

SITUATION REPORT JANUARY 2021



As part of the mobile medical team, an IOM doctor provides emergency health assistance to a newly arrived migrant on the Lahj coast, as the translator interprets © Giles Clarke/UNOCHA 2020



130,322

Individuals provided with hygiene kits, relief items & clean water



17,130

Primary health care consultations conducted



6,563

Migrants received humanitarian assistance

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Moving into 2021, after six years of armed conflict, the people of Yemen continue to suffer through the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The conflict has directly led to more than 233,000 deaths, including more than 3,000 children, since it began, according to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In January, the conflict continued to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants and host communities. Civilians are bearing the brunt of devastating impact of [renewed hostilities](#), seeing their homes and community infrastructure damaged, and being forced to flee to safety. Hostilities were mainly concentrated along frontlines in Al Jawf, Al Hodeidah, Ma'rib, Ta'iz, Abyan, Ibb and Ad Dali' governorates. Access obstacles were a consistent trend throughout 2020 particularly in the north and continued into January 2021. During the reporting period, staff movements and transportation of relief items for all agencies and international NGOs remained obstructed by permit denials or additional ad hoc bureaucratic requirements often imposed without prior communication. As of January, over 70 NGO projects targeting over 4.7 million people were pending sub-agreement approval by the authorities. In the same month, the United States designated Ansar Allah (AA) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) — the designation was subsequently revoked after the new U.S. administration was sworn in and following advocacy from humanitarian actors that such an action could accelerate Yemen's slide into large-scale food insecurity and hinder other life-saving activities.

Over 2,500 migrants [are estimated to have entered the country in January](#) — many of whom are unable to access basic services are in dire need of food, shelter, health and protection assistance, putting further pressure on host communities and public services. IOM continues to advocate for migrants' rights in Yemen and provide emergency assistance to those transiting through and stranded in the country. The Organization estimates that thousands of migrants became stranded in Yemen after the imposition of COVID-19 movement restrictions across the Gulf and the Horn of Africa. There is increasing constraints on migrants' traditional coping mechanisms such as support from the communities hosting them. IOM has so far registered over 6,000 migrants (500 in January) in Aden who wish to return home through the Organization's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.

By the end of January, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 in Yemen reached 2,117, with 613 fatalities. The full extent of the spread of the virus is still unknown ten months after the announcement of the first positive case, due to limited testing and reporting, particularly in northern governorates.

HEALTH

In January, IOM carried out over 17,130 health consultations, including 2,163 with migrants, through 12 health facilities in Aden, Sana'a City, Lahj and Ma'rib. IOM coordinated with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and relevant Governorate Health Offices (GHOs) to begin or resume support for seven additional health facilities in Shabwah, Lahj and Ta'iz.

On 31 January, IOM Yemen received six GeneXpert testing machines and liaised with the Health Cluster and relevant authorities to begin using the machines in areas that needed them the most, located far from laboratories. IOM also distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) at Al-Hosoun Hospital, Ma'rib governorate. IOM supported the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) to transport 238,008 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to 11 priority districts in Hadramout governorate targeting 476,016 beneficiaries.



17,130 Health care consultations conducted



277 Cholera cases treated



At the clinic in Al Jufainah Camp, Marib, an IOM doctor carries out a health consultation with a woman and her malnourished child © IOM 2020

CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Moving into 2021, IOM continued to provide CCCM support in 67 IDP hosting sites, carrying out site improvements, coordinating service delivery to IDPs, conducting community mobilization and committee empowerment activities, in addition to the installation of solar panels.

In Ma'rib, IOM's CCCM team conducted risk reduction activities to ensure safe and reliable access to electricity for 213 households, with activities ongoing to reach an additional 162 families. As part of fire mitigation measures, the CCCM team identified and trained 28 women fire-wardens in Al Jufainah Camp. Another 92 (86 men and 6 women) fire-wardens were identified in nine IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib Al Wadi district and will receive training next month.



101,866 Displaced households supported in 67 sites

In Ibb, IOM rehabilitated Al-Waqeer B IDP hosting site to improve living conditions for 36 residents. The works included the provision and construction of concrete floor finishing, windows, steel doors, handrails and zinc roofing. As part of livelihood opportunity initiatives for IDPs, IOM's CCCM team provided 30 sewing machines and trained 85 female IDPs on various sewing methods. IOM also installed solar panels in four sites in Ibb to support 280 IDP families' access to essential electricity, and works are ongoing to install panels in an additional 28 sites in Ibb and Ta'iz. In Ta'iz, seven community centres have been established in 10 sites, which will be used by IOM and the community members for capacity-building trainings and community engagement activities, benefiting 9,060 people. As part of efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 in 32 IDP hosting sites across Yemen, IOM's CCCM team supported 150 displaced women, in 12 displacement sites, in the production of 4,690 face masks, which were distributed along with 343 community shielding kits and mosquito nets.

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

As conflict and displacement trends continue in 2021, IOM is prepositioning the Multi-sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline in key hubs and providing shelter and non-food items to vulnerable groups and affected populations in Yemen. In January, IOM transported 13,750 blankets, 1,500 plastic sheets, and 1,400 mattresses to Ma'rib governorate, and 6,000 plastic sheets and 5,000 blankets to Sana'a governorate, in addition to 20,000 blanket, 12,000 plastic sheets to Ibb, Sa'dah and Hajjah to serve as contingency stocks in both locations in case of emergency.

As part of IOM's transitional shelter activities, the S-NFI team conducted beneficiary verification for transitional shelter support with 927 households from 16 IDP hosting sites in Ta'iz. In Ma'rib, 850 households were also registered for transitional shelter support in six sites. In partnership with the IOM CCCM team, 533 blankets and 533 mattresses were provided to 108 IDP households in Ibb. The S-NFI teams continued to support newly displaced families in Ma'rib with a total of 443 humanitarian relief items, distributed to 316 households from the Multi-sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline.



148 Households provided with emergency shelter materials



403 Households provided with humanitarian relief items



IOM distributes essential household items to newly displaced people in Marib © IOM 2021

CASH

With the continued decline of the Yemeni Rial (YER) against the dollar in the south, access to commodities remains a challenge faced by many displaced and host community members. IOM provides multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to newly displaced families with extremely limited economic resources to help them meet their basic needs and reduce their reliance on negative coping mechanisms especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. MPCA is considered as an ideal response mechanism for its recognized effective and harmonized coordination structure. IOM is co-lead of the Rapid Response Mechanism in Yemen and in January, supported 398 displaced households with MPCA (YER 117,000 per family) in Abyan, Al Hodeidah, Hajjah, and Ta'iz. The cash transfers were conducted by an established financial service provider identified and contracted by IOM.

