

Insights into Yemen's Onchocerciasis Elimination Program

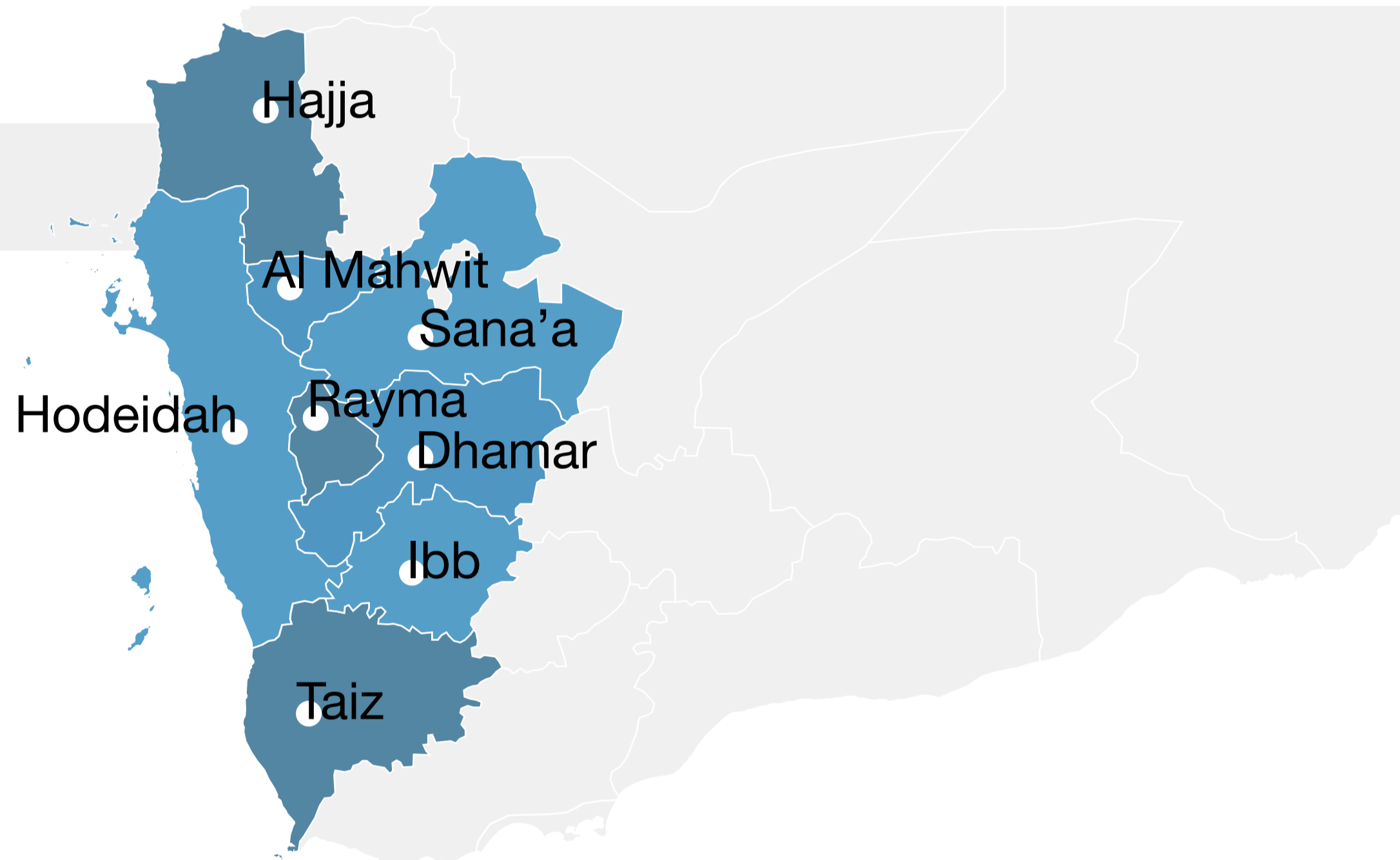
Facts about Onchocerciasis in Yemen

Onchocerciasis, commonly known as river blindness, is a parasitic disease prevalent in tropical regions. It primarily affects the skin and eyes, causing severe itching and potential blindness. The disease is transmitted through the bites of Simulium Blackfly, which breeds in fast-flowing streams and rivers. Yemen stands as the only endemic country for Onchocerciasis in Asia. Approximately **1.3** million individuals are affected by Onchocerciasis in **8** endemic governorates in Yemen.

Endemic Regions

8 Governorates

in Yemen have high prevalence of the disease including:



Onchocerciasis Control Interventions in Yemen

Control Phase

2001 - 2013

Treatment is provided for both confirmed and suspected cases once a year.



Elimination Phase (Mass Treatment Strategy)

2016

Outreach and awareness campaigns were conducted in 4 districts, with 165,000 cases were treated.

2018 - 2021

Four house-to-house treatment campaigns were conducted.

2023

A new strategy was initiated to treat targeted populations in the 8 endemic governorates through house-to-house awareness visits, and referring them to health facilities for treatment.

Onchocerciasis Elimination Program Figures in Yemen 2023



**1,070,890
Individuals**

aged five and above were targeted for treatment, excluding pregnant and lactating women.



**2,230,473 Ivermectin
Tablets To 875,206
Individuals**

were administered in the selected health facilities.



**7,694 out of 9,125
targeted villages**

were covered through house-to-house visits by community health volunteers.



**340
Health Facilities**

were selected as treatment centers, where ivermectin was administered.



**193,586
Houses**

were visited by volunteers and benefited from the awareness and mobilization efforts regarding the treatment for Onchocerciasis.



**1,000 Female
Community Health
Volunteers**

participated in house-to-house awareness and mobilization visits, and referred targeted individuals to the nearest health facility to receive treatment.



**Targeted
Population**

82% of the Targeted Population

were treated based on the reported coverage by Yemen's MOPHP

80% of the Targeted Population

were treated based on the evaluated coverage by the Real Advisory Network (RAN).



Targeted individuals waiting to receive the treatment at health facilities by healthcare workers, Yemen, 2023