

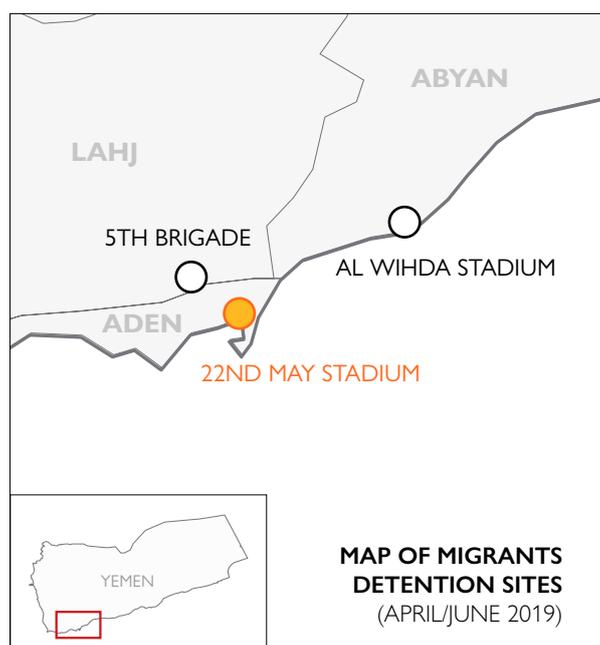
ADEN MIGRANT SITUATION

REPORT APRIL - JUNE 2019



IOM conducts a headcount of detained migrants at the start of the response. Photo: Headon/IOM 2019

Nearly two months since the campaign started on 21 April 2019, irregular migrants continue to be impacted by strict immigration policies in Aden governorate. At the peak of the detention campaign (27 April-03 May 2019), IOM estimates that approximately 5,000 irregular migrants were held across three sites: two football stadiums in Aden and Abyan governorates and a military camp in Lahj governorate.



CURRENT SITUATION

● OVER 1,500 MIGRANTS REMAIN ON SITE

Despite voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flights, which started on 28 May, over 1,500 migrants remain on site. IOM will be supporting the return to Ethiopia of children and vulnerable cases. To avoid encouraging a permanent emergency response in the 22nd of May Stadium, IOM will phase out humanitarian response at the site. IOM is cognizant of the fact that its priority must first and foremost be the safety, dignity and well-being of migrants and has carefully weighed the decision in order not to encourage policies of detention and deportation.

○ **5th Brigade:** due to the military nature of the site, humanitarian services were never provided. 14 migrants died due to AWD related illness. Migrants were released from the site on 05 May.

Al Wihda: this site was sporadically populated by migrants. Humanitarians did not provide services and often were challenged to access for monitoring. Migrants were released on 01 June.