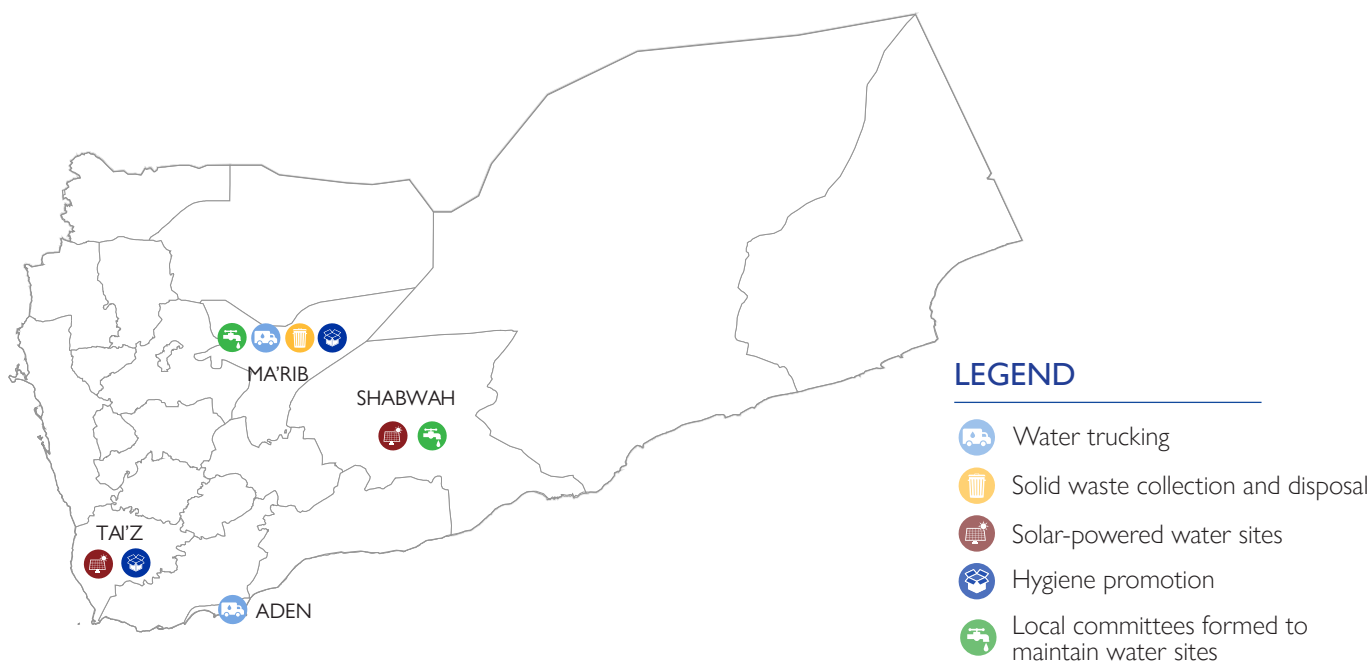


398 Displaced families supported through cash assistance

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In Ma'rib, IOM provided vulnerable displaced communities with 8.7 million litres of safe water through vouchers and water trucking across 12 displacement sites. To further improve access to water, IOM also provided 792 water tanks to 4,752 displaced people and established 22 water points for an additional 12,054 IDPs in Ma'rib. IOM completed its rehabilitation of water systems in three sites and installation of solar power systems in Shabwah and Ta'iz governorates, benefiting a total of 24,696 people from displaced and host communities. The team also conducted house-to-house hygiene promotion sessions and cleaning campaigns for 1,089 displaced households.

In January, IOM continued its hygiene promotion and waste management activities, supporting vulnerable groups with hygiene kits, soap and long-lasting insecticidal nets as protective measures against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in Ma'rib. IOM's hygiene promotion teams conducted hygiene promotion sessions for 8,078 IDPs in Ta'iz, as well as for 500 migrants in Bin Mualli site, Ma'rib. To promote community ownership and accountability to affected populations, IOM continued forming community water and sanitation management committees and provided capacity building to the elected members. In Shabwah, a three-day operation and maintenance capacity building training was conducted for six committee members to maintain the water sites under their responsibility. Another 70 committee members were elected in displacement sites in Ma'rib and will receive training in the coming month.



IN FOCUS HELPING A WORKING MUM SPEND MORE TIME WITH HER CHILDREN



Alhan filling jerrycans with water from the water tank supported by IOM and KSA next to her shelter in the displacement site © IOM 2020

“Before we fled Jabal Habashy district in Ta’iz governorate, we lived in a house and we had farm animals, which meant that we could make a good living,” said Alhan, a 28-year-old single mother currently displaced in Al Beerain displacement site, located within the same governorate as the district which she fled from. When fighting reached their doorstep three years ago, Alhan and her family had to leave their home to travel over 26 kilometres to safety. They brought as many of their farm animals as they could.

Since then, life has not been easy for Alhan. Deserted by her husband, she had to raise and provide for her four young daughters alone by selling clothes in villages near the displacement site. When the family arrived at the site, they quickly realized that living there would be nothing like home. A major lack of water was plaguing all of the site’s residents. The closest water source was a farm well, which was about a two-hour walk away. Each day, mostly women and children had to rise early to make the long journey, only to then stand in a queue for another three to four hours waiting to fill their 20-litre jerry cans. The walk back to the site carrying the heavy jerry cans was always a challenge.

Alhan described her exhausting daily routine: “I sell clothes for a merchant and receive a daily wage. My day would start by leaving my daughters at the site and taking a ride to the merchant’s store in Al Nashmah city. I choose the pieces I will sell, then I take another ride to nearby cities to sell the clothes. I would go home around 1 pm and start cooking food for my daughters. Then I would go fetch water and be gone until 5 pm or 6 pm. I had been doing this for three years in a row.” Having to work and then collect water, Alhan was concerned about how long she was leaving her four young daughters alone at their shelter; the oldest is only 13. It was a daily struggle for her to find a neighbour to watch over her children while she was away.

IOM responded to the Al Beerain displacement site’s water needs and began trucking water to seven established water points across the site, giving nearly 225 families easy and safe access to water. This not only solved the water problem, it also helped create peace among the residents. With water now available, Alhan can spend more time with her daughters, while also being able to work to provide for them. Having to spend less of her day fetching water, she was also able to buy a cow, which is now seven months’ pregnant and in good health. “We cannot survive without water, and we always pray that the water support continues. We feel happy that we have water, and it feels more like home now,” added Alhan.

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

The transition and recovery team continued activities in Ma'rib, Lahj, Aden and Hadramawt. In Ma'rib, the team completed technical assessments for 26 community-based infrastructure projects, including schools, health facilities and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. The team also commenced consultations with local stakeholders in Ma'rib on capacity building activities, which will be carried out by IOM to complete the infrastructure projects.

Technical assessments for four schools in Aden and three in Lahj were completed for the schools' rehabilitation, and expansion. By adding new classrooms, more children will have access to education in displacement affected communities as the schools are currently overcrowded, turning away students from enrolling. In Hadramawt, cash-for-work activities to rehabilitate the Wadi Thibi water channel under a joint project with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were started.



Technical assessments for **26** community-based infrastructure projects completed



Works are underway to complete the construction of a primary school to become the study destination for 600 IDP children near Al Jufainah camp, Marib © Elham AL-OQABI/IOM 2021

PROTECTION

IOM provides lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable migrants in Yemen, including the provision of food, water, health assistance and other basic humanitarian services through its Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and mobile protection teams. In January, 500 migrants were registered for Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) at the Aden Migrant Response Point, which brings the total number of people registered since October 2020 to 6,000. Of the 1,100 Ethiopian migrants who went through a nationality verification exercise in December 2020, IOM received travel documents for 600 migrants and registered them for VHR. In Aden city, preparations continued to resume the cash-for-work cleaning campaign that will target stranded migrants awaiting VHR and IDPs.

In Ma'rib, the protection team conducted a training on psychosocial support with four playground guards in Al Jufainah Camp. The training aimed to orient the guards working in the playgrounds on child protection best practices to ensure the safety of the children using the playgrounds. The training also included communication methods with children and knowledge on the protection referral pathways. In addition, the team supported 318 IDPs and 1,608 migrants through individual case management assistance, including shelter, cash for protection and NFIs.



6,242 migrants received protection assistance



318 IDPs received protection assistance

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

Moving into 2021, Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) activities continued in the 13 governorates in which IOM has access. From 1 to 31 January, IOM tracked 3,672 displaced individuals mainly within and to Ad Dali', Ta'iz, Ma'rib and Al Hodeidah governorates.

A total of 2,500 migrants were recorded through flow monitoring points during the first month of 2021. When compared against migrant arrivals in December 2020 (2,035), the number of migrant arrivals in January 2021 was comparable, with an increase in recorded inflows of 23 per cent. IOM recorded migrant arrivals through flow monitoring points in Lahj, Shabwah and Hadramawt governorates, with the majority originating from Ethiopia (90%) and Somalia (10%).



2,500 Migrant arrivals in January 2021



3,672 Displaced individuals tracked in January

Find all DTM reports on displacement and migration [here](#).

IOM YEMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY 2021 WERE SUPPORTED BY

