

# SITUATION REPORT DECEMBER 2020



IOM doctor screening a patient at a supported IOM clinic in Aden © IOM 2020



**38,011**

Individuals provided with hygiene kits & relief items



**19,509**

Primary health care consultations conducted (61% of 2020 target reached)



**6,666**

Migrants received humanitarian assistance

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In 2020, the people of Yemen continued to suffer through the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The situation deteriorated to further alarming levels after the confirmation of Yemen's first COVID-19 case in April. While the crisis is causing great suffering and loss of life, the conflict has directly led to the death of an estimated 233,000 people, including more than 3,000 children, since it began, according to the [UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#). Throughout the year, displacement and migration challenges have been compounded by fuel, political and economic crises and a weakened public health system, in addition to the global COVID-19 pandemic. And as food insecurity continued to worsen for millions in Yemen, [thousands of displaced persons and migrants worryingly cite access to food](#) among their critical needs.

On 30 December, three missiles struck the Aden international airport – killing 26 and injuring over 100 – after the newly formed cabinet arrived. No one took responsibility for the attack, though parties to the conflict traded accusations. The [UN Secretary-General](#), the [UN Special Envoy](#) and the [UN Humanitarian Chief](#) called for parties to continue talks to end the conflict. Following this attack, there was increased insecurity in Aden city which led to restricted access in the short term. In 2020, active frontlines increased from 33 to 47 and escalating conflict further exacerbated vulnerabilities of host communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants. In December, hostilities were mainly concentrated along frontlines in Al Jawf, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Taizz, Abyan, Ibb and Al Dahle'e governorates.

A consistent trend throughout the year, access obstacles, particularly in the north, continued in December. Staff movements and relief items for all agencies and international NGOs remained constrained by permit denials by local authorities or additional ad hoc bureaucratic requirements often imposed without prior communication. As of 13 December, 74 NGO projects were pending sub-agreement approval by the authorities, targeting over 4.7 million people.

IOM continues to advocate for migrants' rights in Yemen and provide basic services for migrants transiting through and stranded in the country. The Organization estimates that thousands of migrants are stranded in Yemen after the imposition of COVID-19 movement restrictions across the region and the Horn of Africa. Most migrants are young Ethiopian nationals and have little-to-no access to basic services. There is increasing constraints on migrants' traditional coping mechanisms, such as support from the communities hosting them. IOM has registered over 5,000 migrants in Aden who wish to return home through the Organization's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme. IOM is awaiting travel documents from the Government of Ethiopia for just over 1,000 of those registered.

By the end of December, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 in Yemen reached 2,100, with 611 fatalities. The full extent of the spread of virus still is unknown nine months into the outbreak due to limited testing and reporting. Testing challenges are more pronounced in some areas in the north where access issues, centred around bureaucratic impediments, continue to severely impede humanitarian response activities and where the confirmed cases of COVID-19 remain at only four since April 2020.

## HEALTH

In December, IOM continued to provide health services in Al Jawf, Aden, Sa'ada, Al Baydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib and Shabwah governorates through supporting 17 health centres and eight mobile medical teams. Over 19,500 health consultations were carried out, amongst these were 5,348 migrants. During 2020, IOM faced funding and access constraints that led to IOM scaling down its health programming in certain parts of the country. Fourteen supported health facilities received medicines, medical supplies and hygiene materials. As part of efforts to protect health workers and ensure an appropriate COVID-19 response, IOM continued to roll out COVID-19 case management and prevention trainings, reaching 116 health workers in Marib this month.

On 18 December, IOM celebrated International Migrants Day by holding awareness sessions on the importance of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for 200 migrants in Aden governorate. IOM also supported the National AIDS Programme (NAP) in the implementation of World AIDS Day-related activities in December, aimed at raising HIV/AIDS awareness for university and institute students through a series of educational and information seminars. The NAP conducted six educational and awareness seminars/sessions on HIV/AIDS for a total of 3,032 students at 41 health institutes.



116 Health workers trained



14 Health facilities received medical supplies and equipment



IOM staff in a discussion with a displaced man on transitional shelters in Taizz © IOM 2020

## IN FOCUS PROVIDING EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE TO MIGRANTS ON YEMEN'S COAST

"I need a doctor. I cannot even stand. Can you please help me?" These were the first words Monta, a young Ethiopian woman, said to the IOM mobile medical team in Shabwah on Yemen's coast. Poverty, harsh living conditions and lack of opportunities can push Ethiopian migrants to leave their country and make the journey through Yemen, despite the hardship they may face along the way. Eighteen-year-old Monta left her home, Harar, to find work to support her child and younger siblings. She is the sole bread winner for them all. After losing her father, Monta lived with her sick mother, two brothers and sister. Their living conditions were dire, as they had no source of income.



"I have two brothers with disabilities and a sister who cannot hear, and I need to feed them and get them medicine. I got married when I was 17 years old, he promised to let me study so we could live a good life, but then he left me and our baby after only one year," explained Monta.

Typically hoping to eventually cross the border into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), migrants often do not know what awaits them along the way. The journey through the scorching deserts of the Horn of Africa, across rough seas, abuse at the hands of smugglers and then the possibility of becoming stuck in an area of active conflict in Yemen can lead to a number of serious health issues, not to mention the longer-term psychological impact.

"We traveled for long hours from seven in the morning until 2am at the next night on foot from Ethiopia to Somalia to reach the smugglers. On the coast, after getting on the boat, I could not sleep, there was no food or water. The boat journey took more than 24 hours and we were squatting, tightly packed together, and sitting on top of each other the whole time," Montana described her journey to Yemen.

Exhausted and tired, Monta found help when she was met by the IOM mobile medical team. When Dr Mukhtar and the mobile medical team leader examined Monta, she was suffering from severe dizziness, fatigue, joint pain, and stomach pain due to the tiring journey and from not eating for a long time. Resting on a portable hospital bed, food and some medicines were enough to help her feel better.

Each day, the IOM mobile medical team travel for eight hours, searching for vulnerable migrants to provide emergency assistance to. For some like Monta they can be helped quite easily but for others they require more complex treatment. The mobile team helps refer them to hospital and ensures their follow-on care. And despite the COVID-19 pandemic leading to a decrease in the numbers of migrants arriving in the country, those still making the journey are often in urgent need of medical services once they reach Yemen's shore.

## CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM continued to provide CCCM support in 66 IDP hosting sites carrying out site improvements, coordinating service delivery for IDPs and conducting community mobilization and committee empowerment activities, in addition to the installation of solar panels. In Ibb, IOM carried out a training of trainers on CCCM targeting 21 heads of community committees. The CCCM team also continued to provide training on COVID-19 prevention measures for IDPs with vulnerabilities in IOM-supported sites, which were followed by distribution of non-food items and awareness materials. The CCCM team in Marib governorate distributed community feedback mechanism (CFM) banners in 16 IOM-supported sites, part of IOM's efforts to be accountable to affected populations.



**79,133** Displaced individuals supported in 66 sites

IOM is working with partners to respond to land and property issues and eviction threats in four informal settlements and collective sites, where 484 households facing eviction threats were referred to cluster partners for urgent shelter and relocation assistance. IOM supported the relocation of 102 households evicted from Almuasasa IDP hosting site who were provided with shelter support in Al Jufainah Camp, Marib City.

## SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

Providing shelter and non-food items to vulnerable groups and affected populations in Yemen is a continuing priority for IOM, due to mass displacement and the winter weather. IOM supported 52 households with NFI and shelter kits in six displacement sites in Marib district. Through IOM's Multi-Sectoral Contingency Pipeline, IOM facilitates the rapid deployment of critical emergency shelter, NFI, hygiene items and diesel to cover emergency needs through relevant humanitarian partners. During December, 706 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) and 338 NFI kits were distributed by partners in Hajjah and Raymah governorates. In addition, IOM provided 320 litres of diesel the local water authorities to run water pumps at the Agriculture Institute and in Al-Rumaid displacement site in Ibb coordinate through the WASH Cluster. IOM also provided assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to 1,764 newly displaced families in Marib governorate. IOM is supporting IDPs displaced six months or longer with transitional shelters, allowing them to safely reside in sustainable shelter solutions in the mid-term. As part of its accountability to affected populations, IOM conducted needs assessments and consultations with beneficiaries and local authorities on the construction of 2,200 transitional shelters in IDP sites across Taizz, Marib and Aden governorates.



**41** Households provided with emergency shelter materials

### IN FOCUS SHELTER AND LIFE-SAVING AID FOR VULNERABLE YEMENI FAMILIES

Qaid is one of many older Yemenis living a life far from what he expected. The sixty-five-year-old father of eight was forced to leave his home in Al Hudaydah as it got too dangerous to stay. Since fleeing his home, Al Hosh Camp in Al Dhale'e governorate has provided relative safety for him and his family. Like his fellow displaced community members, Qaid relies on humanitarian aid and charity for his family's survival.

"We lost our shelters, most families here became homeless," recalled Qaid, thinking how the extreme weather conditions took no mercy on his children who were then forced to sleep in the open. In a country where fighting or extreme weather can touch people at any time, immediate aid for those affected is crucial. To provide timely, coordinated and needs-based humanitarian assistance, IOM and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) are managing a Multi-Sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline, activated across four hubs in Yemen.

Following the heavy rains which affected Al Hosh Camp, IOM scaled up its emergency flood response. Partnering with Qatar Red Crescent Society to conduct a needs survey and verification, the Organization ensured that the humanitarian community had an accurate list of those in need of support. Then through the IOM-DRC managed Multi-Sectoral Stock Pipeline in Ibb, over 110 displaced families in Al Hosh camp received life-saving items.

"I received shelter materials consisting of six mattresses, six blankets, a kitchen set and a half, three sleeping mats, and three 15-litre water buckets," explained Qaid, as his family gathered around the aid they received, hoping it will helping relieve their situation a little. In total in 2020, through the contingency pipeline, IOM and 18 other partners provided aid to over 650 individuals in Al Dhale'e of the 79,200 people supported across Yemen.



Qaid telling his story after receiving assistance from IOM in Al Dhale'e Picture © IOM 2020

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



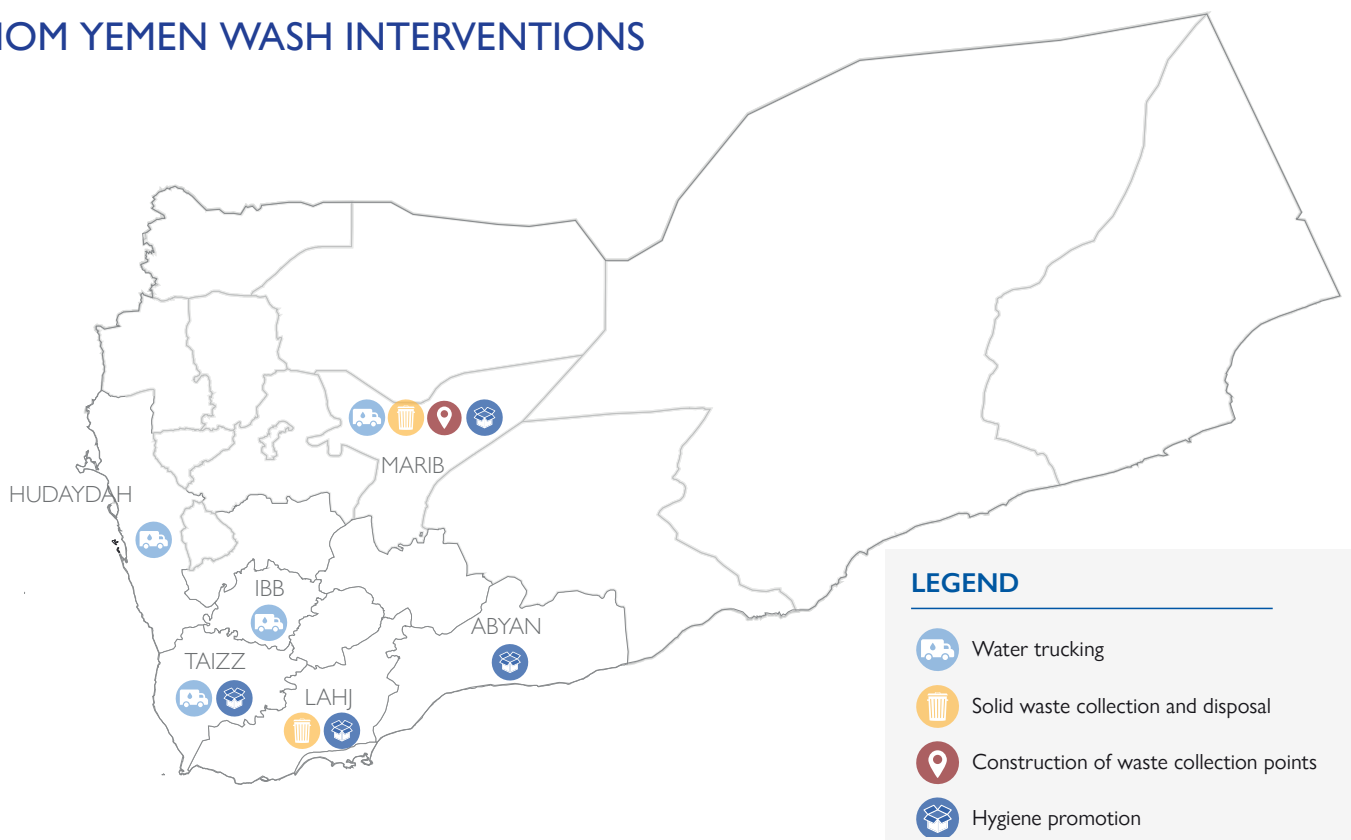
Water points providing safe water for displaced people in Taizz © IOM 2020



37,045 people provided with hygiene materials

IOM provided vulnerable IDPs and host communities with over 10 million litres of safe water through vouchers and water trucking across four governorates. IOM continued supporting families from the displaced and host communities with hygiene kits, soaps, and long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs). IOM’s hygiene promotion teams conducted 6,415 hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness sessions with 26,523 people. as part of waste management activities, IOM teams collected 282 meters cubed of rubbish from seven displacement sites hosting 17,279 people in Marib and Lahj governorates and properly disposed of it. IOM also constructed 68 waste collection points in 11 sites, hosting around 17,611 IDPs in Marib. In December, 433 latrines were constructed through the cash-for-materials modality, benefiting 2,598 displaced people and engaging communities in four IDP hosting sites. To ensure the availability of critical sanitation facilities, 20 pit slabs were also installed for 20 latrines benefiting IDPs residing in Maneen Alhadad IDP hosting site.

## IOM YEMEN WASH INTERVENTIONS



 CASH

IOM provides multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to newly displaced and vulnerable displaced families with extremely limited economic resources to meet their basic needs. The aim of this assistance is to reduce their reliance on negative coping mechanisms, currently exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in a sustainable and dignified manner. MPCA is considered as an ideal response mechanism for its recognized effective and harmonized coordination structure. As part of the Rapid Response Mechanism in Marib, IOM supported 1,764 IDP families with MPCA in December. The cash transfers were conducted by an established financial service provider contracted by IOM.



1,764 IDP families supported with cash assistance



Young people take part in an IOM-support cash-for-work activity in Seiyun © IOM 2020

 TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM held community consultations in Lahj governorate, with over 80 individuals, to identify the priority activities for interventions including the rehabilitation of infrastructure for basic services such as hospitals, schools, and irrigation channels. The interventions will also act as employment generation support through enhancing the capacities of vocational training centres. While in Marib governorate, the transition and recovery team’s progress on rehabilitation projects is moving forward in collaboration with the local authorities who are reviewing plans for drainage canal and bridge rehabilitation.

IOM, in partnership with FAO, handed over construction materials and irrigation system equipment to the water user association who were also trained by IOM’s implementing partner and who will rehabilitate the irrigation systems. The water user association will conduct irrigation channel rehabilitation with the procured materials.



20 displaced women received sewing machines



A young man attending an electrical vocational training in Marib © IOM 2020

 PROTECTION

IOM has strengthened its efforts to boost its migrant assistance programmes and provide adequate support for the most vulnerable migrants in Yemen. As stranded migrants in Aden are seeking return options and many international borders remain closed, IOM is providing food, water and other basic humanitarian assistance through its reception facilities and mobile teams. In December, 1,067 Ethiopian migrants (899 men, 19 women, 144 boys and 5 girls) were registered for IOM’s Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme. IOM hopes to restart return support to Ethiopia in early 2021. In addition, 1,783 migrants received cash assistance for their participation in a cleaning campaign, an effort to engage migrants in livelihood opportunities which are extremely limited for this population.

To support vulnerable people living disabilities, the Aden protection team distributed wheelchairs to 29 displaced and host community children, while another 50 children were supported with hearing check-ups. During December, 268 displaced women and 32 migrant women attended awareness sessions in Marib governorate in recognition of the 16 Days of Activism campaign focusing on the negative effects of violence on family cohesion, and the essential role women play in family structure and social development. In addition, the mobile protection teams provided assistance in IDP hosting sites through distribution of NFIs, temporary shelter kits and cash assistance, and providing referrals for specialized services. In Ibb governorate, at a Yemeni Women’s Union (YMU) event, the protection team conducted awareness sessions with 76 individuals, focusing on enhancing the importance of social cohesion and self-protection measures.



**5,348** Migrants provided health consultations



**1** Protection monitoring report developed



An IOM doctor and translator provide a medical consultation for a migrant at the Migrant Response Point in Aden © IOM 2020

## DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

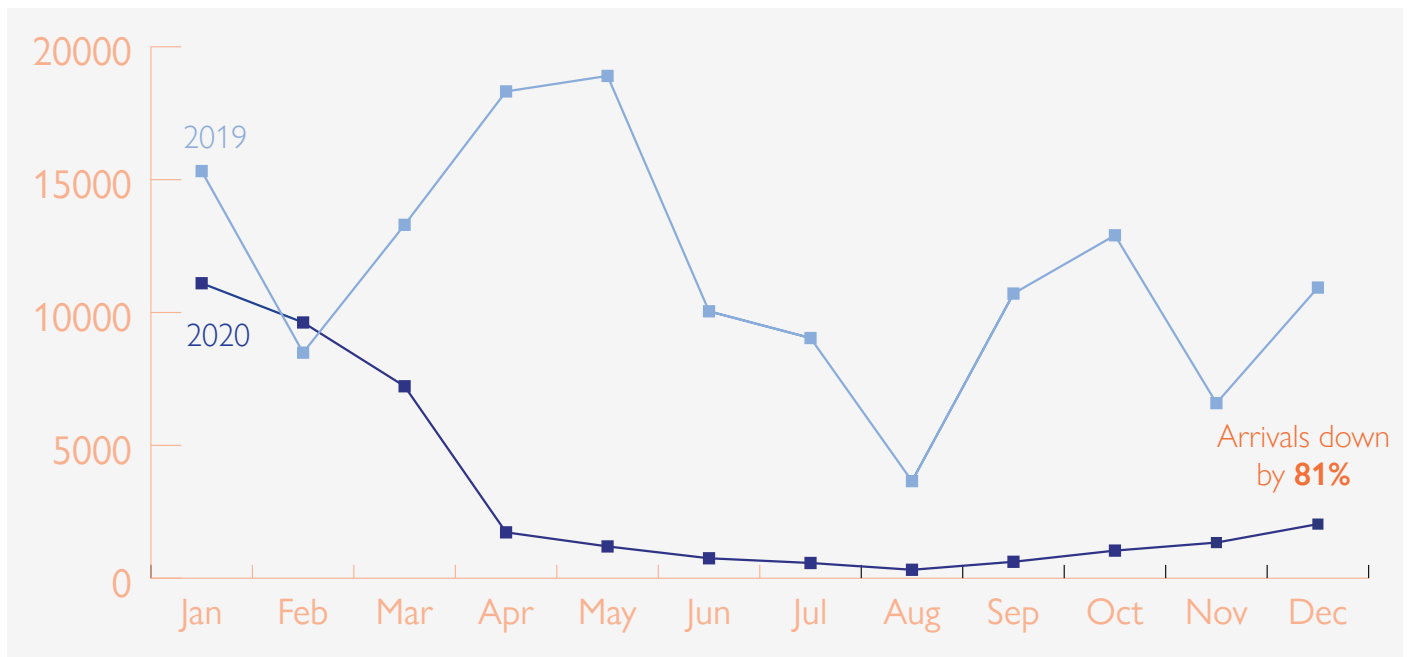
Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) activities continued in the 13 governorates in which IOM has access. During the month of December, IOM tracked 6,678 individual displacements mainly within and to Taizz, Al Hudaydah, Marib and Al Dhale'e governorates. Nearly 29,000 HHs have experienced displacement at least once in 2020.

A total of 2,035 migrants were recorded at the flow monitoring points in the last month of 2020, with an estimated 37,535 migrants arriving in Yemen throughout the year; well below the number of arrivals in 2019, which was just over 138,000. However, the number of migrant arrivals in December is a 52 per cent increase compared to previous month of November (1,340 people). Migrant arrivals were recorded through Lahj, Shabwah and Abyan flow monitoring points and the migrants originated from Ethiopia (89%) and Somalia (11%).

  
**37,535** Migrant arrivals in 2020

  
**29,000** HHs  
 Total Displacement in 2020

### Migrant Arrivals in Yemen 2019 & 2020



Find all DTM reports on displacement and migration [here](#).

### IOM YEMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 2020 WERE SUPPORTED BY

