

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

18-31 OCTOBER 2020

**2020**IOM Yemen Consolidated Appeal<sup>1</sup>**155 MILLION**

USD

**5 MILLION**

People

1. April to December 2020



Children receive masks made through IOM support and take part in COVID-19 awareness raising activities © IOM 2020

## AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

**3,650**
 PEOPLE SUPPORTED  
THROUGH CASH  
FOR WORK


## MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

**4,488**
 MIGRANTS RECEIVED HEALTH  
SUPPORT AND AID ITEMS


## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

**9,088**
 PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH  
HEALTH SERVICES


## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**2,067** Reported Cases | **1,375** Reported Recovered | **602** Reported Deaths<sup>2</sup> | **11.84K** Tests Conducted

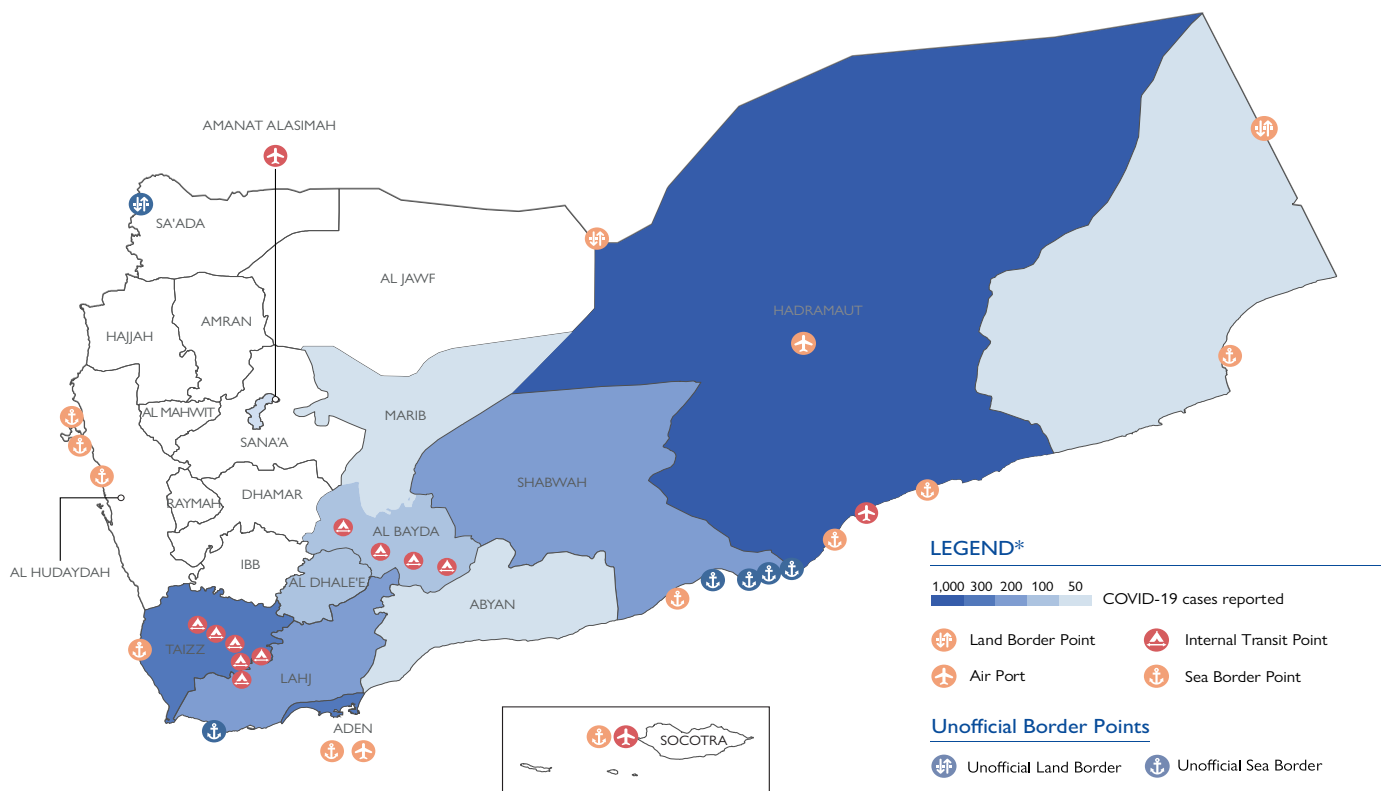
Yemen continues to be impacted by COVID-19, and the pandemic has placed an enormous strain on the local economy. As the depreciation of Yemen's currency persists, areas in the south are hardest hit. The fuel crisis is also contributing to rising prices of locally produced goods, as irrigation costs increase by up to 80 per cent and transportation costs are high. At the same time food insecurity indicators are worsening in southern governorates where assessments have taken place, and nearly 40 per cent of the population is projected to face acute malnutrition in the coming months. As conflict activities continue in key hotspots (Marib, Al Jawf, Taizz and Al Hudaydah governorates) new displacements are being recorded, further worsening vulnerabilities within conflict affected communities.

