

SEPTEMBER 2023

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE IN SEPTEMBER 2023



1,551

Migrant Arrivals



2,406¹

New Displacements



5,007

Yemeni Returnees



Displaced women attend IOM sewing workshops in Al Muthahaf displacement site to learn sewing skills to support their families. © IOM/Haithm Abdulbaqi 2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In September 2023, the security and political situation remained relatively stable, with low-intensity security incidents reported in Ma'rib, the West Coast and Ta'iz. The presence of landmines continued to pose protection risks resulting in the injury of three civilians (two children and a woman) and access challenges for humanitarian service delivery in Hays and Al Khukhah.

IOM's Displacement Track Matrix (DTM) estimated that 401 households, or 2,406 people were newly displaced in internationally recognized government (IRG) areas in September, mainly due to conflict and economic instability.

Additionally, the month of September was characterized by heavy rain, flooding and strong winds that affected thousands of vulnerable displaced families across the West Coast. Local authorities and partners reported that over 2,500 families were impacted by the destruction of shelters and loss of food as a result of flooding, among whom 2,013 families in sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Al Hodeidah (Al Khukhah and Hays) and 492 in Mawza district in Ta'iz. IOM supported flood-affected families with multi sectoral assistance.

As of 30 September 2023, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded over 92,000 migrant arrivals in Yemen, surpassing total arrivals of 2022 (just over 73,000). The journey to and across Yemen continues to be perilous where migrants are exposed to severe and multi-faceted protection risks and struggle to meet their basic needs. Tensions stemming from increased demand for Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) support continued in September, with protests, violent clashes and arrest campaigns (see more in the following section). Since January 2023, IOM supported more than 6,200 migrants with VHR flights from Aden, Sana'a, and Ma'rib. Nonetheless, continued funding gaps are expected in the coming months as the suspension of this critical assistance has exacerbated migrant needs in Yemen. New resources are needed to match the demand and vulnerability of stranded migrants throughout the country.

¹ Displacement in Yemen refers to the 13 governorates where IOM DTM's team has access, namely: Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Bayda, Al Hodeidah, Al Jawf, Al Maharah, Hadramawt, Lahj, Ma'rib, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'iz.

MIGRANTS DEMAND ASSISTANCE WITH SAFE RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY

On 7 September, in Aden, dozens of migrants from the Amhara region in Ethiopia protested the suspension of voluntary humanitarian returns and deteriorating living conditions. The clashes resulted in the death of three migrants and has resulted in even more precarious conditions for migrants in Aden. During this month, migrants in Ma'rib also held demonstrations, expressing their desperation to return to their country of origin.

Since the beginning of 2023, IOM has provided support to over 6,200 migrants, including unaccompanied children, to return them safely to their homelands. However, IOM has been unable to facilitate the return to the Amhara region in September due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

In September, the situation escalated when over 1,000 migrants were rounded up in Aden and held for days on the street outside of IOM's Departure Centre. Roundups occurred amidst the reintroduction of arrest campaigns targeting specific smuggler groups in the south of Yemen, particularly in Lahj and Aden governorates. IOM was able to eventually secure the release of the migrants held outside of the Departure Center, in close coordination with OCHA and Senior Humanitarian Leadership in Yemen.

As a result of the deteriorating protection environment in Yemen, IOM is assessing existing measures to resume VHR in the safest way possible for those who wish to return and to secure additional funding to meet the increasing needs for urgent protection and health needs in country. In the meantime, IOM continues to provide critical health care services, emergency shelter, case management, dignity kits, baby kits and other non-food items to meet the most critical needs of migrants.

WEST COAST AND SOUTH TA'IZ

On 16 September, heavy rains struck Yemen's west coast, causing substantial damage across the area, including at several displacement sites in Al Khukhah and Al Tuhayta districts. IOM teams on the ground reported that 168 households (915 individuals) across 13 IOM-managed sites had been affected by the destruction and/or damage of more than 160 shelters and widespread damage to site infrastructure, personal possessions, and food supplies. IOM rolled out a rapid, multisectoral response to meet the immediate needs of those affected.

