

# SITUATION REPORT JULY 2021



Stranded Ethiopian migrants prepare for their journey home from Sana'a, Yemen, with IOM support ©IOM 2021

 **48,132**  
Individuals provided with clean water and hygiene kits

 **39,614**  
Primary health care consultations conducted

 **7,252**  
Migrants received humanitarian assistance

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

More than two years since the Stockholm Agreement, the conflict in Yemen continues to drive displacement and worsen living conditions for millions. Fighting escalated along several fronts in June and July 2021. The consequences on civilians have been devastating and the number of civilian casualties has reached levels not seen since the signing of the Agreement<sup>1</sup>.

As conflict persists, the Yemeni Riyal (YER) hit a historic low in July, trading at over YER 1,000 to USD 1, which triggered food prices to soar across the south, exacerbating the risk of famine and leaving many unable to meet their basic needs. At the same time, COVID-19 continues to take a toll on communities. Health partners are concerned about the rising cases and an impending third wave amidst low vaccination rates, stigma and misinformation.

In July, clashes continued across Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah and Al Bayda. Hostilities are expected to drive further displacement and exacerbate humanitarian needs. Already, this year, more than [24,500 people have been displaced in Ma'rib](#) – 53 per cent to areas within Sirwah, and 30 per cent to Ma'rib city<sup>2</sup>. Torrential rains, windstorms and flooding hit Ma'rib hard and caused significant infrastructure damage in at least 15 displacement sites.

Highlighting the scale of displacement in Yemen, [IOM's DTM](#) reported that between January and July 2021, nearly 50,000 people have experienced displacement at least once across 13 governorates. In July alone, over 7,500 individuals were displaced, over a third of whom were displaced from Al Bayda to Lahj governorate because of the escalating clashes. Many IDPs have taken shelter in religious sites, schools, and caves in Lahj, while some moved towards Aden in search of humanitarian assistance.

[IOM continues to expand its programme on the west coast](#) to meet growing needs of more than 17,000 households residing in 141 displacement sites amid limited partners presence. In the immediate term, IOM is prioritizing a response in 19 IDP hosting sites where there are no camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) partners and where there are large gaps around water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and shelter and non-food items (S-NFI) which are common priority needs.

[IOM estimates](#) that 1,566 migrants entered Yemen in July, compared to 3,545 migrants in June 2021. The drop in numbers may be attributable to the extreme weather conditions (strong winds, heavy rainfall and high tides), which may have made it difficult for migrants to travel by boat. Thousands of migrants remain stranded in Yemen, many of whom are unable to access basic services and need food, shelter, health and protection assistance.

As more migrants seek to return home, IOM is working on facilitating Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flights from Aden and Sana'a. [The Organization facilitated the first VHR flight from Sana'a since 2019](#) and transported 79 Ethiopian migrants safely to their home. Negotiations are ongoing for additional flights in the coming months. In Aden, nationality verification exercises have begun ahead of VHRs in August.

<sup>1</sup> According to the [Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> According to data collected by IOM and partner RRM teams

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

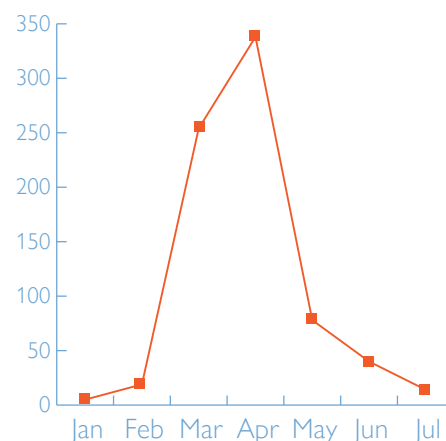
IOM is working with local authorities to contain the COVID-19 outbreak by boosting testing capacity and protecting essential health services through the provision of testing machines, personal protective equipment (PPE) and trainings to build the capacity of public health workers in 26 health facilities in the country. In July, a total of 39,614 people were screened for COVID-19. A reported 143 new COVID-19 cases and 14 new deaths were confirmed.

A potential third wave of COVID-19 cases sweeping across Yemen is particularly concerning. Yemen is at an increased risk of a new surge in COVID-19 cases with a weakened public health system, particularly in displaced communities that already have limited access to hygiene and sanitation services. The first vaccination campaign in Yemen was launched in Aden on 20 April, and as of July, a total of 297,405 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered throughout the country according to the World Health Organization.

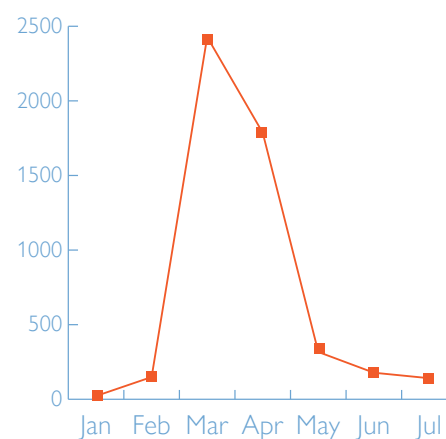
Yemen is expected to receive another batch of vaccines in August – 151,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and 360,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine – as part of the global COVAX vaccine sharing program. The vaccination campaign is critical to containing the outbreak. However, ongoing conflict, limited vaccine supply and doubts around vaccine safety have slowed down the process in many areas of the country.

In July, IOM teams conducted 450 awareness sessions on COVID-19 and hygiene practices, reaching approximately 22,000 displaced people in Ma'rib, Ta'iz, and Al Hodeidah. IOM also installed four testing machines in its Migrant Response Point (MRP) in Aden to ensure migrants have access to testing, particularly those identified for assistance through Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR). In Ta'iz, the Organization provided the main public hospital with a COVID-19 testing machine as well as technical training. IOM teams also provided mask sewing training to six participants in Dekharah displacement site in Ta'iz to improve the livelihood of displaced women while also supporting efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 in displacement sites.

**1,375** Total deaths reported



**7,061** Total cases reported



An IOM team member carries out a COVID-19 sensitization campaign in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021 /E. Al Oqabi

## CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM expanded CCCM support to 75 IDP hosting sites in July and continued carrying out site improvements, coordinating service delivery and conducting community mobilization and committee empowerment activities.

In response to heavy rains in many parts of Yemen, CCCM teams continued flood prevention and flood-risk mitigation activities by creating embankments in two displacement sites on the west coast, benefitting 85 households. In Ta'iz, the teams completed ground-levelling and constructed drainage systems in one site benefitting 117 displaced families. Similar work is underway in two more sites in Al Ma'afer district. In Ibb, the teams hired community members in a cash-for-work initiative to install plastic sheets which protect and insulate the shelters and to surround the shelters with sandbags which protect against flooding. The teams also conducted awareness sessions on flood risk mitigation methods to 1,023 people in Ibb and 5,325 people in Ma'rib.

Due to the risk of fire in overcrowded sites, the CCCM team provided firefighting sessions to 70 wardens in Ta'iz. In Ma'rib, fire safety trainings on safe cooking methods were provided to 181 women in four displacement sites on the use of fire extinguishers to 11 men in Al-Jufainah site. The technical team also completed the rehabilitation of the administrative centre in the same site. Moreover, the CCCM sub-national coordinator, supported by IOM, the cluster and consortium, completed the training of executive unit<sup>2</sup> members on site management in Ma'rib. IOM organized football games for children as part of psychosocial activities that promote positive mental health behaviors in Al Jufainah displacement site.

IOM donated 140 blood pressure and 10 glucose monitoring devices to the local health offices in Al Ma'afer, Ash Shamayatain and Ta'iz city, to help them cope with the increasing influx of IDPs. The CCCM teams also completed the improvement and maintenance of three community centres in Al Duhrah, Al Dar Al Jadeed, and Dekharah IDP sites through cash-for-work modality.



**126,317** Displaced people supported in 75 IDP hosting sites



**47** Infrastructure and maintenance projects completed in IDP hosting sites



Displaced women during a practical training session on fire safety in Al Jufainah site ©IOM 2021 /E. Al Oqabi



## IN FOCUS ELECTRICITY UPGRADES BRING LIGHT AND POWER TO MA'RIB'S LARGEST DISPLACEMENT SITE

From the moment they flee, leaving behind their belongings, memories and sometimes families, people displaced by conflict must begin to search for a new home – one that is safe, secure and equipped with the basics. In Ma'rib, a Yemeni governorate surrounded by desert with year-round high temperatures, electricity to power refrigerators, fans and other items is one of the most essential needs.

“Here in Ma'rib, electricity is just as important for our lives as water and food,” said Rahiq, a displaced woman who is now sheltering in Yemen's largest displacement site, Al Jufainah.

Over the years, Al Jufainah displacement site has become overcrowded with more than 54,000 inhabitants. This put extensive pressure on basic services, including electricity. The old electrical network in the displacement site could no longer meet the increasing demand. The torn out electrical lines and poor connectivity have become one of the most main causes of fire in displacement sites like these. The electricity shortage often strikes quarrels between the community over electrical transformers, and many times, overloads the transformer unit causing short circuits and resulting in a total shut down.

“Electricity is essential to my business. Without it, all food items in the shop will get ruined,” explained Zuhair, a displaced person who owns a small grocery shop in Al Jufainah.

To meet this urgent need for electrical system in overcrowded displacement sites in Ma'rib, IOM upgraded the electrical network in Al Jufainah site for a safer and more constant power supply. The electricity upgrades have given displaced families the hope of having some sense of a normal life, not only for Zuhair but for thousands of displaced men, women and children for whom power means safety and stability.

“The electricity upgrades were completed a month ago, and now we have a new electrical line. It is relieving that electricity is on for the entire week,” said Zuhair. “I won't worry anymore about spoiled food, and more clients will come. I myself start to stay more in the shop because I can turn on my air conditioner safely now,” he added. IOM installed 15 transformers and 554 wooden poles in the displacement site to carry high and low voltage overhead lines that power the displacement site. “Our washing machine, which now can run thanks to the new electrical power, takes a lot of work off my shoulders and saves me a lot of pain,” said Azal, a displaced woman who suffers from a slipped disc.

For displaced women, electricity does not only support them in doing every day home chores, but it also provides them with means of comfort and safety, like easing the extreme weather conditions and providing light in their shelters where they spend most of their days. IOM supported Al Jufainah displacement site with many sustainable projects, which will improve the overall living conditions of displaced people in the area. These projects also include improving access to the main road leading to Al Jufainah and construction of a primary school near Al Jufainah displacement site, reaching nearly 9,800 people.



The IOM-rehabilitated electricity project supports Zuhair's business to thrive  
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## HEALTH

To improve access to health services, IOM continues to support 26 public health facilities in Aden, Lahj, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah and Ma'rib governorates by providing medical supplies, medicine and capacity building. Across the IOM-supported health facilities, 39,614 health consultations were carried out, including 2,271 consultations with migrants. This includes IDPs and migrants who received emergency health and referral support through IOM mobile medical teams (MMT) in areas where access to health services is limited.

The health team also carried out pre-departure medical screenings for 208 refugees and 14 migrants in Sana'a and Aden who were assisted through IOM's resettlement and Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programmes. These screenings ensure that returnees are fit to travel and those with special needs are identified and supported. IOM continued supporting the public health sector by providing technical training to strengthen their capacity and improve access to health services in Yemen. In July, health teams provided psychological first aid training to 10 health workers in three public hospitals in Lahj and Shabwah. The teams also donated 42 medical equipment, including diagnostic and therapeutic machines, medical furniture and surgical kits to Al Aroos hospital in Ta'iz to improve maternal and neonatal health care services.

