

FORCED EVICTION ANALYSIS IN MANAGED IDP SITES

A FOCUS ON MARIB GOVERNORATE

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

ACRONYMS

CC:	Core competency
CCCM:	Camp coordination and camp management
Ex.U:	Executive unit
HLP:	Housing, land and property
ICLA:	Information Counselling and Legal Assistance
IDPs:	Internally displaced persons
IRG:	Internationally recognized government
NPC:	National Protection Cluster
NRC:	Norwegian Refugee Council
OHCHR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

INTRODUCTION:

Conflict and natural disasters such as seasonal floods have forced Yemeni families to flee their homes. More than 4.5 million Yemenis remain internally displaced with many of them having over the years been displaced multiple times. Marib Governorate, according to the Yemen Shelter Cluster hosts the largest internally displaced population (IDPs) in Yemen and as many as 90% of the 1.6 million people in Marib governorate are IDPs (UNHCR, March 2024)¹. Marib governorate alone has received and hosts over a million IDPs ²(Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, June 2023).

Forced eviction is common in conflict-affected settings and remains one of the biggest challenges for IDPs ³(M Jelle 2021). Broadly defined by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as “the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection”, forced eviction is one of the increasing protection risks that IDPs living in sites and out of sites in Yemen continue to face.

According to a report published in December 2023 by ACAPS and Yemen National Protection Cluster (NPC), displaced people in Yemen increasingly face the risk of forced eviction. ACAPS and NPC assert that both public and private land on which IDP sites are situated is increasingly being claimed back thereby resulting in the forced eviction of IDPs who have settled on these lands. ACAPS/NPC further assert that a high level of tenure insecurity in Yemen compounds forced eviction threats and inequalities in Yemeni society result in the heightened exposure of some population groups, such as the marginalized (i.e. Muhamasheen) to forced evictions. ACAPS/NPC cited an overall increase of forced evictions in Yemen by an estimated 10% in 2023 with Marib and Taiz governorates in the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) controlled areas identified as having the highest numbers of eviction cases.

Against this background, this report aims to provide a brief analysis/overview of eviction trends in managed IDP sites in Marib governorate. With Marib cited as one of the two governorates in IRG areas with the highest number of evictions, the report provides an analysis on forced eviction trends specific to Marib through the period of January to June 2024.

KEY FINDINGS

- Forced eviction/eviction threats remains one of the main protection risks that IDPs in managed IDP sites within Marib continue to face as findings indicate an increasing trend of forced eviction cases in Marib.
- Findings indicate a significant increase in the first half of 2024 of eviction cases in managed IDP sites in Marib. Forced eviction cases in managed IDP sites have increased by an estimated 77% in the first half of 2024 compared to the first half of 2023. The increase in eviction cases reported is attributed to an increasing trend of private and public landowners claiming back their lands. Findings also indicate an increase in the number of IDP sites affected by evictions.
- The majority i.e. 83% (15 out of 18) of the managed IDP sites that are reported as experiencing forced eviction/eviction threats are situated in privately owned lands as compared to an estimated 17% (3 out of 10) of the managed IDP sites situated in public/government land. Findings indicate that none of the affected IDP sites have land agreements; with no land agreements, there is an increased risk of forced eviction or eviction threats.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/marib-field-office-site-profile-february-2024-enar>

² <https://sanaacenter.org/publications/main-publications/20306>

³ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16549716.2021.1969117#abstract>

- While cases have been discussed with relevant stakeholders (such as committees, site planners and sub-national), majority (about 91%) of the recorded cases remain active; only 9% of the recorded cases have so far been addressed through the relocation of the affected IDPs families/households to areas with similar or higher living standards.
- At least 461 IDP households were directly impacted by eviction in the first half of 2024 as compared to 397 households impacted in the first half of 2023. While there is a slight (16% i.e. 64 households) increase in the number of households directly impacted by evictions in the first half of 2024 as compared to the first half of 2023, data indicates a very significant increase (616% i.e. 179 individuals injured in the first half of 2024 as compared to 25 individuals in the first half of 2023) in the number of individuals injured during evictions and another significant increase in the number of shelters (212 shelters in first half of 2024 as compared to 15 shelters in the first half of 2023) destroyed. The difference in the numbers of people injured and shelters destroyed is because of the increased numbers of forced/unannounced evictions and eviction threats in 2024.

METHODOLOGY

- The report is based on the review of publicly available sources and primary data analysis of eviction data covering managed IDP sites in Marib governorate from the Yemen camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) cluster incident report tool, Marib Executive Unit for the management of IDP camps (Ex.U) site eviction monthly monitoring matrix and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) eviction monitoring database/tracker.
- To supplement the analysis, one-on-one consultation meetings were held with local authorities (mainly Ex.U), NRC staff involved in eviction monitoring, HLP working group focal point and other relevant stakeholders.

LIMITATIONS

- The analysis only focuses on records/data shared by humanitarian actors in managed IDP sites; the analysis also only focuses on managed IDP sites.
- There is limited available data/information on eviction cases related to specific groups who might have specific needs and be more exposed to certain risks/threats.

FORCED EVICTION TREND ANALYSIS

According to ACAPS/NPC, many internally displaced Yemenis have sought refuge in makeshift displacement sites, on publicly and privately owned land, and in collective centres, such as schools. ACAPS/NPC further assert that both private and public land on which IDP sites are situated is increasingly being claimed back, resulting in the forced eviction of the IDPs who have settled there. OHCHR defines forced eviction as “the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection”⁴

In the first of 2024 alone, 23 eviction cases were recorded in managed IDP sites in Marib; this is half of the cases recorded in 2023 (January to December). According to the CCCM incident reporting tool, at least 461 households have been directly impacted by the eviction cases in general with 179 individuals reportedly injured because of actual evictions or eviction threats. Of the 461 households impacted, 212 households were reported to have had their shelters fully destroyed during or because of eviction. Only 1 out of the 23 affected IDP sites have security constraints in accessing the location while the remaining affected IDP sites have no obstruction to access.

About 13% (3 out of 23) of the affected IDP sites i.e. Al Ezz camp, Aljanahi school and Alsamad have faced at least 2 eviction cases with Alphadi IDP site registering 3 eviction cases.

1. Forced eviction cases recorded in the first half of 2024 as compared to the first half of 2023

Findings from the analysis indicate a significant increase in forced eviction cases recorded in the first half of 2024 compared to the first half of 2023.

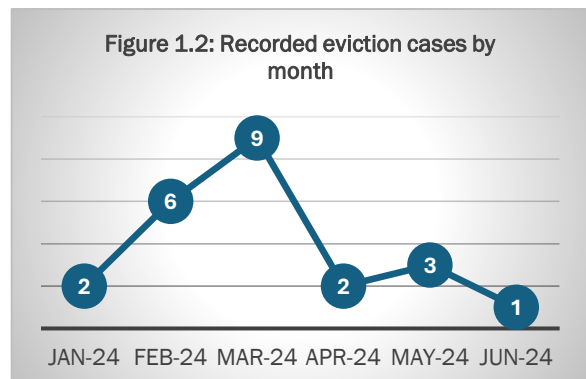
Figure 1: Table show eviction cases registered in the first halves of 2023 and 2024

January-June 2023	January-June 2024	Numerical change	Percentage change
Number of forced eviction cases reported	Number of forced eviction cases reported		
13	23	10	77%
Number of IDP sites affected	Number of IDP sites affected	Numerical change	Percentage change
11	18	7	64%

In January to June 2024, 23 eviction cases were reported in 18 managed IDP sites with most (about 65%) of the eviction cases recorded between February and March as compared to 13 cases reported in 11 managed IDP sites in the first half of 2023.

Figure 1.1: table showing eviction cases registered in the first half of 2024 only

Month/2024	# of eviction cases documented
January	2
February	6
March	9
April	2
May	3
June	1
Total	23



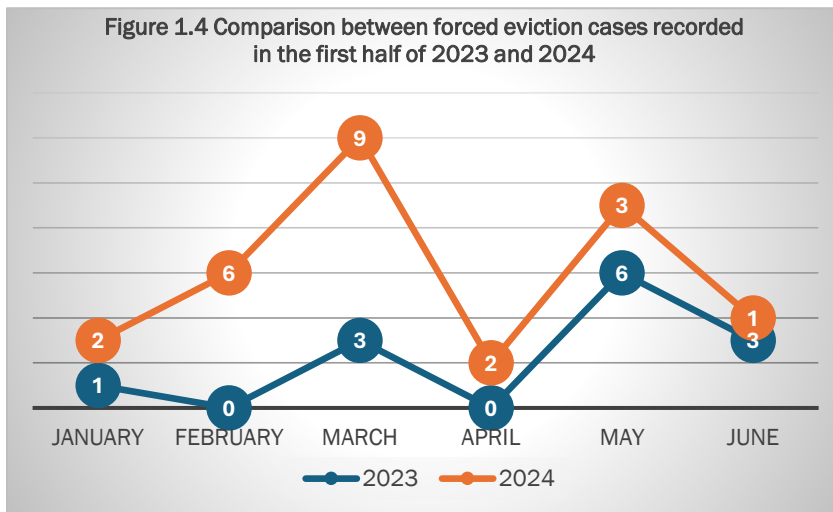
While the first half of 2024 saw an increase in eviction cases in general, findings indicate a reduction of eviction cases between April-June 2024. An estimated 75% of the eviction cases were recorded in the first quarter (January-March 2024) as

