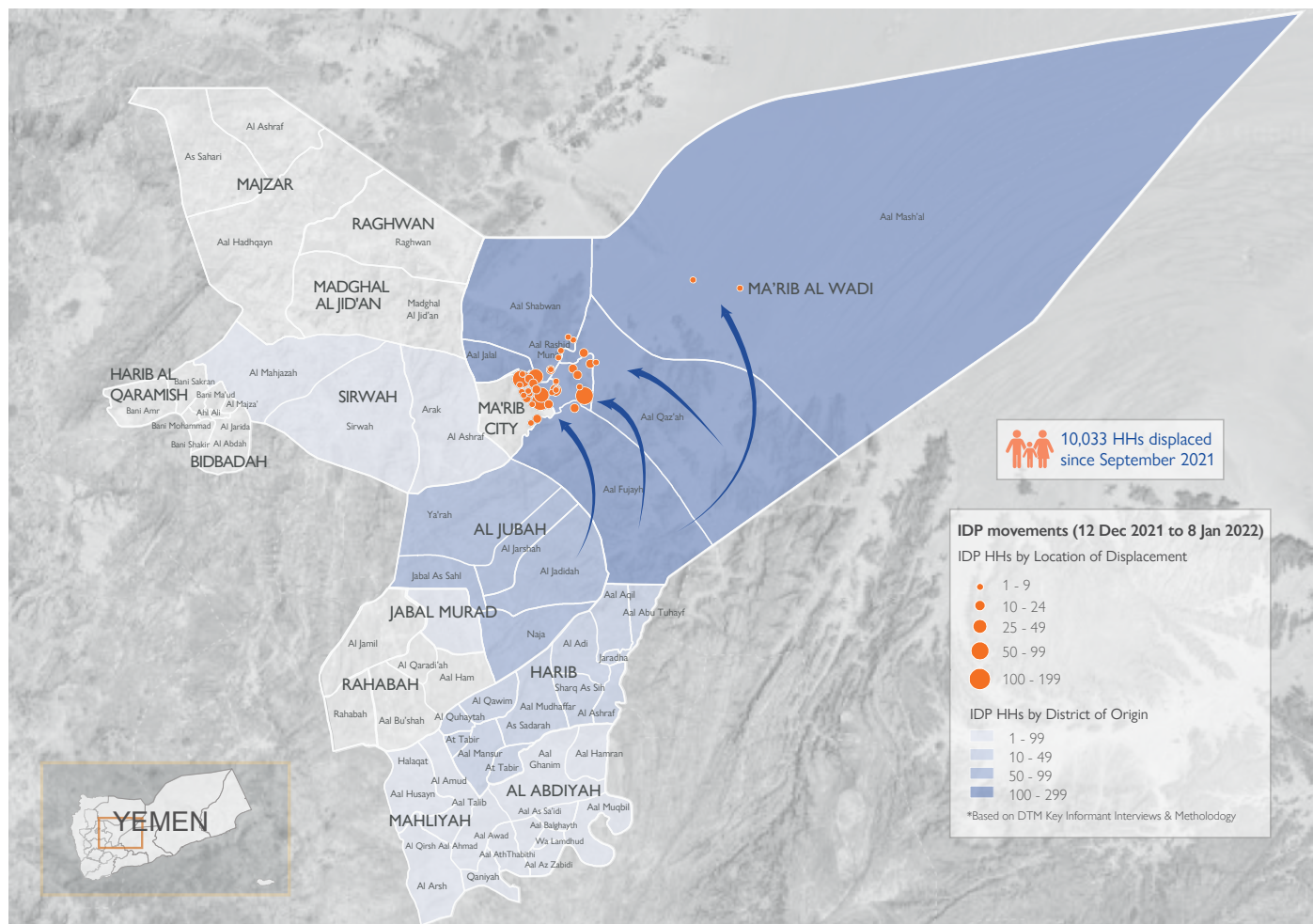


MA'RIB RESPONSE | FLASH UPDATE

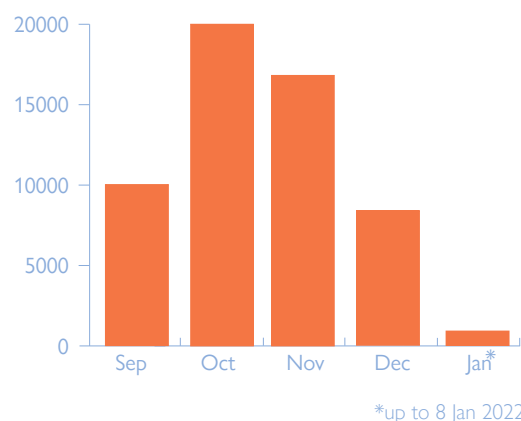
URGENT FUNDING REQUIREMENT: USD 10 MILLION



Over the past weeks, the frontlines in Ma'rib have not shifted. Despite daily clashes and shelling along the frontlines to the south, west and north of Ma'rib City, conflicting parties have been unable to make a decisive breakthrough. The deadlock has triggered the reactivation of frontlines in Shabwah and Al Jawf governorates. At least 10,033 HHs or 60,198 individuals¹ were displaced since September 2021 - many for the fourth or fifth time – to displacement sites in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al-Wadi districts since the uptick in fighting.

The most recent trends indicate that approximately 805 HHs or 4,830 individuals were displaced between 12 December 2021 – 8 January 2022, a slight decline from previous months². However, civilians have continued to suffer the most from the hostilities. On 25 December, in Hareeb Junction to the south of Ma'rib City, three civilians were killed, including a child, and injured eight other members of the Muhamasheen, a marginalized group in Yemen.

IDP MOVEMENTS



Increased violence and eviction threats from landowners have forced families to flee to overcrowded displacement sites, primarily in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al-Wadi. The greatest needs in these sites are shelter, non-food items (NFIs), food assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene services, education and cash assistance. Many families live in tents or makeshift shelters – some with four to five families in two tents – which has exacerbated poor living conditions brought on by harsh winter conditions. Families in more than 130 sites in Ma'rib live in torn or damaged tents.

1. Average household size of six individuals.

2. IOM's DTM recorded an additional 914 HHs displaced before 12 December 2021 not captured in the previous report.

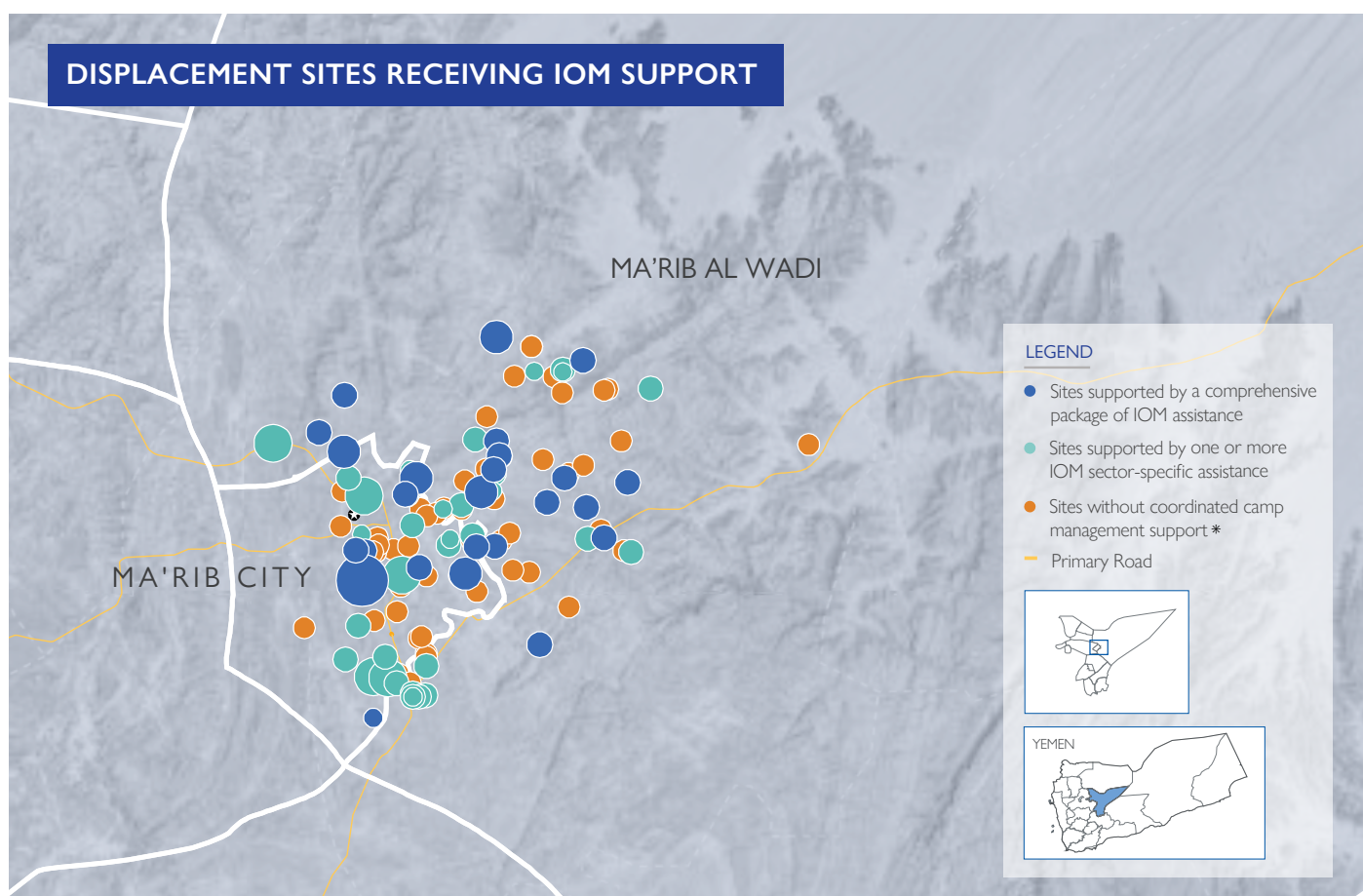
Additionally, the use of stoves and heaters in overcrowded tents resulted in nine fire incidents, including one in Al Jufainah camp on 2 January 2022 where three children and their mother died. With widening service gaps, humanitarian actors are increasingly concerned about the devastating impact that continued fighting could have on the conditions in these sites.

