

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

15-28 NOVEMBER 2020

2020

IOM Yemen Consolidated Appeal¹

155 MILLION

USD

5 MILLION

People

1. April to December 2020



Stranded women migrants sit together in a settlement where they and hundreds of others are sheltering in Marib © IOM 2020

RETURN SUPPORT

3,400

MIGRANTS REGISTERED FOR VHR



MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

3,291

MIGRANTS RECEIVED HEALTH SUPPORT AND AID ITEMS



HEALTH CARE SERVICES

8,571

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH HEALTH SERVICES



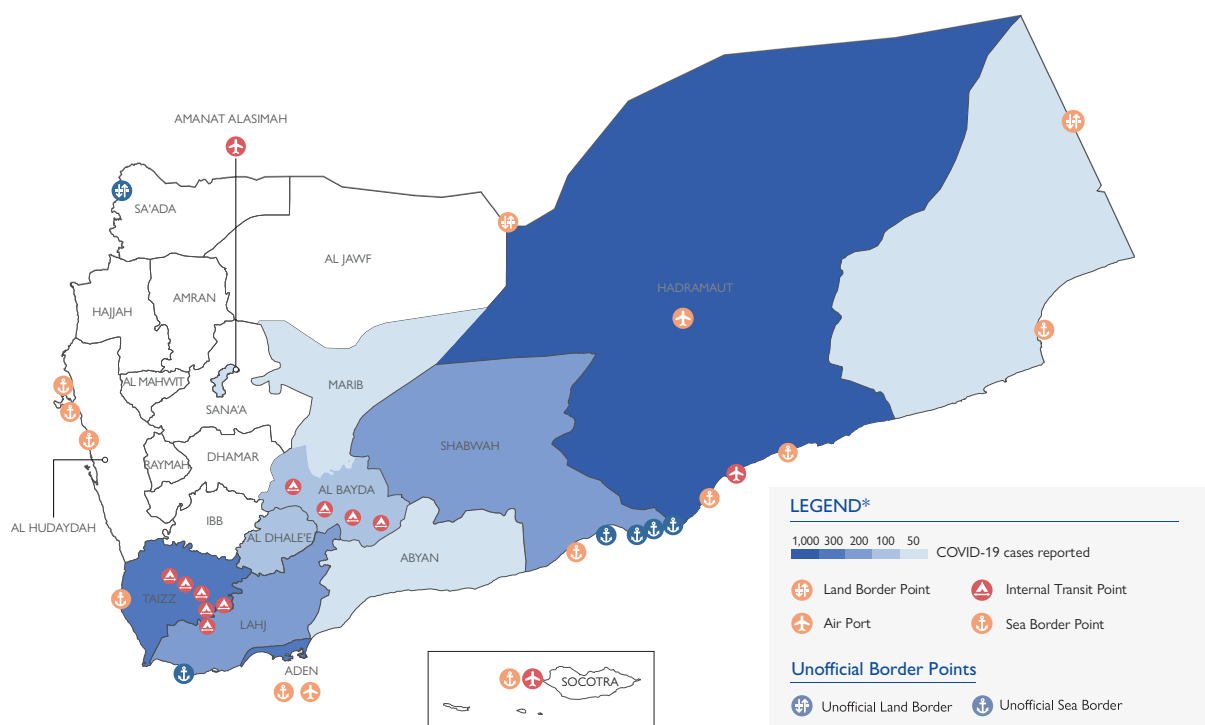
SITUATION OVERVIEW

2,081 Reported Cases | 1,383 Reported Recovered | 606 Reported Deaths² | 11.84K Tests Conducted

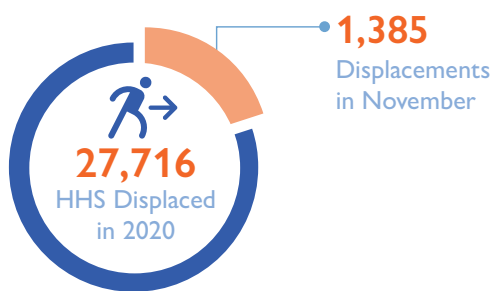
The humanitarian situation in Yemen, the largest crisis in the world, is further deteriorating to alarming levels. The context is characterized by a myriad of concerns – conflict-driven displacement, a fuel and economic crisis, and weakened public and health services. The outlook for the year to come is worrying, with 16.2 million people likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in northern governorates, and 3.2 million people projected to face famine like conditions across the south of the country. With Yemen at the brink of another famine, lifesaving assistance must be scaled up, together with socioeconomic support and an urgent de-escalation of the conflict.

