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FLASH UPDATE

ESCALATION AND RESPONSE IN MARIB

AL JAWF AND SANA'A GOVERNORATES

The upsurge in hostilities that began in mid-January in Marib, Al Jawf and Sana'a Governorates, continued into March, resulting in heavy displacement, spike in civilian casualties and damaging civilian infrastructure. Intense clashes broke out in Al Hazm City, Al Jawf Governorate, on 1 March causing massive displacement of civilians, with over 12,000 people estimated to be displaced within 24 hours.

Fighting across the three governorates has caused further displacement, with an estimated 40,000 people having fled their homes between 19 January and 18 March 2020. Most of those displaced persons are in Marib City and surrounding areas, staying in overcrowded public buildings, in displacement sites and with the local community. Nearly 5,000 are scattered in Nihm and Bani Hushaysh District in Sana'a Governorate. The actual number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is likely to be higher as many families are staying with the host families and may not have been included in estimates.

To date, 6,491 newly displaced households (38,946 individuals) have been identified by the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). With reportedly increasing displacement a new camp, entitled Al Khair has been established by IOM and local authorities to host displaced families from Al Jawf Governorate.

Urgent needs as reported by partners include additional food assistance, non-food items, clothing and protection of civilians still trapped between the frontlines.



6,491 registered displaced households



6,415 households assisted with Rapid Response Mechanism



Response to 200 families per day within 48-72 hours of displacement



6,296 displaced people assisted with mobile reproductive health services



7,744 displaced persons assisted with protection services



RRM distribution and mobile reproductive health teams at displaced camps in Marib and Al Jawf Governorates

UNFPA RESPONSE

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

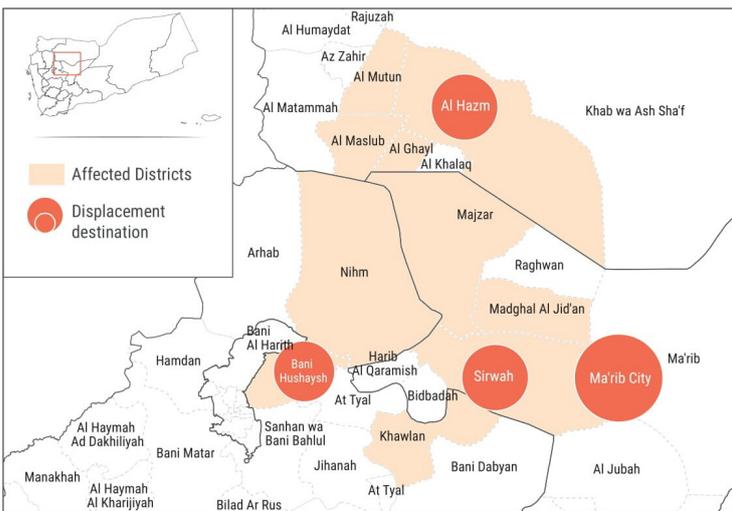
Since 19 January to 18 March 2020, RRM partners (BFD, IOM, IRY and YARD) confirmed 6,491 displaced households in 23 districts across four governorates, resulting from the upsurge in violence in these areas. Three IDP registration centers were established by IOM, BFD and EX.U for the daily registration of IDPs for receipt of RRM kits.

RRM partners are responding to 200 households per day with an average response time between 48 to 72 hours from the onset of displacement. As of 18 March, 6,415 households (38,490 individuals) have received RRM kits.

Some 1,500 RRM kits reached Marib this week; an additional 1,500 kits are to reach Marib in the coming week. In total UNFPA has dispatched more than 5,000 RRM kits to Marib.

UNFPA is pre-positioning RRM kits in Al Mukkalla to serve over 500 families that have fled from Al Jawf. RRM kits are also being positioned in Ibb Governorate to respond to a possible influx of displaced persons from neighbouring governorates.

The RRM provides immediate life-saving assistance to newly displaced households. This includes, ready to eat food provided by WFP, hygiene kits provided by UNICEF and women transit kits provided by UNFPA.



The map indicates population movement and affected areas. Data source: OCHA partners

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Large-scale displacement from Al Jawf Governorate resulted in an increase in the number of women requiring emergency reproductive health services. In turn, UNFPA expanded its reproductive health response in Marib. Currently three mobile reproductive health teams are operational in Marib, through partners CSSW and BFD. The mobile teams are serving displaced persons in the newly established Al Khair Camp and in 80 other camps that have been established in Marib.

To date, 6,296 displaced persons have been provided with essential reproductive health services and referred to other services in Marib, Al Jawf and Sana'a Governorates.

UNFPA supports 10 health facilities in Al Jawf, four in Marib, and seven in Sana'a to provide reproductive health services that includes assistance for normal deliveries and cesarean sections.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Mobile outreach teams were deployed by UNFPA partner CSSW in Marib, Al Jawf, and Al Mukalla Governorates. The teams are providing psychological first aid, transit kits, while identifying most vulnerable women and girls and referring them to relevant services. To date, the teams have assisted 7,744 individuals. However, there is an urgent need to expand women's protection services within camps for displaced persons.

Women and girls safe spaces already established in Marib and Al Jawf are providing psychosocial support, legal aid and medical assistance to displaced women and girls, especially survivors of different forms of violence. Two such safe spaces are operational in Marib. The safe space in Al Jawf Governorate is shifting its operations to Marib.

Following the influx of newly displaced persons from Marib, Al Hudaydah and Taizz Governorates to Al Mukalla Governorate, a UNFPA-supported safe space and a shelter in Al Mukalla is serving women requiring protection services, including those referred from Marib.