

MA'RIB RESPONSE

11-27 APRIL 2021



An IOM supported mobile health team carries out health consultations for a displaced family ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

SITUATION OVERVIEW

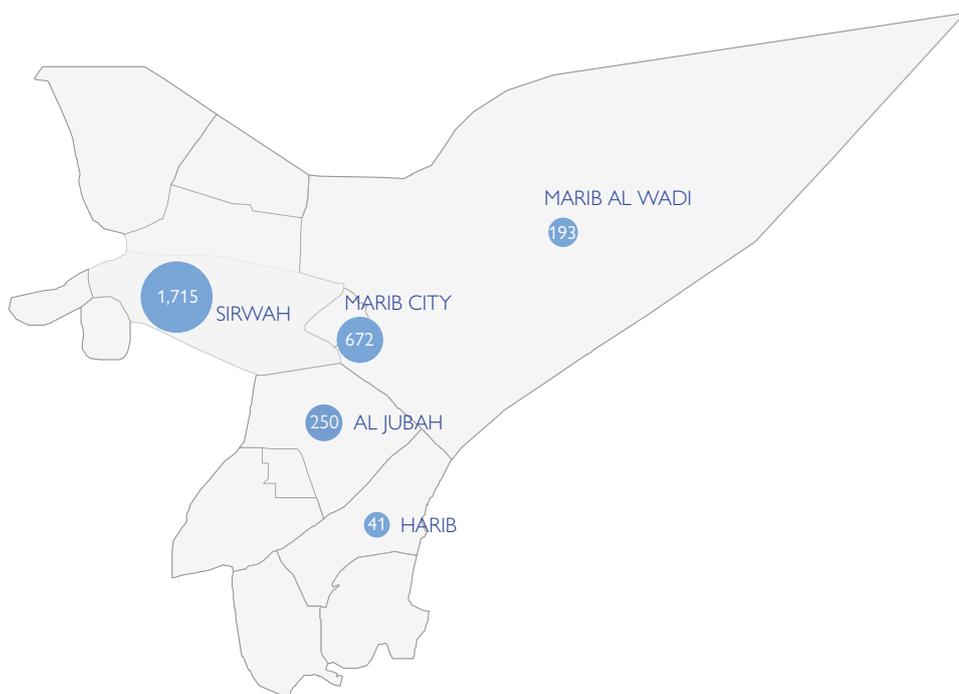
Hostilities have persisted on a near daily basis in Ma'rib since a surge in clashes this February. The impact of the fighting on humanitarian needs has been most evident in the dire situation in Sirwah district. Here, IOM teams have recorded more than 2,560 households (HHs) becoming displaced from or within the district. A majority of these people were living in eight internally displaced person (IDP) hosting sites and have mostly moved to Al Sowayda and Alrawda sites still within Sirwah, with smaller numbers moving into nearby Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi districts. The latter two districts have also received new arrivals from other areas in Ma'rib which are also being affected by fighting, such as Raghwan and Madghal districts. In total, some 2,871 IDP HHs (20,097 people) are estimated to have been displaced since February by fighting affecting different parts of the governorate; the number is likely much higher, with registration activities ongoing.

The sustained rate of displacement is concerning, and trends point to a worsening humanitarian and protection situation. Already, it is estimated that Ma'rib governorate hosts 1 million IDPs, and IOM teams working under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded over 20,000 new displacements (HHs) to or within the governorate in 2020 alone. A majority of these displacements were repeated, with IDPs having to move from one displacement site to another to flee hostilities. During the initial escalation of the conflict in Ma'rib from January to April 2020, more than 8,000 HHs were estimated to have been displaced. As of 25 April 2021, IOM estimates that 21,499 HHs (150,493 people) have been displaced in total since that time, across Ma'rib city, Ma'rib Al Wadi, Sirwah and Harib districts.

Today, displacement sites are being emptied as fighting gets closer to them. From February to April, IDPs moved from nine displacement sites in Sirwah (out of the 14 that were open at the start of the year). Incidents of armed violence are also impacting people at an unprecedented rate: in the first quarter of the year, the [Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\)](#) has recorded 79 incidents of armed violence that have directly impacted civilians in Ma'rib governorate, resulting in 74 civilian casualties, including 18 fatalities (40 casualties were reported in March alone).

While needs are high and going unmet, as a result of ongoing conflict-related displacement, extreme weather is also affecting Ma'rib. Heavy rains and winds, which started close to the end of April and are expected intermittently throughout Yemen's raining season, will further deteriorate the dire living conditions of people who had been displaced multiple times and are staying in makeshift shelters.

DISPLACEMENT SITUATION



2,871 HHs

Newly displaced since February

LEGEND

No. of newly displaced to district



People in Need



161,451

- 45% of IDPs with no access to health services
- 95% of IDP hosting sites with no access to reliable waste management systems
- 78% of IDPs lack some form of civil documentation
- 60% of IDPs in need of shelter and NFI support

IDPs are bearing the brunt of the increasing hostilities in Ma'rib. Many have been displaced for years, facing challenging circumstances across the governorate. Today, the combination of weather and conflict related shocks only worsens their situation. The first quarter of the year has seen a marked increase in the number of IDP sites being impacted by armed violence in Ma'rib, affecting women and children at [an unprecedented rate](#). In April, IDPs were relocated from four IDP sites in Sirwah (Al Mil, Al Khai, Edat Alrra and Al Tawasol) and resettled in Al Sowayda IDP site also in Sirwah. Similar to Al Rawda IDP hosting site, where thousands of IDPs relocated to in February and March, Al Sowayda's population nearly doubled in size as a result, and without enough shelter, water and sanitation and health services, community resources are stretched to capacity. Humanitarian partners have since rallied to support; IOM has scaled up WASH assistance, and a site management and coordination partner is covering site management. On 27 April, heavy rains caused severe flooding in Al Sowayda IDP hosting site. From a rapid needs assessment, at least 512 tents are estimated to have been damaged, while non-food (NFIs) and food items were lost to rainwater and 15 cesspits were flooded. With a quarter of the site population affected by the shelter damages, least 32 children reportedly fell ill from the weather and discussions with communities reveal a sense of despair. IOM is coordinating with S-NFI partners to provide emergency shelters and non-food items from its contingency stock, should there be any gaps. The Organization is transporting an additional 10,000 pieces of plastic sheets to Ma'rib to expand contingency capacity to respond to further shocks.

Although a majority of people displaced by the recent escalation have moved mostly within Sirwah, smaller numbers are moving also to Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi. Here, and in other districts like Harib and Al Jubah, people are also arriving from Raghwan, Rahabah and Madghal districts. In fact, since February 2021, 31 new IDP sites have opened: four in Al Jubah, three in Raghwan, 20 in Al Wadi and four in Ma'rib city. On 23 April, IDPs relocated from another site in Sirwah, Al Dushoush IDP hosting site, due to proximity in fighting. A majority – around 200 HHs – moved to Ma'rib Al Wadi and they have settled in a new makeshift site where there are no services available¹. Some IDPs currently displaced in Sirwah have also expressed intentions to move closer to Ma'rib city; in the last week of April, some 15HHs were reported to have left Al Sowayda IDP hosting site. IOM has been supporting new arrivals in Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, providing critical shelter, NFI, health and WASH support. For the thousands living there in protracted displacement, the Organization is also expanding shelter support, launching activities that target first 3,000 households who live in damaged shelters with shelter rehabilitation and transitional shelter support. With the upcoming rainy season, IOM and partners anticipate widespread shelter damage and flooding, affecting over 90 per cent of displaced persons' shelters.

¹ This number is not captured by RRM data by the reporting period, registration is ongoing

STRANDED MIGRANTS

Migrants in acute need



52% of migrants in need of food

Migrants have continued to arrive into Ma'rib, with April seeing a notable spike in migrant arrivals from Shabwah: 178 women and 50 men. As has been the case for the last few months, migrants arriving in Ma'rib are staying in Batha Bin Mueyli, which is a transit settlement where IOM provides basic assistance, including WASH, NFI and protection services. So far in 2021, IOM estimates that there have been around 600 new migrant arrivals into Ma'rib.

With tight border controls along Yemen's border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), around 5,000 migrants have become stranded in Ma'rib. An estimated 20 per cent of those stranded are children (under the age of 18), while some 18 per cent are women. Most new arrivals are usually men, as is the general trend with migrant arrivals in Yemen. However, in April 78 per cent were women. In the same month, IOM teams observed small groups of migrants leave Ma'rib in an attempt to cross into KSA. An estimated 300 migrants returned to Ma'rib after being unable to cross; smugglers are reportedly convincing migrants that the border is open to solicit money for the trip.

At the same time, overcrowding in migrant hosting sites and a general rise in tension between the migrants and with the host community persist. In this context, protection concerns for stranded migrants are mounting, and many are seeking options to return home. IOM is providing WASH, protection, health and shelter services, and continuing small-scale food distributions, but the Organization cannot cover all needs. Humanitarian partners working in food security in particular are needed to assist migrants, currently stranded migrants do not have access to the same food assistance as IDPs and migrants have limited alternatives for their food security.



Migrant women in a settlement in Ma'rib bake bread in their tent ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

