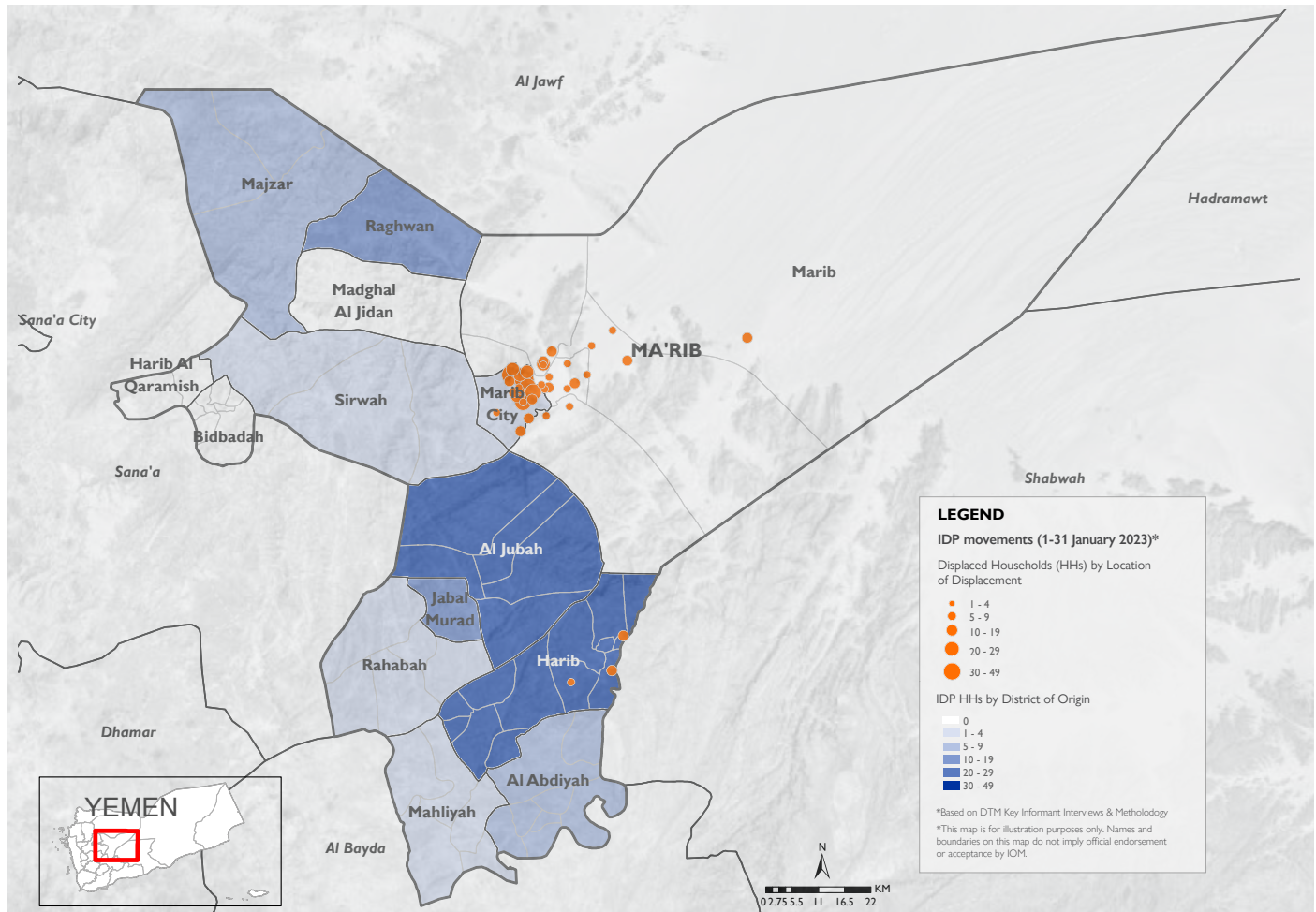


# MA'RIB RESPONSE UPDATE

JANUARY 2023



## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Low-level hostilities in Ma'rib remained within the 'accepted limits' of the unofficial truce, there was no significant escalation of fighting or changes in frontlines. Limited fighting has been focused in Harib district along the border with Shabwah governorate and at the eastern end of the Jabal Al-Balaq mountains to the south of Ma'rib City. Several military casualties and displacements of civilians were reported as a result of increased military activity in Ma'rib when compared with previous months.

In January 2023, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimated that 323 households (HHs) or almost 2,000 individuals were displaced to or within Ma'rib governorate. This represents a slight increase in the number of displacements recorded in previous months since September – in part due to the intermittent clashes reported in Harib and Raghwan districts towards the end of January, which forced people to move mainly to host community areas in Ma'rib City. Of the 323 displaced HHs that moved to Ma'rib, 239 HHs were displaced from other governorates including Ibb, Al Hodeidah, Ta'iz, Dhamar, and Sana'a. Based on IOM DTM's interviews with displaced households, the primary reasons for displacement were conflict and economic related.

The main reported needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) included food (26%), financial assistance (25%), shelter, (25%), non-food items (NFIs) (15%), and other sectoral needs. The cold weather in January exacerbated the need for protective shelters and winter clothing. Seven children died in Al-Maashir camp in Ma'rib Al Wadi due to the cold. IOM and local partners raised this issue with the CCCM and shelter/NFI clusters for emergency response and future winter planning. In Ma'rib, only 92 sites out of the 195 IDP-hosting sites are supported by site management partners, while all 42 sites in Al Jawf are not supported. Limited site management presents increased fire, flood, and housing land, property (HLP) risk concerns. In January, there were 10 reported fire incidents, all of which were caused by cooking practices and electrical hazards in tents.

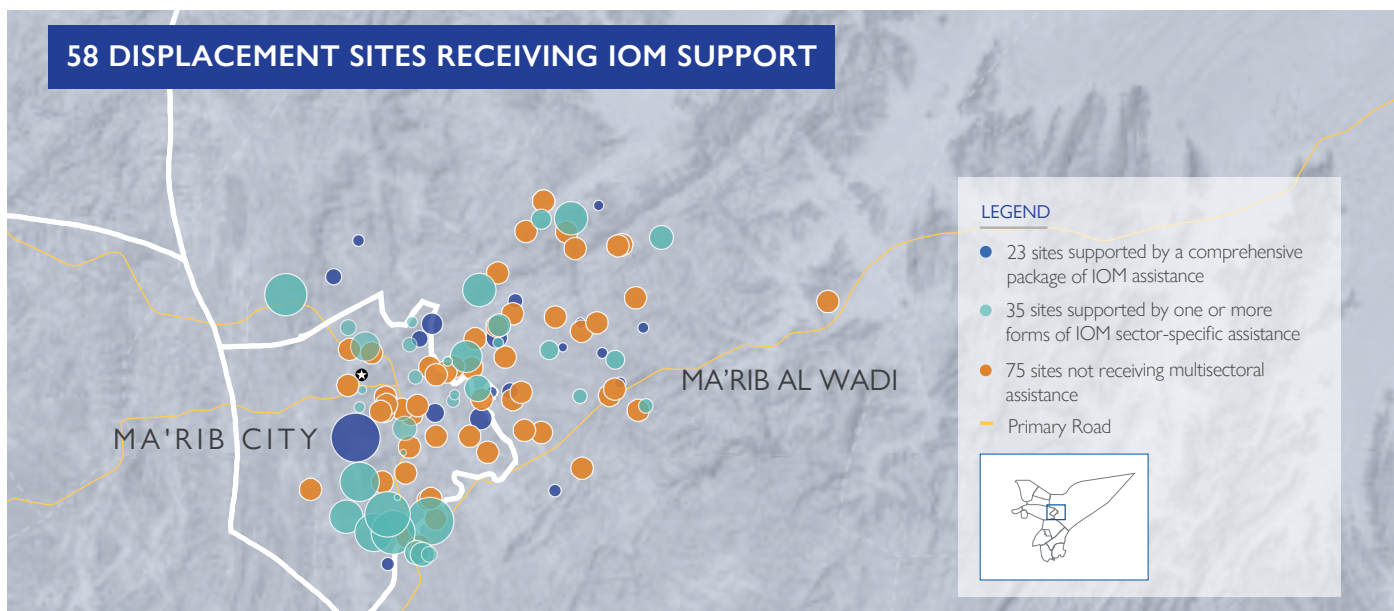
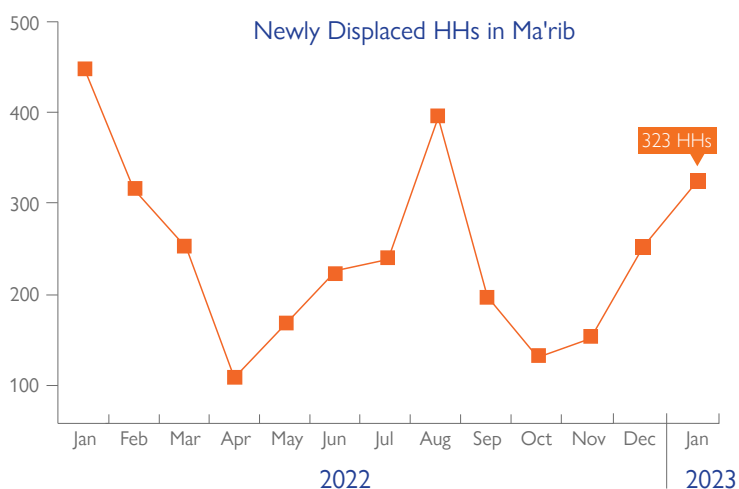
Incentive payments supported by humanitarian organizations for healthcare workers have also decreased systematically across Yemen. In January, a four-day strike of health workers occurred due to the decrease in incentive payments. While the strike ended in January because payments remained at the 2022 level, new strikes from healthcare workers are expected to occur as 2022 projects end over the course of the next few months and the new 2023 incentive rate is adopted. This issue has been raised with the national Health Cluster, sub-national Health Cluster, UN senior leadership, and donors.

Migrants in Ma'rib remain heavily under the control of powerful smuggling networks that routinely detain, abuse, and exploit migrants for financial gain. Sexual violence perpetrated against migrant women and girls is almost endemic. An average of seven gender-based violence (GBV) cases are reported to humanitarian actors each week, but the number of incidents is likely much higher. Almost all cases of GBV identified by IOM have resulted in pregnancy, thereby compounding the vulnerability of an already extremely at-risk group.

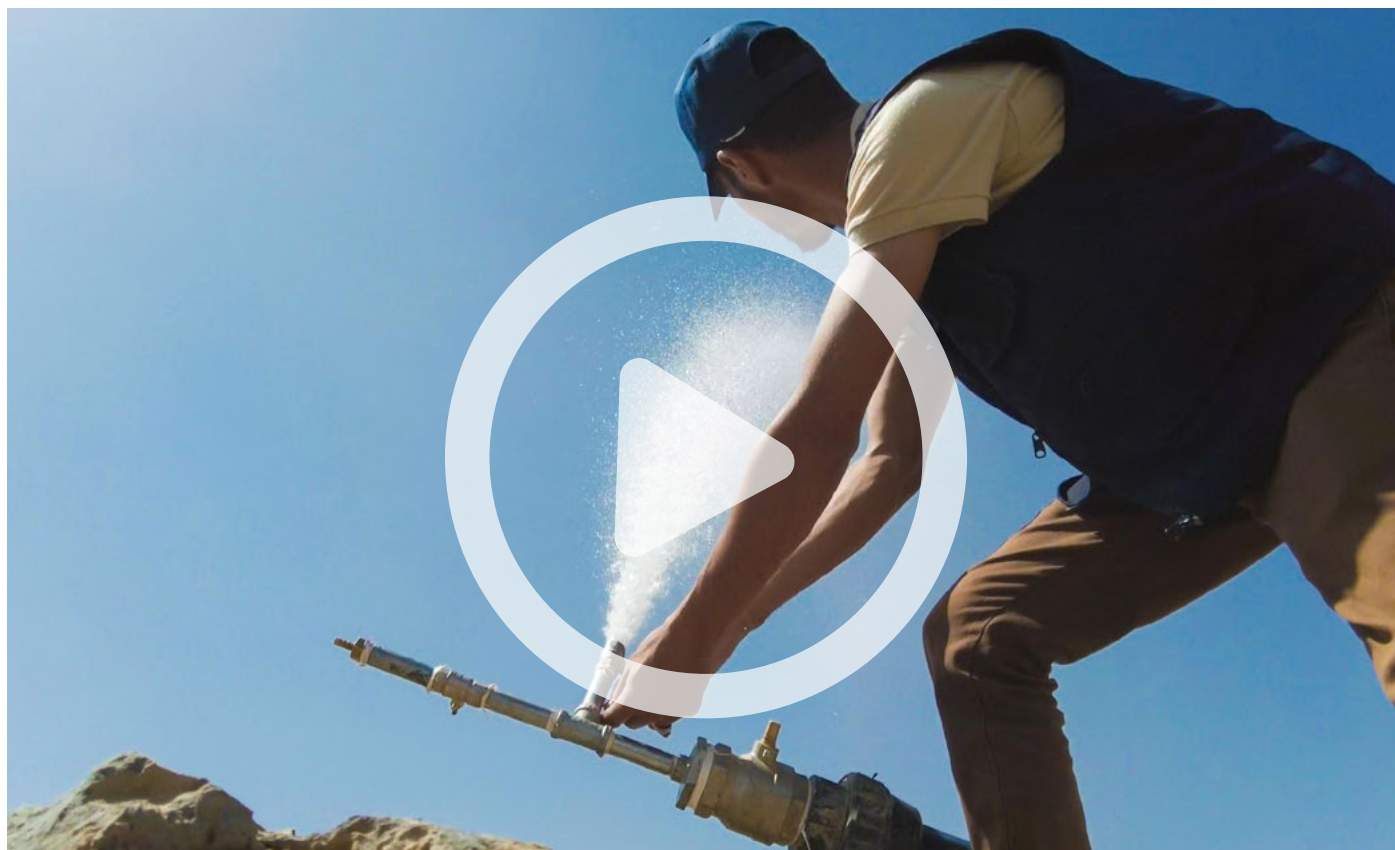
Migrants remain largely outside the mainstream humanitarian response in Ma'rib, given their relatively small number when compared with the immense need of IDPs and the affected host community. However, migrants have almost no access to public services, a precarious legal situation, and are excluded from humanitarian services which support IDPs and host community members. Migrants are wholly reliant on IOM for all basic services - from food to water, shelter, NFIs to medical services and specialized protection assistance. There is also an extremely vulnerable group of Somali refugees who have been displaced to Ma'rib and are unable to access basic services or claim their rights and entitlements.

IOM has a team of nine international and 173 national support and programme staff in Ma'rib as well as almost 200 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 CCCM and health sub-national clusters, co-leadership of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sub-national cluster, and Ma'rib-based focal point of the protection cluster.

As the Organization with the largest operational presence in Ma'rib, IOM provides multi-sectoral humanitarian response in 24 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 34 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 to migrants and IDPs residing in 24 informal sites.



**IN FOCUS:** DURABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER BENEFITS 15,000 PEOPLE IN MA'RIB



## RESPONSE OVERVIEW

 HEALTH

IOM has contributed towards reducing morbidity and mortality through the provision of emergency, primary, and secondary health services including nutritional screenings considering the risk of famine and extreme hunger in Mar'ib. 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 Ma'rib and Ma'rib City Districts.

In January, IOM reached 36,476 individuals with primary and secondary health services including 2,096 pregnant women who received antenatal care services, 1,089 who received family planning, 321 who received normal deliveries, and 56 who received Caesarean Sections. IOM supported with malnutrition screenings and treatment of 2,856 children under the age of five, of whom 87 had severe acute malnutrition and 553 had moderate acute malnutrition. IOM also assisted the delivery of vaccinations to 1,526 children. During the provision of services, 15,990 individuals received health promotion sessions.

IOM also continued providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in Al Wehdah Hospital of Al Hosoun, the static clinic, Maneen Al Hadad Health Unit and supported MMTs. IOM supported 79 individuals with psychotherapy, 114 individuals with counselling, and 3,776 individuals with recreational activities. Furthermore, IOM provided laboratory equipment to health facilities including Maneen Al Hadad Health Unit, Al Wehdah Hospital, and Al Shaheed Hospital. IOM assisted persons with disabilities by providing six wheelchairs to people with identified mobility needs.

### IN JANUARY

 127,000

Individuals supported with site management and coordination

 36,476

Individuals received primary and secondary health services

 1,270

Migrants provided with food assistance

 72,072

Individuals supported with WASH assistance

 3,300

Individuals supported with cash assistance

 408

Transitional shelters constructed





## 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 72,072 unique individuals with comprehensive WASH assistance in January.

IOM continues constructing a six-kilometer large-scale water supply scheme for more than 15,200 individuals connecting four sites located in Sirwah and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. IOM completed the construction of the water pumping station, 300 m<sup>3</sup> storage tank, Al Sowayda water distribution network, the transmission line, and Batha'a Almil water distribution network. The construction of the Saylat Almil and Haosh Al Jamah water network are still ongoing. In Al Jufainah, the largest displacement site in Yemen, construction of a large-scale water supply project was launched in December to provide potable water to 63,353 individuals. In partnership with Ground Water Relief (GWR), a UK-based organization which provides technical expertise on the sustainable use and development of groundwater resources, IOM conducted assessments on localized groundwater resources and geophysical capacity building with the aim to strengthen government capacities in groundwater management in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi. IOM and GWR conducted water quality tests for five wells.

Additionally, safe drinking water was provided to a total of 3,124 households and 804 migrants in seven sites in Ma'rib City, Ma'rib Al Wadi, and Sirwah districts. IOM distributed 46 family water tanks and 15 galvanized iron waste containers and conducted 12 water quality tests for 12 wells. IOM supported the removal of 780 m<sup>3</sup> of solid waste from 18 sites, benefitting almost 37,703 individuals including 804 migrants. Also, IOM's teams removed 157 m<sup>3</sup> of fecal waste from pits and restored 78 pits, benefitting 600 individuals. In January, IOM completed the construction of 93 latrines, benefitting 558 individuals. Around 1,597 basic hygiene kits, 2,507 student hygiene kits, 2,462 consumable hygiene kits were distributed in sites and schools across Ma'rib.



## CASH ASSISTANCE

In January, IOM's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) team provided one round of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 309 HHs, three rounds of MPCA to 152 HHs, and RRM kits to 90 HHs in Ma'rib governorate. The monthly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative was conducted in Ma'rib City district supporting the Cash and Markets Working Group. Additionally, the daily remittance data collection was conducted in Ma'rib City district supporting the Cash Consortium of Yemen.



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

In January, IOM provided critical S/NFI assistance to vulnerable households affected by recent displacements, fire, eviction threats, damaged shelters, and the winter conditions. In total, IOM provided 448 NFI kits, 93 tents, and 408 transitional shelters constructed in multiple displacement sites in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. Many households were referred for S/NFI assistance by IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and protection teams through the community feedback mechanism. Additionally, IOM provided 473 HHs with cash for NFI instalments and 513 HHs with cash for shelter rehabilitation instalments in three displacement sites.



## PROTECTION

In January, IOM provided case management to 76 vulnerable migrants in Ma'rib, including 15 extremely vulnerable GBV cases. IOM supported 1,270 migrants with food assistance and 2,917 migrants with NFIs, including dignity kits, hygiene kits, shelter kits, and clothing. 917 migrants were reached with awareness sessions on safe routes, risks, and relevant rights and entitlements. Many migrants repeatedly requested assistance to return to their country of origin, an activity that was suspended following a security incident reported in December 2022. Those in possession of travel documents are awaiting resumption of this activity, which is likely to take place in the coming months following improvements in the security environment. Those lacking documents await registration and nationality verification, which should take place within the first quarter of the year.

Additionally, the protection environment for IDPs and vulnerable host community members remains extremely concerning, with a lack of referral partners and insufficient resources to cater to the massive caseload of individuals at risk and in need of assistance. The threat of eviction remains a significant obstacle to securing pathways to durable solution or delivering sustainable outcomes. In January, 80 households were threatened with forced relocation. As part of coordinated effort, IOM is responding to promote the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of all IDPs affected by relocation. IOM continued to offer protection services and case management to vulnerable IDPs through both static and mobile teams across 17 displacement sites. This includes 234 people in receipt of case management services across 17 displacement sites in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi sites. 1,142 IDPs were provided with awareness sessions on protection, rights, and entitlement and 154 IDPs were referred to other services including health, NFI, WASH and RRM. 25 were assisted with MHPSS, 455 with tailored NFI assistance, and 70 with cash for protection.

## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In January, IOM registered 257 HHs or 1,070 individuals in IOM-managed displacement sites. IOM-managed sites currently support an estimated population of around 24,482 HHs or 128,071 individuals. 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. IOM's field teams carried out risk mapping and risk mitigation activities, infrastructure upgrades, day-to-day site improvements, flood and electrical risk reduction activities, electrical upgrades at the household level, awareness campaigns and community mobilization, promotion of the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM), strengthening of community participation and service and information mapping and response to urgent needs in the displacement sites.

Also, IOM inaugurated its education in emergency (EiE) project, which will target 16 schools to address physical, economic and infrastructural barriers to education. IOM will support with the rehabilitation of school facilities, risk reduction activities, installation of fully functional WASH systems in each school, provision of school furniture and furnishings, and distribution of essential supplies to students, including stationery, hygiene items, and dignity kits. IOM will complete the project by the end of March 2023.

## ADVOCACY POINTS

Maintaining the relative stability of Ma'rib is a priority and IOM is concerned about further displacement as well as the humanitarian impact on civilians. Those who have influence should continue to advocate against the escalation of hostilities. IOM echoes calls to all parties of the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and avoid at all costs the targeting of civilians.



A group of children standing next to their tent in Al Thoman IDP site. © IOM 2022/ Elham Al Oqabi

## IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY



**YHF** Yemen Humanitarian Fund



**Canada**



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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