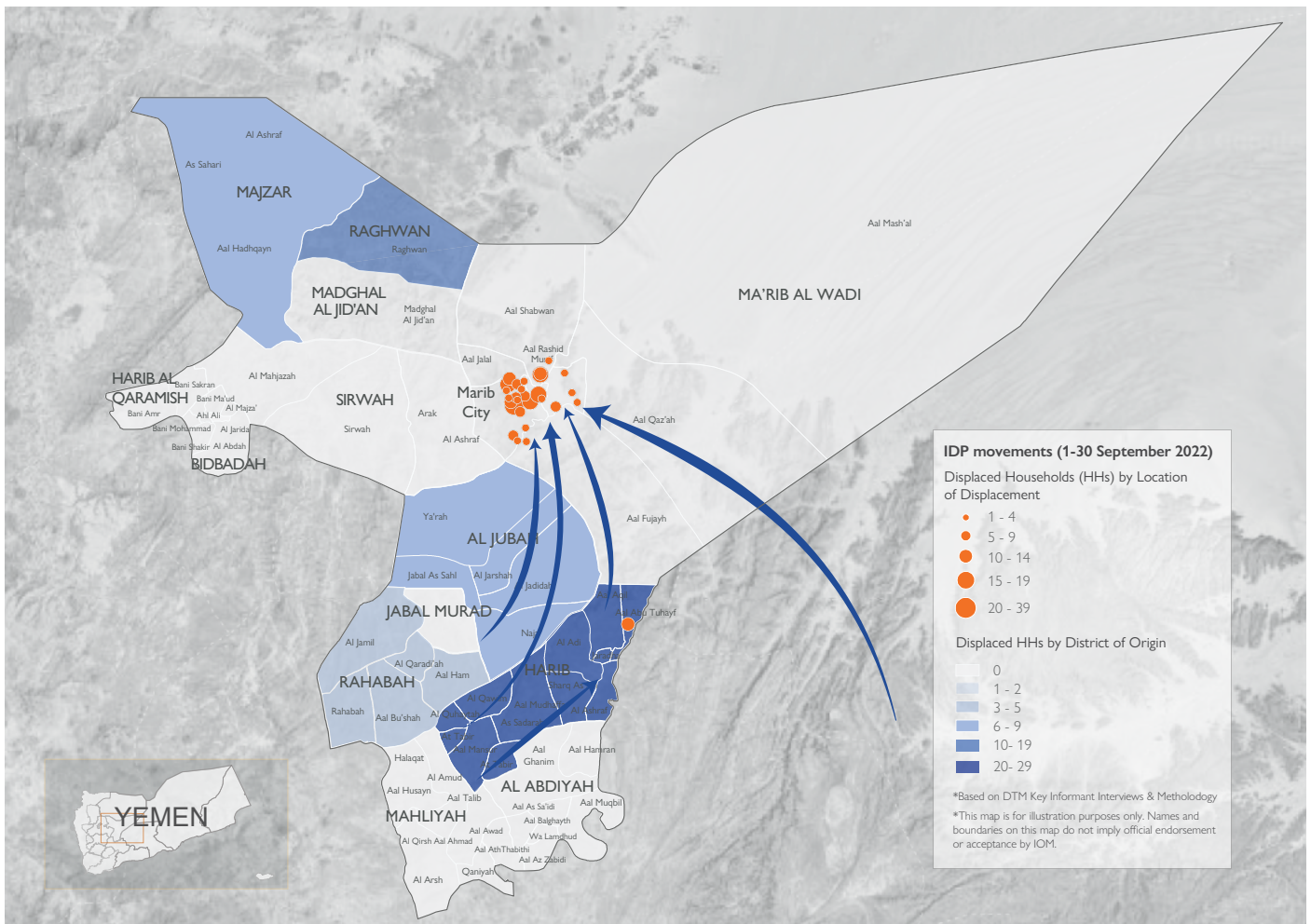


MA'RIB RESPONSE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2022



SITUATION OVERVIEW

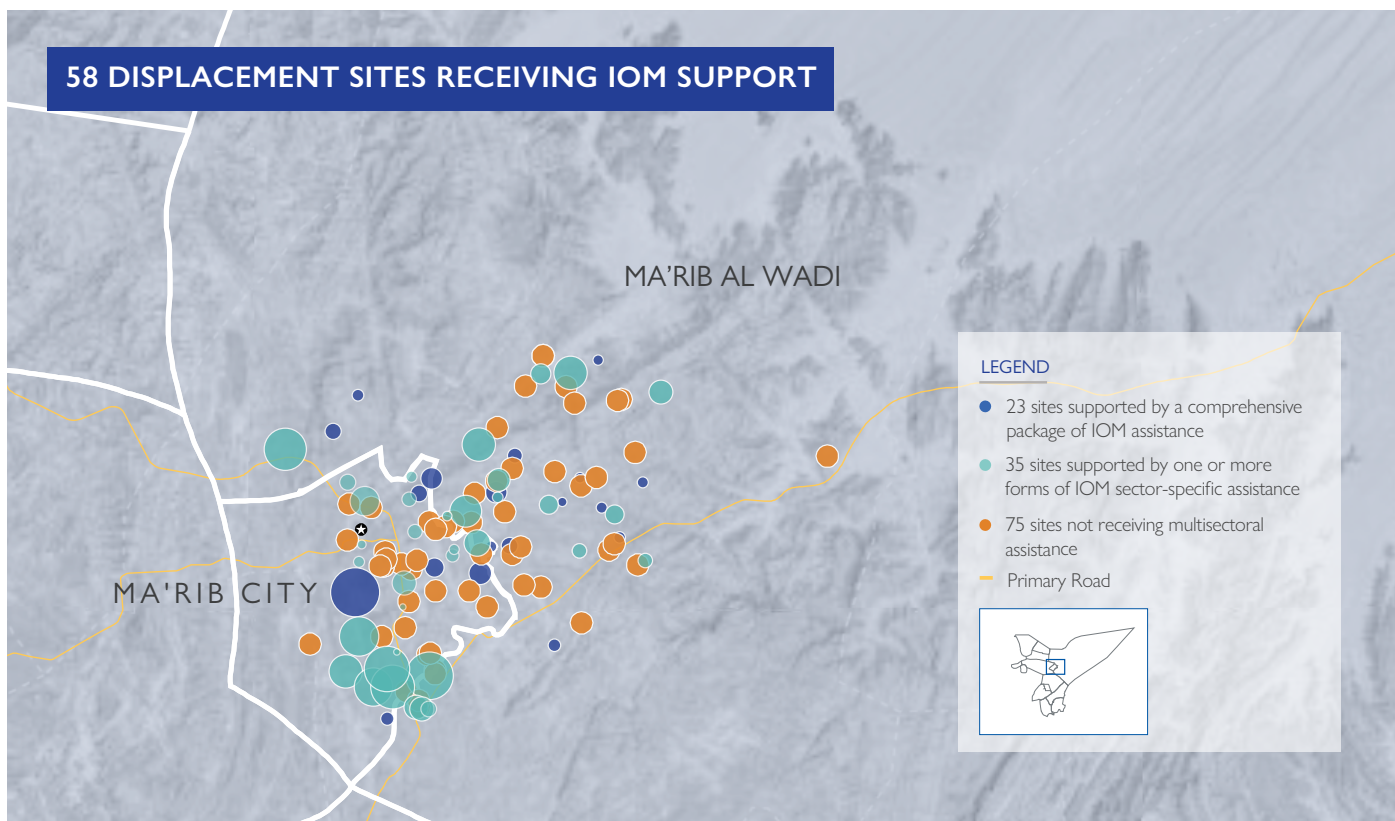
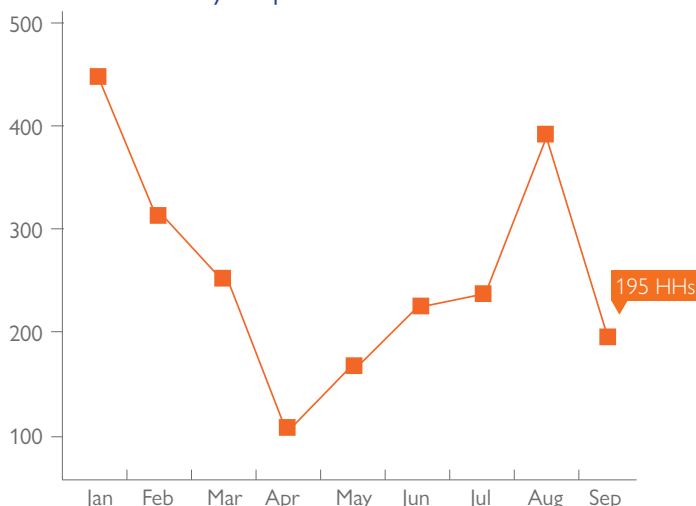
In September 2022, similar to recent months since the start of the UN-brokered truce, the situation in Ma'rib remained relatively calm with no major clashes reported or change in front lines. Yet, by the end of the month as the truce's expiration date approached (2 October), reinforcements were reported as both sides repeatedly exchanged accusations of targeting opposing positions mainly in Ma'rib, Harib, Sirwah and Raghwan districts.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams recorded 195 households (HHs) displaced to or within Ma'rib governorate during the month of September. The majority of displaced households came from Shabwah and Al Hodeidah governorates to areas in Ma'rib City. DTM teams also observed the return of some internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Al Wadi to Raghwan district. Due to recent flooding and resulting fragile conditions in IDP sites, during the month of September displaced individuals also moved to areas within host communities as site conditions are not adequate to host new families. As IDPs seek safety in areas outside of sites, Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues remained a concern due to complaints raised by landowners. IOM continues to work closely with local authorities and landowners to find a compromise however the lack of HLP actors in Ma'rib continues to strain the situation and restrict certain interventions. According to key informants, those displaced within Ma'rib governorate (originating from other areas in the governorate than where they currently reside) may intend to return to their original residence once fighting has settled and the overall situation is calm. However, IDPs from areas outside of Ma'rib governorate may not intend to return to their governorates of origin- IOM will soon publish the results of the Return Intentions Survey recently conducted in Ma'rib City.