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



13,605

Newly displaced HHs

88.5% Received MPCA as part of the RRM package



7,698

Shelters provided



8,686

NFI kits distributed



25,561

Emergency health consultations



5,510,500

Litres of safe drinking water provided in the last two weeks



19,564

Plastic sheets



1,656

M3 of solid waste collected



3,096

Soaps and 258 LLINs distributed



1

Primary school under construction

*Response updates from 21 January 2020 to 24 April 2021

IOM & PARTNER COVERAGE

SITE CARE & SITE MAINTENANCE

- **16,836 households in 34 IDP hosting sites** receiving site management support; 83 IDP hosting sites (12,105 IDP HHs), are not supported by site management and coordination partners.
- **24 out of 117 IDP hosting sites** receive regular site care, maintenance and risk reduction support.
- **8,000 HHs are benefiting from electrical improvements** in Ma'rib city's largest displacement site Al Jufainah Camp. In addition, IOM reached to 752 HH with household electrical improvement for risk reduction and fire mitigation in 4 IDP hosting site. Additional sites will be assessed by IOM teams for upcoming intervention.
- **1 entrance road to Al Jufainah Camp** has been improved to facilitate access.
- **12 IDPs sites in Sirwah, Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al-Wadi** districts targeted for flood risk reduction activities: Embankments, flood ways constructed, damaged roads repaired.
- **110 IDP HHs from marginalized communities** have been relocated from the flood valley to a secure site within Al Jufainah Camp.
- **8 community centres and 12 playgrounds** in Ma'rib City, Al-Wadi and Sirwah districts to improve living conditions completed. And an additional 8 community centres are under construction.
- **1 Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) office** space rehabilitated and expanded to accommodate local authorities, clusters meetings and agencies offices.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- **24 focus group discussions on COVID-19** conducted in 9 IDP sites targeting 164 individuals (81M and 83F)
- **11 IDP hosting sites (4,667 HH)** received 5,510,500 liters of water for drinking and household use daily.
- **11 IDP hosting sites (12,210 HH)** benefitted from regular waste collection since 19 October. 1,656 m³ of waste removed during the last two weeks.
- **As part of RRM response, 3,096 soaps and 258 LLINs** distributed in 12 IDP sites targeting 86 HH- 458 individuals.
- **622 CHKs** distributed in 2 IDP sites targeting 622 HHs.
- **32 family water tanks (500L)** distributed in 8 IDP sites for 32 HHs.
- **57 of 40L Waste Buckets** distributed for 57 HHs in 1 IDP site.



SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI) AND RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

- **2 RRM partners (IOM and BFD)** responding to the emergency needs of newly displaced persons inside and outside IDP hosting sites in 5 districts including (Ma'rib city, Al-Wadi, Al-Jubah, Harib and Sirwah). Additional resources for frontline RRM activities are needed to sustain the RRM response.
- **125 RRM kits** were distributed to new 125 IDP HHs (675 individuals).
- **Multi-purpose cash assistance** was provided to 481 newly IDP HHs (2677 individuals)
- **2,562 newly displaced households** received emergency shelter kits (ESK), tents, non-food items (NFIs) and emergency latrines through IOM's nationwide multi-sectorial contingency pipeline.
- **19,371 HHs received ESKs, NFI** and family tents since January 2020.
- **3,661 HH supported with cash for shelter rehabilitations** and 200 Transitional shelters were constructed.
- **761 HH received Cash for Emergency Shelter rehabilitation** in 4 IDPs sites, however this is only covering 3% of the required shelter rehabilitation need in Ma'rib. More than 97% of the shelters in the IDPs sites in Ma'rib is expected to be affected by rain season.
- **203 NFIs and 203 tents** being distributed to IDPs in Al Jawf sites through an implementing partner.

PROTECTION

- **663 IDPs** registered and identified as vulnerable in Ma'rib Al Wadi and Ma'rib city.
- **192 IDPs provided with Shelter Kits**, 100 were supplied with NFI Kits, 384 were supplied with protection cash assistance and 18 received baby kits.
- **21 IDPs referred for health services**, 21 were Referred for MHPSS and PSS, 12 referred for special services and 30 received awareness sessions.
- **615 migrants** newly registered.
- **9,461 food kits** distributed (2,150 in the last week), 1,021 NFI Kits, 143 dignity kits, 366 hygiene kits, 115 blankets and 39 baby kits distributed.
- **124 migrants received protection cash assistance** and 27 received cash for work.
- **715 referred to health services**, 12 migrants were referred to MHPSS and PSS, and 186 received awareness sessions.



IOM carries out COVID-19 awareness raising sessions with displaced people ©IOM 2021/ E. Al Oqabi

HEALTH

- **1 fixed clinic and 5 mobile** outreach teams are covering 36 IDP hosting sites and 3 migrants sites (Hygiene fund, Al-Hadbaa and Bin Mueyli i), carrying out 1,700 consultations per week on average.
- **2 secondary healthcare** facilities are supported through human and material resources to enable the provision of health services to IDPs, migrants and host communities.
- **6,500 health consultations** carried out on average in IDPs and migrants sites, including 350 reproductive health services.
- **2 quarantine centres** established and equipped in Al Jufainah and in Al-Marda IDP hosting sites and handed over the Ministry of Public Health and Population.
- **25,561 newly displaced persons** received emergency health services, including 5398 children under the age of 5 screened for malnutrition, and 830 of them referred for nutritional support.
- **1,718 newly displaced children** reached with routine vaccination, and 2371 pregnant women reached with ante-natal care.
- **1 GeneXpert machine** delivered, with negotiations ongoing to extend COVID-19 testing support for IDPs and host communities.

IOM'S RESPONSE IN MA'RIB IS SUPPORTED BY

