

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

14-27 JUNE 2020

2020

IOM Yemen Consolidated Appeal*

155 MILLION

USD

5 MILLION

People

*inclusive of
COVID response



An IOM partner conducts shelter-to-shelter physically distanced COVID-19 awareness raising in IDP hosting sites in Marib © IOM 2020

AWARENESS RAISING
ACTIVITIES

72,381

INDIVIDUALS
REACHED



MIGRANT
ASSISTANCE

4,902

MIGRANTS RECEIVED
HEALTH CARE & AID ITEMS



HEALTH CARE
SERVICES

38,151

CONSULTATIONS
PROVIDED



SITUATION OVERVIEW

1,162 Reported Cases

489 Reported Recovered

313 Reported Deaths

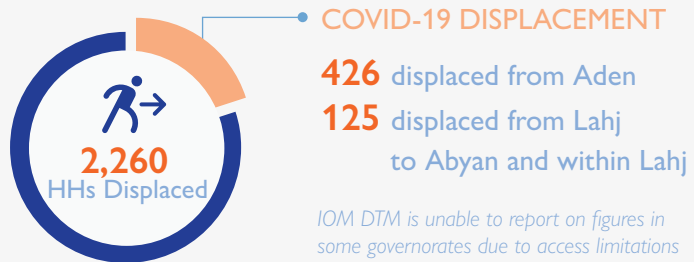
COVID-19 is rapidly spreading across Yemen, with Hadramaut, Aden and Taizz governorates reporting the highest number of cases. However, COVID-19 testing remains extremely limited — only six labs across the country have testing capacity. The limited testing capacity, along with lack of access to health facilities and the associated stigma with seeking treatment for COVID-19, hides the true impact and spread of the virus. The affect on displaced and migrant communities, who already face challenges accessing critical basic and health services, is severe. As Yemen grapples with community-wide transmission, the risks of rapid transmission are especially high in the over 1,700 crowded informal IDP settlements. Seventy per cent of Yemen's population lack access to soap and 60 per cent do not have access to enough water.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams continue to monitor country wide COVID-19 movement restrictions. Five international airports, 13 sea border points and three land border points remain closed to civilian movements, and 10 transit points are active in Taizz and Al Bayda. Of the five closed airports, three have been opened to humanitarian flights and returning Yemenis. In June, approximately 8,966 Yemeni returnees were allowed to return to Yemen from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through the Al Wadea port in Hadramaut governorate.