IDPs continue to rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs, among which the top three needs reported during the month were shelter (40% of displaced respondents), financial assistance (30%) and food (10%). As winter approaches, shelter and non-food items (SNFI) needs are particularly high. With the imminent drop in temperatures, displaced families will need blankets, shelter maintenance among other SNFI support to endure the coming months.

As previously reported, due to funding shortages, IOM was forced to significantly reduce health programming in Ma'rib during the month of September, resulting in the halt of operations of three mobile medical teams and a 50 per cent reduction of incentivized healthcare workers in both Al Shaheed Muhammed Hail and Al Jufainah Field health facilities. Although some resources have since been mobilized to support these gaps, IOM continues to appeal for funding to ensure the continuity of health services in displacement sites in 2023. Further, concerns remain for the estimated 109 sites currently not supported by site management and coordination partners among which all sites in Al Jawf remain without this critical support. IOM and partners continue to advocate for support to these sites, in order to ensure these conflict-affected populations are able to access essential services.

Newly Displaced HHs in Ma'rib



IN FOCUS: “TRAVELING THROUGH THE DESERT IS NO PLACE FOR A BABY”



Stranded migrants prepare to depart on a VHR flight from Ma'rib. © IOM 2022/ Elham Al-Oqabi

Ma'rib – “I have mixed feelings today of happiness and sadness,” Abdii said as he prepared to take a long-awaited flight to his home country from Ma'rib, a conflict-affected area of Yemen where thousands of migrants have become stranded between frontlines.

A few months ago, Abdii was one of the first migrants who made their way from Ma'rib back home to Ethiopia on a Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flight conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Since May, 534 Ethiopian migrants have so far flown home after months, sometimes years, of being stuck in the city.

“I decided to take the perilous journey across the sea to Yemen with a group of my friends in hopes of making it to Saudi Arabia,” said Abdii.

He was unaware of the many dangers and hurdles lurking along the route, including starvation, drowning and the ongoing conflict in Yemen.

