

# RAPID DISPLACEMENT TRACKING 2020

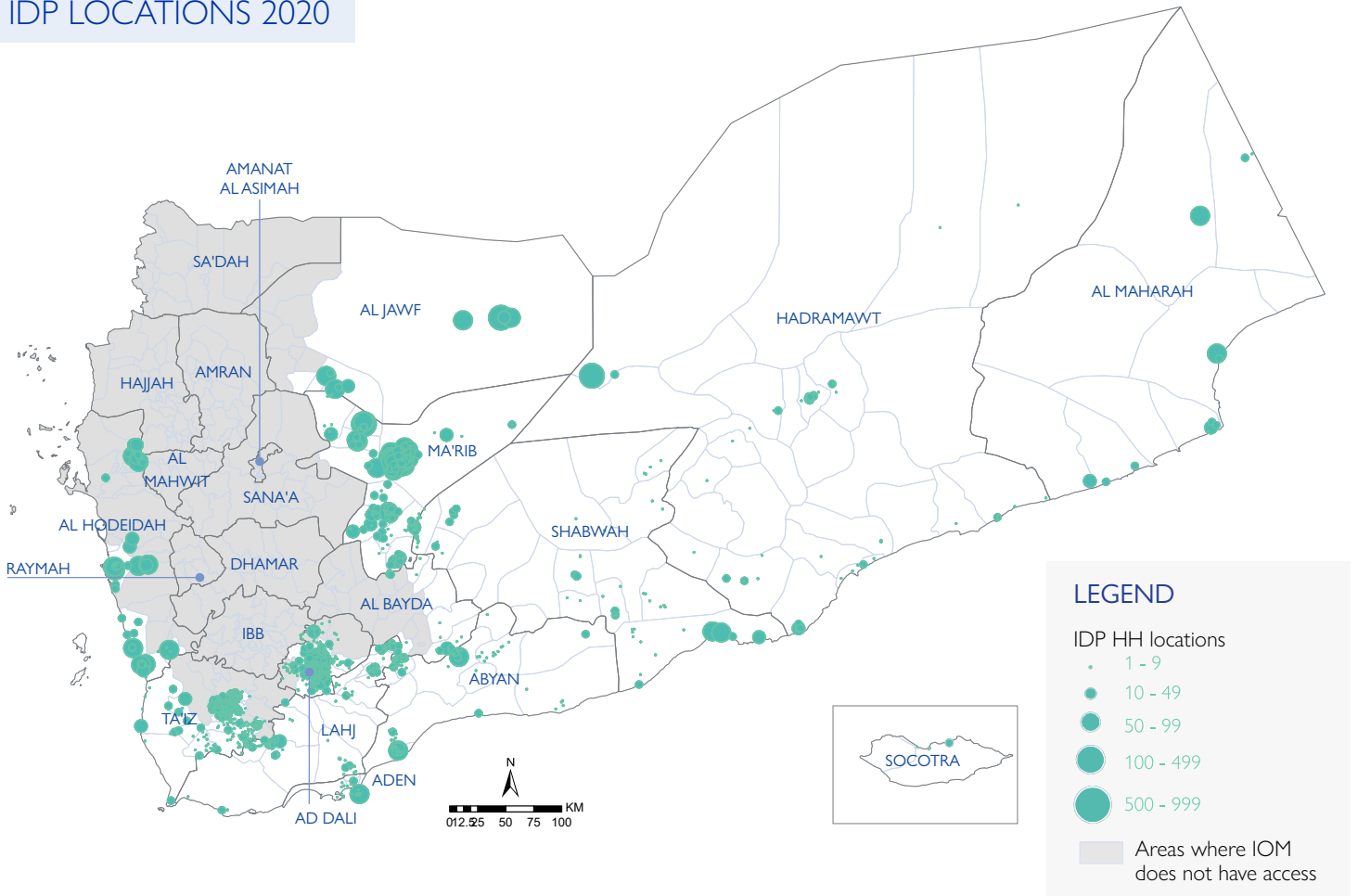
## OVERVIEW

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a global information system composed of a set of tools and methodologies that contribute to defining the number and needs of displaced people, migrants, returnees and host community members throughout Yemen. The DTM team uses Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) to collect data on the number of Yemeni households forced to flee on a daily basis due to conflict, natural disaster or other reasons. This allows DTM to produce regular reporting of occurrences of displacement in terms of numbers, locations and needs. However, RDT data does not capture whether displacement is new or repeat (households displaced from another displacement location). RDT methodology has been in use to track internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees between January and December 2020.

