

# SITUATION REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021



A family newly displaced by the fighting in Ma'rib takes shelter in a displacement site © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

 211,726

Individuals provided with clean water and hygiene kits

 52,226

Primary health care consultations conducted

 3,341

Migrants received humanitarian assistance

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Escalating hostilities and a struggling economy continued to exacerbate the humanitarian needs of millions of people in Yemen this month. [IOM renewed its call for additional funding](#) to meet the increasing needs of displaced, conflict-affected and migrant communities. The situation is dire for the more than 20 million people affected by the crisis. Nearly 5 million people are again on the brink of famine, 4 million are displaced and two-thirds of the population relies on humanitarian assistance.

September saw [the most severe fighting in Ma'rib, displacing close to 10,000 people](#) mainly in Harib, Al Jubah and Rahabah districts, making it the highest displacement rates recorded by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the governorate in a single month this year. The conflict has destroyed critical infrastructure like bridges and roads, impacting people's access to services and their freedom of movement. [The situation is of particular concern in Al-Abdiyah district in the south of Ma'rib](#), an area now isolated as a result of renewed fighting. Many routes have reportedly become cut off and the entry of essential supplies is severely limited. The district is one of the largest in the governorate, with a population of 13,000 pre-conflict. Today, local authorities estimate that some 31,500 people reside there.

As the largest humanitarian actor in Ma'rib, IOM teams continued working to respond rapidly to the overwhelming needs. IOM provided cash assistance that has allowed nearly 3,000 people to buy food, medicine and other critical items. The Organization distributed water and provided shelter and other emergency household items to more than 1,000 people who fled with nothing. As conflict persisted, the Yemeni Riyal (YER) hit a historic low in September, trading at over YER 1,200 to USD 1, which triggered food prices to soar across the south and in Ma'rib, worsening the risk of famine and leaving many unable to meet their basic needs. At the same time, the country entered into a third wave of COVID-19 as cases continued to rise. The government introduced stricter measures including the suspension all official gatherings and events. Health partners are concerned about the rising cases amid low vaccination rates, stigma and misinformation.

Migrants in desperate search of work opportunities continue to travel through dangerous, irregular routes with smuggling networks to arrive to Yemen in hopes of reaching neighboring Saudi Arabia. [IOM's DTM recorded 2,769 migrants arriving to Yemen during September](#), bringing the estimated total number of migrant arrivals to 16,080 since the beginning of the year. Thousands of migrants remain stranded in Yemen, many of whom are unable to access basic services and need food, shelter, health and protection assistance.

IOM continues to prioritize its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme. In September, the Organization facilitated the voluntary return of 1,144 migrants – of whom 1,132 were Ethiopian – from Aden, bringing the total number of Ethiopian migrants who were assisted through VHR to 1,457 since March 2021.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

The pandemic has compounded the effects of the conflict on communities who already struggle to cope with a weakened public health systems and social services. People are also losing access to livelihoods and income, while drops in remittances along with a depreciating currency have reduced purchasing power and limited basic services.

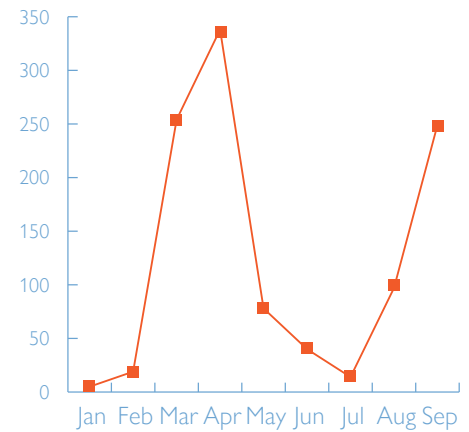
Despite severe underreporting, COVID-19 cases have followed an increasing trajectory with a total of 1,210 new cases and 246 deaths reported in September, which brings the total number of reported cases in Yemen to 9,023 and deaths to 1,715. It is now clear that the country has entered the third wave of COVID-19. In September, [Yemen received more than 350,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine](#) as part of the global COVAX vaccine sharing programme. However, the ongoing conflict, limited vaccine supply and doubts around vaccine safety have slowed down the process in many areas of the country.