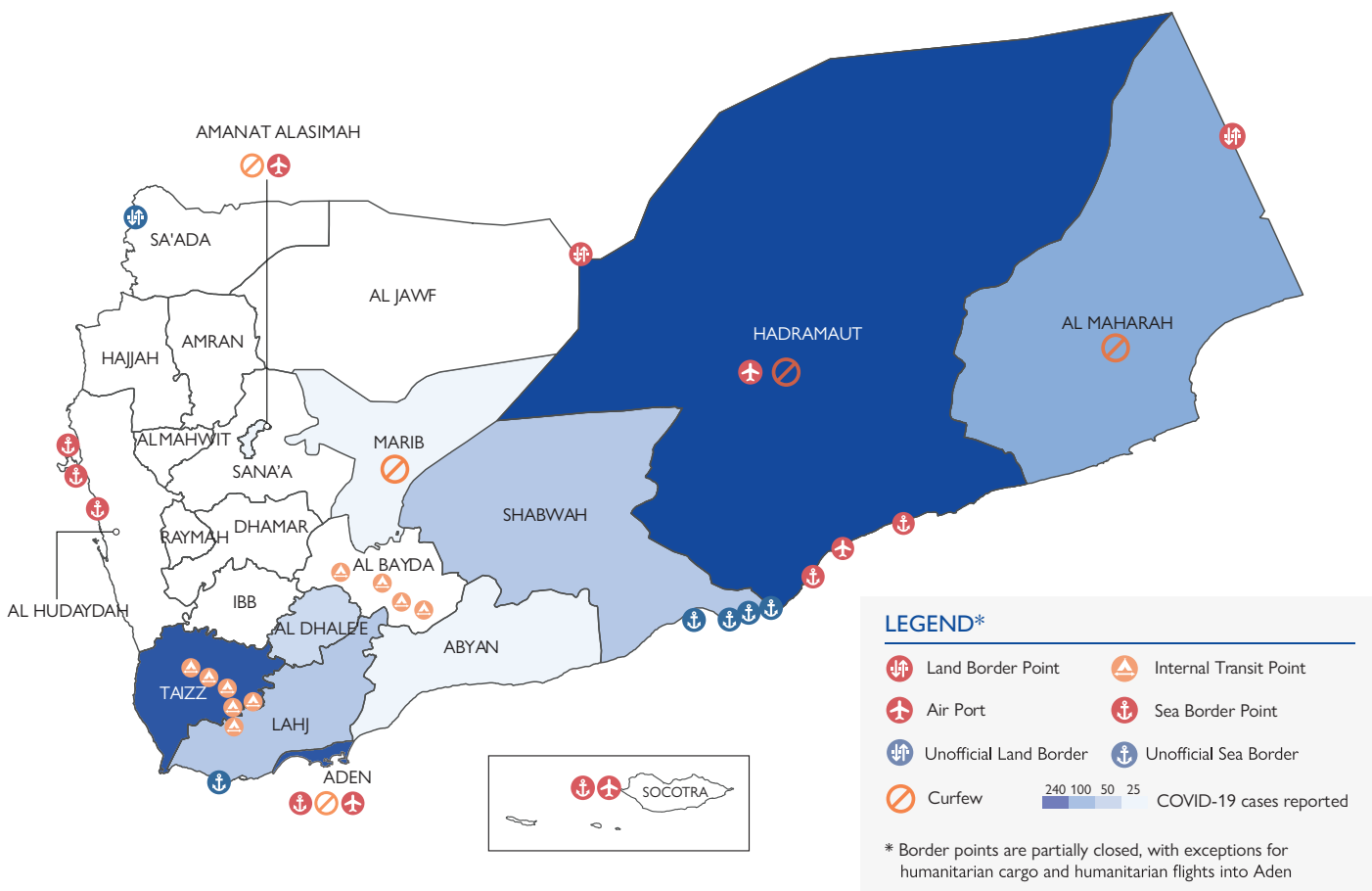
IMPACT ON DISPLACEMENT

Through [IOM Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix](#), 2,260 new displacements (households) were recorded in June 2020. Close to 30 per cent of these displacements were as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in Aden (429) and Lahj (125), with internally displaced persons (IDPs) choosing to leave districts in these locations to areas in Lahj and Abyan. IOM supports 63 IDP-hosting sites in Ibb, Marib and Taizz. In these sites, the Organization has observed varying levels of restrictions are in place to limit the entry of new arrivals, aid workers and visitors into sites. However, sites in Marib and Taizz remain open with limited restrictions on both visitors and humanitarian staff. In many governorates, markets are functioning but IDPs and host community members observe a curfew of 6:00 pm. Restrictions on access to medical facilities and employment opportunities remain of concern for IDP populations, and, while these limitations were present prior to COVID-19, they have been exacerbated since the outbreak.

DISPLACEMENT IN JUNE



COVID-19 MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS



MIGRATION CHALLENGES

Conditions for migrants in Yemen is worsening, particularly in Sa'ada, Al Jawf, Marib, Lahj and Aden governorates. Thousands of migrants are being targeted by acts of xenophobia, movement restrictions and forced transfers to locations where they lack access to food, water, shelter and health care. Concerning developments in the past week have been reported in Marib and Aden city, where local security actors have rounded up and arrested groups of migrants. An estimated 1,500 migrants (700 in Aden and 800 in Marib) are affected, although these numbers are likely much higher as efforts to ascertain the situation of migrants in these conditions are ongoing.

IOM and partners are concerned about the continued risks and harm migrants in Yemen are facing, and are advocating with authorities against the arbitrary arrest, forced transfer and harassment of migrants. Where humanitarian access is possible, IOM is working on bolstering assistance and support to this vulnerable population. In Aden, IOM, humanitarian partners and authorities are establishing coordination mechanisms that will enable a scaled-up migrant response in the city.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Increased physical assault, abuse and harassment against migrants



Increased stigmatization and scapegoating compromising coping mechanisms (solidarity from local community)

