

ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA/ CHOLERA SITUATION IN YEMEN

OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS MAY 2024



During Yemen's health crisis, IOM ensures crucial support reaches health facilities nationwide, including Al Sadaqa Hospital in Aden. IOM/Abeer Alhasani 2024

IOM RESPONSE SUMMARY

 **154,821**
individuals reached with awareness raising campaigns

 **70,038**
individuals supported with hygiene kits

 **8**
Diarrhea Treatment Centers (DTCs) supported

 **20**
Oral Rehydration Corners supported

Since the last quarter of 2023, an upsurge of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/suspected cholera cases has been observed across both Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) and De-Facto Authority (DFA) areas. In mid-October 2023, the national cholera taskforce declared a first wave of the outbreak, after a spike of cases was confirmed in Shabwah eventually spreading throughout IRG-areas. A second wave (acknowledged in both DFA and IRG) was declared in March 2024.

The total number of cases recorded between 1 January and 29 April 2024 across all 22 governorates is now estimated to be around 30,000. While the majority of these cases are concentrated in DFA-controlled regions of the country, there has also been a noticeable increase in AWD/ suspected cholera cases in IRG areas since the end of March.

According to the April OCHA Humanitarian update, the number of suspected cases is reportedly rising by 500-1,000 cases each day. In one projection, health partners anticipate that the total number of cases could range from 133,000 to 255,000 by September 2024. Agencies and cluster partners are facing challenges of limited funding availability, supply shortages, limited prepositioning in northern areas, poor WASH infrastructure in communities and health facilities, and a reluctance by some populations to seek care.

Across the country (in both IRG and DFA areas), Health and WASH partners estimate up to 960,000 individuals, including 137,000 severe cases, will need to be supported with preventative and curative services in the next six months. The countrywide, multisectoral response plan requires \$28 million to effectively manage, monitor, and prevent the spread of cholera and AWD.

IOM RESPONSE OVERVIEW

In coordination with the Health and WASH clusters, humanitarian partners and the Cholera Taskforce, IOM continues to respond to the outbreak of AWD and cholera through its Migration Health and WASH programmes. IOM remains a critical partner, supporting Coordination, Surveillance, Case Management, and Risk Communication and Risk Engagement activities to mitigate address and mitigate the AWD/cholera outbreak.

Building upon efforts during the first wave, IOM has continued to advocate for migrants' equal access to health in close coordination with the national Cholera Taskforce, Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP), protection/health/WASH clusters, and OCHA. As part of these efforts, in March 2024, IOM conducted a high-level consultation meeting to discuss broad issues and challenges faced by migrants in seeking essential healthcare services with 40 health partners including the senior officers of MoPHP, directors of GHOs, and representatives from UN agencies and INGOs. In the meeting, participants acknowledge the critical importance of migrants' equal access to health including the disease preparedness and response initiatives.

The Organization's efforts continue to focus on supporting an effective public health response that contributes to ensuring all people in need, regardless of status, have access to medical treatment, safe water, and hygiene items. Since early January 2024, IOM scaled up integrated health/WASH activities in Shabwah (Raddum and Habban districts), a key area along the migrant route. To ensure migrants in the area has access to essential services, IOM has installed emergency water points, communal latrines, developed information, education and communication (IEC) materials in language most commonly spoken by migrants.

As part of its response across several governorates, the Organization is supporting eight diarrhea treatment centers and 20 Oral Rehydration Corners (ORCs) across Sana'a, Sa'dah, Aden, Lahj, Ma'rib and Ta'iz in addition to supporting enhanced access to water supply and water treatment, sanitation facilities and essential hygiene items. IOM also continues to support public health facilities with essential equipment, supplies, medicine and operation support to enhance access to services in addition to a multisectoral response to meet WASH, Protection, Cash, Shelter, and Health needs across 91 IOM-managed displacement sites in Al Hodeidah, Ibb, Ta'iz and Ma'rib.



Community members gather around as IOM teams provide hands-on training on treating water to combat cholera. IOM/Majed Mohammed 2024

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