Furthermore, the presence of landmines remained a challenge for accessing some displacement sites in Hays and Al Khukhah. On 22 September, three civilians (two children and a woman) were injured by a landmine explosion in Khodaira village, Hays district.

In response to the upsurge of suspected measles cases, the national health cluster launched a campaign aimed to provide over one million children between the ages of 6 and 59 months with Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination, Rubella (MR) vaccination and to provide adults and high priority groups with COVID-19 primary and booster doses. IOM provided support in conducting the campaign through the health facilities it supports, mobile medical teams (MMTs) and community health volunteers (CHVs) primarily in Aden, Ta'iz, and Al Hodeidah governorates. By the end of September, more than 9,900 children had been vaccinated against measles. The campaign will also take place in Ma'rib governorate in early October.



IOM health staff in Mokha are administering measles vaccines to children. © IOM/Angela Wells 2023

MA'RIB

Several demonstrations, led by migrants, took place in Ma'rib in response to the nationwide suspension of VHR flights.

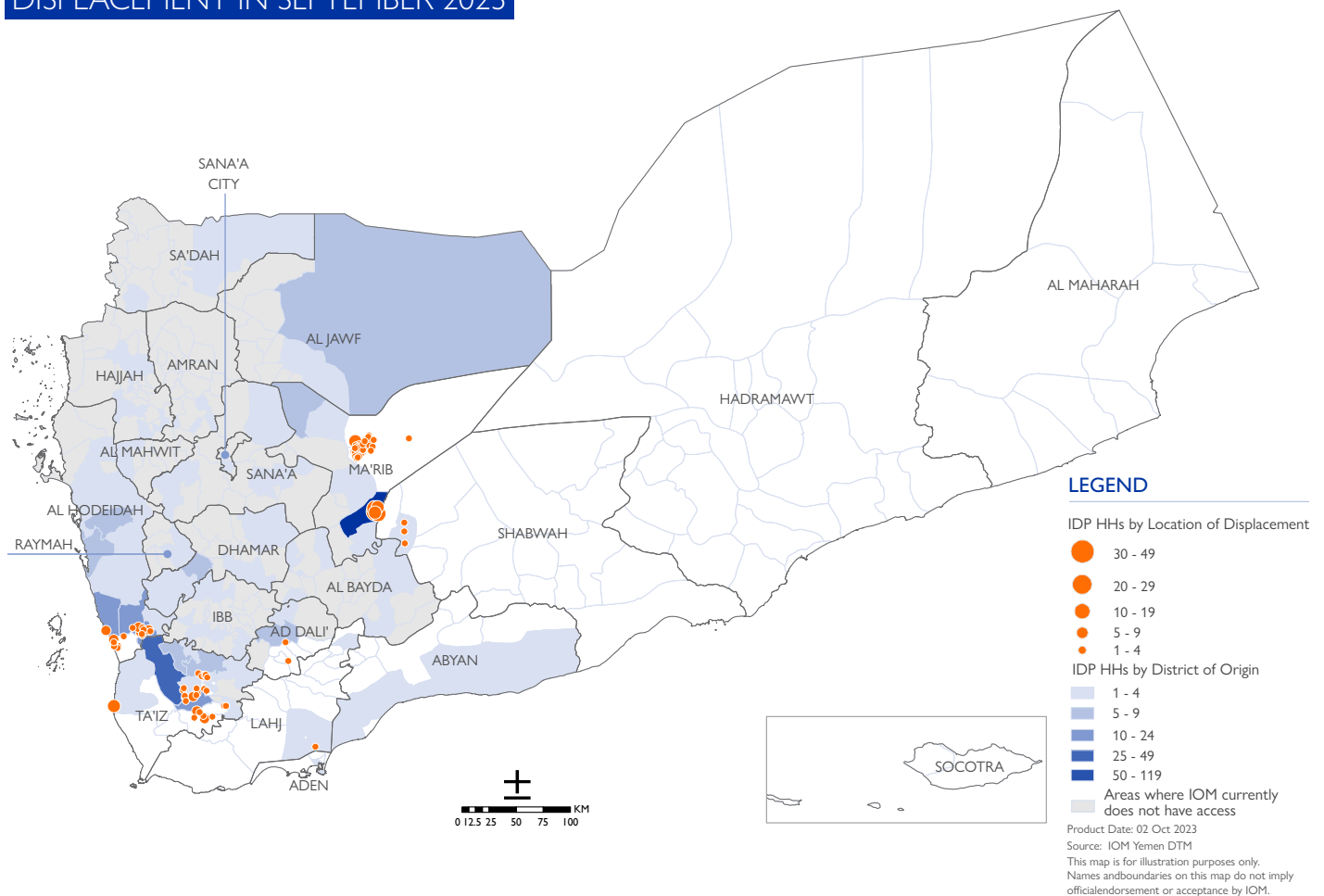
DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

In September, IOM Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported that 401 households (2,406 individuals) had been displaced at least once in 13 governorates where teams have access, namely: Abyan, Ad Dali' Aden, Al Bayda, Al Hodeidah, Al Jawf, Al Maharah, Hadramawt, Lahj, Ma'rib, Shabwah, Socotra and Ta'iz. From 1 January to 30 September 2023, IOM Yemen DTM tracked 4,600 households (HH) (27,600 Individuals) who experienced displacement at least once.

Most displacements in the governorate originated from Ma'rib (135 HHs), Al Hodeidah (84 HHs) and Ta'iz (81 HHs) while those displaced moved into/within Ma'rib (116 HHs), Ta'iz (76 HHs) and Al hodeidah (65 HHs) governorates.

The majority of the displacements (76%) were caused by conflict, with the remaining IDPs citing economic reasons (22%) and health and disasters (1%) as their reasons for displacement. This represents an increase in economic instability and disasters as driving factors for displacement compared to previous months.

DISPLACEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2023



TOP IDP NEEDS IN SEPTEMBER



Needs Reported from Ma'rib and West Coast

MIGRATION AND RETURNEE TRENDS

In September 2023 IOM's DTM recorded a total of 1,551 migrants entering Yemen and 5,007 Yemeni returnees.

The number of migrants entering Yemen via the Lahj coast has decreased by 76 per cent since last month with 2,249 in August from 548 in September 2023. This significant decrease since August is likely attributed to the continued joint military campaign that was launched in the beginning of August and continued throughout September. The campaign included raids on the properties of smugglers and the arrest of some of these who assisted in the transportation of migrants from Ethiopia, as well as the deployment of military points on the coastal strip to pursue smugglers' boats. The joint military campaign remained underway in Lahj governorate until the end of September. It is believed that the continued campaigns have caused the the points of arrival to shift from Lahj to the Ta'iz governorate. IOM's DTM team has been developing ways of reaching key informants at the new arrival points.

In addition, the number of migrants entering Shabwah also decreased by 48 per cent last month, from 1,927 in August to 1,003 in September, likely due to changes in the weather conditions, namely sea tides aand harsh winds.

Meanwhile, DTM observed an increase in Yemeni returnees, rising from 3,707 in August to 5,007 in September.



