SITUATION OVERVIEW

The conflict in Ma’rib continues unabated and saw another spike in hostilities at the end of July. As in previous months, clashes in Ma’rib were concentrated in eastern and southern Ma’rib, particularly Sirwah (to the west of Ma’rib city) and Rahabah districts. Clashes also erupted in nearby Al Bayda, displacing at least 51 households (HHs) within the governorate and more than 600 HHs to locations in Lahj and Shabwah. As the conflict in these areas persists, the situation continues to contribute to the country’s largest displacement crisis. Already, more than 24,500 people have been displaced in Ma’rib this year – 53 per cent to areas within Sirwah, and 30 per cent to Ma’rib city. Displacement in Ma’rib has accounted for close to 40 per cent of displacement in the 13 governorates assessed by IOM. IOM and partners estimate that hostilities in Ma’rib have displaced more than 156,000 people since January 2020, when the intensified clashes first erupted. According to local authorities, around 1 million people are displaced across the governorate.

In July, IOM and partners registered 1,120 new IDPs for assistance in Ma’rib city, Ma’rib Al Wadi, Sirwah and Al Jubah. This is indicative of the number of people displaced during the period, as displacement into sites slowed for most of the month and fighting shifted to areas in Al Bayda. Despite the temporary lull at the start of the month, the conflict continues to be the main driver of displacement and needs, impacting civilians and their homes at alarming rates. Conflict monitors estimate that the number of civilian casualties reported in the governorate almost doubled in the second quarter of the year, and around 120 incidents of armed violence have impacted people’s homes this year. While there has been a notable decrease in the number of conflict incidents affecting IDP sites since March 2021, any changes along the frontlines will likely displace more people further into Ma’rib city and surrounding areas. Already in the first quarter of the year, at least eight IDP sites in Sirwah were emptied due to the approaching conflict.

1. According to IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix, a majority were displaced from As Sawma’ah to Az Zahir and Na’man districts in Al Bayda.
3. Based on IOM and partner Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) registrations.
At least 15 sites in Ma’rib city and Ma’rib Al Wadi were affected by flooding by the end of July. In Ma’rib Al Wadi, where thousands are living in protracted displacement, heavy rainstorms affected some 826 households, destroying their shelters and belongings. Such weather events worsen conditions in crowded IDP sites and contribute to a repeated cycle of vulnerability. The myriad of conflict and disaster triggers require strengthened preparedness approaches and an expanded response. In July, IOM extended interventions to ten additional IDP sites and is strengthening longer-term approaches to risk reduction and contingency planning. Still, there are approximately 124 IDP sites that do not receive sustained support. IOM continues to advocate to partners to expand their interventions to cover the growing needs.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND NEEDS

![Map showing affected sites and numbers](image)

**22,370 HHs***

Newly displaced between January 2020 to June 2021

* According to RRM data

**LEGEND**

-呼呼: No. of newly displaced to district
IOM conducted an area assessment across seven districts in Ma’rib to provide updated data on IDP, migrant and returnee population figures as well as on their areas of origin and displacement, current location, duration of displacement or return, shelter type, and priority needs. This follows the last area assessment carried out in 2018 (Round 37), although data collection for this round (Round 38) was impacted by access constraints brought on by the conflict. In 2021, DTM was able to access seven out of the 14 districts in the governorate; in which five sub-areas and nine locations were inaccessible due to the ongoing conflict.4

KEY FINDINGS

1. There has been a 12 per cent increase in IDPs in the seven assessed districts since the previous round (783,024 IDPs in 2021, compared to 689,046 IDPs in 2018).

2. The needs of IDPs have changed. More people cited shelter as their main need in this round of assessments while in 2018, food was the primary need reported. This is indicative of the worsening displacement situation, with IOM teams recording 35% more IDPs living in emergency shelters since 2018.

3. There are 6 per cent more women than men living in displacement situations. Almost 115,500 internally displaced children are under the age of five years old (35 per cent of all IDPs are under 18).

4. Migrants stranded in Ma’rib report food as their main unmet need, followed by shelter. Approximately 79 per cent of migrants originate from Ethiopia, and 72 per cent are men.

Main IDP Needs

Shelter Types Amongst IDPs

* Livelihood, education, health and protection services were also assessed with no significant findings to report.

4. All comparisons to Round 37 are made against the same locations.
STRANDED MIGRANTS

The situation for migrants stranded in Ma’rib continues to be challenging. Many are living in overcrowded informal settlements or are being held by smugglers. At the same time, new migrants continue to arrive in Ma’rib through Al Bayda and Shabwah. IOM teams documented 181 men and 61 women arrivals in July 2021, while smaller groups of male migrants are reported to have arrived from Al Bayda. Migrants, with few options in Ma’rib and limited options to return home, are being exploited by smugglers to cross into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). In July, some 150 migrants are reported to have returned to Ma’rib due to the border restrictions.

Migrants stranded in Ma’rib are living in deplorable conditions with little access to services and at high risk of exploitation and abuse – many are being held against their will. Migrants living in makeshift shelters in Batha Bin Mueyli were also affected by the heavy rainfall in July, which damaged shelters and contaminated water sources. IOM is providing health, psychosocial support, food, non-food and hygiene items, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support here and in other informal sites. However, as protection risks for this group worsen, greater partner presence and capacity is needed to ensure an adequate and timely response.

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. 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.

3. IOM encourages partners to prioritize vulnerable migrants in humanitarian planning and response efforts, recognizing the life-threatening conditions migrants are facing in Yemen.
Ma’rib – Ma’rib is currently providing a home to an estimated 1 million internally displaced Yemenis but with clashes ongoing since January 2020 the camps hosting displaced persons in the governorate are both a safe haven and a place of potential danger.

Due to space limitations, families must often erect their makeshift shelters too close together. Cramped shelters made of scavenged materials and overused, faulty electrical networks can be a deadly combination in sites housing the displaced.

Displacement camps in Ma’rib witnessed 12 fire incidents from the beginning of 2021 until now, according to Civil Defense Force Director in Ma’rib, Abdullah Shahloof.

“The problem is how easily a fire can start and how fast it can spread in a displacement site, as well as how difficult it can be to put it out in time,” explained Abdulkarim, a displaced person from Sirwah. He came to Sayelat Al Rumailah displacement site in Ma’rib with his family of five about three years ago.

Abdulkarim built his family’s shelter with one bedroom, a space to cook and a space to sit during the day and meet with neighbours. His shelter is close to the others around it, as well as electrical lines and straw fences which help provide some form of privacy.

“A small spark can cause a huge fire that engulfs everything instantly. People here set fires every day to cook their food,” he added.

To help displaced people in Ma’rib better protect their shelters from fire, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), through European Union humanitarian support, conducted regular training and awareness sessions on fire safety, prevention and response. Families were also provided with fire extinguishers in groups of five.

“A few months ago, eight other people and I attended the training that took place in Sayelat Al Rumailah. We learned some important principles on how to deal with the causes and effects of fires,” recalled Abdulkarim.

The training also included a practical exercise on how to correctly use the fire extinguishers, as well as first aid tips on treating burns.

One and a half months later, a fire did break out in the shelter next to his family’s residence.

“It was near midnight, when I heard people yelling, ‘Fire!’ I went outside and saw my neighbour’s tent engulfed in flames. I ran to my tent and got the fire extinguisher and applied what I learned at the training to the situation,” explained Abdulkarim.

The project also included people who previously participated in the fire safety sessions to train more people from their communities and ensured the ongoing functionality of the fire extinguishers.
RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

IOM has a team of 20 international and 142 national support and programme staff in Ma’rib as well as nearly 120 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, focal point of the protection cluster in Ma’rib, and as S-NFI contingency pipeline manager.

Displacement sites receiving IOM support

- **34** IDP hosting sites benefited from SMC services
- **5,619** HHs received MPCA
- **214** HHs received S-NFI support
- **798** IDPs benefiting from improved sanitation infrastructure
- **29,304** IDPs provided with safe drinking water
- **1,930** Emergency health consultations
- **22** Community infrastructure projects implemented

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**Map of Displacement Sites**

- **Ma’rib City**
- **Ma’rib Al Wadi**
- **Medghal**
- **Raghwani**
- **Al Jubah**
- **Jabal Murad**
- **Sirwah**

- **CCCM**
- **S-NFI**
- **Health**
- **WASH**
- **Protection**
- **RRM**
RESPONSE OVERVIEW

SITE CARE & SITE MAINTENANCE

17,684 HHs in 34 IDP hosting sites are receiving regular site care, maintenance and risk reduction support from IOM. IOM’s CCCM static team is operating in Al-Jufainah camp and three CCCM mobile teams are covering 33 IDP sites in Ma’rib city and Al-Wadi. The CCCM static and mobile teams carry out core CCCM activities such as risk mapping and risk mitigation; infrastructure upgrades; site improvements and risk reduction; awareness campaigns and community mobilization; complaint, feedback, and referral mechanisms; community participation initiatives; service and information mapping; and the response to any urgent needs in the sites. Across 19 sites in Al Wadi and Ma’rib city, IOM has carried out several site improvement and flood protection interventions such as flood gabion walls or rainwater drainage systems. However, more action is needed to fully mitigate risks and fill significant service gaps in several sites remain. Some 84 out of the 148 IDP hosting sites (10,850 IDP HHs) are not supported by site management and coordination partners.

PROTECTION

One protection desk and one mobile outreach team are working in 13 IDP sites to identify people with increased vulnerabilities who have suffered from human rights abuses. They are providing case management services, including referral support for the most vulnerable. Approximately 88 displacement sites have no protection services.

IOM has also established a Migrant Response Centre in Al Husoon, an informal site hosting migrants, while two mobile teams are responding in other locations where migrants need assistance on a daily basis.

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM is carrying out 24 community infrastructure projects in Ma’rib; wo of which were completed and 22 of which are at an average completion rate of 40 per cent. The rehabilitation of a hospital in Al Husoon was finalized in July. The works will improve access to health services to migrants and conflict-affected communities.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

60 per cent of IDPs in Ma’rib are living in protracted displacement or are experiencing secondary displacement and require sustained shelter support, including longer term solutions. Along with providing emergency shelter solutions to newly displaced persons, IOM is prioritizing transitional shelters in IOM-supported sites. These interventions are targeting IDPs who have been displaced for prolonged periods and providing shelter rehabilitation support to IDPs living in worn out, damaged or makeshift shelters.

HEALTH

One fixed clinic and five mobile outreach teams are providing an average of 1,700 consultations per week across 36 IDP hosting sites and three migrant hosting sites. This covers only a small portion of the overall needs and leaves over 42 sites (28 per cent of IDP sites) without sustained access to health services.

IOM is also providing human and material resources support in two secondary healthcare facilities in Ma’rib city to enable the provision of health services to IDPs, migrants and host communities. IOM and the Ministry of Public Health and Population estimate that 70 out of 140 primary and secondary health facilities in Ma’rib require support to sustain health services. Two health facilities supported by IOM supporting COVID-19 vaccinations and IOM has installed one COVID-19 testing machine to increase testing capacity in the governorate.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Around 70 per cent of IDPs in Ma’rib are estimated to be in need of reliable, safe water systems, and over 90 per cent of new arrivals (2,937 HHs) lack access to adequate WASH services. In 18 IDP sites housing 7,598 HHs, IOM is focusing on expanding water networks, improving waste management and providing access to emergency water and sanitation solutions.

WASH teams carried out hygiene promotion activities and provided 100 sessions to 828 displaced people in one IDP site in Ma’rib on latrines good practices. The teams also distributed 19 basic hygiene kits, 1,730 consumable hygiene kits, 303 long-lasting insecticidal nets and 3,240 soap to 515 displaced people in 19 IDP hosting sites in Ma’rib.

IOM’S RESPONSE IN MA’RIB IS SUPPORTED BY

- German humanitarian assistance (BMZ)
- USAID (US Embassy)
- Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF)
- From the People of Japan
- European Union
- Yemen Displacement Response