

MARIB RESPONSE

12 DEC 2020 - 15 JAN 2021



A displaced woman in Marib receives a shielding kit to help her stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Fighting continues to drive displacement, destroy infrastructure and worsen the overall humanitarian situation for hundreds of thousands of people in Marib. Humanitarian and public resources are severely stretched, especially in Marib city where 70 per cent of IDPs have fled to. These challenges along with humanitarian access issues in Al Jawf and parts of Marib, are indications of the dire situation. IOM and partners sustained humanitarian operations throughout 2020 while scaling up contingency efforts to prepare for any additional waves of displacement. However, greater partner presence and rapid response efforts are a priority in the immediate term, along with an urgent de-escalation of hostilities to protect civilians.

Increased fighting or shifts in frontlines will lead to another wave of displacement, with more people predicted to flee into Marib city and surrounding areas. Already, IOM estimates that 105,966 people have been displaced by the conflict since January 2020, and partners estimate that significant changes to frontlines could displace an additional 385,000 people, who will likely move further into eastern Marib, Hadramaut and Shabwah. While people flee conflict-affected areas, at least 5,000 migrants are estimated to be stranded in Marib city – many of whom are unable to access basic services and are increasingly exposed to protection risks.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT & NEEDS

People in Need



161,451

45% of IDPs with no access to health services

95% of IDP hosting sites with no access to reliable waste management systems

78% of IDPs lack some form of civil documentation

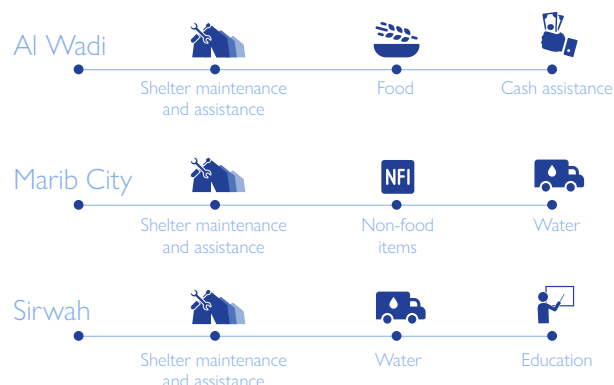
Displacement Situation for People Displaced by the Conflict

Before the escalation of hostilities in 2020, Marib governorate already hosted the largest IDP population and the largest IDP camp in Yemen. IOM’s DTM Area Assessment from 2018 puts the number of IDPs in the governorate at 800,000 people. With this recent wave of displacement, IOM estimates that 15,138 families have been displaced within and to Marib since January 2020. 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. The continued influx of IDPs into Marib city is straining existing capacity, and there are limited resources to absorb vulnerable caseloads. Local authorities report some of the main gaps to be waste management and hygiene, health and education.

Since January 2020, 19 new IDP hosting sites or informal settlements have opened in Medghal, Marib city, Marib Al-Wadi and Sirwah districts, bringing the total number of sites in the governorate to 125. Of these, 46 sites are provided with sustainable support by IOM and partners. Overall, the response gaps around shelter and household items, food, medical assistance as well as water and sanitation services are large and require immediate solutions. With widening service gaps, humanitarian actors are concerned about the devastating impact continued fighting will have.

