

MA'RIB RESPONSE

29 MARCH 2021



Newly displaced families staying in makeshift shelters in Al Suwaydah ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

SITUATION OVERVIEW

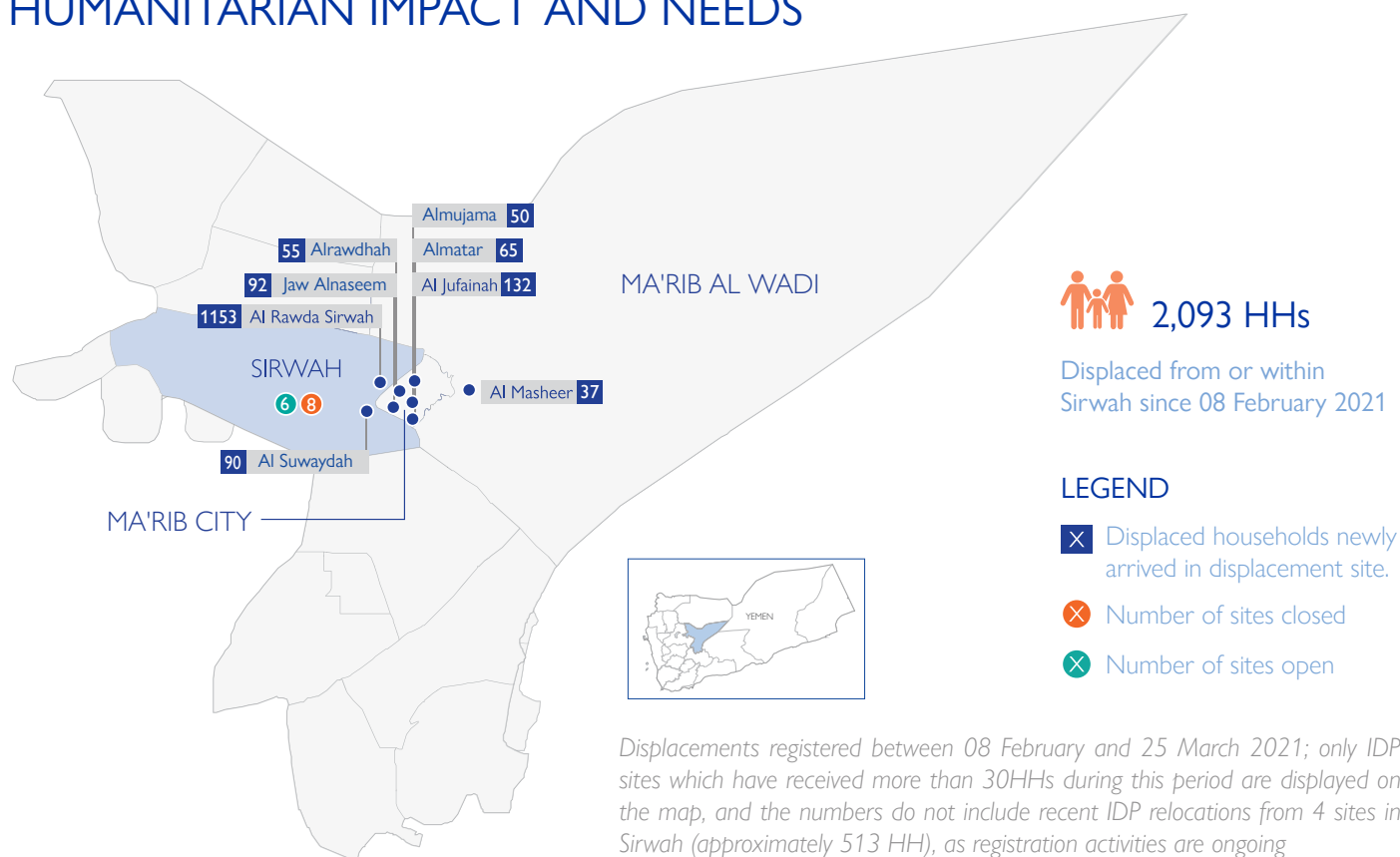
The humanitarian situation in Ma'rib continues to be of concern, and while there have been various waves of conflict, the situation has shown no sign of improving. People's lives continue to be impacted every day by fighting and thousands are being displaced from their homes and from internally displaced persons (IDPs) sites. The hostilities, which have escalated at various points since January 2020, have displaced close to 21,000 households (HHs). Of these, at least 2,622 HHs (18,354 people) have been displaced since 08 February 2021 alone because of the intensified hostilities in parts of western, northern and southern Ma'rib¹. People, many of whom were already IDPs in these areas, have for the most part moved to Arak and more recently to Kasarah, both areas in Sirwah district.

Although there were no significant changes to frontlines in March, fighting has continued to impact civilian and displacement sites and drive humanitarian needs. Protection concerns have continued to increase, with civilians reportedly being injured from nearby fighting. Local authorities are coordinating the evacuation of four sites (Al Khair, Al Mil, Al Tawasul and Idat Al Ra IDP sites) in Sirwah district, moving at least 513 HHs to Al Suwaydah IDP site, also in Sirwah. While this is an attempt to keep people safe, service gaps in Al Suwaydah (which already hosted 1,163 HH) are wide, particularly when it comes to shelter, non-food items (NFI), water and sanitation services.