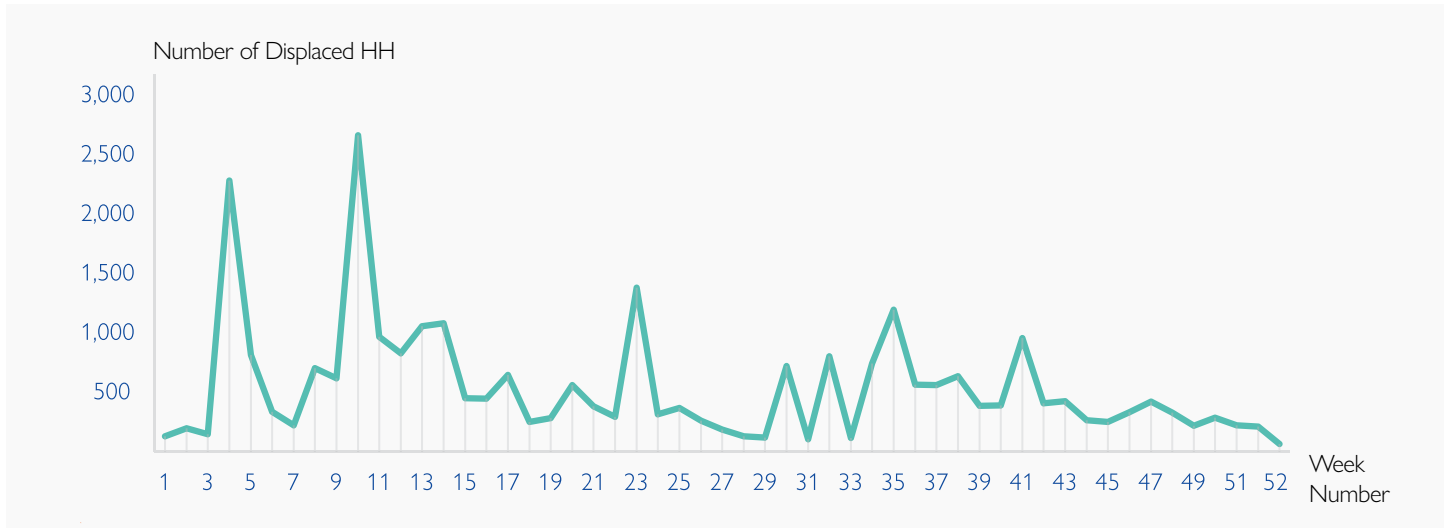
DTM identified 172,386 individuals (28,731 households) who were displaced, mainly by the conflict, across 13 governorates, 118 districts and over 1,249 locations in Yemen during 2020. As mentioned above, this data only represents displacement events in 2020, and does not include people that were displaced in previous years and are still displaced to date. DTM's data is not representative of all displacement occurring in Yemen and should therefore be understood as indicative of the areas in which IOM has access.

The first COVID19- case in Yemen was reported in April 2020, followed by precautionary movement restrictions, which directly limited IDPs' access to humanitarian assistance. In addition to IOM's inaccessibility, COVID19- related restrictions prevented data collection in some areas and may have contributed to the decreased levels of displacement observed in 2020. However, it remains clear that non-pandemic causes such as conflict, natural disaster and the challenging socio-political situation all continued to contribute to displacement through 2020.

## IDP LOCATIONS 2020



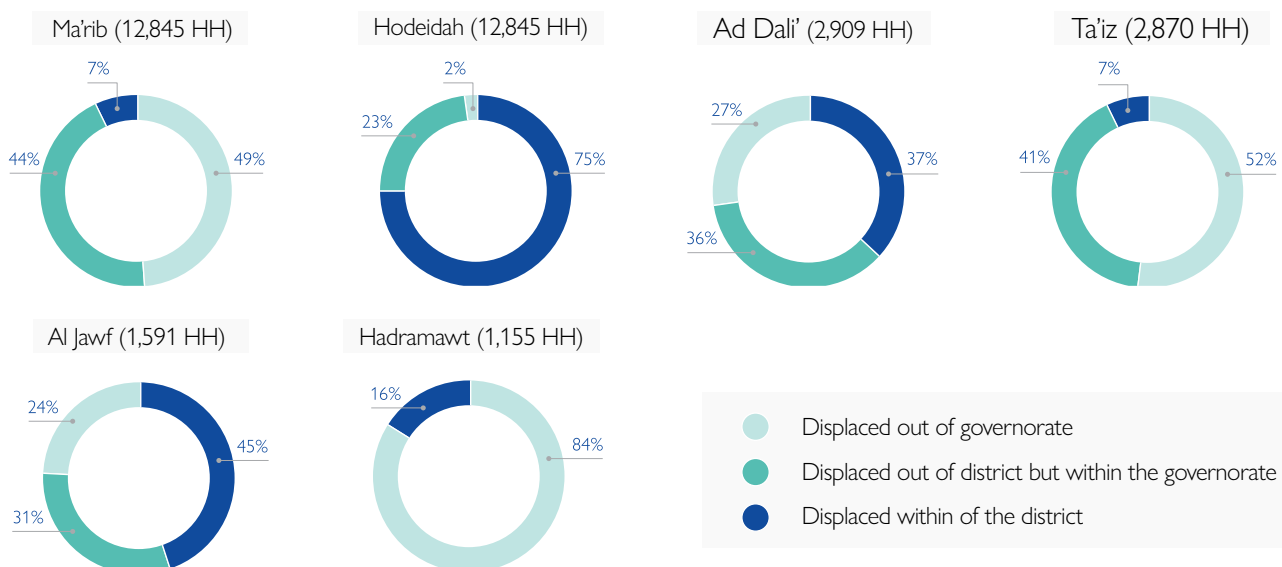
## HOUSEHOLDS DISPLACED PER WEEK IN 2020



In total, 23,877 households (HH), or 83 per cent were forced to flee their homes in search of safety due to conflict alone. The top five governorates from which people were displaced due to conflict throughout the year are: Ma'rib (7,110 HH), Al Jawf (6,868 HH), Al Hodeidah (4,935 HH), Ad Dali' (2,169 HH) and Ta'iz (1,692 HH). The top five governorates where people were displaced to or within are: Ma'rib (12,845 HH), Al Hodeidah (4,002), Ad Dali' (2,909 HH), Ta'iz (2,870 HH), and Al Jawf (1,591 HH). Most of the displacement was from or within locations like Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah and Ta'iz mainly because over a dozen new frontlines were established there in 2020 and hostilities continued to escalate.

