

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

01-14 NOVEMBER 2020

2020IOM Yemen Consolidated Appeal¹**155 MILLION**

USD

5 MILLION

People

1. April to December 2020



A girl wears a face mask provided by IOM to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among displaced people in Ibb. © IOM 2020

CASH ASSISTANCE

15,624RECEIVED CASH
ASSISTANCEMIGRANT
ASSISTANCE**6,958**MIGRANTS RECEIVED HEALTH
SUPPORT AND AID ITEMSHEALTH CARE
SERVICES**9,303**PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH
HEALTH SERVICES

SITUATION OVERVIEW

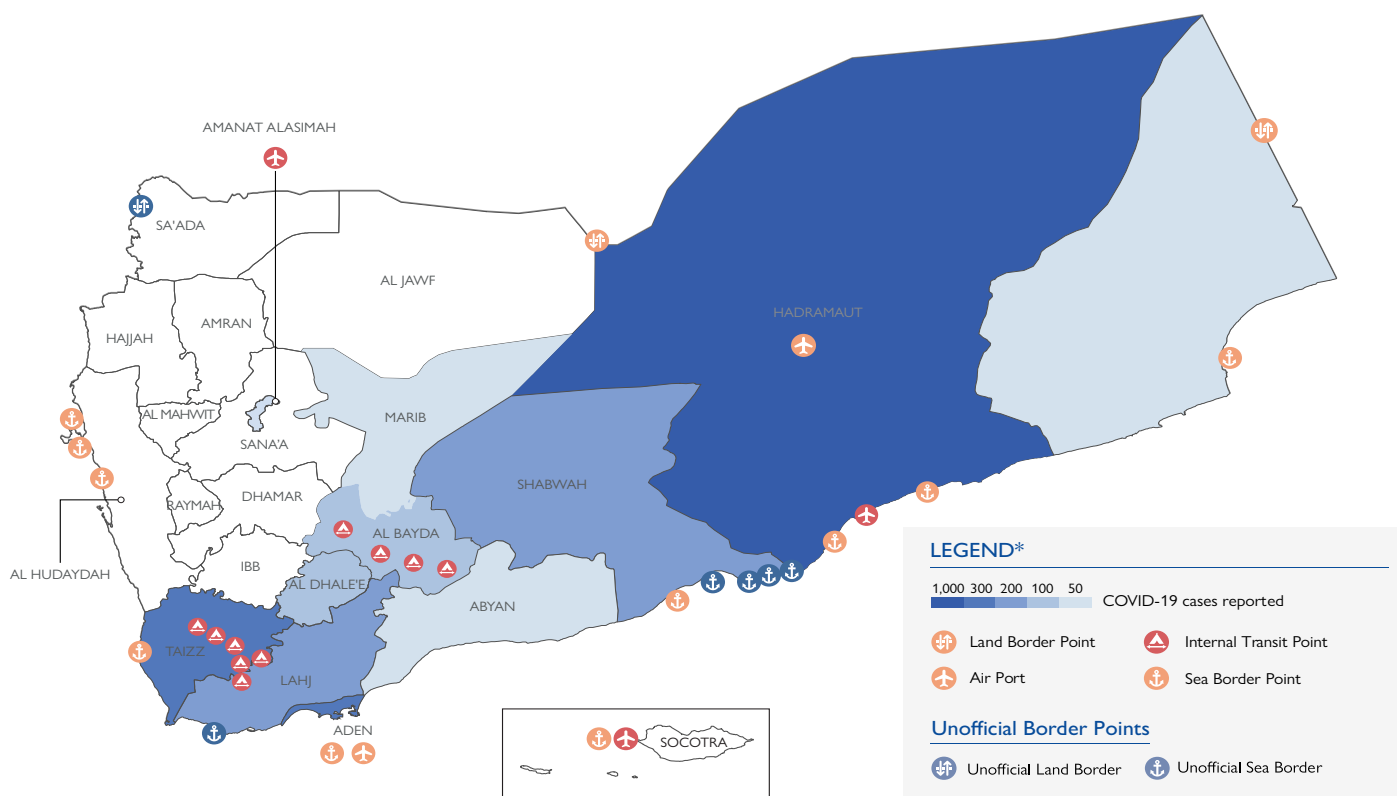
2,072 Reported Cases | **1,388** Reported Recovered | **604** Reported Deaths² | **11.84K** Tests Conducted