Also, in Ta'iz the health teams trained 20 midwives and health workers on neonatal resuscitation and provided medical equipment and reproductive health medicine in one health facility for the provision of 24/7 services. IOM also established a diarrhea treatment center in Al Makha, benefiting a total of eight districts along the west coast region.

In support of the National AIDS Program and the National Tuberculosis (TB) Control program, IOM teams conducted follow-up visits to five health facilities that provide HIV testing, counselling and antiretroviral therapy. The teams provided TB medicines, microscopes, PPE and laboratory materials to 17 TB centres.



**39,614** Primary health care consultations conducted



**1** Health facility received medical supplies and equipment



An IOM mobile medical team provides health consultation to a stranded migrant in Ma'rib. © IOM 2021 /E. Al Oqabi



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

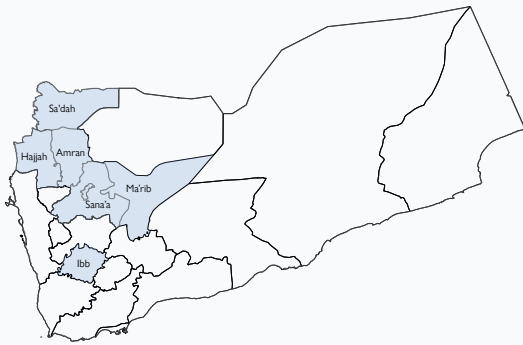
Through the IOM-managed nationwide Multisectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline, IOM and partners provided:

 **128**  
Family tents

 **145**  
Emergency shelters

 **408**  
Essential household kits

 **1,085**  
Plastic sheets



 **89,290**

Litres of fuel, enabling **630,000** people to have continued access to clean water; improved sanitation and essential health care services in Amran, Sa'adah, Sana'a, Hajjah, Ibb and Ma'rib



**964** HHs provided with emergency shelter materials



**408** HHs provided with essential non-food items (NFI) kits



An elderly man receives essential household items in site. ©IOM 2021 / E. Al-Oqabi

The S-NFI teams registered 2,125 displaced households affected by floods for transitional shelter assistance in Ma'rib, south Ta'iz and the west coast region. These households reside in collective centres, makeshift shelters and informal settlements. IOM assistance enables families to live in safe, secure and dignified shelters. The design of these shelters is guided by beneficiary preferences, local practices and housing, land and property conditions. The shelters are made using locally sourced materials and the process ensures community ownership and participation through focus group discussions and consultations.

## CASH

As the co-lead of the Cash Consortium of Yemen, IOM provides multi-purpose cash assistance (MCPA) to vulnerable and newly-displaced households with extremely limited economic resources. IOM's cash assistance aims to help the households meet their basic needs and reduce their reliance on negative coping mechanisms which have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM also co-leads the Rapid Response Mechanism in Yemen which provides MPCA to vulnerable groups through a harmonized coordination structure. In July, IOM provided MPCA to 74 displaced households in Al Bayda and 395 displaced households in Ma'rib. Additionally, IOM supported 5,371 displaced households with the third round of cash for food assistance in Ma'rib. The cash transfers were conducted by a reliable financial service provider identified and contracted by IOM.



**469** Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance transferred to displaced households



**5,371** HHs received cash for food assistance

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM provided 17,303,000 liters of safe water to 33,133 displaced people through vouchers and water trucking in 19 displacement sites in Ma'rib, Ta'iz and the west coast region. Additionally, IOM provided (500L) water tanks to six families, rehabilitated a water system in Al Rakza displacement site benefiting 810 IDPs, and provided operational support to the National Water Resources Authority to operate the water system in Al Jufainah site in Ma'rib.

Due to overcrowding in most displacement sites, there is an increased risk of communicable disease outbreaks. To mitigate this risk and promote community ownership on hygiene and sanitation, IOM teams carried out 2,705 hygiene promotion campaigns in 25 IDP hosting sites in Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah and Ma'rib, reaching more than 10,000 displaced people.

IDPs also participated in focus group discussions about COVID-19, environmental hygiene, water preservation and effective maintenance of sanitation facilities. Awareness raising activities were complemented by the distribution of 2,201 consumable hygiene kits, 303 long-lasting insecticidal nets, and 3,240 soap bars to 13,379 displaced people in 29 IDP sites in Ma'rib and Ta'iz.

The teams also supported community-led cleaning campaigns and the disposal of 140 cubic metres of solid waste in Lahj, benefitting 3,522 people in two displacement sites. An additional 798 displaced people benefited from the construction of 81 emergency latrines and 52 pits in Al Suwayda IDP site in Ma'rib and 845 displaced people benefited from the repair and desludging of 30 latrines in Al Maysar and Al Habeel IDP sites in Ta'iz.

In Al Makha, IOM WASH teams completed the rehabilitation of the public hospital sanitation system and facilities, including the construction of two septic tanks, enabling the hospital to provide better services and a cleaner environment to more than 70,000 people in the district.



**33,943** People supported with access to safe water



**3,522** People benefited from improved waste management services



Children collect clean water from a water point in Ta'iz ©IOM 2021 /M. Mohammed



## PROTECTION

Amidst the ongoing conflict, protection risks for migrants and IDPs in Yemen remain high. Thousands of migrants are estimated to be stranded across the country, and many are being held in inhumane conditions with inadequate access to basic services and food. IOM is at the forefront of advocating for the rights of migrants in Yemen while expanding the Organization's capacity to provide emergency assistance through its Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and mobile teams.

IOM prioritizes the provision of VHR flights, which provide a safe passage to home for many migrants. In July, IOM received a delegation from the Government of Ethiopia who visited Aden, Yemen to conduct nationality verification for stranded migrants seeking IOM VHR support. Since March, IOM has facilitated the voluntary return of 261 Ethiopian migrants to their country of origin through the VHR programme.

Preparations are ongoing for additional flights in the coming months, from both Sana'a and Aden, in close coordination with the relevant authorities and the Government of Ethiopia. IOM also commenced construction works on a VHR centre in Aden to provide temporary accommodation to migrants registered for return assistance.

In Ma'rib, where IOM hopes to extend its VHR programme, a new migrant MRP was inaugurated to expand services provided to migrants. Also in Ma'rib, the protection teams established a new protection desk in Al Jufainah, Yemen's largest displacement site, to provide protection assistance and facilitate interviews, with a focus on extremely vulnerable individuals, including victims of gender-based violence.



**7,252** Migrants received  
protection assistance



IOM transported 79 Ethiopian migrants safely to their home © IOM 2021



## TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM supports the recovery of conflict-affected Yemenis through the rehabilitation and construction of schools and other community infrastructure, the provision of livelihood opportunities to increase household incomes and support on conflict resolution at the community level. These activities are ongoing in Lahj, Aden, Ma'rib and Hadramawt to improve access to services in displacement-affected communities and support social cohesion among diverse community members.

Of the 50 infrastructure activities at various stages of technical assessments, procurement and implementation across Lahj, Aden, Ma'rib, and Hadramawt, 17 were launched in June, including two water network repair projects in Lahj, seven schools in Ma'rib, and eight schools in Aden and Lahj. Three infrastructure projects, including one health facility and one school in Ma'rib, were also completed in July and handed over to the government. The projects will benefit an estimated 200,000 people, and will provide rapid earning opportunities for unskilled workers from low-income, crisis-affected households in the community. The teams also started working with a consulting partner to develop institutional capacity assessment tools and prepare to roll out capacity and training needs assessments for 56 local public institutions in Ma'rib, Hadramawt, Aden and Lahj. The assessment will lead to the identification and implementation of capacity building activities such as training and equipment provision.

In Ma'rib and Lahj, IOM, with a service provider, will establish nine conflict resolution committees to support social cohesion and peacebuilding in areas where infrastructure rehabilitation activities are ongoing.