Of the total displacement, IOM found that 34 per cent reported living in isolated settlements, 32 per cent (9,215 HH) reported living with host families, rent free; 14 per cent in settlements where families reside in groups in urban and rural areas and 10 per cent in rented accommodation.

Around 29 per cent (7,419 HH) of the total displacements in 2020 were within the same district and 33 per cent (9,487 HH) left their districts but were displaced within the same governorates. Households stayed close to their place of usual residence—many were displaced within their governorate or district of origin—straining services in smaller population centres. This is likely because IDPs viewed this displacement as temporary and opted to find shelter close to home with immediate and extended family rather than venture out into further uncertainty. Additionally, the fact that IDPs remained closer to their place of usual residence could be due to the shifting frontlines and escalated fighting. Conflict can bring about fear to IDPs in that if they were to leave their governorate or district of habitual residence, they may not be able to return to their own home.



Since its outbreak in 2015, the conflict in Yemen has been characterized by cycles of displacement and return. In 2020, DTM identified 10,788 returnees (1,798 HHs), across seven governorates, 29 districts and 108 locations. IDPs returned to their place of usual residence. Primarily, IDPs return when the circumstances in their place of habitual residence have improved overall. Alternatively, it was observed that some IDPs are forced back by natural disasters and the conditions of their shelters at the place of displacement.

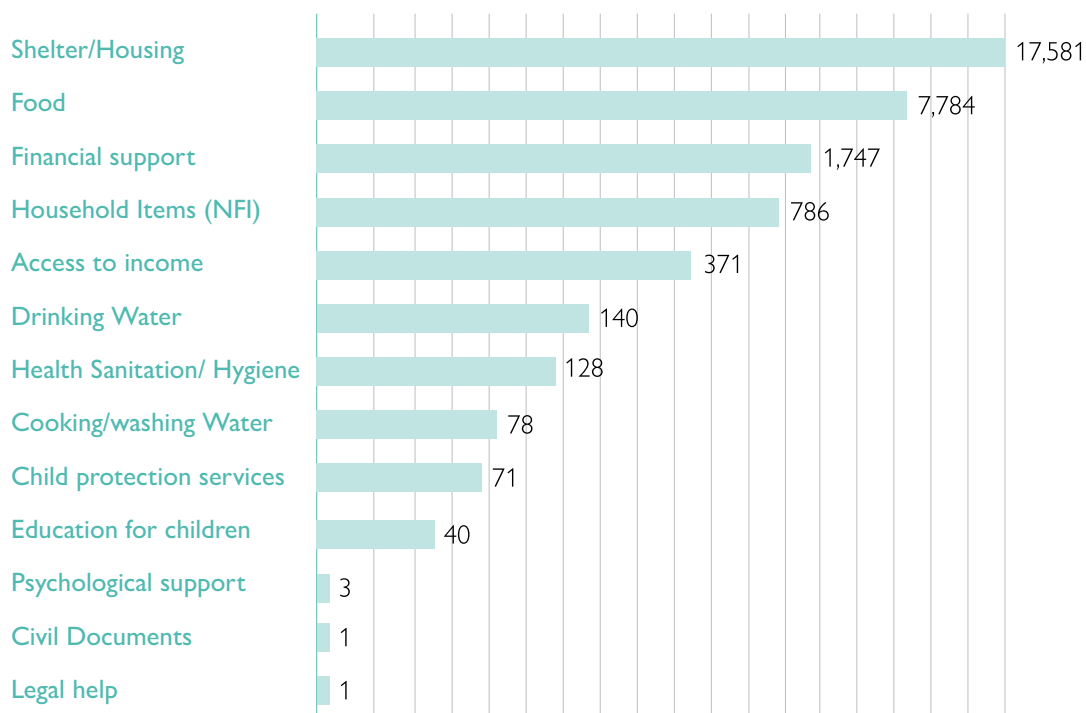
## SHELTER AND NEEDS OF IDPS

### MAIN REASON OF DISPLACEMENT

Displacement Reasons	Sum of Total # of HH
Conflict	23,877
Natural Disaster	3,347
Other	1,507
	<b>28,731</b>

### MAIN NEEDS OF IDP HHS

Number of Displaced HH



Conflict was the main driver of displacement across Yemen in 2020, accounting for 83 per cent (23,877 HH) of the total. Escaping conflict threatens IDPs' physical and mental safety and well-being, forcing families to live in crowded and unhygienic shelters exposed to weather conditions with an ever-present threat of being displaced again. Even those who manage to live with relatives face social and economic tensions as they must share limited resources and crowded spaces with the host families that took them in. Some 61 per cent (17,581 HH) reported shelter and housing as their most urgent need. During 34 ,2020 per cent (9,684 HH) of IDPs were living in critical shelters such as isolated or dispersed settlements detached from a location; 32 per cent (9,215 HH) were living with host families, rental free; 14 per cent in settlements where families reside in groups in urban and rural areas; and 10 per cent in rented accommodations.

Access to all basic needs is urgent across Yemen, be it shelter, food, water, health services, education and livelihood support, etc. and 2020 UN data showed record levels of acute food insecurity. The ongoing conflict and deteriorating economy left most of the population unable to afford food and reliant on aid. Around 27 per cent (7,784 HH) of the total newly displaced cited food as their main need. Linked heavily to the economic crisis and exacerbated by the COVID19- pandemic, the increased cost of living, currency depreciation, shortage of foreign exchange, a decrease in remittances and limited government revenues has all left Yemeni families unable to afford even limited amounts of food. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification found that "from October to December 45 ,2020 per cent of the analyzed population are facing high levels of acute food insecurity" ([IPC, Acute Food Insecurity Situation Report Oct-Dec 2020](#)).