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is worsening. Vulnerabilities are being driven by escalating conflict, an economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have hit internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants the hardest. The economy – impacted by remittances which have drastically decreased since the start of the pandemic, a fuel crisis and a depreciating currency – is yet to recover. The cost of living is increasing while access to income and basic services has not improved. All indicators point to a looming famine, which along with the health crisis will have devastating impacts on vulnerable communities. During this challenging time, conflict continues to drive displacement, especially in governorates like Marib, Al Hudaydah and Taizz

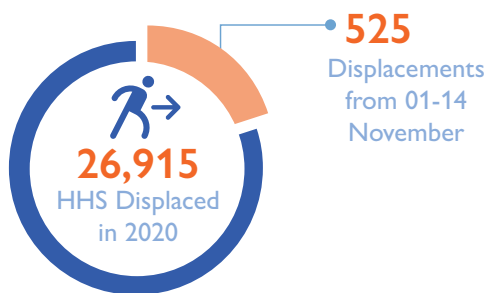
2. As of 18 November 2020



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local authorities of Yemen declared a nationwide health emergency and introduced many preventative measures similar to those adopted by the rest of the world starting in March 2020, in order to reduce the transmission of the virus. The Yemeni authorities had put additional preventive measures and health screenings for people passing through ten transit points used for public movement between southern and northern governorates, specifically at points located in Taizz and Al-Bayda. Recently, these restrictions have been loosened and the health screenings have been removed. For Yemeni returnees from KSA through the Al Wadea border entry point, providing a COVID-19 PCR test report is mandatory by the Yemeni authorities. Authorities at Al Wadea entry point have installed a PCR testing facility at the entry point for travelers who arrive without a PCR test report. So far in November, only seven Yemeni returnees are estimated to have returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through the Al Wadea border. On 28 September 2020, Sana'a International Airport reopened for humanitarian flights. Fifteen sea border points and three land border points are reopened for movement.



COVID-19 & DISPLACEMENT



Between 01 and 14 November, IOM teams recorded 525 displacements, bringing the total number of household displacements recorded through [IOM Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) since the start of the year to 26,915. In Marib where increased hostilities are causing mass displacement, IDPs are fleeing conflict affected areas in Raghwan, Medghal and Mahliyah districts into Marib city and surrounding areas. People also continue to be displaced within Al Hudaydah and Taizz governorates where armed clashes persist³. This volatile environment is further exacerbating vulnerabilities and putting pressure on host communities, and response efforts that prioritize mobile populations and provide them with access to basic and health services during this time are critical.

