

MA'RIB RESPONSE

27 MARCH-10 APRIL 2021



A member of the IOM team in Ma'rib registers the needs of a displaced woman affected by the fire in Al Jufainah Camp ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Fighting continues in Ma'rib governorate on a daily basis, with the situation remaining volatile. Areas in Sirwah district to the west of Ma'rib city have been the worst affected, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are being forced to move numerous times. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that since February 2021 when hostilities surged once again, more than 2,625 IDP households (18,375 individuals) have been displaced. This means that, in total, close to 21,000 households (HHs) have been displaced since the start of the escalation on the Ma'rib front in January 2020¹.

While in 2020, a majority of IDPs moved to Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, this year, IOM is seeing IDPs being displaced within their districts of origin. In Sirwah, IDPs are mostly staying within the district but moving into areas in Arak and more recently, Kasarah, closer to Ma'rib city. Although there have not been any significant changes to frontlines in the reporting period, civilian and displacement sites have been severely impacted by the fighting; 14 civilian casualties have been reported so far in April alone², and IDPs have been forced to move from eight IDP hosting sites, with at least four being completely emptied.

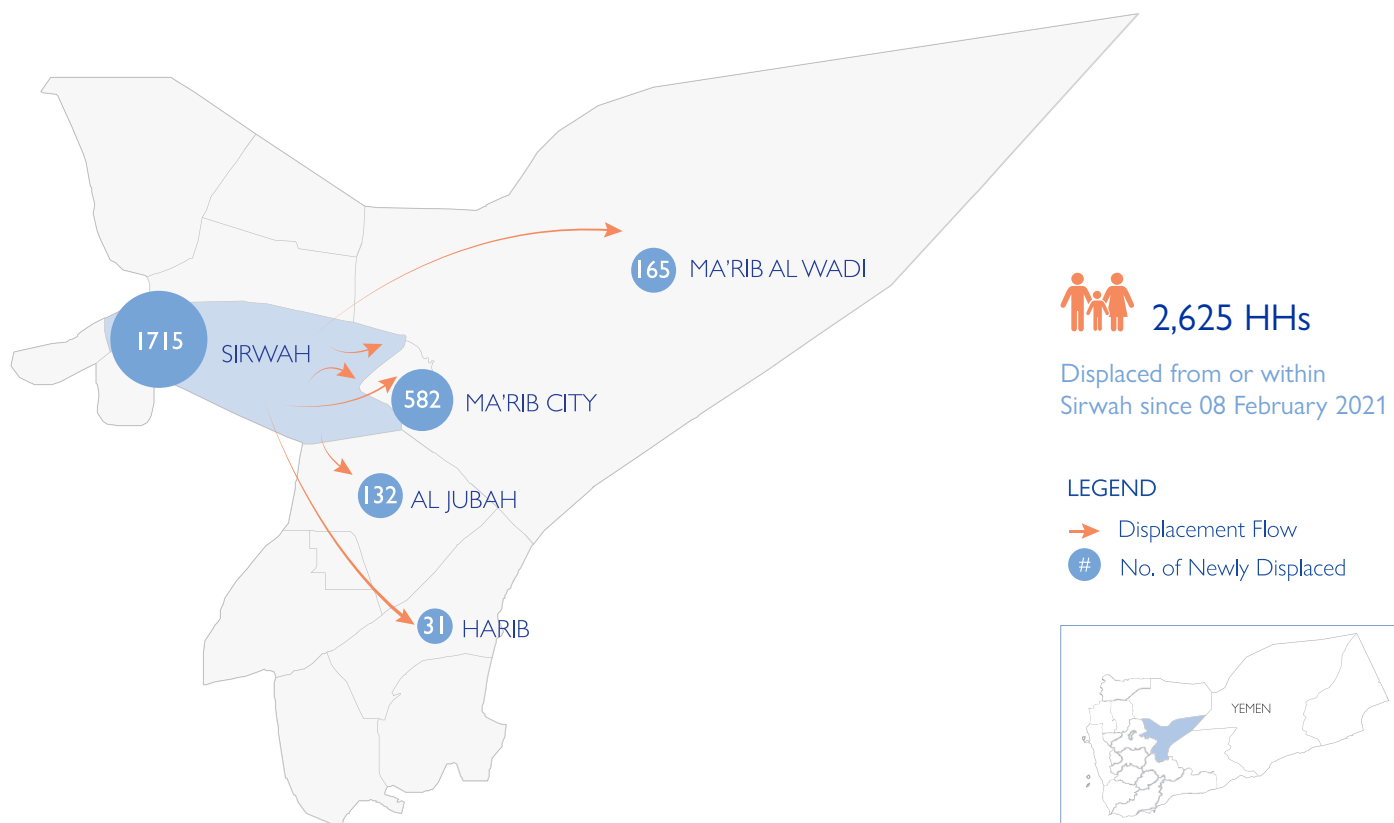
Across the board, the situation is extremely concerning. Continued fighting threatens to displace hundreds of thousands more people—at least 55,000 HHs according to humanitarian contingency plans—while also constraining humanitarian access. Local authorities and humanitarian partners, who were already grappling with limited resources while responding to the needs of some 1 million IDPs across the governorate, are now struggling even more to meet the growing needs. The chronic overcrowded nature of IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib was illustrated by a fire in Al Jufainah Camp on 3 April that led to the death of a child and the severe injury of others.

Those affected by the crisis in Ma'rib are some of the most vulnerable, repeatedly losing access to basic services and livelihoods. A political solution to the crisis is urgently needed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe.

¹ This only covers IDPs in Ma'rib city, Ma'rib Al Wadi and Sirwah, where IOM and partner teams are providing RRM support

² The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND NEEDS



DISPLACEMENT SITUATION

Escalating conflict in parts of Ma'rib is forcing more and more people to flee their homes or displacement sites. Of the 14 IDP hosting sites in Sirwah, people have moved from eight due to proximity to fighting. In February and March, fighting forced the closure of four IDP hosting sites in Sirwah, with authorities also moving at least 516 IDPs from an additional four sites (Al Mil, Al Khai, Edat Alrra and Al Tawasol) to Al Suwaydah site, also in Sirwah. Prior to these movements, Al Suwaydah already hosted 1,163 HHs, and this increase is placing a strain on shelter, non-food items (NFI), water and sanitation services.

Repeated displacement is causing IDPs to become tired and worried for their safety; it is unclear if Al Rawdah and Al Suwaydah IDP hosting sites will continue to be refuges. IDPs have expressed intentions to move closer to Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi. Meanwhile, IDPs access to basic services has become more and more constrained. Already, there were no site management and coordination actors in sites in Sirwah prior to the recent displacements; this remains the case today, and service provision is inadequate. As Al Rawdah and Al Suwaydah IDP hosting sites double in size, IDPs are in immediate need of S-NFI and food assistance. Working closely with authorities, partners are rallying to scale up services. IOM has been providing WASH support in Sirwah and is coordinating with partners to expand site management and coordination support to the two sites. In Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, IOM has also been providing emergency shelter and NFI assistance to the smaller number of IDPs arriving from Sirwah.

Although smaller numbers of IDPs from Sirwah have moved into Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, the situation there remains extremely challenging. Service gaps across informal and formal sites continue to be largely unmet, and local authorities and host communities are under immense pressure due to the increased needs in the city and in Sirwah.



MIGRANT SITUATION

Migrants in acute need



52% of migrants in need of food

84% of migrants do not have access to health services

So far in April, IOM has seen another spike in migrant arrivals into Ma'rib from Shabwah. In the reporting period, there were 178 new women arrivals and 50 men. A majority of migrants arriving in Ma'rib are settling in Batha Bin Mueyli, which is a transit settlement where IOM provides basic services, including WASH, NFI and protection. As the border with KSA is still mostly closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants have been staying at the settlement indefinitely.

In total, IOM estimates that there are over 5,000 stranded migrants in Ma'rib governorate from the Horn of Africa, with an increase of an estimated 600 Ethiopian migrants coming from Shabwah in the first quarter of the year. An estimated 20 per cent of those stranded are children (under the age of 18).

The increase in new arrivals is putting a strain on WASH services and on available shelters, leading to overcrowding and a general rise in tension between the migrants and with the host community. IOM is responding to this by increasing WASH and shelter services in the Batha Bin Mueyli settlement and continuing food distributions. However, the settlement is nearing full capacity and a separate location for new arrivals is needed. The overcrowding may have been a factor in one of the tents burning down on 8 April, as a result of a cooking fire. While there were no injuries, this incident does raise the alarm for conditions in the settlement. To combat rising tensions in the settlement, IOM has organized and trained four community-based protection committees, consisting of both migrants and host community members. These committees will work within the settlement and between the migrants and the host communities to mitigate concerns, as they arise, and will form a useful communication forum between IOM, migrants and the local community.

Alongside this, IOM conducted a visit to Al Jubah district to assess the migrants living there. Al Jubah is a rural area where there is a lack of basic services; migrants are staying in the area as there are opportunities to work in host community farms. IOM will assist these migrants with food and dignity kits, however there is a gap in the provision of health services.



A migrant standing with the aid kit that he received from IOM in a settlement where thousands of migrants are stranded ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi


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, 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.

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.




13,605 88.5% Received MPCA as part of the RRM package


7,659
 Shelters provided


8,631
 NFI kits distributed


19,564
 Plastic sheets


115 million
 Litres of safe drinking water provided since Jan 2020


1,583
 Latrines constructed


1
 Primary school under construction

*Response updates from 21 January 2020-10 April 2021

IOM & PARTNER COVERAGE

SITE CARE & SITE MAINTENANCE

- **16,836 households in 34 IDP hosting sites** receiving site management support; 83 IDP hosting sites (12,105 IDP HHs), are not supported by site management and coordination partners.
- **24 out of 117 IDP hosting sites** receive regular site care, maintenance and risk reduction support.
- **8,000 HHs** are benefiting from electrical improvements in Ma'rib city's largest displacement site Al Jufainah Camp. In addition, IOM reached to 752 HH with household electrical improvement for risk reduction and fire mitigation in 4 IDP hosting site. Additional sites will be assessed by IOM teams for upcoming intervention.
- **Entrance road to Al Jufainah Camp** has been improved to facilitate access.
- **12 IDPs sites** in Sirwah, Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al-Wadi districts targeted for flood risk reduction activities: Embankments, flood ways constructed, damaged roads repaired.
- **110 IDP HHs** from marginalized communities have been relocated from the flood valley to a secure site within Al Jufainah Camp.
- **8 Community centres and 12 playgrounds** in Ma'rib City, Al-Wadi and Sirwah districts to improve living conditions completed. And an additional 8 community centres are under construction.
- **1 Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) office** space rehabilitated and expanded to accommodate local authorities, clusters meetings and agencies offices.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- **1,583 family latrines constructed** in Ma'rib city, Ma'rib Al Wadi, Sirwah districts, with approximately 10,000 IDP HHs estimated to be in need of sanitation services.
- **11 IDP hosting sites (4,776 HHs)** receive water for drinking and household use daily, with 20 additional IDP sites requiring access to safe water.
- **10 IDP hosting sites (12,210 HHs)** benefitted from regular waste collection since 19 October. 5,433 m³ of waste removed since the beginning of the intervention.



Family water tank distribution in a displacement site outside Ma'rib city ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

- **6 water points** in Alsuyda constructed and distribution of 958 jerrycans for 476 HH, while daily registration for provision of the needs continues.

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI) AND RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

- **2 RRM partners** (IOM and BFD) responding to the emergency needs of newly displaced persons inside and outside IDP hosting sites in 5 districts including (Ma'rib city, Al-Wadi, Al-Jubah, Harib and Sirwah). Additional resources for frontline RRM activities are needed to sustain the RRM response.
- **2,562 newly displaced households** received emergency shelter kits (ESK), tents, NFIs and emergency latrines through IOM's nationwide multi-sectorial contingency pipeline.
- **19,316 HHs** received ESKs, NFI and family tents since January 2020.
- **3,661 HH** supported with cash for shelter rehabilitations and 200 transitional shelters were constructed.
- **761 HH** received cash for emergency shelter rehabilitation in 4 IDPs sites, however this is only covering 3% of the required shelter rehabilitation need in Ma'rib. More than 97% of the shelters in the IDPs sites in Ma'rib is expected to be affected by rain season.

PROTECTION

- **628 IDPs** were registered and identified as vulnerable in Alwadi and Ma'rib city.
- **165 IDPs** were provided with shelter kits, 100 were supplied with NFI Kits, 384 were supplied with protection cash assistance and 18 received baby kits.
- **21 IDPs** were referred for health services, 21 referred for MHPSS and PSS, 12 referred for special services and 30 received awareness sessions.
- **573 migrants** were newly registered.
- **7,467 migrants** received food assistance, 1,021 received NFI Kits, 143 received dignity kits, 366 received hygiene kits, 115 received blankets, and 39 received baby kits.
- **124 migrants** received protection cash assistance and 27 received cash for work.
- **561 migrants** referred to health services, 12 migrants were referred to MHPSS and PSS, and 186 received awareness sessions.
- **561 migrants** referred to health services.

HEALTH

- **1 fixed clinic and 5 mobile outreach teams** covering 36 IDP hosting sites and 3 migrant sites (Hygiene fund, Al Hadbaa and Bin Mueyli), carrying out 1,700 consultations per week on average. There are currently 39 sites in need of sustained access to health services.
- **2 secondary healthcare facilities** supported through human and material resources to enable the provision of health services to IDPs, Migrants and host communities which are Al-Shaheed Mohammed Hail in Ma'rib City is supported by 38 Health workers and Al-Wahdah Hospital of Al-Hosoun in Ma'rib Alwadi is supported by 50 health workers to operate Obstetrics and Gynecologist departments, neonatal intensive care unit, and pediatric outpatient clinic.
- **115,337 primary healthcare consultations and 9,272 reproductive health consultations** provided, reaching 67,135 people in 36 IDP sites and host communities since 2020.
- **2 quarantine centers** established and equipped in Al Jufainah and in Al-Marda IDP sites.
- **25,146 newly displaced persons** received emergency health services, including 5,055 children under the age of 5 screened for malnutrition, and 800 of them referred for nutritional support.
- **1,610 newly displaced children** reached with routine vaccination, and 2,305 pregnant women reached with ante-natal care.



Medicine arriving in Ma'rib which IOM will distribute to health centres, which it is supporting ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY

