

SITUATION REPORT MAY 2021



 48,016

Individuals provided with clean water and hygiene kits

 32,276

Primary health care consultations conducted

 2,868

Migrants received humanitarian assistance

SITUATION OVERVIEW

With Yemen entering its rainy season, [heavy rains continued to cause severe flooding in the first week of May](#), directly impacting 6,855 households. Most of the affected people were internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are already living in inadequate shelters. The largest impacts of floods were experienced in Aden, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Lahj, Abyan, Dhamar, Ma'rib and Al Bayda governorates.

Two-thirds of Yemen's population remain in need of humanitarian assistance after seven years of conflict. The situation is aggravated by a weakened economy with the Yemeni currency continuing to depreciate and rising inflation, which is eroding purchasing power and making access to commodities more challenging. All of this is contributing to increased levels of food insecurity in nearly all governorates. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projected that 16.2 million people (54% of the total population analyzed) were likely to [experience high levels of acute food insecurity in the first half of 2021](#).

The situation for IDPs continued to be challenging throughout May. IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) estimated that 3,570 people were displaced during the month, bringing the total number of displaced so far in 2021 to 46,312 people. [In Ma'rib, the displacement crisis shows no sign of improving](#), with fighting concentrated across northwest, west and south-west of the city, affecting people in Sirwah district the most. As of the end of May, over 2,650 households (HHs) were displaced in Ma'rib since the start of this year, making a total of nearly 21,545 displaced households since January 2020 when the escalation at that frontline began. IOM continues to also scale up its response along the west coast of the country, where there are large gaps as a result of growing displacement and limited partner presence. Since the start of the conflict, thousands of IDPs have fled to areas in Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah – close to 50,000 people in 2020 alone. Most displaced people are living across a staggering 156 IDP hosting sites, facing limited access to basic and health services.

Despite the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis, migrants continue to arrive in Yemen, although in much smaller numbers than before the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM's DTM estimates that 489 migrants arrived in Yemen during May, with an estimated total of 6,444 migrant arrivals since the beginning of the year. Most migrants are unable to access basic services and are in dire need of food, shelter, health and protection assistance. So far, IOM has facilitated the safe return of 331 migrants to their home countries of origin—329 of whom were Ethiopian—through its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme, which is a lifeline for stranded migrants in Yemen. The Organization is also exploring extending VHR to Ma'rib and Sana'a. IOM continues to advocate for migrants' rights in Yemen and provide emergency assistance to those transiting through and stranded in the country.

¹ In the locations where IOM DTM has access

² According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

COVID-19 RESPONSE

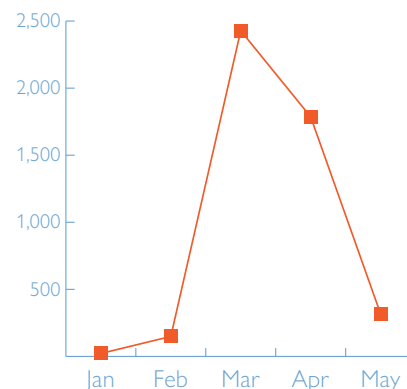
The number of confirmed cases dropped significantly in May, with 317 cases reported in the country after the recent spike in March (2,428) and April (1,786).

However, the actual figures are likely higher than what is reported given limited monitoring and testing. Whilst the number of cases declined, Yemen is still at an increased risk of a new surge in COVID-19 cases with a weakened public health system, particularly in displaced communities that already have limited access to hygiene and sanitation services.

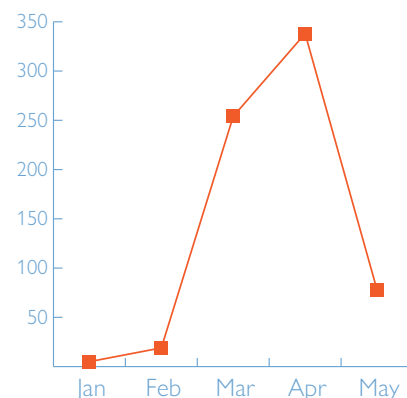
The first COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Yemen was launched in Aden on 20 April, and as of May, 10,482 people had successfully received their first of the two doses of the vaccine. The vaccination campaign is critical to containing the outbreak; however, ongoing conflict and doubts around vaccine safety have slowed down the process in many areas of the country. IOM is supporting the local authorities and partners to ensure an effective rollout of the vaccination campaign to health workers and the most vulnerable groups through support to three vaccination facilities in Aden and Ta'iz. This campaign will be expanded to other groups, including migrants, at a later stage.

IOM also continues to work with the local authorities to increase surveillance, boosting testing capacity and protecting essential health services through the provision of testing machines, personal protective equipment (PPE) and capacity building training to public health workers. In May, IOM teams provided training to 19 health workers about COVID-19 testing and vaccination in Ma'rib, Sana'a and Lahj. IOM teams also provided COVID-19 and vaccination awareness sessions to displaced people in Ma'rib, Ta'iz and Ibb. In Al Makha, IOM provided the main public hospital with a COVID-19 testing machine as well as technical training, and in this month, a total of 188 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the district.

4,568 Total cases reported



961 Total deaths reported



An IOM team member carries out a COVID-19 sensitization campaign Ma'rib © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM continued to provide CCCM support to 55 IDP hosting sites, carrying out site improvements, coordinating service delivery, and conducting community mobilization and committee empowerment activities, in addition to the installation of solar panels. In Ibb, the CCCM teams conducted hygiene awareness campaigns in 16 IDP hosting sites and provided hygiene kits to 3,797 people. The teams continued providing support to three maintenance, carpentry and plumbing committees in each of the 20 IDP hosting sites supported by IOM in the governorate, and in May, plumbing and maintenance materials were provided to the committees which enabled the repair of shelters damaged by torrential rains and flooding in all IOM-supported sites. The CCCM teams also organized recreational activities for 1,129 children in 55 sites providing them with an opportunity to play and socialize with other children in a friendly environment. The children were also given coloring books and pens, and they participated in self-expression sessions.

In Ma'rib, IOM-supported teams completed upgrade works on the electrical network in seven sectors in Al Jufainah Camp. The upgraded network allowed for the power to be tripled and provided improved access to electricity for 7,922 households, while mitigating fire risks. The teams also continued to carry out site maintenance works in Jaw Al Nasim Al Sharikah to improve access to sanitation services. As part of fire mitigation measures, the CCCM team examined fire extinguishers in all IOM-supported sites and refilled 23 extinguishers in Al Jufainah Camp. The CCCM mobile team conducted site identification activities in 17 IDP hosting sites to map available services and service providers, as well as needs and gaps. The team also provided capacity building training to 41 site focal points and CCCM partners' staff about CCCM, training of trainers and protection.

In Ta'iz, the CCCM team distributed face masks in two schools. The masks were produced by displaced women who participated in a sewing livelihood initiative implemented by IOM. Moreover, the CCCM teams conducted technical assessments in 11 IDP hosting sites to map needs in areas of site care and maintenance, particularly flood risk reduction. The teams also carried out awareness sessions for IDPs in two sites in Ta'iz on improving shelter structures to protect against torrential rains and flooding.



97,025 Displaced people supported in 55 IDP hosting sites



38 Infrastructure and maintenance projects completed in IDP hosting sites



Newly displaced people in Ma'rib receive aid kits to cover their basic needs © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

HEALTH

In May, IOM carried out over 32,276 health consultations, including 2,161 with migrants, through support to 21 health facilities In Aden, Shabwah, Sana'a, Lahj, Ma'rib and Ta'iz governorates.

IOM health teams trained 19 health workers on COVID-19 testing and vaccination in Ma'rib, Sana'a and Lahj. A total of 188 COVID-19 tests were conducted in Al Makha hospital with the testing machine IOM provided. IOM also held a meeting with Al Hodeidah Governorate Health Office to discuss gaps in the provision of health care services amid increasing needs in At Tuhayta and Al Khukhah districts. The health team carried out pre-departure medical screenings for 31 migrants in Aden who returned to their country of origin through IOM's VHR programme.

IOM continued supporting the National Malaria Program, the National AIDS Program and the National Tuberculosis Control program, and in May, the teams conducted 72 awareness raising campaigns about the three diseases in Sana'a, reaching nearly 8,020 people. The teams also held focus group discussions with members of law enforcement authorities and relevant stakeholders about the human rights of people living with HIV. A total of 30 participants from the concerned decision-making level at governmental, community and supporting partners sectors attended the event in Sana'a.



32,276 Primary health care consultations conducted



2 Health facilities received medical supplies and equipment



An IOM team member training midwives on neonatal resuscitation and safe childbirth practices in Ta'iz © M.Mohammed/IOM 2021

IN FOCUS THE ROAD TO UNCERTAINTY: DEVASTATION PREVAILS ON ROUTES THROUGH YEMEN



Dr Yasser carries out a health consultation with a migrant woman in the mobile clinic © R. Ibrahim/IOM 2020

Ibrahim's* journey began in Ethiopia with an ambition to end his family's generational poverty. He never expected that this aspiration would lead to a near-death experience and thousands of wasted dollars. Sadly, his story is not unique.

"One day a smuggler came to the field where my friend and I were working. He told us that he could take us to Saudi Arabia to find work and that we would be rich in a year and be able to build our families villas," said Ibrahim, a 20-year-old Ethiopian man who bought into smugglers' lies. He left his family's onion farm – along with his innocence – in Ethiopia.

Like hundreds of thousands of other migrants from the Horn of Africa over the past few years, Ibrahim was attempting to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). People on this route typically hope for no more than making it to their destination to help their families moderately prosper. Most have no idea of the experiences they will have to first endure or that they may never make it. IOM's mobile teams search the coast for new migrant arrivals to provide emergency medical care to tired, dehydrated, and hungry new arrivals. When Ibrahim arrived, the team was already present on the beach and ready to help the migrants.

"We begin early every morning with a renewed ambition to treat vulnerable migrants and help them on their way to living a dignified life," explained Dr Yasser, the team leader.

After leaving his family's onion farm, Ibrahim travelled to Yemen and became one of Dr Yasser's patients.

"We walked for many days. People died along the way from drinking dirty water; I buried six people. In Djibouti, they crammed 250 of us into a truck. Those who died were thrown out without mercy," Ibrahim explained, as he teared up.

Then Ibrahim was squeezed onto a small boat. When they arrived near the Yemeni coast, the smugglers forced him to swim through thrashing waves. By the time he reached the shore, he was in urgent need of health care. Dr Yasser and his colleagues ensured that he was helped.

"It's a beautiful feeling to save a vulnerable life – migrants have a right to health care like all of us. When I think of the cholera outbreak here in Yemen, at times, we literally had minutes to save a life," added Dr Yasser.

IOM's three mobile medical teams assist an average of 1,200 people per month in three locations: one along the coasts of Aden and Lahj, another in Shabwah and a third in Ma'rib, which has seen an escalation in recent violence.

*Name has been changed

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

IOMS-NFI teams conducted field assessment visit together with cluster partners to IDP sites in Al Khukhah and At Tuhayta districts in Al Hodeidah to examine the need for transitional shelters construction, as well as to meet with community committees and representatives from the local authorities. The team also carried out a multi-sectorial assessment together with IOM WASH and CCCM teams in 21 new displacement sites in Ma'rib to prioritize the most vulnerable sites for shelter rehabilitation activities.

Through IOM and Multisectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline partners, a total of 9,572 households were provided with emergency shelter materials, NFIs and fuel supply.

IOM supplied fuel to Al Sahool Hospital in Ibb, ensuring 9,240 displaced people are able to access health services. Moreover, the teams supported a cleaning campaign in Al Jufainah Camp with fuel, benefiting around 7,534 displaced families.

The S-NFI teams provided 279 emergency shelter materials, 443 non-food items, 20 family tents, and 44 plastic sheets to displaced households affected by fire and flooding in Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah and Ma'rib. In response to the ongoing displacement in Ma'rib, IOM registered 222 newly displaced households for assistance and supported 57 households with Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits to cover their basic needs.

IOM continues to preposition shelter, NFI items, emergency latrines and hygiene kit stocks through the nationwide Multi-Sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline to serve as contingency stocks in case of emergency.



361 Households provided with emergency shelter materials



443 Households provided with essential (NFI) kits



CASH

IOM provides multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) as part of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to vulnerable newly displaced families with extremely limited economic resources to help them meet their basic needs and reduce their reliance on negative coping mechanisms especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. MPCA is considered as a robust response mechanism for its recognized effective and harmonized coordination structure. IOM is co-lead of the Rapid Response Mechanism in Yemen. In May, IOM provided MPCA to 900 displaced households in Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah, Ibb, Ad Dali' and Abyan. The cash transfers were conducted by an established financial service provider identified and contracted by IOM, and the transfers value continued to be YER 141,000 per family in the south and YER 122,000 per family in the north of Yemen.



900 Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance transferred to displaced HHs

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM's WASH activities focus on the most vulnerable populations in Yemen, including displaced people, migrants and host communities, people living in cholera or malaria-affected areas, and those most at risk of contracting COVID-19 or other infectious diseases.

This month, IOM provided 20,119,500 litres of safe water to 47,180 displaced people through vouchers and water trucking in 40 displacement sites in Aden, Ma'rib and Ta'iz. The organization also provided water tanks to 792 newly displaced people in Ma'rib.

IOM WASH teams carried out hygiene promotion activities, providing 1,706 sessions to 6,831 displaced people in nine IDP hosting sites in Ta'iz and Ma'rib. These IDPs also participated in focus group discussions about COVID-19, environmental hygiene, water preservation and effective latrines cleaning methods.

The teams also distributed nearly 200 basic hygiene kits (BHKs), 171 long-lasting insecticidal nets and 2,052 soap bars to 1,439 displaced people in 14 IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib. In Ta'iz, over 880 hygiene kits and 215 insecticidal nets were distributed to 4,413 IDPs in five IDP hosting sites. The teams also supported the collection and disposal of 3,840 cubic metres of solid waste in Ma'rib, benefitting 81,222 people in 14 displacement sites.

In Ta'iz, the team supported desludging 150 cubic metres of liquid waste in seven displacement sites, benefiting 4,463 people. Moreover, the IOM-supported community hygiene volunteers also supported a community-led campaign for cleaning latrines and collecting solid waste in eight sites hosting 6,298 displaced people. In the same sites, 6,194 IDPs benefited from the installation of 58 emergency latrines and maintenance of additional 101 latrines.



47,180 People supported with access to safe water



87,520 People benefited from improved waste management services



 PROTECTION

IOM estimated that a total of 489 migrants entered the country in May — many of whom are unable to access basic services are in dire need of food, shelter, health and protection assistance, putting further pressure on host communities and public services. IOM continues to advocate for migrants' rights in Yemen and provide emergency assistance to those transiting through and stranded in the country through its Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and mobile protection teams.

In Sana'a, IOM provided 10 extremely vulnerable migrants, including victims of gender-based violence, with shelter, food, blankets and hygiene kits through its foster family programme. An additional 67 migrants received food, blankets and hygiene kits, including 14 who received treatment in hospital. An additional 1,112 migrants were provided with food assistance in Aden. IOM registered 661 migrants for the VHR programme at the Aden Migrant Response Point, which brings the total number of people registered since October 2020 to over 7,411 migrants. In May, IOM facilitated the voluntary return a total of 31 Ethiopian migrants and two Pakistani nationals to their countries of origin through the VHR programme. Since March 2021, IOM facilitated the voluntary return of 331 migrants to their countries of origin.

Thousands of migrants remain stranded in Yemen, including Ma'rib, where IOM hopes to extend its VHR programme too soon. Also, in Ma'rib, the protection community response team is responding with other IOM teams to recent and pre-existing displacements. Utilizing a mobile team methodology, the team responds to individual and group protection needs throughout Ma'rib. The team receives referrals of vulnerable individuals and then verifies the circumstances of the vulnerable individual and provides the appropriate response, which can include case management from trained IOM caseworkers, the provision of cash for protection, material aid such as shelter and non-food items or referral to other services such as legal assistance and food distributions. This month, the team supported 4,556 migrants with food, hygiene kits and health referrals. The team also supported 199 IDPs with cash, shelter kits and baby kits.



2,868 Migrants received protection assistance



Stranded Ethiopian migrants prepare for their journey home from Aden, Yemen, with IOM support © M.Mohammed/IOM 2021

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

The transition and recovery team continued activities in Ma'rib, Lahj, Aden and Hadramawt to improve services in displacement-affected communities and support social cohesion among diverse community members.

IOM is in the process of starting the construction and rehabilitation of four schools in Aden, five schools in Lahj, five schools in Hadramawt, and 19 schools and one hospital in Ma'rib. Another 28 infrastructure projects, including health facilities and WASH infrastructures are in various stages of technical assessments and procurement. The projects will benefit an estimated 700,000 people once implementation is completed. During this reporting period, 11 schools were handed over to contractors to commence construction. Technical evaluations were further completed for two medical facilities in Ma'rib.

The teams continued works on rehabilitating of the Al Hawtah sewage system in coordination with the Local Water and Sanitary Corporation (LWSC) in Lahj. The project is also providing a rapid earning opportunity for unskilled workers from the community through cash for work activities.

IOM also is conducting consultations with target communities on planned complementary capacity building activities, which will include various training sessions and equipment provision. The consultations aim to identify key stakeholders to engage in capacity building in order to sustain the supported services after the project ends. In May, IOM, through a partner, is developing capacity building plans for targeted government institutions in Ma'rib, Lahj, Aden and Hadramawt.



49 Infrastructure projects under technical assessments & procurement



The construction of Al Jeel school near Al Jufainah camp is 74% complete. The school will provide a better education environment for 800 displaced children © IOM 2021

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

Conflict remains the main driver of displacement in Yemen. IOM's DTM team works to better inform the humanitarian community about the location and needs of the displaced populations. DTM identifies both IDP and returnee locations and tracks displacement trends on daily basis. DTM also monitors key migrant arrivals mainly in locations across Yemen's southern coastal border and northern border with KSA. DTM's Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) activities cover 13 governorates where IOM has access. In May, IOM tracked 3,570 displaced individuals (595 households) who have mainly moved within and to Hadramawt, Ta'iz, Ad Dali', and Ma'rib governorates. Of those tracked, approximately 65 per cent reported that they lacked access to adequate shelter, with food (21%) and financial support (10%) and also reported to be of concern.

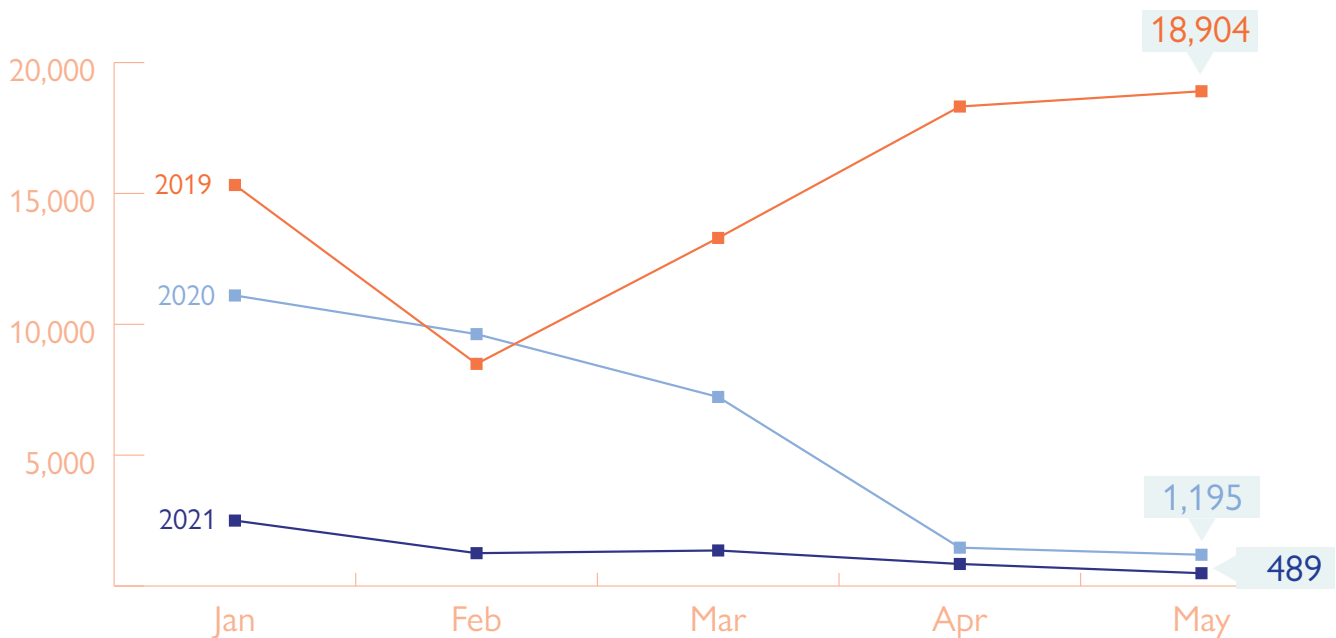


489 Migrant arrivals in May 2021



3,570 Displaced individuals tracked in May

MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN YEMEN



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

IOM YEMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN MAY 2021 WERE SUPPORTED BY