3. Due to access constraints, DTM teams cover parts of Hudaydah and Taizz.

MIGRATION CHALLENGES

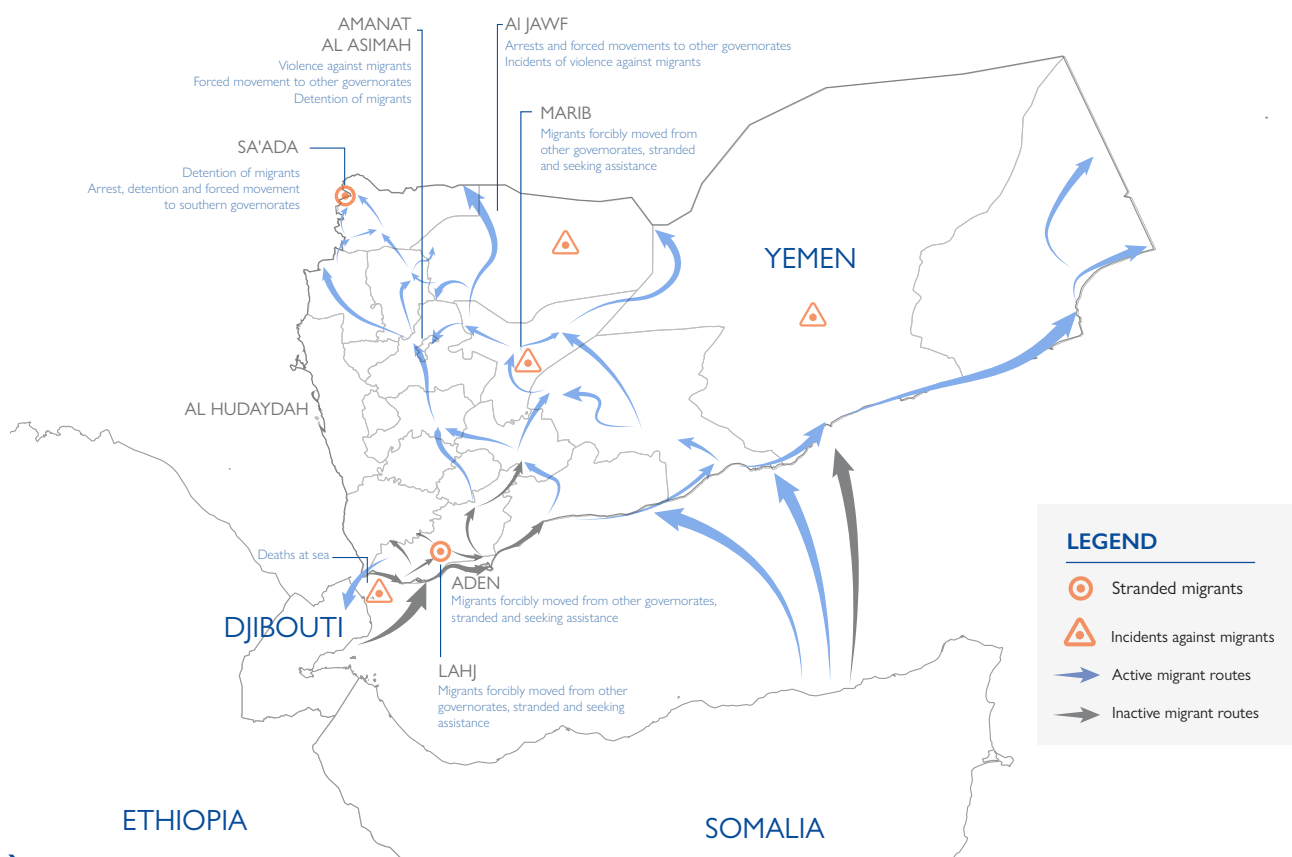
Despite the notable reduction in migrant arrivals this year, conditions for those stranded in Yemen due to increased barriers to movements is extremely concerning. Stranded migrants are one of the most vulnerable groups in the country. Due the impact of the pandemic, traditional migratory routes and coping mechanisms are no longer possible, and many are at risk of or are experiencing detention and forced relocations across treacherous frontlines. Since the start of the year, IOM and partners estimate that over 2,000 migrants are currently being held in detention, and close to 8,000 have been forcibly transferred from northern to southern governorates, as part of anti-migrant policies that seek to expel migrants from the Horn of Africa. Locations like Marib, where migrants traditionally transited through, are also hosting stranded migrant populations—over 5,000 by November 2020. There, migrants have little access to food, water and shelter. Many in Marib and Aden, who seek to return home, are turning to smugglers due to the lack of other return options, increasing their exposure to serious physical harm, protection risks, abuse and exploitation.

IOM and partners have continued to prioritize migrant protection assistance; however, needs are widespread and greater resources and partner support are required, including for migrants to be including in humanitarian planning efforts. Efforts to restart return flights through IOM’s Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme – which has been impacted by the travel restrictions – continue. So far, 2,640 migrants have been registered for the programme in Aden, and registration activities are ongoing while preparations are underway for a Government of Ethiopia consular team to visit Yemen to conduct nationality verification activities.

