



# IOM YEMEN **APPEAL**

January-December 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Yemen, in its seventh year of conflict, continues to face the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Humanitarian needs continued to grow in 2020, driven by escalating conflict, disease, a declining economy, and the breakdown of public institutions and services. The situation is predicted to worsen in 2021, and it is projected that the population will experience alarming levels of acute malnutrition and food insecurity. Conflict remains the main driver of displacement in Yemen. With the opening of over a dozen new frontlines and the escalation of hostilities in locations like Ma'rib and Al Hodeidah, IOM Displacement Tracking teams estimated that a total of 172,386 people were displaced in 2020<sup>1</sup>. As a peaceful resolution to the conflict does not seem imminent, the severity of needs and suffering is expected to worsen across the country.

In many ways, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the drivers of vulnerabilities in Yemen. This is evident from a [study](#) carried out in 2020 by the Cash Consortium in Yemen (CCY), co-led by IOM and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), which found that the broader impacts of COVID-19 have contributed to a deterioration of living conditions, impacting access to employment, income, remittances and basic services. [The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) for Yemen](#), released in December 2020, shows an even starker trend: 45 per cent of the population (13.5 million people) are estimated to be facing acute food insecurity, including 16,500 people living in famine-like conditions (IPC Phase 5-Catastrophic). Food insecurity is predicted to increase during the first six months of 2021, with 16.2 million people (54 per cent of the population) projected to be acutely impacted. COVID-19 continues to be underreported across the country, and aid organizations are working to expand testing capacity and provide essential health services.

At the same time, Yemen continues to be a major transit point on the irregular migration route from the Horn of Africa to the Gulf. IOM estimates that some 37,535 migrants arrived in Yemen in 2020 – an over 80 per cent drop from the previous year. While migrants already face severe protection risks as they transit through the conflict-affected country, increased barriers to movement brought on by the pandemic and the reinforcement of anti-migrant policies have left thousands of migrants stranded across Yemen with limited options for safe movement or access to basic services.

The humanitarian response in the country faces operational and access restrictions, where aid activities and efforts to bring in aid supplies are blocked in some locations. The humanitarian community has been working together to improve the situation, recognizing that affected communities are impacted the most by bureaucratic impediments and hindrances to humanitarian activities. Since 2020, IOM has taken proactive steps to adapt to the context, prioritizing activities wherein the Organization is able to sustain principled access to vulnerable communities and where IOM has added value.

## APPEAL (USD) JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021

	CCCM	\$ 9,000,000
	PROTECTION	\$ 4,000,000
	MIGRANT ASSISTANCE	\$ 18,000,000
	HEALTH	\$ 30,000,000
	WASH	\$ 32,000,000
	SHELTER-NFI	\$ 26,000,000
	RRM	\$ 15,000,000
	TRANSITION & RECOVERY	\$ 17,000,000
	DTM	\$ 13,000,000
	HUMANITARIAN HUB	\$ 6,000,000

**\$ 170,000,000**

## BENEFICIARIES



Displaced



Crisis-affected  
persons



Host  
communities



Migrants

**TOTAL: 5,150,650 people**

<sup>1</sup> Across the 13 governorates where DTM teams monitor displacement

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In 2021, IOM continues to address what is an acute and growing humanitarian emergency – currently the largest in the world – through the provision of frontline multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in locations where needs are high and the Organization has access. IOM's priority is to also expand programming that tackles the pre-existing drivers of fragility, as Yemen grapples with a deteriorating economy and weakened institutions and infrastructure. With this, IOM will enhance the resilience of individuals and communities through inclusive programming that aims to address multi-dimensional vulnerabilities, improve social cohesion, strengthen local institutions, sustain livelihoods and restore public infrastructure.

**With all activities grounded in the centrality of protection, IOM's three strategic priorities in Yemen are:**

1. To meet the life-saving needs of individuals and communities through the provision of front-line multisectoral assistance
2. To enhance the resilience of individuals and communities through the restoration of basic services and infrastructure, improved access to income-generation, socioeconomic integration and capacity building opportunities at the community level
3. To promote community stability by addressing the drivers of conflict at the local level