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 increasingly constraining humanitarian access. Local authorities and humanitarian partners, who were already grappling with stretched resources while responding to the needs of some 1 million IDPs across the governorate, are now challenged even more to meet the growing needs. 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 number includes around 513 HHs displaced from 4 IDP sites, as reported by local authorities with registration activities ongoing

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND NEEDS



The escalating conflict in parts of Ma'rib is forcing more people to flee their homes. Since the start of February 2021, IOM and partners estimate that IDPs in Sirwah district have been most impacted by the renewed fighting. Of the 14 IDP sites in Sirwah, people have been forced to move from eight of them because of the proximity of fighting. In February, newly displaced persons moved from IDP hosting sites in other parts of Sirwah – Al Zur, Dhanah Al Sawabin, and Danah Al Hayal sites – to Al Rawdah IDP hosting site. In the last week of March, local authorities have required the evacuation of four additional IDP hosting sites due to the proximity of fighting – relocating IDPs to Al Suwaydah IDP hosting site in Sirwah.

IDPs report fatigue and uncertainty over repeated movements, and they continue to be very concerned over their safety; it is unclear if Al Rawdah and Al Suwaydah IDP sites will continue to be safe for them. Meanwhile, IDPs access to basic services has become more constrained. Already, there were no site management and coordination actors in IDPs sites in Sirwah prior to the recent displacements, and service provision is inadequate. As Al Rawdah and Al Suwaydah IDP hosting sites double in size, IDPs are in immediate need of shelter, NFI, and food assistance. Partners are rallying to scale up services, working closely with authorities. IOM has been providing WASH support and is coordinating with partners on expanding site management and coordination support to the two sites.

Although smaller numbers of IDPs have been able to move into Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, the situation here is also challenging. The 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 here and in Sirwah.



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 and protection 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 Multi-sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline manager.



IOM providing newly displaced with drinking water in Al Suwaydah ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi



SITE CARE & SITE MAINTENANCE

- **16,214 households** in 34 IDP hosting sites receiving site management support; 91 IDP hosting sites (10,321 IDP HHs), including all 6 IDP sites in Sirwah district, are not supported by site management and coordination partners.
- **24 out of 125 IDP hosting sites** receive regular site care, maintenance and risk reduction support. In Ma'rib city's largest displacement site, the electricity system is being upgraded benefiting around 8,000 HHs, and the entrance of the site is being improved to facilitate access and reduce the risk of flooding, including the relocation of 110HHs, from marginalized communities, from the flood valley to a secure site within the camp.
- **8 IDPs sites in Sirwah**, Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al-Wadi districts targeted for flood risk reduction activities: flood ways constructed, roads damaged by the Ma'rib dam overflow repaired, and embankments have been finalized; 2.5km flood-prevention wall was constructed in Al Jufainah Camp; at least 8 sites assessed by IOM teams require additional flood risk reduction support.
- **8 Community centres** and 12 playgrounds in Ma'rib City, Al-Wadi and Sirwah districts to improve living conditions in 8 sites completed.
- **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)

- **1,554 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.
- **12 IDP hosting sites** (4,316 HH) receive water for drinking and household use daily, with 20 additional IDP sites requiring access to safe water.
- **6 IDP hosting sites** (1851 HH) benefitted from regular waste collection since 19 October. 3,507 m³ of waste removed since the beginning of the intervention.

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI) AND 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.
- **6,077 HHs** were displaced into Ma'rib City, Ma'rib Al Wadi, Raghwan, and Hareeb districts between August 2020 and March 2021 alone. More than half of this IDP caseload was displaced for the second or third time, arriving mainly from Medghal, Mahlyah and Sirwah district and into IDP hosting sites (54%) and urban or rural areas (46%). So far in 2021, new arrivals have mainly come from Sirwah in Ma'rib and Ban Dhabyan district in Sana'a.
- **2,299 newly displaced households** received emergency shelter kits (ESK), tents, non-food items (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.

² Details on the coverage of needs and gaps are based on IOM analyses and estimations in locations the Organization is present

PROTECTION

- **3,439 migrants** received food kits and 1,310 migrants received blankets in Ma'rib City and Al Wadi.
- **269 IDPs** were registered and identified as vulnerable in Al Wadi and Ma'rib city; and 66 migrants were registered for case management support
- **190 migrants** received emergency shelter kits, 128 migrants received dignity kits, and 486 migrants received hygiene kits in Ma'rib Al Wadi. Of the total caseload, 1,600 migrants are in urgent need additional emergency aid assistance.
- 105 migrant women received dignity kits
- **127 migrants** were referred for health services, 18 migrants received baby kits, 104 migrants received protection cash assistance. 700 migrants received water in Bin Muaili.
- **62 IDPs** were provided with temporary shelter kits in Sirwah and Ma'rib city, while 84 IDPs received NFIs kits in Sirwah, Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Alwadi; 285 IDPs were assisted with cash for protection assistance; and 246 solar lamps were distributed to new IDPs.

HEALTH

- **1 fixed clinic** and 4 mobile outreach teams are covering 36 IDP hosting sites and 3 migrants sites (Hygiene fund, Al-Hadbaa, and Binmuaili), 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** are 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.
- **103,829 primary healthcare** consultations and 8,879 reproductive health consultations provided, reaching 54,354 people in 36 IDP sites and host communities.
- **2 quarantine/isolation** centers established and equipped in Al Jufainah and in Al-Marda IDP sites.
- **24,909 newly displaced** persons received emergency health services, including 4,753 children under the age of 5 screened for malnutrition, and 777 of them referred for nutritional support.
- **1,556 newly displaced** children reached with routine vaccination, and 2,221 pregnant women reached with ante-natal care.



A newly displaced woman receiving health consultation at an IOM supported clinic in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY

