

SITUATION REPORT APRIL 2021



A displaced woman in sorrow next to what used to be her shelter after a fire broke out in Al Jufainah Camp © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

 **46,701**

Individuals provided with clean water and hygiene kits

 **37,940**

Primary health care consultations conducted

 **4,841**

Migrants received humanitarian assistance

SITUATION OVERVIEW

With Yemen's rainy season fast approaching, heavy storms have already started to have a disastrous affect on displaced people across the country. In Ma'rib, flooding impacted one of the displacement sites currently receiving new arrivals, Al Sowayda, where over 500 tents and shelters were destroyed. [Flooding also caused multiple large-scale damage](#) in Aden, Abyan, Ad Dali', Lahj, Hadramawt and Ta'iz governorates. While assessments of the damage caused by heavy rains and flooding are ongoing, initial field reports indicate that thousands of families have been affected and the majority of them are living in internally displaced persons (IDPs) hosting sites.

April saw fighting continue in Ma'rib with ongoing displacement towards eastern Sirwah and Ma'rib city. IDPs are also the most affected by this frontline, with nine of the 14 displacement sites in Sirwah emptied between February and April. Over 2,400 households have been displaced in Ma'rib as of the end of April since the start of this year, making a total of nearly 21,500 displaced households since January 2020.

Ma'rib is not only experiencing new displacements but is already a governorate hosting one of the largest IDP populations in Yemen, with an estimated over 1 million displaced residents. Needs are high among the displaced community and displacement sites are overcrowded. This was clearly illustrated when a fire caused by an electrical fault in Al Jufainah Camp—Yemen's largest displacement site—led to the injury of five people and the death of a child. This is the fifth fire to have happened since the beginning of 2021. More resources and capacity are still needed on the ground to meet basic needs.

Ma'rib also saw a slight increase in the number of migrants arriving in the governorate in April, typically having travelled from the southern coast line in Shabwah or Hadramawt. This is leading to overcrowding in migrant settlements and a rise in tensions. In total, [the IOM Yemen Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) estimates that 842 migrants arrived in Yemen during April, with an estimated total of 5,955 migrant arrivals since the beginning of the year. The number is vastly reduced from pre-pandemic figures as a result of movement restrictions on irregular routes in the Horn of April and Yemen, as well as tighter security on the border between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These restrictions have also led to at least 32,000 migrants becoming stranded across Yemen in dire conditions. For some the situation becomes so difficult that they decide to rely on smugglers once again to make the dangerous journey home back across the Gulf of Aden. On 12 April, [at least 44 migrants from the Horn of Africa died](#) after a boat operated by smugglers, transporting approximately 60 individuals travelling from Yemen, capsized on its way to Djibouti. One day after this tragedy, [IOM facilitated the return of 160 Ethiopians](#) safely from Aden to Addis Ababa through the second Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flight, which is providing a lifeline to stranded migrants across Yemen.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Despite severe underreporting, a total of 1,786 cases were reported in April bringing the total number of reported cases in Yemen since the start of the pandemic to 6,317. Although this is lower than March when it spiked to 2,428 cases, it is clear a second wave of COVID-19 is still sweeping through the country and taking a heavy toll on communities.

Yemen has received 360,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through the global equity initiative, the COVAX Facility, on 31 March 2021. This is critically important to contain the outbreak, however, ongoing conflict and doubts around vaccine safety have slowed down vaccination in many areas of the country. IOM is supporting the local authorities and partners to ensure an effective rollout of the vaccination campaign to health workers and the most vulnerable groups. This campaign will be expanded to other groups, including migrants, at a later stage. IOM also continues to work with the local authorities to increase surveillance, boosting testing capacity and protecting essential health services through the provision of testing machines, personal protective equipment (PPE) and capacity building training to public health workers. IDPs and migrants are at increased risk of contracting diseases, including COVID-19, because they typically live in overcrowded conditions without the means to follow basic public health measures or without easy access to water, sanitation and health services. IOM works to respond to their needs by providing humanitarian assistance—including access to improved shelter, hygiene and health care services—and sensitization campaigns, as well as improving overall living conditions in camps. In April, IOM teams provided training to 36 health workers in preparedness for COVID-19 vaccination in Aden and Sana'a. In Ma'rib, the teams provided nine COVID-19 awareness sessions to displaced people in Al Jufainah Camp and five focus group discussions were held with the participation of 30 displaced individuals in two IDP hosting sites, followed by a wide mask distribution. A total of 379 migrants also attended ten sessions about COVID-19 protective measures in Aden.