Over the past month, the number of migrants coming to Ma'rib intending to go to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has steadily increased with more than 900 new arrivals from Ethiopia. The total number of migrants in Ma'rib is now estimated between 4,000 to 5,000 individuals. Migrants face widespread protection concerns in Yemen, including detention, forced transfers and gender-based violence. In Ma'rib, migrant women are often held in a smuggling facility where many have been subjected to sexual violence and abuse.

In response to these critical needs, IOM provides a sustained comprehensive humanitarian response in 24 sites, including camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), WASH, protection, shelter/NFI, health and cash assistance. IOM provides at least one or more form of assistance in 35 additional sites in Ma'rib, in coordination with other humanitarian partners. Overall, the gaps in assistance remain in 75 sites and informal settlements, as well as in new 43 sites opened by the Executive Unit (ExU).

Since September 2021, IOM's CCCM teams registered over 2,000 new displaced HHs in IOM-managed sites and conducted multi-cluster assessments to identify gaps and inform the humanitarian response. IOM's WASH unit assisted a total of 10,329 HHs or around 61,974 individuals with water-trucking, distribution of family tanks, basic hygiene kits and soap, promotion of hygiene awareness, and the disposal of solid waste and sludge. IOM distributed multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to over 1,931 HHs and Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) emergency kits to 1,915 HHs. IOM's health unit continued providing health services in 34 sites, reaching at least 4,336 individuals. IOM reached 424 HHs with NFI kits, family tents and plastic sheets in 28 sites in Ma'rib.

IOM's community response teams registered and assisted 266 vulnerable IDPs for protection services including case management, legal consultations and awareness sessions, and the provision of disability kits and cash. Also, IOM provided migrants with dignity kits, winter kits, hygiene kits and bread vouchers. However, migrants critically need food baskets and more winter kits to survive the cold weather conditions. In response to reports of IDPs facing eviction threats from landowners, IOM's protection team provided a three-day training to heads of sites and ExU about protection and human rights.



*There are 75 sites in Ma'rib Governorate without a camp management partner. 55 of these sites are displayed in the map above.

In the coming days, IOM plans to expand its response to the needs in existing and new displacement sites in Ma'rib. In the Al Thuman site, a new site opened by the ExU that will host 500 HHs, IOM will start to respond to the new IDP arrivals with an integrated multisectoral humanitarian response. IOM will provide CCCM assistance, the installation of water points, water-trucking, construction of 120 latrines and distribution of family tanks and hygiene kits. Additionally, IOM will plan for more sustainable water solutions by rehabilitating water systems and connecting water systems to IDP's shelters.

Nevertheless, crucial gaps remain in CCCM, WASH services, health and protection assistance, and the S/NFI response, especially for winter assistance and blankets. As the conflict continues to worsen living conditions in new sites, funding is running out to respond to the most vulnerable crisis-affected groups. More importantly, a political solution is needed to end the violence. **At this time, IOM is urgently appealing for USD 10 million to continue its delivery of multisectoral assistance and scale up in areas impacted most by the conflict.**

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 who have influence should continue to advocate against an escalation of hostilities. IOM echoes calls to all parties of the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and avoid at all costs the targeting of civilians.

IOM has a team of 21 international and 246 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.



Displaced children studying at a newly built elementary school in Ma'rib © IOM 2022 / E. Al Oqabi

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY

