COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE
28 JUNE-11 JULY 2020

2020
IOM Yemen Consolidated Appeal* | 155 MILLION USD | 5 MILLION People
*inclusive of COVID response

Migrants stranded in Aden city congregate in the shade of a building under construction near the IOM migrant response point © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1,520 Reported Cases | 687 Reported Recovered | 430 Reported Deaths

Hadramaut, Aden and Taizz governorates continue to report the highest number of COVID-19 cases. However, IOM and the humanitarian community is operating based on the assumption that there is widespread community level transmission across the country, particularly in view of limited community level suppression measures, testing capacity and access to treatment services, as well as perceived stigma and risks related to seeking care. Yemen’s fuel crisis is further limiting hospital and water operations, and the economic impacts of the outbreak is already evident in the effects of the massive decline in financial transfers into this remittance dependent country. As humanitarian assistance increasingly becomes a lifeline for many, resources are needed to scale up response activities during this critical time. At more than halfway through the year, IOM Yemen’s Consolidated Appeal is 55 per cent funded.
IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams continue to monitor country wide COVID-19 movement restrictions. Five international airports, thirteen sea border points and three land border points remain closed to civilian movements, and 10 transit points are active in Taizz and Al Bayda. Of the five closed airports, three have been opened to humanitarian flights and returning Yemenis.

**COVID-19 AND DISPLACEMENT**

IOM Yemen’s Displacement Tracking Matrix has recorded 138 new displacements (households) between 01 and 11 July 2020, bringing the number of households displaced since the start of 2020 to 16,913 households (or 101,478 Individuals). While a majority of recent displacements caused by conflict activities in areas like Al Hudaydah and Taizz, IOM has also recorded incidents of people moving as a result of COVID-19 fears. Between 05 and 11 July, 25 households moved from Aden, bringing the total number of people who have cited COVID-19 as a reason for displacement to 665 households mainly to Lahj, Al Dhale and Abyan governorates. Across governorates where IOM supports IDP populations, formal movement restrictions continue to vary, with restrictions on new arrivals and visitors to IDP camps in the north, while sites in the south remain open with limited restrictions on both visitors and humanitarian staff entering those sites. Markets remain open in many areas, though curfews are being implemented at varying levels nationwide. Restrictions on access to medical facilities and employment opportunities in relation to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions remain the key concerns for IDP populations.

**COVID-19 MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS**

![Map showing COVID-19 mobility restrictions in Yemen](image)

**LEGEND**

- Land Border Point
- Air Port
- Sea Border Point
- Unofficial Land Border
- Unofficial Sea Border
- Curfew (240, 100, 50, 25)
- COVID-19 cases reported

*Border points are partially closed, with exceptions for humanitarian cargo and humanitarian flights into Aden.*
The situation for migrants in Yemen continues to be dire. Movement restrictions have meant that a majority of migrants who intended to pass through Yemen to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are trapped in areas impacted by conflict and lacking access to basic services, shelter or livelihood opportunities. The COVID-19 outbreak has also led to an erosion of coping mechanisms that migrants traditionally would rely on, such as support from local community members for food, water and employment, etc. At the same time, migrants are being turned away from health facilities, due to increased stigmatization of migrants as carriers of COVID-19 and the already overwhelmed health capacities. Several incidents of harassment, forced relocations, arbitrary arrests and detention of migrants continue to be recorded at unprecedented levels. While an estimated 7,000 migrants remain stranded at the border between Yemen and KSA under dire conditions, migrants have also reportedly been rounded up and held in detention centres across northern governorates, before being transferred to southern governorates. As a result, there is a growing number of migrants stranded in Aden and in need to humanitarian assistance. With the mounting migration challenges, it is clear that the situation of migrants is perilous. Where IOM has access, such as in Aden and Marib, activities are ongoing to support vulnerable migrants. In Aden, a cash-for-work cleaning campaign will be carried out to provide migrants with the means to cope with the crisis, and efforts are ongoing to increase migrants access to health services and shelter solutions. With a majority of stranded migrants being Ethiopian, IOM continues to advocate at the regional level for the resumption of IOM’s Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme.

