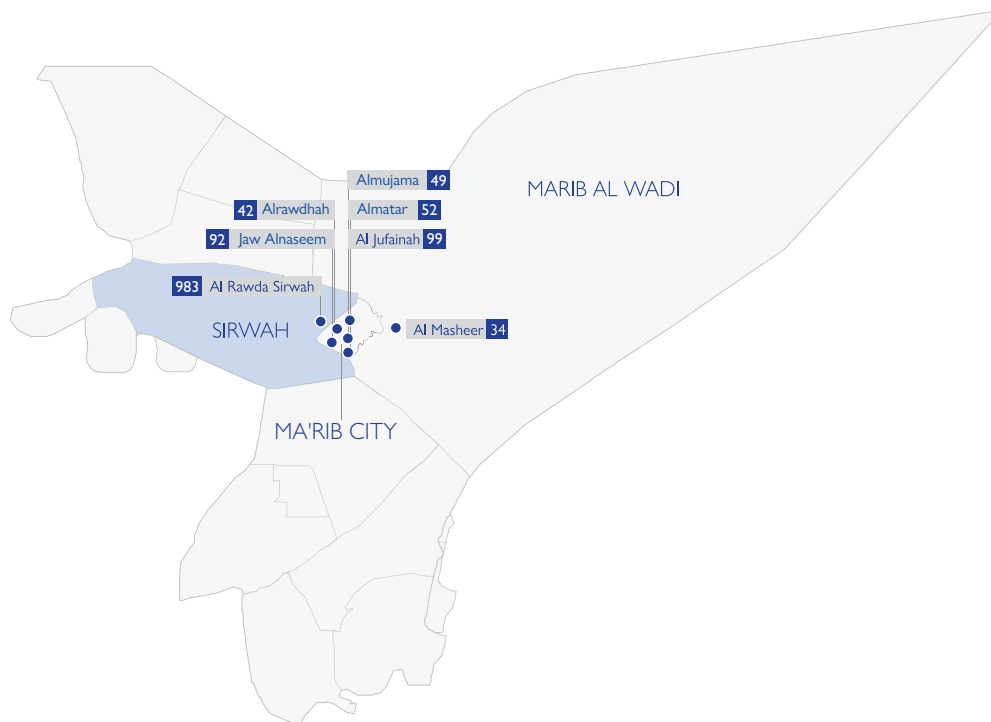


# DISPLACEMENT IN MA'RIB | FLASH UPDATE

## DISPLACEMENT FROM SIRWAH DISTRICT



1,532 HHs

Displaced from or within Sirwah since 08 February 2021

Number of new arrivals

Map does not include HHs who have arrived to unverified sites



Displacements registered between 08 February and 09 March 2021; only IDP sites who have received more than 30HHs during this period are displayed on the map.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The conflict in Ma'rib has continued to be a major driver of displacement in Yemen and the humanitarian situation remains of serious concern. Since the first major offensive in January 2020, the conflict has forced more than 21,000 households (HHs) out of their homes or displacement sites. Of these, at least 1,532 HHs (11,000 people) have been displaced since 08 February 2021 because of the intensified hostilities in parts of western, northern and southern Ma'rib, mainly moving closer to Arak in Sirwah (983 HHs), with smaller numbers into Ma'rib city (482 HHs) and Ma'rib Al Wadi (63 HHs) districts.

So far in March, there have been no major changes on frontlines, and conflict activities have continued to be concentrated in parts of Sirwah. With frontlines, however, remaining active, local populations and IDPs have continued to bear the brunt of hostilities, seeing their homes destroyed, fleeing their communities and displacement sites, and facing uncertainties over their safety. Almost all new IDPs are being displaced for the second or third time, having moved from three of the largest displacement sites in Sirwah (Al Zur, Dhanah Al Sawabin and Danah Al Hayal sites) to another in Arak, Sirwah (Al Rawdah IDP site).

Prior to the recent developments, Al Rawdah Sirwah IDP site hosted an estimated 677 HH in a large, flat rocky area between two mountain ranges near Ma'rib Dam —today the camp population is nearly three times that size. The influx has strained the existing resources, with many of the current population finding it difficult to share their few resources with new arrivals. With new arrivals having been IDPs before, many arrived with little to nothing and are sharing shelters and resources with the IDPs in Al Rawdah now hosting them. Although IOM teams are seeing reduced flow of new arrivals in March, the situation for the pre-existing and new IDPs in the area remains difficult. Compounding the difficulties IDPs are facing are the concerns for their safety and uncertainty over whether fighting will force them to move again, further into Ma'rib city.

The situation requires humanitarian partners to urgently scale up response activities. Already, Ma'rib Governorate hosts an estimated one million internally displaced persons (IDPs) – the largest IDP population in Yemen. IDPs are living in approximately 125 IDP sites across the governorate, one of which is the largest IDP site in the country: Al Jufainah Camp, hosting 10,000 IDP HHs in Ma'rib city. Over the course of the conflict since January 2020, a majority of IDPs have moved into Ma'rib city (70%) and the burden on resources in the district – which was home to only 40,000 people in 2014 – has been overwhelming. Across all sites and sectors, service gaps are widespread. In 2020, IOM and partners estimated that 19 IDP hosting sites or informal settlements opened. With continued fighting, the situation is expected to continue to worsen and service gaps are expected to widen as people continue to flee towards the eastern outskirts of Sirwah and into Ma'rib City. Humanitarian partners are operationalizing plans to respond if 15,000 HHs (105,000 people) are displaced over the next six months into Ma'rib City, Al Wadi and smaller numbers to Shabwah and Hadramawt. Should fighting escalate even further into Ma'rib city, IOM and partners estimate that 385,000 people will be displaced further in Hadramawt and Shabwah. The most significant challenge is the limited partner presence and insufficient resources to sustain response and preparedness activities.

## 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, and acting as Ma'rib-based focal point of the protection cluster, and as S-NFI Contingency Pipeline Manager.

IOM continues to implement multi-sectoral activities to respond to the widespread needs across Sirwah, Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi. IOM and site management and coordination (SMC) partners are providing support in 34 IDP sites in Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, and IOM is in discussions with partners to extend SMC in Al Rawdah Sirwah IDP hosting site. In this IDP site, IOM continues to provide WASH services to 1,710 HHs (daily average of 171,000 litres). IOM is distributing water tanks to cover the additional needs of 527 HHs. RRM partners are also registering new IDPs and providing assistance in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi, while IOM is providing RRM support and shelter assistance to arriving IDPs — 775 HHs displaced from Sirwah have received RRM assistance. So far, 286 NFIs and 283 ESKs were released through the Multi-Sectoral Contingency Pipeline to respond to the new displacements from Sirwah, with 2,000 additional kits prepositioned in Ma'rib and beneficiary registration/verification activities are ongoing to distribute them. To improve access to health services, IOM is delivering medical supplies and equipment to Al Rawdah health clinic to support the growing caseload of IDPs. Already, IOM is providing health assistance in 36 IDP hosting sites, carrying out an average of 1,700 consultations a week. In its various sub-national cluster co/leadership roles, IOM is working closely with partners to respond across shelter and non-food items (S-NFI), camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), protection and rapid response mechanism (RRM) clusters.

A priority for the humanitarian community is to scale up preparedness and response efforts. IOM is working through coordination systems to develop the inter-cluster operational plan that will help to guide the response. IOM is also carrying out an assessment of prepositioning capacity in Hadramawt, and in the immediate term, through the Multisector Contingency Pipeline, IOM is deploying additional emergency shelter, NFI and WASH stock to Ma'rib.



## IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY