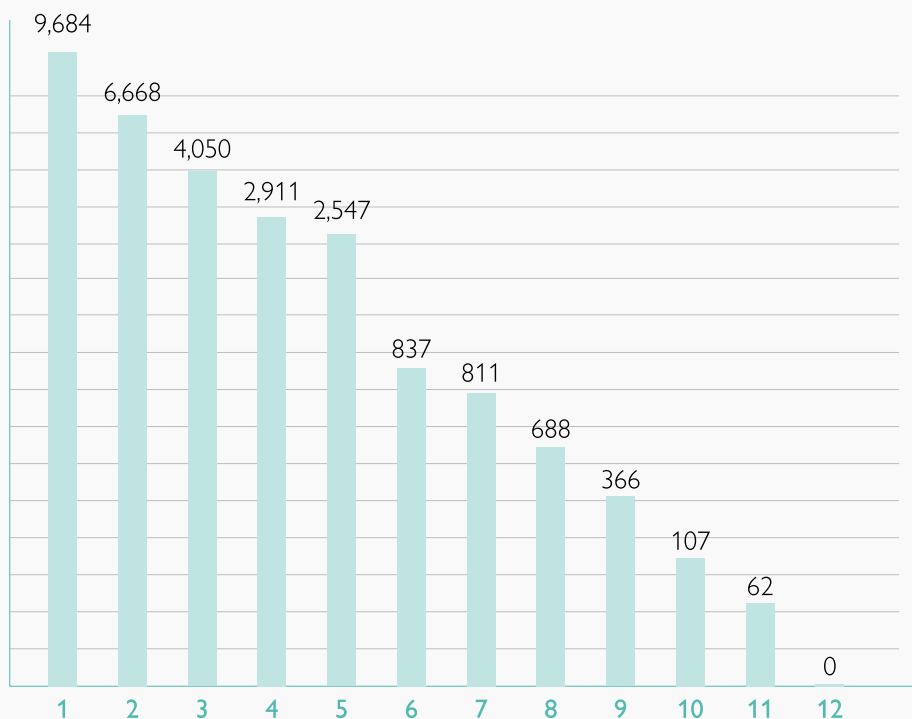
As a result of these complex factors, Ma'rib governorate, where approximately 45 per cent of displacement occurred during 2020, is already at emergency stages. This is extremely worrying given the large number of displaced people sheltering in the district and the limited humanitarian assistance available. Food is a priority for the displaced people in the governorates that have experienced an escalation of hostilities; Ma'rib (1,512 HH), Ad Dali' (1,676 HH), Ta'iz (1,190 HH), and Al Hodeidah (813 HH).

The increased prices of essential commodities in local markets left IDP families in extreme financial circumstances. In Ad Dali' governorate, most of the displaced people are farmers who were forced to flee their land, while in Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah the majority are fisherman and are now unable to find work, leaving them unable to support their families. Many displaced people worked as civil servants and had to face reductions or pauses on government salaries. And despite 90 per cent of the newly displaced across Yemen in 2020 not having rent as a household expense, they still cannot afford food. This shows that the host communities are experiencing dire economic conditions, limited resources, and shortages in food supplies, all of which are having a knock-on effect on the displaced community.

Torrential rains and flooding further exacerbated the situation by devastating local communities, displacement sites, infrastructures, water supplies and public services, specifically between April and August. Extreme weather conditions combined with a shortage of access to safe drinking water led to malnutrition and an increased burden of diseases, namely cholera and malaria. Children under five are most affected by these conditions as they continue to face a heightened threat of acute watery diarrhoea ([UNICEF Annual Humanitarian Situation Report, 2020](#)). Natural disaster accounted for 12 per cent (3,347 HH) of displacement, in which 40 per cent (1,353 HH) were reported in Al Hodeidah government where heavy rains lashed the coast, destroying houses, displacement sites, roads and farms.

## SHELTER TYPES OF IDP HH

Number of Displaced HH



- 1 In Isolated/dispersed settlements (detached from a location)
- 2 With Host Families who are Relatives (no rental fee)
- 3 In Settlements (Grouped of Families) Urban and Rural
- 4 In Rented Accommodation
- 5 With Host Families who are not Relatives (no rental fee)
- 6 In Second Home
- 7 In School Buildings
- 8 In Other Private Building
- 9 In Other Public Building
- 10 In Religious Buildings
- 11 In Health Facilities
- 12 In Original Home

## EVALUATION BY GOVERNORATE

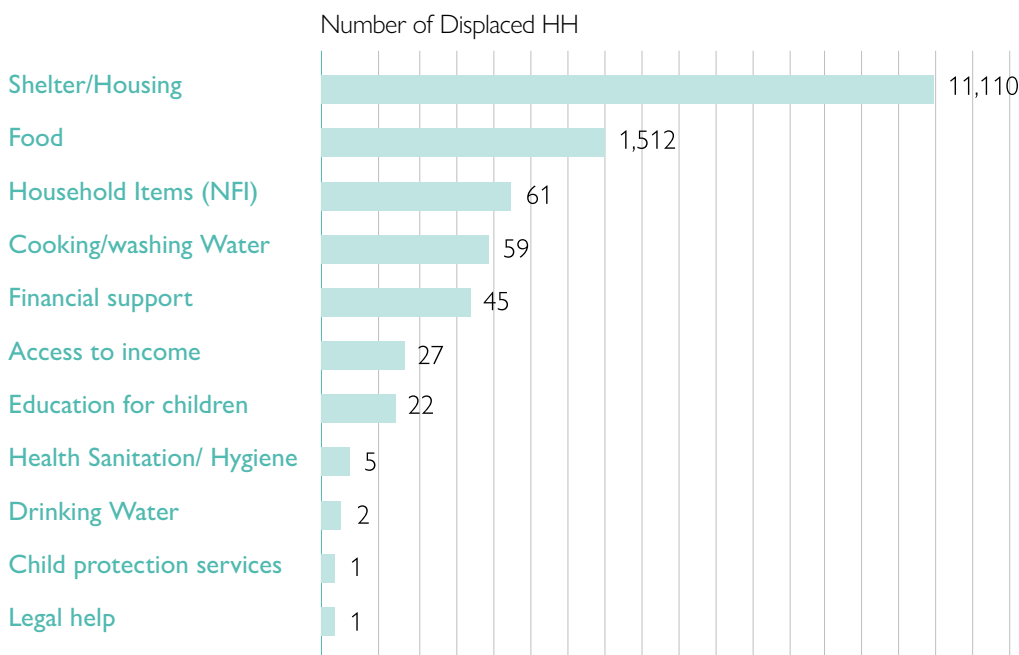
### MA'RIB

#### MAIN REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT



Displacement Reasons	Sum of Total # of HH	
	2019	2020
Conflict	2,477	12,568
Natural Disaster	12	163
Other	2	114
	<b>2,491</b>	<b>12,845</b>

#### MAIN NEEDS OF IDP HH



IDPs have long fled to Ma'rib, as the governorate has seen relative stability since the beginning of the conflict in 2015. IOM's [Yemen Area Assessment Round 37](#) indicates that nearly 800,000 IDPs were residing in the governorate, a majority living with relatives in already crowded spaces or renting accommodation in the host community (over 300,000 people in 2014). Between 2015 and 2019, Ma'rib was a bubble of relative stability, where IDPs fleeing conflict found refuge. However, in the beginning of 2020, Ma'rib and its neighboring governorates saw an upsurge in hostilities, forcing families to flee from areas close to frontlines. The escalated hostilities led to mass displacements, wherein 25 per cent (7,110 HH) of the total IDPs in Yemen in 2020 originated from the governorate of Ma'rib, and 45 per cent (12,845 HH) were displaced into or within Ma'rib. Of those originating from Ma'rib, 6,482 households (91%) were displaced within the same governorate and the majority of the rest fled to Al Jawf (381 HH), Shabwah (138 HH) and Ta'iz (80 HH).

Throughout 2020, largescale fighting continued to worsen the displacement situation. Intensified conflict was the main reason for displacement, accounting for 97 per cent (6,891 HH) of the total displacement from Ma'rib and 98 per cent (12,568 HH) of the total displacement into or within Ma'rib. IDPs who arrived in Ma'rib city and surrounding areas are some of the most vulnerable, having already been displaced previously. Being forced to move for a second or third time poses serious risks related to finding shelter, having access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, non-food items and protection services, in addition to ensuring that their children receive education. IOM found that 54 per cent (6,925 HH) of IDPs cited living in isolated settlements, and 27 per cent (3,503 HH) cited living with host families, exhausting limited resources and exacerbating the host community's already widespread needs. There are very limited humanitarian services available to support IDPs, and with many of them arriving at already overcrowded displacement sites, whether to live with family members or isolated settlements, 87 per cent (11,110 HH) reported shelter and housing as their main need, followed by food (1,512 HH).

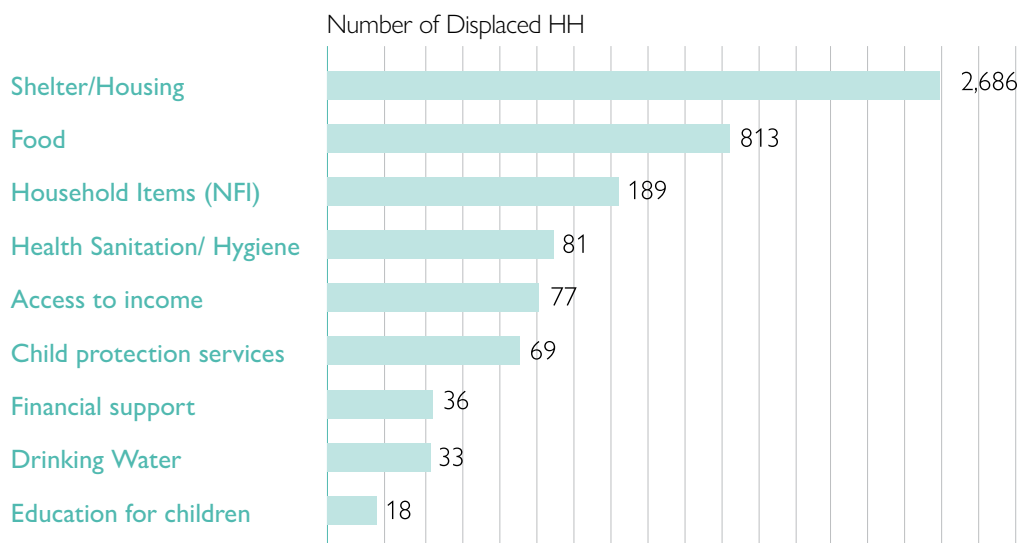
## AL HODEIDAH

### MAIN REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT



Displacement Reasons	Sum of Total # of HH	
	2019	2020
Conflict	10,208	2,646
Natural Disaster	177	1,353
Other	36	3
	<b>10,421</b>	<b>4,002</b>

### MAIN NEEDS OF IDP HH



In 17,2020 per cent (4,935 HH) of the total displacements in 2020 originated from the governorate of Al Hodeidah, where 3,928 households (%80) were displaced within the same governorate, with the majority of the remainder fleeing to Taizz (426 HH), Abyan (155 HH) and Ad Dali' (98 HH). Of the total IDPs in Yemen, 14 per cent (4,002 HH) were displaced into or within Al Hodeidah. More than half of the 994 incidents of armed violence that struck civilian houses in Yemen during 2020 took place in Al Hodeidah governorate ([2020 CIMP Annual Report, p.8](#)). Despite the ceasefire, Yemen's west coast persisted as one of the deadliest parts of the country. In particular, Al Hodeidah, Yemen's main entry point for commercial imports and aid, witnessed the highest number of civilian casualties. During 2,087,2020 civilian casualties were reported in Yemen, of which 457 were reported in Al Hodeidah, followed by 454 in Taizz ([2020 CIMP Annual Report, p.5 and p.10](#)). A renewed wave of intensified violence erupted on the long-lasting frontlines to the south of Al Hodeidah governorate at the epicentre of the Stockholm Agreement, which was signed in December 2018 to halt fierce fighting in the port city of Hudaydah. With hostilities taking place near residential areas on the outskirts of the port city and residential areas to the south, roads being blocked and aid delivery interrupted, conflict was the main driver of displacement in the governorate of Al Hodeidah, accounting for 71 per cent (3,524 HH out of 4,935 HH) of the total displacement from Al Hodeidah and 66 per cent (2,646 HH) of the total displacement into or within Al Hodeidah.

Of those 3,524 households originally from Al Hodeidah that cited conflict as the reason for displacement, Al Hodeidah 1,443 HH (%41) were originally displaced from Ad Durayhimi district, 533 HH (%15) from Al Hawak district and 360 HH (%10) from Hays district. Following conflict, natural disasters accounted for 28 per cent (1,355 HH) of the total displacement from Al Hodeidah and 34 per cent (1,353 HH) of the total displacement into or within Al Hodeidah. This is mainly due to the heavy rains and flooding that hit the country's eastern and southern governorates, damaging entire rural and urban villages and neighborhoods, displacement sites, farms, roads and infrastructure.

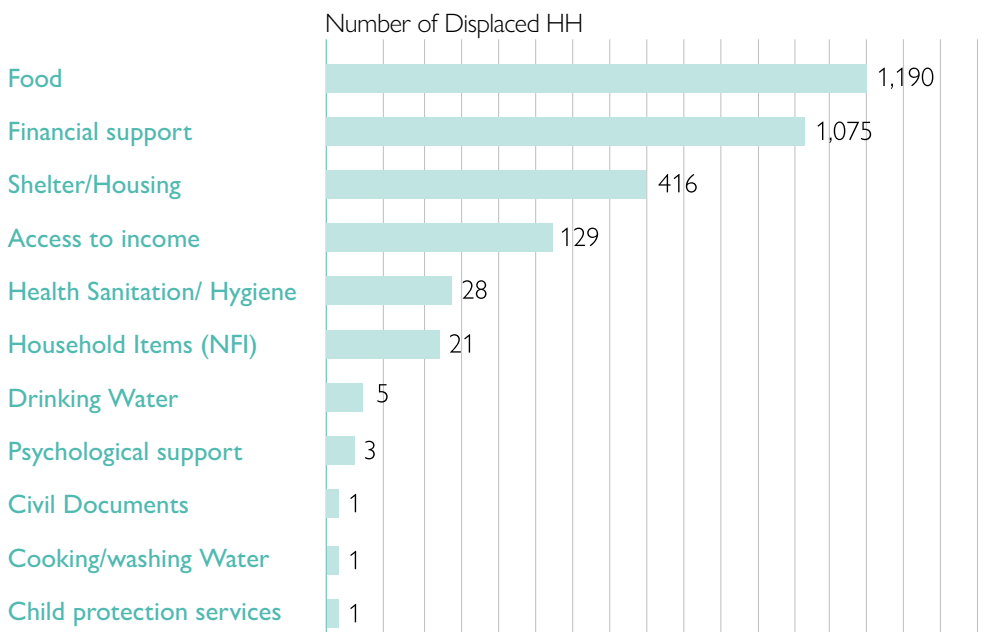
As more than half of the total incidents that hit civilian houses took place in Al Hodeidah and with downpours and torrents sweeping away houses and shelters, 67 per cent of IDPs (2,686 HH) displaced in Al Hodeidah cited shelter and housing as their main need. Another 20 per cent (813 HH) of IDPs cited food as their main need, as fighting and floods extended to civilian businesses and markets, hindering IDPs ability to secure their livelihoods. Some 48 per cent (1,932 HH) of IDPs in Al Hodeidah reported living in urban and rural settlements, where families reside in groups, 22 per cent (892 HH) reported living in isolated settlements and another 22 per cent (877 HH) reported living with host families, with the rest in either school buildings or rented accommodation.

## MAIN REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT



Displacement Reasons	Sum of Total # of HH	
	2019	2020
Conflict	7,023	2,502
Natural Disaster	233	208
Other	283	160
	<b>7,539</b>	<b>2,870</b>

## MAIN NEEDS OF IDP HH



In 6 ,2020 per cent (1,692 HH) of total displacements originated from the governorate of Ta'iz, where 1,391 households (%82) were displaced within the same governorate and the majority of the rest fled to Ad Dali' (95 HH), Lahj (45 HH) and Al Hodeidah (40 HH). Of the total displacement, 10 per cent (2,870 HH) were displaced into or within Ta'iz. The governorate of Ta'iz, following Al Hodeidah, suffered the second highest number of civilian casualties in 2020, of which more than 60 per cent happened in Ta'iz city ([2020 CIMP Annual Report, p.2](#)), the largest densely populated urban area to be absorbed by hostilities. Civilian populations are frequently exposed to aggression as the fighting takes place near residential settlements. With the increased risk of being harmed during armed clashes and shelling, 95 per cent (1,615 HH) of IDPs displaced from Ta'iz and 87 per cent (2,502 HH) of IDPs displaced into or within Ta'iz cited that they were fleeing from conflict. Of those 1,615 households originally from Ta'iz that cited conflict as the reason for displacement, 20 per cent (325 HH) were originally from Maqbanah district, 11 per cent (173 HH) from At Ta'iziyah district and 10 per cent (156 HH) from Salah district.

The intensified violence was coupled with access constraints, leaving humanitarian organizations often unable to deliver aid to affected populations. With limited access to goods and services, civilians must travel on dangerous roads to access food and basic supplies. The continued clashes, movement constraints and limited access to goods and humanitarian aid resulted in food being reported as the main need by 42 per cent (1,190 HH) and financial support by 38 per cent (1,075 HH) of the IDPs displaced in Ta'iz. With more than 80 per cent of IDPs who originated from Ta'iz having been displaced within the same governorate, host communities and families were hit with the burdens of displacement. Around 50 per cent (1,434 HH) of IDPs reported living with host families, forced to face tensions inherent in sharing insufficient community resources, while 33 per cent (935 HH) of IDPs reported living in rented accommodation, struggling to make ends meet, further increasing tensions and economic strains between the IDPs and host families.

## SHELTER AND NEEDS OF RETURNEES

IOM Yemen DTM began collecting data on IDP returns in July 2019. In 2020, DTM identified 1,798 households of displaced persons that returned to their place of origin. Approximately 89 per cent (1,597 HH) were returning from displacement within their governorate of origin. It is likely that persons who viewed their displacement as temporary would choose to remain in their primary governorate in order to remain close to family or other familiar locales. Al Maharah governorate received 417 HH returnees, all of whom were returning from within the same governorate. Similarly, Lahj, Ma'rib and Hadramawt governorates received 140 HH returnees, 139 HH returnees and 103 HH returnees, respectively, all of whom were returning from within the same governorates. Shabwah governorate received 343 HH returnees, of whom almost all (339 HH) were returning from within the same governorate and 4 HH were returning from Hadramawt governorate. Likewise, 323 HH returned to Ad Dali' governorate, of whom 318 HH were returning from Ad Dali' and 5 HH from Ta'iz. Ta'iz governorate received 333 HH returnees, of whom 141 HH were returning from the same governorate, 82 HH were returning from Aden, 47 HH from Lahj, 23 HH from Sana'a City and 22 HH from Abyan.

During the first four months of the year, the rate of return across Yemen was relatively constant: 151 HH in January, 102 HH in February, 152 HH in March, and 113 in April. However, the first COVID19- case in Yemen was reported in April 2020 and within weeks strict mobility restrictions were introduced in an attempt to slow down the spread of the virus. These limitations restricted IDPs from returning to their homes and brought down the rate of return to only 34 HH in May 2020.

