COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE
08-22 AUGUST 2020

2020
IOM Yemen Consolidated Appeal
155 MILLION USD
5 MILLION People

1. Inclusive of COVID-19 response

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1,920 Reported Cases | 1,091 Reported Recovered | 556 Reported Deaths

COVID-19 is worsening the situation for vulnerable conflict-affected communities and migrants across Yemen. Insufficient testing, surveillance and supplies, as well as a deteriorating economic environment, are having dire consequences on the already weakened health and public systems. Indicators suggest that with continued interrupted humanitarian assistance, acute vulnerabilities will continue to rise, and the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity will increase to 3.2 million people in southern governorates alone. To support Yemen’s health system, focusing COVID-19 response efforts on enhancing testing, case management and surveillance capacity, and sustaining multi-sectoral humanitarian response efforts, remains a priority for IOM and humanitarian partners.

2. As of 26 August 2020

A displaced woman takes part in an IOM mask sewing project for displaced communities in Ibb © IOM 2020

AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

50,864
HYGIENE KITS AND SOAPS DISTRIBUTED

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

5,185
MIGRANTS RECEIVED HEALTH SUPPORT AND AID ITEMS

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

10,258
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH ACCESS HEALTH SERVICES

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Conflict continues to be the main driver of conflict in Yemen. Between 01 and 22 August, 1,186 displacements were recorded through IOM Yemen’s Displacement Tracking Matrix. So far in 2020, 20,126 households have been displaced by the crisis, including over 1,545 households who have reported moving from areas like Aden to more sparsely populated areas in Lahj, Abyan and Al Dhale, because of fears of contracting COVID-19. In August, COVID-19 related displacements have slowed considerably, while displacements from conflict activities, particularly from areas like Hudaydah, Al Bayda and Taizz continue. IOM DTM is currently active in 12 governorates.

Flooding in July and August caused severe damage to infrastructure and shelters, worsening conditions for thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sana’a, Marib, Hajjah, Raymah, Al Mahwit and Al Hudaydah. For IDPs who have lost their shelters and are residing in temporary and often crowded conditions, the risks for COVID-19 transmission are higher. IOM is supporting humanitarian response efforts by deploying emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs) through the IOM-managed Common Contingency Pipeline: so far, 3,388 items have been released to partners for response activities in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Ibb and Marib.

To ascertain the impact of COVID-19 on displaced communities and inform humanitarian programming, IOM surveyed 376 households in Marib.

Preliminary Findings: KAP Survey in Marib

- 49% reported decreased access to basic and health services
- 96% reported increased food and household items prices since the start of the pandemic
- 73% reported income reductions due to less demand for services or movement restrictions
- 83% people who received remittances reported that these had decreased since the pandemic
MIGRATION CHALLENGES

There has been little improvement in the situation for thousands of migrants stranded in Yemen. The number of migrants detained in dire conditions is on the rise, while migrants continue to be forcibly transferred from northern to southern (over 2,000 migrants reported to have been transferred since March). The increasing protection risks migrants are facing in Yemen is concerning, particularly as COVID-19 increases discriminatory attitudes, and migrants’ access to basic and health services as well as support from communities, is becoming severely limited.

Given the precarious conditions, the number of migrants approaching IOM for return assistance continues to increase. IOM and partners are scaling up emergency assistance, while increasing advocacy for the resumption of return solutions. In Aden, preparations for two large scale initiatives are ongoing, including the distribution of food vouchers and a cash for work cleaning campaign, to address the needs of an estimated 5,000 migrants currently stranded in Aden.

KEY TRENDS

1. Significant reduction in the number of new arrivals in Yemen
2. Increase in barriers to movement resulting in static migrant populations
3. Reduction in available work and other coping mechanisms as well as limited access to health care
4. Increase in the stigmatization and harassment
5. Arrests, detention and forced relocations/deportations

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRATION

**LEGEND**
- Stranded migrants
- Incidents against migrants
- Active migrant routes
- Inactive migrant routes
1. COVID-19 should not be exploited to instrumentalize national security priorities like migrant encampment, detention, forced relocation or deportation.

2. Migrants in detention should be released.

3. Voluntary Humanitarian Return flights should be resumed as an immediate measure to address the life-threatening conditions migrants are facing.

4. Stranded migrants must be given safe passage and protection.

5. Humanitarians must be granted unconditional access to all populations in need.

6. Rhetoric blaming the COVID-19 outbreak on migrants must end.

A migrant reads a COVID-19 awareness raising poster in Ethiopian and Somali languages at a distribution outside of Marib city © IOM 2020
IOM’S RESPONSE

Since March, IOM has quickly scaled up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities to meet the needs of mobile populations – displaced persons and migrants – and the communities hosting them. IOM’s multi-sectoral humanitarian activities are ongoing through eight mobile health and protection teams and 22 health facilities across the country and in 60 internally displaced persons (IDP) hosting sites.

RESPONSE TARGETS

- Risk Communication and Community Engagement: 378,000 target pop.
- Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services: 150,000 target pop.
- Addressing Socio-Economic Impact: 50,000 target pop.
- Infection Prevention and Control: 150,000 target pop.
- Camp Coordination and Camp Management: 51,000 target pop.
- Displacement Tracking Matrix: 1,100,000 target pop.
- Disease Surveillance: 120,000 target pop.
- Protection: 86,000 target pop.
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

IOM teams continue to improve WASH services in displacement sites and communities hosting large displaced populations. IOM water trucking activities are ongoing in 162 sites in Hudaydah, Taizz, Ibb and Marib. In Taizz, the team also distributed 215 water storage tanks, and in Aden, IOM is rehabilitating a community water network to ensure adequate water supply for over 35,000 people. During the reporting period, IOM distributed 1,360 hygiene kits and 4,080 long lasting insecticide nets to immunocompromised and high-risk individuals in Aden.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

IOM is providing support to 22 health facilities and eight mobile health teams across Al Jawf, Aden, Sada’a, Al Baydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib, Shabwah and Taizz governorates. During the reporting period, 10,258 people, including 1,539 migrants, received health services, ensuring that primary and secondary health care, cholera treatment, mental health and psychosocial support continue to be accessible to affected populations.

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

In support of the Ministry of Public Health and Population in Marib, IOM constructed a medical warehouse with the capacity to store 1,296 cubic meters worth of medical supplies. IOM continues to engage IDP communities on mask making; 90 women have been supported (through trainings, materials and cash grants) to weave 31,500 masks for IDPs in Marib, and activities are being launched in displacement sites in Ibb and Taizz. In Marib, the quarantine centre in Al Jufainah IDP-hosting site in Marib is being equipped and will be open to support isolation and IPC in the displacement site by start of September.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM teams have shared 16 disease surveillance reports with the Ministry of Public Health and Population, feeding into community level COVID-19 surveillance and the electronic disease early warning system. IOM continues to engage IDP communities on mask making; 90 women have been supported (through trainings, materials and cash grants) to weave 31,500 masks for IDPs in Marib, and activities are being launched in displacement sites in Ibb and Taizz. In Marib, the quarantine centre in Al Jufainah IDP-hosting site in Marib is being equipped and will be open to support isolation and IPC in the displacement site by start of September.

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PROTECTION

Through IOM migrant response points and mobile teams, 3,646 migrants and 21 IDPs in Aden, Marib and Sana’a received aid items and food.

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IOM YEMEN'S RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY

IOM YEMEN

Hygiene promoters carry out COVID-19 awareness sessions at the IOM Migrant Response Point in Aden © IOM 2020

An IOM doctor treats an elderly migrant at the IOM Migrant Response Point in Aden © IOM 2020

Legend

- RCCE Target Governorates
- Hygiene Kit Distributions
- Jerrycans Distributions
- Soaps Distributions
- Hygiene Promoters Trained

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

60,231 PEOPLE REACHED