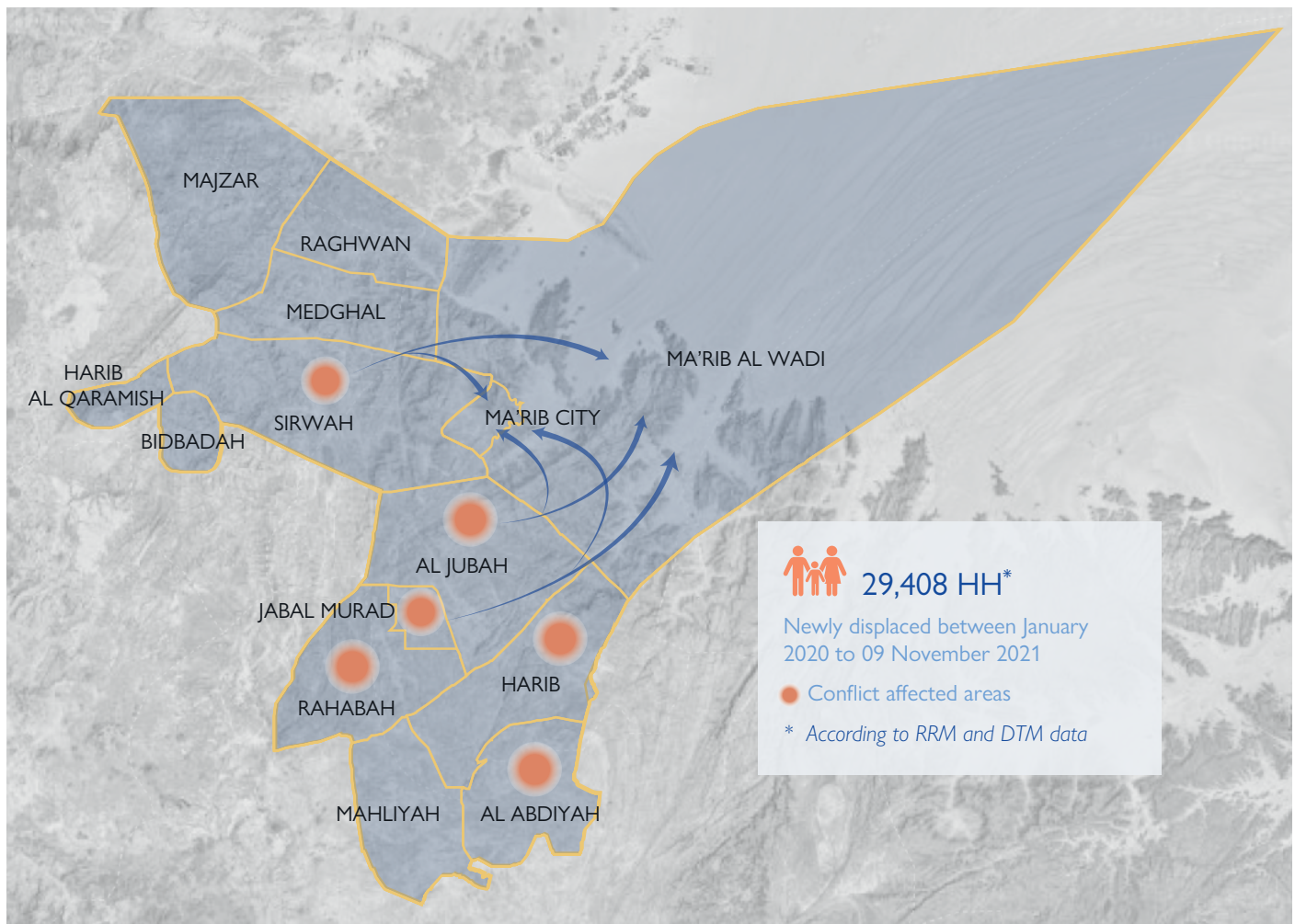


MA'RIB RESPONSE | FLASH UPDATE

SITUATION OVERVIEW



The conflict in Ma'rib shows no sign of abating. In the past months, frontlines have shifted more than they have at any point this year, with people fleeing conflict-affected areas to safer districts like Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi. Violence is taking an immense toll on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the communities that host them. Thousands of people have been forced to flee, many for the fourth or fifth time in the last three years. Communities are seeing their schools, homes, and hospitals destroyed, and civilians are being injured and/or killed as a result of the conflict. IOM and partners are calling for an end to hostilities and for urgent resources to increase humanitarian assistance to those most in need.

The rate of displacement since September has skyrocketed: an estimated 7,000 households (40,000 people) have been displaced in this period alone¹. More than 3,000 HHs (nearly 15,000 people) have been displaced since the start of November, a majority from Sirwah district. Displaced communities are also fleeing conflict-affected Rahabah, Jabal Murad, Al Jubah and Harib districts. The vast majority of those who fled went to Ma'rib Al Wadi (60%) while the rest sought refuge in Ma'rib city (40%). Intense fighting in Sirwah has forced more than 2,000 displaced households (HHs) to move once for the fifth time (a majority of them fled four IDP sites in Sirwah). Registration activities and assessments are ongoing, as displacement continues to occur at a high rate. IOM and partner Rapid Response Teams have registered more than 2,500 new arrival HHs for assistance since the beginning of November, 1,300 HHs of whom are in the 34 IOM managed sites.

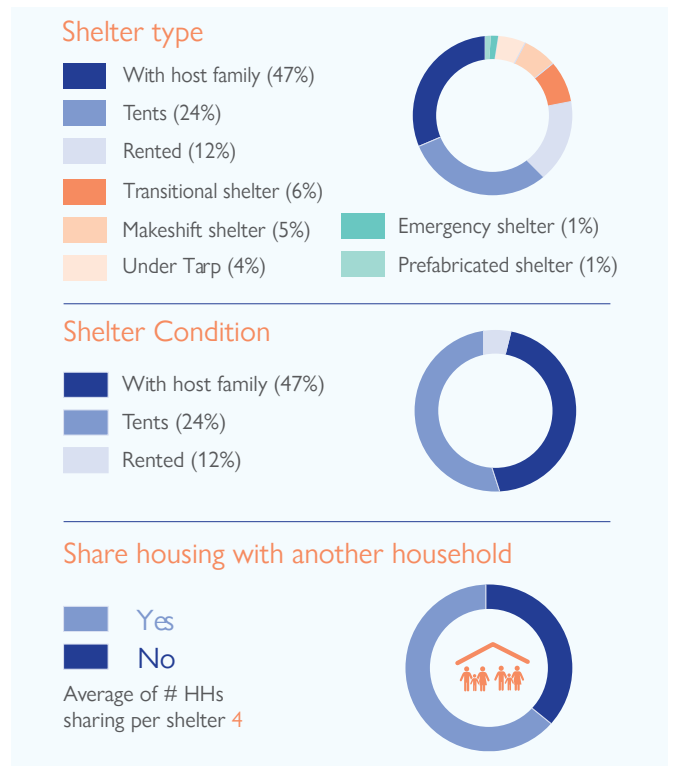
Since fighting first escalated nearly two years ago (January 2020), nearly 30,000 HHs in Ma'rib (205,856 people) have been displaced by the conflict. More new arrivals are now reaching displacement sites than ever before. Overcrowding, lack of infrastructure, and deteriorating conditions in these sites are major cause for concern. IOM teams are working hard to register new arrivals, assess their needs and provide emergency assistance. New arrivals urgently need food, water, shelter, bedding, hygiene kits, cash, and sanitation assistance. IDPs are living in extremely basic conditions, often in makeshift shelters made of poles, planks, and old plastic sheets. With winter around the corner, supplies for colder temperatures, like blankets

¹ According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

and winter clothing, are needed. Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) is also essential as the majority of IDPs have already depleted their resources paying for transportation to flee conflict areas, purchasing shelter items and food, and renting land or housing. An increasing number of IDPs are sharing shelters with people they know, and often times multiple families are staying in one tent: in some new IDP sites, there are up to 6 families within the same shelter. IOM estimates that all new arrivals and IDPs require at least one form of assistance.

Local authorities are seeking to open at least four new displacement sites – two of them have already been established some 30 kilometres away from Ma'rib city, toward Ma'rib Al Wadi, in a vast open area. At present, the two sites are mainly hosting IDPs who recently fled Sirwah, Jabal Murad and Al Jubah districts (nearly 2,000 site residents to date). IOM teams are carrying out multisectoral vulnerability assessments to inform an enhanced response, aiming to provide urgent assistance as quickly as possible. Currently, IOM is providing at least one form of assistance across 65 IDP sites. In the two new IDP sites, the Organization is distributing cash, family tanks and hygiene kits, establishing latrines, and providing water. Through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), IOM and partners will be distributing cash assistance to every newly displaced person: 3,600 newly arrived households in Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi will receive cash assistance next week. In other sites, support for new arrivals and existing IDP caseloads is ongoing: more than 28,000 people have received water, mobile health teams are providing emergency health services in 39 IDP sites, and SNFI assistance is being provided through the contingency stock pipeline. IOM is also working with humanitarian partners on contingency planning for Ma'rib, to ensure an effective response to the rising needs.

Despite greater concerted efforts by humanitarian actors and local authorities, the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation is overstressing resources. Urgent support is needed to meet the pressing needs. IOM is concerned about further displacement and the humanitarian impact the conflict is having on civilians, at a time when humanitarian access and resources are constrained. The Organization 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 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.

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MARIB IS SUPPORTED BY

