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Internal Displacement in Yemen The Humanitarian and Economic Situation .. Needs .. Challenges

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Facts and Indicators*

In many countries, including Yemen, displacement crises are currently triggered by multiple; yet interrelated factors, including wars, conflicts, climate changes, as well as political unrest. Displacement in Yemen is not only a consequence of the conditions unfolded in the country since 2014 and the subsequent conflict and war. Displacement as a humanitarian crisis hasn't appeared only during this period, but it dates back before this date as a result of the political instability that Yemen has experienced over the past decades, in addition to natural disasters, including floods and torrential rains, which forced a significant portion of the population to displace involuntarily. A lot of internally displaced persons (IDPs), already displaced, found themselves forced to displace, as torrential rains swept away their shelters, thereby exacerbating their vulnerabilities, including loss of livelihoods and limited access to assistance. With over 4.2 million internally displaced person in 2021; remains the fourth largest IDP crisis in the world. in Yemen so far, Therefore, it is imperative to explore the socio-economic situation for this segment as they face hardships accessing basic services, loss of income sources and the almost ultimate reliance on humanitarian assistance, let alone the difficulty integrating them into host communities to reach durable solutions and improve their economic situation.

IDPs suffer also from the displacement and forced deportation as a consequence of the ongoing war and conflict, which affects the stabilization of the civilian population and directly impacts women and children, including their right to education, health and well-being. Many areas of Yemen are witnessing huge displacement waves due to the war and conflict, and inability to protect civilians living close to the hot lines. On the other hand, there were some optional displacement waves fueled by the feeling of being unsafe and lack of security to safer places.

Thus, this issue of the YSEU Bulletin sheds light on the overall situation of IDPs and their movement during disasters and conflicts. It meanwhile explores their socioeconomic situation and the humanitarian support they receive, including challenges they face and solutions and/or procedures to address their crises.

In conclusion, we want to emphasize the need to obtain data, particularly about IDPs, from national sources.

Overall situation

1,140,383

the total number of IDPs and refugees in Yemen benefiting from cash assistance provided by UNHCR in 2020

4.2 Million

the total number of IDPs in Yemen in 2021, compared to about **2.3 million** in 2015

\$52.6 Million

the amount of cash assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to IDPs and refugees in Yemen during 2020

Situation of children and women

70%

of IDPs are women and children

30%

of IDP families are headed by women during the year 2021, compared to about **9%** in 2015

1,65 Million

IDP children need education services

Needs

43%

of IDP families cannot meet their minimum food needs

1,56 Million

IDPs are in IPC phase 4 (emergency), that is **39%** of the total IDPs, while about **990,000 (25%)** are in IPC phase 3 (crisis)

42%

of IDPs need shelter, while **34%** need food

Status of IDP hosting sites

Just 9%

of IDPs living in hosting sites have adequate WASH services

Just 6%

of IDPs living in hosting sites have access to waste disposal services

78%

of IDPs, returnees and host families cannot buy hygiene materials

* All facts and indicators are referenced to by source throughout this bulletin.

35%

of IDP sites exercise open defecation practices due to the lack or insufficiency WASH facilities, making them vulnerable to water pollution and water-borne infections



I: General Framework of Internal Displacement

Concept

The experience of internal displacement is traumatic, life-changing and frequently life-threatening. Each person displaced has lost access not only to the home that offered shelter but also to security, dignity, and livelihoods. For children, the experience can be particularly traumatic and confusing, often leading to long-lasting psychological difficulties that commonly go untreated. Too often, displaced women and girls suffer physical violence, exploitation or the threat of violence. For those with disabilities, the experience can bring immense problems. Over 59.5 million people are currently fleeing conflict or persecution around the world. Due to their race, religion or nationality, these people's homes are no longer safe places to live and their governments' no longer provide them with protection. The year 2014 has seen the record numbers of refugees and displaced people, i.e. 8.3 million up compared to the previous year, the highest annual increase ever reported¹.

Although **asylum-seeking and displacement** may appear similar, yet, they differ depending on the borders of movement, in that **displacement** refers to movement by individuals from their original places of stay to other safer locations, fleeing conflicts, wars and natural disasters, regardless of the place of stay whether camps, settlements, rent premises or with host community. Refugees are people who have fled persecution or threats of persecution in their home countries and have crossed international borders, while IDPs move within the borders of their own countries but fled homes for one reason or another. IDPs often flee their homes for similar reasons to refugees (armed conflict, human rights violations, and natural disasters) technically, they are not refugees. IDPs have not crossed an international border to find refuge and therefore remain legally under the protection of their own government, even though that government is often the cause of their flight².

IDPs and their rights in the international conventions and national legislations

Although there is no specific convention dealing with the protection and rights of IDPs with the same effect to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, yet the international law protects people against displacement and provides them with protection during displacement under a host of laws, namely: International Human Rights Law, National Law, and the International Humanitarian Law during armed conflicts. Meanwhile, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement draw on these two laws, which provide useful guidance on specific aspects of displacement, and international humanitarian law provides for the protection of population from and during displacement as civilians, provided that they do not engage directly in hostilities.

The IHL plays a pivotal role in preventing, first and foremost, population displacement. The displacement of the population is prohibited unless it is necessary for imperative military purposes or for the protection of civilians themselves. Any wide-scale or systematic policy for the displacement of civilians without such justification constitutes a crime against humanity³.

The Guiding Principles constitute the key international standard on internal displacement. They provide a definition of an internally displaced person (IDP) and set out IDPs' rights to be protected and assisted before and during displacement and in their search for durable solutions following displacement. They give national authorities the primary responsibility for protecting IDPs and clarify key principles relating to humanitarian assistance provided by international and non-governmental bodies.⁴

Guiding Principles on internal displacement consist of 30 principles in total. They identify rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of persons from forced displacement and to their protection and assistance during displacement as well as during return or resettlement and reintegration. These Principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. They encompass most of the basic rules and principles of humanitarian law and the principal guarantees of human rights, thus emphasizing the common purpose of both laws, which is to protect life and human dignity.

¹ MSF, <https://www.msf-me.org/ar/media-centre/news-and-stories/cholera-working-contain-latest-outbreak-southern-niger/refugees-and>

² ICRC, <https://www.icrc.org/ar/doc/war-and-law/protected-persons/refugees-displaced-persons/overview-displaced-protected.htm>

³ ibid

⁴ Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, FMR 59, October 2018, Center for Refugee Studies, University of Oxford <https://www.fmreview.org/>

Since the launch of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in 1998; a number of States have adopted or developed national instruments and policies on internally displaced persons (IDPs). The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has also developed the Global Database on IDP Laws and Policies which contains 27 laws and 55 policies developed between 1998 and 2018. Notwithstanding the global spread of IDP laws and policies, there still seems to be a lack of laws and policies where they are most needed. There are only two policies on internal displacement in the Middle East, one in Iraq (2008) and another in Yemen (2013), and that almost all the laws and policies recorded in the Global Database identify conflict and/or violence as a cause of internal displacement although not exclusively addressing development and disaster-induced displacement.⁵

As for local implementation of the GPs, as of mid-2017, 40 States which have experienced internal displacement had introduced some 69 domestic legislative instruments and policies. Concerns have long been raised around how successful the introduction of laws and policies on internal displacement has been at the domestic level. Less than a third of laws and policies have been implemented without significant difficulties. For example, while Yemen's national policy makes references to the Guiding Principles and includes clear protection goals on the protection of IDPs, yet lacking government capacity to implement it could be undermined amid the ongoing war in Yemen⁶. These GPs can be elaborated as follows:

Guiding Principles for IDPs in Yemen

With over half-a-million Yemenis forced to flee their homes until 2013, Yemen has adopted in the same year the National Policy to Protect the internally displaced people (IDPs) due to conflicts, wars and natural disasters, while assisting in addressing the issue of internal displacement, which the UNHCR has considered as a major step forward.

The policy features three strategic goals: **goal 1:** to prevent arbitrary displacement while, at the same time, being ready to cope with displacement if and when it happens; **goal 2:** to support not only IDPs but also the communities that host them and other communities affected by displacement, including through the right to receive household supplies, employment training and access to other programs designed to help communities recover; And **goal 3:** to create the conditions for durable solutions that IDPs can accept safely and voluntarily⁷. This policy represents one of the national instruments in implementation of the Guiding principles, as previously indicated.

