

DECEMBER 2023

PEOPLE ON
THE MOVE IN
DECEMBER 2023

 1,679
Migrant Arrivals

 1,746
New Displacements

 4,827
Yemeni Returnees



The Wadi Arafat Health Centre in Ta'iz is a vital community hub, providing essential healthcare services and support to over 15,000 residents, both local and displaced. © IOM/Rami Ibrahim

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In December 2023, Yemen faced an uncertain security and political situation. Multiple sources within the country, including the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, reported that the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) and De-Facto Authorities (DFA) remain committed to a new ceasefire and had agreed to engage in a UN-led peace process to end the war¹. However, the ongoing conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and resulting tension in the Red Sea continue to pose a threat to the peace process and to the wider security and political stability of the country.

As the situation unfolds, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to provide assistance to vulnerable migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host community members across Yemen.

Tensions in Ma'rib over an increase in the price of fuel led to a series of protests and clashes, with multiple reports of injuries, deaths, and increased conflict between tribal groups. These clashes resulted in intermittent movement restrictions in the area and contributed towards the displacement of additional people throughout the district. In December, IOM continued to operate in other areas of Ma'rib and closely monitor the situation in Mar'ib Al-Wadi with the intent to restart full-scale operations. Furthermore, the need for shelter and non-food (NFI) items across IOM-managed sites increased rapidly due to the winter season, eviction threats, and fire incidents.

As of December 31, DTM has recorded over 97,200 migrant arrivals in Yemen, surpassing the total arrivals of 2022 (just over 73,000). The journey to and across Yemen continues to be perilous, exposing migrants to severe and multi-faceted protection risks, as they struggle to meet their most basic needs. To support them, IOM Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) operate at key locations along the most common migration routes, providing information and urgent and immediate health and protection assistance.

In September 2023, IOM was forced to suspend the facilitation of its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme for Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen following the declaration of a state of emergency in the Amhara region in Ethiopia. On December 11, IOM's VHR support resumed, providing a vital service for Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen without the means to return home². However, potential funding gaps in the coming months threaten the continuation of this critical assistance and new resources are needed to match the growing demand and vulnerabilities of stranded migrants across the country.

¹ OSESGY: [Update on Efforts to Secure a UN Roadmap to End the War in Yemen](#)

² IOM: [IOM Resumes Voluntary Return Flights for Stranded Ethiopian Migrants in Yemen](#)

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

Throughout December, IOM Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported that 291 households (1,746 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. This brings the total number of households tracked by DTM who were displaced at least once in 2023 to 9,944 (59,664 individuals).

Most displacements in the governorate originated from Ma'rib (178 households [HHs]), Ta'iz (57 HHs), and Al Hodeidah (51 HHs), while those displaced moved into or within Ta'iz (75 HHs), Al Hodeidah (58 HHs), and Ma'rib (51 HHs) governorates.