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/forced-evictions-and-human-rights#:~:text=Forced%20eviction%20is%20%E2%80%9Cthe%20permanent,and%20Cultural%20Rights%2C%20general%20comment>

compared to only 25% cases recorded in the second quarter. The table below provides an overview of the eviction cases recorded in the first half of 2023 and 2024.

Month	# of eviction cases documented in 2023	Percent	# of eviction cases documented in 2024	Percent
January	1	8%	2	9%
February	0	0%	6	26%
March	3	23%	9	39%
April	0	0%	2	9%
May	6	46%	3	13%
June	3	23%	1	4%
Total	13	100%	23	100%

While most (75%) of the eviction cases in January to June 2024 were recorded in the first quarter of 2024 as compared to only 25% cases recorded in the second quarter, the reverse is true for 2023 where most i.e. 69% of the eviction cases were recorded in the second quarter as compared to only 31% of the cases recorded in the first quarter.



The graph (figure 1.4) confirms an increase in eviction cases reported in the first half 2024 in comparison to the first half of 2023. For example, while no cases were registered in February and April 2023, there is no month in the first half of 2024 in which no eviction cases were reported.

The increase in reported eviction cases is attributed to the increase in especially private landowners requesting IDPs to vacate their land for

their own use and purposes. Private landowners are increasingly reclaiming land due to a) increased interest in land investment because of increased demand for housing in Marib; b) increasing demand for including increased price/value of land and c) prolonged stay by IDPs on private lands without paying the landowners.

Eviction cases have been discussed with relevant stakeholders (such as committees, site planners and sub-national), however, despite the discussion, the majority (about 91%) of the recorded cases remain active; only 9% of the recorded cases has so far been addressed through relocation of the affected IDPs to areas with similar or higher living standards).

Message/key findings

- In comparison to 2023, the first half of 2024 registered a significant increase in forced eviction cases in managed IDP sites within Marib governorate. Also, in comparison to 2023, the first half of 2024 saw another significant increase in the number of managed IDP sites registering forced eviction/eviction threats cases. The increase in eviction cases does impact the protection of IDPs HLP rights and poses as one of the challenges internally displaced Yemenis living in IDP sites face in finding durable solutions. The increase in eviction cases in managed IDP sites also poses significant challenge to the effective delivery of humanitarian services and assistance in the affected sites.

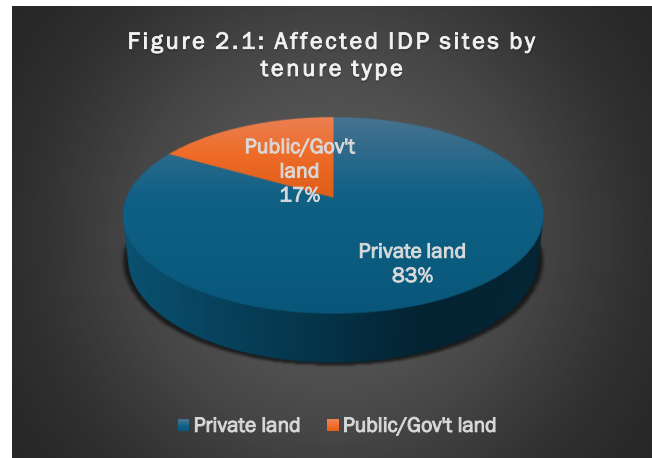
- The increased interest in land investment because of increased demand for housing including increasing demand for land and increased price/value of land increases the risk of forced eviction/eviction threats faced by IDPs living in sites.
- The majority (about 91%) of the eviction cases registered in 2024 remain active with not readily available and limited alternative options. Because of protracted displacement and IDPs not paying land rental fees, private landowners are unwilling to provide alternative lands. Not readily available alternative options couples with limited public/government lands does impact of the time in which eviction cases are resolved or addressed.

2. Land Tenure type

Figure 2: table showing tenure types of the affected managed IDP sites

Tenure type	# of affected IDP sites	# of affected sites with land agreement
Private land	15	0
Gov't/public land	3	0
Total	18	0

The majority (approximately 83%) of the managed IDP sites in which eviction cases were recorded are situated in privately owned lands as compared to about 17% of the sites located in public/government owned land. None of the affected IDP sites have land agreements



3. Eviction types

Figure 3: table showing types of eviction recorded in 2023 and first half of 2024

Sn	Type of eviction	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
1	Forced/unannounced	18	0	4
2	Eviction Notice (announced formally with date)	13	9	5
3	Eviction Threat (announced without date)	15	4	13
4	Infrastructural damage	0	0	1
	Total	46	13	23

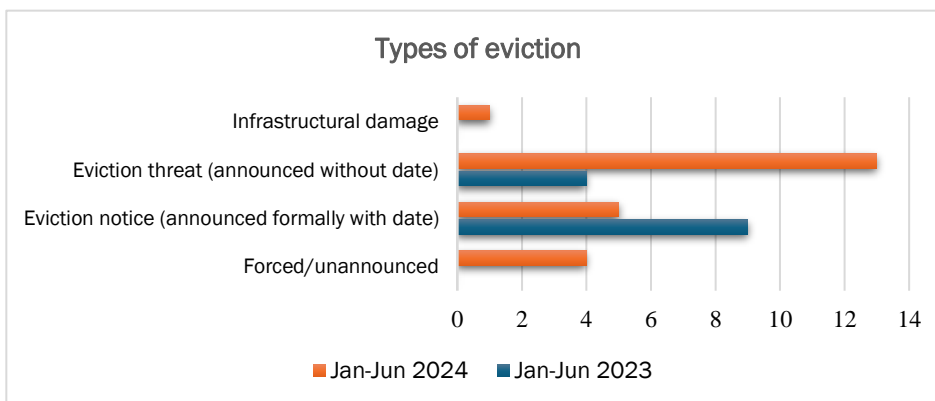


Figure 3 indicates an increasing trend in forced evictions and eviction threats in managed IDP sites in Marib.

While the first half of 2023 registered no cases of forced evictions and very few cases of eviction threats, 17 (4 forced evictions and 13

eviction threats) cases of forced evictions and eviction threats were registered in the first half of 2024.

In the first half of 2024, eviction threat was the most registered eviction type as compared to 2023 where eviction notice was the most common indicating an increasing trend in eviction threats in managed IDP sites. This indicates an increasing trend in both forced evictions and evictions threats in IDP sites. While no infrastructural damage and forced or unannounced eviction cases were not registered in the first half of 2023; 5 of such cases were reported in the first half of 2024.

Message/key findings

- There is an increasing trend in cases of forced evictions and eviction threats in managed IDP sites located in Marib governorate.

4. Impact

Figure 4: table comparing impact of evictions in 2023 and first half of 2024

Sn	Type of eviction	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
1	Number of households affected in general	2,947	397	461
2	Number of injuries (individuals)	25	25	179
3	Number of shelters fully destroyed	15	15	212
4	Number of shelters partially destroyed	84	3	30

Number of affected households: Figure 4 shows a slight increase in the number of households generally affected by evictions in the first half of 2024. The major impacts recorded involved injuries sustained and destruction of IDP property.

Injuries: Figure 4 indicates a very significant increase in the number of injured individuals in the first half of 2024 as compared to the first half of 2023. While a smaller number of forced evictions was registered in the first half of 2024 as compared to the number of cases registered in the whole of 2023, data indicates that more injuries were incurred in during the first half of 2024 because of evictions. Data shows 179 injuries individuals in the first half of 2024 which is 616% increase in number of people registered as injured. While a high number of injuries were recorded, no individuals cited health as a need.

Destruction of shelter: Like reports on the number of injuries registered because of evictions, the first half of 2024 registered a significant number of fully destroyed shelters as compared to the first half of 2023 and the whole of 2023. While only 15 shelters were fully destroyed in 2023, 212 shelters were fully destroyed in the first half of 2024.

Humanitarian needs: About 75% (345 out of 461) of the affected households reported non-food items as a need; 248 affected household reported as need food assistance; 212 fully destroyed households reported as needing shelter; 183 households registered as needing WASH services. About 30% (7 out of 23) affected IDP sites reported needing protection with psychosocial support, cash and disability kits identified as protection services required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Documentation of eviction cases:** There is generally very limited data/information on eviction cases in both managed and un-managed IDP sites including for IDPs living in host communities. Available data provides limited information and evidence on eviction cases and usually has little or no tangible information on issues such as the number of individuals/households impacted; impact of the evictions; individuals/groups most impacted by evictions; individuals/groups most at risk of evictions; drivers of evictions and IDPs capacity to respond to eviction cases among others. There is a need for NRC and other humanitarian actors to strengthen the quality of data collected on evictions. There is also need for NRC and

other humanitarian actors to actively engage and build/enhance the capacities of IDPs and relevant authorities in collecting and documenting of eviction cases. There is also a further need for increasing analysis/documentation of eviction cases by NRC and other humanitarian actors. Improving the collection and documentation of eviction cases will provide information for evidence-based advocacy and will also provide a better understanding of eviction cases/situation in Yemen which in turn may improve response.

- **IDPs capacity to handle eviction cases:** Efforts should be made in ensuring and promoting IDPs have the right capacities to lead in addressing and handling of eviction cases. NRC and other humanitarian actors should consider mapping out the different strategies IDPs employ and the capacities they have in handling the eviction cases they face. Focus should not only be on what NRC, other humanitarian actors and local authorities can do; but rather emphasis should be placed on IDPs themselves as agents of change and identifiers of solutions to eviction related issue they encounter. This not only promotes sustainability, but it ensures that IDPs are placed at the centre and taken as equal partners in finding durable solutions. Identification of IDPs capacities to handle and address eviction cases can be done through a) documenting success stories in relation to IDPs efforts in addressing. Handling eviction cases; b) conducting research/studies; 3) continuous community consultations and engagement while taking into consideration groups that may be left out.
- **Joint advocacy and awareness:** The issue of forced eviction cannot be addressed solely by NRC alone or any other singular actor; it requires working together and collaboratively in finding solutions. NRC should consider actively engaging with the affected populations and other humanitarian actors in joint awareness and advocacy with relevant authorities on eviction cases. NRC should also actively participate in initiatives that advocate for displacement and/or protection-sensitive public policies for eviction.
- **Community engagement/consultations:** forced evictions affect different categories of people very uniquely based on intersecting factors such as age, gender, (dis)abilities etc. For example, women, marginalized, persons living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups such as the elderly are impacted differently and uniquely by forced evictions and may require special attention/considerations when addressing/handling eviction cases. Therefore, it is important for NRC to continuously engage with and consult the different categories/groups of affected persons, where possible through adopting special measures to ensure that marginalized and other vulnerable groups that may fall under the radar are not left out.
- **Capacity strengthening in negotiations/dialogues:** there is a need for increased capacity strengthening efforts targeting CCCM actors, IDPs, and other relevant actors/stakeholders in negotiation. Strengthening the capacity of IDPs in negotiation will not only promote a community engagement, but it will also equip them with relevant skills and further empower them to lead on negotiations with landlords/landowners and local authorities.
- **Referral pathways (internal and external):** For forced/unannounced eviction cases and cases of eviction threats, there is a need to strengthen referral pathways to increase access to services for affected persons/households. NRC should therefore strengthen internal referral pathways to strengthen collaboration among and between core competencies. In addition to referral pathways established by clusters such as National Protection Cluster, NRC should consider working with other existing referral pathways such as referral pathways created by consortiums in which NRC is a member etc. Strengthening both internal and external referrals will increase access to services that may prevent, mitigate or address evictions.

- **Enhance collaboration with relevant public/state entities:** The State has the primary responsibility to protect its population while the international community has the responsibility to assist States in protecting their populations. When handling or addressing eviction cases that have been brought to NRC's attention, NRC should endeavour to promote and enhance collaboration with relevant state entities.
- **Respect of human rights while handling eviction cases:** Local authorities play a key role in handling/addressing/resolving eviction cases; they should therefore be equipped with the right knowledge and skills, so they are more aware of the importance of respecting human rights and (inter)national standards when handling or dealing with eviction cases. There is, therefore, a need for NRC to provide relevant training and capacity building to IDP representatives and local authorities on the importance of respecting human rights and international standards when handling or dealing with eviction cases.
- **Integrated programming:** When forced eviction occurs, the humanitarian needs of the affected individuals or households are compounded. One core competency or programme cannot fully/solely address therefore, ICLA (as the key NRC actor in HLP related matters) should aim to holistically address the needs of the affected individuals/households through working closely with other NRC CCs, the community and other humanitarian actors. All NRC CCs should closely coordinate and combine their support, resources, and approaches; this will not only improve the quality of response, but it will limit duplication and ensure increased access to services for the individuals/households affected facing evictions.
- **Legal assistance:** There is a need to increase and strengthen HLP related legal assistance services to increase access to counselling, collaborative dispute resolution and legal representation for persons facing forced evictions or eviction threats.