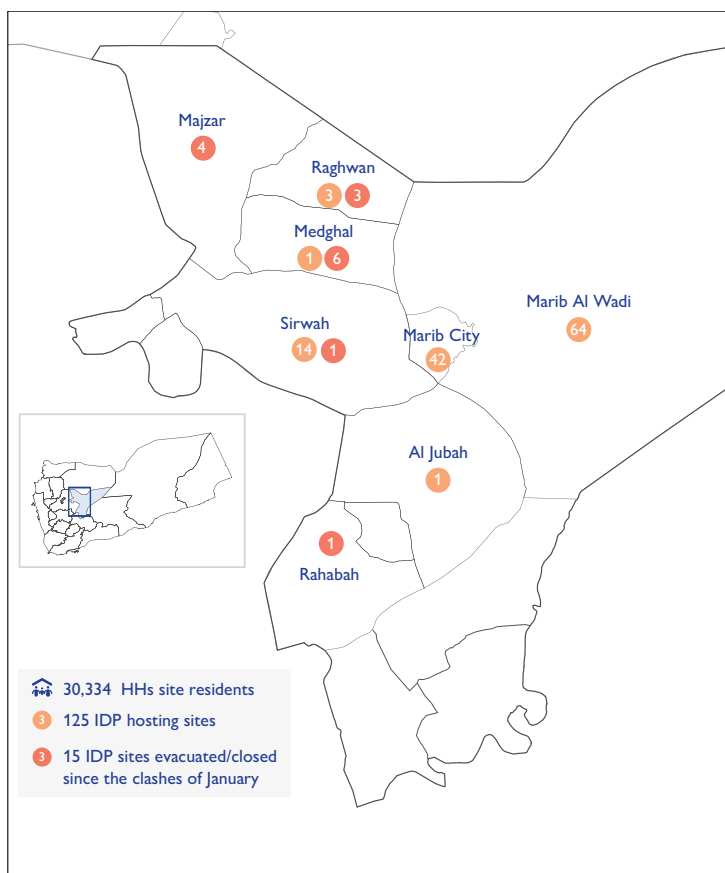
Needs Assessments Primary Findings

Priority needs per district



Gaps¹

- 120 sites: Inadequate shelter maintenance services
- 124 sites: Inadequate WASH services, protection support and livelihood
- 116 sites: Inadequate health services
- 124 sites: Inadequate livelihood opportunities
- 121 sites: Inadequate nutrition support
- 100 sites: Inadequate education services



¹ As reported by site focal points

Migrants in acute need



4,000 People

60% of migrants in need of food

44% of migrants are in dire need of winter items like blankets

Migrant Situation for Migrants Stranded in Marib

It is estimated that thousands of migrants are still stranded across major transit hubs in Yemen, due to border closures with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), as well as tighter inter-governorate movement controls. These migrants are increasingly vulnerable to arrest, detention and forced transfer, while also at risk of contracting COVID-19. In Marib governorate alone, IOM estimates that over 4,000 migrants are stranded. IOM teams continue to see small groups of migrants arriving in Marib from Shabwah heading northwards and they are sleeping on the street or near fuel stations. Many of them, especially women, report suffering violence and abuse on their journey, particularly at checkpoints, with no means of seeking help. Additionally, migrants movements from Marib towards Al Jawf and Sada'a seem to have slightly increased during the reporting period, which indicates that smugglers are aiming to increase border crossings. The IOM protection team has reported around 200 migrants moving towards Al Jawf in the hope of reaching KSA, and 100 of them coming back to Marib governorate, discouraged by the presence of an active frontline along the way.

Migrants in Marib, like those in the rest of the country, are mainly young Ethiopians, who left home hoping for better life opportunities, while Somalis make up the second most prominent nationality on the route. Migrant men usually live in makeshift shelters within Marib city, or informal settlements in the city outskirts, while most of the women are generally kept in smugglers' dens, which are often repurposed shops. Women and girls are the most exposed to risks of exploitation; they are often exploited by traffickers and smugglers, who control their freedom of movement and sources of income, for example, women cannot leave where they are being held unless to use unsanitary latrines, and when they reach their destination, they are expected to pay back the trafficker. As the route to KSA is still not as remunerative as it used to be before COVID-19 measures, traffickers have found alternative ways to exploit migrants. Many migrant women are increasingly being forced to work off debts on farms in Marib or moved to Sana'a to work as domestic labourers. During the reporting period, IOM estimates that around 100 women have been forced to move to Sana'a as domestic labourers, until the KSA border opening and the resumption of migratory movements northwards.

IOM is responding to the needs of the most vulnerable migrants, prioritizing life-saving interventions such as distribution of tents, relief items, food and water, facilitating health referrals as well as providing individual support to vulnerable cases and victims of trafficking. With protection risks for this group worsening, greater partner presence and capacity is needed to ensure an adequate and timely response to the widespread needs. One of the greatest needs among the migrant population is food, along with health services.



