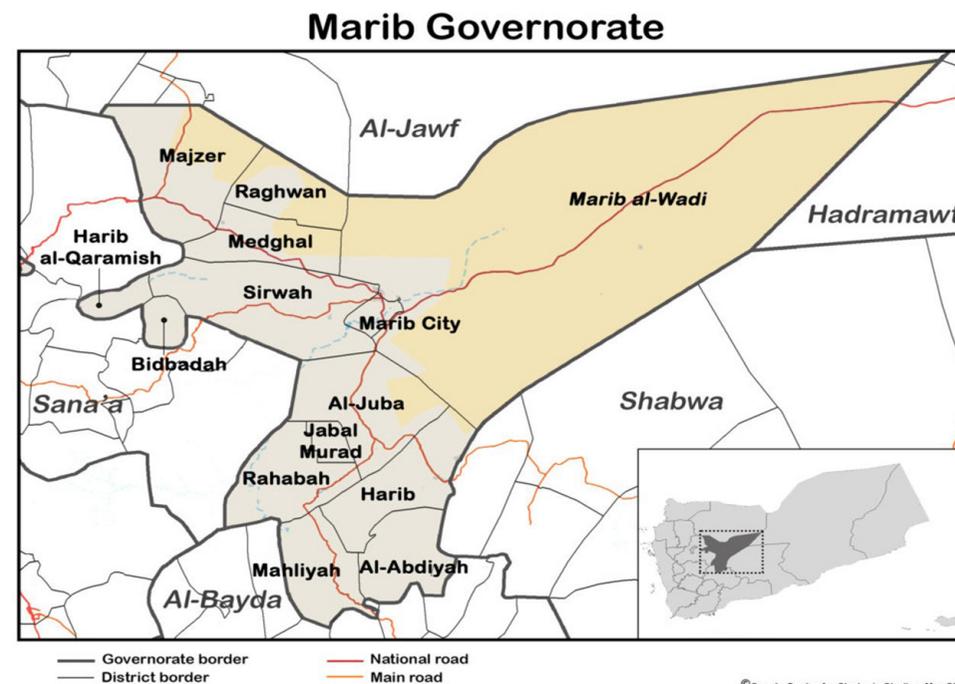


# MARIB GOVERNORATE

## Marib city and Marib Al Wadi

Conflict around Marib between Ansar Allah (the Houthis) and local tribes supported by the internationally recognised Government of Yemen (IRG) and the Saudi-led coalition has increased since early 2020. Fighting intensified in August and September with the Houthis advancing in southern Marib governorate through Mahliyah and Al Rahbah districts. At the end of October, fighting was concentrated around Al Rahbah, Jabal Murad, and Al Joubah. From January to October, fighting displaced over 98,000 people into the governorate with 70% of IDPs located in Marib city and Marib Al Wadi. Estimates of the number of IDPs in the districts vary greatly, but the local authority in Marib city puts numbers there as high as 1.5 million people.

Both districts had already been hosting IDPs since the beginning of the conflict in 2015. In this report, we look in as much depth as we can at these two districts in Marib governorate – Marib city and Marib Al Wadi – to understand the increasing humanitarian needs as IDPs continue to arrive daily, putting pressure on public services and stretching operational actors as they respond to intense humanitarian needs. Needs are most critical in the areas of food, WASH, shelter, and education.



SOURCE: Sana'a Center 05/09/2020

### ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

If fighting continues with no significant advances on either side, humanitarian partners have estimated that 3,500 households in locations close to the frontlines could be displaced towards Marib city and Marib Al Wadi. A worst-case scenario could see between 75,000–150,000 households displaced towards Marib Al Wadi and into Hadramaut – a governorate with a vast desert and extremely limited humanitarian services. This would require a large-scale humanitarian response. As fighting escalates, humanitarian access may be almost entirely blocked, as major highways into the governorate are cut off.

### KEY PRIORITIES

**+98,000**  
people displaced between January and October 2020

#### High shelter needs

because of a sudden IDP influx and limited availability of space in Marib city

#### High protection concerns

during the conflict, particularly for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

### HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

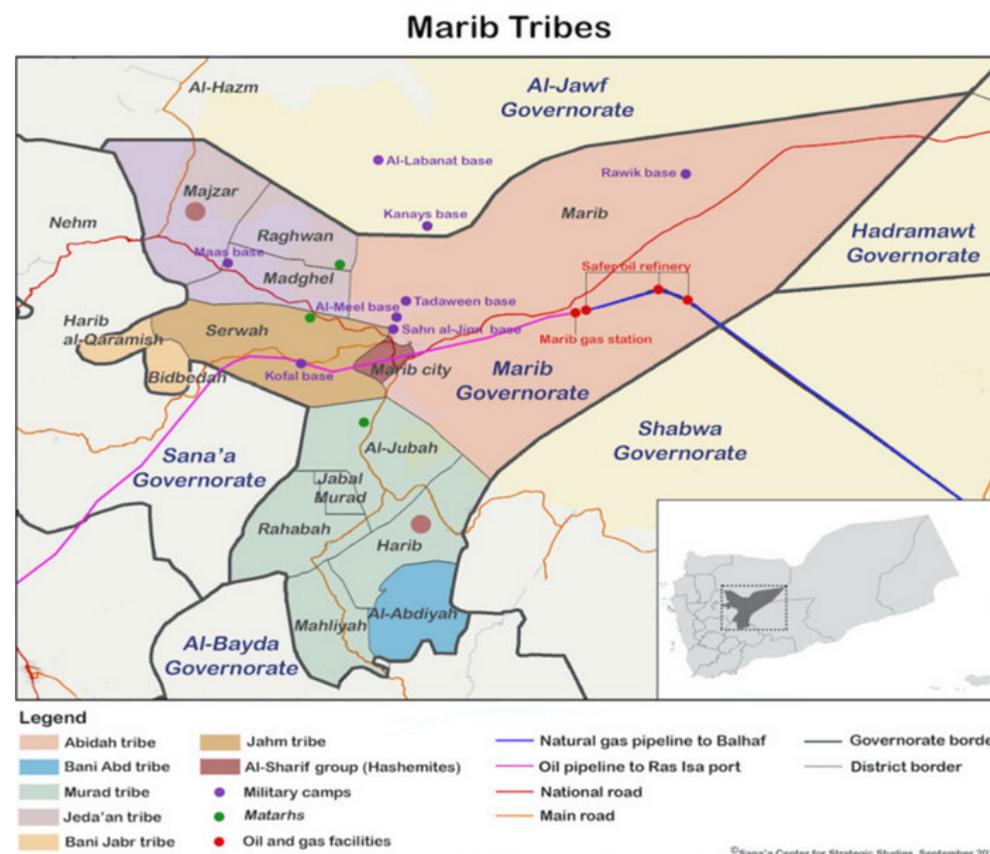
Marib city and Marib Al Wadi, which have received the highest proportion of new IDPs, remain partly accessible. Security concerns are impacting access, which is also challenging because of pre-existing bureaucratic constraints imposed on aid agencies predominately by the Houthis, and also to some extent by government authorities. Response initiatives are ongoing but limited, and the number of new arrivals exceeds current capacity.

## INTRODUCTION

Marib governorate covers approximately 17,405km<sup>2</sup> divided among 14 districts. It is located 173km to the northeast of Yemen's capital Sana'a. It borders Al Jawf to the north, Al Bayda to the south, Shabwah to the southeast, Hadramout to the east, and Sana'a governorate to the west. **Marib has emerged as a key governorate in Yemen's shifting balance of power during the conflict, as it is the only northern governorate that remains under the control of the IRG. If the government loses control of Marib, they will lose control of all of the north.** This will further weaken the government and will threaten the southern governorates under IRG control. Oil and gas is by far the highest value industry in the governorate, though the biggest sources of livelihood and employment are agriculture, animal husbandry, and beekeeping. More recently, hotels, restaurants, construction companies, and other types of commerce associated with Marib city's urban expansion have grown the economy (Sana'a Center 22/10/2020).

**Marib city** is the capital of Marib governorate and its only urban district. **According to local authorities, the city's population has grown from around 40,000 to more than 1.5 million since the beginning of the war in 2015, and the city's population has become increasingly diverse.** People from all parts of Yemen have settled in Marib in search of a better life – drawn by its reputation as the safest governorate among non-Houthi-controlled areas and with comparatively more economic opportunities. **Marib Al Wadi** is an agricultural area bordering Marib city, and its population has also grown compared to before the war. Agriculture is the main activity of its residents (Carnegie 31/07/2020).

KEY INDICATORS	MARIB CITY	MARIB AL WADI (OR MARIB)
Estimated population of the district pre-crisis	40,000	39,495
Estimated population (Local Authority 2020)	1.5 million	
Estimated population (Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019)	116,724	85,619
No. of internally displaced people from Jan–Sept	3,577 households (25,039 individuals) IDPs arrive on daily basis	4,029 households (28,203 individuals) IDPs arrive on daily basis
Accessibility of affected districts (OCHA 2019)	Accessible from Hadramout	Accessible from Hadramout



SOURCE: Sana'a Center 22/10/2020

## STAKEHOLDERS

Marib's population has a strong tribal identity that has been a major factor in regulating society in the absence of an effective state. There are seven main tribal groupings in the governorate: Abidah, Murad, Al-Jadaan, Bani Jabr, Jahm Bani Abd, and Al-Sharif. The Abidah tribe has the largest geographical footprint in Marib, staking claim to all of Marib Al Wadi district, which covers the entire eastern half of the governorate. Abidah's territory encompasses most of the governorate's oil and gas fields and infrastructure, as well as important heritage sites and a Saudi military base. Marib's governor, Sultan al-Aradah, hails from the Abidah tribe. In Marib city, the Abdiah and Al Ashraf tribes are the most dominant (Sana'a Center 22/10/2020).

Local authorities are made up of a mixture of tribal leaders and officially appointed staff aligned with the IRG. The governor acts as a central power in Marib, where he unites all the tribes and consults with them. In 2015 he managed to persuade all tribal leaders to sign an agreement vowing not to hand state institutions to the Houthis or any armed groups (ACAPS discussion with operational actors 10/2020; LSE 23/06/2017).

Marib is the only governorate in which all political parties are still functioning and operating at full capacity. The local governance model of decision-making generally includes consultations with various social groups – local authorities occasionally meet with tribes' and parties' representatives to consult with them and encourage participation in decision-making – but is intolerant of direct political dissent. The governorate has come to represent a unique and reasonably effective decentralised model of local governance in Yemen, bolstered by the unity of the population, tight-knit security, and economic resources (Rethinking Yemen's Economy 07/2018; Carnegie 31/07/2019)

## CRISIS IMPACT

### Displacement

Fighting in Marib governorate has displaced more than 98,000 people to and within the governorate, and accounted for over half of conflict-related displacement in Yemen in 2020. In September and October, nearly 3,000 households (21,000 individuals) were displaced towards Marib city and Marib Al Wadi because of intensified fighting. The displacement crisis is placing a strain on existing resources and coping systems. There are very limited services available to support IDPs, and with many IDPs arriving at already overcrowded displacement sites, service gaps are widening. Many people are in need of shelter, food assistance, cash, and water and sanitation services (IOM 24/10/2020).

Marib city (which had a pre-crisis population of 40,000) and Marib Al Wadi (39,000 residents pre-crisis) host the highest numbers of IDPs, because of their relative calm and low levels of conflict compared to other districts in the governorate. IDP numbers are possibly higher as it is difficult to count people staying with host communities and relatives. IDPs have in most cases already been displaced multiple times (IOM 24/10/2020).

The wave of displacement to Marib governorate started in 2014. IDPs arriving in the area are from a range of social and economic backgrounds, including government officials and school and university teachers. IDPs who came from outside the governorate are viewed by host communities as fierce competitors for jobs, housing, education, and health facilities. There is also competition for support from international organisations: Marib residents claim that IDPs from outside the governorate receive external aid at the expense of those originating within Marib (Sana'a Center 01/08/2019).

The governorate's infrastructure has not been able to absorb such large numbers of IDPs, and IDPs have put great pressure on public services. Local authorities have prohibited IDPs from building permanent stone or concrete structures in Marib city and Marib Al Wadi. They allow only steel shipping containers to be repurposed into homes, which do not provide adequate protection for IDPs from rain, heat, and other weather conditions (Sana'a centre 01/08/2019).

### Shelter and living conditions

As the fighting increases in Marib governorate across different districts, people are fleeing daily to the safer districts of Marib city and Marib Al Wadi. Displaced people are living in a variety of shelter types, ranging from rented accommodation, staying with a host family, informal settlements located on private land, public buildings such as schools, and makeshift shelters (typically built from waste and temporary materials like tarpaulin, cardboard, blankets, and metal sheeting). There are an estimated 60 communal shelters located in Marib Al Wadi and Marib city (ACAPS discussion with operational actors 10/2020).

DISTRICT	MARIB CITY	MARIB AL WADI
<b>No. of IDP sites</b>	28	38
<b>No. of IDPs between Jan–Sept 2020</b>	3,577 households (25,000 individuals)	4,029 households (28,000 individuals)
<b>Locations of IDP sites</b>	Al Ashraf subdistrict	Al-Gizza, Al-Rasid Munif, Al-Shabwan, Al-Jalal, Al-Fajih, Al-Ga-zeah subdistricts
<b>Type of shelter</b>	<b>Formal camp</b> <b>Collective centre</b> (a pre-existing physical structure – either a public/communal space in public buildings or schools, or private buildings where multiple households stay). Spontaneous shelters: groups of tented or other types of housing units inhabited by five or more IDP households, established by the IDPs themselves or by non-experienced actors on land they have no legal claim to. The IDPs intend to stay in these settlements for an extended period of time. The majority of IDPs are living in spontaneous shelters.	<b>Formal camp</b> <b>Host community:</b> families hosting IDPs in their houses either by taking a small amount of rent or for free. Spontaneous shelters: tented or other types of housing units inhabited by five or more IDP households, established by the IDPs themselves or by non-experienced actors on land they have no legal claim to.

SOURCE: (IOM 09/2020; IOM 09/2019; Reach 06/2017).

With new IDPs reaching Marib city and Marib Al Wadi daily, local response capacity is overwhelmed. Local humanitarian actors were already struggling to serve the large displaced population even before the recent influx. The main issues IDPs face in the two districts are as follows.

- Between January and September, Marib city and Marib Al Wadi received 53,000 people. **Almost 80% of these have nowhere to go except extremely crowded displacement sites.** This is a major concern as proper hygiene practices and physical distancing, which are key to combatting COVID-19, cannot be observed in crowded conditions.
- **Rental costs have increased by 200%;** as a result IDPs in rented houses are facing extreme challenges as the combination of the current economic downturn, multiple displacement, loss of income, and disruption to coping mechanisms hits hard. **IDP households increasingly experience threats (physical, verbal, and harassment) and actual evictions.**
- Informal IDP sites are located on private land with no formal land agreement established between authorities and landowners. This means IDPs are at constant risk of eviction (ACAPS discussion with operational actors 10/2020).
- IDPs' vulnerability in Marib city and Marib Al Wadi has increased following the impact of severe flooding in July and August, which destroyed hundreds of shelters and put more pressure on humanitarian organisations to respond to increased humanitarian needs.
- Most of the displaced Al Muhamasheen – a minority ethnic group – are believed to be staying in makeshift shelters.
- In sites where groups of people live together, people with specific needs – particularly women, children, and people with disabilities – may face a heightened risk of exploitation and gender-based violence (GBV).

## Protection

Active fighting since the beginning of 2020 in Marib governorate has continued to harm civilians and cause widespread damage to civilian homes and infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, IDP sites, and water and sanitation facilities. The number of civilian casualties has been increasing since the start of the year and is higher than the same period in 2019. Marib city and Marib Al Wadi are relatively calm compared to other districts in the governorate, but the risk of conflict does still exist. Early marriage has increased, as have GBV incidents (Protection Cluster 31/10/2020; ACAPS discussion with operational actors October 2020)

Below are some protection concerns in Marib Al Wadi and Marib city.

- Marib city continues to be hit by missiles attacking military targets, which are located in the north and southern parts of the city and around official buildings. Although the missile attacks

target military camps, 46 civilian casualties were reported between January and September.

- Marib Al Wadi is more stable than Marib city, although smaller localised incidents have been reported between tribal groups. Only four civilian casualties were reported since the beginning of the year (CIMP 10/2020).
- Child marriage is increasing among IDPs and the Al Muhamasheen, as it is a source of income and/or a cost reduction for a family (as the cost of feeding one family member is transferred to another household).
- According to a report published by the Yemen Protection Cluster, GBV has risen significantly during the conflict. This is partly triggered by tension within families, because of frustration stemming from lack of income and loss of livelihoods (Protection Cluster 10/2020; ACAPS discussion with operational actors 10/2020).

## Health

The extent to which people are able to access healthcare is unclear, and this is partly a result of conflicting information. Some hospitals are providing services and medicine free of charge. People report being unable to visit hospitals however, as they cannot pay for healthcare. Although detailed information is lacking, given the number of people living in Marib city and Marib Al Wadi and the continual growth in IDPs – combined with conflict and poor living conditions – it is likely that the demand for healthcare outstrips capacity.

## Wash

### Water

Prior to the conflict the primary source of water for Marib city was the public water supply, which used to adequately cover the needs of 600 households in the city and in Marib Al Wadi. Following the wave of displacement, the public water network has failed to meet increased needs. When displaced people started arriving from different governorates to the city, the Local Water and Sanitation Corporation (LWSC) was overwhelmed. Different operational organisations have supported the LWSC by providing diesel for pumps and expanding the network to increase capacity. Even with this support, the daily influx of IDPs makes it very difficult to respond to needs (CARE 02/2020; discussion with the LWSC).

Marib Al Wadi's primary sources of water are unprotected shallow wells and boreholes. Operational actors report the need to rapidly scale up water trucking – used as a temporary measure to provide water in areas with a lack of sufficient water or where water is inaccessible – to support newly displaced people (CARE 01/2020; IOM 03/11/2020).

## Sanitation

Sanitation and hygiene conditions are generally poor in Marib city and Marib Al Wadi and open defecation has been reported in heavily populated areas. Some displacement sites are considered to be worse than others – but there is no data to distinguish where the sanitation needs are most severe. Over 180,000 people do not have access to reliable waste management systems, and people use pit latrines for defecation. Only host communities and some displaced people can afford to have these pits emptied. An estimated 10,000 families require access to safe and appropriate sanitation facilities. Because of this, the risks of disease outbreaks and the spread of communicable and water-borne diseases are high, and this is especially concerning in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (IOM 24/10/2020).

## Food

Food insecurity is high in areas affected by fighting, which leads to access restrictions for humanitarian food assistance programmes and makes access to markets challenging for the population. 27% of Marib city's population are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, with high acute malnutrition and excess mortality, and over 31% of the population of Marib city and Marib Al Wadi are categorised as facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels, with acute malnutrition (ACAPS core data set; OCHA 07/07/2020). Any further influx of IDPs will worsen existing food needs among both displaced and host community populations.

## Nutrition

Inside IDP communities there are reports of young children in very weak physical conditions, including cases of malnutrition, despite the presence of health partners (ACAPS discussions with operational actors 03/2020). A 2019 survey showed a global acute malnutrition prevalence of 10% and severe acute malnutrition prevalence of 1% for Marib governorate (HDX 2019). Although there are some nutrition interventions, it is likely that the nutrition situation has worsened and will continue to do so as the IDP population rises and access to sufficient and varied food supplies is further reduced, and sanitation conditions remain poor.

## Education

Access to education is especially restricted within displacement sites, where over 80% of children do not have access to education. 83% of IDP sites report education as a priority need. As a result of increased displacement, the number of students in Marib governorate has risen from 61,000 pre-crisis to 112,000. In Marib city district, the number of students increased from 11,000 to 45,000, with girls' enrolment around 48%. Many schools are not operational because they have been destroyed by conflict or are hosting IDPs. This – coupled with the deteriorating economic situation, lack of teachers, distance between people's homes and schools, and the low capacity of schools – impacts children's education. Several organisations have built classes and provided equipment, but the gap still exists and is

growing with the increased arrivals of IDPs (IOM 24/10/2020; CARE 01/2020).

On 17 March rockets were fired into Marib city, damaging one school and limiting access to education for up to 1,000 families (CIMP 20 March 2020). In mid-September, a school was hit by shellfire in Marib city (IOM October 2020; Sana'a Center 10/10/2020).

## Vulnerable groups affected

### Female-headed households

There is a high proportion of female-headed households among the displaced population – some living with other families, others living alone. This high proportion is usually because the male household head is either fighting in the battlefield, wounded, or dead, leaving women and children to flee dangerous areas alone. Unaccompanied female-headed households are especially vulnerable to harassment. Unaccompanied women in camps have to depend on male neighbours to access water or food distributions – as it is not safe for them to access these alone – increasing their risk of dependency and exploitation. Because of overcrowded shelter conditions, some women sleep outside in the open air (ACAPS discussions with operational actors 03/2020).

### Migrants

Migrants from East Africa are often discriminated against in Yemen. As there are routes to Saudi Arabia through Yemen, they pass through and end up staying for some time in Marib city and Marib Al Wadi. They are regularly accused of spreading disease, committing criminal acts, and being a threat to the local population. Between July and September 2020, migrant arrivals in Yemen remained extremely low because of COVID-19, with just over 1,500 arrivals recorded compared to nearly 23,400 during the same period in 2019. The situation for migrants who remain in Yemen remains precarious, however. As the COVID-19 pandemic increases barriers to movement into, out of, and within Yemen, more migrants are becoming stranded and are increasingly vulnerable to arrest, detention, forced transfer, and the risk of contracting COVID-19. Over 5,000 migrants are stranded in Marib City and Marib Al Wadi – most of whom are in the city – and are in serious need of food, shelter, and health and protection assistance (IOM 22/10/2020; IOM 24/10/2020).

Migrants are visible in large numbers. While some might manage to find work – for example, cleaning cars – many sit on the streets all day, forced to beg for money and food. At night, several of Marib city's streets are crowded with migrants sleeping next to each other on cardboard and without any shelter. As more IDPs arrive in the city and surrounding areas, there is a risk of growing tension between migrant populations and other groups (ACAPS discussion with operational actors 10/2020).

## Al Muhamasheen

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Al Muhamasheen are a minority ethnic group that often live in communities on the edge of larger cities, including Marib. They suffer from caste-based discrimination and fall outside established Yemeni tribal and societal structures. The conflict has forced many Al Muhamasheen to flee their homes from areas with intense fighting. Their experience of displacement has been different to other Yemenis, however. Because of social prejudice, they are unlikely to find accommodation in public institutions and schools. As a result, they have had to reside in open farmland, parks, and other public spaces, and struggle to access basic services or other support mechanisms. They also do not have access to legal documentation and, because of this, struggle to access basic services including healthcare and education. This has further worsened their existing vulnerabilities. According to the IOM, they are in need of food, shelter, education, and healthcare (The New Arab 17/05/2016; Minority Rights 11/2018; ACAPS discussions with operational actors 10/2020; Yemen HNO 2019). There is no data on Al Muhamasheen in Marib.

### People with disabilities

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Data on the number of people living with a disability – either pre-existing or as a result of conflict – is not available. People living with disabilities are present in all IDP sites, however. There are currently no disability-focused response initiatives. Some people with disabilities are forced to rent accommodation in Marib city because the displacement sites are not suitable for them, which places them at higher risk of falling into debt (ACAPS discussions with operational actors 03/2020).

### Humanitarian and operational constraints

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Under normal circumstances, Marib city and Marib Al Wadi can be reached via four routes. Three of these are now hard to reach because of increased fighting, leaving only one route to the east – from Marib city to Marib Al Wadi and on to Al Abr and Hadramout governorate.

The three routes with accessibility challenges are: the road leading to the north-west from Marib city to Al Hazm district in Al Jawf; the road from the west of Marib city to Sirwah and Sana'a governorates and Sana'a city; and the main road leading south from Marib city to Al Joubah and Jabal Murad districts and down to Harib district bordering Shabwah governorate – this route has movement implications such as sudden clashes and might be inaccessible because of increased fighting.

## AGGRAVATING FACTORS

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### COVID-19

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As of 1 November 2020 there were 2,067 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across Yemen, 50 of which were reported in Marib governorate (Yemen Supreme National Emergency Committee for COVID19 01/11/2020). The last confirmed case in the governorate was at the end of October. Between April and June, international humanitarian actors were blocked from entering the country, in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19. Limited access to COVID-19 patient data and limitations in testing capacity hinder understanding of the situation in relation to the virus and are a cause for concern for the humanitarian community, as it becomes increasingly likely that cases of COVID-19 will rise (OCHA 27/10/2020; IOM 09/2020).

Displaced people and people living in communal settings are often faced with challenges, including vulnerabilities that are different from those of the general population. These include disparate access to healthcare and potentially a heightened socio-economic impact of COVID-19, which could increase their vulnerability (IOM 16/10/2020). Should cases increase, there is a high risk that the disease will spread quickly, because of overcrowded living conditions and inadequate WASH facilities. This will place an enormous burden on an already weak and stretched healthcare system, as well as diverting the attention of local and international organisations away from their current humanitarian activities. Although modelling of numbers has not been carried out, we can assume that an outbreak of COVID-19 in Yemen would have an extreme impact and could result in many deaths.

Movement restrictions put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19 can interrupt livelihoods and access to goods and services, including healthcare – which, where it exists, remains limited. Overcrowding, poor shelter, scarce resources, limited access to reliable information, social discrimination, and marginalisation of certain groups all have the potential to aggravate social tensions and increase the risk of localised conflict (IOM 16/10/2020).

### The impact of displacement patterns on tribal dynamics

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In Marib governorate, tribal affiliation is commonly the most important social tie. As conflict continues to drive displacement, tribal groups may be forced to mix – potentially increasing the risk of conflict between different communities, especially as resources become even more stretched. There is a risk that tribal groups from more southern districts are likely to stop any IDPs perceived as northerners from entering their region. There are also suggestions that in an attempt to avoid being displaced into a different tribal community, people are in some instances choosing not to move and instead are staying closer to conflict front-lines, potentially placing themselves at higher risk (ACAPS discussions with operational actors 03/2020).

## RESPONSE CAPACITY

### International response capacity

Currently there are approximately 15 UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations responding to the displacement crisis in Marib.

In areas where IDPs can be reached, humanitarian agencies are stepping up response initiatives. A reception centre has been established in Marib city to help with the process of IDP registration. UN agencies are distributing food supplies, hygiene kits, shelter, and non-food item supplies. Mobile protection and reproductive health teams have been deployed to the city. Some level of psychosocial support is being provided and there are attempts to identify the most vulnerable women and girls, with the aim of referring them to more specific support units. Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are among the displaced population, although there are very few response initiatives to support them – and there are no specific shelters available for people who have faced SGBV. Operational actors are overstretched with the overwhelming needs. Estimated gaps include:

- 45% of IDPs have no access to healthcare
- 80% lack some form of civil documentation
- 80% of sites have no access to reliable waste management systems
- 83% of sites report education as a priority need.

(ACAPS discussions with operational actors 10/2020; UNFPA 19/10/2020).

### Local and national response capacity

There are around ten national non-profit organisations working in Marib city, including: Es-tajabah Foundation, Charitable Society Foundation, Yemen Development Network, Sama Al Yemen, Al Baraka Foundation, Nawas Foundation, MDF Foundation, GARWP, Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief, and Social Fund for Development. Three local organisations are working in Marib Al Wadi, including the Charitable Society for Social Warfare which works on WASH, the Marib Dam Foundation which provides protection support, and the National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response which works on food security. Marib requires an increased humanitarian presence to respond to growing humanitarian needs, and national NGOs have limited human and financial resources (IOM 24/10/2020; IOM 10/2019; IOM 03/11/2020).

## OUTLOOK

Conflict intensified between the Houthis and forces loyal to the IRG between August and October, with the Houthis advancing in southern Marib through Al Mahliyah and Al Rahbah districts. In the north-west, they have put military pressure on Meghdal and Raghwan districts. This intensification of conflict has forced many IDPs to flee towards Marib city and Marib Al Wadi.

Most displaced people are facing multiple displacement. 83% have nowhere to go except for extremely crowded displacement sites. Fighting around Al Jouba and Jabal Murad has closed the road that is used to access southern Yemen via Shabwah, and areas with fighting are hard to access. Any Houthi success in surrounding or capturing Marib city would likely give the Houthis full control of the north of Yemen, including access to strategic gas reserves and oil fields (Sana'a Center 05/10/2020; ACAPS 10/2020).

Further escalation of fighting in districts bordering Marib city will drive additional displacement to Marib city and Marib Al Wadi. A worst-case scenario would see between 75,000–150,000 households displaced towards Marib Al Wadi and into Hadramaut – a governorate with a vast desert and extremely limited humanitarian services. This would require a large-scale humanitarian response with many challenges. Marib needs an increased humanitarian presence to respond to the displacement crisis, as most actors currently working in the area are national NGOs with limited human and financial resources (IOM 03/11/2020).

## INFORMATION GAPS AND NEEDS

- Many displaced people are living with host communities. Little information is known about their needs or the needs of host communities.
- It is difficult to ascertain the difference in living conditions and the severity of needs across different locations hosting IDPs.
- There is limited information available regarding the way in which the conflict is impacting access to and availability of education.
- Health facilities have been damaged during the conflict. It is not clear to what extent health facilities are operational and able to meet the needs of the population.
- There is limited information on the specific needs of vulnerable groups. Displacement data has not been disaggregated according to sex and age.
- There is limited information on protection issues, including information on incidents of SGBV, child recruitment, or other forms of exploitation.
- Estimates of the numbers of IDPs in the districts vary greatly depending on who is providing the information and when the estimate was made. This highlights the continually changing situation – but makes understanding it challenging.