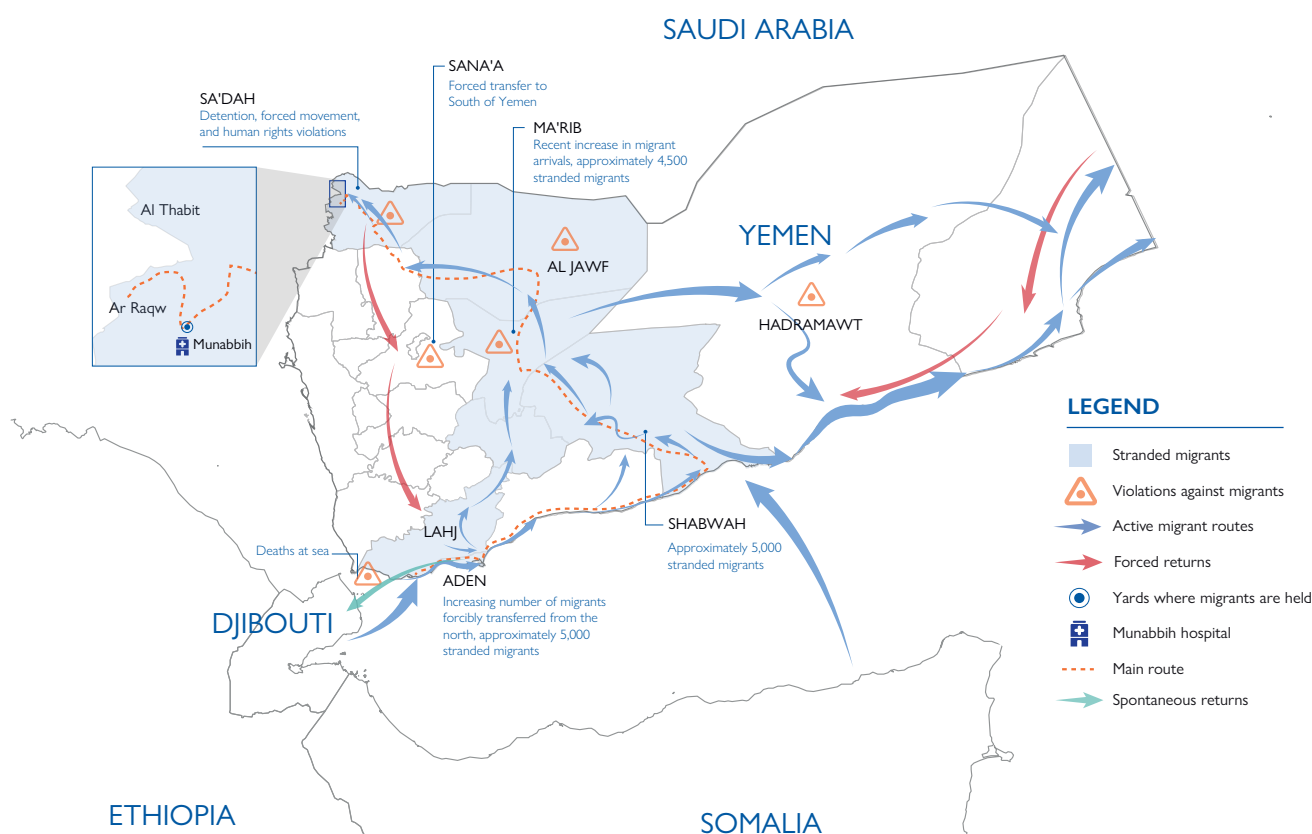
The UN estimates there are a total 209,000 migrants in need in Yemen*

*According to the United Nations Humanitarian Overview



IOM staff bids farewell to Kalifa and his father Rashid as they embark on their journey back home. © IOM/Mehalon Lule 2023

MIGRANT MOVEMENTS IN YEMEN



STORIES FROM THE GROUND

[AGENCY AND RESILIENCE: RASHAD HELPS HIS FAMILY GET BACK ON THEIR FEET](#)

Ma'rib – Rashad was a hardworking family man who cared for his wife, children and elderly parents. Before the conflict, he used to regularly shuttle back and forth from his home in Hajjah, northern Yemen, to Saudi Arabia where he could earn a decent living. However, when armed clashes began to intensify, he could no longer access the country where he earned the basic income needed to care for his family.

Rashad had to make the hard decision to travel to another city in Yemen far away from his home to look for a job, leaving his parents and family behind.

Rashad initially thought that he would be able to work and return home, but he was stuck due to the armed clashes. Eventually, he also ran out of money and could no longer afford to move away.

“Luckily, I found a kind-hearted person who offered to take me to Ma'rib for free. To my surprise, he even gave me money to eat something after we arrived there.”

When he arrived in Ma'rib, Rashad faced immense challenges. He had no money, no shelter, and was far away from his family and sick parents. At that moment, Rashad felt helpless for the first time.

“I had nothing, not even a tent or a blanket, but the people there were so kind and lent me blankets and a tent and told me to return them once the organization helped me.”

After Rashad was reunited with his family, he learned about the services offered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the Al Jufainah displacement site.

IOM supported Rashad with rapid response mechanism kits which include tents, mattresses, blankets and food items. The aid also included cash that was given to Rashad in three installments.

Approximately 1,834 internally displaced people have received these essential items and cash assistance through this initiative since September 2023.

“The cash assistance project aims to enhance the livelihoods of people who have become newly displaced by conflict or disasters,” explains Mohammed Abbas, IOM Field Assistant in Ma'rib.

This assistance enabled him to cook warm meals and secure shelter for himself and his family, providing them with the comfort they had not experienced since their displacement.

“I am so grateful for this support,” says Rashad. “We had nothing before this support arrived.”



Rashad plays with his daughter in his newly-built shelter in Al Jufainah site. © IOM/Haithm Abdulbaqi 2023

[Read story](#)

VIDEO

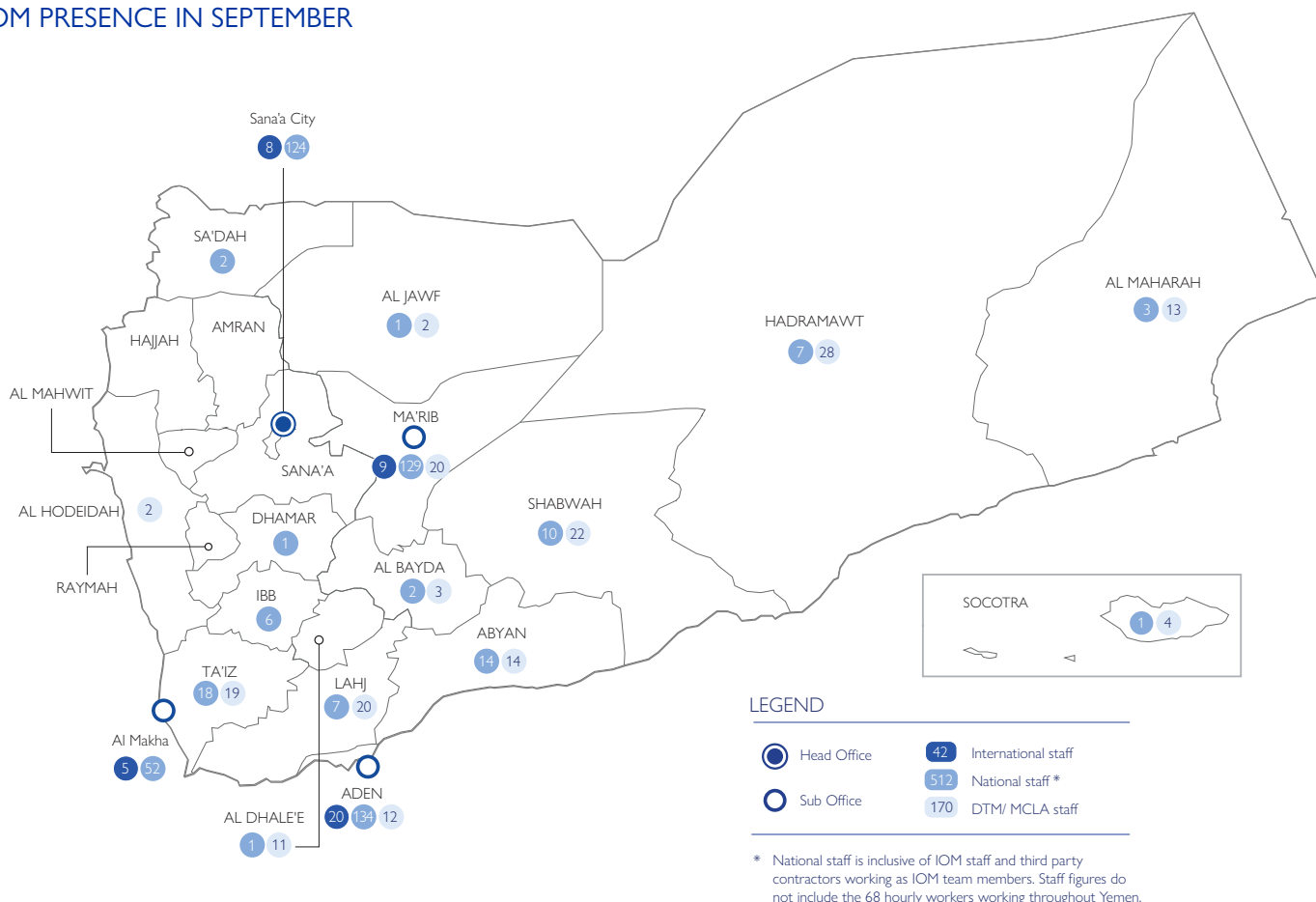
[MANSOUR REBUILDS ALONGSIDE HIS COMMUNITY, NO MATTER WHAT](#)



IOM'S RESPONSE IN SEPTEMBER

The International Organization for Migration has well-established offices in Sana'a, Aden, Ma'rib and Al Makha in the west coast region which support vulnerable groups throughout Yemen, including displaced people, conflict-affected communities and migrants.

IOM PRESENCE IN SEPTEMBER



During the inauguration ceremony, the Governorate Health Officer (GHO) of Al Hodeidah expressed sincere appreciation for IOM's support and profound understanding of the health needs in the area. © IOM 2023



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)



194,545

Total people reached



86 sites managed by IOM (34 sites in Ma'rib, 13 sites in South Ta'iz, 20 sites in Ibb, and 19 sites in Al Hodeidah)



PROTECTION



12,534

Total people reached



506 migrants with 15 voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flights



HEALTH



55,117

Total people reached



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



86,030

Total people reached



IOM provides flood risk reduction activities, site maintenance, community engagement, and transitional shelters in Taiz governorate, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions as part of its camp management services. ©IOM/ Angela Wells 2023



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)



432

Total people reached



7 NFI kits distributed



429 Households received shelter support



CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI)



8,960 individuals reached with multi purpose cash assistance



7,553 individuals registered for Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance



TRANSITION & RECOVERY



50

beneficiaries participated in community committee meetings



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)



4 weekly Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDTs) reports published



1 Flow Monitoring Registry report published

CALLS TO ACTION

IOM remains dedicated to addressing the critical needs of migrants, internally displaced persons and host communities while advocating that:

- Support for migrants needs to be scaled up across the entire humanitarian response. Migrants should be targeted in all programming, based on needs and not status.
- Parties to the conflict pursue a locally-owned, community-driven peace process.
- Humanitarian partners work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and toward durable solutions that are inclusive, sustainable and effective.
- Donors increase their commitments to the UN's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen, which is only 29 per cent funded as of September 2023.



IOM Community Health Volunteers conduct extensive Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities to raise awareness, promote vaccination, and dispel misconceptions, addressing low vaccine uptake in communities. © IOM 2023

IOM'S RESPONSE IN YEMEN IS SUPPORTED BY



United Nations
Central
Emergency
Response
Fund



European Union



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



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