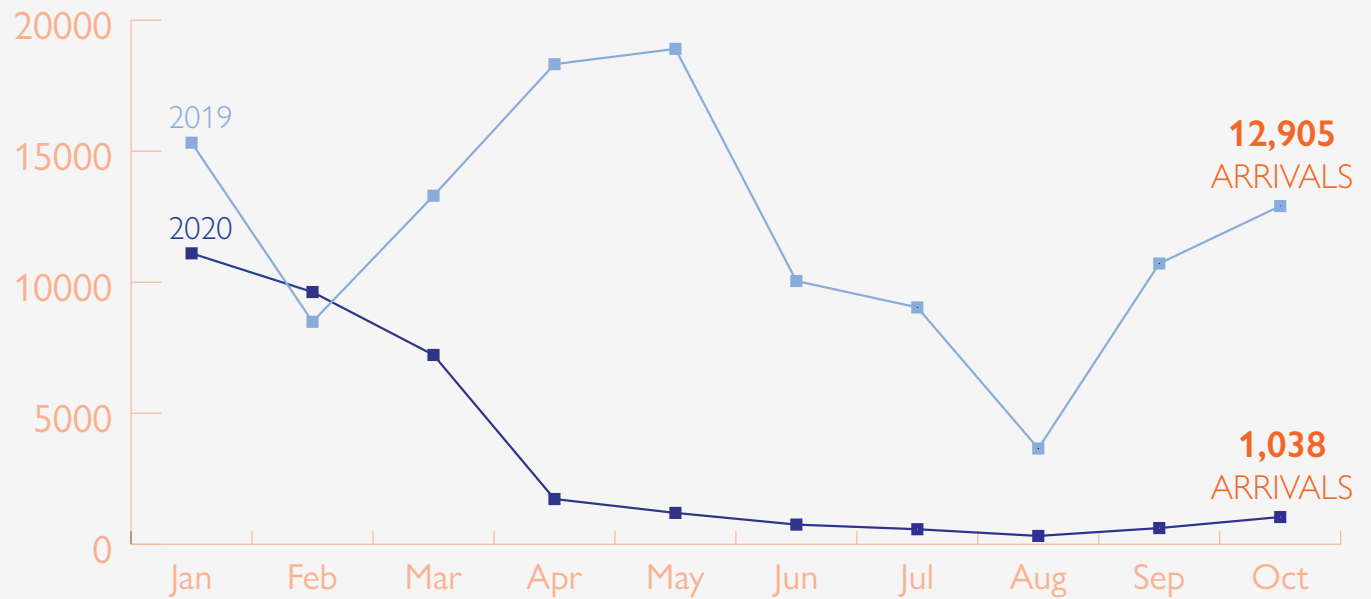
KEY TRENDS

1. Significant reduction in the number of new arrivals in Yemen
2. Increase in barriers to movement resulting in static migrant populations
3. Reduction in available work and other coping mechanisms as well as limited access to health care
4. Increase in stigmatization and harassment
5. Arrests, detention and forced relocations
6. Unsafe return of migrants to Horn of Africa aided by smugglers