A stranded young migrant heads to his shelter in Marib with aid items he received from IOM © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

ADVOCACY POINTS

1. IOM encourages partners to provide a dedicated response in Marib. There are current humanitarian response gaps not being met and IOM anticipates further shocks and increased needs in the months to come. IOM operates a shared humanitarian hub and can provide logistical support and office space, please refer to IOM Yemen's Marib Booking Procedures brochure for further information.
2. Maintaining the relative stability of Marib is a priority and IOM is concerned about further displacement as well as the humanitarian impact on civilians. Those partners that have influence should continue to advocate against an escalation of hostilities.
3. IOM encourages partners to prioritize vulnerable migrants in humanitarian planning and response efforts, recognizing the life-threatening conditions migrants are facing in Yemen.

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

The IOM Marib team is comprised of 17 international and 90 national support and programme staff in Marib as well as nearly 200 community mobilizers and enumerators. Fifteen international staff are currently in Marib, leading response activities. IOM is assisting in coordinating response efforts in Marib through its leadership of the CCCM and Health sub-national clusters, co-leadership of the WASH sub-national cluster, and acting as Marib-based focal point of the protection cluster, and S-NFI Contingency Pipeline Manager. IOM is also working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and the Governorate Health Office (GHO) on COVID-19 preparedness and response activities. IOM operates the humanitarian hub and continues to welcome increased partner presence, facilitating most recently the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presence in Marib.



Newly displaced HHs registered by IOM



14,691 97% Received RRM
11892 HHs Received MPCA



Shelters provided



7,666

NFI kits distributed



19,510

Plastic sheets



68,368,700

Litres of safe drinking water provided²



1,452

Latrines constructed



1

Primary school under construction

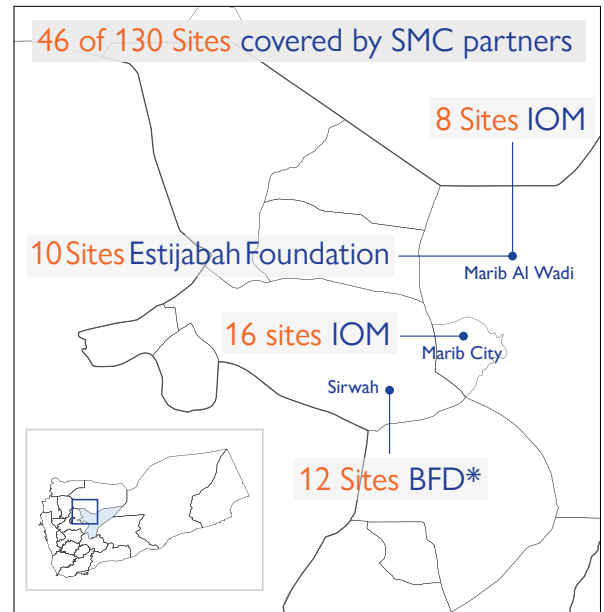
**Response updates from 21 January 2020 to 13 January*

² 9,793,500 liters provided in the period covered by this report. The monthly amount increased from 1,943,000 litres since January, because of the raise of IDPs in need.

IOM & PARTNER COVERAGE³

SITE CARE & SITE MAINTENANCE

- **20,013 households** in 46 IDP hosting sites receiving site management support; 79 IDP hosting sites (10,321 IDP HHs) not supported by site management and coordination partners.
- **24 out of 130 IDP hosting sites** receive regular site care, maintenance and risk reduction support. In Marib city's largest displacement site, the electricity system is being upgraded benefiting around 9,000 HHs, and the entrance of the site is being improved to facilitate access and reduce the risk of flooding, including the relocation of 110 HHs, from marginalized communities, from the flood valley to a secure site within the camp.
- **8 IDP sites** in Sirwah, Marib City and Marib Al-Wadi districts targeted for flood risk reduction activities: flood ways constructed, roads damaged by the Marib dam overflow repaired, and embankments have been finalized; 2km gabion wall under construction in Al Jufainah Camp; at least 8 sites assessed by IOM teams require flood risk reduction support.
- **8 community centres and 12 playgrounds** in Marib City, Al-Wadi and Sirwah districts, to improve living conditions in 8 sites, at final stage of completion.
- **1 Ministry** of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) office space rehabilitated and expanded to accommodate local authorities, clusters meetings and agencies offices. The second floor of the building under construction, while rehabilitation to the existing ground floor is planned, including a conference annex for meetings.



