

MA'RIB RESPONSE

28 APRIL-15 MAY 2021



A displaced boy stands in the structure of a shelter in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

SITUATION OVERVIEW

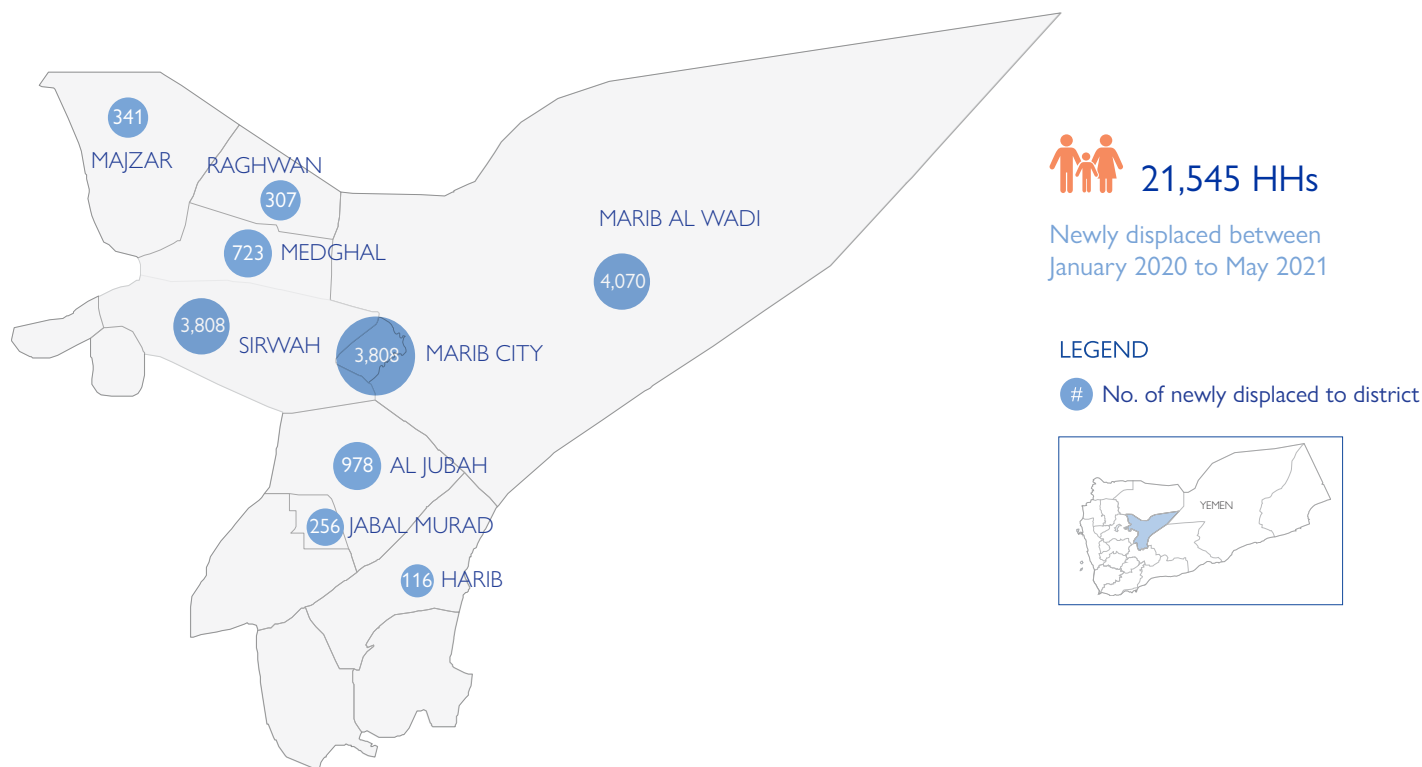
Over the past two weeks, conflict trends in Ma'rib have remained relatively the same with fighting concentrated across north-west, west and south-west of Ma'rib city; affecting people in Sirwah district the most. IOM teams have recorded more than 2,650 households (HHs) becoming displaced from or within the Sirwah district since February 2021, and in the first two weeks of May, 121 HHs within Sirwah alone. In total, some 2,912 HHs (20,384 individuals) are estimated to have been displaced across the governorate since February 2021. These numbers reflect those that have been registered by Rapid Response Mechanism teams, and reports indicate that the figures could be higher, as IOM continues to record new arrivals across various sites.