4,251 Total cases reported



883 Total deaths reported



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



CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM continued to provide CCCM support to 65 IDP hosting sites, carrying out site improvements, coordinating service delivery, and conducting community mobilization and committee empowerment activities, in addition to the installation of solar panels. IOM supported the construction of earth embankments to reduce the risk of flooding, benefiting around over 8,000 displaced people in seven IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib City and Ma'rib Al Wadi.

Due to the risk of fire in overcrowded sites, the CCCM team provided nine firefighting sessions to 57 wardens in Al Jufainah Camp. The teams also provided first aid training to 37 participants in the Camp as part of IOM's caregivers initiative.

In Ibb, the CCCM team supported the formation of three maintenance, carpentry and plumbing committees in each of the 20 IDP hosting sites supported by IOM in the governorate and in April, plumbing and maintenance materials were provided to the committees in two sites to perform repair works, benefiting around 116 HHs.

In Harathah site, 134 displaced people participated in cash for work activities aimed at preventing the risk of flooding. In Ta'iz, the CCCM team provided sport kits to the camp committee in Al Qahfa Al Hamra IDP hosting site to support youth activities. IOM CCCM complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) received and referred a total of 1,923 cases to partners for assistance in Ta'iz, Ibb and Ma'rib.



106,978 Displaced people supported in 65 sites



37 Infrastructure and maintenance projects completed in IDP hosting sites



Newly displaced people in Ma'rib receive aid kits to cover their basic needs © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

HEALTH

In April, IOM carried out over 37,940 health consultations, including 3,532 with migrants, through 21 health facilities in Aden, Shabwah, Sana'a city, Lahj, Ma'rib and Ta'iz governorates. IOM has scaled up its presence in the west coast region of Yemen and in April, the Organization provided training to 22 health workers on psychological first aid in Al Makha. IOM also provided a real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing machine to a hospital in Al Makha, increasing its testing and surveillance and by the end of April, a total of 225 RT-PCR tests have been conducted for suspected cases. IOM also participated in a meeting organized by the local authorities in Al Makha to discuss gaps in the provision of health care services amid increasing needs. In Sana'a city, IOM provided three public health facilities with medicines and medical supplies where victims of a recent fire in an immigration holding facility were being treated. IOM health teams carried out pre-departure medical screenings for 92 migrants in Aden who returned to their home country of Ethiopia through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme. Additional medical screenings were carried out for 10 migrants and five refugees who are set to travel in the coming months to other countries. This is done to ensure that returnees and the refugees being resettled are fit to travel, while those with special needs are identified and supported.

IOM continued supporting the National Malaria Program (NMCP), the National AIDS Program (NAP) and the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) and conducted awareness raising campaigns about the three diseases in IDP hosting sites in Ibb, reaching nearly 5,200 people. The NMCP launched a campaign to distribute 13,581 long-lasting insecticidal nets in six endemic districts in Aden, protecting more than 27,000 people against Malaria. IOM also sustained support to the NTP and provided food baskets to 43 multi-drug resistance tuberculosis patients. Moreover, IOM mobile medical teams (MMT) conducted 21 Tuberculosis and Malaria awareness sessions targeting a total of 10,666 displaced people in IDPs hosting sites in Al Hodeidah. A total of 48 Malaria suspected cases were tested, and 46 Tuberculosis suspected cases referred to the hospitals for lab examination of which five Malaria positive cases and five TB positive cases were identified and received treatment.



37,940 Primary health care consultations conducted



3 Health facilities received medical supplies and equipment



IOM providing medical supplies to a public hospital in Al Makha © IOM 2021

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

Through the Multisectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline, IOM and partners supported a total of 3,636 households with emergency shelter materials, non-food items and emergency latrines, as well as essential fuel supply for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health activities. IOM is also prepositioning S-NFI stocks through the Pipeline: this month, IOM transported 6,000 plastic sheets and 5,000 blankets to Sana'a, 20,000 blankets and 12,000 plastic sheets to Ibb, Sa'dah, Al Hodeidah and Hajjah to serve as contingency stocks in case of emergency. In response to fuel shortages around the country, IOM provided than 42,500 litres of diesel to WASH cluster partners to sustain humanitarian support. IOM provided emergency shelter kits, NFIs, emergency latrines, tents and fuel support to six partners in Al Bayda, Dhamar, Ma'rib, Ibb and Ta'iz to sustain the humanitarian response.

In response to the ongoing displacement in Ma'rib, IOM provided 299 households with emergency kits to cover their basic needs, under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). IOM S-NFI teams also in Ma'rib provided emergency shelter materials and non-food items to 236 newly displaced households, and a total of 1,145 households were identified to receive shelter rehabilitation assistance in Al Jufainah Camp. An additional 236 IDP households were supported with 95 emergency shelter kits, 236 NFI kits, and 57 family tents in ten IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib City, Al Wadi, and Al Jubah districts. The S-NFI teams responded immediately to a fire incident that broke out in Al Jufainah camp and provided shelter and NFIs to 23 households who were affected. In the west coast region, IOM provided 127 displaced households with emergency shelter kits in seven IDP hosting sites in At Tuhayta. Another 1,146 displaced households were supported with 891 NFIs, 50 emergency shelter kits and 410 plastic sheets in 18 IDP hosting sites in Al Makha and other locations in south Ta'iz. Additionally, 551 households received NFIs in two IDP sites in Majz, Sa'dah.



1,701 Households provided with essential NFI kits



534 Households provided with emergency shelter materials



A displaced man affected by the fire incident in Al Jufainah camp receives emergency shelter items © E. Al Oqabi/IOM 2021

CASH

IOM provides multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) as part of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to vulnerable newly displaced families with extremely limited economic resources to help them meet their basic needs and reduce their reliance on negative coping mechanisms especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. MPCA is considered as a robust response mechanism for its recognized effective and harmonized coordination structure. IOM is co-lead of the Rapid Response Mechanism in Yemen. In April, IOM completed MPCA transfers to 481 displaced households in Ma'rib. The cash transfers were conducted by an established financial service provider identified and contracted by IOM, and the transfers value changed to YER141,000 per family in the south and YER122,000 per family in the north of Yemen.



3,947 Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance transferred to IDP HHs

IN FOCUS TO STAY OR TO GO: ONE OF THE TOUGHEST DECISIONS A YEMENI CAN MAKE



Aisha with her new shelter, which will better protect her from the elements, and new household items © M. Mohammed/IOM 2021

In 2015, the conflict broke out in Yemen, and more than six years later it has affected all people across the country, with over 20 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Deadly fighting, economic collapse, disease outbreaks and extremely limited public services remain a constant of daily life in Yemen.

Deciding to leave their home was a difficult call for Aisha and Tawfiq, but two years ago, out of fear for their lives, the couple fled their farm in Ta'iz, Yemen. Aisha and Tawfiq were lucky for a while before they became two of the 4 million displaced people in Yemen, but then about four years into the conflict, their home became unsafe. Their sheep began to die, and their farm was getting destroyed. Access to food and clean water, as well as income, became completely cut off. Almost worst of all, while comfort and even necessities for survival were gone, they were replaced with anxiety, day and night. They left their home by car and eventually made it to Heartha district also in their home governorate of Ta'iz. They built a small shelter with whatever materials they could find near some trees for shade and protection.

“Our life here is bad – much worse than our old one. We have needs and the money my husband makes with his motorcycle taxi is not enough. He wakes up every day to pick up people from one place to another and he earns only 2,000 YR (USD 3) per day. This shelter is not good enough to protect us from insects or the weather,” added Aisha, describing the hardship of their life in displacement.

Urgent humanitarian needs are rife among displaced people in Yemen and many have no option but to live in inappropriate shelters as Aisha describes, having left behind better-built homes and all of their belongings. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works to meet the emergency needs of displaced people across Yemen. Shelter is among the most common immediate needs of a displaced family. Aisha and Tawfiq were among the recipients of shelter materials and emergency aid in Heartha. On that day, IOM distributed over 400 emergency shelter kits, 60 relief item kits and 2,000 plastic sheets. Each family who was supported now has emergency shelter materials, mattresses, blankets and kitchen tools. “These people are displaced because of the conflict. They usually cannot take anything with them, and they need urgent support to build or improve their shelter to ensure their family’s safety.

With the help of the aid items that we distributed, these families can now feel secure in their shelter,” said Mohammed Alzalei, a member of the IOM shelter team in Ta'iz. In addition to distributing shelter and relief materials, IOM trained displaced people in Heartha on how to build wooden shelters, enhancing their carpentry skills. A carpentry expert was brought in by IOM to build shelters and provide the training. These skills can be used beyond just their own shelter construction. For Aisha and her family, this distribution means that they have one less worry to face. “It’s not like our previous home and we are still missing out on some services, but it is better than sleeping in a risky place. Now we can sleep safely, and we are not worried about our lives,” said Aisha. IOM Yemen reached nearly 58,000 people with emergency shelter support and other emergency assistance in the last year.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM's WASH activities focus on the most vulnerable populations in Yemen, including displaced people, migrants and host communities, people living in cholera or malaria-affected areas, and those most at risk of contracting COVID-19 or other infectious diseases. This month, IOM provided 17,665,260 litres of safe water to 44,514 displaced people through vouchers and water trucking in 25 displacement sites in Aden, Ma'rib and Ta'iz, and provided 66 (500 litres) water tanks to 396 newly displaced people in Ma'rib. WASH teams carried out hygiene promotion activities and provided 2,713 sessions to 6,298 displaced people in eight IDP hosting sites in Ta'iz and 31 sessions to 207 people in 29 sites in Ma'rib. These IDPs also participated in focus group discussions about COVID-19, environmental hygiene, water preservation and effective latrines cleaning methods. In addition, IOM trained 34 community hygiene volunteers in eight sites in Ta'iz. The teams also distributed three basic hygiene kits, 2186 consumable hygiene kits, 558 long-lasting insecticidal nets, 958 jerry cans and 6,696 soaps to 10,771 displaced people in 22 IDP hosting sites in Ma'rib, 2,523 long-lasting insecticidal nets to 4,096 people in Lahj, and 105 hygiene kits and 315 long-lasting insecticidal nets to 441 IDPs in Al Makha, Ta'iz.

IOM continued to support waste collection and disposal activities. This month, a total of 3,468 cubic metres of water waste and 125 cubic metres of solid waste were collected and disposed in Ma'rib and Lahj, benefiting more than 111,000 displaced people. The WASH teams connected 34 emergency latrines to the collective sewage pits and installed 34 emergency latrines benefiting 529 in Ta'iz. The team also installed six hand washing points, benefiting 2,739 displaced people in three IDP sites in Aden.



44,514 People
supported with access to
safe water



111,661 People
benefited from improved
waste management services



IOM providing drinking water to displaced families in Ta'iz © IOM 2021

PROTECTION

Migrants in Yemen are typically unable to access basic services and are in dire need of food, shelter, health and protection assistance, putting further pressure on host communities and public services. IOM continues to advocate for migrants' rights in Yemen and provide emergency assistance to those transiting through and stranded in the country through its Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and mobile protection teams. In Sana'a, IOM provided 12 extremely vulnerable migrants, including victims of gender-based violence, with shelter, food, blankets and hygiene kits through its foster family programme. An additional 67 migrants received food, blankets and hygiene kits, including 14 who receive treatment in hospital.



4,841 Migrants received protection assistance

IOM registered 780 migrants for Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) at the Aden Migrant Response Point, which brings the total number of people registered since October 2020 to over 6,750. In March and April, IOM facilitated the voluntary return of 232 Ethiopian migrants to their country of origin through two flights IOM's VHR programme. Thousands of migrants remain stranded in Yemen, including Ma'rib, where IOM hopes to extend its VHR programme to soon. Also in Ma'rib, the protection community response team is responding with other IOM teams to recent and pre-existing displacements. Utilizing a mobile team methodology, the team responds to individual and group protection needs throughout Ma'rib. The team receives referrals of vulnerable individuals from other IOM units, local partners, local authorities, and trained enumerators. The team then verifies the circumstances of the vulnerable individual and provides the appropriate response, which can include case management from trained IOM caseworkers, the provision of cash for protection, material aid such as shelter and non-food items or referral to other services such as legal assistance and food distributions. This month, the team supported 2,140 migrants with food, hygiene kits and health referrals. The team also supported 199 IDPs with cash, shelter kits and baby kits.



Stranded Ethiopian migrants prepare to board an IOM-facilitated flight from Aden, Yemen, to fly home to Addis Ababa © M. Mohammed/IOM 2021

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

While the conflict continues in Yemen, there are pockets of stability with opportunities to encourage and maintain development gains. IOM supports the recovery of conflict-affected Yemenis through the rehabilitation and construction of schools and other core infrastructure, the establishment of livelihood opportunities to increase household incomes and building local capacities to resolve community-level conflicts. This month, the transition and recovery team continued activities in Ma'rib, Lahj, Aden and Hadramawt to improve services in displacement affected communities and support social cohesion among diverse community members.

IOM is in the process of starting the construction and rehabilitation of four schools in Aden, four schools in Lahj, 11 schools and one hospital in Ma'rib. Another 28 infrastructure projects, including schools, health facilities and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructures are in various stages of technical assessments and procurement. The projects will benefit an estimated 200,000 people once implementation is completed.

IOM also conducted consultations with target communities on planned complementary capacity building activities, which will include various training sessions and equipment provision. The consultations aim to identify key stakeholders to engage in capacity building in order to sustain the supported services after the project ends. Makha and Al Khukhah to identify needs and opportunities for recovery activities.



43 Basic infrastructure projects are under various stages of technical assessments and procurement



Students in an overcrowded school in Ma'rib, where IOM is in the process of the construction and rehabilitation of 11 schools © 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. DTM identifies both IDP and returnee locations and tracks displacement trends on daily basis. 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). DTM's Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) activities cover 13 governorates where IOM has access. In April, IOM tracked 4,530 displaced individuals (755 households) who have mainly moved within and to Ta'iz, Ma'rib, Ad Dali', and Al Hodeidah governorates. Of those tracked, approximately 49 per cent reported that they lacked access to adequate shelter with financial support (36%) and food (11%) also reported to be of concern.



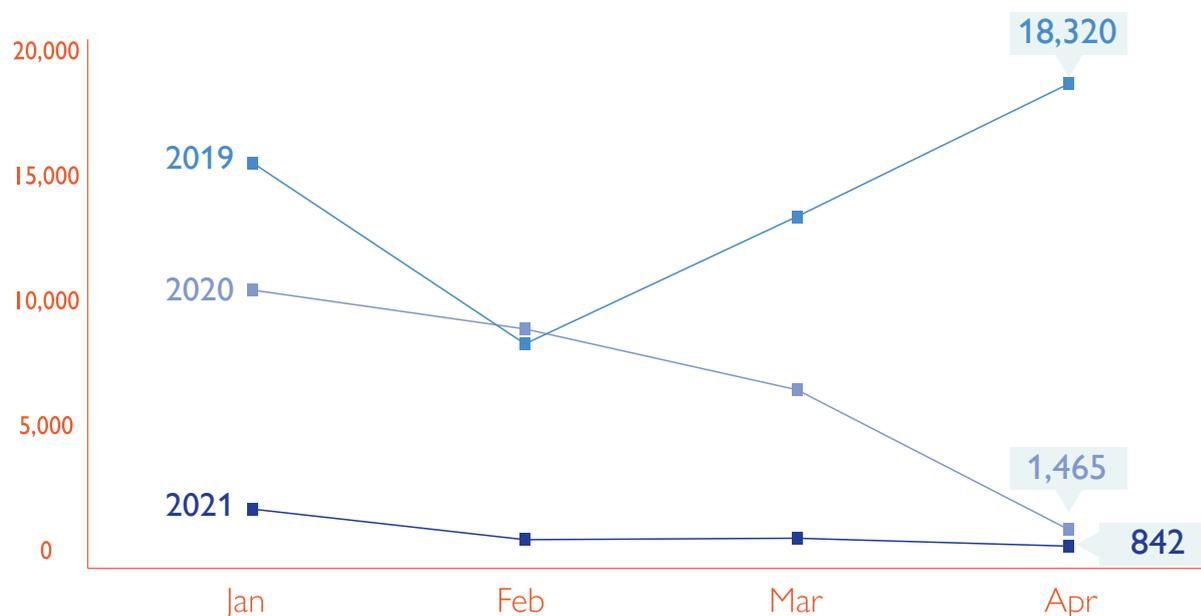
842 Migrant arrivals in April 2021



4,530 Displaced individuals tracked in April

The arrival of 842 migrants was recorded through flow monitoring points during April, compared to 1,358 arrivals in March 2021. IOM recorded migrant arrivals through flow monitoring points in Lahj and Shabwah governorates, with the majority originating from Ethiopia (88%) and Somalia (12%). In total, 55 per cent of recorded migrant arrivals traveled through Somalia, and the remainder through Djibouti (45%). IOM teams do not have access to Manfath Alwadeeah on the KSA-Yemen land border point, and therefore cannot report information on Yemeni returnees from KSA.

MIGRANT ARRIVAL IN YEMEN



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

IOM YEMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN APRIL 2021 WERE SUPPORTED BY