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRATION

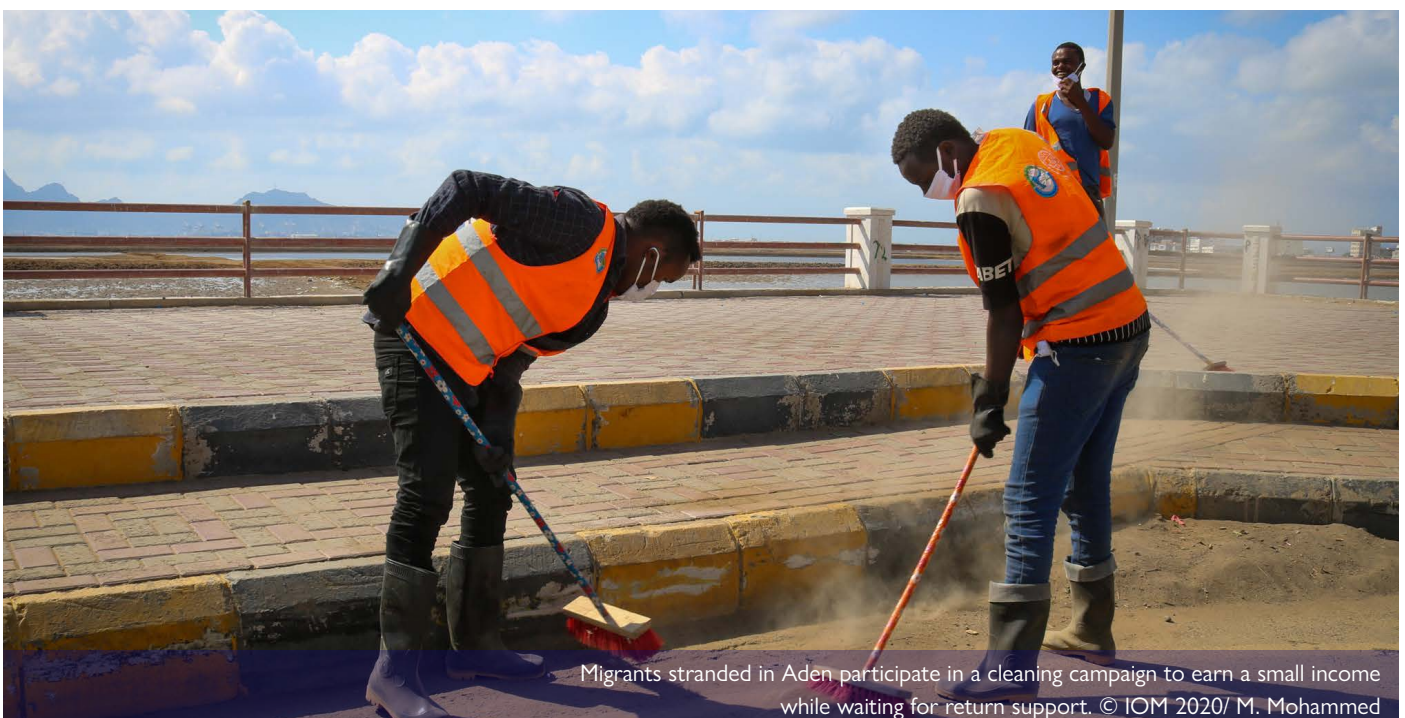


MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN 2019 & 2020



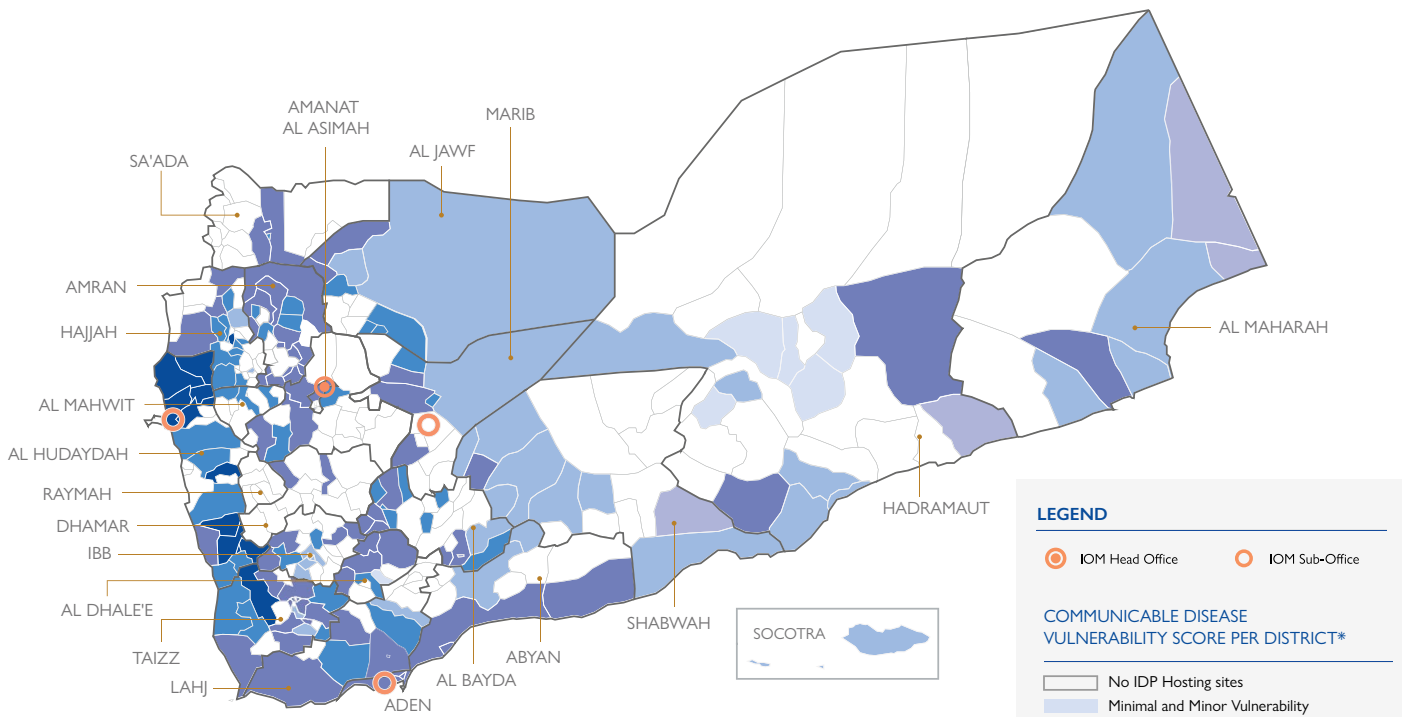
IOM YEMEN'S KEY ASKS

1. COVID-19 should not be exploited to instrumentalize national security priorities like migrant encampment, detention, forced relocation or deportation.
2. Migrants in detention should be released.
3. Voluntary Humanitarian Return flights should be resumed as an immediate measure to address the life-threatening conditions migrants are facing and the dangers when attempting the journey back to the Horn of Africa facilitated by smugglers.
4. Stranded migrants must be given safe passage and protection.
5. Humanitarians must be granted unconditional access to all populations in need.
6. Rhetoric blaming the COVID-19 outbreak on migrants must end.



IOM'S RESPONSE

Beginning in March, IOM scaled up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities to meet the needs of mobile populations – displaced persons and migrants – and the communities hosting them. IOM's multi-sectoral humanitarian activities, including COVID-19 activities, are ongoing through eight mobile health and protection teams and 22 health facilities across the country and in 60 IDP hosting sites.



LEGEND

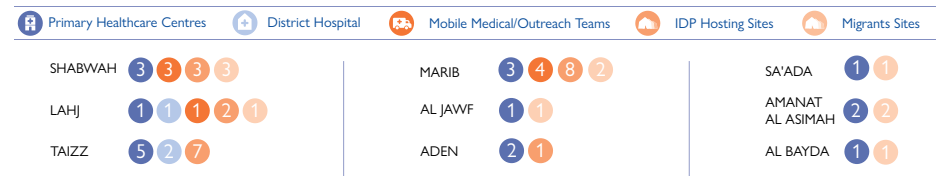
- IOM Head Office
- IOM Sub-Office

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE VULNERABILITY SCORE PER DISTRICT*