Below are the key guiding principles extracted⁸ from the national policy to address internal displacement in the Republic of Yemen 2013:

1. Yemeni authorities represented by the IDPs Executive Unit bear the primary responsibility towards IDPs at hosting site. Appropriate support should be provided to enable the authorities effectively assume their responsibilities, provide the necessary protection and ensure welfare of the displaced persons.
2. Participation of IDP Hosting Site residents in community decision making is vital. Men, women, boys and girls of all ages and backgrounds should always be included in the governance structures of the centers, and capacitate to participate effectively in order to build their confidence and promote their involvement in identifying and addressing their needs and empowering their lives.
3. Assistance needs and protection concerns differ in long-term and short term IDP Hosting Sites.
4. The IDP Hosting Site residents should be aware of the services available and how to access them. Distribution points should be accessible and distribution mechanisms should take into consideration groups with specific needs to minimize chances of violence, abuse and exploitation.
5. To the extent possible, contingency plans for various possible displacement scenarios should be elaborated, Such as for disasters that occur on a regular basis (e.g., flooding).
6. Management of the IDP Hosting Sites is crucial to the quality of life and dignity of residents. The center should also prepare residents for their life after displacement has ended.

In addition to a set of guidance and coordination with government authorities to identify IDPs hosting sites and collect data on multisectoral needs, management IDP sites, response follow-up and ensure community participation at the site level.

The Executive Unit for the Management of IDPs Camps - which was established under the Prime Minister's Decree No. 454 for 2009 - is responsible for managing, operating and organizing work in IDP camps with the assistance and coordination of a number of governmental and non-governmental agencies, associations, civil society organizations and the local authority in IDPs hosting sites.

⁵ Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, FMR 59, October 2018, Center for Refugee Studies, University of Oxford <https://www.fmreview.org/>

⁶ ibid

⁷ Ministry of Human Rights and UNHCR <https://www.unhcr.org/ar/news/briefing/2013/7/51f0c6956.html>

⁸ Guiding Principle for IDP Hosting Sites, 2017, Shelter and NFIs Cluster/CCCM. <https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/yemen>



II: The Reality of Internal Displacement in Yemen

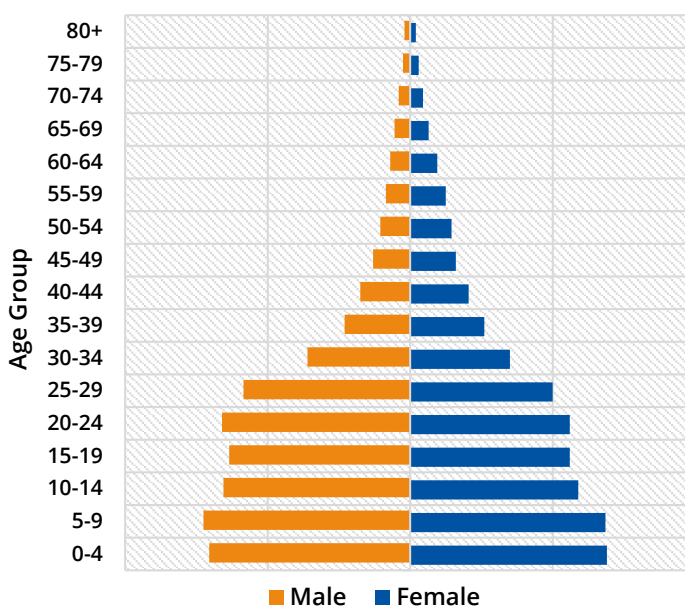
The General Situation of IDPs

IDPs as a segment of the population is generally considered one of the vulnerable groups given their deteriorating conditions triggered by compulsive factors that forced them to abandon their areas and homes, and for losing their income sources, making them highly vulnerable to continuous risks and threats, as more than half of the displaced families live in rented housing, while 35% live in fragile conditions in informal settlements, collective centers, public buildings, tents, and some of them even live in the open⁹. The displacement crisis in Yemen is further complex due to the security risks associated with movement between the areas of displacement and IDPs hosting sites. In addition to the fact that the displacement crisis puts additional pressure on both the existing resources and coping systems available to the host communities and structures related to the displaced alike. Meanwhile, the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic have had a significant impact on IDPs, whether in terms of reduced financial resources allocated by organizations and bodies working with IDPs, including the ability to move and provide humanitarian relief and public services, or in terms of income opportunities and livelihoods, or remittances from relatives and friends, especially expatriates, let alone soaring food prices and the various services needed by the IDPs and the host communities alike.

The severity of the risks arising from displacement can also be observed by tracking the pattern of displaced people (the age structure of IDPs), as shown in Fig (1) . The figure also shows that displacement is more common among younger population groups (below 29 years), meaning that children and youth make up the bulk of cases. Over 70% of IDPs are women and children, 27% girls and 26% boys, 24% women and 23% men, indicating an increased risk to their psychological and physical well-being¹⁰. Seven years into the war and conflict have increased their vulnerability and further exclusion from access to basic services or assistance. Overcrowded shelters represents the most serious problem faced by IDPs, especially women and girls, due to the spread of violence in these societies, with women in particular being exposed to physical violence. Besides, many economic and social problems emerged such as child marriage and forcing girls and children to quit school, in addition to the security perception towards IDPs by the security authorities in the host communities.

The Muhamasheen community represents about 10 per cent of Yemen's population is no exception. For many years, they mostly live outside Yemen's traditional tribal social structures, with sizeable communities in conflict-affected cities, including Aden, Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah. Many Muhamasheen have fled their homes as a result of conflict. IDPs from this group are less likely to be hosted by local communities due to social prejudice and are therefore more likely to seek shelter on farmland, in public spaces or in other sub-standard living conditions¹¹. Older people have specific assistance and protection needs. However, they often do not receive adequate aid, nor aid that adequately addresses their specific needs. Among the reasons for this are a lack of systematic consultation with older persons, limited awareness and poor communication about their rights and entitlements, discrimination, and mobility challenges¹².

Fig (1) :Pyramid Composition of IDPs by Age group 2020



Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview - Yemen, Humanitarian Program Planning Cycle February 2021.

⁹ Internal Displacement Global Report, 2020. https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/IDMC_GRID_Global_2020_en_web.pdf

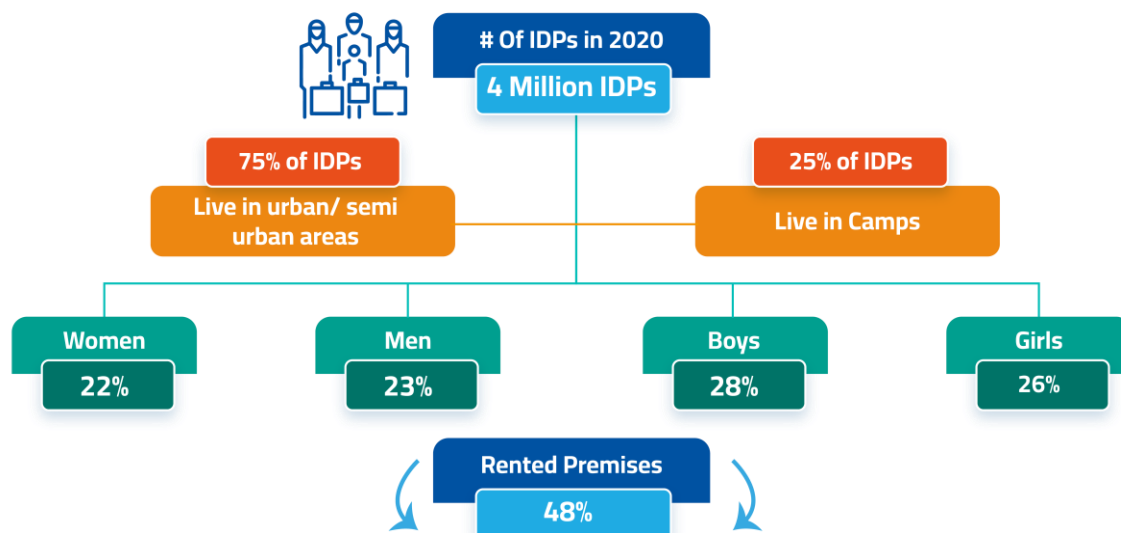
¹⁰ Yemen HNO, February 2021, OCHA,-Yemen.

¹¹ ibid

¹² ibid

Over 4 million women, men, girls, and boys are dispersed across 1,594 IDP hosting sites, 48 % of which are within 5 kilometres of areas of active hostilities, with 41% of them live in makeshift sites¹³. In addition to nearly one million IDPs living in camp- like settings, while over 775 live with host communities, often in urban or semi-urban settings in rent premises or with host families (28% boys, 26% girls, 23% men, and 22% women), of which 48% live in rent premises and 23% live with host community. Moreover, about 51% of IDPs reported that their former homes were damaged by the war and conflict (Fig 2).

Fig (2): IDPs Hosting Sites in 2020

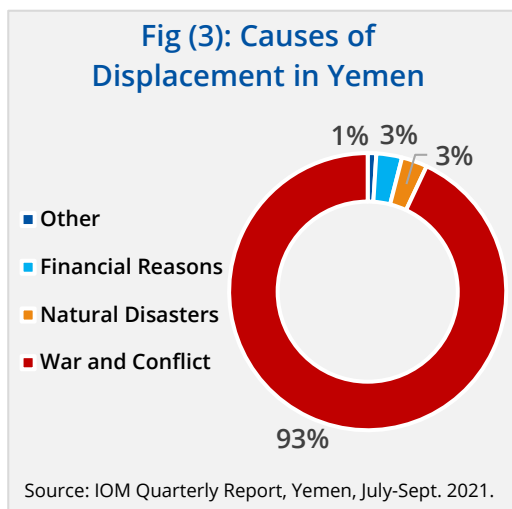


Source: Camps and Shelter, Yemen HNO, February 2021, OCHA, Yemen

There are two main reasons behind displacement in Yemen, even far before the ongoing conflict: wars and natural disasters, including floods, torrential rains and landslides. Yet, there are other contributing factors to displacement of people from their original places of stay to other areas, including economic and social reasons.

During the period (July-September 2012), the International Organization for Migration reported that the percentage of people who had to displace due to the war and conflict reached about 93% of the total IDPs in Yemen as of September 2021, and 3% due to economic reasons, including unemployment, suspension of salaries and the search for alternative places to improve their living conditions, while 3% due to natural disasters, as shown in Fig (3). Amid intensification of conflict and war during the period September-December 2021 and the displacement of over 100,000 new IDPs, it is certain that the total number of IDPs due to the war is likely to jump to about 95% of the total IDPs.

Fig (3): Causes of Displacement in Yemen



Source: IOM Quarterly Report, Yemen, July-Sept. 2021.

Displacement due to war and conflict

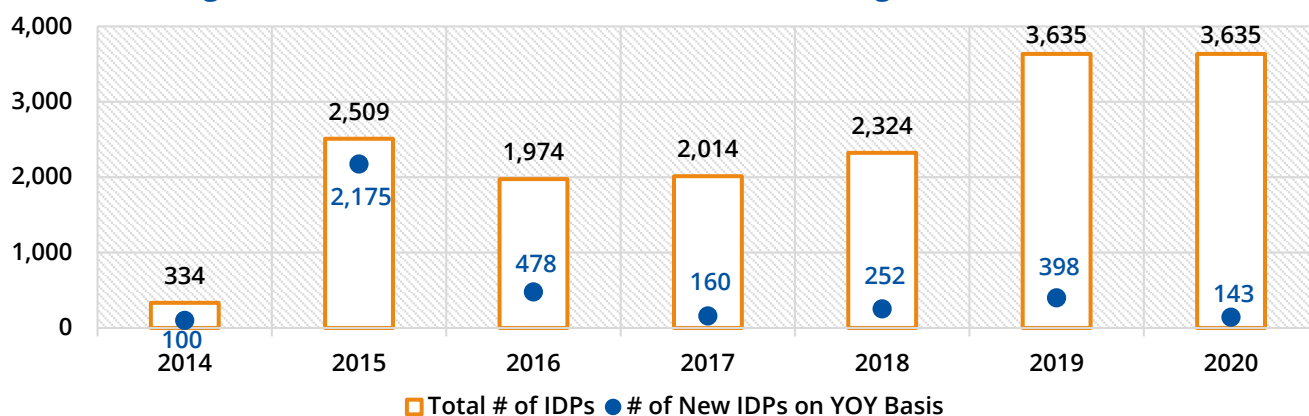
The state of political unrest that Yemen has been experiencing, especially since 2014, is one of the main reasons, together with displacement and forced deportation, which forced many people to leave their homes and areas involuntarily from places that witness clashes and insecurity in search of safer areas, which increased pressure on their living conditions and the displacement of many others. Violence associated with political unrest in the country in 2011 caused internal displacement, particularly in and around the capital, Sana'a. Those uprooted by the violence include refugees, IDPs who previously had fled the conflict in Sa'ada, and civilians displaced for the first time from areas with active clashes¹⁴. At least half of the country was directly affected by displacement waves, as 11 out of a total 21 governorates in Yemen host internally displaced persons¹⁵.

¹³ Yemen HNO, February 2021, OCHA,-Yemen.

¹⁴ Flight of the Displaced, Fragility and Promoting Stability in Yemen, FMR 43, July 2013, Center for Refugee Studies, University of Oxford, <https://www.fmreview.org/>

¹⁵ UNHCR <https://www.unhcr.org/ar/news/briefing/2013/7/51f0c6956.html>

Fig (4): # of IDPs due to the war and conflict during (2014-2020);(000)



Source: IDMC, Internal Displacements - Conflict - Violence - Disasters <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

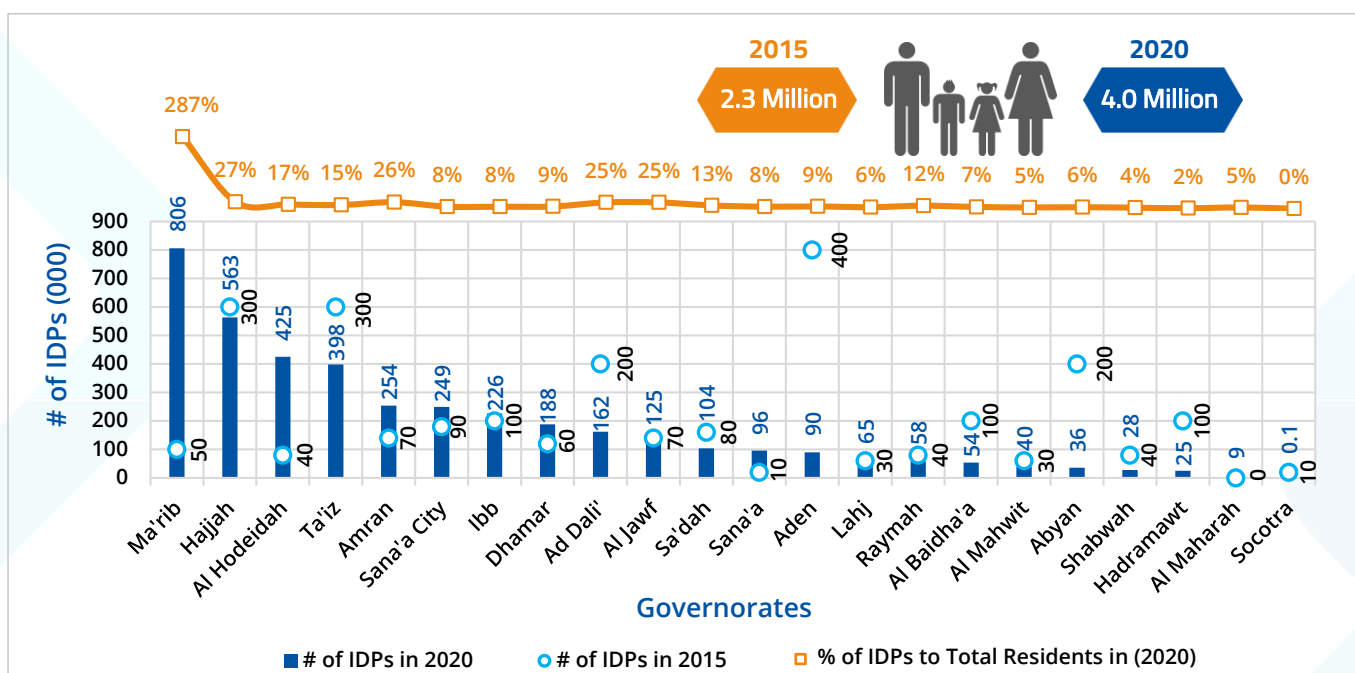
Fig (4) shows that the total number of IDPs, the number of new displaced persons is declining, as it fell from 2.2 million IDPs in 2015 to 160,000 in 2017, and then further to 398,000 in 2019 due to escalating tensions in some areas. In 2020, IDP cases decreased to 143,000.

The available data indicate that waves of internal displacement continued since the end of 2014, 2015 and beyond, as a result of war and conflict as well as natural disasters, especially from governorates that witnessed armed clashes, bringing the number of IDPs in Yemen to over 4.0 million by the end of 2020, compared to about 2.3 million in 2015. Concentration of IDPs is more common in Ma'rib, Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Ta'iz, Amran and Sana'a City.

In 2020, Ma'rib reported the largest number of resident IDPs, reaching 806,000¹⁶ (20.1% of total IDPs), compared to 50,000 in 2015, i.e. 756,000 increase, followed by Hajjah with 563,000 IDPs (14.1%), compared to 300,000 displaced persons in 2015, about 263,000 up, then Al Hodeidah with about 425,000 IDPs (10.6%), compared to 40,000 IDPs, that is 385,000 up from 2015, In Ta'iz, the 2020 estimates put the number at 398,000 (9.9%), up from 300,000 from 2015, that is 98,000 up. Young people constitute the largest proportion of IDPs, reaching up to 28% for boys and 27% for girls, while IDP women account for 23%, with 21% for men¹⁷.

In 2020, IDPs ratio to residents in Marib was about 287% meaning that the number of IDPs in the governorate is greater than the number of the original inhabitants, followed by Hajjah with 27% and then Amran with about 26%, as shown in Fig (5).