2. As of 03 October 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local authorities in Yemen declared a nationwide health emergency and introduced movement restrictions along key transit and boarder points. 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 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (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. 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



In November, IOM teams recorded 1,385 displacements, bringing the total number of household displacements recorded across the 13 governorates where IOM has access since the start of the year to 27,716. The conflict in Marib continues to contribute to the majority of total displacements in Yemen this year, while hostilities in Al Hudaydah and Taizz are also displacing people. These trends have been consistent throughout 2020.

Access to basic and health services remain impacted by the pandemic, particularly that of internally displaced people (IDPs). In a five-governorate study conducted by IOM in October and November, IDPs reported facing worse access to public services, water and food since the outset of the pandemic. IOM assessments also indicated further interruptions in education due to COVID-19, with only 65 per cent of children in IDP HHs outside of camps reporting attending school, only 43 per cent of IDP children in camps and 56 per cent of returnee children.

IOM teams and key informants also observed high needs amongst IDPs for food. In Lahj (85%), Shabwah (67%), Al Dhale'e (59%) and Abyan (58%), for example, food is the prioritized need for most of the displaced population, with IDPs reporting increased prices of essential commodities in the local markets. This is alarming because many IDPs in Lahj and Shabwah live with either host families or relatives and do not pay rent, indicating that the host communities are experiencing increasing dire economic conditions, limited resources and shortages in food supplies. In areas like Al Dhale'e governorate, where 73 per cent of IDPs are displaced from within the same governorate, a majority are farmers who are now unable to find new income sources to support their families.

MIGRATION CHALLENGES

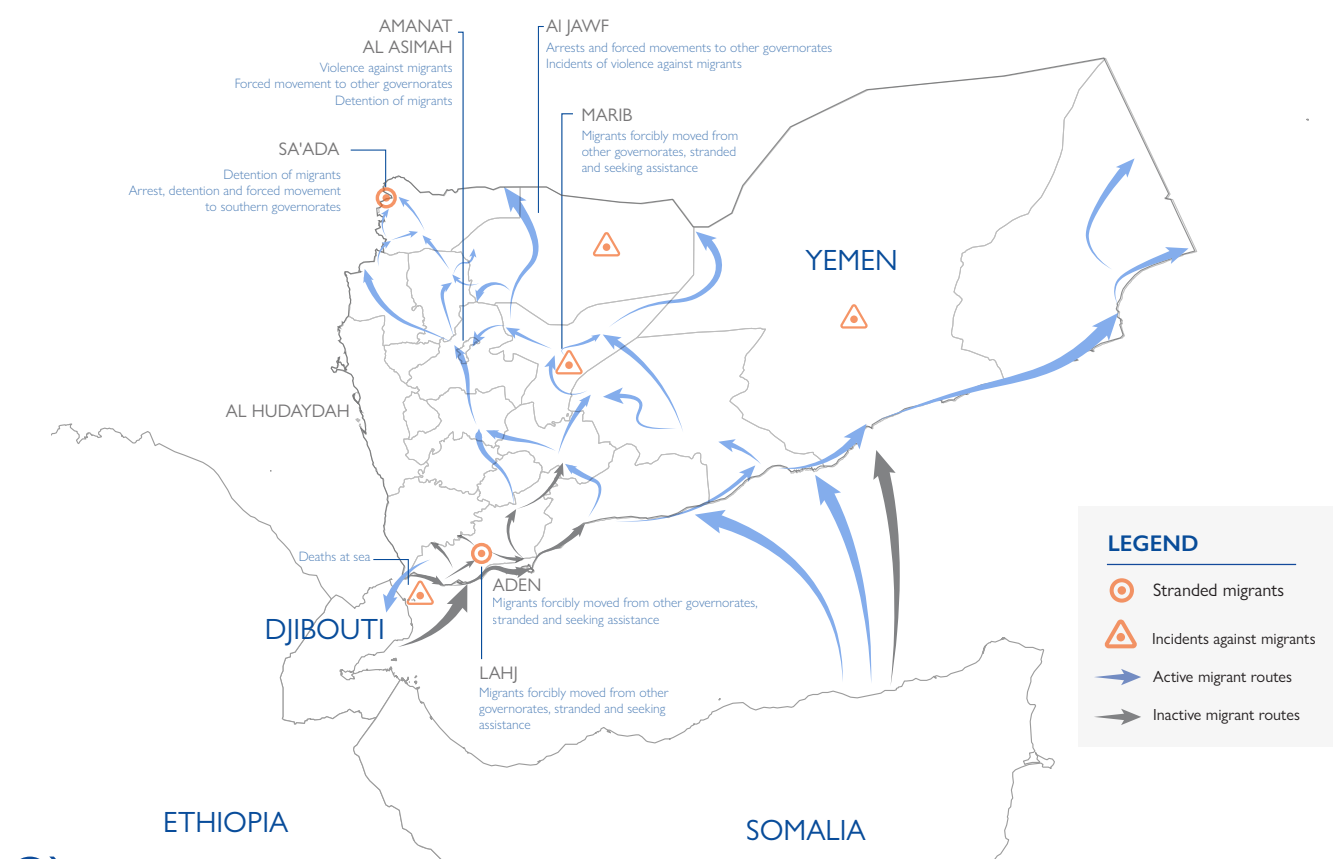
COVID-19 has contributed to a severe deterioration of the situation for migrants in Yemen. Stranded migrants, a majority from the Horn of Africa, are some of the most vulnerable population groups in Yemen. Large groups of static migrant populations, particularly in Aden and Marib, are unable to continue their travel to KSA or return home safely. Traditional coping mechanisms, such as support from host communities, are also eroding, as the economic situation in Yemen continues to worsen and competition for resources becomes more prevalent. The situation is precarious across the country; IOM and partners estimate that over 2,000 migrants are currently being held in detention in the north. The Organization also estimates that over 8,000 migrants have been forcibly transferred from northern to southern governorates since the start of the pandemic, as authorities have sought to expel migrants from the Horn of Africa. The growing population of stranded migrants are increasingly facing exposure to risks and exploitation, with many turning to smugglers for survival.

In Aden, since October, IOM has registered over 3,400 migrant applicants for voluntary humanitarian return (VHR). Efforts to restart return flights are progressing positively; on 30 November, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and immigration officials from the Government of Ethiopia arrived in Aden to conduct nationality verification activities, which will take place over a two-week period. Meanwhile the cash for work cleaning campaign that is engaging migrants in Aden city is ongoing, and IOM is going to expand this initiative to support host community members, which will contribute to alleviating community tensions.

