

SITUATION UPDATE

Intense fighting continues across frontline areas in Marib Governorate, with hostilities particularly rife in Sirwah District. Large wave of displacement within the governorate since the start of the escalation in early February 2021 has led to the displacement of more than 18,000 people.

Marib Governorate already hosts an estimated one million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in 125 IDP sites. Sirwah District hosts around 30,000 displaced people in at least 14 displacement sites. Those newly displaced from Sirwah District have moved closer to Marib City. An additional 692 families were reportedly displaced from Marib to Sana'a City, Sana'a, Al Bayda and Amran Governorates between March and April 2021.

The newly displaced are some of the most vulnerable; with an estimated 70 percent being women. Urgent needs as reported by partners include additional food assistance, non-food items, clothing and protection of civilians still trapped between frontlines.

With continued fighting, more civilians are expected to continue to flee towards the eastern outskirts of Sirwah and into Marib City, where IDP sites are already crowded and response capacities are overstretched. Should hostilities move towards the city and surrounding areas, 385,000 people could be displaced to the suburbs of Marib City and to areas in Hadramout Governorate.

ISSUE #08 | 28 APRIL 2021

FLASH UPDATE

ESCALATION AND RESPONSE IN MARIB GOVERNORATE



26,271 displaced people registered



25,557 people assisted with the Rapid Response Mechanism



36,593 displaced people assisted with reproductive health services



5,586 displaced persons assisted with protection services



Mobile reproductive health teams in displaced camps, RRM distribution and women's safe space in Marib.

UNFPA RESPONSE

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

UNFPA continues to provide immediate assistance to those newly displaced in Marib through the activation of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). UNFPA's RRM partner Building Foundation for Development is responding in five additional districts in Marib, which include Rahbah, Mahaliyah, Jabal Murad, Al Juban and Abdiyah Districts. BFD is also the RRM partner in Sirwah district and Al Bayda Governorate.

From 1 January 2021, a total of 26,271 displaced individuals were registered, while 25,557 individuals were assisted with RRM kits. Pending caseload of 102 households is to be covered within the next few days. Most of those displaced have been enrolled through the UNFPA-run dashboard, with the beneficiary lists passed on to the multi-purpose cash assistance partner (IOM), general food assistance partner (WFP) and OCHA.

Currently, 1,286 RRM kits are positioned in Marib for distribution, with an additional 3,000 kits being transported from Aden. In the south of the country, 18,000 RRM kits are prepositioned for distribution. Additional kits are also available in the north.

RRM partners are responding with an average response time between 48 to 72 hours from the onset of displacement.

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.

HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED BY RRM 1 JAN. - 26 APRIL

GOVERNORATE	REGISTERED	ASSISTED
Marib	2,680	2,660
Al Jawf	623	623
Amran	7	7
Hadramaut	8	8
Al Bayda	11	11
Abyan	1	1
Lahj	1	1
Sana'a	224	224
Amanat Al Asimah	78	76
Dhamar	9	9
Taizz	25	25
Raymah	86	0
	3,753	3,651

Large-scale displacement continues to increase the demand for emergency reproductive health services in Marib and surrounding areas. Rise in cases of COVID-19 in the governorate is overstressing the limited health services.

Two mobile reproductive health teams are operational in frontline areas of Marib, while four health facilities are being supported by UNFPA to provide essential reproductive health services, including normal deliveries and caesarean sections.

From 1 January to 28 April 2021, 36,593 displaced persons were provided with reproductive health services. This includes 25,935 individuals reached through mobile clinics and 10,658 individuals reached through health facilities.

UNFPA has mobilized 50 community midwives in Marib. The clean delivery kits supplied to these midwives help pregnant women who are unable to get to a health facility, hence helping to reduce the incidence of maternal deaths and deadly infections during childbirth. Since March 2021, the midwives provided 11,346 women of childbearing age with reproductive health assistance. In addition, nearly 8,000 people were informed on COVID-19 prevention through awareness raising sessions conducted by the midwives.

Reproductive health services in over 80 health facilities in the governorate are non-functional. As fighting escalates in Marib and surrounding areas, additional mobile teams are needed to reach those newly displaced with emergency reproductive health services.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Two women and girls safe spaces and two mobile outreach teams are being supported by UNFPA in Marib, operated by Human Access. These provide psychological first aid, legal assistance, psychosocial support, awareness on COVID-19 prevention, medical help, transit kits, and referral to other services.

Since January 2021, mobile teams and safe spaces have assisted 11,362 individuals. In April, 356 dignity kits were distributed to displaced women and girls as part of UNFPA's gender-based violence response. UNFPA-supported safe spaces in Al Bayda and Sana'a Governorate are also assisting women displaced from Marib with psychosocial support, livelihood trainings and other services.

An urgent need remains to expand women's protection services within displaced camps, increase the number of mobile outreach teams and establish a women's shelter in Marib.