2. As of 03 October 2020

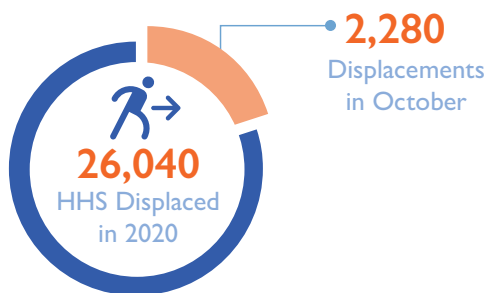

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IOM teams continue to monitor countrywide COVID-19 movement restrictions. Two of five international airports—Aden and Seiyun—remain open for commercial and humanitarian flights. The Sana'a airport, after nearly a month of closure, is also now open for regular humanitarian flights. Fifteen sea border points and three land border points are partially open for movements, and 10 transit points in Taizz and in Al Bayda remain active to monitor public movements between southern and northern governorates. During the month of October, no Yemeni returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through the Al Wadea border entry point were recorded by IOM teams.



## COVID-19 & DISPLACEMENT



In October, 2,212 displaced households were recorded through IOM [Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) bringing the total number of households displaced this year to 26,376. A majority of displacements are occurring from Marib and Al Jawf where the deteriorating security situation is leading to a [mass displacement situation](#) toward Marib city and surrounding areas – IOM estimates that close to 100,000 people have been displaced since January 2020. The displacement crisis is placing a strain on existing resources and coping systems and putting affected people at further risk of COVID-19. IOM and partners are putting in place contingency plans in anticipation of further shocks and increased needs in the months to come, while calling for a de-escalation of hostilities.

# A SELECTION OF THE KEY RESULTS FROM IOM'S MULTISECTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN MARIB AND LAHJ

