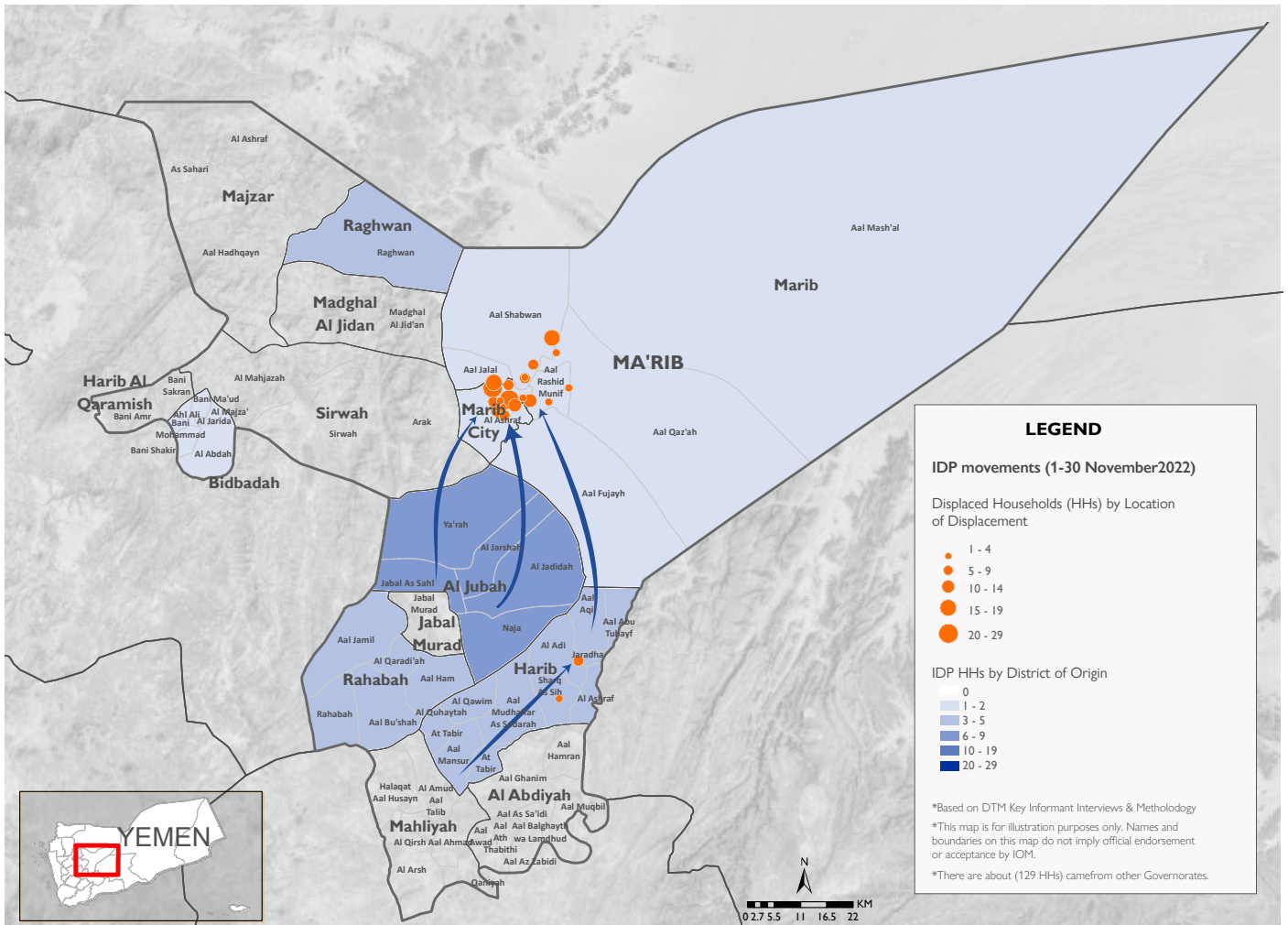


MA'RIB RESPONSE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2022

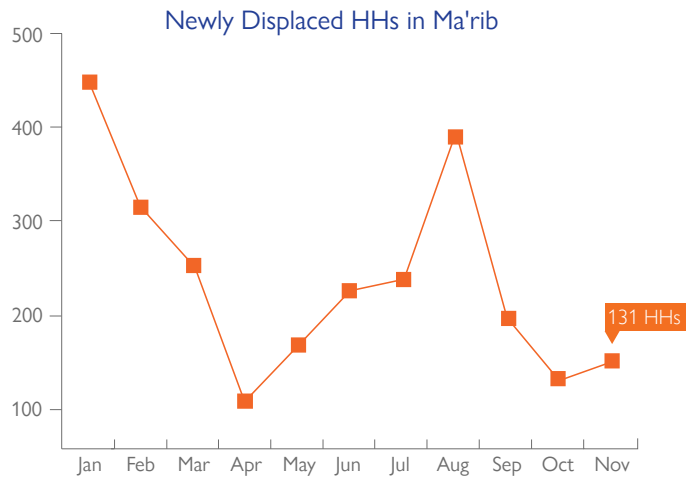


SITUATION OVERVIEW

In November 2022, the security situation in Ma'rib saw minor incidents of violence, with no reactivation of frontlines or widespread displacements. Intermittent clashes in Mala'a site in Harib district caused the displacement of dozens of households from their homes. While the country-wide truce expired in early October, the parties to the conflict have not initiated any major advancements to shift frontlines. Nonetheless, the operating environment in Ma'rib remains perilous for humanitarian actors. On 9 December, IOM's protection teams were returning from Seiyun airport after finalizing a voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flight supporting stranded migrants when their military-escorted convoy was ambushed by small arms fire by an unidentified group in Al Rawak area in Ma'rib. While the convoy evaded the ambush, casualties were reported of the military escorts who engaged the unidentified group. In coordination with UNDSS, IOM has suspended movements in the area and begun assessments of the incident and security situation.

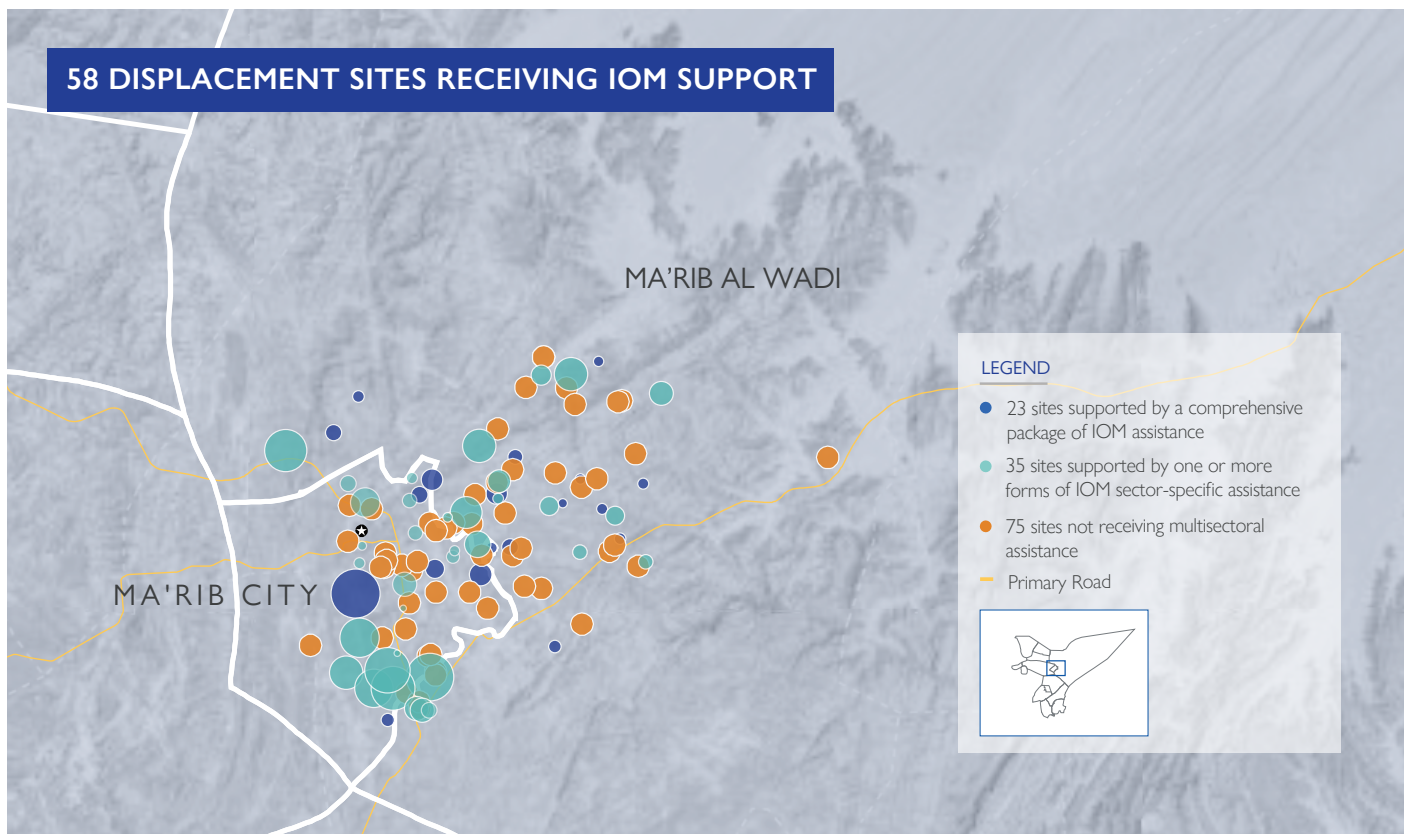
Furthermore, Ma'rib governorate remains one of the governorates with the highest numbers of displaced persons in Yemen, with some of the largest displacement sites and urban displaced populations. In November 2022, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported the new displacement of 131 households (HHs) or around 786 individuals in Ma'rib governorate, mainly to Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi.

The number of new displacements has decreased in recent months (153 HHs in October and 195 HHs in September) due to the lower incidents of violence despite the expiration of the truce. These displacements came from all over Yemen including from within Ma'rib itself, Ibb, Shabwah, Al Hodeidah, Sana'a, Ta'iz, Dhamar, Al Bayda, Amran and other governorates. Newly displaced households reported that they were displaced mainly for conflict/security (53%) and economic reasons (47%). A total of 2,635 HHs or around 15,810 individuals have been displaced in Ma'rib between 1 January – 30 November 2022.



In the areas controlled by the internationally recognized government (IRG) in Ma'rib governorate, there are a total of 198 displacement sites that host an estimated 50,765 HHs or 273,469 individuals. Approximately 111 sites out of the 198 sites in Ma'rib and all 42 sites in Al Jawf are not supported by site management and coordination partners. In many of these unmanaged sites, protection services are not available or accessible to the site populations. With the reduction in funding for health services in Ma'rib, many mobile clinics have reduced their interventions in hard-to-reach sites. Additionally, as winter sets in, the primary needs of surveyed displaced households were shelter (34%), food (34%), financial Assistance (11%), livelihoods (11%) and non-food items (NFIs) (8%).

Many newly displaced persons moved between displacement sites to reach additional humanitarian services or moved into host community areas due to the damage to displacement sites caused by rain, flood and storms in November. Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) tensions remain between landowners and displaced households who have moved onto private lands. IOM has responded to eviction threats in two sites impacting 200 HHs. Some landlords have restricted IDPs from building a suitable kitchen which would prevent fire incidents or from constructing water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.



IN FOCUS: DISPLACED WOMEN OPEN NEW DOORS TO GREATER PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Ma'rib – There is no doubt that displacement can be one of the hardest experiences a person can endure. This is especially true for displaced women who must often take responsibility for starting over, caring for their families and advocating for longer-term peace and stability.

Ahlam*, a 34-year-old mother of four young children, was displaced to Ma'rib nearly seven years ago, leaving behind not only her home but also her freedom and source of accomplishment, her career, until a new opportunity allowed her to find her voice again.

“Since I came to Ma'rib, I have not been able to work or even leave the house. My husband would ban me from going anywhere. After many arguments, I was only allowed to go out three days per week,” explained Ahlam, who used to work as a teacher prior to becoming displaced.



Women participate in last years' 16 days of Activism Celebration held by IOM in Al Jufainah. ©IOM Yemen/ Elham-Al-Oqab

Since she left her home, Ahlam's life became limited to caring for her family and their shelter. She wanted to work but was unable to secure a job to support her family or to go out to convey her family's needs to those who could help them.

Her situation recently changed when she heard about a women's committee being established in Al Jufainah, Yemen's largest displacement site where she had settled along with 11,000 other families.

Ahlam was excited about the opportunity to volunteer and revive her passion for leadership and supporting other women. She spoke to her family about her wish to be part of the committee and joined after receiving their support.

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) teams have been working for years to improve the living conditions of displaced families in Ma'rib. Given that half of displaced families in this governorate are headed by single women, the Organization knew it needed a forum where women could speak their mind and support each other.

In cooperation with the European Union and the United States' Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, IOM is launching the Women's Participation Project which aims to enhance women's participation in decision making and empowerment in the displaced communities.

As part of the Women's Participation Project, women's committees are being opened in 33 displacement sites and numerous trainings are being held on topics like communicating with communities, collecting data and feedback, and leadership skills for more than 180 women.

“I was elected by the Executive Unit for Displaced People Camps Management to lead the Women's Committee. Our main job is to gather information about the needs, demands and vulnerabilities of women in the displacement sites, and then spread awareness among them,” said Maha, leader of the first women's committee that started recently in Al Jufainah.

These committees offer a unique forum for women to convey their needs, participate in deciding the type of assistance they receive and support other people in need.

Before this initiative launched, most of the feedback humanitarians received came from men who spent more time out of the house than women and usually neglected to share the specific needs and desires of women.

“Given the cultural restrictions, male humanitarians are unable to go inside the shelters of families headed by women to learn about their vulnerabilities and needs. Since the committee started, women have been able to express themselves to female committee members who come visit them in their homes,” explained Sarah, one of the sector leaders for the Women's Committee in Al Jufainah.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

IOM has a team of 11 international and 132 national support and programme staff in Ma'rib as well as over 150 community mobilizers and enumerators. The team is leading response activities, prioritizing critical needs assessments and registering newly arrived IDPs for assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). Together with local authorities, the Organization is coordinating response efforts in Ma'rib through its leadership of the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) and Health sub-national clusters, co-leadership of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sub-national cluster, Ma'rib based focal point of the protection cluster, and as Shelter/Non-Food Item (S/NFI) Contingency Pipeline Manager.

As the Organization with the largest operational presence in Ma'rib, IOM provides multi-sectoral humanitarian response in 23 displacement sites, supporting 18,180 households or 97,348 individuals, across CCCM, WASH, S/NFI, health, protection and RRM sectors. In coordination with other humanitarian partners, IOM provides at least one form of assistance in an additional 25 additional sites in Ma'rib, assisting 7,287 households or 37,523 individuals. In total, IOM supports an estimated 25,467 households or 134,871 individuals in 48 displacement sites in Ma'rib. IOM is also providing protection services migrants and IDPs residing in 24 informal sites.

IN NOVEMBER:



124,463

Individuals supported with site management and coordination services



33,922

Individuals received primary and secondary health services



459

Migrants registered for Voluntary Humanitarian Returns



65,677

Individuals received comprehensive WASH assistance



1,968

Individuals supported with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)



7,104

Individuals provided with cash for shelter rehabilitation



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

IOM provided critical S/NFI assistance to households affected by recent displacements, fire, eviction threats, damaged shelters, and the winter conditions. In total, IOM provided 190 NFI kits, 91 tents, 1,154 plastic sheets, 1,785 mosquito nets and 1,138 nylon ropes to vulnerable groups in 14 displacement sites in Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. Many households were referred for S/NFI assistance by IOM's CCCM and protection teams through the community feedback mechanism. Additionally, IOM provided 458 HHs or over 2,750 with cash for NFI instalments and 1,184 HHs or around 7,104 individuals with cash for shelter rehabilitation instalments in three sites. Furthermore, 50 HHs received in-kind shelter rehabilitation materials to improve their safety and durability of their shelters.



CASH ASSISTANCE

IOM's Rapid Response Mechanism teams registered 146 newly displaced HHs impacted by conflict in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. IOM further supported 328 newly displaced HHs or around 1,968 individuals with one-off multi-purpose cash assistance to help meet basic household needs. Over 197 HHs or almost 1,200 individuals were provided with RRM kits in November to further complement the cash assistance received. IOM also conducted the monthly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative in support of the Cash and Market Working Group partners covering Ma'rib City.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In November 2022, 630 HHs or 3,121 individuals were registered throughout 34 IOM managed displacement sites, increasing the current population supported in these sites to around 23,692 HHs or 124,463 individuals. IOM's CCCM mobile and static teams continued to carry out core activities including risk mapping and risk mitigation; infrastructure upgrade; day to day site improvements and site risk reduction; flood risk reduction, and awareness campaigns and community mobilization; complaint, feedback, and referral mechanisms; strengthening community participation; service and information mapping and respond to any urgent needs within the IDP sites.

Out of the 34 sites, IOM is prioritizing 24 sites to receive a comprehensive package of multisectoral services, which will include CCCM core activities, health services, S/NFI and cash assistance, protection support, and WASH services. As part of women empowerment activities, IOM completed a sewing training for 30 women at a workshop in a displacement site. In November, seven fire incidents caused material damage in four sites as a result of unsafe cooking practices and hazardous electrical connections. Many displaced families connect to overloaded electrical networks with poor wire quality and deteriorating wire shielding and have not installed electrical breakers to mitigate short circuits. IOM's CCCM field teams improved electrical connections at the household level for 1,612 HHs in Alramsah, Kuliya Almutjama, Aldayat, and Alhammah sites.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM WASH teams in Ma'rib continued to respond to the critical water needs of displaced persons in Ma'rib governorate through enhancing access to safe water, dignified sanitation solutions and the promotion of improved hygiene practices. IOM supported around 65,677 individuals with comprehensive WASH assistance in November. IOM has started construction of a 6-km large-scale water supply scheme for more than 15,000 in four sites located in Sirwah and Marib Al Wadi districts to improve displacement sites' connection to clean, safe water sources. Two components of this project - a pumping station and the 300m³ storage tank - have been completed, and the other works (water transmission line and water networks) are close to completion.

Emergency water-trucking was delivered to seven sites that lacked water sources in Sirwah and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. Around 8,783.5 m³ of safe chlorinated water used for drinking and domestic uses with FRC monitoring was provided for a total of 3,035 households and 804 migrants. IOM also continued rehabilitation works to cover hazardous exposed pits in Al Jufainah site in Ma'rib City district. Around 540 m³ of solid waste have been removed from 16 sites through regular waste collection activities benefitting almost 33,000 individuals. IOM completed construction of 208 family latrine facilities.

Additionally, IOM distributed 994 consumable hygiene kits reaching 6,072 individuals in three sites and 1,659 basic hygiene kits reaching 9,954 IDPs in two sites. IOM conducted 1,075 door-to-door hygiene promotion sessions on water management conducted reaching 32,610 individuals.

PROTECTION

IOM's protection team continued to offer protection services and case management to vulnerable IDPs in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi. In November, IOM responded through its community response point in Al Jufainah and its mobile protection team to assess vulnerable IDPs for case management. IOM registered 690 vulnerable IDPs for assistance in 16 sites, responded with cash for protection assistance for 90 cases, and provided protection kits to around 200 cases.

IOM also provided voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flights for migrants that are stranded in Ma'rib. In early November, IOM supported the verification of 1,665 migrants and conducted three flights for the safe and voluntary return of 459 migrants. The flight carried migrants – including unaccompanied minors and those with medical conditions and other specific needs – who were left stranded due to insecurity and restrictions on their movement.

Migrant women are particularly vulnerable in Ma'rib and continuously report sexual and physical violence in areas where they are detained by the smugglers. Some women become pregnant while living in poor conditions without access to adequate healthcare, food, and other basic needs. IOM provides registration and documentation services, medical consultations, as well as safe accommodation to ensure the protection of traveling migrants before VHR flights. More than an estimated 4,000 migrants are still stranded in Ma'rib among whom are women and children who are at heightened risk of abuse.

HEALTH

IOM has contributed towards reducing morbidity and mortality through the provision of emergency, primary and secondary health services (including nutrition screenings due to the risk of famine and extreme hunger in Ma'rib) to vulnerable populations. IOM continued to support four hospitals (Al Shaheed Mohammed Hail, Al Wehdah Hospital of Al Hosoun, General Kara Hospital and Al Jufainah Field Hospital). IOM also supported one health unit through one mobile clinic, one primary static clinic, and three mobile medical teams (MMTs) to provide primary health services in 33 displacement sites and five migrant sites.

In November, IOM provided primary and secondary health services to 33,922 individuals including 2,145 pregnant women who received antenatal care services and 1,162 people who received family planning. IOM-supported facilities delivered 348 normal deliveries and 27 Caesarean Sections. Around 2,084 children under the age of five were screened for malnutrition, of whom 82 has severe acute malnutrition and 400 had moderate acute malnutrition. Approximately 1,271 children were vaccinated and 17,025 received health promotion sessions.

IOM continued operations in the dental clinic in Al Shaheed Muhammed Hail Hospital. A total of 245 individuals received different services including extraction, anulum restoration, pulpotomies, root canal treatment, and more. IOM also supported 62 individuals with psychotherapy, 72 individuals with counselling, and 15,875 with psychoeducation.

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY



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