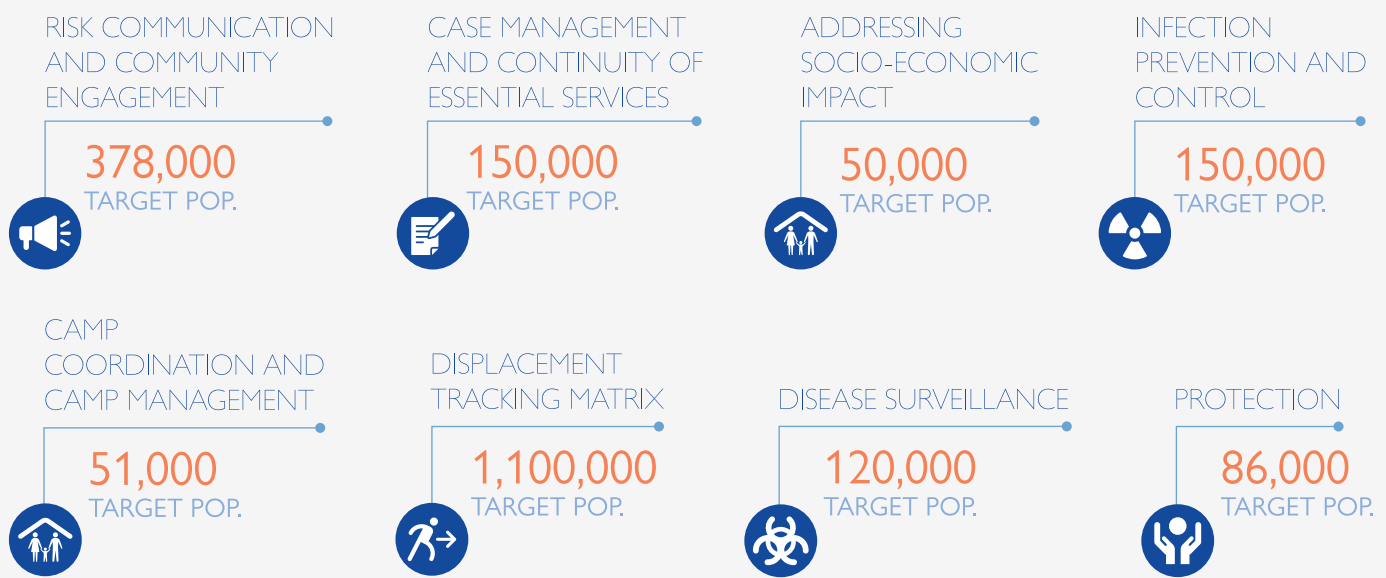
- No IDP Hosting sites
- Minimal and Minor Vulnerability
- Moderate Vulnerability
- Significant Vulnerability
- Major Vulnerability
- Severe Vulnerability
- Critical Vulnerability

* Yemen CCCM Cluster

IOM SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES AND IDP HOSTING SITES BY GOVERNORATE



RESPONSE TARGETS



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

To ensure that IDPs have access to safe and adequate water during this critical time, IOM is providing water, either through water trucking, vouchers, supplying family tanks and water points in more than 55 sites in Ibb, Marib and Taizz, reaching 102,734 people. During the reporting period, IOM distributed 52,992 soaps, 5,050 long lasting insecticide nets and 2,044 hygiene kits in Marib.

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

IOM continues to roll out various socioeconomic initiatives aimed at supporting conflict affected during this critical time by improving their access to livelihood and income opportunities. In the reporting period, 15,624 IDP and host community members received multi-purpose cash assistance to meet their household needs in Marib.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

IOM continues to provide medical supplies and human resource support in 22 health facilities across Al Jawf, Aden, Sada'a, Al Baydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib, Shabwah and Taizz governorates. Through eight mobile health teams, IOM is also providing access to emergency health assistance in displacement sites and along migratory routes in Aden, Lahj and Marib. During the reporting period, 86 health workers were trained on COVID-19 case management in Marib (bringing the total number of health workers trained by IOM on COVID-19 to 415), and 9,303 people (including 2,996 migrants) received access to health services.

PROTECTION

Through IOM Migrant and Community Response Points and mobile teams, 2,762 migrants and IDPs in Aden, Marib and Sana'a received aid and hygiene items as well as emergency food assistance. In Aden, 1,200 migrants are receiving cash for work support as part of a city cleaning campaign. By 19 November, 2,640 migrants had been registered for VHR in Aden.