IOM continued to work with the local authorities to increase testing capacity and essential health services through the provision of testing machines, personal protective equipment and capacity building training to public health workers.

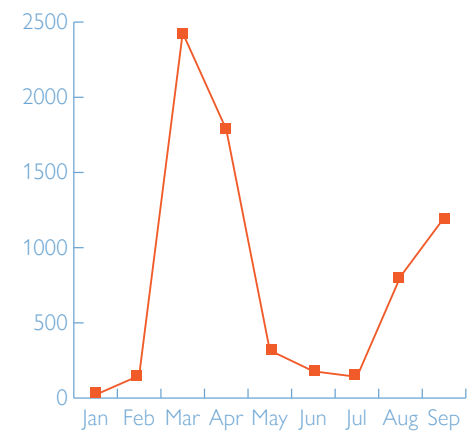
In September, IOM-supported public health facilities conducted over 25,000 COVID-19 screenings in six governorates. IOM teams held awareness sessions on COVID-19 prevention measures with more than 7,182 displaced people in Ma'rib, Ta'iz, and the west coast. As the school year began in Yemen, IOM teams ran a COVID-19 sensitization campaign in six schools in Al Jufainah displacement site reaching more than 2,000 students and provided sanitizing materials in schools.

As part of its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) assistance to stranded migrants in Yemen, IOM installed four testing machines in its Migrant Response Points (MRP) in Aden to ensure migrants are tested before they return to their home countries. The Organization advocates for more equitable access to vaccines for IDPs and migrants regardless of their legal status.

1,721 Total deaths reported



9,067 Total cases reported



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

# CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

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

Following a recent escalation of conflict this month in Ma'rib which led to the displacement of over 1,500 households, the CCCM teams responded by conducting needs assessments, providing urgent assistance, and referring those in need to relevant humanitarian actors. In Ma'rib Al Wadi, IOM organized recreational activities for 180 children with the aim of promoting positive mental behaviors. In Ma'rib city, CCCM teams provided fire-fighting trainings to 71 wardens in seven IDP sites. IOM also completed the construction of a community sewing centre in Al Mutahaf displacement site to be used for livelihood generation activities for women. The CCCM teams supported the cleaning campaigns in 14 blocks in Al Jufainah site. The teams conducted awareness sessions on hygiene practices in three schools and provided hygiene materials to 9,116 students in the site.

On Yemen's west coast, the CCCM teams continued flood risk reduction activities by completing soil embankments, improving the internal drainage system and placing sandbags to reinforce shelters of 120 households to protect them from the impact of floods in three displacement sites. The teams also provided a training session on flood risk reduction to 40 workers.

IOM provided solar powered lamps to 176 households who lack access to electricity in Ta'iz. Through a cash for work activity carried out by a team of trained IDPs, an additional 376 solar systems were inspected and maintained in nine displacement sites. Moreover, the households received awareness sessions and participated in focus group discussions on solar power lighting and safe use of the system.

In Ibb, the CCCM teams provided technical support to 112 households to protect their shelters from flooding by installing doors and placing reinforcement sandbags in four displacement sites. The teams also provided awareness sessions on healthy hygiene practices to 19 IDPs and conducted cleaning campaigns benefitting 88 households in six displacement sites.



**130,430** displaced people supported in 75 IDP hosting sites



**6** infrastructure and maintenance projects completed in IDP hosting sites



Children attend classes in Al Shawkani School in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021 /E. Al Oqabi

# HEALTH

To improve access to health services, IOM continued supporting 27 health facilities and 11 mobile medical teams (MMTs) through the provision of medical supplies and equipment, referral services, capacity building and incentives for healthcare workers in Aden, Lahj, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah and Ma'rib governorates. Among the IOM-supported health facilities, a total of 52,226 primary health care consultations were conducted, including 2,979 consultations for migrants.

In Ma'rib, IOM continued supporting Al Shaheed and Al Hasoon Hospitals with medicines, equipment and capacity building training. The Organization also continued to provide primary healthcare services in 39 IDP and migrants sites through static clinics, referrals and MMTs. In September, a total of 9,166 displaced people received health consultations in 36 IDPs sites.

IOM's health teams play a key role in departure preparations for those voluntarily willing to return via IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) as well as in supporting resettlement movements. IOM established a laboratory at the Aden Migrant Response Point (MRP) in which 637 tests been conducted during the month of September. IOM also conducted pre-departure medical screenings for 1,132 migrants who returned home via the VHR programme and 19 refugees prior of their departure for resettlement. IOM conducts pre-departure medical screenings to ensure that individuals are fit to travel and special medical needs are addressed.

The health team expanded its support to Al Makha Hospital to treat acute watery diarrhea cases which have been on the rise on the west coast region. Since the beginning of IOM support in June 2021, a total of 976 cases were treated.

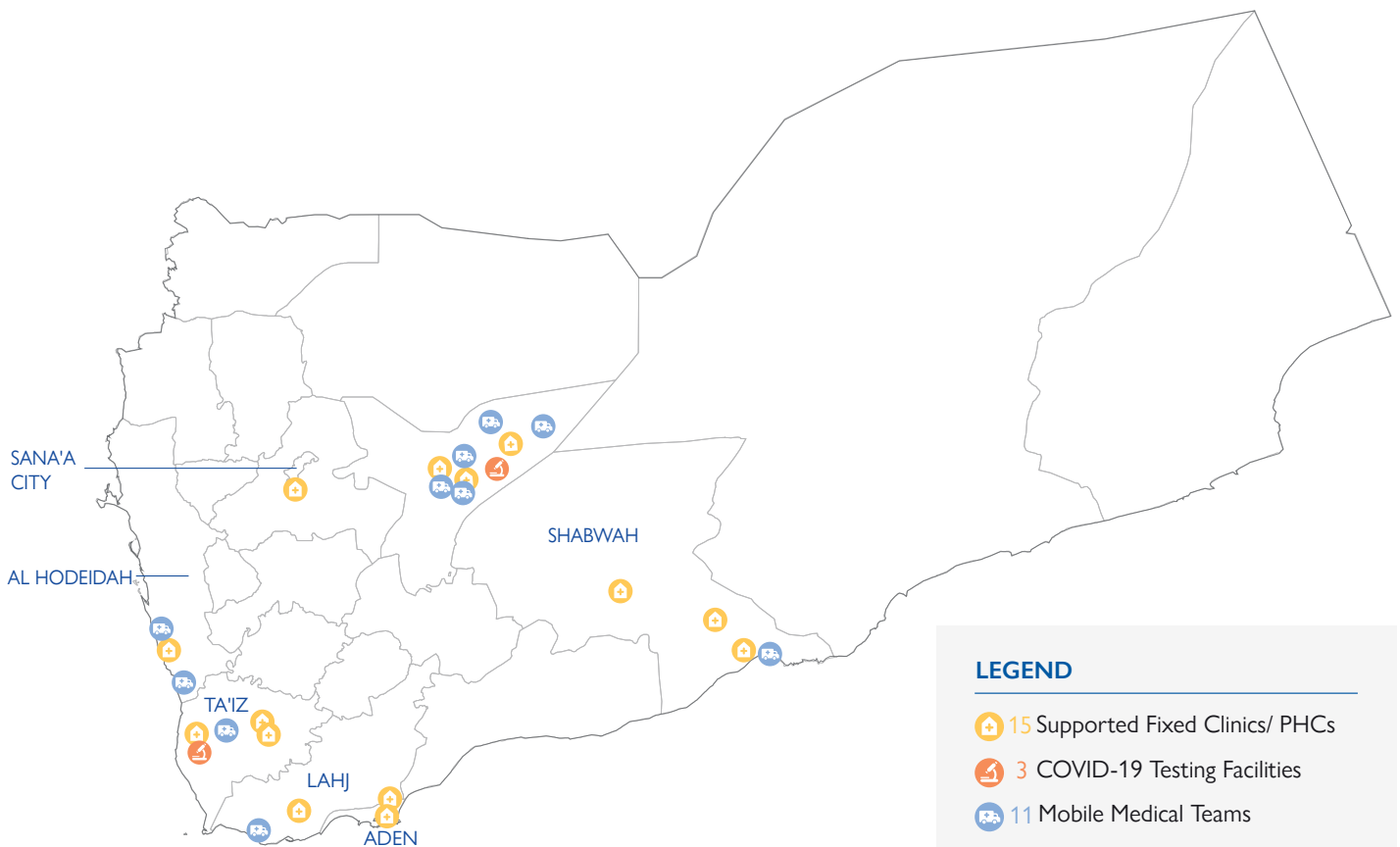
IOM continued supporting the National AIDS Program (NAP) by training 18 public health workers on HIV-related stigma in 10 hospitals in Sana'a. Moreover, the NAP teams conducted three workshops with the participation of 90 religious scholars and leaders on their role in the HIV prevention and AIDS control guidelines in Sana'a and Hajjah.



**52,226** primary health care consultations conducted



**4** health facility received medical supplies and



## IN FOCUS REHABILITATION OF RURAL HOSPITAL SAVES LIVES, BRINGS RELIEF TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Years of conflict in Yemen has resulted in a near collapse of already fragile public infrastructure, leaving approximately 66 per cent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance.

Yemen's health-care system is not exempt from the deterioration of public services, especially in rural areas of the country. Only half of the health facilities in Yemen are fully or partially functioning, and many of these still lack basic requirements such as fuel, water, essential medical supplies and qualified health staff.

"In the past, health centres and hospitals were not fully equipped. It could take up to an hour to get a sick person to the nearest hospital where they could get the care they needed and the fees were often far too expensive," explained Fouad, who lives with his elderly parents, wife and children in a high, rough mountainous area in Ta'iz governorate.

Alroos Hospital was the only available health facility near Fouad's home, but the hospital was barely functioning with limited resources and could not meet the surging demand for health care in the district.

"The hospital lacked the qualified doctors, had no medicine and did not even have a proper a delivery room," said Fouad. Like many other health-care facilities in war-torn Yemen, Alroos Hospital was suffering from severe shortages in health workers and supplies. The hospital was just a simple health centre with limited maternal and neonatal services. To meet the crucial need for health care in Saber Al Mawadem, IOM upgraded Alroos Hospital and improved the health services provided to the rural community in that area.

"IOM supported the rehabilitation of the facility and supplied it with medical supplies and medicine so the hospital could provide appropriate health care to the community," said Dr. Ahmed, IOM health focal point in Ta'iz.

IOM's support also included training midwives and health workers, as well as providing financial incentives for all medical and administrative staff to overcome the shortage of staff in the hospital.

Now, an additional obstetrician, gynecologist and seven midwives are available to receive patients at all times of the day, and women can receive antenatal, delivery and post-natal health care services as well as consultation and treatment for gynecological conditions at all times.

So far, more than 4,000 women and girls have received maternal, reproductive and child health services. The center has now the capacity to serve 70,000 patients with basic health services, including 24/7 childbirth services.



A health worker administers a vaccine to a child at Alroos Hospital ©IOM 2021/M. Mohammed

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

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



The S-NFI teams have so far registered 1,213 displaced households for shelter upgrade and rehabilitation support and 850 households for transitional shelter assistance. Preparations are ongoing for the rehabilitation of previously provided transitional shelters in Ma'rib, south Ta'iz and the west coast region. These households reside in collective centres, makeshift shelters, old transitional shelters and informal settlements. IOM assistance enables families to live in safe, secure and dignified shelters. The design of these activities 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.