The rate of displacement is concerning, as the humanitarian and protection situation spirals and heavy rains are expected in the coming weeks. The types of shelters in some internally displaced persons (IDP) hosting sites (a majority being tents) will likely not withstand heavy storms and partners anticipate a further widening of shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) gaps. IOM and partners estimate that the forecasted heavy rains and flooding will affect at least 90 per cent of IDPs living in formal/informal sites. In Al Sowayda IDP site, where the majority of the IDPs from Al Mil area in Sirwah are settling, there are large WASH and health gaps. The IDP site was affected by heavy storms in April when at least 512 shelters were destroyed. Since then, families who lost their household items and belongings are residing in makeshift shelters or sharing with others, relying on neighbourly support to survive. In addition to the need for an immediate shelter response, the site requires urgent flood risk reduction installations.

As IDPs continue to flee conflict affected areas, local authorities are directing IDPs to less crowded districts in the governorate, and there are some reports of larger groups of IDPs being stopped from leaving Sirwah by security actors. As of 9 May 2021, IOM estimates that the conflict has forced 21,545 HHs (150,815 people) to leave their homes or displacement sites since January 2020, mainly moving to safe areas in Ma'rib City, Ma'rib Al Wady, Sirwah and Al Juba districts. Meanwhile, as IDP hosting sites like Al Jufainah (the largest in the country) become more and more crowded, fire incidents have become more common. Al Jufainah, which hosts 9,580¹ IDP HH (up from 3,000 in March 2019) has experienced four fire incidents so far in May, and nine incidents in total this year, with six reported deaths. IOM continues to work, together with partners, to train community volunteers on fire prevention, provide IDPs with fire extinguishers, and improve the faulty electricity network, which is one of the most common causes. However, the increasing number of fire incidents is also widening shelter gaps here and in other sites in Ma'rib Al Wadi. If gaps in WASH, food, shelter, and health assistance continue to go unmet and are compounded by the conflict and extreme weather-related events, living conditions for IDPs will only continue to deteriorate to even more extreme levels.

¹ IOM IDP Site Profile report Jan 2021

DISPLACEMENT SITUATION



People in Need



161,451

45% of IDPs with no access to health services

95% of IDP hosting sites with no access to reliable waste management systems

78% of IDPs lack some form of civil documentation

60% of IDPs in need of shelter and NFI support

IDP hosting sites have been impacted by armed violence in Ma'rib, affecting women and children at an unprecedented rate. There are reduced livelihood opportunities and female-headed households are estimated to be impacted more by the limited access to basic services. IOM's protection team has received reports of exploitation of children who are being used as labourers to support the family needs, and more women are forced to beg in the streets, also increasing the rate of gender-based violence.

On displacement trends, although a majority of people displaced by the recent escalation have moved mostly within Sirwah, smaller numbers are fleeing to Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi. The preference for Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi is reported to be due to access to more livelihood opportunities and humanitarian assistance, with there being some open spaces where IDPs can erect shelters (particularly in Marib Al Wadi). There are some reports of people attempting to move from Sirwah to Ma'rib city in large groups, for example, groups of more than 10 HHs, being stopped by security actors. Other than Sirwah, people are also being displaced from and within Raghwan, Rahabah, and Madghal districts due to the fighting at those battles lines. In fact, as a result of ongoing conflict-related displacement since February 2021, 31 new IDP sites have opened: four in Al Jubah, three in Raghwan, 20 in Al Wadi, and four in Ma'rib city.

Along with conflict-driven needs, IDPs are at risk of being impacted by the upcoming rainy season. During the same season last year, IDP sites in Sirwah were severely affected by flooding: the Danah area (now evacuated due to proximity to fighting), for example, was impacted by rising water levels in the Marib dam², while Al Rawdah area sites affected by some spillover from the dam. Across 19 sites in Al Wadi and in Ma'rib city, IOM has carried out a number of site improvement and flood protection interventions –establishing for example flood gabion walls, rainwater drainage systems – more is needed to fully mitigate risks and a number of sites remain with significant gaps. Despite the mitigation works that have taken place, risks still exist. In Al Suwaydah for example, if heavy rains are experienced a strong runoff would cause severe flooding.

