

ISSUE #05 | 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

# FLASH UPDATE

## ESCALATION AND RESPONSE IN MARIB GOVERNORATE

The situation in and around Marib remains volatile. Heavy fighting continues and has increased along frontlines in recent weeks, including along the governorate's borders with Al Jawf, Sana'a and Al Bayda Governorates.

Increased hostilities on the outskirts of Majzar, Medghal, Mahalyah and Rahabah districts continue to cause new waves of displacements into Marib City and surrounding areas. Two new IDP hosting sites have been established in Marib Al Wadi to support the newly displaced – given the unpredictable security situation, additional sites are being planned in districts Sirwah and Al Jouba according to IOM.

The escalation in fighting has led to an influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Initial reports estimate more than 3,000 households (18,000 individuals)) have been displaced since the beginning of September 2020 alone.

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



**3,028 displaced households registered**



**2,724 households assisted with Rapid Response Mechanism**



**1,634 displaced people assisted with mobile reproductive health services**



**3,144 displaced persons assisted with protection services**



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

# UNFPA RESPONSE

## RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

UNFPA has been able 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 Yemen (BFD) 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 Sirwa and Al Bayda Governorate, giving them easier access to some of the newly accessible areas.

From 1 to 15 September 2020, 3,028 households were registered, and 2,724 assisted with RRM kits. Pending caseload of 304 households is to be covered within a day or two. Most of those displaced has 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, 1,500 RRM kits are positioned in Marib for distribution, with an additional 2,000 kits being transported from Aden. In the south, 18,000 RRM kits are available 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.

A total of US\$1.5 million is required for the RRM response in Marib for the next six months.

Large-scale displacement has 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, one mobile reproductive health teams is operational in Marib, through partner BFD. The mobile team is serving displaced persons in 80 camps that have been established in Marib.

Since 1 to 15 September, 1,634 displaced persons have been provided with essential reproductive health services and referred to other services in Marib. From January to August 2020, more than 28,386 women were assisted with reproductive health services through these mobile clinics. The clinics also provide awareness on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation among pregnant and lactating mothers.

UNFPA supports two health facilities Marib to provide reproductive health services that includes assistance for normal deliveries and cesarean sections. Due to the shortage of funding, support to two other health facilities in Marib was suspended since May 2020.

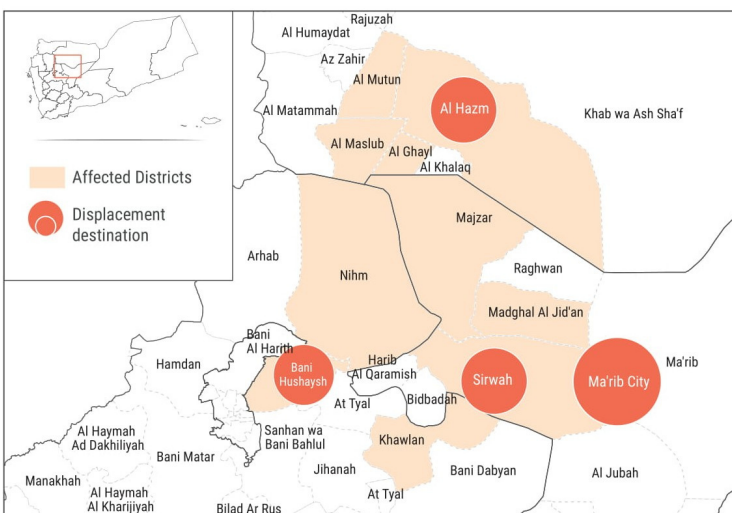
UNFPA requires US\$3.5 million to continue the provision of reproductive health services in Marib for the next six months.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Two mobile outreach teams are being deployed by UNFPA partner CSSW in Marib. The teams provide psychological first aid, transit kits, while identifying most vulnerable women and girls and referring them to relevant services. From the start of September, the teams assisted 3,144 individuals.; while over 23,495 individuals were assisted with women's protection services from January to August 2020. Nonetheless, 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 are providing psychosocial support, legal aid, medical assistance and raising awareness on COVID-19 prevention to displaced women and girls, especially survivors of different forms of violence. Two such safe spaces are operational in Marib.

To expand the provision of women's protection services, given the rising need, US\$1.5 million is required for the next six months.



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