KEY TRENDS
1. Significant reduction in the number of new arrivals in Yemen;
2. Increase in barriers to movement resulting in static migrant populations;
3. Reduction in available work and other coping mechanisms as well as limited access to health care;
4. Increase in the stigmatization and harassment;
5. Arrests, detention and forced relocations/deportations.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRATION
IOM’S KEY ADVOCACY POINTS

1. COVID-19 should not be exploited to instrumentalize national security priorities like migrant encampment, detention, relocation or deportation;
2. Humanitarians must be granted unconditional access to all populations in need;
3. Migrants in detention should be released;
4. Stranded migrants must be given safe passage and protection;
5. Voluntary Humanitarian Return flights should be resumed as an immediate measure to address the life-threatening conditions migrants are facing;

A stranded Ethiopian migrant sleeping on cardboard in an abandoned building in Aden city © R. Ibrahim/IOM 2020
IOM’S RESPONSE

Since March, IOM has quickly scaled up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities to meet the needs of mobile populations – displaced persons and migrants – and the communities hosting them. IOM’s multi-sectoral humanitarian activities are ongoing through nine mobile health and protection teams and 32 health facilities across the country and in 63 internally displaced persons (IDP) hosting sites.

**RESPONSE TARGETS**

**RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

378,000 TARGET POP.

**CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

150,000 TARGET POP.

**ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT**

50,000 TARGET POP.

**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

150,000 TARGET POP.

**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT**

51,000 TARGET POP.

**DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX**

1,100,000 TARGET POP.

**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**

120,000 TARGET POP.

**PROTECTION**

86,000 TARGET POP.

---

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE VULNERABILITY SCORE PER DISTRICT**

* Yemen CCCM Cluster

---

**LEGEND**

- IOM Head Office
- IOM Sub-Office

**IOM SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES AND IDP HOSTING SITES BY GOVERNORATE**

- Primary Healthcare Centres
- Secondary Health Centres
- Mobile Medical/Outreach Teams
- IDP Hosting Sites
CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

IOM is providing support to 22 health facilities and nine mobile health teams across Abyan, Al Jawf, Aden, Al Baydah, Al Dhale’e, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib, Sa’ada, Shabwah and Taizz governorates. Through these health facilities, 15,785 people (including 2,654 migrants) received health services, ensuring that primary health care, cholera treatment, mental health and psychosocial support as well as minor and major surgeries are accessible to affected populations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

IOM is scaling up IPC support in displacement sites: IOM teams have distributed 1,885 basic hygiene kits in 15 IDP sites in Abyan and established 30 handwashing stations in 5 IDP hosting sites in the governorate (hosting 664 households). In total, 160 handwashing stations have been set up in displacement sites across Ibb, Taizz and Abyan. Water trucking activities in 59 sites in Al Hudaydah and Taizz are also ensuring that 8,340 people have access to clean and safe water on a daily basis.

CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM and partners are carrying out COVID-19 vulnerability surveys in Marib, which has reached 10,994 households so far. In addition to scaling up RCCE activities in displacement sites, the IOM CCCM team has initiated a mask production project with IDPs in 22 sites in Ibb governorate.

PROTECTION

IOM has provided aid items and food to 3,127 migrants and 89 IDPs in Aden, Marib and Sana’a through IOM migrant response points and mobile teams.
IOM is implementing various livelihood and capacity building initiatives in conflict affected communities. In Marib and Hadramaut governorates, cash for work activities have supported 670 people, and small grants and vocational training activities are underway to support 675 people. IOM and partners are also kickstarting small scale PPE manufacturing projects in Hadramaut: so far, 20 women have been trained on mask making.

ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT

7 million people reached in target governorates

1,057 hygiene promotion sessions

1,885 hygiene kits distributed

RCCE activities on the ground reached 18,268 IDPs and 2,056 migrants across 10 governorates. Additionally, a radio advert which IOM ran on 28 radio stations across 11 governorates was played three days a day for 15 days and reached an estimated audience of 7 million people.