² YEMEN Imagery analysis: 5 August 2020 | Published 17 August 2020 | Version 1.0

STRANDED MIGRANTS

In the beginning of May, small groups of women migrants arrived from Shabwah. During their journey, several women reported that they were abused/exploited by the smugglers who were accompanying them. Upon arrival in Ma'rib, migrant women are often kept in small rooms in Al Husoon (neighborhood in Ma'rib Al Wadi) that are operated by the smugglers. The conditions in these dwellings are poor; there is no access to adequate sanitation, and they are at risk of contracting COVID-19 or other diseases due to the crowded nature of the rooms. They are also malnourished and have limited access to basic necessities. The migrant population in Al Husoon is now estimated to be 600, 180 of which are women held by smugglers, the remaining are men who are living in makeshift shelters. In total, IOM estimates that some 5,000 migrants are stranded in Marib.

As has been the case for the last few months, some migrants arriving in Ma'rib are also staying in Batha Bin Mueyli, which is a transit settlement where IOM provides basic assistance, including WASH, NFI, and protection services. Often the women are moved by the smugglers from Al Husoon to Batha Bin Mueyli after a period of time to free up space in Al Husoon for new arrivals. Al Husoon is an easier environment for smugglers to control migrants and is thus better suited for exploitation (extortions and sexual abuse). However, some migrants, both men and women, come directly to Batha Bin Mueyli. So far in 2021, IOM estimates that there have been around 650 new migrant arrivals into Ma'rib. Some 51 migrants are estimated to have arrived in the first two weeks of May alone.

Despite increased border security, some migrants are still attempting to make the journey into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. So far in May, IOM estimates that at least 50 migrants have left Ma'rib, many of whom are women to travel to the border, while some 350 migrants have attempted to make the journey this year.

In this context, protection concerns for migrants are mounting, and many continue to seek options to return home. IOM is providing WASH, protection, health and shelter services, and continuing small-scale food distributions, but the Organization cannot cover all needs. Humanitarian partners working in food security, in particular, are needed to assist migrants, stranded migrants do not have currently have access to the same food assistance as IDPs and migrants have limited alternatives/social networks for their food security.



Migrant women collect water at a settlement in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

ADVOCACY POINTS

1. IOM continues to call for partners to provide a dedicated response in Ma'rib. There are widespread, acute humanitarian needs that are not being met, and at the same time, displacement forecasted in 2020 is currently occurring and placing increased pressure on partners and local authorities. IOM, in line with humanitarian preparedness plans, anticipates further shocks and increased gaps in the months to come. IOM operates a shared humanitarian hub and can provide logistical support and office space to facilitate partner response.
2. 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 that have influence should continue to advocate against an escalation of hostilities.

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS


IOM has a team of 18 international and 125 national support and programme staff in Ma'rib as well as nearly 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 WASH sub-national cluster, Ma'rib-based focal point of the protection cluster, and as S-NFI Contingency Pipeline Manager.



Displaced people speak with a doctor as part of IOM's mobile health response in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

 **7,770**
Shelters provided

 **8,786**
NFI kits distributed

 **19,608**
Plastic sheets

 **1,583**
Latrines constructed

 **128,782,700**
Litres of safe drinking water
provided since Jan 2020

 **5,448**
family water tanks
(500L) were distributed

 **1**
Primary school
under construction

*Response updates from 21 January 2020 to 12 May 2021

IOM & PARTNER COVERAGE³



SITE CARE & SITE MAINTENANCE

- **16,836 households in 24 IDP hosting sites** receiving site management support; 83 IDP hosting sites (12,105 IDP HHs), are not supported by site management and coordination partners.
- **9,000 HHs** are benefiting from electrical improvements in Ma'rib city's largest displacement site Al Jufainah Camp. In addition, IOM reached to 752 HH with household electrical improvement for risk reduction and fire mitigation in 4 IDP hosting site. Additional sites will be assessed by IOM teams for upcoming intervention.
- **1 entrance road to Al Jufainah Camp** has been improved to facilitate access.
- **12 IDPs sites** in Sirwah, Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al-Wadi districts targeted for flood risk reduction activities: Embankments, flood ways constructed, damaged roads repaired.
- **110 IDP HHs from marginalized communities** have been relocated from the flood valley to a secure site within Al Jufainah Camp.
- **8 community centres and 12 playgrounds** in Ma'rib City, Al-Wadi and Sirwah districts to improve living conditions completed. And an additional 8 community centres are under construction.
- **182 HH** benefited from Sanitary facility improvement (plumbing repair) in Al Sharika IDP camp in addition to the provision of shelter repair materials
- **1 Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC)** office space rehabilitated and expanded to accommodate local authorities, clusters meetings and agencies offices.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- **11 IDP hosting sites (4,761 HH)** received 8,328,500 liters of water for drinking and household use daily.
- **11 IDP hosting sites (12,210 HH)** benefitted from regular waste collection since 19 October. 2,052 m³ of waste removed during the last two weeks.
- **As part of RRM response, 2,556 soaps and 213 LLINs** distributed in 12 IDP sites targeting 71 HH- 401 individuals.
- **625 Consumable Hygiene Kit** distributed in 1 IDP site targeting 625 HHs.
- **2 family water tanks (500L)** distributed in 2 IDP sites for 2 HHs.
- **5 WASH committees, including 32 participants,** trained on maintenance of water systems
- **4 IDP sites in Sirwah with large WASH gaps** as: 761 new latrines needed and 556 latrines to be rehabilitated for the 1,642 newly displaced families registered in Al Suwayda, Arak, Al Ajama and Al Rawda sites.

³ Details on the coverage of needs and gaps are based on IOM analyses and estimations in locations the Organization is present

HEALTH

- **1 fixed clinic and 5 mobile outreach teams** are covering 36 IDP hosting sites and 3 migrants sites (Hygiene fund, Al-Hadbaa and Bin Mueyli), carrying out 1,700 consultations per week on average.
- **2 secondary healthcare facilities** are supported through human and material resources to enable the provision of health services to IDPs, migrants and host communities.
- **6,500 health consultations** carried out on average in IDPs and migrants sites, including 350 reproductive health services.
- **2 quarantine centres** established and equipped in Al Jufainah and in Al-Marda IDP hosting sites and handed over the Ministry of Public Health and Population.
- **25,749 newly displaced persons** received emergency health services, including 5704 children under the age of 5 screened for malnutrition, and 852 of them referred for nutritional support.
- **1,816 newly displaced children** reached with routine vaccination, and 2459 pregnant women reached with ante-natal care.
- **1 testing machine** installed in humanitarian hub for COVID-19 testing, assisting the Ma'rib Central Lab with PCR testing.



Health workers in Ma'rib take part in a training held by IOM ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

PROTECTION

- **683 IDPs** registered and identified as vulnerable in Ma'rib Al Wadi and Ma'rib city.
- **219 IDPs provided with Shelter Kits**, 100 were supplied with NFI Kits, 384 were supplied with protection cash assistance and 18 received baby kits.
- **22 IDPs referred for health services**, 21 were Referred for MHPSS and PSS, 12 referred for special services and 30 received awareness sessions.
- **654 migrants** newly registered.
- **9,461 food kits** distributed (2,150 in the last week), 1,021 NFI Kits, 143 dignity kits, 366 hygiene kits, 115 blankets and 39 baby kits distributed.
- **124 migrants received protection cash assistance** and 27 received cash for work.
- **715 referred to health services**, **12 migrants** were referred to MHPSS and PSS, and 186 received awareness sessions.

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI) AND RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

- **2 RRM partners** (IOM and BFD) responding to the emergency needs of newly displaced persons inside and outside IDP hosting sites in 5 districts including (Ma'rib city, Al-Wadi, Al-Jubah, Harib and Sirwah). Additional resources for frontline RRM activities are needed to sustain the RRM response.
- **61 RRM kits** were distributed to new 61 IDP HHs (427 individuals).
- **2,637 newly displaced households** received emergency shelter kits (ESK), tents, non-food items (NFIs) and emergency latrines through IOM's nationwide multi-sectorial contingency pipeline.
- **19,471 HHs received ESKs, NFI** and family tents since January 2020.
- **3,661 HH supported with cash for shelter rehabilitations** and 200 Transitional shelters were constructed.
- **761 HH received Cash for Emergency Shelter rehabilitation** in 4 IDPs sites, however this is only covering 3% of the required shelter rehabilitation need in Ma'rib. More than 97% of the shelters in the IDPs sites in Ma'rib is expected to be affected by rain season.
- **203 NFIs and 203 tents** being distributed to IDPs in Al Jawf sites through an implementing partner.



A elderly displaced man sits with the shelter items he received from IOM ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY



From
the People of Japan



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