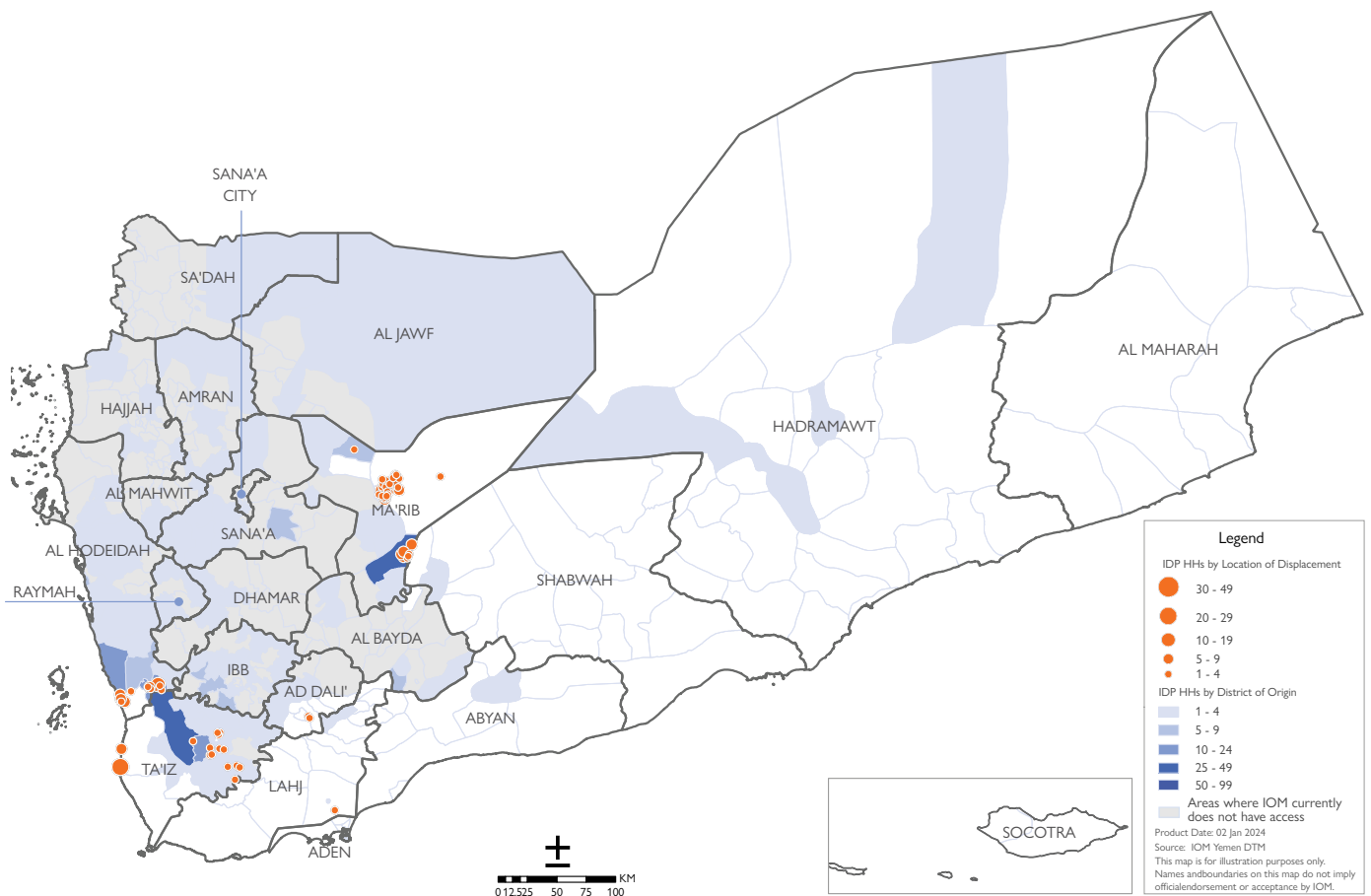
A total of 64 per cent of displacements were caused by conflict, with the remaining 36 per cent of IDPs citing economic reasons as the cause of their displacement



The UN estimates that there are approx. 4.5 million internally displaced persons in Yemen.*

*According to the United Nations Humanitarian Overview

DISPLACEMENT IN DECEMBER 2023



TOP IDP NEEDS IN DECEMBER 2023



Needs Reported from Ma'rib and West Coast

MIGRATION AND RETURNEE TRENDS

In December 2023, IOM's DTM recorded a total of 1,679 migrants entering Yemen and 4,827 Yemeni returnees. Migrant arrivals have increased by 13 per cent compared to November (1,465). A joint military campaign started in August aimed at reducing the number of migrants arriving in Yemen through the coast of Lahj led to no new recorded migrant arrivals in Al Saqyah (Lahj) during October and November. However, in December, as the campaign began to wind down, DTM recorded the arrival of 110 migrants during the month.

In Shabwah, the total number of migrants entering during December was 1,569 (1,197 departing from Somalia and 372 departing from Djibouti), representing a seven per cent increase as compared to November (1,465 arrivals). This increase could be linked to improved weather conditions and sea tides.

According to data collected through DTM's network of enumerators and key informants, conflict-induced movements constituted 73 per cent of all incoming movements in December 2023. These movements were exclusively observed in Shabwah, originating from Bari, Somalia (70%) and Obock, Djibouti (30%).

Additionally, DTM observed a decrease in Yemeni returnees by six per cent in December (4,827) compared to November (5,111). Between January and December 2023, DTM recorded a total of 97,210 migrants and 55,402 Yemeni migrant returnees to Yemen.