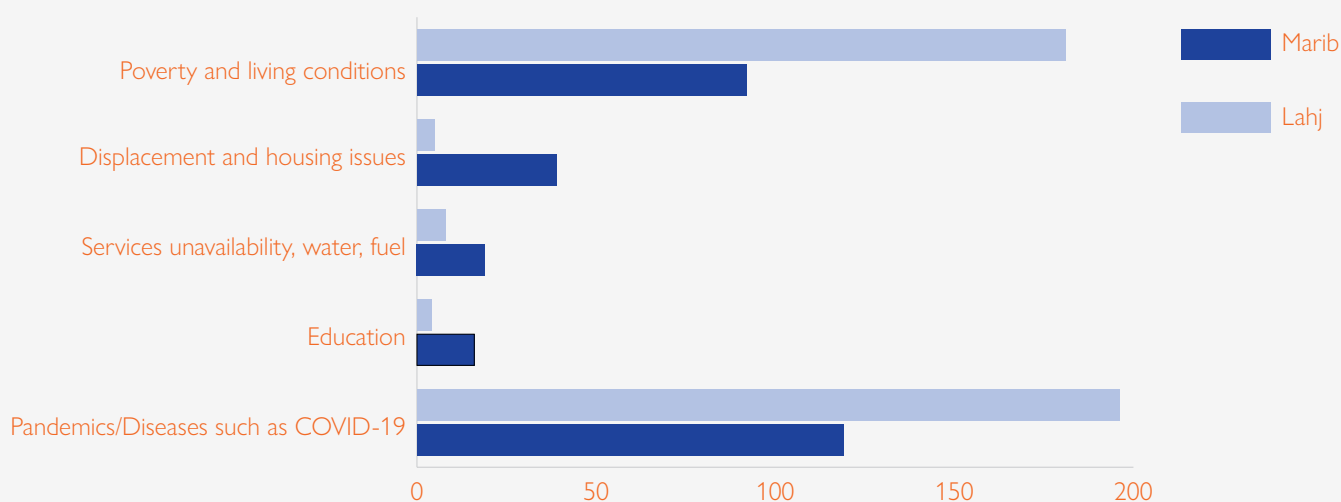
 **920** Household surveys

 **14,076** Key informant interviews

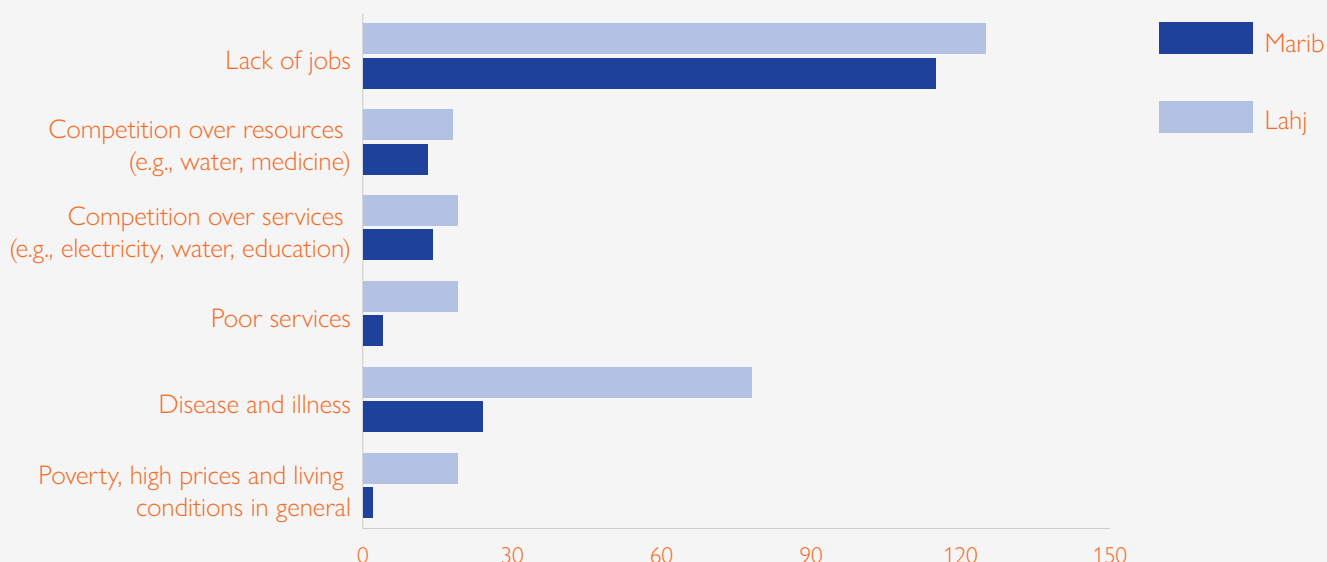
## KEY TRENDS

1. Women face issues accessing services and decision-making processes;
2. COVID-19 and poverty have emerged as the primary concern among Yemenis;
3. Livelihoods and income are the primary drivers of community tensions;