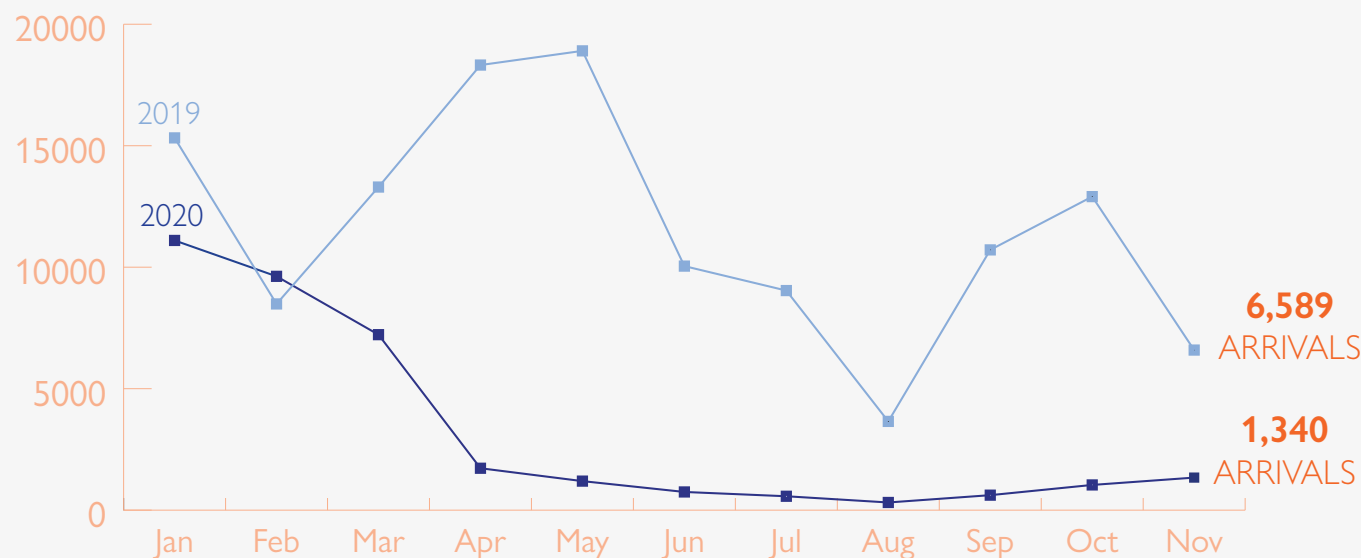
KEY TRENDS

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

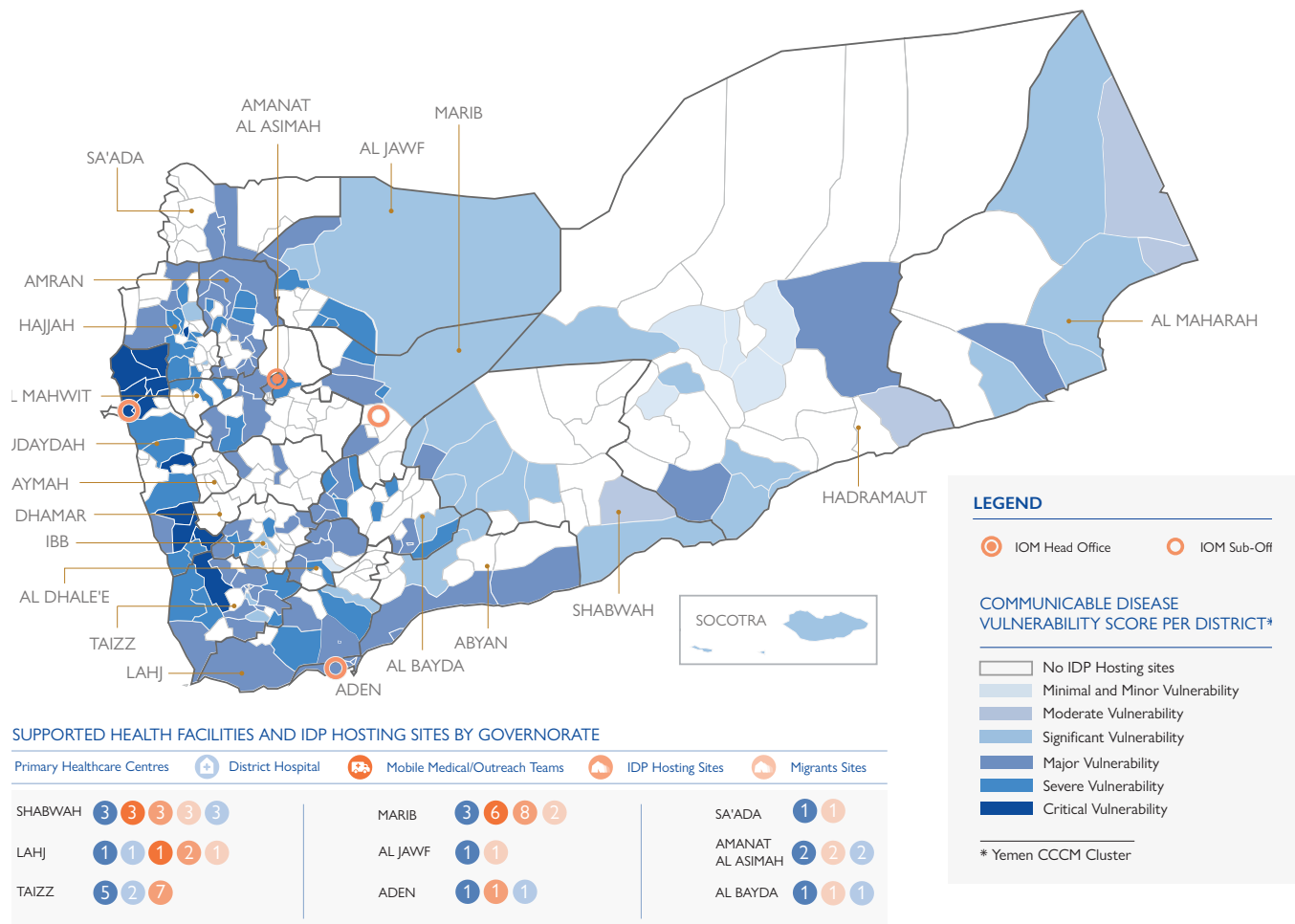
1. COVID-19 should not be exploited to instrumentalize national security priorities like migrant encampment, detention, forced relocation or deportation
2. Migrants in detention should be released
3. Voluntary Humanitarian Return flights should be resumed as an immediate measure to address the life-threatening 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



A mother and her child speak with an IOM doctor in the Al Jufainah health centre in Marib © IOM 2020

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 17 health facilities across the country and in 60 IDP hosting sites.



RESPONSE TARGETS

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

378,000
TARGET POP.



CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

150,000
TARGET POP.



ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

50,000
TARGET POP.



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

150,000
TARGET POP.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

51,000
TARGET POP.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

1,100,000
TARGET POP.



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

120,000
TARGET POP.



PROTECTION

86,000
TARGET POP.



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

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 25,776 soaps, 2,017 long lasting insecticide nets and 8,39 hygiene kits in Marib. The Organization is also establishing another isolation centre in an IDP site in Al Mardaa, Marib, to allow suspected cases within IDP communities to safely isolate.

PROTECTION

Through IOM Migrant and Community Response Points and mobile teams, 3,291 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, and 3,400 migrants had been registered for participation in IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme (VHR). In Marib, IOM's protection team provided 86 IDPs with NFIs and temporary shelter kits.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

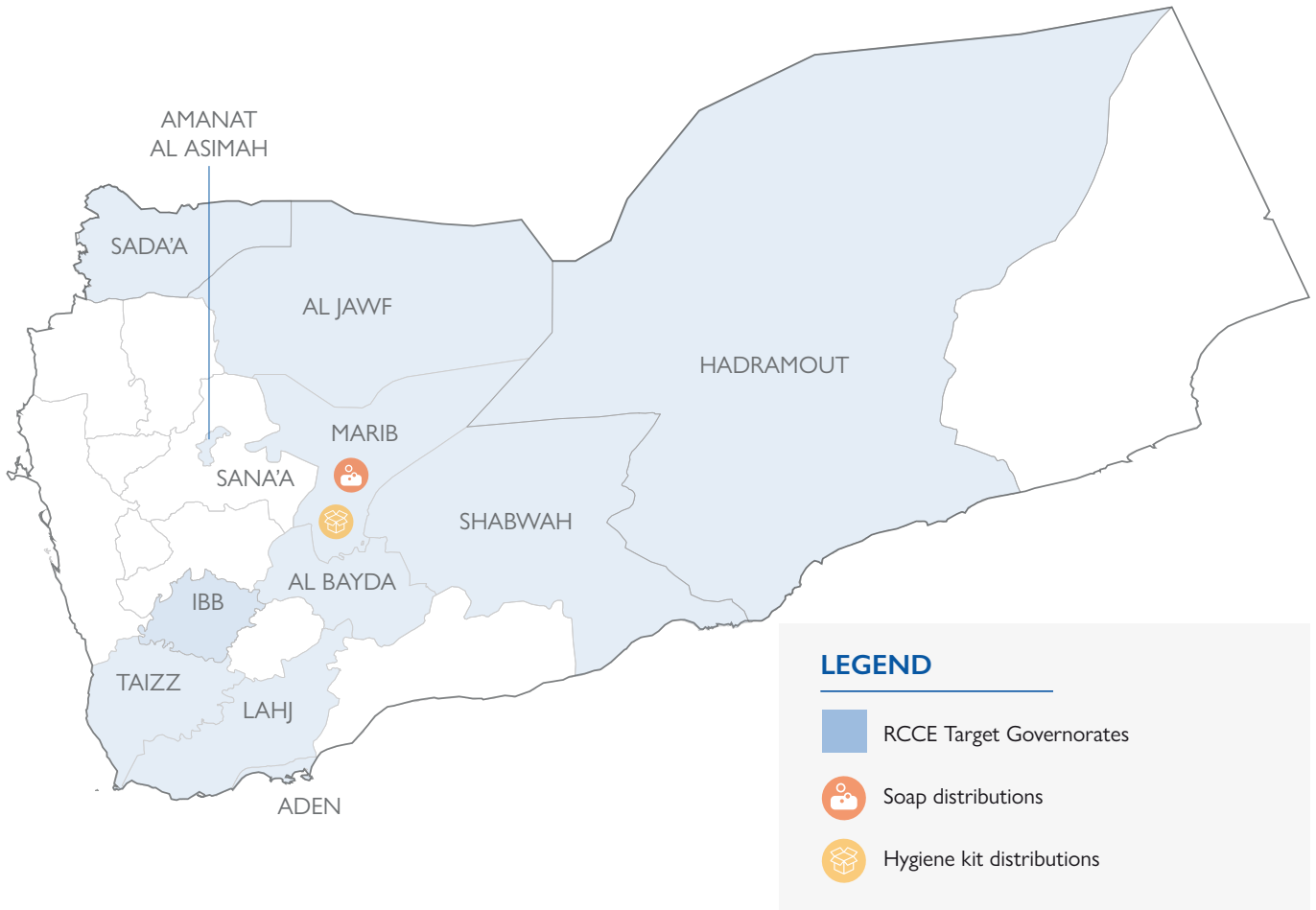
IOM is providing medical supplies and human resource support in 17 health facilities across Al Jawf, Aden, Sada'a, Al Baydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib, and Shabwah governorates. Through eight mobile health teams, IOM is also providing access to emergency health assistance in displacement sites and along migratory routes in Aden, Lahj and Marib. During the reporting period, 8,571 people received access to health services. IOM is working with the Ministry of Public Health and Population to carry out COVID-19 case management and prevention trainings for 152 health workers in Marib governorate.



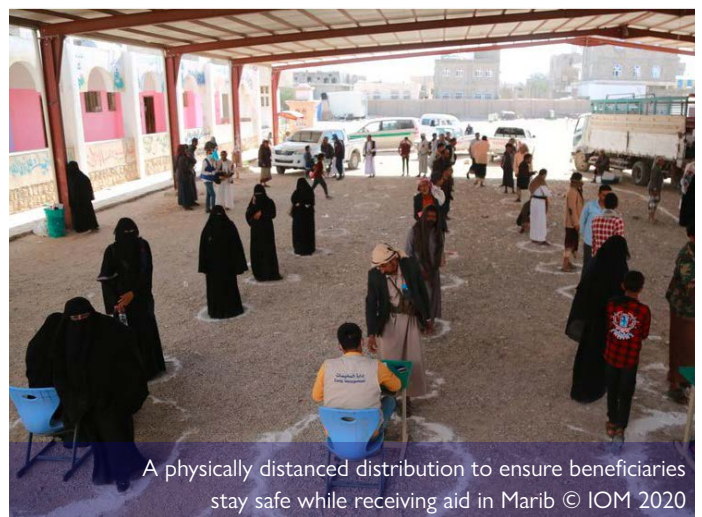
A rural man collects water from an IOM constructed solar water system in Abyan © IOM 2020/R. Ibrahim

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

52,151 PEOPLE REACHED



A health worker examines samples in a laboratory supported by IOM in Marib © IOM 2020



A physically distanced distribution to ensure beneficiaries stay safe while receiving aid in Marib © IOM 2020

IOM YEMEN'S RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY