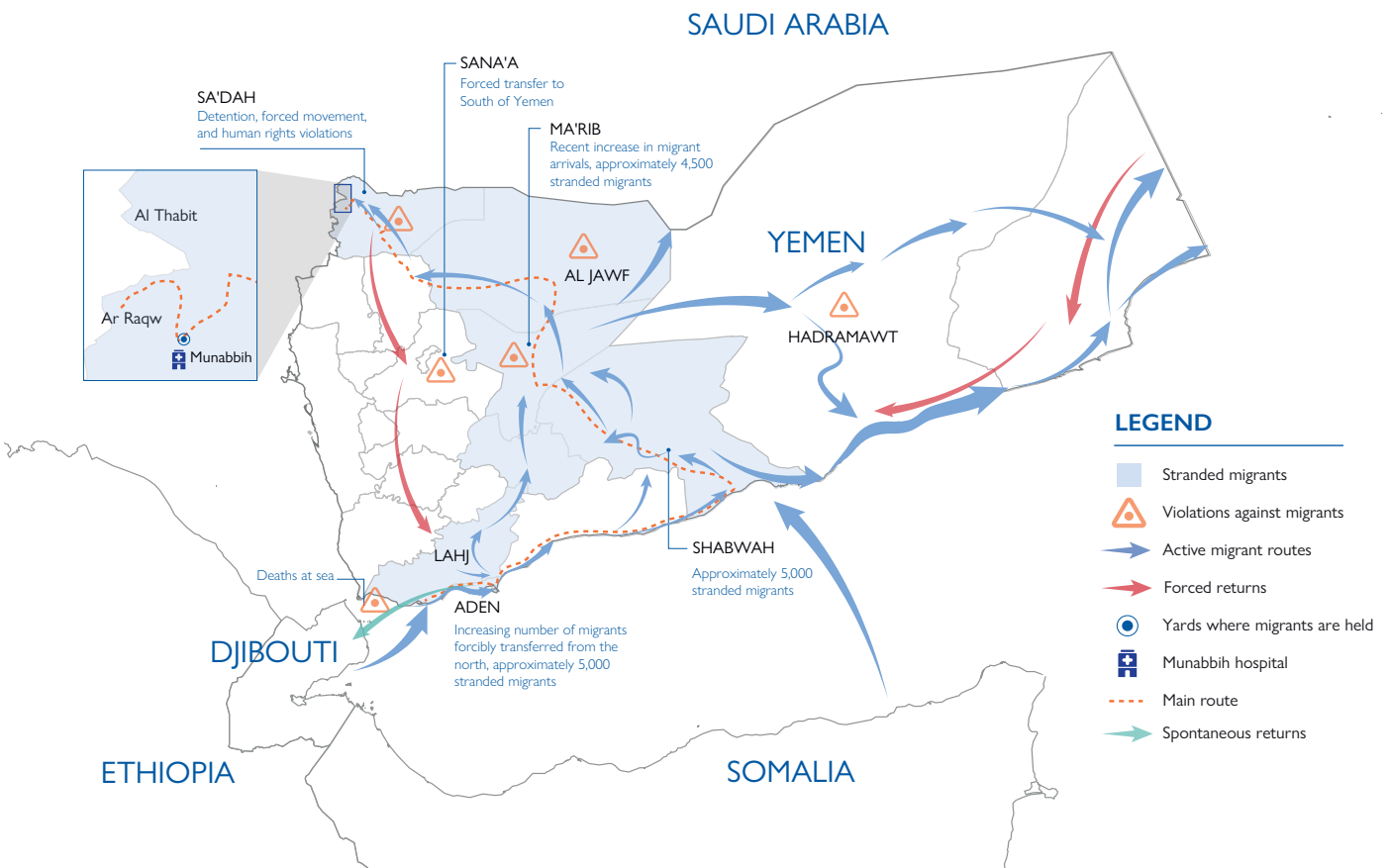
The UN estimates that there are approx. 209,000 migrants in need in Yemen*.

*According to the United Nations Humanitarian Overview



Imanu discovered a renewed sense of hope through IOM's Community-Based Care program in Aden. © IOM/Basma Ali 2023

MIGRANT MOVEMENTS IN YEMEN



STORIES FROM THE GROUND

[DISPLACED YEMENI WOMEN AND GIRLS FIND EMPOWERMENT IN EDUCATION](#)

“I bought milk one day, but I didn’t know it was expired until I drank it,” recounts Egleem, a resident of Al Khukhah district, who could not read nor write until recently.

Growing up in a rural area meant that Egleem and other girls in her village missed out on the chance to learn to read or write. Previously displaced from Hays, Al Hodeidah, Egleem’s illiteracy often came in the way of her daily responsibilities as a housewife, preventing her from deciphering ingredients and expiration dates on food items.

After nine years of conflict, an estimated 4.5 million Yemeni nationals are internally displaced. Approximately 21.6 million people are estimated to need humanitarian assistance and protection services across the country.

The collapse of Yemen’s economy has drastically increased the population’s level of vulnerability, with more than 80 per cent of Yemenis now living below the poverty line. The crisis has taken a toll on the education system as well, with thousands of schools teetering on the brink, either destroyed, partially damaged, or repurposed for non-educational purposes.

Responding to this critical need, IOM recently launched literacy classes in five displacement sites in Ta’iz, reaching 150 women, as the demand continues to rise. To enhance their educational experience, IOM supplied them with school bags, notebooks, pens, and books, along with establishing study areas and mobilizing volunteer teachers from the community.

When volunteer teacher Sameera first arrived in Al Khukhah, she was surprised to find that many of the youth in the village were illiterate. She quickly learned that many girls had dropped out of school by second grade, robbing them of the chance to acquire literacy skills.

According to Sameera, girls in rural areas are often withdrawn from co-educational schools at an early stage due to conservative cultural norms. Despite these challenges, Sameera spared no efforts in teaching the women, and her dedication paid off.

Since joining the classes at the community centre in Al Khukhah, Egleem feels more confident using her mobile phone and buying groceries from the market. “The women are now able to write their names for the very first time and even teach their children and husbands the alphabet,” Sameera explains.

Displaced herself, Wafa’a found a job as an IOM community mobilizer upon her arrival in Al Khukhah, where her current role involves addressing complaints and organizing community activities. Together with her colleagues, she actively engages with displaced women in the community to address various issues and explore ways to improve their living conditions.

[Read the rest of the story](#)



Amidst the challenges of displacement, Yemeni women find a lifeline in humanitarian programmes, fostering hope, education, and empowerment.
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VIDEO

[NAWAL’S STORY:](#)

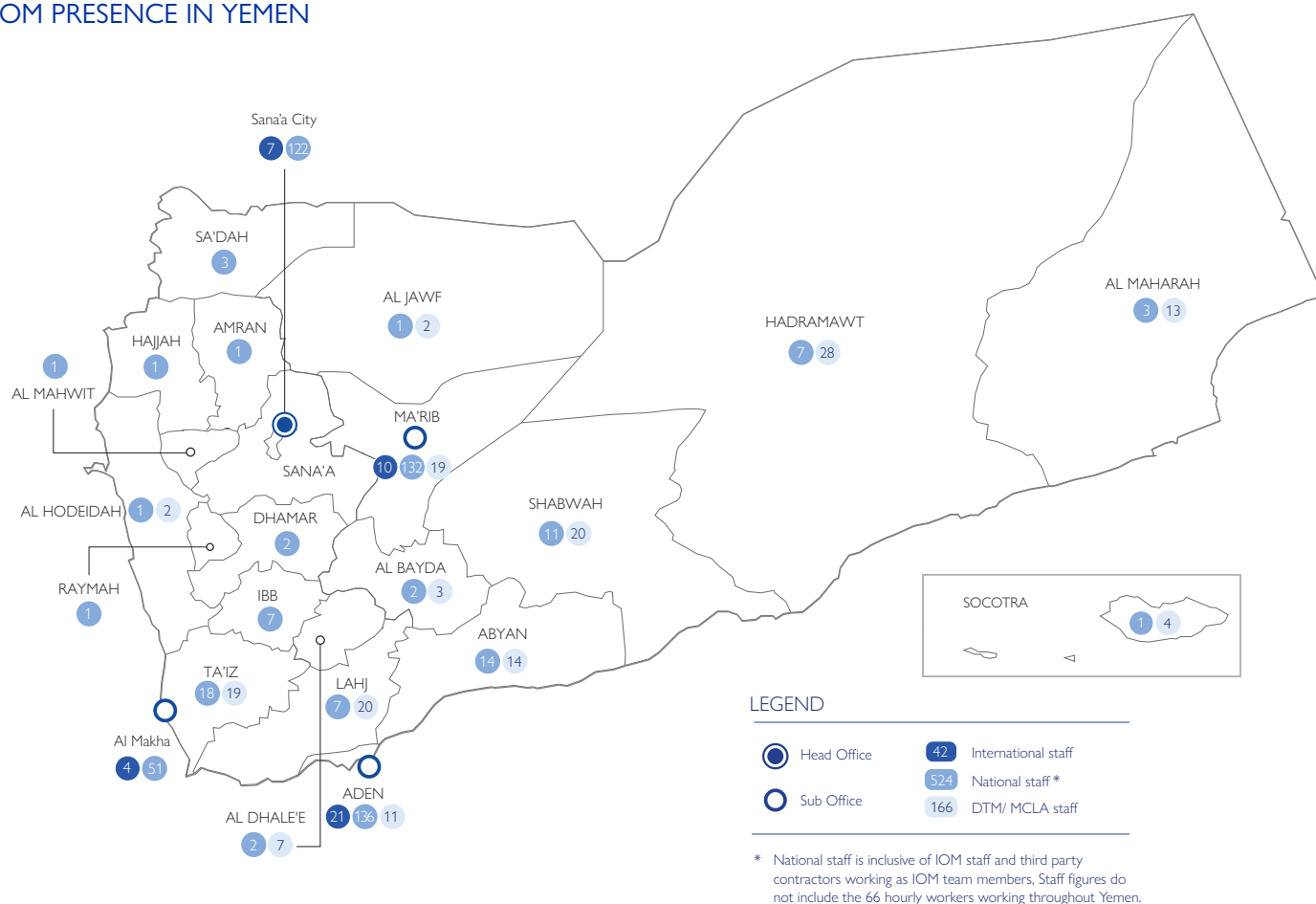
[VITAL LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES](#)



IOM'S RESPONSE IN DECEMBER

IOM 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 YEMEN



As temperatures dropped and the winter season approached, the demand for shelter materials and NFI kits became even more urgent. As a result, in December, efforts were intensified to provide essential partial shelter kits, tents, NFIs, and Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) to affected households.

IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) teams continued to register newly arrived displaced households to IOM-managed sites, with a total of 266 households registered as new arrivals during the month of December (244 HHs in Ma'rib; 31 HHs in Ibb; 11 HHs in South Ta'iz). Coordination was made with service providers and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) team to provide emergency services to these families.

IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) teams continued operations to respond to the new and protracted IDP influxes in Ma'rib, West Coast, South Ta'iz and north of Yemen. The efforts were focused on providing emergency WASH services to vulnerable populations, as well as rehabilitating and expanding water supply infrastructure in urban and rural areas. This was achieved through activities such as risk communication, engaging with the community, and promoting hygiene practices. The team also distributed hygiene kits and encouraged positive hygiene behaviours. Additionally, they actively worked on constructing and rehabilitating household latrines and pits, fecal sludge management, and implementing solid waste management activities in accordance with the established plan.

Multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) is a rapid and dignified means to support households in meeting their specific needs. IOM continues to be a key actor of the RRM, supporting registration, provision of MPCA and distribution of RRM kits. In December, over 2,000 households received MPCA across seven governorates.

IOM continued to expand its provision of health services across Yemen, including initiating support for two Oral Rehydration Corners (ORCs) in the Al Khukha district (Al Hodeidah) that are providing clinical care for cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)/suspected cholera.

IOM supported the national response to the recent surge in AWD/suspected cholera cases and the wider general health response through the donation of five tons of medicines and supplies as well as providing an additional three tons of medicines to support Beer Ali Health Centre and the IOM MMT in Shabwah.

Critical protection services continued to be provided to vulnerable populations both in and outside of IOM-managed displacement sites. Throughout December, a total of 7,621 people were directly supported with protection assistance, provided through IOM's Migrant Response Points and mobile teams.



An IOM staff member raises awareness about proper sanitation at Al Melaha school. © IOM/Haithm Abdulbaqi



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)



200,077 people hosted in IOM-managed sites



91 sites managed by IOM (**34** sites in Ma'rib, **13** sites in South Ta'iz, **24** sites in Ibb, and **20** sites in Al-Hodeidah)



PROTECTION



7,621 people reached with protection assistance



280 migrants with voluntary humanitarian return support



HEALTH



58,927 people reached with primary healthcare consultations and services



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



140,355 people reached with water, sanitation and hygiene services



SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)



292 people reached with S-NFI assistance



16 NFI kits, **150** emergency shelter kits, **114** partial kits, and **27** family tents distributed



312 households received shelter



CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS



10,836 individuals reached with multi purpose cash assistance



2,422 individuals registered for Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance



TRANSITION & RECOVERY



60 beneficiaries participated in consultation 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 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen only received 38 per cent of the required funding.



*In December, IOM resumed its VHR programme from Yemen to Ethiopia, marking a glimmer of hope for 118 migrants.
© IOM/Majed Mohammed*

IOM'S RESPONSE IN YEMEN IS SUPPORTED BY



United Nations
CERF
Central Emergency Response Fund



The Global Fund



KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



YHF Yemen Humanitarian Fund

KFW

