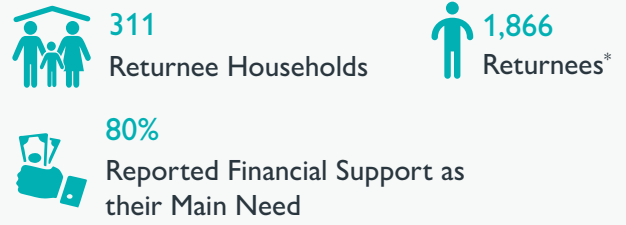


KEY FINDINGS

Instances of New Internal Displacement



Instances of Return



Displacement Locations**



Return Locations**



* Numbers of individuals throughout the report are estimates based on the assumption that households are composed of an average of six individuals.
** Scope is comprised of locations accessible during at least one reporting week within a total of 13 governorates that were accessible during the reporting period.

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.

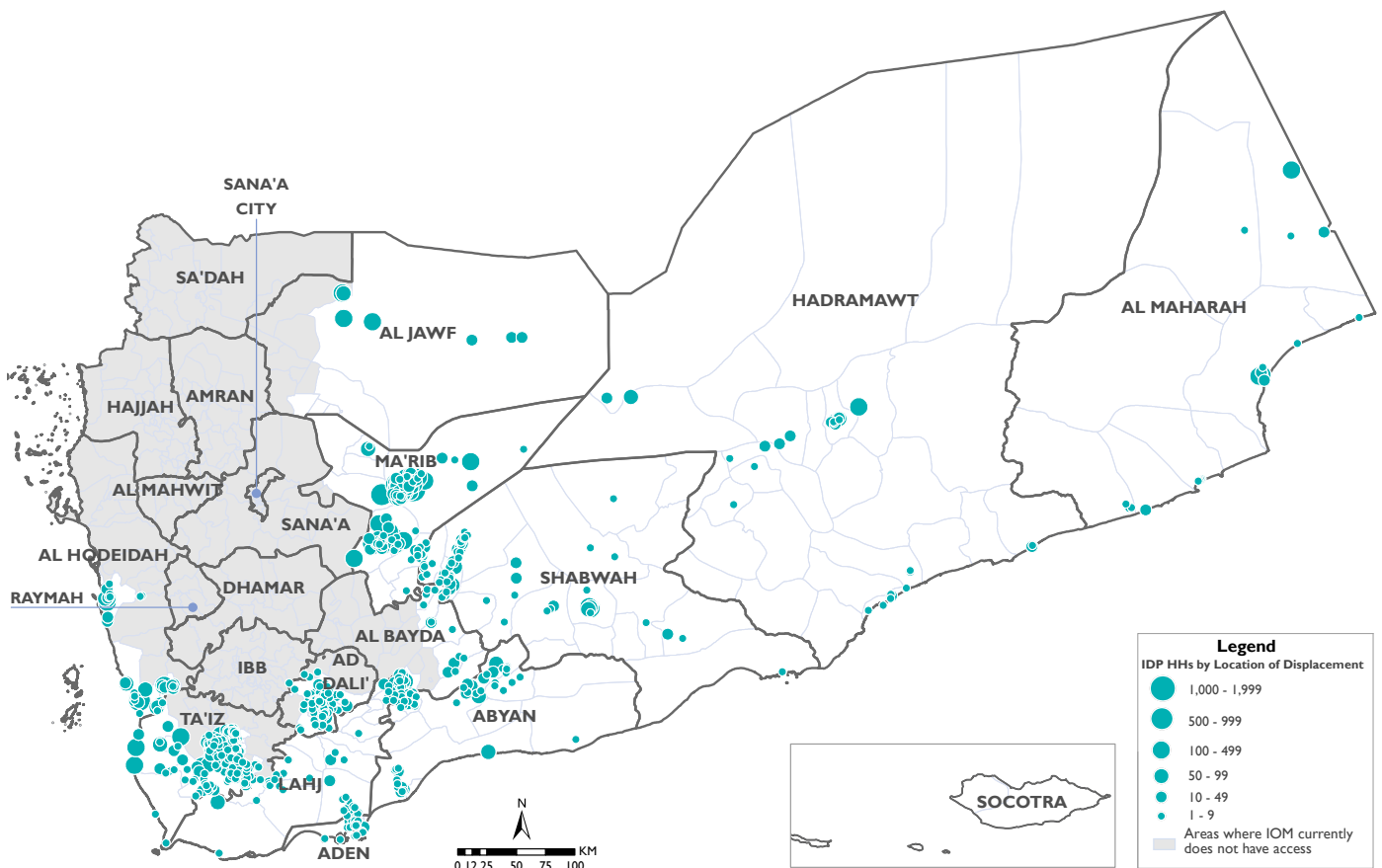
The DTM team uses Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) to collect data on the number of Yemeni households (HHs) forced to flee on a daily basis due to conflict, natural disaster or other reasons in accessible areas. This allows DTM to produce regular reporting of occurrences of displacement in terms of numbers, locations and priority needs.

RDT methodology was used to track displacement and return events in terms of numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees between January and December 2021. The aim of this tool is to provide timely and actionable data on new population movements only and does not capture total numbers of IDPs or returnees. The tool does not capture whether displacement is new or repeated (households displaced from another displacement location).



DTM enumerator doing RDT data collection in Hadramout Governorate. Photo: Naseem Al Hamed / IOM, 2021

Displacement Locations in 2021 by Number of Displaced Households



DTM recorded 26,259 household displacements (representing 157,554 individuals¹) who fled, mainly due to conflict (25,258 HHs), across 13 governorates, 94 districts and 948 locations in Yemen² during 2021. This data only represents displacement events in 2021 and does not include people that were displaced in previous years and are still displaced to date. It should also be noted that the total number of identified household displacements (26,259 HHs) in 2021 cannot be added to the total stock of IDPs of 2020 since it contains an unknown number of duplicates (multiple displacements of the same HHs) and returns (e.g., HHs recorded as displaced in January 2021 might have returned the following month).

Similarly, in 2020 DTM identified 28,734 households (172,404 individuals) who were displaced across 13 governorates, 118 districts and 1,249 locations. The slight drop in IDP numbers in 2021 compared to 2020 is most likely due to intensified barriers to movement brought on by the shifting frontlines, a worsening security situation and increased access constraints. The nine per cent decrease in observed household displacement instances should not be interpreted as indicative of an improved security situation. On the contrary, in 2021, 91 per cent of IDPs cited conflict as the main reason for displacement, compared to 83 per cent in 2020. Persons displaced during 2020 were also fleeing due to natural disasters, including torrential rains and flooding, which accounted for 12 per cent of displacements.

The first COVID-19 case in Yemen was reported in April 2020, followed by precautionary movement restrictions, which directly limited IDPs' access to humanitarian assistance. COVID-19 related movement restrictions prevented data collection in some areas and may have contributed to the decreased levels of displacement observed in 2020 and 2021. Nevertheless, it remains clear that causes unrelated to the pandemic including conflict, disaster and the challenging socio-economic and political situation – continued to contribute to displacement through 2020 and 2021.

1- Based on the assumption that the average household is comprised of six individuals.

2- DTM's data is not representative of all displacements occurring in Yemen and should therefore be understood as indicative of the areas in which IOM has access.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS IN 2021

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

With many displaced within their governorate or district of origin,³ households remained close to their place of habitual residence, straining services in smaller population centres. This is likely because IDPs anticipated this displacement to be temporary and opted to find shelter close to home with immediate and extended family rather than venture out into further uncertainty.

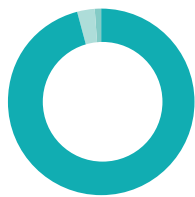
Almost 23 per cent (5,919 HHS) of the total displacements in 2021 were within the same district and 76 per cent (19,996 HHS) were displaced within the same governorates. During 2021, the top three governorates where people moved to and within⁴ were Ma'rib (13,075 HHS), Tai'z (3,529 HHS) and Al Hodeidah (2,431 HHS). In these three governorates most displacement movements remained localized.⁵ Around 92 per cent of IDP households in Ma'rib governorate did not cross governorate boundaries. Similarly, 65 per cent of IDP households in the governorate of Tai'z were displaced from within Tai'z. This kind of localized displacement was also pronounced in the governorate of Al Hodeidah (89%) and Al Jawf (100%).

DTM field staff observed that IDPs remained closer to their place of habitual residence and attributed this to the shifting frontlines and escalated fighting. It is likely that many IDPs fear that if they leave their governorate or district of habitual residence, they may not be able to return to their own home easily.

During 2021, the top five IDP producing governorates (governorates where people fled from) were: 12,513 households from Ma'rib (48%), 3,647 households from Al Hodeidah (14%), 3,042 households from Tai'z (12%), 1,473 from Al Bayda (6%), and 1,137 households from Al Jawf (4%).

The top five governorate destinations for IDPs (governorates people fled to or within) were: 13,075 households in Ma'rib making up half of all displacement measured country-wide, 3,529 households in Tai'z (13%), 2,431 households in Al Hodeidah (9%), 1,551 households in Ad Dali' (6%) and 1,317 households in Shabwah (5%).

Reported Reasons for Displacement of IDP HHs During 2021



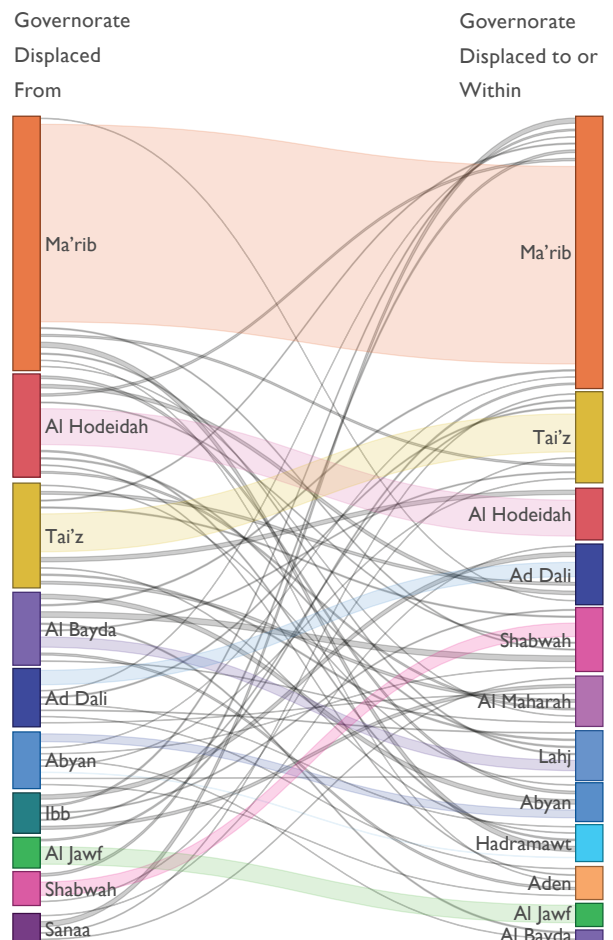
- Conflict Reasons (Safety and Security) 96%
- Economic Reasons (as a Result of Conflict) 3%
- Natural Disaster Reasons 1%