Fig (5): Total IDPs in 2020 (000) as a proportion to residents by governorate for 2015 & 2020

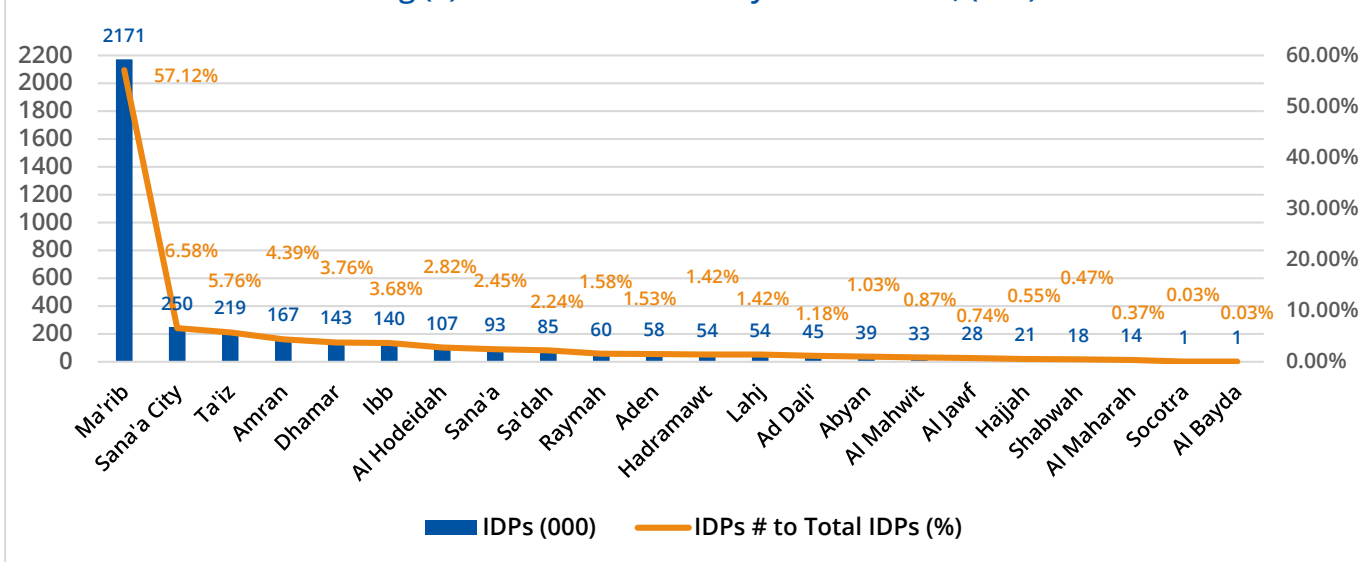


Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview - Yemen - 2021.

¹⁶ According to OCHA, this figure of IDPs in Marib Governorate is far less than actual number reported by the IDP Camps Management Executive Unit, and would be included on page (7) of YSEU Issue # (68).

¹⁷ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/yem>

Fig (6): Total IDPs in 2021 by Governorate; (000)



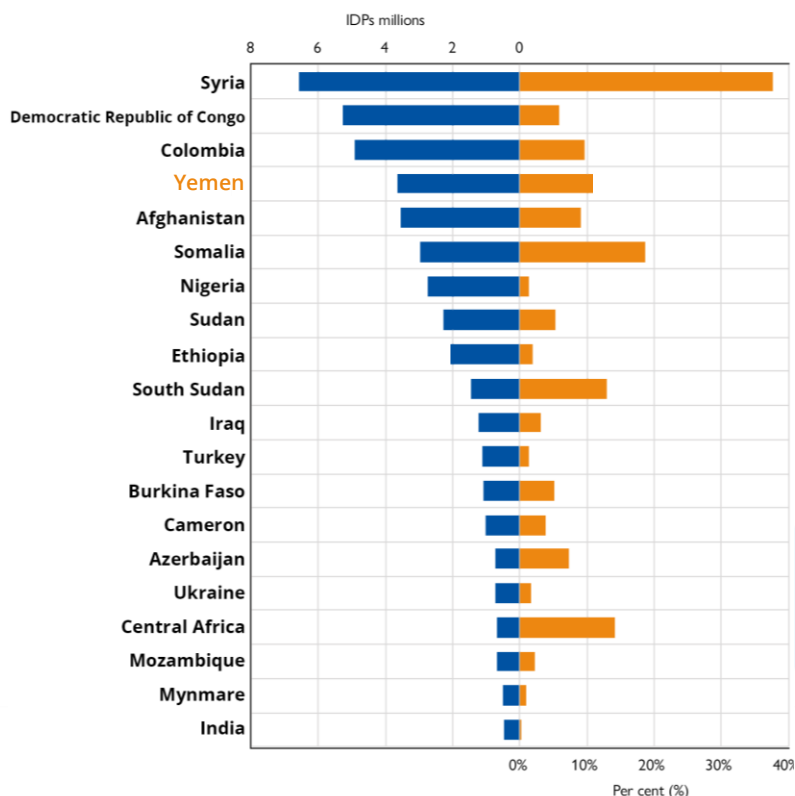
Source: Executive Unit for IDPS Camps Management, Summary of Multi-sector Study of IDPS in Yemen, December 2021.

It worth to be noted, however, that the intensification of the conflict in the governorates of Ma'rib, Al Jawf, Al Bayda, Shabwah, Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah during the year 2021, and continued hostilities in Ma'rib, Hajjah, Ad Dali', Ta'iz city and neighboring areas, has pushed displacement waves up by approximately 25,591 families (153,546 individuals). In Ma'rib alone, nearly 13,000 families had to displace¹⁸. UNHCR Yemen indicated that the number of IDPs exceeded 4.2 million people in 2021, with the expectation that the pattern the new and protracted displacement situation to continue in 2022¹⁹.

A recent multi-sector study about IDPs in Yemen, published by the IDP Camps Management Executive Unit in December 2021, indicated that the bulk of displaced persons (4.2 million) are concentrated in Ma'rib, Al Hodeidah and Ta'iz governorates. Ma'rib governorate accommodates the largest number of IDPs, reaching 2,170,517²⁰ DPs, followed by Ta'iz with 219,035 IDPs, then Al Hodeidah, Aden and Hadramawt governorates, with IDPs ranging between 57,000 to 106,000 IDPs each; as shown in Fig (6).

Yemen is the fourth largest IDP crisis in the world, according IOM 2022 Report see Fig (7).²¹

Fig (7): Top 20 countries with the largest populations of internally displaced persons by conflict and violence at the end of 2020 (Millions)



Source: World Migration Report 2022, IOM.

Note: IDP numbers refer to the cumulative number of people displaced over time. The population size used to calculate the percentage of conflict-displaced people is based on the total population residing in the country, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs population estimates (2021a).

¹⁸ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/yemen> Situation Report Last updated: 11 Jan 2022 Yemen.

¹⁹ UNHCR YEMEN | 2022 STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/unhcr-yemen-2022-strategy-and-action-plan>

²⁰ As previously indicated in footnote (16), the difference between total IDPs in Marib governorate reported by the Executive Unit and OCHA figure is significant, and thus, has to be revised accordingly.

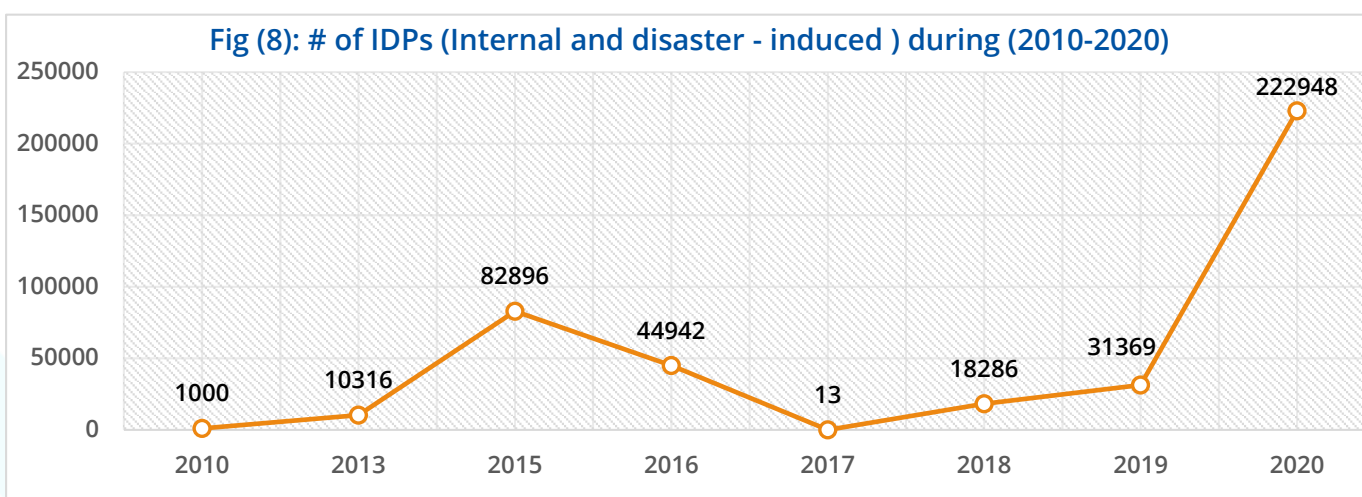
²¹ World Migration Report 2022, IOM.

Displacement due to natural disasters, including torrential rains and floods

Climate changes and natural disasters, especially floods, are among the key triggers of displacement in a country plagued by wars and conflicts such as Yemen. In the absence of a climate contingency plan, the climate-induced impacts caused waves of displacement over the last seven years, including in 2020, which was the worst in terms of deteriorating humanitarian situation and collapsing health system in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, torrential rains caused extensive damage and displacement in many parts of Yemen, leading to the incidence of outbreaks, dengue fever, malaria and diphtheria. About 300,000 people lost their homes and belongings, the majority of them are IDPs²².

During February and September 2020, Yemen has seen two heavy rainy seasons, forcing 223,000 new displacements, the highest number recorded in Yemen during the period from 2010-2020. Meanwhile, floods caused hundreds of deaths and forced thousands of IDPs to flee for the second time from the camps to the IDPs hosting sites, which highlights the concomitant repercussions of conflict and disasters, and their impact on the situation of the population in general, especially since the vast majority of IDPs in Yemen live in temporary shelters (IDP camps), which exposes them to higher risk of recurrent displacement due to natural disasters and deteriorating sanitation and nutrition systems. Floods have also inundated IDP hosting sites, waste accumulated in the streets and water sources contaminated, which increase the risks and vectors among IDPs amid Cholera outbreak. Most IDP sites were either destroyed or have become uninhabitable, leaving many families homeless again, and in many cases living in the open. Rural and agricultural areas in particular were affected most, many agricultural crops were washed away, and creating a breeding environment for pests encouraged to breed alongside locust swarms²³.

During the year 2021, the recurrent seasonal floods continued to cause deaths, injuries and trigger displacement, with many people forced to flee their homes, other lost their property, crops and vital productive assets. Over 34,000 families, most of them IDPs who fled hot spots, have lost their shelters and livelihoods, especially the southern communities, which were affected most by torrential rains and floods²⁴.



Source: IDMC, Internal Displacements - Conflict - Violence - Disasters (2008-2020) <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

Between 2010-2020, Yemen has been through a series of natural disasters, mainly floods and torrential rains, forcing a lot of people to displace. Fig (8) shows that displacement has increased significantly due to natural disasters since 2015, when Yemen was hit by two storms during that year, causing the displacement of 82,896 people, while 2016 comes second with about 44,942 people had to displace due to floods resulting from back-to-back cyclones and natural storms that struck many Yemeni governorates, especially in the southern and eastern governorates, such as (Chapala, Mekunu and Luban), while about 40 people were displaced due to landslides.

The year 2017 has seen the least displacement with about 13 people. Meanwhile, natural disasters in 2019 caused the displacement of about 31,369 people in 12 governorates hit by heavy rains and floods in mid-May, destroying tents in the IDP settlements, and displacing some 3,000 people for the second time. More and more heavy rains fell by the end of July, triggering 13,000 new displacements. In September, the floods damaged IDP sites in Aden, Lahj and Abyan governorates, and forced additional 15,000 people to displace for the second time²⁵. The year 2020 recorded the largest number of IDPs due to natural disasters, reaching about 222,948 persons, mainly in Hadhramout, Mahra and Socotra, which were hit by a tropical cyclone.

²² UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/en/4be7cc27910.html>

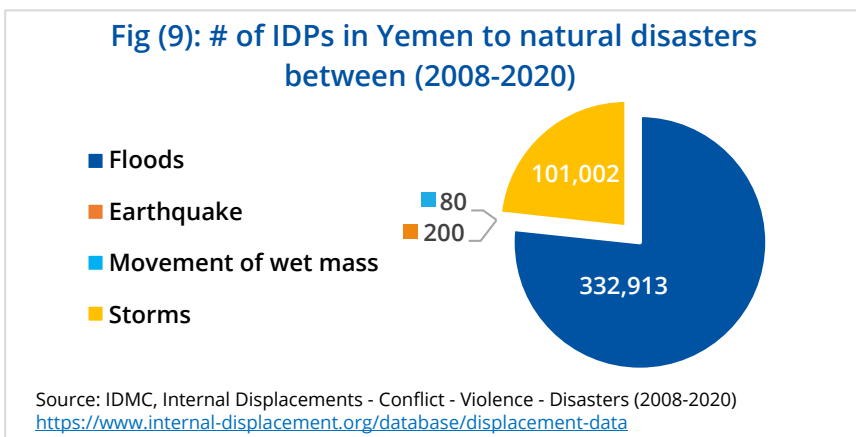
²³ Internal Displacement in a changing Climate 2021, ID/MC <https://www.internal-displacement.org/>

²⁴ Situation Report Last updated: 11 Jan 2022 Yemen <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/yemen>

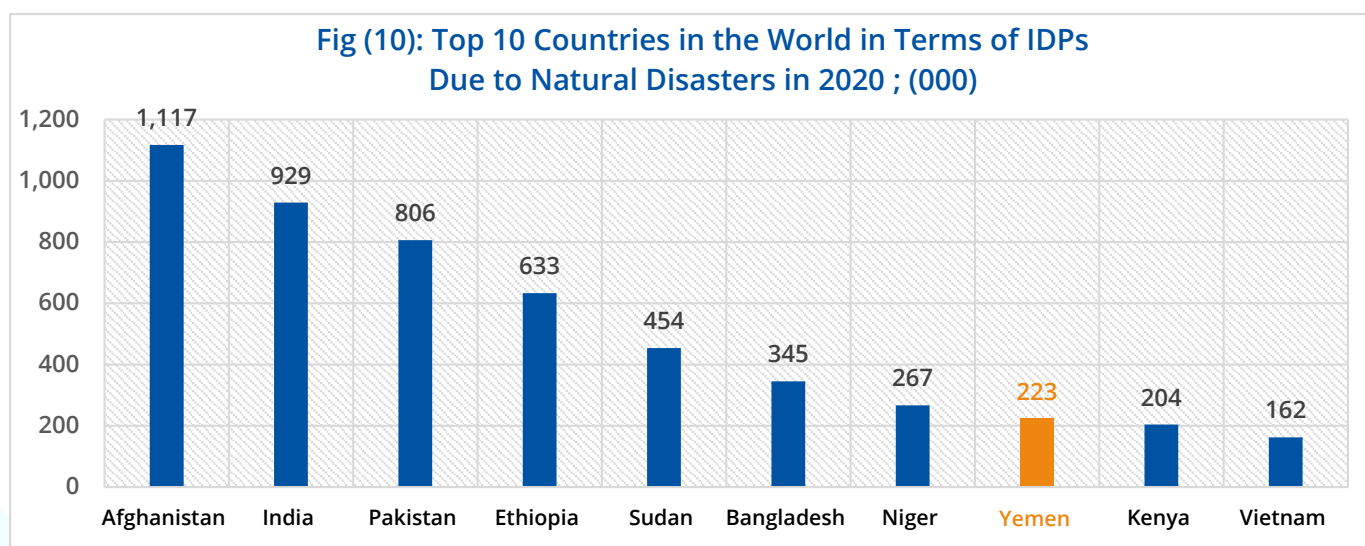
²⁵ Internal Displacement Global Report, 2020, https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/IDMC_GRID_Global_2020_en_web.pdf

Between 2008 to 2020, Yemen was hit by a series of natural disasters, recording about 12 floods and 5 storms, in addition to the movement of two land masses and one tremor, all of which caused the displacement of many people, while others lost their homes and properties.

In Fig (9), we see that floods were the main trigger of displacement, followed by cyclones, tremors and the movement of land masses²⁶.



It is likely that Yemen will witness in the coming years an upturn in natural risks induced by climate changes, with their impact on the regional and global weather, thereby vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs in the coming years. In 2020, Yemen was ranked among the top ten countries in the world in terms of displaced people as a result of natural disasters²⁷ as shown in fig (10).



Source: Internal displacements in a changing climate 2021, IDMC.

IDPs Returnees

Returnees are defined as displaced persons who have now returned to their place of habitual residence where they lived prior to displacement. With regard to population movements and total IDP families and persons in March 2019, their number reached 3.6 million persons, and about 607,875 families distributed over 22 governorates. Meanwhile IDPs returned to their governorates reached about 1.3 million people, representing 213,427 families²⁸.

