

FLASH UPDATE

ESCALATION AND RESPONSE IN MARIB GOVERNORATE

SITUATION UPDATE

Intense clashes which broke out in several districts of Marib Governorate in the first week of February 2021 have continued, leading to the displacement of more than 11,000 people, most of them from Sirwah District, which has seen the heaviest fighting.

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, and there are reports of fighting close to several of these sites.

The newly displaced are some of the most vulnerable; with an estimated 70 per cent 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.



15,421 displaced people registered



15,330 people assisted with the Rapid Response Mechanism



22,322 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 (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 Sirwah and Al Bayda Governorate.

From 1 January to 10 March 2021, 15,421 displaced individuals were registered, and of these 15,330 individuals were assisted with RRM kits. Pending caseload of 13 households is to be covered within a day in some scattered areas. 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, 1,610 RRM kits are positioned in Marib for distribution, with an additional 2,000 kits being transported from Aden.

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.

HOUSEHODS ASSISTED BY RRM 1 JAN. - 10 MAR.

GOV.N.	REGISTERED	ASSISTED
Marib	1,991	1,978
Al Jawf	306	306
Amran	2	2
Hadramaut	7	7
Al Bayda	1	1
Sana'a	11	11
Taizz	14	14
Dhamar	3	3
Amanat Al Asimah	29	29
	2,203	2,190

Large-scale displacement continues to result in an increasing number of women requiring emergency reproductive health services in Marib and surrounding areas. 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 10 March 2021, 22,322 displaced persons were provided with reproductive health services. This includes 16,016 individuals reached through mobile clinics and 6,306 individuals reached through health facilities.

UNFPA has mobilized 50 community midwives in Marib. The midwives serve a population of nearly 75,000 people, including 3,000 pregnant women. 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.

Reproductive health services in other health facilities in the governorate continue to be suspended due to the shortage of funding. As fighting escalates in Marib and surrounding areas, additional mobile teams are needed to reach those newly displaced with emergency reproductive health services.

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

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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

During the reporting period, mobile teams and safe spaces assisted 5,586 individuals. UNFPA-supported safe spaces in Al Bayda and Sana'a Governorate are also assisting women displaced from Marib to enroll in 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. These needs will be met if more funding becomes available.

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