The ongoing conflict continued to take a heavy toll on the civilian population, forcing thousands to flee their homes. In total, 25,258 households, or 96 per cent, were forced to flee their homes in search of safety due to conflict alone. Other causes for displacement include economic hardship as a direct result of conflict (3%) and disasters (1%).

Total and Localized⁵ Displacement by Governorate

Governorate	# of Newly Displaced Households	Localized	% Localized
Al Jawf	1,040	1,040	100%
Ma'rib	13,075	11,996	92%
Al Hodeidah	2,431	2,163	89%
Socotra	26	22	85%
Al Bayda	73	59	81%
Tai'z	3,529	2,285	65%
Shabwah	1,317	795	60%
Ad Dali	1,551	849	55%
Abyan	880	453	51%
Hadramawt	599	169	28%
Al Maharah	732	152	21%
Lahj	830	13	2%
Aden	176	-	0%
Total	26,259	19,996	76%

Displacement Trends by Governorate of Origin and Governorate of Displacement During 2021



3- Place of habitual residence.

4- When the place of habitual residence and place of displacement are within the same governorate.

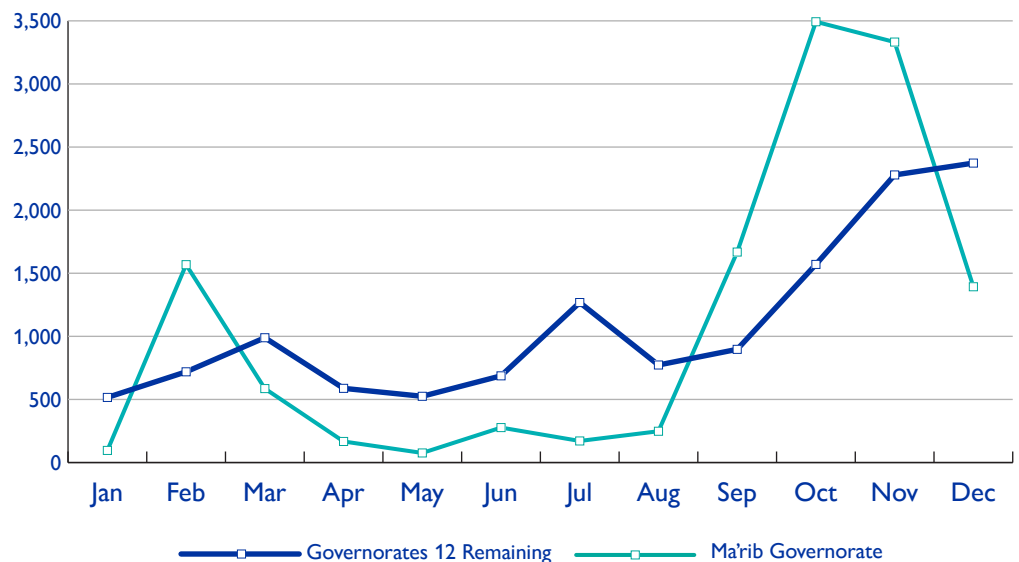
5- Displacements within the same governorate.

Displacement Trends

Renewed hostilities in Ma'rib began in September 2021 and further escalated in the following months. Notable shifts in frontlines were accompanied by an increase in displacement. An uptick in hostilities between October and December 2021, displaced around 8,218 households (out of 13,075 HHs), amounting to 63 per cent of displacements into or within Ma'rib during the year. October saw the highest monthly rate of displacement when clashes in southern Ma'rib intensified, and 3,493 households were displaced in the governorate. The third quarter of 2021 witnessed increased instances of displacement in other governorates as well. Al Hodeidah also witnessed shifts in frontlines that came with renewed violence. November saw the highest monthly displacement rate of the year (1,029 HHs) in Al Hodeidah.

Of the total households displaced to or within Al Hodeidah during 2021 (2,431 HHs), around 1,679 or 69 per cent, occurred during the fourth quarter. During this period, direct clashes and hostilities also escalated in Tai'z. This led to an increase in displacement, as 1,271 households (out of 3,529 HHs) fled into or within Tai'z in the fourth quarter of 2021, amounting to 36 per cent of overall displacement to Tai'z during 2021.

**# of IDP HHs Displacement Instances Recorded During 2021:
Ma'rib Compared to the Sum of the 12 Other Governorates During 2021**



IDPs Needs



Families fleeing conflict often have no choice but to live in crowded and unhygienic shelters exposed to weather conditions. Most live with an ever-present threat that they may be 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 46 per cent (12,129 out of 26,259 HHs) reported shelter and housing as their most urgent need in 2021.

The ongoing conflict and deteriorating economy left most of the population unable to afford food, and therefore largely relying on aid. Nearly a quarter (6,297 out of 26,259 HHs) of the total IDP households cited food as their main need. Linked heavily to the economic crisis and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the increased cost of living, currency depreciation, shortage of foreign exchange, a decrease in remittances and limited government revenues have left Yemeni families unable to afford even limited amounts of food. The reduced purchasing power of the rial has had a major impact on Yemen's population.⁶

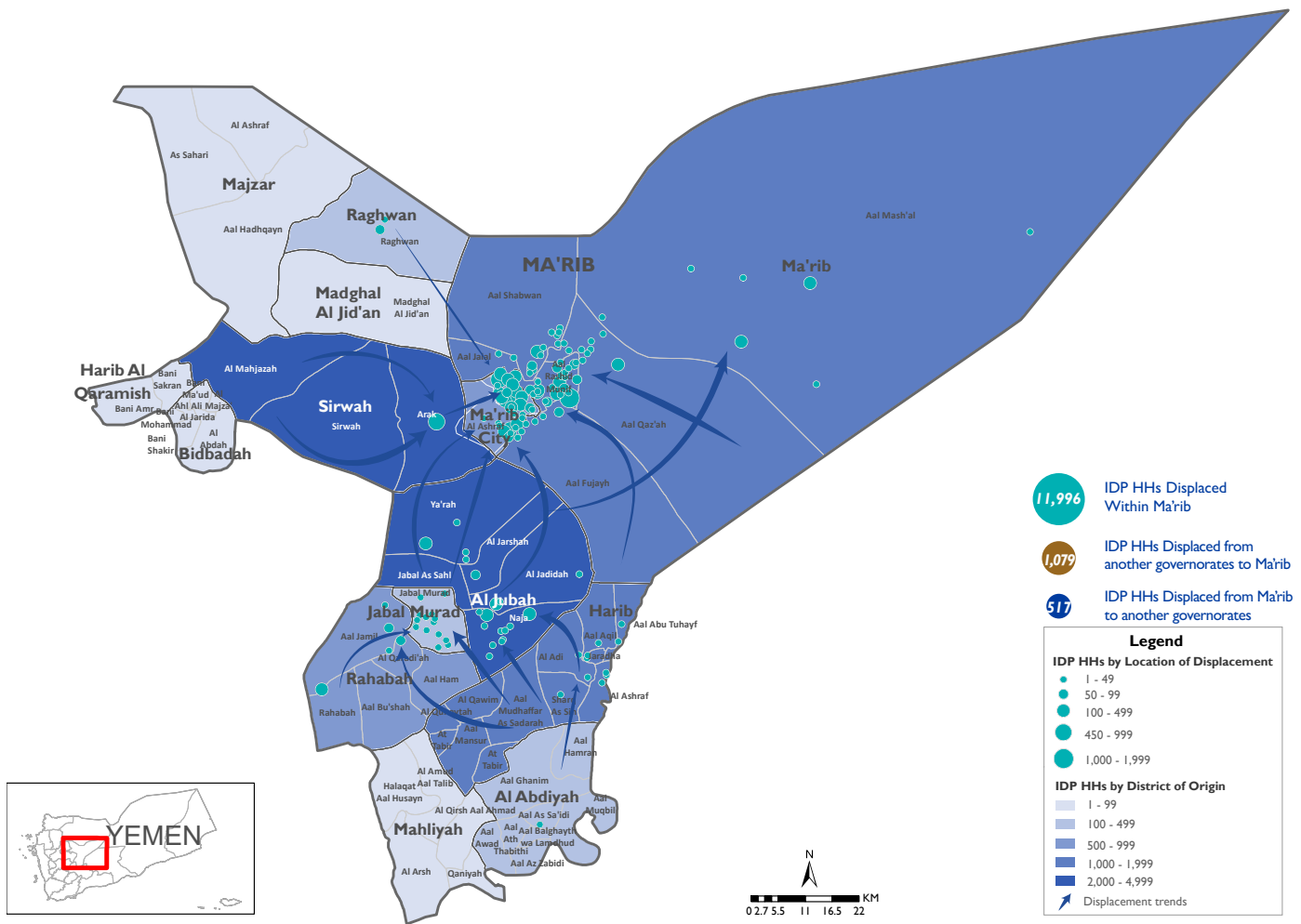
The increased prices of essential commodities in local markets exacerbated the financial hardship displaced families have been experiencing. Almost 13 per cent (3,309 out of 26,259 HHs) reported financial assistance as their main need.

Host communities and IDPs continue to bear the brunt of hostilities. Access to all basic needs is restricted in the governorate of Ma'rib. In the governorates of Tai'z and Al Hodeidah, most of the local communities live from fishing and are 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, others are farmers who were forced to flee their land. Similar to data collected on IDPs, DTM field staff have observed that host communities equally struggle to afford food or shelter putting additional strains on limited resources that need to suffice for the additional influx of IDPs.

⁶ ACAPS Social impact monitoring report: October - December 2021.

Displacement Trends in Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah and Tai'z Governorates

Ma'rib Governorate



Throughout 2021, largescale fighting continued to worsen the displacement situation in Ma'rib governorate, with 48 per cent of the total number of identified persons newly displaced in Yemen in 2021 (12,513 out of 26,259 HHs) originating from Ma'rib. Nearly all IDPs departing in Ma'rib remained within the governorate (96%). Some four per cent crossed governorate boundaries as 297 households left for Hadramawt and 103 to Tai'z governorates.

Of those displaced to Ma'rib, 293 HHs (2%) fled from Sana'a and 145 households (1%) from Shabwah governorates. The districts in Ma'rib that received the highest numbers of IDPs were Ma'rib City (5,741 HH), Ma'rib Al Wadi (4,637 HHs) and Sirwah (967 HHs).

Safety and security related concerns as a result of conflict were the main reason for displacement, accounting for almost 100 per cent (99.8%) of the total displacement from Ma'rib (12,488 out of 12,513 HHs), and 99 per cent of the total displacement into or within Ma'rib (12,933 out of 13,075 HHs).

Localized displacement continued to exhaust limited resources, with many IDPs arriving at already overcrowded displacement sites, exacerbating the already present strain on limited humanitarian services available to host communities.

IDPs who arrived in Ma'rib city and surrounding areas are among 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, accessing water, sanitation and hygiene services, essential relief items and protection services, in addition to ensuring that their children receive education.

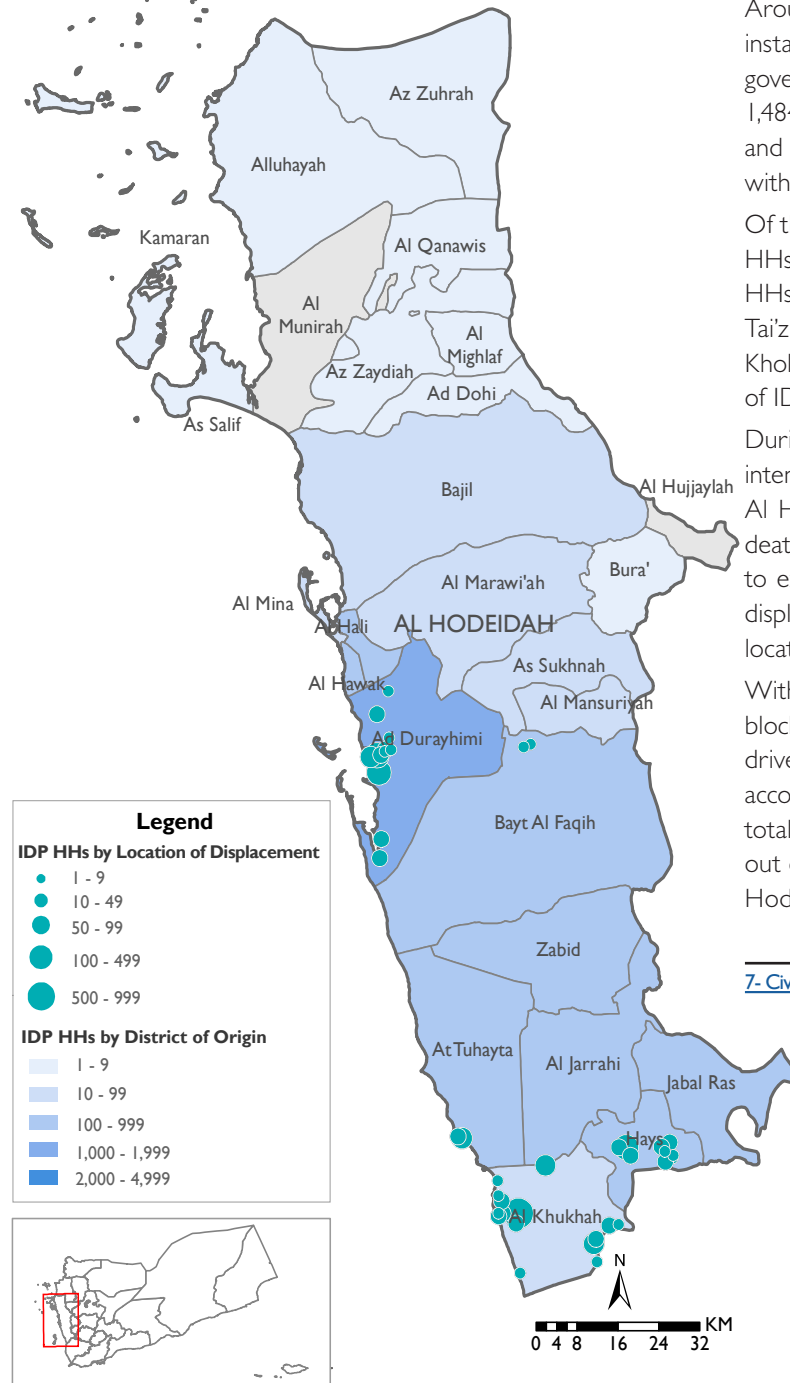
Reported Reasons for Displacement From Ma'rib Governorate



Reported Reasons for Displacement into or Within Ma'rib Governorate



Al Hodeidah Governorate



Around 14 per cent (3,647 out of 26,259 HHs) of the total instances of displacement tracked in 2021 originated from the governorate of Al Hodeidah. Out of 3,647 fleeing households, 1,484 (41%) fled to neighbouring governorates (mostly Tai'z and Ad Dali) while 2,163 (59%) fled to nearby destinations within Al Hodeidah.

Of the total IDPs in Yemen, nine per cent (2,431 out of 26,259 HHs) were displaced into or within Al Hodeidah. Around 2,163 HHs (89%) were locally displaced, 243 HHs (10%) fled from Tai'z and 21 households (1%) from Raymah governorates. Al Khokhah district in Al Hodeidah received the highest number of IDPs (1,277 HHs).

During the fourth quarter of 2021, a renewed wave of intensified violence erupted on the long-lasting frontlines of Al Hodeidah governorate, resulting in the highest reported death toll in terms of civilian casualties since 2020 according to external sources.⁷ The shift in frontlines led to increased displacement movements, with households fleeing new locations and others returning to previously vacated areas.

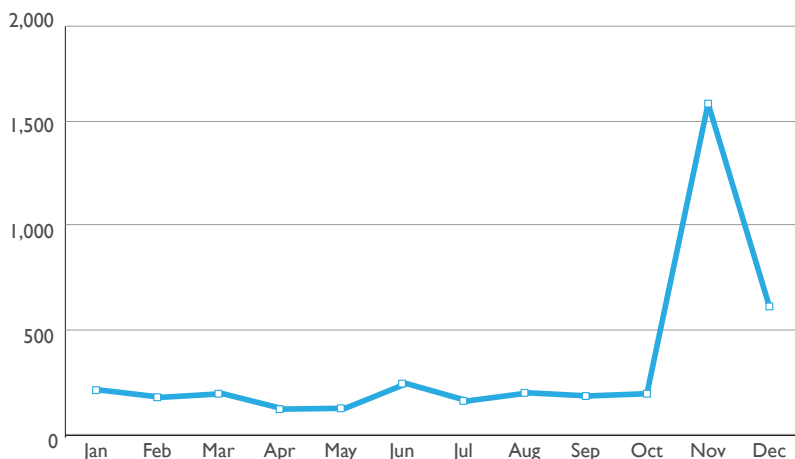
With hostilities taking place near residential areas, roads being blocked and aid delivery interrupted, conflict was the main driver of displacement in the governorate of Al Hodeidah, accounting for 97 per cent (3,525 out of 3,647 HHs) of the total displacement from Al Hodeidah and 99 per cent (2,405 out of 2,431 HHs) of the total displacement into or within Al Hodeidah.

⁷ [Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\), Quarterly Report, 2021, Q4, page 1.](#)

**Reported Main Needs of IDP HHs
in Al Hodeidah Governorate**

Main Needs	Number of IDP HHs
Shelter	1,722
Food Assistance	524
Non Food Items	97
Health Service	40
Sanitation and Hygien	35
Financial Support	10
Livelihood	3
Total HHs Number	2,431

**Number of IDP HHs Tracked per Month During 2021
in Al Hodeidah Governorate**

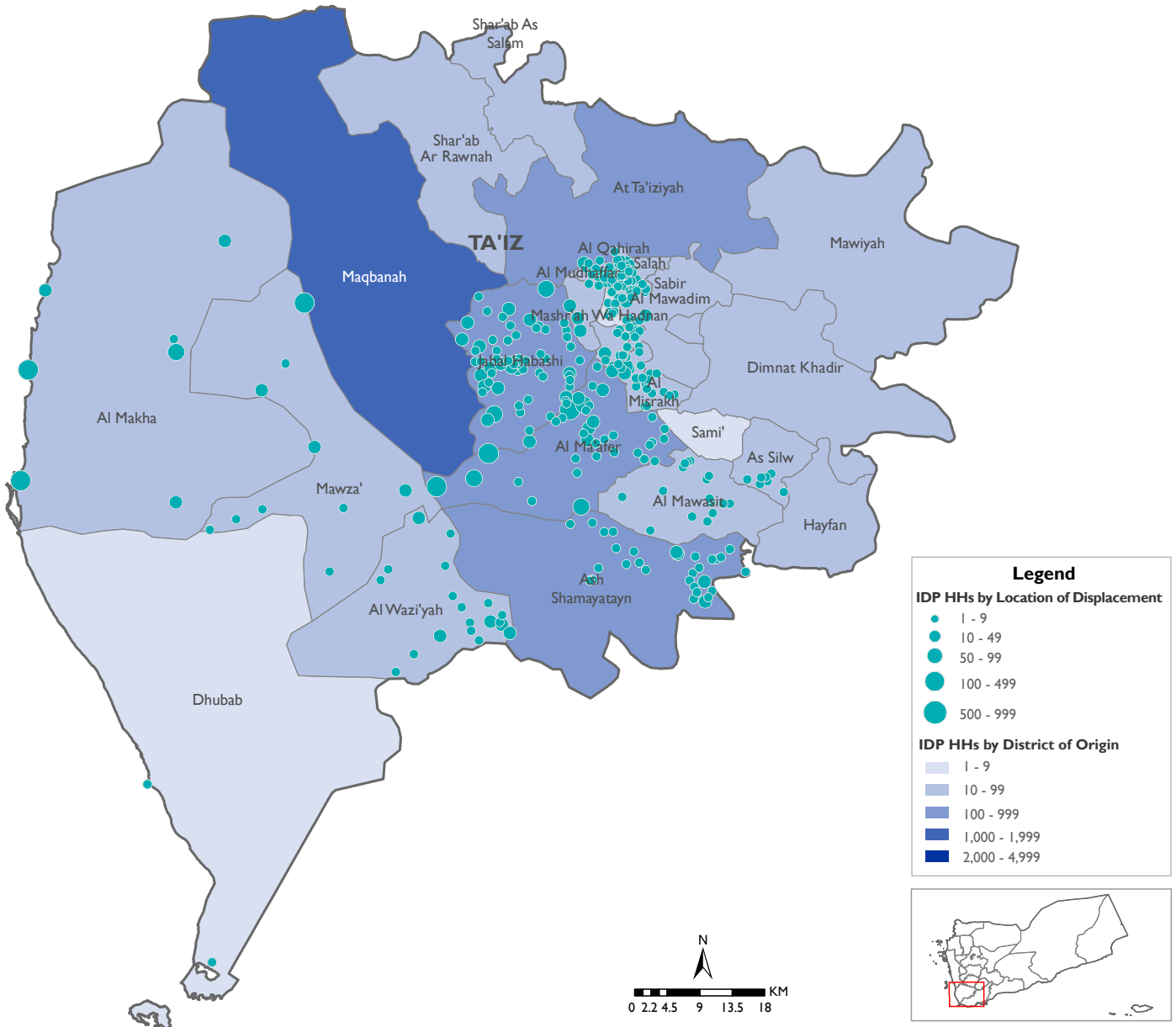


**Reported Reasons for Displacements
From Al Hodeidah Governorate**



- Conflict Reasons (Safety and Security) 99%
- Economic Reasons (as a Result of Conflict) 1%

Tai'z Governorate



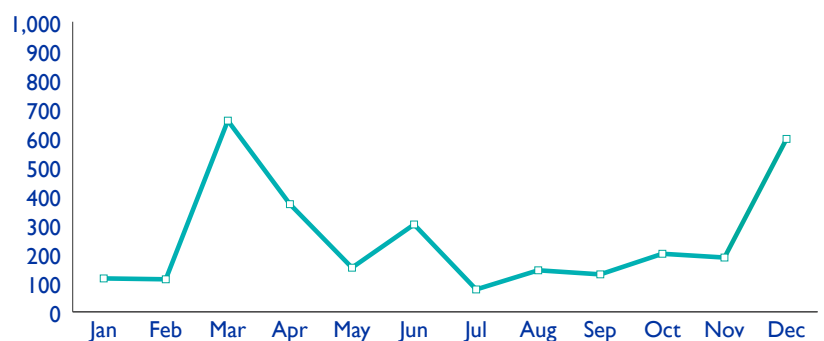
In 2021, 12 per cent (3,042 out of 26,259 HHs) of all instances of tracked displacements originated from the governorate ofz, where 2,285 households (75%) were displaced within the same governorate and the majority of the rest fled to Al Hodeidah (8%) and Ad Dali (5%) governorates.

Of the total displacement, 13 per cent (3,529 out of 26,259 HHs) were displaced into or within Tai'z. Around 2,285 households (65%) were localized displacements, 708 households (20%) fled from Al Hodeidah and 103 households (3%) from Ma'rib governorates. The districts in Tai'z that received the highest numbers of IDPs are Al Ma'afar (945 HHs), Jabal Habashi (642 HHs) and Al Makha (586 HHs).

The shifting frontlines on the West Coast of Yemen between October and December 2021 coincided with an escalation of clashes and violence in Tai'z governorate. According to external sources, more than 70 per cent of civilian casualties during the fourth quarter of 2021 were reported in December alone, when hostilities increased in the governorate's western district of Maqbanah.⁸