* Building Foundation for Development

HEALTH

- **1 fixed clinic and 4 mobile outreach teams** covering 22 IDP hosting sites, carrying out 1,500 consultations per week on average; there are approximately 39 sites without sustained access to health services.
- **1 secondary health care facility** being supported through human and material resources that enable the provision of health services to IDPs and host communities.
- **91,334 primary health care consultations** and 7,139 reproductive health consultations provided, with 42,948 people reached through health awareness-raising activities in IDP sites and host communities.
- **1 COVID-19 treatment and isolation center** established and supported by incentives for health workers, medicine and medical equipment through September 2020.
- **Two quarantine centers** in IDP sites have been established and fully equipped; one in Al Jufainah and the other in Al-Marda. The one of Al-Marda has been handed over to the Ministry of Public Health and Population. Plans are being made by the GHO to use them as field hospitals with a per cent of beds dedicated for quarantine/isolation of COVID-19 suspect cases, pending confirmation of operational support by health partners.
- **21,224 newly displaced persons** received emergency health services, with 3,434 children under the age of 5 screened for malnutrition, 725 of whom were referred for nutritional support.
- **1,289 newly displaced children** reached with routine vaccination, and 1,999 pregnant women reached with ante-natal care.
- **During December**, MHU jointly with WASH program conducted trainings on COVID-19 case management for 116 health workers in Marib (103 M & 13 F).

TRANSITION & RECOVERY

- **2,832 households** benefited from livelihood interventions, including multi-purpose cash assistance, cash for work and vocational training and business start-up kits.
- **1 primary school** under construction in Marib city.
- **30 community-based activities** under review in Marib City, Harib, AlWadi, AlJuba, and Sirwah.

³ Details on the coverage of needs and gaps are based on IOM analyses and estimations in locations where the Organization is present

PROTECTION

- 700 migrants received water in Bin Muaili.
- 1409 migrants received two rounds of food kits in Marib City and Al Wadi.
- 1200 migrants received blankets in Marib City and Al Wadi.
- 110 migrants received emergency shelter kits, 128 migrants received dignity kits and 486 migrants received hygiene kits in Marib Al Wadi. Of the total caseload, 1,600 migrants are in urgent need of additional emergency aid assistance.
- 176 IDPs registered and identified as vulnerable in Al Wadi and Marib city.
- 27 IDPs provided with temporary shelter kits in Sirwah and Marib city.
- 39 IDPs received NFIs kits in Sirwah, Marib city and Marib Alwadi.
- 54 IDPs assisted with cash for protection assistance.



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- 1,452 family latrines constructed in Marib city, Marib Al Wadi, Sirwah districts, with approximately 10,000 IDP HHs estimated to be in need of sanitation services.
- 16 IDP hosting sites (9,319 HH) received water for drinking and household use daily, and 6 IDP hosting sites (2,423 HH) with access to rehabilitated or expanded water networks, while 20 additional IDP sites require access to safe water.
- 6 IDP hosting sites (1851 HH) benefitted from regular waste collection since 19 October. 690 m3 of waste removed since the beginning of the intervention.

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

- 2 RRM partners responding to the emergency needs of newly displaced persons inside and outside IDP hosting sites in 7 districts, with 5 districts inaccessible due to conflict. Additional resources for frontline RRM activities are needed to sustain the RRM response.
- 5,037 HHs displaced into Marib City, Marib Al Wadi, Raghwan, and Hareeb districts between August 2020 and January 2021 alone. More than half of this IDP caseload was displaced for more than one time, arriving mainly from Medghal district and into IDP hosting sites (58%) and urban or rural areas (42%).
- 1,517 newly displaced households received emergency shelter kits (ESK), tents, non-food items (NFIs) and emergency latrines through IOM's nationwide multi-sectorial contingency pipeline.
- 60% of IDPs who have been displaced for many years require sustained shelter support, including shelter rehabilitation and NFIs.
- 18,374 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.
- IOM is conducting cash for shelter rehabilitations targeting 800 families in 5 IDP sites; however, this is only covering 3% of the required shelter rehabilitation needs in Marib. In addition, IOM is conducting a need assessment for transitional shelter construction targeting 1000 families in 4 IDP sites, covering only 3% of the shelter rehabilitation need in all the IDP sites in Marib.

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MARIB IS SUPPORTED BY