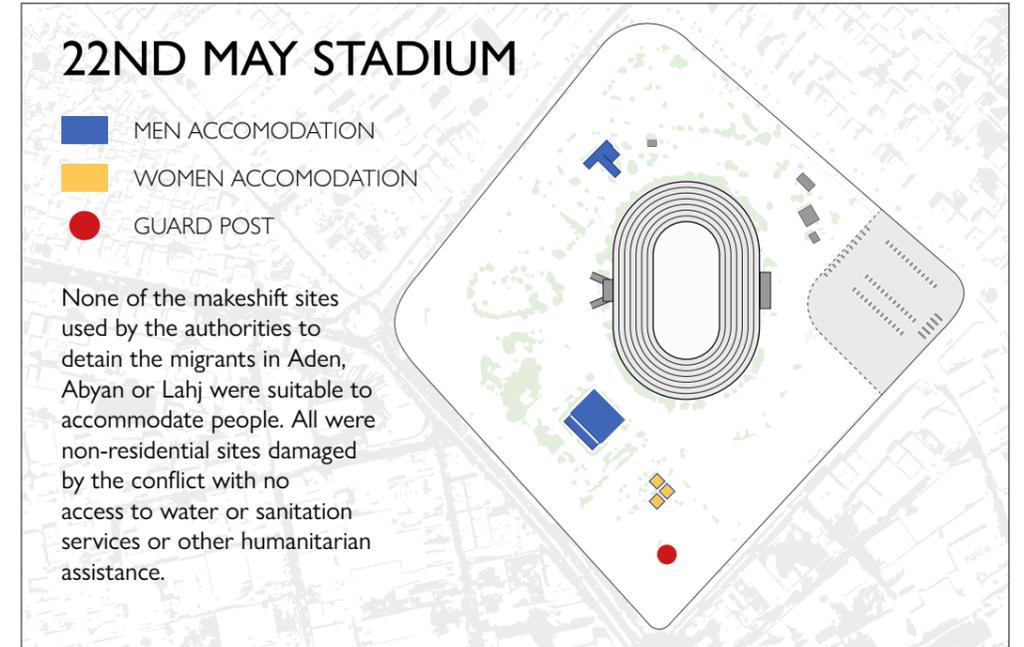
22ND MAY STADIUM OVERVIEW

RESPONSE

-  Coordination of response activities through the **Mixed Migration Working Group** with **OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, Intersos**, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).
-  24-hour health clinic, cholera response and prevention, referral services, health awareness raising.
-  Daily provision of emergency food.
-  Provision of water, establishment and rehabilitation of WASH facilities, hygiene promotion.
-  Site management, information booths; site clearance, fumigation.
-  Return assistance to migrants under the VHR programme.



IOM holds group discussion with detained migrant women on the conditions at the site. Photo: Headon/IOM 2019



TIMELINE

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>21 April
Authorities detain 1,800 migrants in Aden sports stadium</p> <p>22 April
MMWG & Protection Cluster meet to coordinate a response. IOM provides emergency food/water and basic health care at the stadium</p> <p>25 April
Additional 550 migrants are brought to the stadium by the authorities</p> | <p>26 April
Conditions at the stadium are deplorable. IOM/partners scale up food, WASH, health, protection activities</p> <p>30 April
Security opens fire on crowd at the site: 2 migrants get shot</p> <p>05 May
IOM and partners meet with Governor of Aden and MOFA, IPNA, MOI, Social Affairs, Legal Affairs</p> | <p>08 May
Site is handed over from the military to IPNA</p> <p>28 May
IOM starts VHR flights to Ethiopia. Women, children and other vulnerable cases are prioritized</p> <p>12 June
The stadium population reaches its peak despite on-going VHR, of which estimated 600+ children</p> |
|---|---|---|

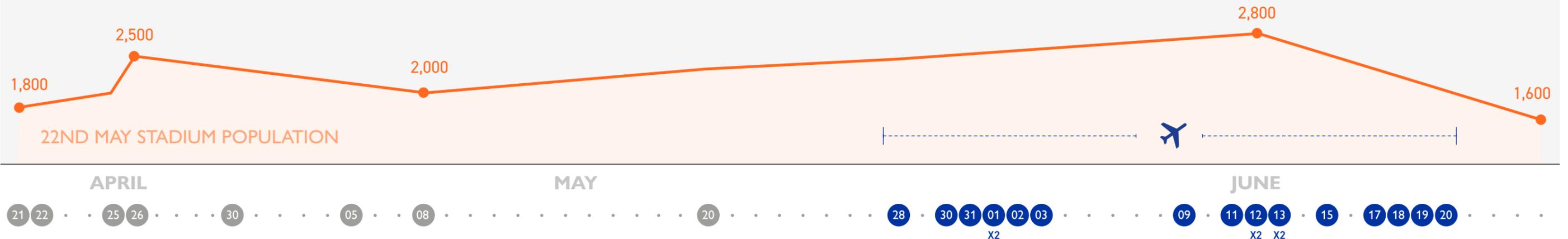
VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN

2,133 individuals assisted

1,493 men	
36 women	
604 children	

18 flights between **28/05** and **20/06**

On 28 May, IOM began assisting migrants detained in the 22nd of May Stadium to return to Ethiopia under its VHR programme. IOM has been clear with the local authorities that no detained adult migrants beyond the previously registered caseload, will be supported through IOM's VHR. IOM agreed to only re-open VHR registration for children and other migrants with vulnerabilities in the 22nd of May Stadium.



KEY CONCERNS

IOM advocates for migrants' rights to freedom of movement to be respected and for alternatives to detention to be put in place, especially for children, women and other vulnerable groups.

The local authorities are obliged to provide protection for all those persons within their borders, regardless of status. This protection is extended to detained migrants, including access to food, water, sanitation, health services and safe accommodation, among other provisions.

Any movement of the migrants back to their countries of origin should be voluntary, safe and dignified.

IOM provides VHR assistance to detained migrants as a last resort and does not encourage policies of detention and deportation.

Humanitarian actors should be able to maintain independent and principled engagement in response to any population in need.



IOM's health team treats an ill migrant at the 22nd May Stadium. Photo: Headon/IOM 2019



Migrant women wait to board their flight home from Aden airport. Photo: K. Baker/IOM 2019



Migrants set up their sleeping area in the open air at the 22nd of May Stadium. Photo: L. Moore/IOM 2019