Some of Abdii's friends made it to their destination, but he never did. Instead, he spent months stranded in Ma'rib where he eventually met Hilani*, an Ethiopian woman who was in a similar situation. They decided to get married and started a family, giving birth to their daughter Sinaaf* shortly after.

After Sinaaf was born, Abdii became increasingly concerned about their ability to access basic services in and move freely from Ma'rib. He struggled to see what the future could hold for his family in Yemen.

“Traveling through the desert is no place for a baby,” he said.

When Abdii heard about VHR flights for Ethiopian migrants, he saw it as a chance to escape the extreme conditions that he and his new family were facing.

“These return flights are vital to migrants, especially women. We're so happy to have this opportunity to go back home,” said Abdii.

“I think my country is the place where my kids will have a good education and future,” he said.

“Besides my feelings of happiness, I am also sad that I couldn't achieve my goal and am returning home with nothing. I am not sure that my family will be happy to receive me, but I know that my country will.”

*Names have been changed

ADVOCACY POINTS

Maintaining the relative stability of Ma'rib is crucial to ensuring the safety and well-being of displaced and host communities. IOM is concerned about the humanitarian impact that future violence and displacement could have on civilians. Those who have influence should continue to advocate against an escalation of hostilities and make efforts to preserve progress realized under the six-month truce.

IOM echoes calls to all parties of the conflict to pursue every avenue for peace and to respect International Humanitarian Law, avoiding at all costs the targeting of civilians.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

IOM has a team of 13 international and 185 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 35 additional sites in Ma'rib, assisting 10,403 households or 53,188 individuals. In total, IOM supports an estimated 28,583 households or 150,536 individuals in 58 displacement sites in Ma'rib. IOM is also providing protection services migrants and IDPs residing in 24 informal sites.

In September:



121,053

Individuals supported with site management and coordination services



30,173

Primary health consultations conducted in Ma'rib



17,713

Individuals provided with safe water



1,170

Households received Rapid Response Mechanism kits



2,845

Households supported with MPCA



Mojahed and his family collect water from an IOM-established water point near their shelter in Al Shabwan site in Ma'rib. © IOM 2022/ Mohammed Abdulkhaleq

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In September 2022, 549 households or 2,778 individuals were registered throughout 34 IOM managed displacement sites, increasing the current population supported in these sites to 23,049 HHs or 121,053 individuals. The 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.

As a part of women's empowerment activities, 234 members of women committees across the 34 sites were trained on humanitarian principles, coordination, community participation, community feedback mechanisms and information management. In addition, 40 women graduated from a sewing training in IOM's sewing workshop. IOM also continued site improvement works during the month, namely supporting electrical improvements for 2,636 HHs in Alramsah, Kuliya Almutama 'a, Aljufainah Aldayat, Alhammah and Al Noor. The works remain critical as arbitrary wire connections, and low-quality wires continue to trigger short circuits resulting in fire incidents.

In recognition of dangers for those residing nearby flood pathways, IOM continued engagement with the CCCM Cluster and local authorities to identify land to relocate IDPs living near flood risk zones to safer areas.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

IOM continues to provide lifesaving SNFI support to some of the most vulnerable households in Ma'rib. In September, SNFI teams provided 241 NFI kits, 183 emergency shelter kits, 1,170 plastic sheets, 61 family tents, 2,927 mosquito nets, and 751 hygiene kits to 2,356 displaced households affected by conflict, flood, fire, and eviction. The distribution was accompanied by sensitization on the use of the provided SNFI materials and installation of the emergency kits. IOM also facilitated the provision of 162 emergency dual latrines benefitting 3,276 IDPs in four IDP sites in Al Jawf.

IOM also provided Cash for Shelter rehabilitation and NFIs to support vulnerable displaced households who are currently living in informal IDP settlements. The cash assistance aims to help IDPs buy shelter rehabilitation materials as they see fit to rehabilitate damaged and/or worn-out shelters. In September, 251 displaced households received the first cash installment in two IDP sites.

CASH ASSISTANCE

In September, IOM's Rapid Response Mechanism teams registered 74 households affected by floods and 149 newly displaced households impacted by conflict in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. IOM further supported 2,845 newly displaced households and those affected by the recent floods with one-off multi-purpose cash assistance to help meet basic household needs. Over 290 households were provided with RRM kits in September to further compliment 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.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM WASH teams in Ma'rib continued to respond to the critical WASH needs of displaced persons in Ma'rib governorate through enhancing access to safe water, dignified sanitation solutions and the promotion of improved hygiene practices.

During the reporting period, the construction of a six kilometre large-scale water supply scheme continued, benefitting 14,700 individuals in four IDP sites located in Sirwah and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. Furthermore, the WASH unit launched the construction of a large-scale water supply project to expand the water network of Al Jufainah displacement site (to benefit 62,284 individuals). Water was also delivered to seven IDP sites via emergency water trucking in areas where other water sources are unavailable in Ma'rib City, Sirwah and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. The support to these water supply schemes will ensure sustainable access to durable water supply for target communities, while simultaneously reducing dependency on water trucking activities.

In terms of sanitation, 103 pits were rehabilitated, benefitting 145 HHs in Al Jufainah site and one pit for 700 students and teachers in a school in Maneen Al Hadad displacement site of Ma'rib City district. Furthermore, WASH teams completed the construction of 246 family latrines in Alerq Al Sharqi, Al Ezz and Al Ramsah IDP sites of Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. Desludging activities were ongoing during the month, with 602.5 m³ of fecal sludge matter collected and disposed, benefitting 393 HHs in Marib city and Sirwah districts. As a result of a partnership with the Hygiene Improvement Fund, IOM is planning to scale up fecal sludge and solid waste management activities in Ma'rib in the near future.



An IDP woman enters a newly built family latrine in Al Shabwan site in Ma'rib © IOM 2022/ Mohammed Abdulkhaleq

 **HEALTH**

As one of the key health actors in Ma'rib, IOM continued to implement programming with the aim of reducing morbidity and mortality through the provision of emergency, primary and secondary health services to vulnerable populations. IOM sustained support to four hospitals (Al Shaheed Mohammed Hail, Al Wehdah Hospital of Al Hosoun, General Kara Hospital and Al Jufainah Field Hospital), one mobile clinic, one primary static clinic, and three mobile medical teams to ensure access to health services in 35 displacement sites and five migrant sites.

A total of 30,173 consultations were conducted for men, women, boys and girls during the reporting period including 2,148 antenatal care and 1,318 family planning consultations. To further support safe deliveries, 200 mama kits were provided to Al Jufainah Field Hospital. Due to the risk of famine and extreme hunger in Ma'rib, IOM also supported nutrition screenings in which 2,486 children under the age of five were screened among whom some over 85 were found to be experiencing severe acute malnutrition. Another 1,102 children have received routine vaccinations. As a part of efforts to promote positive health behaviors, 15,734 persons were reached by health promotion activities. IOM also continued supporting Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services in static facilities and via mobile teams. In September alone, over 12,000 individuals were reached by psychoeducation activities.

 **PROTECTION**

In September IOM protection teams provided critical protection assistance to both IDPs and migrants via a Community Response Point and mobile outreach. Case management services were provided to 667 vulnerable IDPs across IOM managed displacement sites. The team assisted 96 children with baby kits, conducted legal awareness to around 171 individuals in Al Jufainah, protection kits and disability kits to 253 persons with specific needs, and referred 83 cases for further medical, NFI and shelter support.

Migrants remain some of the most vulnerable populations in Yemen. IOM protection teams also provided case management services to 133 migrants, in addition to legal awareness and appropriate information on relevant rights and entitlement to 158 migrants. The promotion of legal awareness remains crucial to ensure people know their rights, support in restoring identity as well as facilitate justice to survivors of gender-based violence. However, a significant gap remains for legal representation that needs to be addressed. Newly arrived migrants were further provided with 115 dignity kits to support their most immediate, basic needs. It is also worth noting that protection help desks have been established in all distribution points to ensure protection principles are applied and the safety and dignity of people are preserved. Moreover, the team raised awareness on the resumption of the VHR programme in Ma'rib, reaching an estimated 800 stranded migrants.



Displaced children stand in front of their shelter that was rehabilitated after receiving IOM shelter support in Ma'rib. © IOM 2022/ Elham Al-Oqabi

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY



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