**619** HHs provided with emergency shelter materials



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



## CASH

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 September, IOM provided emergency aid kits to 338 newly displaced households in Ma'rib, Harib and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts to help them cover their basic needs. IOM also provided cash for food to 466 newly displaced households in Ma'rib and 176 Household in Al-Bayda. An additional 82 households received MPCA on the west coast. The cash transfers were conducted by a reliable financial service provider identified and contracted by IOM.



**724** of newly displaced households supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM's WASH activities target displaced people, migrants, host communities, as well as people living in cholera or malaria-affected areas, and those most at risk of contracting COVID-19 or other infectious diseases.

In September, IOM provided more than 18 million litres of safe water to 71,560 displaced people through vouchers and water trucking in 19 displacement sites in Ma'rib, Ta'iz and the west coast region. IOM also provided water tanks to 92 households and constructed 17 water points to provide clean water to 6,696 displaced people in Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah.

The Organization supported the construction of 170 latrines benefiting 1,930 recently displaced people in Ma'rib, Al-Hodeidah and Ta'iz. The teams also supported solid waste management and disposal of 110 cubic metres of waste in Lahj, benefitting 3,506 people in two displacement sites.

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 900 hygiene promotion sessions in 24 IDP hosting sites in Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah and Ma'rib, reaching 13,466 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 1,230 basic hygiene kits, 2,519 consumable hygiene kits, 474 long-lasting insecticidal nets, and 5,616 soap bars to 23,361 displaced people in 33 IDP sites in Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah and Ta'iz.



**71,560** people supported with access to safe water



**3,506** people benefited from improved waste management services



Displaced families receive hygiene kits in Al Rakza site in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021 /E. Al Oqabi

 PROTECTION

The ongoing conflict in Yemen continues to exacerbate protection risks for migrants and IDPs in the country. Thousands of migrants are estimated to be stranded across the country, with many being held in inhumane conditions with inadequate access to essential services and food. IOM continues to provide and refer migrants and IDPs requiring specialized assistance ranging from non-food items, food assistance, shelter support and medical assistance through referral pathways.



**3,341** migrants received protection assistance

In September, IOM provided protection assistance – including case management, non-food items kits, service referrals – to 1,972 migrants in Sana’a, Aden and Ma’rib.

IOM continued prioritizing Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flights, which provide a safe passage to home for many migrants. In September, the Organization facilitated the voluntary returns of 1,144 stranded migrants – of whom 1,132 were Ethiopian – from Aden, bringing the total number of Ethiopian migrants who were assisted through VHR to 1,457 since March 2021. IOM plans to continue VHR flights to enable more migrants to reach home in a safe and dignified manner and preparations are ongoing for additional flights in the coming months in close coordination with the local authorities and the Government of Ethiopia. The Organization also completed construction works on a VHR centre in Aden to provide temporary accommodation to migrants registered for return assistance.

The protection teams conducted assessments on migrants’ locations in Ataq and coastal areas in Shabwah. Collated data provided information on the emerging protection concerns and migrant routes from Shabwah to Ma’rib.



Stranded Ethiopian migrants prepare for their journey home from Aden © IOM 2021 /M.Moahammed



## TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM supports the recovery of conflict-affected populations in Yemen through the rehabilitation and construction of schools and other community infrastructure, the provision of livelihood opportunities to increase household income and support conflict resolution at the community level.

In September, the Organization continued these activities 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 public-infrastructure activities at various stages of technical assessments, procurement and implementation across Lahj, Aden, Ma'rib, and Hadramawt, 13 were completed and handed over to the authorities and four were handed over to contractors. In total, by the end of September, 19 had have been handed over to authorities, 25 under construction, and six were in the procurement process.

As the school year began across Yemen, IOM completed the construction and rehabilitation and furnishing of 13 schools in Lahj and Ma'rib. These included the construction of Al Jeel School in Ma'rib, which will provide education opportunity to more than 2,500 students, including conflict-affected children in Al Jufainah site and inhabitants of the west part of Ma'rib city.

IOM continued working with an implementing partner on conflict resolution activities. In September, the teams completed data collection and validation workshops were organized to analyze findings of conflict assessments in four districts in Lahj. These findings will support the formation of conflict resolution committees at the targeted sites. IOM also completed research of capacities at target institutions in Lahj, Hadramawt, and Aden. The findings will guide capacity building for 50 institutions and related governmental offices in the three governorates.



**44** public infrastructure projects completed or ongoing



**139,442** people benefited from access to improved basic services



The newly inaugurated Al Jeel School is now open to thousands of students, including displaced children living in Al Jufainah site © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

# DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

Conflict remains the main driver of displacement in Yemen. IOM's DTM team works to better inform the humanitarian community about the location and needs of the displaced populations and identify daily IDP and returnee locations and tracks displacement trends. In September, DTM continued 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 September, IOM tracked 15,174 displaced individuals who mainly moved within and to Ma'rib, Shabwah, Abyan and Ta'iz governorates. Of those tracked, approximately 49 per cent reported that their main need is shelter, while 24 per cent reported that they lacked access to food with financial support (11%), and non-food items (7%) and water (7%) also reported to be of concern.

Through flow monitoring, DTM also monitors migrant arrivals mainly in locations across Yemen's southern coastal border and northern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The arrival of 2,769 migrants was observed through flow monitoring points (FMPs) during September, compared to 1,756 arrivals in August. In Lahj, Hadramawt and Shabwah governorates, the majority of migrants originated from Ethiopia (81%) and Somalia (19%). In total, 53 per cent of recorded migrant arrivals traveled through Djibouti, and 47 per cent from Somalia. Through the recently established flow monitoring point on the KSA-Yemen land border point Manfath Alwadeeah (Hadramawt) to track movements, an estimated 4,228 Yemeni returnees were reported to have entered Yemen from KSA in September comparing to 2,769 in August and 1,821 in July 2021.

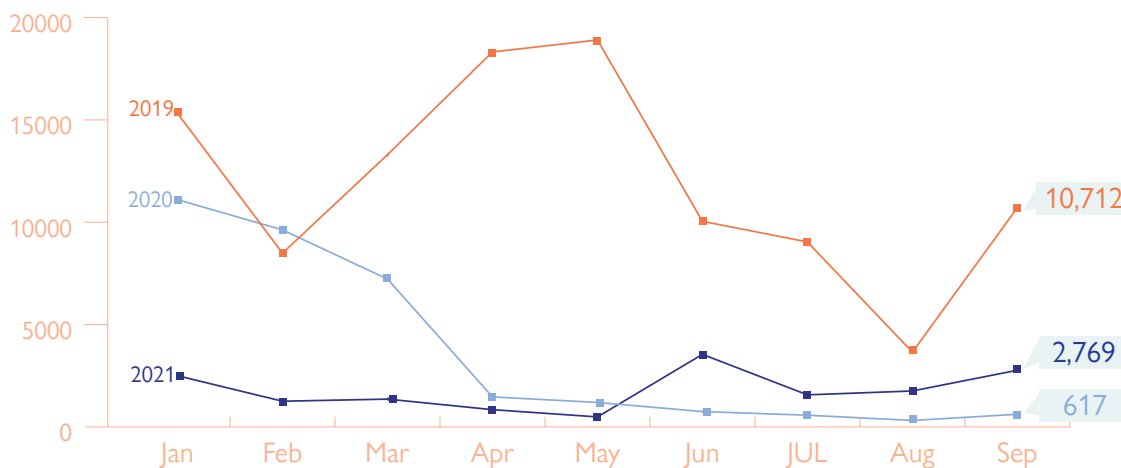


**2,769** Migrant arrivals



**15,174** Displaced individuals tracked

## MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN YEMEN



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

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

