

HUMANITARIAN AND DISPLACEMENT SITUATION IN MARIB GOVERNORATE, YEMEN



A newly displaced family in one of the informal hosting sites in Marib. Photo © UNHCR/ Marib, June 2021

OVERVIEW | August 2021

Escalation in violence in Marib continues to displace families, making the already dire humanitarian situation even more precarious. Since the beginning of the year, over 2,900 families have been displaced due to intense fighting on multiple fronts and sporadic tribal clashes, primarily in the western district of Sirwah, and the southern district of Al-Jubah into Marib city ([source IOM](#)).

Airstrikes and artillery shelling in Marib, Sirwah and Medghal districts during the first half of the year have resulted in heavy civilian casualties, including deaths and widespread damage to civilian homes, farms, livestock and a school in Jabal Murad.

According to the [Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\)](#), civilian casualties reported in Marib during the first six months of 2021 were a record high, with some 154 injuries and deaths – that is more than the 151 recorded throughout 2019 and 2020 combined. June was the recorded the deadliest month in terms of civilian casualties with 35 civilians, including children, killed, mainly in shelling and missile attacks, while 37 others were injured - the highest number in a month in Marib.

According to the Camp Management and Camp Coordination Cluster, more than 33,500 displaced families (190,000 individuals) are residing in [150 sites hosting](#) internally displaced persons (IDPs). Due

to the insecurity and lack of funding, only 21 per cent of these IDPs are reached by humanitarian organizations. IDP sites have been heavily impacted by armed violence, particularly in the first three months of the year, with frontlines pushing rapidly towards Marib City (CIMP)¹. The direct impact of the conflict on IDP sites was slightly reduced in the second quarter. However, many sites remain full to the brim, while others in remote locations in Sirwah and Al-Jubah remain inaccessible to humanitarians due to their proximity to active fighting fronts.

Humanitarian agencies in Marib are continuously [scaling up their responses](#) and have increased their presence significantly. However, the increase of humanitarian presence hardly copes with the sizeable level of internal displacement. Throughout 2020 and 2021, upsurge in hostilities is triggering not only new displacements, but also causing secondary and tertiary displacements increasing the vulnerabilities of IDPs and waning their capacity to cope on their own.

Many newly displaced families are living in makeshift shelters, some made of old blankets and plastics sheets. Since the beginning of the year, 49 fire incidents have been reported primarily caused by cooking on open fires, or electrical shortcircuit and poor wiring systems. According to UNHCR partner's, Human Access, initial assessment report, heavy rains and strong winds in Sirwah district in July also caused widespread damage to 387 shelters, in addition to affecting foodstocks for over 212 families.

[DISPLACED POPULATION AND NEEDS](#)



A displaced mother and her son are salvaging their leftover belongings after losing their shelter in a fire incident. Photo © UNHCR/Marib in June 2021

Among the more than 14,900 families (83,000 individuals) assessed by UNHCR and its partners between February-August 2021, over 22 per cent reported not having any sources of income whereas well over 58 per cent earn less than YER. 25,000 (less than USD 40) a month, making it difficult for families to make ends meet.

Continued displacement from the neighboring districts of Sirwah and Al-Jubah has led to an influx into Marib City and surrounding areas.

According to the CCCM mapping (CCCM August 2021), some 43 IDP sites are in Marib City, hosting almost 4,200 families (96,500 individuals). Many of the newly displaced families opted for rental arrangements, resulting in soaring rental prices, and pressure on the existing facilities and infrastructure, including schools and health services. According to Yemen Family Care Association's

¹ https://civilianimpactmonitoring.org/onebwebmedia/CIMP%20Quarterly%20Report_2021_Q2.pdf

recent rapid rental market assessment, rental charges in Marib City vary from area to area: on average, renting a one to three-room accommodation costs anything between YER 50,000 – 250,000 (USD 50 -250) per month.

UNHCR data shows that slightly over 81 per cent displaced families are living in rented accommodation in urban areas of Marib City. They manage to finance their temporary accommodation either through cash or in-kind means such as barter, or agreements between landlords and tenants. However, 87 per cent of the families living in rented houses or apartments have been unable to pay rent regularly, increasing the risks of receiving eviction notices or being evicted.



Many displaced families in Sirwah and Marib al-Wadi districts (Suwayda, Huwaidna, Khurashi, Ghosn, Abu Hammam, Naga and Rawdah) mentioned in focus groups that access to safe and adequate potable water is one of their primary needs. Displaced families living in spontaneous settlements shared they have to travel between 30 minutes to an hour to fetch water from different water collection points.

Many displaced families fetch water from far away water collection points. Photo © UNHCR/Marib 2021

During focus group discussion sessions led by UNHCR protection team, displaced women heads of families living in Marib City reported facing difficulties finding stable employment opportunities to enable them to pay their monthly rents and provide for their families. An overwhelming proportion of them attributed their primary challenge to finding work due to their lack of education or qualifications. However, women living in urban settings have more access to job opportunities, even if temporary, while women living in IDPs sites are usually illiterate and struggle to find a source of income.

Women and children constitute almost 80 per cent of the displaced population in Marib, with over a quarter of the families stating their children do not attend school. Access to educational institutions, whether due to the lack of birth certificate (52% of households with at least one child not holding a birth certificate), distance to nearest school from IDP sites, or the general lack of secondary education, are the main obstacles to access education.

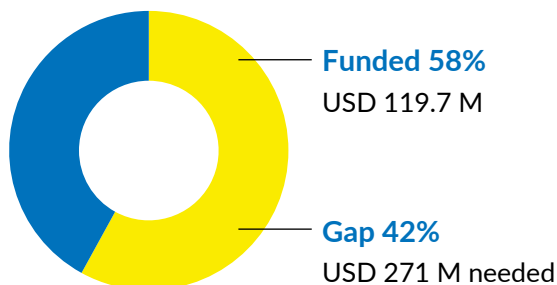
In Sawayda camp, which is the second largest IDP site in Marib, only one of the four schools that are functional, is up to grade nine, significantly affecting those aspiring to seek secondary education. In Khurashi camp in Marib-al-Wadi district, the distance from the site to the nearest elementary school have made some parents drop out their children due to parents' concerns over road safety.

Many IDPs are facing difficulties to receive aid in the absence of valid identity documents, which is a prerequisite to access some assistance and services. UNHCR is currently identifying the reasons behind the high percentage of displaced families in Marib governorate without any form of identification documents. Meanwhile displaced families who are unable to recover or renew their identity documents are issued temporary documents by the Civil Registration Authority (CRA) to enable them have access to assistance until the issuance of national ID cards is resumed. UNHCR is bolstering the technical capacity of the CRA and providing legal assistance services to families seeking access to documentation through its partner Human Access.

UNHCR TRI-CLUSTER RESPONSE

- Currently UNHCR and its partner, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), coordinate the response on seven IDP hosting sites in Sirwah district, hosting 3,303 families (19,461 individuals). In these sites, UNHCR is providing displaced families legal assistance, psychosocial support, shelters, and non-food items in addition to supporting the management of the camp.
- Some 3,516 displaced families (20,701 individuals) in Madghal, Raghwan, Marib, Harib-Alwadi, and Sirwah districts have received non-food items, including mattresses, mats, blankets, lamps and kitchen sets, while another 2,371 families (11,845 individuals) received Emergency Shelter kits, which include plastic sheets, a fully equipped toolkit, ropes and wooden poles.
- In Marib, UNHCR has provided cash for rent to over 2,800 families as part of its plan to assist some 6,000 families at risk of eviction.
- UNHCR is scaling up its legal assistance, including supporting the Civil Registration Authority in issuing temporary identity documents to 12,000 IDPs.
- Through its protection partner, Human Access, UNHCR is providing life-skills (tailoring, hairdressing and sweet making) and literacy trainings to displaced women to improve their access to income-generating opportunities.
- UNHCR is providing protection services such as basic psychosocial counselling, legal awareness, identification of needy individuals and referrals through mobile teams and provides more specialized protection services such as legal assistance protection services to children and survivors of gender-based violence through a community center in Marib City.

UNHCR 2021 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS



USD 271 million required for UNHCR's Yemen Operation in 2021. The Operation has **received 157.2 million** as of 6 August 2021.

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS

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At this critical time, humanitarian action to save lives and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable populations across Yemen remains imperative. UNHCR appeals to donors to prioritize their funding now more than ever to the response in Yemen to avoid a devastating humanitarian disaster.

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