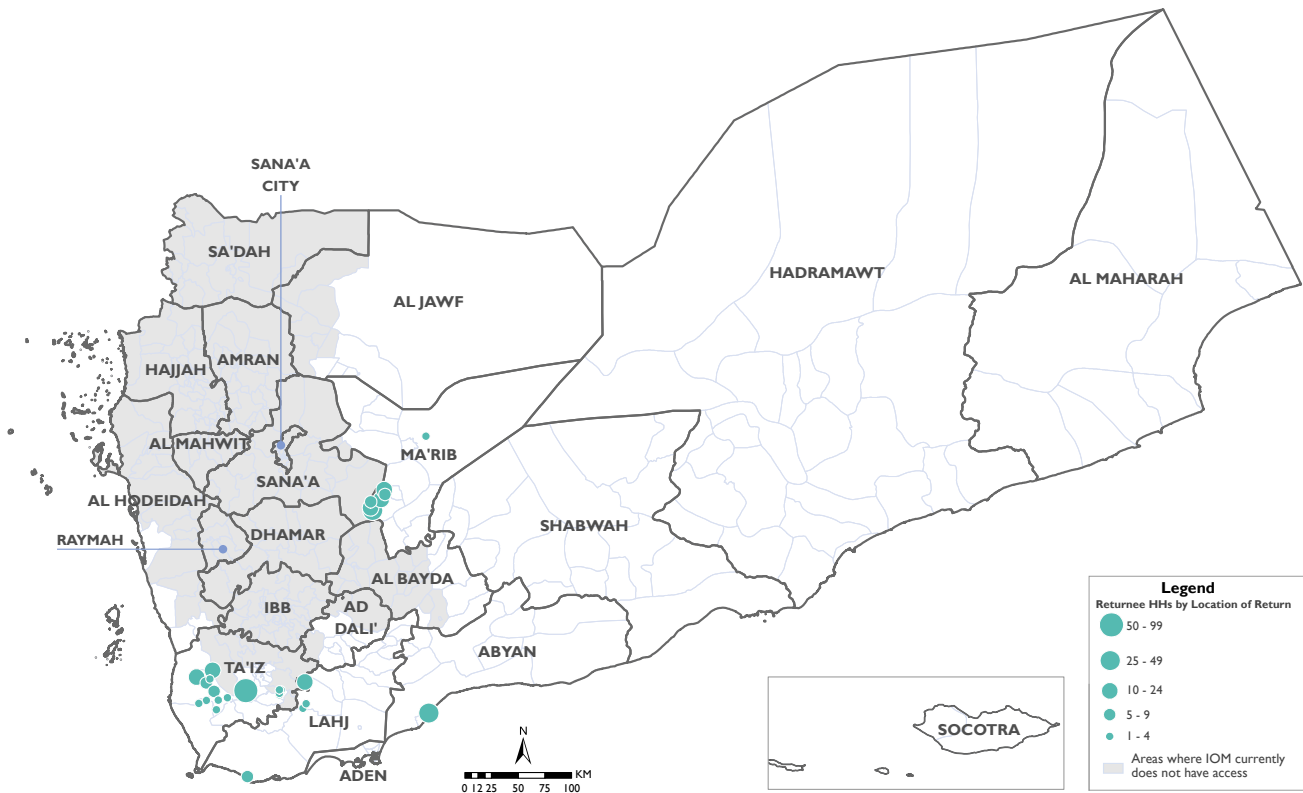
With the heightened risk of being harmed during armed clashes and shelling, 97 per cent (2,953 out of 3,042 HHs) of IDPs displaced from Tai'z and 95 per cent (3,341 out of 3,529 HHs) of IDPs displaced into or within Tai'z cited that they were fleeing from conflict.

**Number of IDP HHs Tracked per Month
During 2021 in Tai'z Governorate**



⁸ [Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\), Quarterly Report, 2021, Q4, page 1.](#)

IDP Returnees



Since its outbreak in 2015, the conflict in Yemen has been characterized by cycles of displacement and return. In 2021, DTM identified 311 IDP returnee (hereinafter referred to as “returnee”) households (1,866 individuals), across four governorates, eight districts and 28 locations within accessible areas.. This is a drop in comparison to returnee numbers in 2020, when DTM identified 1,798 HHs (10,788 individuals) that returned to their place of origin, across seven governorates, 29 districts and 108 locations.

Ideally, IDPs return to their place of habitual residence when the circumstances there have improved overall. Occasionally, it was observed that some IDPs are forced back by natural disasters and the conditions of their shelters at the place of displacement. The significant decrease in the number of returnees during 2021 is most likely due to heightened violence and shifting frontlines, leaving the majority of those displaced feeling unsafe to return to their habitual residence. Disasters were not as prevalent this year as they were in 2020, when heavy rains and floods further exacerbated IDP sites and forced people to return to their habitual residence.

Around 91 per cent (284 HHs) of the total returnees during 2021 reported that their reason for returning was due to conflict-related reasons at their habitual residence, followed by economic reasons (7%) and disaster (2%). In 2020 only 37 per cent of returnees reported an overall improved situation as reason for movement; 31 per cent reported disasters and 19 per cent poor shelter conditions at the place of displacement. Among those who returned in 2021, the majority had not left the governorate (85%), with half not travelling further than their district of habitual residence (55%) during displacement. It is likely that people who anticipated their displacement to be short-lived would choose to remain in their primary governorate to remain close to family or friends.

The governorates of Tai’z, Ma’rib, Abyan and Lahj were those identified by DTM to have received returnees during 2021. The majority of returns were from within the same governorate. Tai’z governorate received 154 returnee households, the majority of whom (111 HHs) returned from within the same governorate, followed by 25 households who returned from Aden and 18 households from seven other governorates. All returnees who reached their habitual residences in Ma’rib (111 HHs) and Abyan (25 HHs) were returning from within the same governorates. Lahj governorate received 21 returnee households, of whom 17 were returning from within the same governorate, along with two households from Tai’z and two households from Sana’a City.

IOM Yemen collected information on the total number of returnees’ main needs in their governorate of return and found that during 2021 financial support (249 HHs) was the top priority need, followed by food (47 HHs) and non-food items (15 HHs).

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 2021 to 31 December 2021. Where IOM has direct access, IOM field teams verify information provided by partners through visual observation, review of individual registries and key informant interviews.

GLOSSARY TERMS

Displacement: A forced removal of a person from his/her home or country, often due to armed conflict or natural disasters.

Household: A household represents a family of six individuals.

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, 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.

IDP 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 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](#)



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