**34** Public infrastructure projects completed or ongoing



**39,480** people benefited from access to improved basic services



# DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

Conflict remains the main driver of displacement in Yemen. IOM's DTM team works to inform better the humanitarian community about the location and needs of the displaced populations and identify daily IDP and returnee locations and tracks displacement trends. IOM DTM continues to lead the implementation on multi-cluster location assessment (MCLA).

The MCLA provides an evidenced-based needs analysis to support humanitarian partners tailor their activities to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Once completed, the MCLA will provide nationwide data and evidence-based findings for the Humanitarian Needs Overview) to better inform the Humanitarian Response Plan in Yemen. Data collection is completed in southern governorates and data processing is underway. Moreover, coordination is ongoing with the local authorities to start the process in the northern governorates.

DTM's Rapid Displacement Tracking activities cover 13 governorates where IOM has access. In July, IOM tracked 8,634 displaced individuals who mainly moved within and to Lahj, Ma'rib, Shabwah and Al Maharah governorates. Of those tracked, approximately 52 per cent reported that their main need is food, while 28 per cent reported that they lacked access to adequate shelter with household items (11%) and financial support (7%) also reported to be of concern. IOM also conducted an area assessment across seven districts in Ma'rib to provide updated data on IDP, migrant and returnee populations:

DTM also monitors key migrant arrivals mainly in locations across Yemen's southern coastal border and northern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The arrival of 1,566 migrants was recorded through flow monitoring points during July, compared to 3,545 arrivals in June 2021. The drop in numbers is because July saw extreme weather conditions which deterred many from migrating. IOM recorded migrant arrivals through flow monitoring points in Lahj and Shabwah governorates, with the majority originating from Ethiopia (94%) and Somalia (6%). In total, 87 per cent of recorded migrant arrivals traveled through Djibouti, and the remainder from Somalia (13%). IOM teams recently gained access to Manfath Alwadeeah on the KSA-Yemen land border point, and now have a full time dedicated focal point to track movement. Around 1,821 Yemeni returnees were recorded to have entered Yemen from KSA.

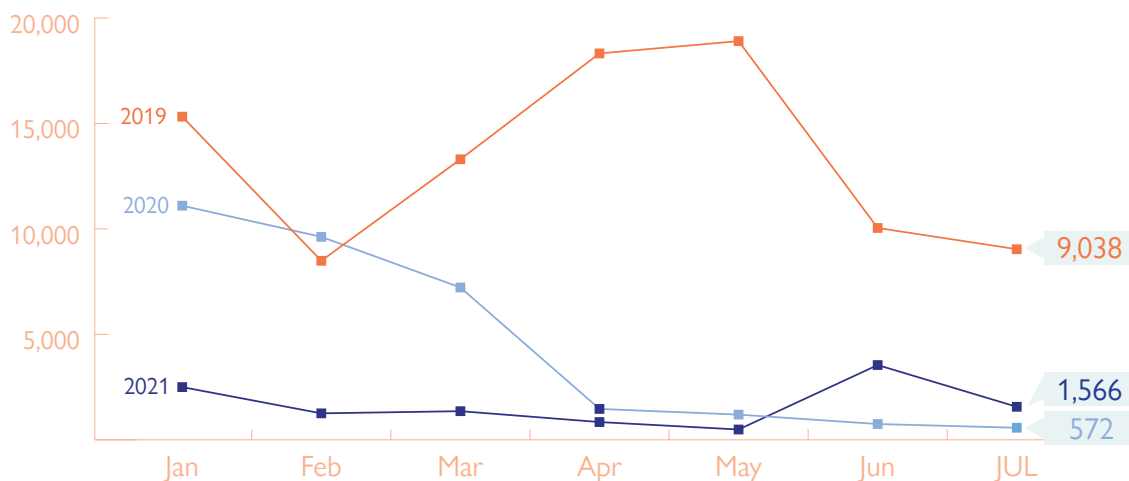


**1,566** Migrant arrivals



**8,634** Displaced individuals tracked

## MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN YEMEN



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

### IOM YEMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN JULY 2021 WERE SUPPORTED BY