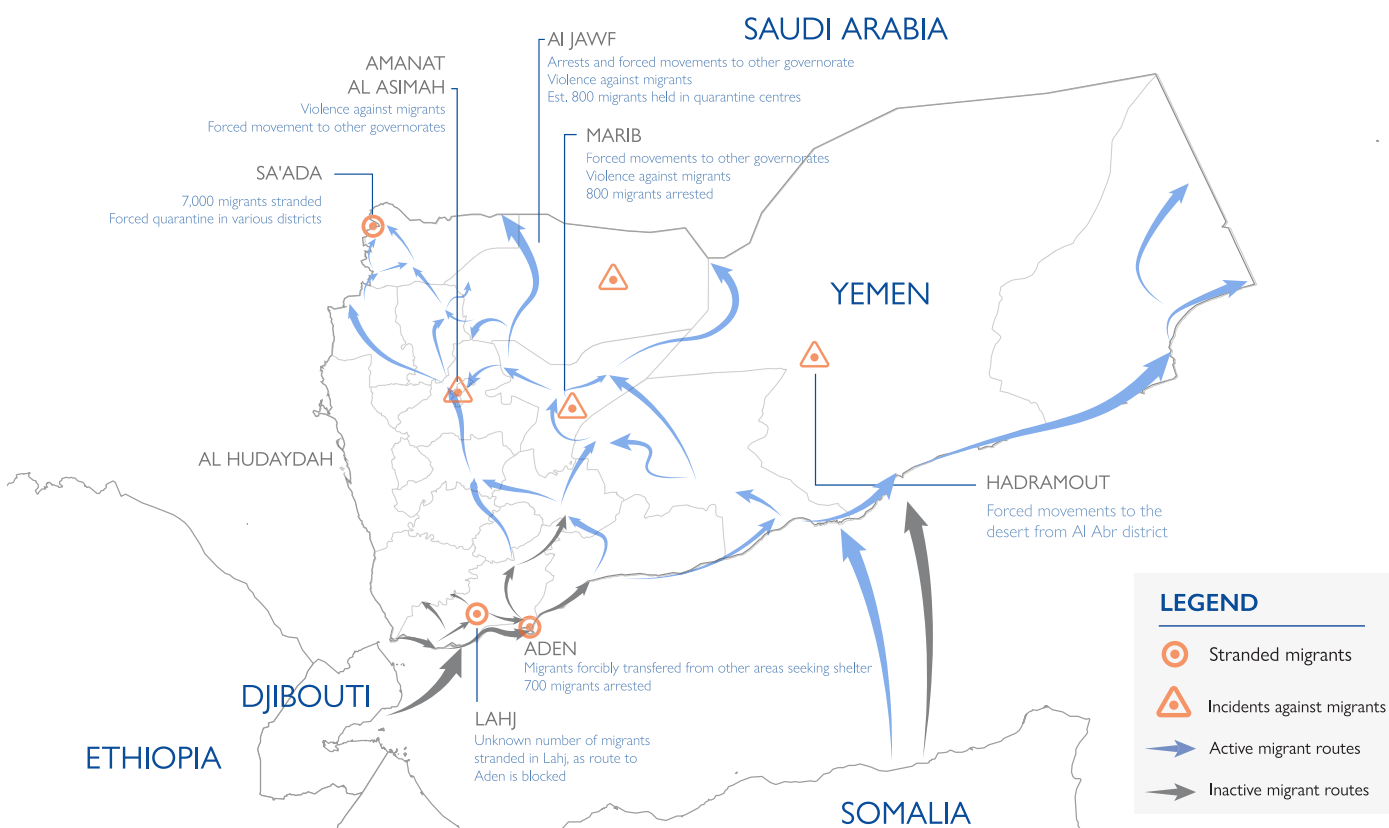


Increased arrests and forced transfers to areas lacking services resulting in exposure to starvation, illness and ill-treatment