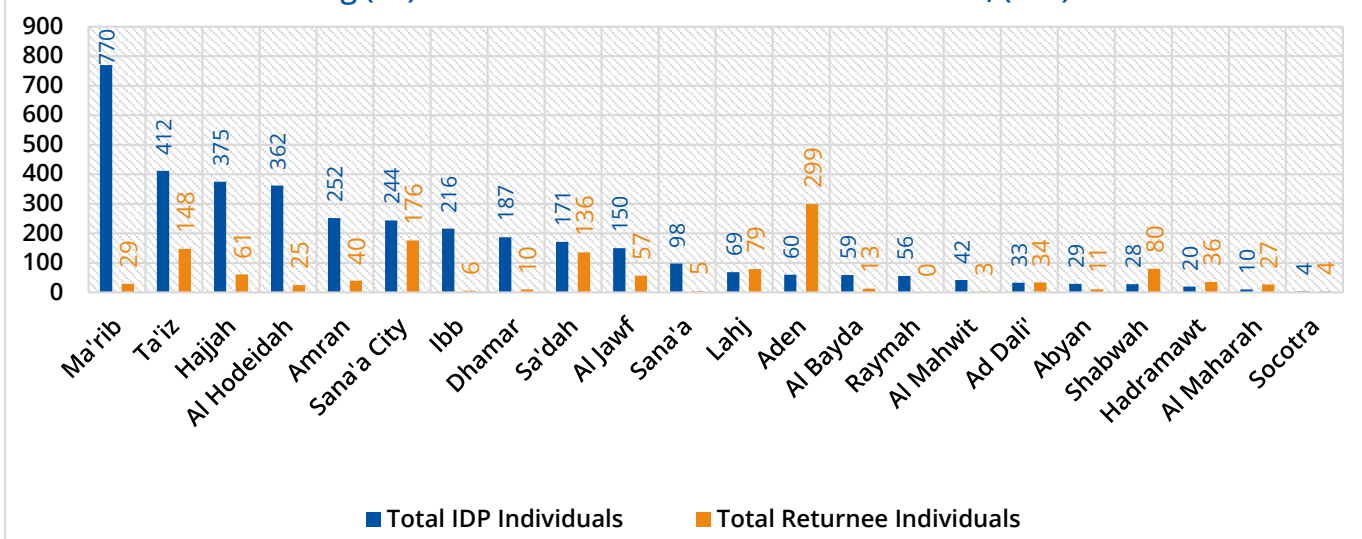
Fig (11) shows that Aden recorded the highest number of registered IDP Returnees with 299,000, followed by Sana'a City 176,000, and then Ta'iz 148,000. This surge in returnees can be attributed to waves of returnees over the past years. For its part, the International Organization for Migration has earlier reported that over 362,000 people were forced to displace due to escalating conflicts in Al Hodeidah Governorate.

²⁶ IDMC, Internal Displacements - Conflict - Violence - Disasters (2008 - 2020) <https://www.internaldisplacement.org/database/displacement-data>

²⁷ Internal Displacement in a changing Climate 2021, IDMC <https://www.internal-displacement.org/>

²⁸ International Organization for Migration, Area Assessment-Yemen, March 2019

Fig (11): # of IDPs and Returnees in March 2019 ; (000)



Source: International Organization for Migration, Area Assessment-Yemen, March 2019.

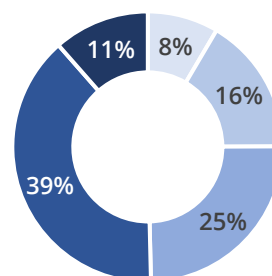


III: The Humanitarian and Social Conditions of IDPs

Data on the severity of the need for various assistance among IDPs (4 million persons) in Yemen indicates that the largest proportion of IDPs are in Phase 4 (emergency), reaching 1.56 million, that's about 39%, while about 25% in Phase 3 (crisis), about 16% in phase 2 (stressed), and about 11% in phase 5 (catastrophe), as shown in Fig (12). This situation poses a growing risk seriousness on their lives on the one hand, and the difficulty integrating them into host communities on the other, amid eviction threats or conflict with the host communities.

Fig (12): % of IDPs by Severity of Needs (IPC phase)

- Minimal
- Stressed
- Crisis
- Emergency
- Catastrophe

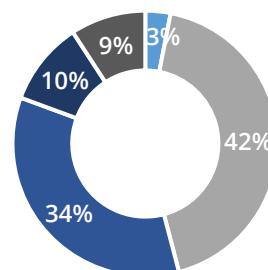


Source: Yemen HNO, February 2021, OCHA,-Yemen.

By type of need, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) indicates that shelter and housing needs represent priority # 1 for IDPs (42%), followed by food needs (34%), then comes NFIs such as household and hygiene supplies and others (10%), followed by financial support (cash) to cover education, health, transportation and other expenses (9%). The need for drinking water came as the last priority (3%). This does not mean that water is not necessary for them, but rather due to the large number of interventions by International and local relief organizations in this area, as shown in Fig (13).

Fig (13): Top 5 needs by IDPs

- Drinking water
- Shelter/housing
- Food
- NFIs
- Financial support



Source: IOM Quarterly Report, Yemen, July-Sept. 2021

The Social Condition of IDPs

World Bank Yemen DNA study in 2020 revealed that three segments of the population, namely IDPs, returnees, and many of those who remained where they live, have been affected by the conflict. The effect on the living conditions of these groups has varied. For example: houses have been damaged; access to basic services has been compromised; population influx has created additional pressure in certain areas; overcrowding has increased in areas where IDPs are living with host families; more informal settlements have been created to provide shelter for the displaced, very likely in areas more vulnerable to natural hazards; and schools and other basic service facilities are being used to house some of the displaced. As the needs of these groups differ, supporting them will require distinct approaches and flexible solutions. This includes approaches to infrastructure rehabilitation, service restoration, land and property solutions, dispute resolution, compensation, subsidies, and structure rehabilitation²⁹.

People in Need

Total IDPs in need reached 3 million. An estimated 1.4 million IDPs live in 73 districts classified in IPC phase 5; while additional 1.4 million people in 167 districts are classified in phase 4, and 230,000 others in 93 districts in phase 3.

Table (1): Inter-Sector Severity and People in Need

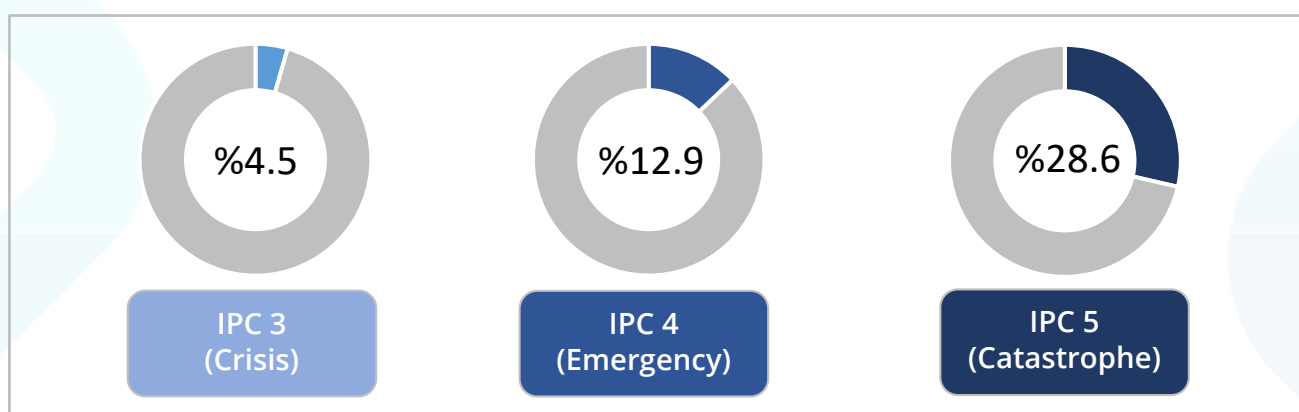
Severity Level	Total # of People in Need	IDP Segment of the Population		Non-IDP Segment of the Population		Average # of Affected Districts
		# of People in Need	# of Districts	# of People in Need	# of Districts	
Crisis (3)	5,136,394	229,589	93	4,906,805	104	99
Emergency (4)	10,656,025	1,374,793	167	9,281,232	164	166
Catastrophe (5)	4,921,324	1,406,215	73	3,515,110	65	69
Total	20,713,743	3,010,597	333	17,703,147	333	333

Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview - Yemen - 2021

Overall, IDP families face higher levels of food insecurity compared to non-displaced families, as about 43% of IDP households are unable to meet their minimum food needs. According to IPC analysis, more than 67% of the IDPs (2.6 million IDPs) suffer from food insecurity in emergency phase, and two out of three Yemeni IDPs live in IPC phase 4 or beyond. IDPs are exposed to the risk of hunger four times more than non-displaced people³⁰.

As for malnutrition, no available data on the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities, displaced and marginalized people. However, the severity of acute malnutrition among these groups is likely to be large and may exceed those experienced by other segments of the population³¹.

Fig (14): % of IDPs by Severity Degree to Total People in Need



Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview Yemen, February 2021, OCHA.

²⁹ World Bank Group, Yemen DNA, Phase 3, 2020 Update.

³⁰ Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, March 2021, OCHA-Yemen.

³¹ Sectoral Analysis: Food Security and Malnutrition, Yemen HNO, February, 2021, OCHA.

At the level of services, assessments indicate that only 9% of people in the IDPs hosting sites have access to adequate WASH services, and that only 6% benefit from waste disposal services. Open defecation practice is common in 35% of the sites due to the lack or inadequate WASH facilities, making them vulnerable to the risks of water pollution and infectious diseases. In addition these sites lack separate facilities for both males and females, which exposes women and girls to the risks of violence and physical abuse.

IDP children are, meanwhile, exposed to devastating effects as well as its repercussions on future generations. IDP boys and girls face challenges accessing education and other services, since most of them have no documents to prove their identity. On the other hand, educational facilities for IDP children are often limited or damaged by the war. Temporary learning spaces are also limited, the existing schools are overcrowded, and many schools are used as shelters, in addition to the fact that one in five IDP girls aged 10-19 years being married³².

At the education level, an estimated 8.1 million school-aged girls and boys are in need of emergency education assistance across Yemen, including 1.65 IDP children and 1.5 children with disabilities, whose access to educational services remains a challenge³³.

Implications on Women and Children

IDP women suffer the ripple effect of the crisis, especially those without a breadwinner. They bear the burden of caring for their children amid multiple difficulties, including the loss of livelihoods and incomes, epidemics and difficult access to water and food, or adequate shelter. Data show that 93% of the sites lack shelter maintenance services and assistance, 89% lack adequate health services, 91% lack adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services, and suffer 82% shortage in food distributions. As the number of IDP women and girls increases, so does the need for protection, especially amid limited shelter options and the collapse of formal and informal protection mechanisms. IDPs suffer disproportionately from a lack of privacy, threats to safety, and limited access to basic services, especially in overcrowded collective centres. Displaced women and girls from marginalized groups or with disabilities suffer more to access to services. Displaced women suffer hardships securing livelihoods for themselves and their families, since they are exposed to many health and psychological risks, or even violence, exploitation, eviction threats and other protection-related threats, all of which make it unfavourable for women to improve their living conditions. Women-headed households have risen to 30% compared to 9% before the conflict escalated in 2015, many of them are headed by female children³⁴.



IV: The Economic Conditions of IDPs

Poverty

By 2015, about 45% of the population had lost their main sources of income due to the conflict, while public servants did not receive full and regular salaries since the end of 2016, which caused income decline and damage to some sectors such as health and education. Meanwhile, the poor living conditions caused more outbreaks amid deteriorated WASH services, and damaged basic water infrastructure due to overcrowding in IDP sites³⁵.

In terms of the number of poor people, their number was nearly doubled in 2014 compared to 2005, reaching 12.6 million people, and further to 21.2 million people in 2016.

The future prospects do not bode well for a breakthrough in the displacement crisis should the war continues in Yemen. The United Nations Development Program warned in a report entitled "Assessing the Impact of the War in Yemen on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals." If the war continues in Yemen until 2022, Yemen will be classified as the poorest country in the world. The report expected that by 2022, Yemen would suffer from the largest poverty gap in the world³⁶. Accordingly, poverty rates are expected to exceed 80% during 2022.

In 2021, Yemen's economy was hit by additional shocks, macroeconomic instability and destabilization of the overall economic situation in Yemen, pushing up food prices, as the cost of the minimum food basket increased by

³² Sectoral Analysis: Food Security and Malnutrition, Yemen HNO, February, 2021, OCHA.

³³ Sectoral Analysis: education, Yemen HNO, February, 2021, OCHA.

³⁴ Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, March 2021, OCHA-Yemen.

³⁵ Assessing the Impact of War on Development in Yemen 2019 First Report, UNDP, Yemen.

³⁶ <https://www.ye.undp.org/content/yemen/ar/home/library/assessing-the-impact-of-war-on-development-in-yemen-SDGs.html>

54.6% in the southern governorates, and by 20.3% in north³⁷. Food prices have more than doubled in most parts of the country, making staple food unaffordable for the entire population and taking their toll on IDPs. Moreover, the protracted fuel crisis, which began in June 2020, has continued. It is estimated that the conflict will cost Yemen \$126 billion in lost GDP by the end of 2021, according to the United Nations Development Program³⁸. The GDP losses are expected to reach 181 billion dollars, if the war continues in 2022³⁹.

Consequently, the above-mentioned factors have a significant impact on IDPs as the most vulnerable group that is directly affected by the conflict. Many of them had lost their sources of income while moving from their places of origin to other places in search of safety and other income sources, so they can meet their basic needs. An estimated 500,000 people have experienced displacement for more than two years. A lot of IDPs suffer poor living conditions, especially those who live in the camps. Besides the harsh forced displacement conditions, they are prone to shocks, economic or social, or face the risk of natural disasters and floods. Moreover, IDP sites are often concentrated in areas vulnerable to flooding or close to active front lines⁴⁰.

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on IDPs

COVID-19 has had a major impact on IDPs and displacement-affected communities. According to a 2020 countrywide survey by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 78 per cent of IDPs, returnees and host families reported being unable to purchase required COVID-19 hygiene products due to high costs; such products are critically important as most of this population lives in crowded conditions where COVID-19 is likely to circulate. Half of the respondents to the survey indicated that COVID-19 had disrupted their livelihoods, and 40 per cent said they did not have a source of income even before the pandemic struck⁴¹.

IDPs are often threatened with or face eviction, as they commonly lack security of tenure, especially during displacement, and relations between tenants and landlords are often highly informal. Threats include physical and verbal intimidation and harassment, destruction of IDPs' and humanitarian property, restrictions on humanitarian access and denials of critical shelter, WASH and health infrastructure assistance and supplies⁴².

Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities

The deteriorating economic situation experienced by individuals in Yemen, and the lack of sources of income and means of livelihood, with 64% of IDP families reported having no sources of income. Others earn less than \$50 a month to cover their living needs. As a result, two out of three displaced families say they resort to improper coping mechanisms to survive, such as limiting or skipping their meals, getting their children out of school or ignoring health care issues. Some end up begging or selling the rest of their belonging, while the phenomenon of child marriage is on the rise⁴³.

Findings concluded by the Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment 2019 (MCLA) revealed that livelihoods have been identified as a basic need that is rarely met in Yemen. Results at the governorate, district and population group levels clearly showed that lacking access to sustainable and regular livelihoods was the most common and persistent worrying problem in all governorates in Yemen. In 88% of districts (290 out of 328 districts)⁴⁴, less than half of the total population has access to sustainable livelihoods⁴⁵.

The lack of available economic opportunities is the main reason behind the decline in the livelihoods of all population groups assessed in the governorates and districts of Yemen. Second comes the suspension of government salaries, and in the third place, the deteriorating livelihoods due to low incomes. In addition, the absence of economic opportunities and the high proportion of young people to total population (60%), makes livelihoods an urgent matter⁴⁶.

³⁷ FAO, Market Watch Monthly Bulletin, 2015-2021.

³⁸ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/yemen>

³⁹ Yemen HNO, February, 2021, OCHA

⁴⁰ Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, March 2021, OCHA-Yemen.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ UNHCR, Yemen. <https://www.unhcr.org/ar/news/briefing/2021/2/6038d9104.html>

⁴⁴ OCHA et al., Comprehensive Multi-Cluster Location Assessment Report, 2019.

⁴⁵ According to MCLA, livelihoods were defined as a source of income.

⁴⁶ World Bank Group, Yemen Dynamic Needs Assessment (DNA): Phase 3, 2020 Update

With regard to the resources needed to enable the population maintain regular livelihoods amid the crisis, the assessment results at the district level revealed manual equipment are the most common need to improve the livelihoods of IDPs, returnees, host communities and refugees in most districts, followed by fishing gear, then the dire need for water and livestock, while cash was seen as the most needed resource to develop their livelihoods. It was pointed out to some important mechanisms in improving livelihoods, including raising small ruminants, vegetable and grain seeds, water for agricultural use and livestock, and livestock vaccines⁴⁷.



V: International Response and Support to IDPs in Yemen

Role of International Institutions

The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) focuses particularly on the needs of IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Some of the highest levels of vulnerability are concentrated in IDP sites where very few services are available. Most of them IDPs who fled conflict areas, lost their shelters, incomes and any form of livelihoods they may have had.⁴⁸

Under the humanitarian coordination system in Yemen, UNHCR provides protection, shelter and NFI operations, as well as cash assistance to IDPs to help them meet their urgent needs such as food, medicine, emergency shelter, mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen kits, solar lamps and others, to assist IDPs and the most vulnerable groups. It has reached people in need in the 20 conflict-affected governorates. Assistance to households also include shelter packages, mats and plastic sheets to help repair their homes destroyed by the conflict, and ensure privacy and protection for those living in collective premises. It supports health facilities serving refugees, asylum seekers and Yemenis affected by violence in a bid to prevent and control cholera after it has outbreak, which spread further due to the conflict. It is also helping protect families from the coronavirus by distributing hygiene kits and protection information across the country. Legal aid and financial assistance, in addition to psychosocial support services are also provided to help those affected by the war, plus a wide range of protection-related services such addressing GBV and activities centered around women and child issues. As the funding available for their operations in Yemen remains limited, this makes it difficult for them to fully meet these massive needs, and limit their ability to provide life-saving assistance.⁴⁹

CLUSTER/SECTOR RESPONSE for IDPs

Cluster/sector response for IDPs includes the following⁵⁰:

1. **FSAC:** FSAC partners will provide tiered assistance based on the vulnerability levels of the targeted severely food-insecure population, where IDPs receive emergency food assistance.
2. **Nutrition:** The cluster will also address key drivers of malnutrition through scaling up geographic availability of nutrition services and programme coverage, specifically in IDP sites, host communities and hard-to-reach areas, including prevention and treatment of malnutrition.
3. **Health:** The cluster response seeks to increase access of vulnerable populations including IDPs to the Minimum Health Service Package, supporting the health system and community resilience at all levels, and prioritizing reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support, severe malnutrition response and management of non-communicable diseases.
4. **WASH:** The WASH Cluster will target newly displaced individuals through rapid, life-saving assistance, and IDPs in sites through sustained support as well as rehabilitation of infrastructure for potential returns. Assistance to IDPs in sites is a priority to address the 91 per cent of sites with inadequate WASH conditions, with a focus on durable solutions such as connection to water networks. Efforts will be made to improve the availability and quality of sanitation facilities for IDPs, and targeting IDP sites in flood-prone areas, including activities such as improving storm- water drainage and protection for WASH infrastructure in at-risk sites.
5. **Education:** The Education Cluster partners will continue to reach IDPs, especially out-of-school children, through safe and inclusive formal and informal learning opportunities. The Education Cluster will further expand existing non-formal education learning programmes such as the accelerated learning programme, which combines two academic years into one, and the basic literacy and numeracy programme, to bring children to age-appropriate educational levels.

⁴⁷ Economic Recovery, Reconstruction and Building Sustainable Peace in Yemen, YSEU Bulletin (51) August 2020, MoPIC, Sector for Economic Forecasting and Studies

⁴⁸ Yemen HNO, February, 2021.

⁴⁹ UNHCR- Yemen

⁵⁰ Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, March 2021, OCHA-Yemen.

6. **Protection:** The Protection Cluster aims to contribute to a more protective environment for the most vulnerable populations through the prevention and mitigation of protection risks for women, men, girls and boys, especially the displaced and most vulnerable civilians. Priority in the response will be given to child protection, including the most vulnerable boys and girls, including those displaced and in host communities who are at risk of violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation.
7. **Shelter and NFIs:** The cluster will support the newly displaced and the needs of those experiencing protracted displacement by facilitating the house repairs necessary for them to return.
8. **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM):** The cluster aims to improve the condition of people in IDP hosting sites, contributing to the reduction of infectious disease prevalence and prevention of famine and malnutrition, while ensuring a protective environment for vulnerable displaced populations, including continued implementation of site and area-based supervision and coordination.
9. **RRM:** The RRM partners take the lead in generating beneficiary lists of new IDPs instead of receiving lists from local authorities. The modality has proved to reduce the assistance delivery timeline, address inclusion and exclusion concerns, strengthen the engagement of active and broad networks on the ground, and improve the quality of information gathered.

Comparison between IDP numbers in some Arab States (2020)

Table (2) shows that UNHCR provided \$52.6 million in cash assistance to 1,140,383 displaced Yemenis and refugees in 2020, including \$5.6 million winterization cash assistance, while 437,900 IDPs reached with core relief items, and 127,200 IDPs received emergency shelter. Total IDPs reached during the year were 4 million, 10,800 of IDP returnees.

Table (2): Comparison between IDP numbers in some Arab States (2020)

Country	Cash Assistance (\$ million)	# of IDPs reached with core relief items	# of IDPs received emergency shelter	Total IDPs	IDP Returnees
Yemen	52.6	437,900	127,200	4,000,000	10,800
Syria	246	1,400,000	288,780	6,700,000	448,000
Iraq	28.3	120,635	31,750	1,200,000	278,000
Libya	5.2	65,850		278,200	105,400

Source: Global Report 2020- UNHCR.

There has been an increase in the volume of aid provided to Syria, reaching \$246 million in cash assistance to 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and 761,089 people assisted for winterization. Additionally, about 1.4 million refugees and displaced Syrians reached with core relief items, 288,780 received emergency shelter. Total Syrian IDPs reached were 6.7 million, nearly 448,000 of them IDP returnees. In Iraq, cash assistance amounted to \$28.3 million was provided to 365,446 displaced people, while 252,136 people received winterization assistance, 120,635 displaced people and refugees reached with core relief items, 31,750 people received emergency shelter. Total Iraqi IDPs reached were 1.2 million, nearly 278,000 of them are IDP returnees. In Libya, an amount of \$5.2 million in cash assistance was provided to 23,446 displaced people and refugees, while 65,850 reached with core relief items, while 29,500 benefited from 59 quick-impact projects. Total Libyan IDPs reached 278,200, nearly 105,400 of them are IDP returnees⁵¹.



VI: Major Challenges and Solutions

Based on the aforesaid, the continuation of conflict and war, deterioration of the humanitarian and economic conditions with their significant impact on IDPs in the one hand, and limited funding for the humanitarian response in general and IDP needs in particular, on the other hand, calls for a review of the national policy directly related to IDPs, and to develop an appropriate strategy to deal with them, in cooperation and coordination with INGOs who have to secure sufficient funding given the size of the issue and scale of their needs. Despite the great efforts they make, international organizations operating in Yemen with mandate to protect and support IDPs are also required to review their interventions to ensure better living conditions for IDPs, taking into account needs by the communities host, and to develop sustainable solutions to address the conditions of IDPs, double efforts ensure their re-housing upon return to their areas of origin, and to provide them with appropriate compensation.

⁵¹ Global Report- 2020- UNHCR.

Below are key challenges and the measures required to be taken to improve the conditions of the IDPs:

S	Key challenges facing IDPs	Top proposed measures to improve the conditions of IDPs
1	Continuation of the conflict and spread to other areas inhabited by the indigenous population and IDPs as well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reaching sustainable peace - Speed up efforts to ensure safe infrastructure at IDP sites and safe housing with adequate quality that can protect IDPs against climatic changes and living dangers.
2	Increased security risks during movement between IDPs areas hosting sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring safe corridors and stop escalatory operations - as they occur - for the immediate evacuation of IDPs.
3	Deteriorating economic situation of individuals, high poverty rates among the population, and lacking income sources and livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revitalizing the national economy by adopting corrective policies with the potential to improve the income of individuals in general, and to redistribute income in favor of the poor, including IDPs and middle class people. - Analyzing the labor market to integrate the skills of IDPs, follow-up their performance and develop their skills and capacities.
4	Access and logistical challenges, including delays in granting permits to transport humanitarian supplies, which impedes timely delivery of aid meant to improve the living standards of IDPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing and addressing permits related procedures, by using an electronic system that facilitates and expedites the process which is necessary for field work and understand the needs of IDPs. - Allow for rapid needs assessments to verify the needs of IDPs.
5	Economic shocks plaguing Yemen and their impact on IDPs, including volatile exchange rate, soaring prices of basic goods and services, as well as protracted fuel shortage crisis.	Creating a database and carrying out evaluation studies about IDP hosting sites on an ongoing basis, to ensure their access to basic goods and services, and to improve their living conditions.
6	Covid 19 pandemic, the worsening health situation among IDPs, and the increase in the number of people infected with epidemics and fevers.	Equipping health facilities, and providing the required medical supplies to do their job, and preparing a list of needs by all sites.
7	Limited capacity and resources in host communities and making it difficult to cope with needs.	Strengthening the capacities and resources of the communities hosting IDPs, while adopting coping programs with IDPs being included.
8	Limited funding resources for humanitarian response plans (donors fell short of fulfilling pledges related to humanitarian needs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the capacity to adapt to limited resources and find other alternatives promote solidarity with IDPs. - In the short term, the international community should increase funding pledges to meet the needs of IDPs and communities hosting them.
9	Conflicting data and information on IDPs (their whereabouts and numbers, distributed by gender and age).	Activate and strengthen mechanisms, modalities and approaches applied by COCA and the IDP Camps Executive Unit as primary sources, when gathering and compiling data on displaced persons.



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