### What Issue is of Greatest Concern to Your Personal Life?



### What is the Main Source of Tension in your Community?



## MIGRATION CHALLENGES

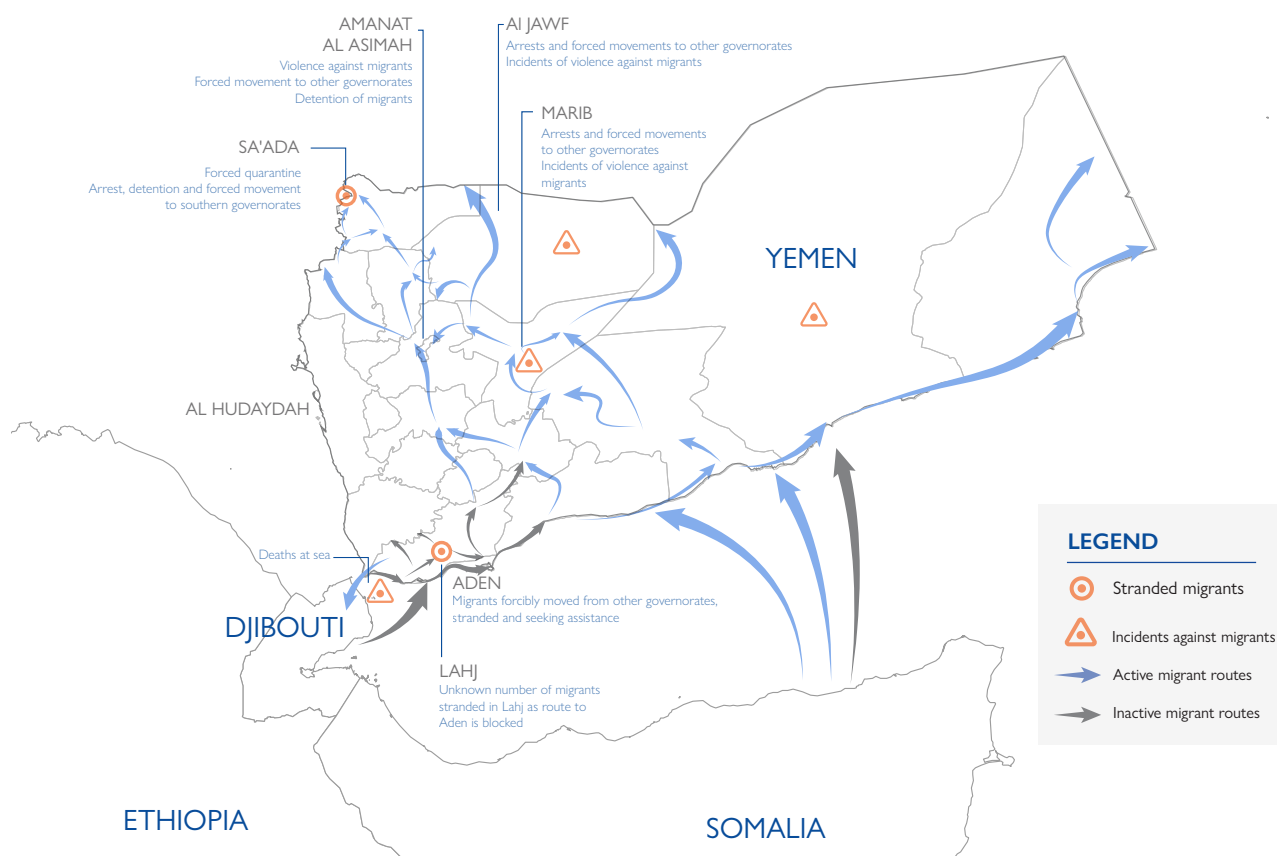
Living conditions for migrants stranded in Yemen have remained precarious since the start of the pandemic. While migrants already faced severe protection risks as they transited through the conflict affected country, increased barriers to movement brought on by the pandemic and a reinforcement of anti-migrant policies have left thousands of migrants stranded across Yemen with limited options for safe movement. In October alone, IOM and partners estimate that close to 2,000 migrants were forcibly transferred across frontlines from northern to southern governorates, and more than 2700 migrants are estimated to be in detention situations in northern governorates.

To support the growing number of migrants stranded in Aden and Marib, IOM is scaling up relief and protection assistance. In Marib, where an estimated 5,000 migrants are in acute need, IOM is providing assistance in coordination with partners, but additional partner efforts and presence is needed to meet the growing need. IOM assessments in Marib Al Wadi district, for example, have demonstrated widespread gaps around of shelter, food and health. In Aden, IOM has launched cash for work activities, targeting 1,200 vulnerable migrants and providing small livelihood opportunities ahead of voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flights. At the same time, the Organization continues to register Ethiopian migrants seeking to return; over 2,500 migrants have been registered so far. Efforts to kickstart VHR flights are moving forward, and preparations are underway for a Government of Ethiopia consular team to visit Yemen to conduct nationality verification activities.

