

## SITUATION REPORT APRIL 2020


**83,751**

 Health consultations  
 conducted

**5,047**

 Households benefiting  
 from solid waste  
 management

**5,175**

 Households provided  
 with emergency shelter  
 materials

*Health worker takes part in an IOM infection prevention and control training focusing on COVID-19 response ©IOM 2020/ RAMI IBRAHIM*

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

With the announcement of the first positive COVID-19 case in Yemen on 10 April, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) scaled up its prevention and response activities. As of 30 April, Yemen had reported six cases with zero confirmed deaths. However, the humanitarian community in Yemen is working under the assumption that COVID-19 has been spreading fast across the country. As a result of COVID-19 fears, migrants are facing increased protection risks. Thousands have found themselves stranded and a rising number face crowded conditions that do not meet public health standards in transit and detention centres or forced quarantine. IOM, in its lead role of the Refugee, Migrant Multi-Sector (RMMS), has been working closely with humanitarian partners to monitor trends of stigmatization, violence and detention of migrants, while coordinating a response, and scaling up protection assistance as well as advocacy efforts.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams have monitored several country wide COVID-19 movement restrictions, including the closure/partial closure of five international airports, twelve sea border points and three land border points. In addition to the restricted movements between governorates and curfews in many, there are severe operational restrictions in northern governorates. In April, 45 per cent of IOM permits to implement activities in northern governorates were not approved; this was much higher (75 per cent) for requests to travel between governorates. This is a worrying trend as humanitarian programming needs to continue to address vulnerabilities that will only be further exacerbated by COVID-19 (see [IOM's COVID Response Update](#) for more information).

[IOM remains committed to maintaining operations](#) and delivering assistance throughout the pandemic – the Organization has activated its Business Continuity Plan and is working within the UN system to ensure international staff are able to rotate in and out of the country, with five staff rotating out in April.<sup>1</sup>

Along with scaling up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities, IOM continued to respond to the displacement crisis in Marib governorate, now in its third month. The Organization provided lifesaving assistance to approximately 50,000 displaced persons since the start of the crisis (for more information on the situation in Marib, see [IOM's Marib Displacement Update](#)).

<sup>1</sup> Please note that international staff were able to be rotated back into Yemen in May.

## CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

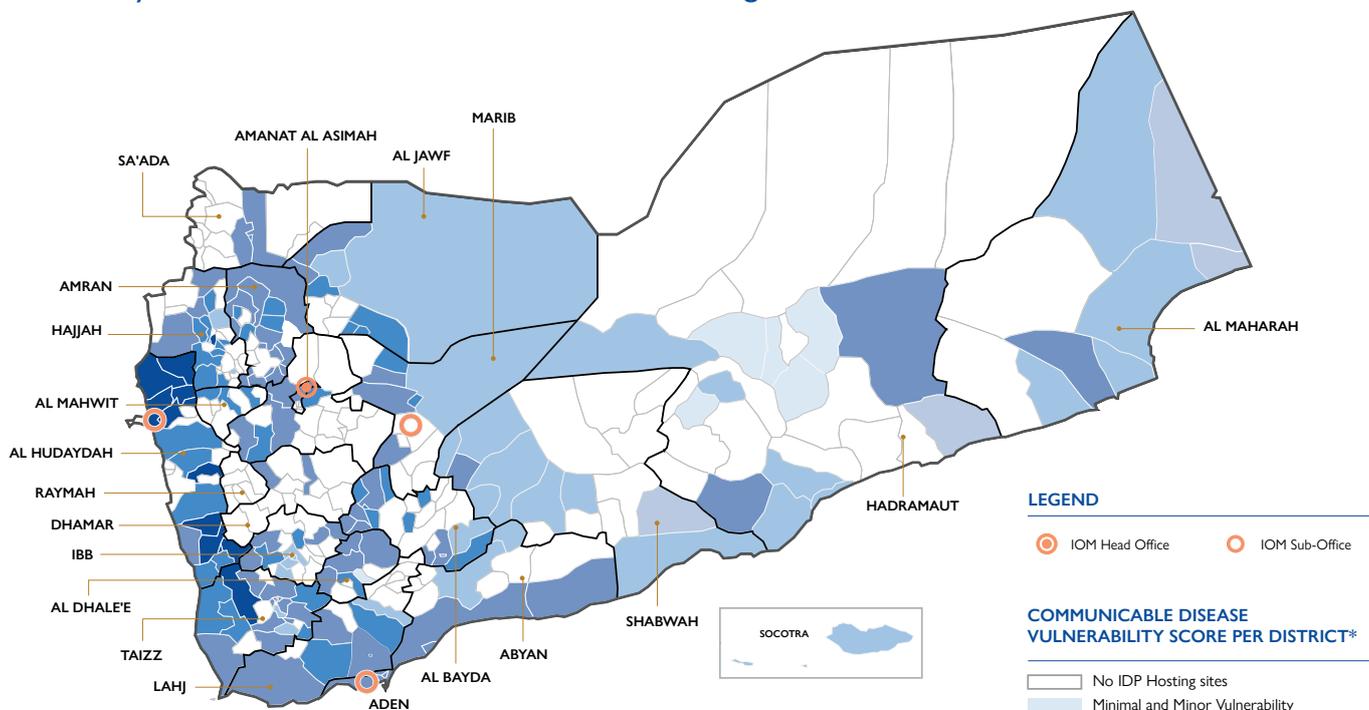
The CCCM teams are continuing to provide lifesaving humanitarian services and integrating COVID-19 mitigation and prevention measures in all activities including physical distancing, handwashing at distribution sites and door-to-door distributions to avoid crowds. In April, Marib governorate was once again hit by flooding that damaged approximately 3,500 household shelters in 16 sites. In response, the IOM CCCM technical team conducted shelter assessments for storm damage in IDP hosting sites, as well as flood risk reduction activities across the most vulnerable sites. The teams also provided critical shelter and non-food items to households whose shelters were partially or totally destroyed by the floods (please see the last [IOM Marib Displacement Update in April](#)). On top of the needs created by flooding, IOM CCCM continued to respond to newly displaced persons, including conducting risk assessments in 14 sites. IOM CCCM teams oversaw the completion of rehabilitation and improvement works in two displacement sites in Ibb and Taizz, benefitting 97 displaced households. The CCCM team in Ibb also monitored and supervised shelter and non-food item (S-NFI) distributions conducted by IOM’s implementing partner in 16 IDP hosting sites. As part of site risk reduction, fire prevention and response activities were conducted in sites in Taizz governorates, including procurement of firefighting equipment. Trainings were also conducted in Al Jufainah Camp, Marib, where IOM distributed 219 fire extinguishers to trained community members. Yemen is at high risk of rapid COVID-19 transmission, especially in crowded IDP hosting sites, which will disproportionately affect the millions of displaced persons in the country.

**12,957**  
IDP households living in 64 sites IOM-managed hosting sites

**2,077**  
IDP households supported by IOM-coordinated emergency response in Marib

**2**  
Site rehabilitation or construction works completed in IOM-managed IDP sites

### Vulnerability to Communicable diseases within IDP hosting sites



#### IOM RESPONSE CAPACITY PER GOVERNORATE

Support to Health Sector	Migrant Response Point	IOM-managed IDP hosting sites	Warehouses
AMANAT AL ASIMAH	IBB	AL DHALE'E	AMRAN
ADEN	TAIZZ	AL MAHWIT	ABYAN
AL HUDAYDAH	HAJJAH	AL JAWF	SHABWAH
MARIB	SA'ADA	DHAMAR	AL BAYDA
			LAHJ

**LEGEND**

- IOM Head Office
- IOM Sub-Office

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE VULNERABILITY SCORE PER DISTRICT\***

- No IDP Hosting sites
- Minimal and Minor Vulnerability
- Moderate Vulnerability
- Significant Vulnerability
- Major Vulnerability
- Severe Vulnerability
- Critical Vulnerability

\* Yemen CCCM Cluster

## HEALTH

**83,751**  
Primary health care consultations conducted

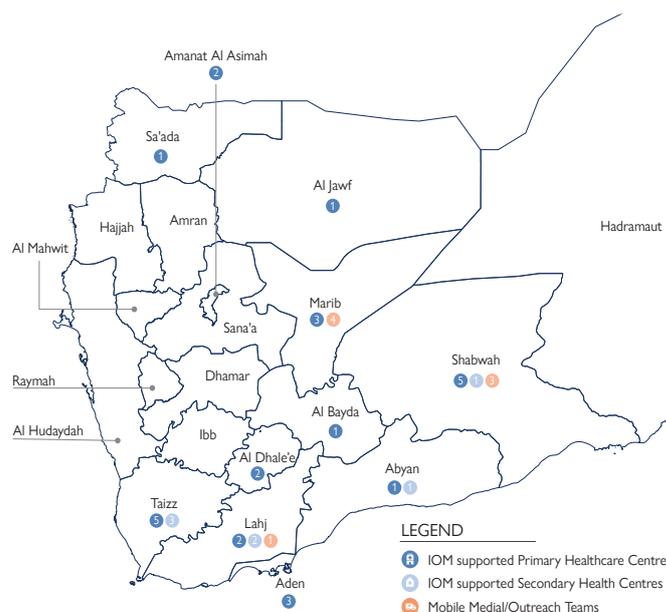
**80**  
Health workers and IOM staff trained on COVID-19

**1,132**  
Suspected cholera cases treated

**13**  
Facilities received medical supplies and equipment to support service delivery

Already operating under the assumption that the COVID-19 was spreading through Yemen prior to the declaration of the first positive case on 10 April, IOM further scaled up its support to health facilities and mobile health teams by providing 10 facilities with COVID-19 specific personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies, triage management support, and information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Training is ongoing throughout all supported facilities, focusing on COVID-19 triage and case management. Health teams reached 81,166 migrants, host community members and refugees with COVID-19 prevention messages. A continued concern for IOM's health response are the persistent operational restrictions, which are disproportionately affecting IOM's health programme. Support to the National TB Control Program consisted of provision of tuberculosis treatment medication and equipment to 175 TB centres in 14 governorates, contributing to reducing the impact of TB in Yemen.

### IOM Yemen Supported Health Facilities and Mobile Teams



## SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

**5,175**  
Households provided with emergency shelter materials

**3,121**  
households received MPCA

**NFI 3,641**  
Households provided with NFI kits

IOM supported a total of 7,721 vulnerable families in Marib, Taizz, Ibb and Al Dhale governorates by providing emergency shelter materials, NFIs, multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and rapid response mechanism (RRM) kits. In consideration of COVID-19 prevention, IOM S-NFI teams employed additional infection prevention and control measures in line with global guidelines on distributions during a pandemic. IOM, through its implementing partners, provided 1,500 NFI and 815 emergency shelter kits to flood-affected communities in Al Dhale'e and Aden governorates. IOM's S-NFI teams reached approximately 2,315 flood-affected households. Despite COVID-19 mitigation measures taken by IOM, which includes movement reduction of non-essential staff, the Marib S-NFI teams and IOM's implementing partners reached more than 6,700 families with family tents, plastic sheets, sandbags, and shelter and NFI kits. Integrating flexible cash-based initiatives into programming, IOM provided 3,121 newly displaced households with MPCA and distributed 2,563 RRM kits in Marib. Over 2,300 displaced families whose shelters were damaged by recent floods in Marib received cash assistance to repair their shelters. Additionally, cash for shelter and non-food items started in April targeting 402 displaced households in Taizz governorate. This activity was coordinated with IOM's CCCC implementing partner, local authorities and an identified bank.

 **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

 **20,800**  
Individuals served by construction or rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems

 **52,891**  
Individuals supported with access to safe water

 **4,965**  
Hygiene kits distributed to displaced households

After the announcement of the first positive COVID-19 case, IOM scaled up its COVID-19 prevention messaging during hygiene promotion awareness sessions. Nearly 5,000 hygiene kits were distributed during approximately 2,600 awareness sessions on prevention of cholera, COVID-19, water-borne diseases and safe hygiene practices in Marib, Lahj, Taizz, Abyan and Shabwah governorates. IOM also built the capacity of 56 hygiene promoters, 51 community hygiene volunteers and 38 chlorinators in Marib on COVID-19 prevention messaging. The flooding in mid-April affected over 17,000 families, majority in Marib governorate, and with most urgent needs consisting of hygiene kits, food assistance, tents and non-food items. In Lahj, over 5,000 flood-affected households benefitted from solid and liquid waste management in two displacement sites. Stagnant water after the flood increases risks of dengue fever, malaria, cholera and other waterborne diseases and IOM increased its cholera awareness and prevention messaging throughout hygiene promotion activities. In tandem with emergency response interventions this month, IOM finished the rehabilitation of three water systems in Lahj, Shabwah, and Taizz governorates which will benefit 20,800 individuals and 238 individuals have improved access to water through 34 water tanks provided by WASH teams in two displacement sites in Marib.



*A boy collects water from an IOM water point in a recently displacement site in Marib ©IOM 2020/O. Headon*

 **TRANSITION AND RECOVERY**

IOM is refocusing its transition and recovery programming to contribute to Yemen’s COVID-19 response. In coordination with the health team, the construction of the isolation centre for the treatment of COVID-19 cases in Marib started and is expected to be completed in early May. In Marib and Hadramaut governorates, IOM has partnered with local NGOs on cash for work, small grants and vocational training activities with COVID-19 contingency plans in place. The teams established Community Committees in each of the four project locations to ensure a community-centred approach to the intervention. Partners conducted training for members of the community committees which will support needs assessments, identify vulnerable beneficiaries and monitor project implementation at the field level. The transition and recovery team initiated a gender assessment led by IOM’s Consultant in Tarim, Hadramaut governorate, to inform interventions in relation to social and economic inequalities faced by women and youth, as well as to identify opportunities to empower these groups through the intervention. IOM, in partnership with FAO, also completed the technical assessment of the irrigation channel targeted in Hadramaut governorate to identify practical means to improve access to water.

 **4**  
Community Committees established

 **2**  
public infrastructure rehabilitations/ constructions ongoing

**PROTECTION**

Migrants travelling through Yemen were already vulnerable at all stages of their journey before the pandemic, and COVID-19 has only increased their vulnerabilities. The increased negative rhetoric in public discourse and local media, and cases of violence towards migrants is worrying. IOM’s protection team scaled up its COVID-19 awareness activities in both migrant and host communities, reaching 4,372 individuals with awareness-raising messages, including clarification on the myth that migrants spread diseases. In line with increased border security measures in Djibouti and Somalia, as well as along the southern coast of Yemen, recipient was a staggering decline of migrant arrivals as compared to March, from 7,223 to 1,725 (for more information about migration trends in Yemen, see IOM’s Quarter 1 Migration Overview). While no return assistance was provided during the month of April due to border closures in Yemen and other countries, IOM is continuing efforts to engage with relevant authorities and stakeholders at the domestic and regional level to ensure movements resume as soon as conditions allow. The protection team is continuing to provide support to 436 migrants in Sana’a. IOM conducted monitoring and feedback activities via phone for beneficiaries who received reintegration packages through Aden’s Community Response Points (CRPs) before the closure of the facilities as a prevention measure to the spread of COVID-19 and to protect beneficiaries and staff. IOM adapted its programming to allow for activities to continue at the Migrant Response Point (MRP) in Aden with new COVID-19 prevention measures, where 100 migrants received hygiene awareness sessions at the Migrant Response Point in Aden and 50 women received hygiene kits after the sessions.



**4,133**

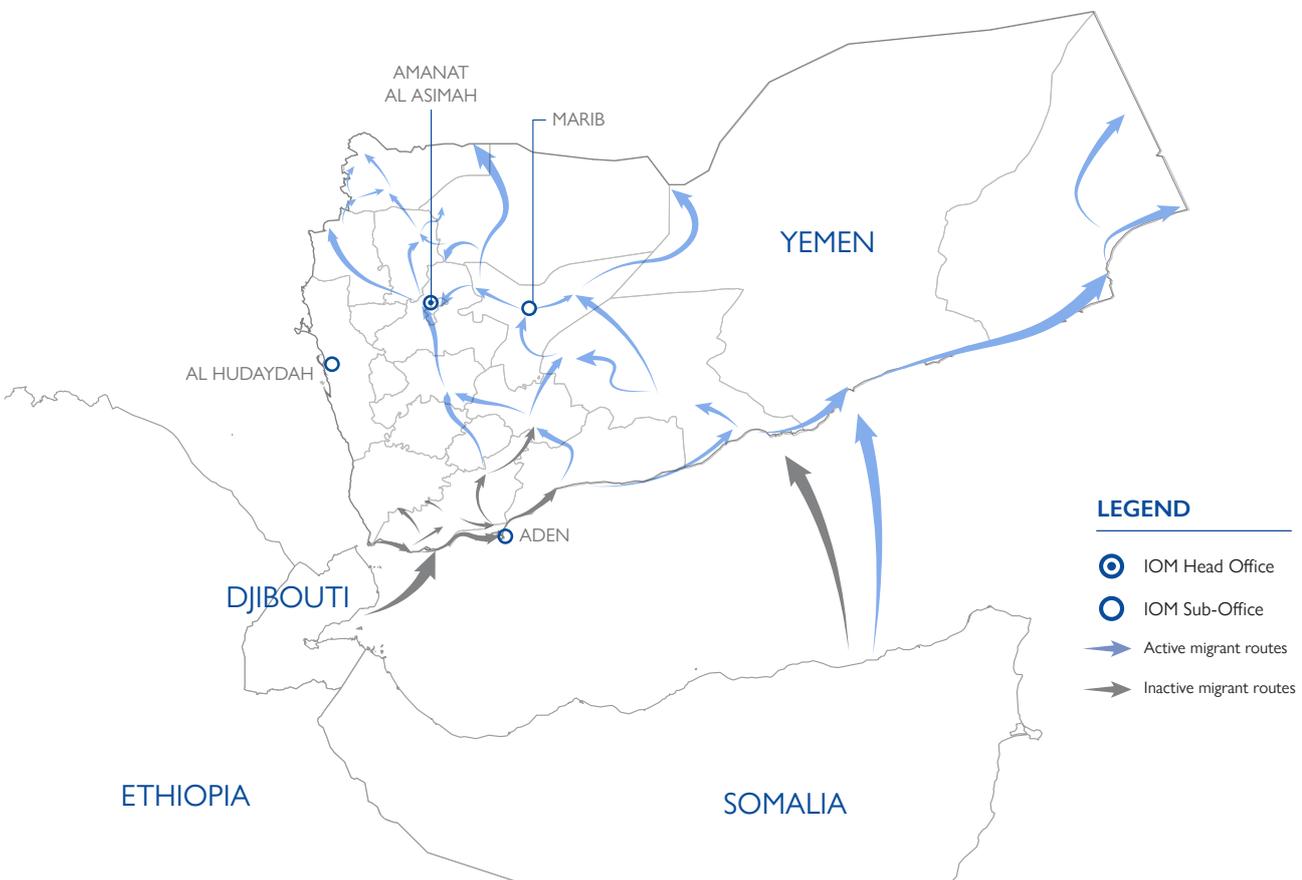
Migrants received humanitarian assistance



**436**

Migrants reached with hygiene kits

**Inactive Migration Routes Resulting from COVID-19 Measures**



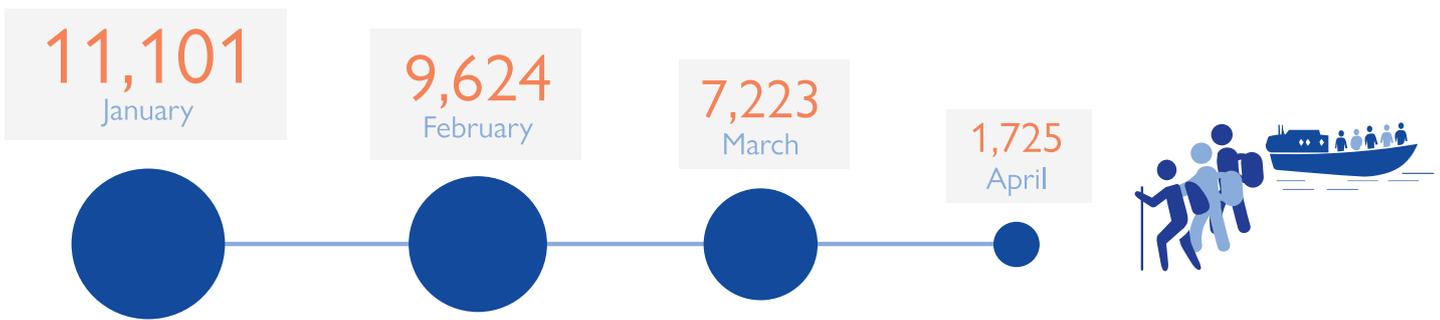
 **DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)**

Migrant arrivals in April saw a drastic reduction from March (from 7,223 to 1,725), while Yemeni returns from KSA were zero. The numbers recorded in April 2020 are also significantly lower than those in April 2019, when IOM’s DTM recorded over 18,000 migrant arrivals. Security forces continued increased patrols along the southern coast to prevent migrants from landing in southern governorates (e.g. Lahj, Shabwah) as a precautionary measure against the spread of COVID-19 and the borders remained closed throughout the month, greatly affecting migrant flows into and through Yemen. The Multi-Cluster Location Assessment (MCLA) has been further delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and IOM is discussing with the relevant authorities measures to put in place ensuring mitigation of transmission risks. Using existing focal points, data is fed weekly to inform the IOM DTM Global Mobility Impact Assessment that is looking at the impact COVID-19 has had on movements within Yemen. As an alternative data collection modality, teams are collecting information via mobile communication and with limited movement, the Rapid Displacement Tracking and Flow Monitoring teams have continued to collect and report on displacement and migrant flows throughout the period, relying on key informants when necessary.



**2,652**  
Households displaced due to conflict and flooding in April

**IMPACT ON MIGRANT ARRIVALS TO YEMEN**



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

**IN FOCUS: CASH ASSISTANCE FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES AFFECTED BY FLOODS**

IOM supported over 2,300 displaced families in Marib whose shelters were damaged by recent rain and floods. The assistance came in the form of emergency cash to help purchase materials to rebuild and reinforce their shelters, providing better protection for the affected families.

Recently, rains hit governorates across Yemen, leading to flooding that destroyed homes, buildings, roads, water systems and crops. In all governorates affected by the floods, displaced communities were among some of the worst affected. Marib was one of the governorates impacted, with heavy rains and high winds hitting in mid-April. Parts of Marib city were damaged and over 3,500 shelters in over 40 displacement sites and neighborhoods across the governorate were affected.

“It was tragic, and the flood took everything from some people – my tent was damaged partially,” said Ahmed, who was originally displaced from Raymah to Marib.

“It started with the high winds, then tents and other materials were blown away. I could not salvage much; my main concern was just to save my family,” added Ahmed.

The head of the family will receive the payment in order to buy whatever materials needed in order to repair, rebuild or reinforce their damaged shelter.

“I will buy new materials and reinforce my tent with bricks, replacing what was damaged,” said Ahmed, explaining how the cash will improve his family’s living conditions in Al Najah camp.

Prior to the heavy rains, Marib was struggling to support the large number of displaced people sheltering in the governorate. Already hosting hundreds of thousands of displaced people, an increase in hostilities has led to over 9,000 families being displaced to Marib city and surrounding areas since the end of January.

Supporting communities in Marib since 2019, IOM scaled up its emergency assistance in response to both the recent displacement crisis and now the extreme weather. This cash assistance is not the only specific support IOM provided to families affected by recent rains and floods. The Organization assessed the impact of floods across the governorate and carried out flood risk reduction activities across vulnerable displacement sites and providing critical shelter and essential aid items to households whose shelter was either totally or partially destroyed by flooding. Over 3,200 plastic sheets and 4,800 sandbags were distributed, water points were repaired and replaced and mobile medical teams conducted outreach in displacement sites affected by the floods to support urgent health needs.



A displaced mother and son in Marib hold up a blanket which was one of the items they bought with their cash assistance from IOM©IOM 2020

IOM YEMEN’S ACTIVITIES IN APRIL 2020 WERE SUPPORTED BY