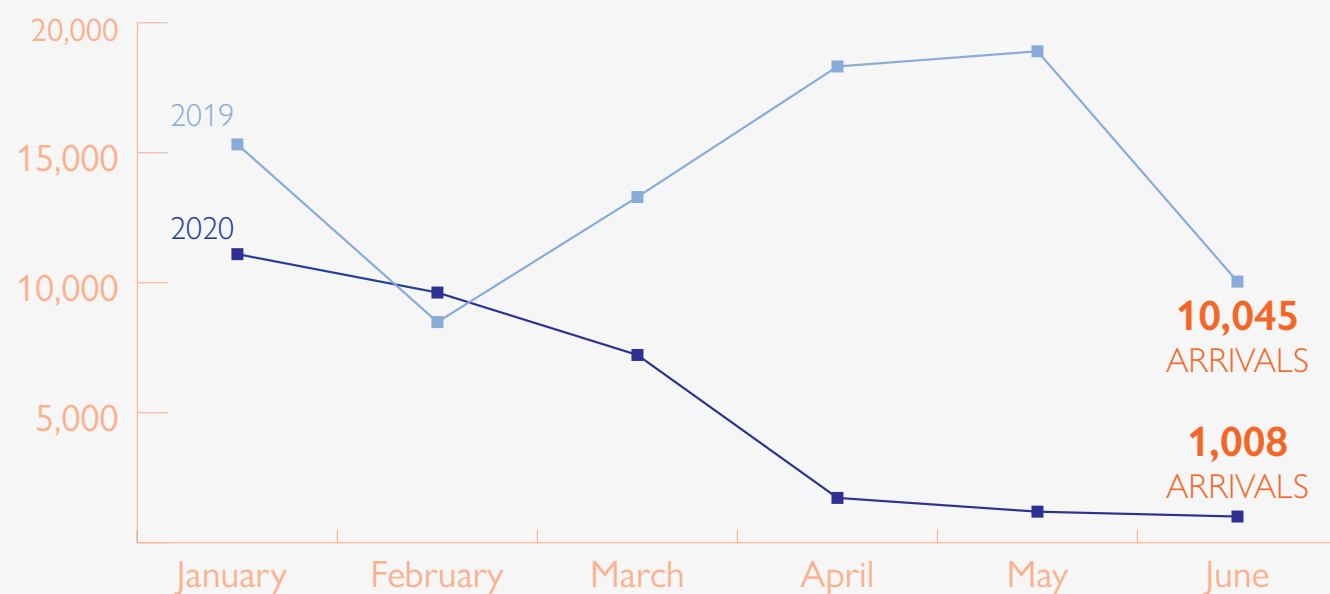


Migrant arrivals into Yemen have continued to decline since March 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic sparking tighter border controls in arrival and departure points in Djibouti and Yemen, and to a lesser extent Somalia. In June 2020, migrant arrivals were down by 89 per cent, when compared to arrival trends during in June 2019. Approximately 1,008 migrants arrived in Yemen this month, mainly departing from Somalia.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRATION



MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN 2019 & 2020



IOM'S KEY ADVOCACY POINTS

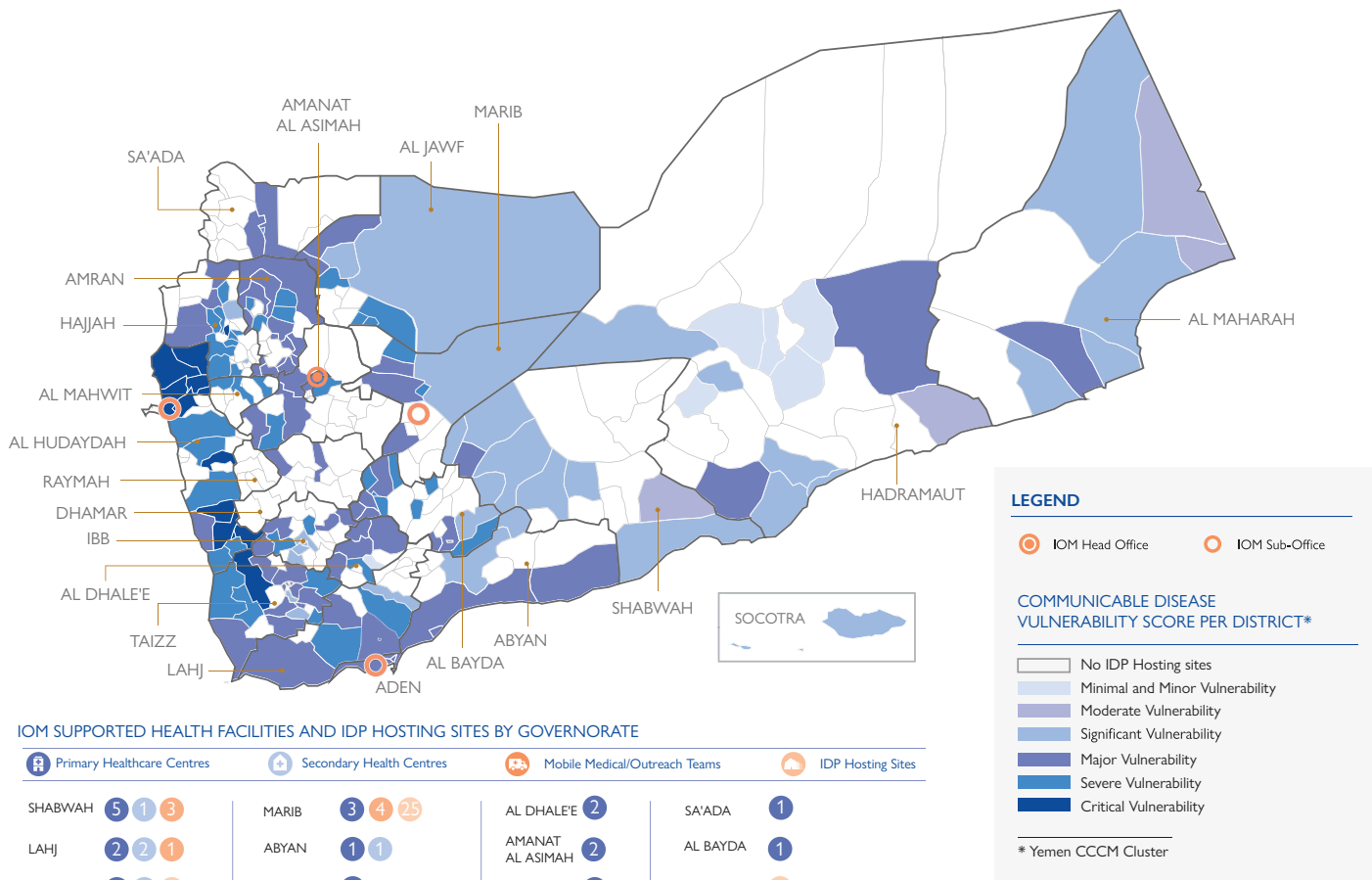
1. COVID-19 should not be exploited to instrumentalize national security priorities like migrant encampment, detention, relocation or deportation.
2. Humanitarians must be granted unconditional access to all populations in need.
3. Migrants in detention should be released.
4. Stranded migrants must be given safe passage and protection.
5. Rhetoric blaming the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants must end.



Migrants stranded in Aden city sitting on worn mattresses in an abandoned building where they are sheltering © R. Ibrahim/IOM 2020

IOM'S RESPONSE

Since March, IOM has quickly scaled up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities to meet the needs of mobile populations – displaced persons and migrants – and the communities hosting them. IOM's multi-sectoral humanitarian activities are ongoing through nine mobile health and protection teams and 32 health facilities across the country as well as in 63 internally displaced persons (IDP) hosting sites.



RESPONSE TARGETS

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

378,000
TARGET POP.



CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

150,000
TARGET POP.



ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

50,000
TARGET POP.



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

150,000
TARGET POP.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

51,000
TARGET POP.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

1,100,000
TARGET POP.



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

120,000
TARGET POP.



PROTECTION

86,000
TARGET POP.



CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

IOM is providing support to 32 health facilities and nine mobile health teams across Abyan, Al Jawf, Aden, Al Baydah, Al Dhale'e, Amanat Al Asimah, Lahj, Marib, Sa'ada, Shabwah and Taizz governorates. Through these health facilities, 38,151 people (including 1,801 migrants) received health services, ensuring that primary health care, cholera treatment, mental health and psychosocial support as well as minor and major surgeries are accessible to affected populations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

PROTECTION

IOM has provided aid items and food to 3,101 migrants in Aden, Marib and Sana'a through IOM migrant response points, mobile teams and foster families. Protection screening activities were carried out for 3,045 IDPs and migrants in Marib, with 715 protection cases referred for health and other aid support, and 188 people receiving cash assistance to support their needs.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

IOM coordinated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) to provide migrants in Aden with access to COVID-19 testing. The first batch of 200 kits are available for use, and training on sample collection and referral to the testing lab is ongoing for IOM health workers at its Migrant Response Point. IOM is also making concerted efforts to establish additional COVID-19 testing capacity for humanitarian workers, healthcare providers and vulnerable groups, starting with Marib where there is no testing capacity. IPC support in displacement sites is also being scaled up: IOM has set up 130 hand washing stations in IOM-supported displacement sites in Ibb and Taizz. Finally, 201 IOM field team members in Ibb, Al Hudaydah, Marib and Taizz received personal protective equipment (PPE) to facilitate daily activities in line with COVID-19 prevention protocols.



A woman health worker taking part in a training for COVID-19 infection prevention and control in Aden © R. Ibrahim/IOM 2020

ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT

Recognizing that loss of livelihoods and the economic impacts of COVID-19 will have profoundly destabilizing effects on communities, IOM is scaling up activities that aim to reduce further competition for limited resources and create livelihood opportunities. In Marib and Hadramout governorates, IOM is carrying out cash for work, small grants and vocational training activities, targeting 1,275 vulnerable, crisis-affected households.



A displaced woman receives a hygiene kit during an IOM distribution in Lahj ©IOM 2020



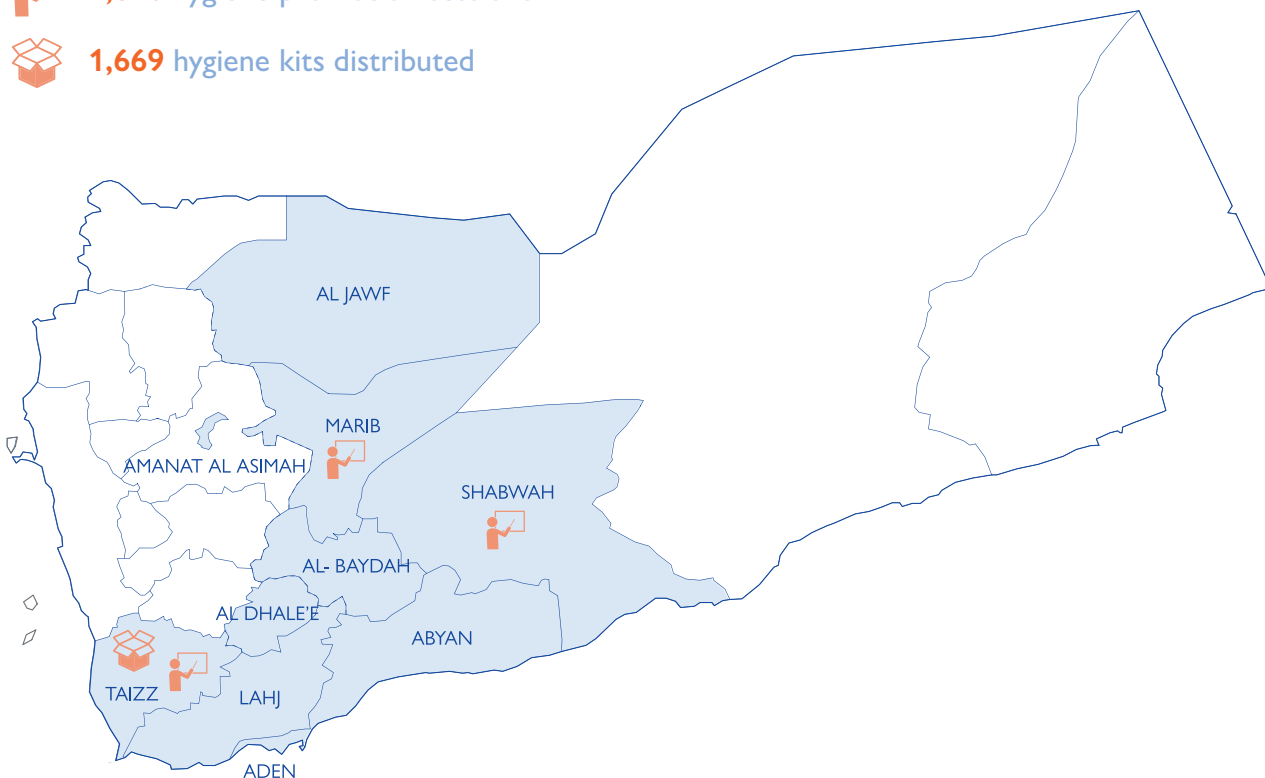
An IOM partner organization distributes COVID-19 awareness posters in for display in public areas in IDP hosting sites in Marib ©IOM 2020

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

72,381 people reached in target governorates

4,620 hygiene promotion sessions

1,669 hygiene kits distributed



IOM YEMEN'S RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY