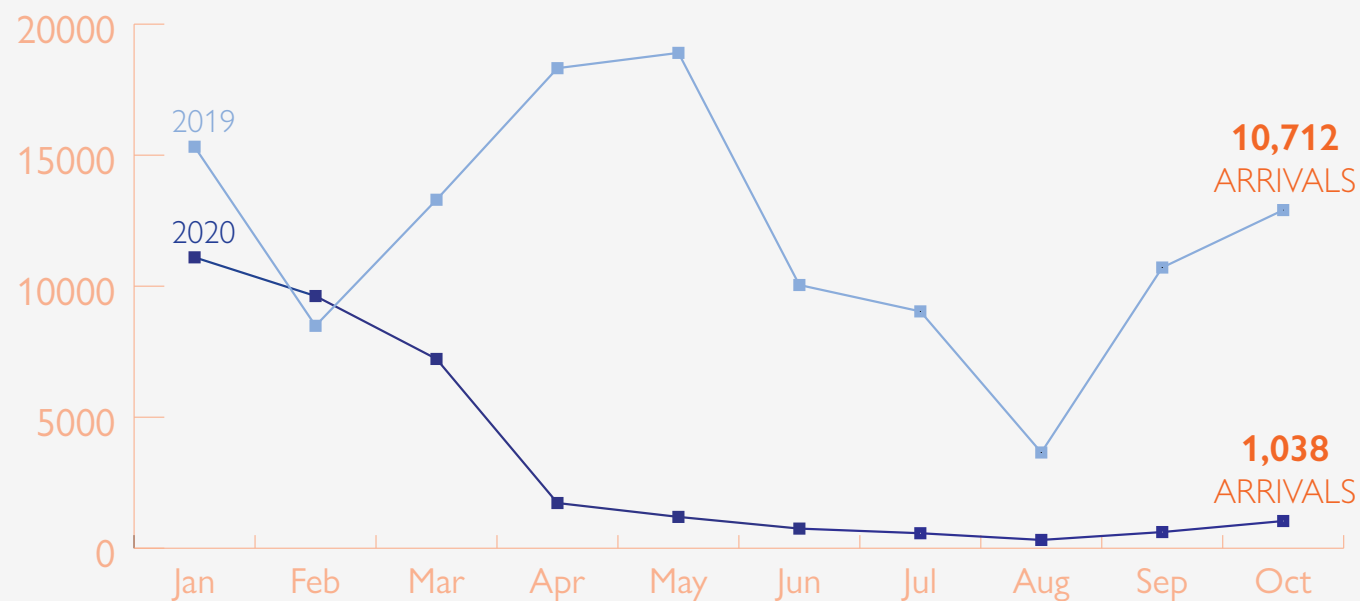
### KEY TRENDS

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 &amp; 2020



## IOM YEMEN'S KEY ASKS

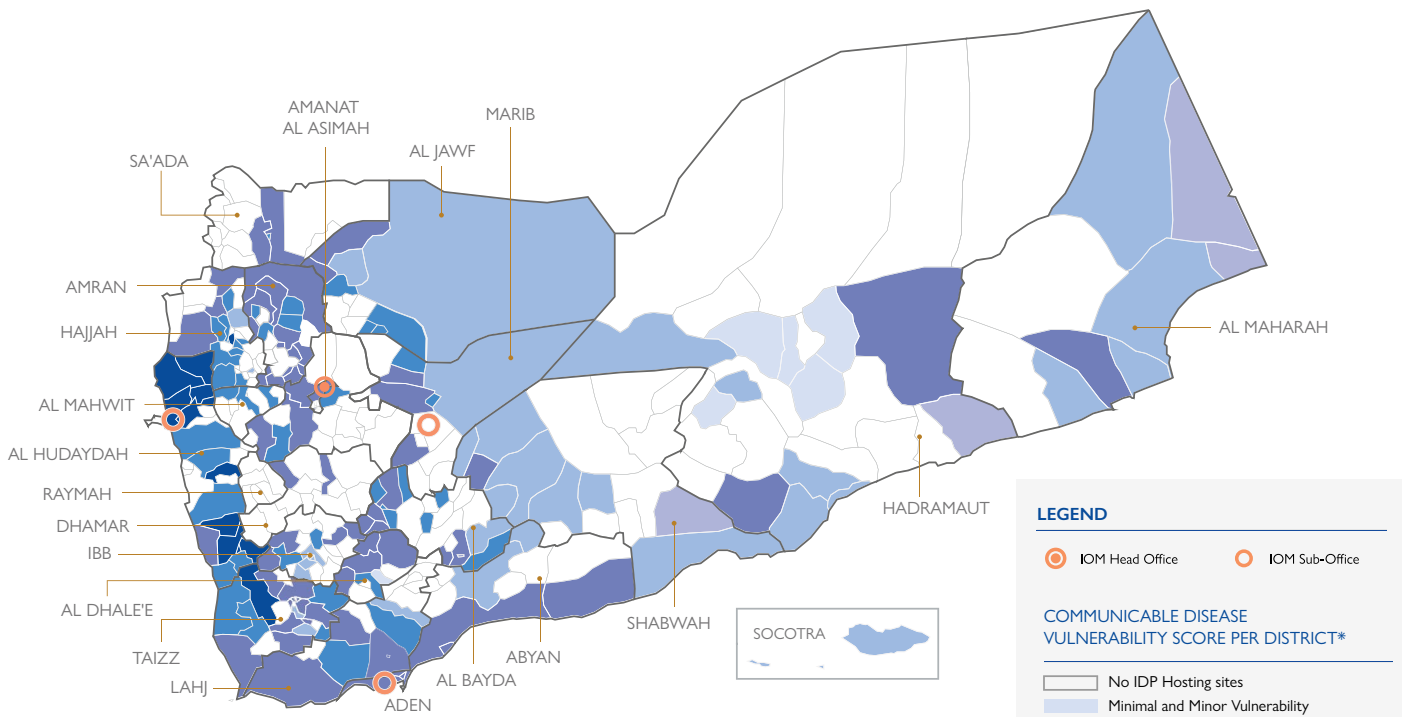
1. COVID-19 should not be exploited to instrumentalize national security priorities like migrant encampment, detention, forced relocation or deportation.
2. Migrants in detention should be released.
3. Voluntary Humanitarian Return flights should be resumed as an immediate measure to address the life-threatening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



An IOM doctor provides emergency health care to a migrant through an IOM mobile clinic © 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 22 health facilities across the country and in 60 IDP hosting sites.



**LEGEND**

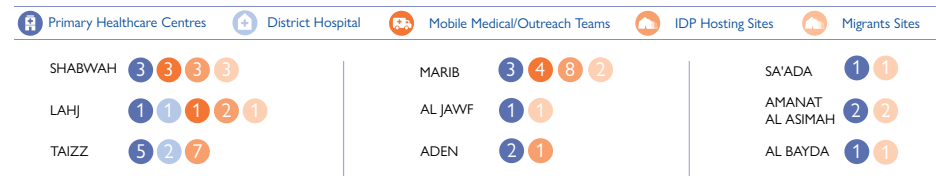
- IOM Head Office
- IOM Sub-Office

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE VULNERABILITY SCORE PER DISTRICT\***