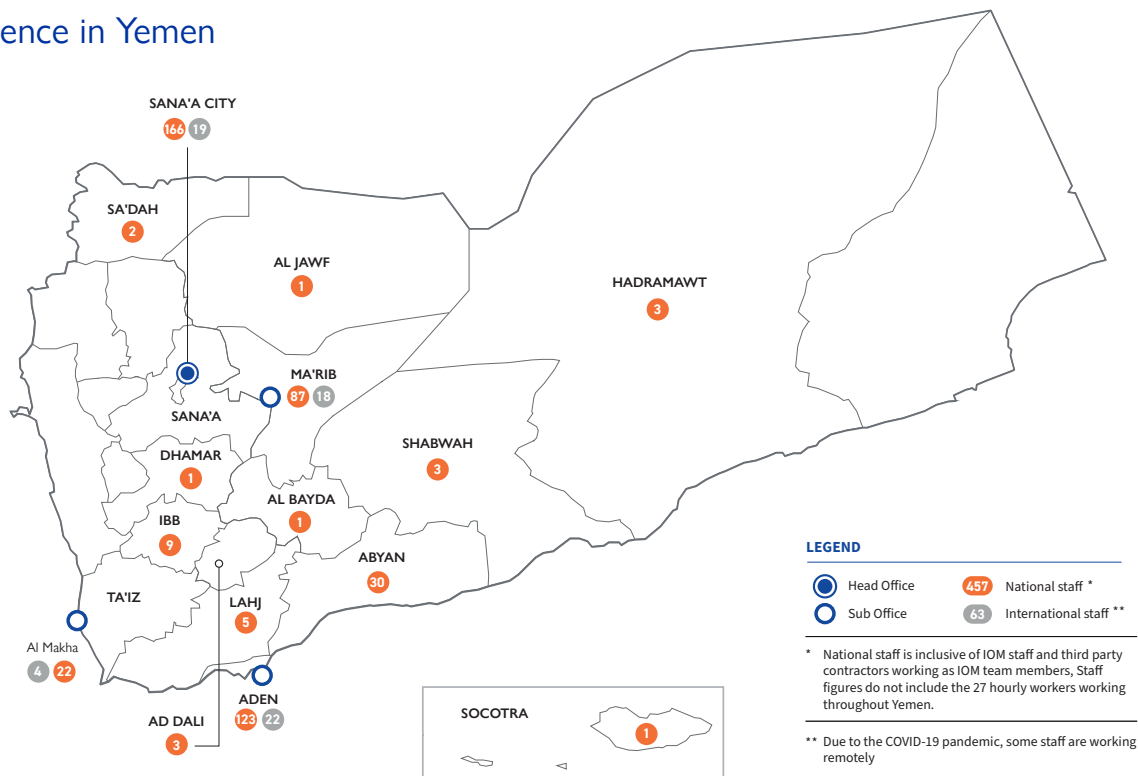
A newly displaced man receives a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kit from IOM in Ma'rib ©OCHA 2020

## IOM IN YEMEN

IOM continues to navigate the complex operational landscape, focusing on providing principled life-saving assistance in a manner that mitigates risks and ensures humanitarian effectiveness. IOM's operational capacity is bolstered by strong field presence across the country – including approximately 70 international staff and senior managers who bring a range of expertise to lead IOM's multi-sectoral programming and help ensure strengthened programme accountability and monitoring. Following the IOM global model of large, strong national teams, IOM in Yemen has invested in strengthening its national team, to improve both the quality and accountability of service delivery in sub-offices and operational field sites. With expanded capacity, IOM Yemen has been able to increase the frontline nature of its programming and is prepared to stay and deliver throughout any further escalation of the crisis. IOM is also supported by regional and global thematic experts in Headquarters and regional offices for the Middle East and North Africa, and for the East and Horn of Africa. Throughout 2021, IOM will continue to expand and enhance frontline capacity, focusing on strengthened static and mobile presence and addressing urgent needs as they arise. Protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and early recovery activities will be mainstreamed wherever possible, to ensure programming is complementary and serving to address underlying vulnerabilities. The Organization will also continue to contribute towards regional information sharing on movements along the Eastern Corridor migration route (in origin and destination countries), work in support of the Regional Migration Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen and contribute to sustainable migration management in Yemen. IOM's response in Yemen is being coordinated with UN agencies and international nongovernmental organizations, as

well as regional, national and local partners. IOM co-leads the refugee and migrant multi-sector (RMMS) and rapid response mechanism (RRM) sectors, and is an active member of the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM); shelter and non-food items (NFI); health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and protection clusters (leading these clusters at the sub-national level in Ma'rib governorate), as well as the gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster and the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) working group and the COVID-19 response task team. As the lead of the task force on population movement (TFPM), IOM produces population movement and needs assessments, which are the main source of information for emergency response preparedness and interventions in Yemen. Findings from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessments serve as operational baselines for humanitarian response activities targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and migrants. What sets IOM apart from the rest of the UN family is that the Organization directly implements in Yemen and is present across the country. This approach of direct assistance and service delivery (6 million people assisted in 2020 alone) enables the Organization to identify communities that need support and monitor programming. Expanding on current area-based approaches, IOM Yemen will seek to establish a strong presence in areas where the Organization has added value and where access is possible. A priority for the mission is also mainstreaming protection, Do No Harm principles, and conflict sensitivity into IOM, implementing partner and sector interventions aimed at ensuring gender-sensitive programming and accountability to affected populations, as well as incorporating a robust understanding of vulnerability, promoting safety, dignity, and meaningful access to services.

### IOM Presence in Yemen





**CCCM** | CAMP COORDINATION AND  
CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM is implementing CCCM activities in Yemen that improve the living conditions of displaced families living in informal and formal sites and settlements. Activities are centred around ensuring adequate community mobilization and capacity-building; site care and maintenance; and coordination and service monitoring. According to regular site reporting carried out through CCCM partners across the country, approximately 1 million Yemenis have settled in 1,600+ spontaneous, unplanned camps and require support to meet their basic needs. An estimated 76 per cent of IDP hosting sites in Yemen lack formal land tenancy agreements, exposing site populations to eviction threats, and compromising site living conditions. Insufficient and irregular access to services in sites was reported in 93 per cent of camp-like settings across the country. Moreover, 37 per cent of IDP households (HH) (32% of sites) are at risk of flooding following heavy rainfall, leading to increased risks of water contamination and infectious diseases. A majority of these sites are extremely vulnerable to the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19. In 2021, CCCM teams will continue to increase CCCM capacity and presence in targeted IDP hosting sites, with a focus on strengthening and expanding mobile and static CCCM teams in Ma'rib, Ibb and Ta'iz governorates. IOM will mobilize critical support in each site through integrated WASH, S-NFI, protection, health, cash and MHPSS programming.

**155,000**

Individuals Targeted

**\$9,000,000**

Funding Required

IOM will continue to lead the CCCM response in Ma'rib, where conflict has led to the largest displacement in Yemen in 2020, with trends continuing into this year. This will involve expanding IOM's reach and coordinating partner response activities against the backdrop of the evolving conflict. IOM also plans to expand its presence in Ta'iz governorate, primarily along the west coast. IOM is expecting to expand its reach from 66 sites covered in 2020, to 96 sites in Yemen by the end of 2021.

IOM will prioritize CCCM interventions (site management, improvement and coordination) in targeted sites and mobilize external partners to ensure a minimum service package is provided. Site level CCCM teams will conduct regular monitoring of needs and maintain comprehensive mapping of site-level service gaps and register any COVID-19 related service disruption, in order to feed into inter and intra CCCM coordination and provide up to date referrals to relevant humanitarian partners for further services. In addition to ensuring that IDPs reside in dignified and safe environments, these activities will contribute to the COVID-19 response, by maximizing crowd management and adherence to infection prevention and control (IPC) standards. CCCM teams will facilitate continued community consultations related to COVID-19 and support community-led surveillance systems and information dissemination related to service delivery, health and hygiene. The teams will ensure that community concerns and feedback are communicated to relevant humanitarian and government partners. In particular, site planning, decongestion and improvement activities will contribute to the expansion of services such as isolation areas and clinics. Finally, an important component of the CCCM programme involves providing technical support and capacity building to stakeholders acting as camp administration, IDP camp committees, and national non-governmental organizations working in site management and coordination. In situations where they arise, IOM teams will work to address land and property issues in informal settlements and collective sites.



An IOM CCCM team member helps a displaced girl put on a face mask during a COVID-19 awareness raising session ©IOM Yemen 2020

# PROTECTION

In response to the protracted conflict situation in Yemen, IOM priorities are centered on improving access to protection services for conflict affected communities and supporting longer term shifts in coping strategies. Recognizing that access to direct protection services remains limited in Yemen, IOM seeks to work on bolstering service provision, strengthening referral mechanisms and looking at innovative and safe ways to work with community-based structures. A greater emphasis will be placed on identifying positive coping capacities and supporting these to bridge the gap towards resilience. With those at risk also being key agents in transforming risk, interventions will aim to empower individuals through a Do No Harm lens. In particular, IOM will provide direct and specialized protection services delivered through Community Response Points/Centres (CRP/Cs); IOM is particularly concerned about access to support for GBV survivors and persons at risk of related GBV risks, as well as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated children, children under threat of recruitment, persons with acute disabilities, and the elderly. Through the CRP/Cs, IOM will provide individual, group and community peer psycho-social support (PSS), offering individual PSS sessions as well as referrals to more specialized support to address both acute and chronic trauma. Information and advice desks in each CRP/C will also provide a minimum package of information on restoration of personal documentation, housing and property issues, referral for legal support, access to services, family tracing and reunification. Issues of specialized legal aid and assistance and disputes and issues around Housing, Land and Property will be referred directly to competent partners working on this. IOM will establish and work closely with Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) to prevent GBV as well as monitor/address other protection concerns. Through the CBPNs, IOM will be able to identify and respond quickly to vulnerable individuals at risk of GBV and raising awareness about GBV, its harmful consequences on individuals and communities and where to seek assistance. Moreover, IOM will provide dedicated GBV case management support, access to medical and PSS support, as well as cash-based interventions to support with common issues including reintegration and on-going support.

IOM will further strengthen protection monitoring activities as a critical complementary activity that allows IOM to work with communities to define protection services but also to bridge a critical gap that exists within the humanitarian response on understanding differential risk that can be used to guide better targeting of humanitarian aid in a protection sensitive manner. Protection monitoring will cover issues and concerns in the specified location or context, such as access to adequate shelter, health, livelihoods or civil documentation, risks and threats, incidents such as SGBV, child protection, the capacities and self-protection and coping mechanisms of the specified population group(s).



A member of IOM's mobile medical team takes migrants' temperatures ©IOM Yemen 2020

**35,000**  
Individuals Targeted

**\$4,000,000**  
Funding Required

## PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

IOM is mainstreaming protection across all multi-sector programmes to address barriers to accessing services for all vulnerable groups. Regular findings from protection monitoring activities inform IOM's needs-based protection programme approach, feed into advocacy and engagement, and serve to strengthen partner response approaches.

At all stages of programme planning and delivery, IOM seeks to ensure that its assistance is sensitive to different vulnerabilities, and that the safety, well-being and dignity of populations in need is maintained. Multisectoral interventions consider the needs of children at risk, GBV survivors and those at risk of GBV, victims of trafficking, migrants and refugees, and marginalized individuals.

Furthermore, IOM remains at the forefront of rights-based advocacy on protection issues to inform humanitarian decision-making and particularly to ensure the inclusion of migrants into humanitarian planning and responses.

## MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

The situation for migrants stranded in Yemen is extremely concerning. Although migrant arrivals in Yemen slowed in 2020, those stranded in the country are increasingly facing life threatening conditions either in detention, at the hands of smugglers or in locations with limited access to services. IOM co-leads the RMMS sector and operates Migrant Response Points (MRPs) where immediate assistance (health care, aid items, referrals support) is provided to migrants. In 2021, IOM will contribute to the improvement of living conditions and the protection of migrants in Yemen through the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance and the resumption of voluntary return support. Services including protection case management and referrals, health care, MHPSS, and humanitarian assistance (including food, water and NFIs distribution) are provided through IOM MRP and mobile migrant response Teams (MRTs). In 2021, IOM will expand its presence through the establishment of additional MRPs and MRTs in Ma'rib and Lahj, while integrating COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement, screening and referral activities in its efforts.

94,000

Individuals Targeted

\$18,000,000

Funding Required



IOM will continue to provide safe, voluntary and dignified return solutions for stranded migrants and refugees in Yemen. Through its voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme, IOM will continue to assist migrants with their return from Yemen to their countries of origin. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), women, elderly, medical cases, and persons who have experienced grave human rights violations. All migrants seeking VHR assistance are individually counselled by case managers and provided with the necessary information to make an informed decision in line with their needs. In coordination with UNHCR, IOM also supports Somali refugees wishing to return home through the assisted spontaneous returns (ASR) programme. Furthermore, IOM has an established process for referrals and identification of potential persons of concern (POC) and ensures these at-risk persons received specialized support. Through this collaboration, IOM provides operational support – such as medical screenings, land and sea transportation – ensuring that Somali refugees travel safely by boat from Aden, Yemen to Berbera, Somalia where they receive onward assistance. IOM will also work at the country and regional level on longer-term migration management support that will be critical to ensure an effective and rights-based approach to addressing the migration challenges in Yemen with all relevant stakeholders.

IOM will also further its support towards the development of long-term protection-sensitive and rights-based migration management in Yemen and continue to engage with national and regional counterparts to strengthen such management through IOM's Regional Migration Response Plan for the Horn of Africa, as well as the Somalia Migrant Response Plan.

## HEALTH

Working within UN frameworks and in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoPHP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), IOM is providing life-saving primary and secondary preventative and curative health-care services to IDPs, migrants and host communities, while integrating COVID-19 response efforts into its health programme. IOM's frontline health activities are being carried out through IOM mobile and static teams across the country, where access permits, and include the provision of emergency health services and referrals, as well as screening and referral for malnutrition; health promotion; health assessments for resettlement and repatriation services; sexual and reproductive health and rights; and disease outbreak preparedness and response (such as for cholera and COVID-19 and integrating with WASH responses as needed); mass and routine vaccinations; and integration with MHPSS. IOM is also bolstering its health capacity, focusing on ensuring that its response in Yemen is needs-based and effective, person-centred and underpinned by robust assessment and monitoring activities. Direct field presence and regular health needs assessments (including DTM mobility data) allow IOM to adapt to evolving contextual needs, as well as strengthen existing health system capacities. In 2021, IOM will continue to work closely with partners and stakeholders to provide essential HIV, TB and malaria services to key and vulnerable populations, as the principal recipient of the Global Fund Middle East Response grant 2019-2021 in Yemen.

In line with the minimum service package (MSP) guidelines for Yemen, a component of IOM's migration health programme is centred on restoring Yemen's weakened health system – rehabilitating and supporting operations in health facilities impacted by the conflict through providing medicine, medical equipment, human resources. Under the MSP framework, services in health facilities are strengthened to provide: maternal and newborn care, as well as childhood and immunization; nutrition support (including moderate and severe acute malnutrition), communicable/non-communicable disease prevention and support; emergency health and minor surgery; MHPSS; and disability and rehabilitation support. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, IOM is mainstreaming COVID-19 relevant activities (such as in case management, infection, prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement) across the health facilities it supports as well as supporting COVID-19 specific facilities. IOM has the capacity and humanitarian footprint to support the implementation of routine and mass vaccination campaigns in Ma'rib, Aden, and areas along the west coast. With capacity and ability to reach migrants and IDPs, IOM will, in coordination with the MoPHP and Health cluster partners, support with the establishment of COVID-19 vaccination points in different locations.

IOM will train health care workers to provide an appropriate GBV survivor response, and on MHPSS support as well as safe identification and referral, in line with IOM's Manual on Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies and Displacement. Disease surveillance information will continue to be regularly fed into the health cluster early warning system and local health system databases. Finally, IOM Yemen will further expand programming to strengthen national laboratory systems in southern governorates by deploying GeneXpert COVID-19 testing systems to underserved locations and replacing these, in the longer-term, with real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) systems. GeneXpert systems are suitable for establishing immediate COVID-19 testing capacity in locations with limited infrastructure: the technology is easy to transport and set up and requires minimal training. The PCR system will ensure that facilities are able to continue laboratory diagnosis beyond COVID-19, for HIV (including early infant diagnosis), TB, other forms of the Coronavirus and Pertussis.

### 400,000

Individuals Targeted

### \$30,000,000

Funding Required



A doctor carries out a consultation with an elderly displaced woman at an IOM-supported clinic ©IOM Yemen



 **WASH** | WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

IOM's WASH programme in Yemen prioritizes immediate, scalable, and sustainable interventions aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality rates and providing equal and sustained access to safe and appropriate water and sanitation services in displaced, host, and migrant communities.

As part of its ongoing emergency response in locations like Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah, Ta'iz, and Aden, IOM will meet immediate and lifesaving needs through short-term hygiene promotion campaigns, hygiene kit distributions, water trucking, rapid rehabilitation/ establishment of water and sanitation infrastructures, and rapid vector control activities. Hygiene kit distributions will be carried out along with hygiene promotion activities, as part of efforts to support the improvement of individual, family and community hygiene practices by providing access to personal and menstrual hygiene management items. These distributions will also be activated in response to epidemiological alerts on water-related diseases (e.g. cholera) and as part of COVID-19 prevention measures.

In Yemen, much of the out-of-service WASH infrastructure can be quickly repaired and/or rehabilitated allowing for quick and sustainable improvements that reduce exposure to water related diseases. This may include activities that focus on the operation and maintenance of water systems, water and sanitation pipes, chlorination systems, etc. In line with this, IOM will intervene in the camps/sites where the Organization is carrying out interventions and prioritize those areas where IOM is the camp management agency.

IOM will prioritize linking short term interventions with longer term and sustainable solutions. Water trucking interventions, for example, will be carried out for a maximum of three months, and in parallel IOM will carry out interventions that construct or rehabilitate infrastructure to ensure a durable supply of drinking water. Generally, this may include the rehabilitation or improvement of existing water systems, the installation of solar water pumping systems, as well as the formation and training of water committees and public authorities. These types of exit strategies are also coordinated with other WASH actors, and with IOM's transition and recovery team.

Interventions are adapted to the needs of beneficiaries and implemented in response to gaps in areas where populations are affected by emergencies and shocks (displaced populations, epidemiological alerts, populations affected by disasters, host communities, and other affected populations). All WASH activities will be needs-based and aim to address potential risks, including risks of GBV, involving women and girls in the project design to ensure a safe and contextually appropriate response. Finally, IOM will continue to integrate WASH and health activities across its programming, particularly in response to disease outbreaks.

800,000

Individuals Targeted

\$32,000,000

Funding Required



An IOM partner carries out COVID-19 awareness raising with displaced families in Ma'rib ©IOM Yemen 2020



## S-NFI | SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

IOM's S-NFI teams are present across 11 governorates, where activities are contributing to an effective and coordinated preparedness, emergency and recovery response. In 2021, IOM will continue its main SNFI activities – including the provision of NFI kits, emergency shelter kits (ESK), family tents, shelter rehabilitation and upgrades, winterization assistance and transitional shelter solutions. Interventions will target displaced people residing in collective centres, makeshift shelters and informal settlements as well as host community members, with beneficiaries identified based on needs assessments and in coordination with the national and sub-national SNFI cluster partners. ESK, Family Tents and NFI kit distributions will continue to be carried out as part of IOM's first line emergency response to new emergencies brought on by conflict and natural disasters. IOM's priority is to ensure that its response is rapid and needs based, ensuring that emergency shelter solutions are providing safe and dignified spaces for affected people. A component of this includes supporting the humanitarian community's emergency preparedness and response activities by managing the Multi-sectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline in Yemen in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). This initiative helps ensure a localized response through provision of emergency relief items to first line responding partners at the onset of emergencies.

Second line emergency response activities will include establishing transitional shelters and rehabilitating existing ones to meet the shelter needs of families displaced for more than three to six months. Through these interventions, affected families will receive transitional shelters which are designed based on beneficiary preferences and local circumstances with a view to promote housing, land and property rights throughout the response. S-NFI teams include technical experts who support with shelter design and construction, and that activities are carried out in a participatory manner that also promotes inclusion of women in distribution and shelter design and construction processes. Where possible and appropriate, IOM will consider the use of cash assistance to provide people with purchasing flexibility while supporting local markets. Additionally, where access is a challenge, IOM will apply remote and/or third-party monitoring schemes and contribute to local ownership by working through implementing partners.

427,000

Individuals targeted

\$26,000,000

Funding Required



## RRM | RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

IOM co-leads the RRM sector in Yemen, together with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). In this role, IOM coordinates and provides first line lifesaving multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to individuals who are newly displaced, affected by natural disaster or stranded due to the conflict. Through the RRM, a minimum package of immediate and most critical life-saving assistance is provided to newly displaced households who have been forced to move due to conflict or natural disasters. This immediate assistance is critical for covering basic needs of people who have had to leave their homes and seek safety in other locations, often with very little access to basic services. IOM's MPCA assistance is provided to the most vulnerable to meet their basic needs after they have received in-kind packages provided by partners (in the first five to seven days of displacement). This type of assistance is important in protracted displacement situations as in Yemen, where around 4 million people are estimated to have been displaced since the start of the conflict. With limited financial resources, RRM MPCA assistance is essential for survival, allowing displaced families to purchase lifesaving food, water, hygiene, transport, health, and other items.

In 2021, as part of the Organization's commitment to ensuring timely, nimble and standardized RRM approaches, IOM will continue to provide cash assistance to vulnerable households under this RRM assistance package. This activity will target the most socio-economically vulnerable households among the newly displaced population using proxy indicators to measure vulnerability to support IDPs in meeting their critical needs from local markets, reduce the reliance on negative coping strategies and acts as a buffer until the full cluster response is activated in the targeted areas. IOM's cash transfer mechanism will be delivered either via static points of the financial service provider (FSP) IOM has contracted where existing branches/clients of the FSP are available or via mobile teams provided by the FSP to ensure the most flexible and wide coverage.

210,000

Individuals Targeted

\$15,000,000

Funding Required

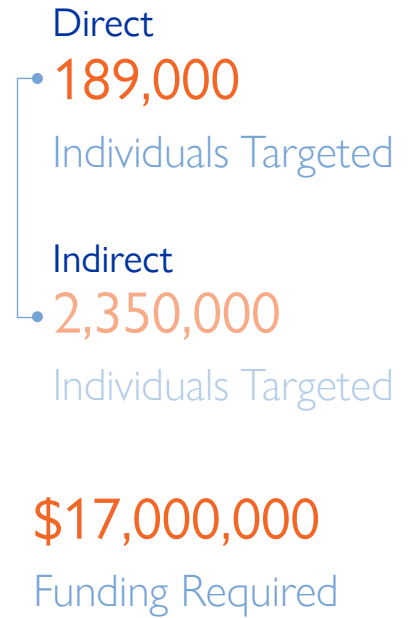
# TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

Safeguarding pockets of stability continues to be a priority for IOM in Yemen. The Organization is focusing on working with communities, local governance structures and key stakeholders to ensure that stable areas are supported to maintain peacebuilding and socioeconomic gains. Informed by community level needs analyses carried out in 2020, IOM will contribute to strengthening social cohesion, addressing community socio-economic priorities and promoting peacebuilding through community centred approaches. The interventions detailed here will be particularly relevant as IOM analysis results in Ma'rib and Lahj have shown that women face significant issues when accessing services, that livelihoods and income are primary drivers of community tensions, and that COVID-19 and poverty have emerged as the main primary concern among Yemenis.

To help respond to these issues, IOM will carry out infrastructure improvement projects that aim to improve local capacities and alleviate competition for limited resources and services, integrating where possible psychosocial support initiatives. In addition to these activities, the Organization will run complementary initiatives that empower women, unemployed youth, IDPs and other groups. As part of infrastructure and capacity improvement, IOM aims to implement immigration and border management (IBM) interventions in key border crossings and airports to develop and improve regulatory, administrative and operational structures in response to diverse migration challenges. Activities will be implemented through building the capacities of local authorities and public service providers to sustain services. Infrastructural development and service improvement projects will also be complemented with training and support towards the development of internal systems, public strategies and development plans. In line with the Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations, IOM will also provide business and vocational training, small businesses grants, microfinance support and cash for work to increase access to capital and diversify livelihoods based on local market demands.

A priority will also be to continue COVID-19 response interventions through expanding risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities in affected communities to facilitate behavioural change and a collaborative approach to deterring the spread of the virus. To build community coping capacity, IOM will provide support to local businesses and carry out targeted initiatives that allows vulnerable displaced communities to access goods and services during this critical time, when livelihoods are challenged. IOM will also improve services and infrastructure where needs are identified, as part of efforts to increase the capacities of affected communities to prevent and respond to COVID-19.

Peacebuilding interventions aimed at promoting stability and creating sustainable conditions for peace and development, will include support to crisis-affected youth at risk of negative coping strategies including irregular migration and other risky behavior. To mitigate inter-group tensions and local conflicts, IOM will build conflict resolution capacities of local community members and groups. A component of IOM's strategy in this regard includes addressing community level issues around water scarcity in Yemen, working with communities to rehabilitate water infrastructure and build capacities on resolving conflicts around water distribution and on water management.



A pharmacy student makes hand sanitizer with IOM support ©IOM Yemen 2020

## CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

An acute level of humanitarian need is generated, not only by the conflict, but by structural economic factors, notably the contraction of the Yemeni economy and the devaluation of the Yemeni Riyal. The Yemeni economy has shrunk by more than 50 per cent since 2014 (Yemen Socioeconomic Update July 2020, MOPIC), leading to loss of employment and income generation opportunities in the public and private sectors, as well as to a downward economic spiral. The Yemeni Riyal also significantly devaluated in 2020, resulting a significant drop in the household purchasing power and income to meet their basic needs. The outlook for 2021 is equally concerning, and all estimates show that the fallout from the pandemic coupled with the ongoing conflict has driven food insecurity in Yemen to alarming levels. A study carried out by IOM and DRC to better understand the impact of the pandemic on markets and income demonstrates that communities are overwhelmed by rising prices, decreased access to jobs, lower income and increased debt. Surveyed households identified food as a priority need, followed by need for cash assistance, in a context where average monthly incomes are estimated to be lower than the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and average food prices are nearly 150 per cent higher than before the conflict. These findings indicate that there is a need to scale up the delivering of MPCA to socio-economically vulnerable households, while also ensuring referrals between cash assistance, community shielding, social safety programs and/or sector-specific programming to address households' complex needs and to help mitigate the adoption of negative and damaging coping strategies.

IOM recognizes that the effective use and coordination of cash-based modalities in Yemen is critical for empowering local communities and strengthening local markets, allowing aid to be delivered in a dignified manner. Supported by community level and market analyses, IOM Yemen will continue to expand cash-based interventions to ensure people affected by the conflict, particularly those that are newly displaced, can directly purchase a variety of goods or services in line with their needs. Cash assistance is especially critical in response to COVID-19, and considering Yemen's incredibly weak social safety net, as well as the rising cost of food and basic commodities. Cash interventions, along with empowering communities and ensuring people are able to address their food and household needs, will also help infuse liquidity into the local markets and build community coping capacity.

As part of IOM's monitoring and accountability priorities, all cash distributions are carried out through banks that have been appropriately vetted by IOM to serve as low risk and compliant financial service providers, while cash activities are monitored either through direct presence or third-party monitoring teams. IOM third party monitoring teams will be utilized to conduct verification, distribution monitoring and post distribution monitoring, after which a harmonized and comprehensive Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey will be conducted with a representative sample. In line with efforts to ensure accountability to affected populations, IOM provides beneficiaries with a feedback mechanism, whereby beneficiaries can report any irregularities or needs that may arise throughout implementation. This is done through the provision of a hotline number, WhatsApp, Facebook and email. Results of the PDMs and the feedback mechanisms are systematically shared with the cash programming stakeholders to help analyze potential shortfalls of the interventions and needs for adjustment. Importantly, the Organization has worked on harmonizing partner targeting and monitoring tools through its role as co-lead of the Cash Consortium of Yemen (CCY) (together with DRC) and the Rapid Response Mechanism Sector (RRM) (together with UNFPA). These efforts allow IOM and partners to improve programming through lessons learnt and good practices (quality, quantity and appropriateness).



A man takes part in a cash-for-work project rehabilitating a road in Hadramwat ©IOM Yemen



In Yemen, displacement data collection, dissemination and analysis activities carried out through IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) contribute towards building an evidence base for preparedness and response activities. IOM's DTM programme is supported by a network of technical experts who carry out assessments and survey designs, as well as Database and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) experts and an expanding network of governorate-level focal points, enumerators and data entry clerks who collect and manage displacement data. DTM assessments in Yemen cover IDPs, returnees, migrant populations and host communities, and include multi-layered datasets and information on their mobility, locations (villages or neighbourhoods), vulnerabilities and needs. Reports, datasets and maps on displacement trends in Yemen are produced for the general public, national authorities, humanitarian and development actors, and donors. IOM DTM tracks movements in and out of Yemen at key flow monitoring points to help inform protection and humanitarian response to migrants as well as monitor migration trends on a monthly basis.

Overall, IOM's work in this area is framed under the following workstreams, under which COVID-19 related mobility and impact assessments are also integrated: (1) Mobility tracking (area assessments and rapid displacement tracking), which provides updated data and other basic characteristics of select population groups (IDPs, returnees) at repeat and regular intervals; (2) Flow monitoring, which provides key insights into the analysis of overall migration trends in Yemen by monitoring incoming and outgoing flows at preidentified locations of high migrant activity, known as flow monitoring points (FMPs); (3) In-depth assessments, including the multi-cluster location assessment (MCLA) and ad-hoc assessments.

The MCLA is carried out annually in collaboration with OCHA and clusters and serves as an evidence base for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

In 2021, IOM will establish two new FMPs, in addition to the six existing FMPs, to track the internal routes migrants are using to cross Yemen to reach their final destinations. IOM will continue to enhance the functionality of its DTM tools, such as the quarterly location level Area Assessment and the Rapid Displacement Tracking. This will further contribute to an accountable and strategic response among humanitarian partners in Yemen and provide timely information on displacement situations to facilitate early action, risk reduction and disaster response. On COVID-19, existing resources and tools will be expanded to report on risk mitigation measures and location level issues (e.g. internal movement restrictions) arising as a result of COVID-19. All relevant data collected will be shared with partners to inform overall COVID-19 planning and response activities. IOM will also carry out the MCLA in 2021, to inform the 2022 humanitarian planning cycle. While DTM activities are mainly concentrated in southern governorates at the start of the year, due to access constraints, IOM will continue to prioritize an expansion of activities to track displacement trends country wide.

470,000

Individuals Targeted

*\*Indirect*

\$13,000,000

Funding Required

## HUMANITARIAN HUB

IOM was the first UN agency to establish dedicated presence in Ma'rib in 2019, following assessments that demonstrated the widespread needs across the governorate. At the time, the governorate hosted the largest displaced population and displacement site in the country. Since then, humanitarian needs in the governorate have only increased and displacements into Ma'rib have accounted for the majority of new displacements in 2020. With the growing needs, driven mainly by recent hostilities that have been centered in and around Ma'rib and Al Jawf, IOM has sounded the alarm for humanitarian partners to increase their presence and support in Ma'rib. As the lead UN organization in Ma'rib, IOM has been committed to facilitating this by running a temporary humanitarian hub in Ma'rib city. In 2021, IOM will contribute towards further improving access and service delivery in conflict affected Ma'rib through the establishment and operation of a dedicated humanitarian hub. The humanitarian hub will provide office, security, telecommunication and accommodation services to humanitarian partners, thereby enabling the humanitarian response by providing partners with the facilities required to scale up their presence and activities in Ma'rib. IOM's priority is to run a cost-effective facility with the option to scale up as operational needs require. The facility will provide at least 120 office workspaces, and close to 40 accommodation spaces, as well as common services such as security and a clinic.