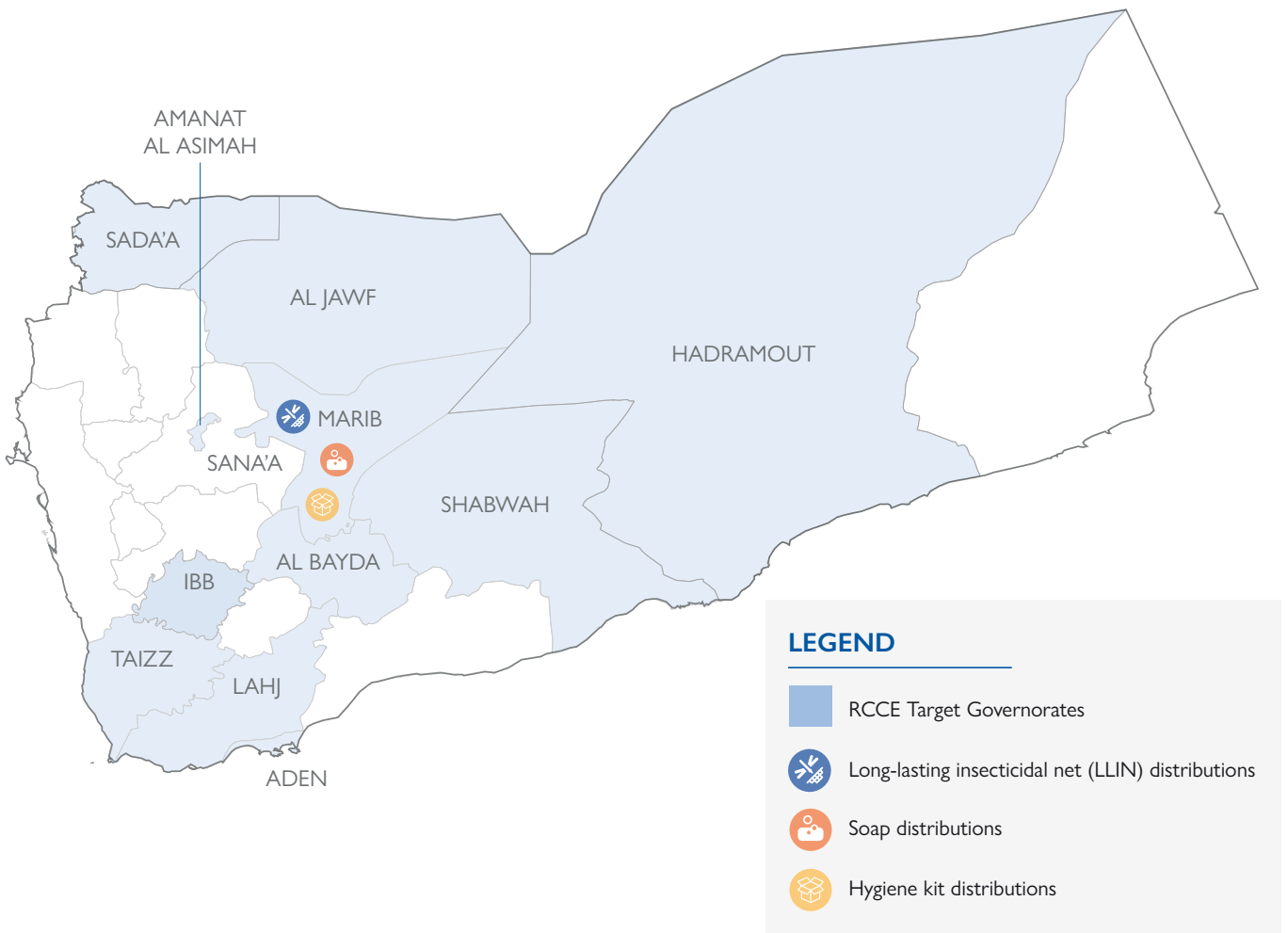
IOM teams conduct COVID-19 awareness raising in Ibb. © IOM 2020

CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In the 60 IOM-supported IDP hosting sites, the Organization continued COVID-19 awareness raising efforts while rolling out community shieling approaches and IPC efforts. These efforts are supported by site vulnerability assessments which aim to identify and support households at high risk for COVID-19.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

42,160 PEOPLE REACHED



IOM YEMEN'S RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY