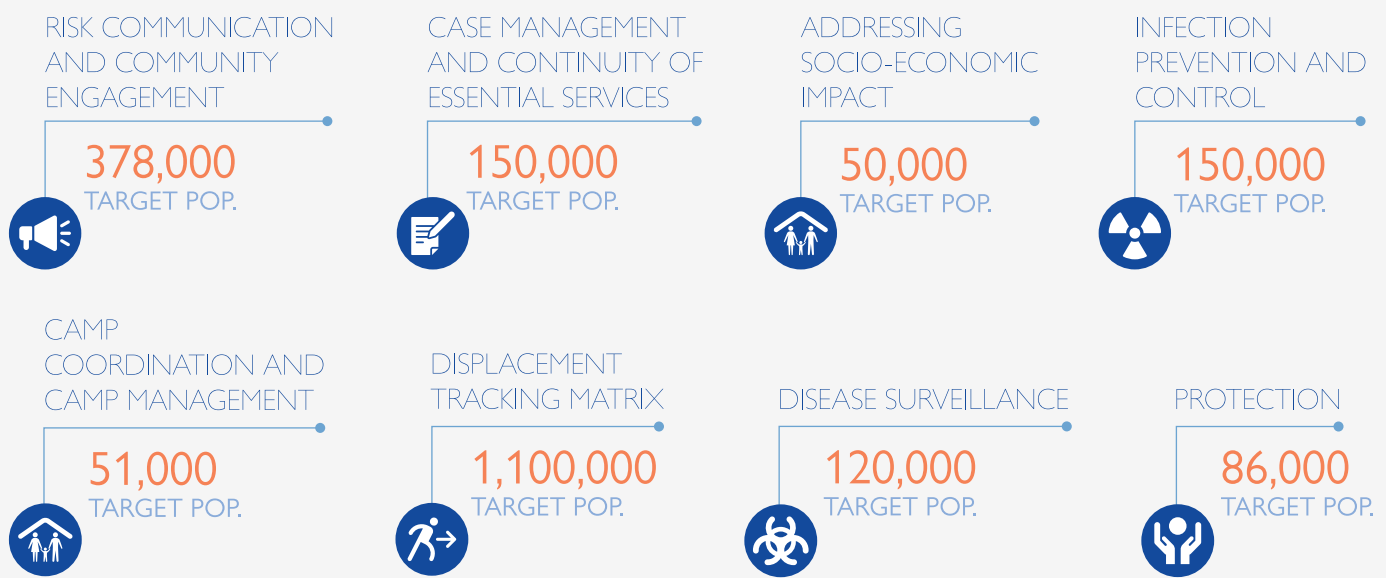
- No IDP Hosting sites
- Minimal and Minor Vulnerability
- Moderate Vulnerability
- Significant Vulnerability
- Major Vulnerability
- Severe Vulnerability
- Critical Vulnerability

\* Yemen CCCM Cluster

### IOM SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES AND IDP HOSTING SITES BY GOVERNORATE



## RESPONSE TARGETS



## ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

IOM continues to contribute towards improving access to capital, diversify livelihoods and improve community infrastructure in conflict affected communities. Cash for work activities – street rehabilitation and cleaning campaigns in Hadramaut – supported 350 vulnerable displaced and host community households in October, and IOM provided start up kits for 573 participants in vocational training in Marib and Hadramout. Additionally, IOM distributed 201 waste containers to local authorities in the two governorates, as part of efforts to improve public waste collection systems.

## 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 or supplying family tanks and water points to 55 sites in Ibb, Marib and Taizz, reaching 102,734 people. During the reporting period, IOM set up hand washing stations in Al Jufainah IDP site, the largest in the country. Additionally, 72,498 soaps, 6,456 long lasting insecticide nets and 3,980 hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable people across Marib, Aden, Abyan and Taizz governorates.

## CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

To ensure migrants and conflict affected communities have sustained access to primary and secondary health services, IOM is providing material 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. All 22 health facilities have also received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies, and triage points have been established in 18. 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, 9,088 people received access to health services.

## PROTECTION

Through IOM Migrant and Community Response Points and mobile teams, 4,488 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, and 700 migrants received hygiene kits. So far, 2,353 migrants have been registered for VHR in Aden.



Affected by the conflict a man takes part in cash for work activity in Hadramout © IOM 2020

## NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEMS

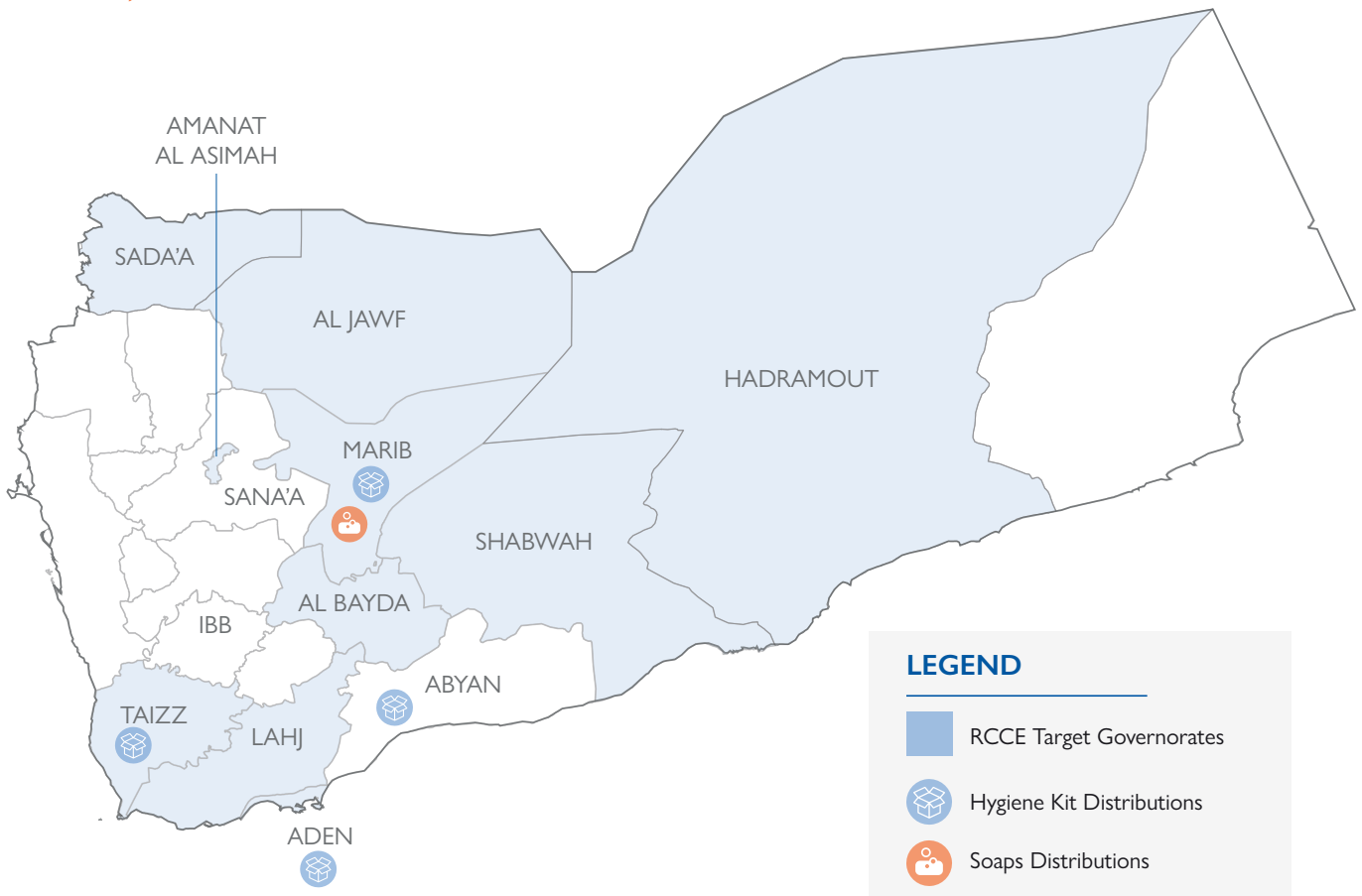
IOM is procuring six GeneXpert machines, a test similar to the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and approved by the World Health Organization (WHO), in order to increase testing capacity in underserved locations. In this vein, the health team visited Taiz and Lahj to assess health facilities, including a COVID-19 treatment centre, and review options for strengthening COVID-19 testing and health service capacity.

## 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 shielding approaches and IPC efforts. Since 24 October, IOM teams have distributed 33 shielding kits, which include reusable masks, disinfecting material and hygiene items, and 330 masks to IDPs.

## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

**110,571** PEOPLE REACHED



### IOM YEMEN'S RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY