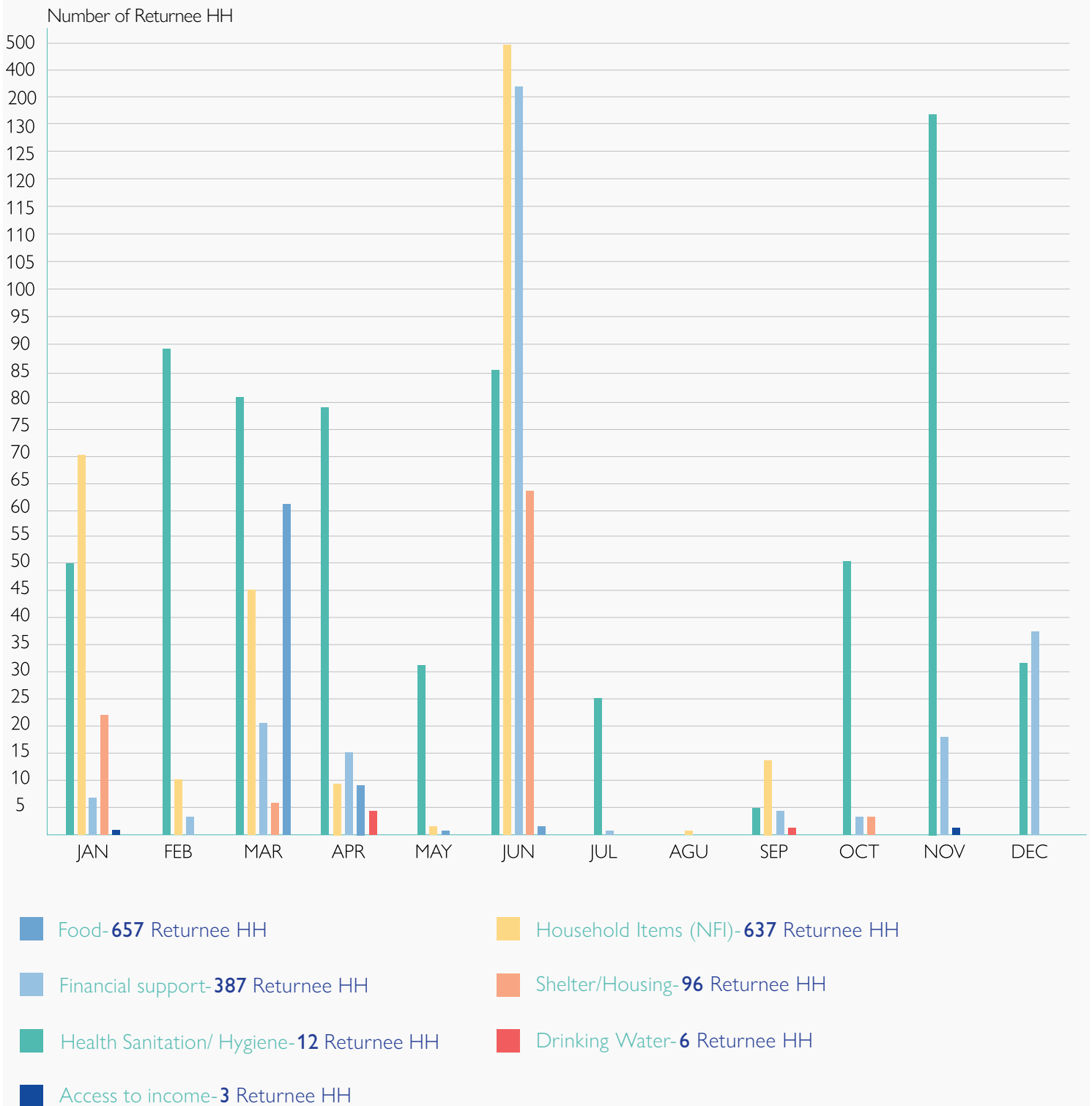
Nevertheless, the highest rate of return was recorded in June (917) 2020 HH) and made up 51 per cent of the total returnees. The increased return during June is likely connected to the renewed heavy rains and flooding that affected eastern and southern governorates the most. Shelters and infrastructure were severely destroyed and access to services and food was compromised, further exacerbating the situation for displaced people, and forcing them to leave their displaced locations and return to their place of origin. Around 94 per cent of the total returnees during June (864 HH out of 917 HH) reported that their reason for returning was due to natural disaster, and 36 per cent (329 HH out of 917 HH) reported it was due to poor shelter conditions at the place of displacement. The increased return could also be partially linked to the month of Ramadan (23 April – 23 May 2020) coming to an end in late May, a month that renders travel challenging due to all-day fasting and intense heat. The end of Ramadan brings with it a holiday in which families are encouraged to unite for festivities and it could be that returnees were yearning for a sense of normalcy and undertook the difficult journey to return to their homes to gather. Six per cent (54 HH out of 917 HH) reported returning due to an overall improved situation in their area of habitual residence. Regarding the returnees' main needs during June, 53 per cent (486 HH out of 917 HH) of the returnees reported non-food items as their main need, followed by financial support (%30), food (%9), and shelter (%7). Around 96 per cent (883 HH) of returnees during June reported living in their original homes, three per cent in settlements where families reside in groups in urban and rural areas, one per cent in isolated settlements and less than one per cent in second homes.

During the second half of the year, the rate of return decreased and made up only 18 per cent of the total returnees. This is likely connected to the renewed fighting and continued increase in civilian casualties. Additionally, the deadly consequences of COVID19- continued to spread across Yemen and again it is likely that the rate of return decreased due to the increased mobility restrictions.

IOM Yemen collected information on the total number of returnees' main needs in their governorate of return and found that during 2020 food (657 HH out of 1,798 HH) and non-food items (637 HH) were the top two priority needs, followed by financial support (387 HH), shelter (96 HH), and health (12 HH). Around 94 per cent of the total returnees reported living in their original homes. When asked about the reason for returning to their place of origin, 37 per cent reported it was due to the overall improved situation; 31 per cent reported it was due to natural disaster and 19 per cent reported it was due to poor shelter conditions at the place of displacement.



## MAIN NEEDS OF RETURNEE HOUSEHOLDS PER MONTH



## METHODOLOGY

IOM uses RDT to compile daily information from various partners including local and international NGOs, and local and national authorities. Compilation is done through document review, as well as personal and/or phone interviews. RDT Data in this report was collected between 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Where IOM has direct access, IOM field teams verify information provided by partners through visual observation, review of individual registries and key informant interviews. During the reporting period, IOM had access to 13 governorates, 118 districts and over 1,249 locations in Yemen during 2020. A household represents a family of six individuals.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Displacement:** A forced removal of a person from his/her home or country, often due to armed conflict or natural disasters.
- **Internally displaced persons (IDPs):** Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence<sup>4</sup>, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.
- **Returnee:** any person who was displaced internally or across an international border but has since returned to his/her place of habitual residence.
- **Location:** a populated place to the smallest geographical division. In an urban area, this may be a neighbourhood and in a rural area, a village.
- **Key Informant:** an individual from across the social spectrum that is considered a trustworthy source of information and a point of contact at the community level. Enumerators are trained to adhere to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence when working with KIs to ensure a broad representation of affected communities. A KI could be a: tribal sheikh, imam, local official, community leader, government officer, social worker, NGO member, schoolteacher or manager, health officer, security officer, etc.

Critical Shelter is either in urban or rural settlements composed of grouped families or isolated and dispersed settlements detached from a main location.

## ABOUT DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Yemen is implementing various assessment activities including the Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT), the Baseline Sub-Area Assessment and Flow Monitoring Registries and Surveys. DTM Yemen also supports the humanitarian planning cycle (HNO/HRP) and clusters with implementation and data processing of the Multi-Cluster Location Assessment (MCLA).

To find detailed breakdowns, movement trends, databases and more, consult the DTM Displacement website <https://displacement.iom.int/yemen>