

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), conflict escalated in Ituri and Mai-Ndombe provinces in 2018, and it continued in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika provinces and Kasai region. In Ituri, intercommunal violence escalated significantly between December 2017 and early 2018. The province of Mai-Ndombe in western DRC was also impacted by unprecedented violence. Over the course of just three days, between December 16 and 18, at least 535 people were killed in a massacre carried out along ethnic lines near Yumbi town. About 12,000 people were displaced internally, fleeing to remote areas in the province.¹

In North Kivu, militia activities and clashes between armed groups continued, triggering a significant number of new displacements. North Kivu was also the centre of a major Ebola outbreak and the humanitarian response to it was complicated by the ongoing insecurity in the region.²

Intercommunal violence began in Kasai in mid-2016 and continued with regular outbreaks at the beginning of 2018, but the number of people displaced was lower than that reported in 2017.

A significant number of return movements were reported country-wide in 2018. This is likely linked to an improvement in the security situation in some places, but also to worsening conditions in some displacement sites and shelters, leaving IDPs little choice but to attempt to return to their villages of origin. It is very particularly challenging to verify the conditions of and upon return, but many returnees are considered to still be in need of significant humanitarian support.

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
1,840,000	3,081,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	1,480,000 (1 January – 31 December 2018)	No data available
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.</i>

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's new displacement data comes from village-level assessments conducted by IOM DTM, which cover more than 22,000 villages in the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu. In addition, data about new displacements from OCHA was available for the provinces of Maniema, Ituri, Haut Lomami, Haut Katanga, North Kivu, and Tshopo.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Regarding the data from OCHA, many of the reported population movements cannot be verified, due to access constraints. The figure only includes verified caseloads and is likely an underestimate of the total number of new displacements that took place during the 2018 calendar year. For the data for the provinces covered by IOM, this data is also considered to be an underestimate. As most villages were surveyed only once, it was not possible to measure the increase in IDP populations in each village at different times during the year.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's total new displacements estimate for 2018 is 1,840,000. This includes data from IOM DTM for Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu, equivalent to about 735,000.

We add to that about 1,092,000 as reported by OCHA for Maniema, Ituri, Haut Lomami, Haut Katanga, North Kivu, and Tshopo as well as 12,000 related to the conflict in Mai-Ndombe in late December (data published by ACAPS).³

Significant changes from last year

The main difference between the 2018 and 2017 estimates is that the data provider for Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu has changed from OCHA to IOM DTM. The change is therefore more markedly linked to methodological considerations than conflict dynamics.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's figure on the total number of IDPs in the DRC is largely based on data collected by IOM DTM. The latter conducted village-level assessments in more than 22,000 villages in 2018, in the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu. These assessments were conducted using key informants, who were asked by field enumerators to provide information regarding displaced and returnee populations in their villages. When the security and logistic conditions allowed it, villages were assessed several times during the year. A total of 16,082 villages were evaluated only once, whereas 3,942 villages were evaluated twice and 2,101 were evaluated three times.

IDMC's estimate incorporates data from the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster regarding the population living in camps in North Kivu as well as figures published by ACAPS about displacement linked to the outbreak of intercommunal violence in Mai-Ndombe province in late December.^{4 5}

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC considers this figure to be a significant underestimate. It does not cover displacement in many provinces highly affected by displacement, which are not part of IOM DTM's geographical coverage. This includes North Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami, Haut Uele, Tshopo, Lualaba, Kwilu and Kwango. While data for North Kivu is available for people living in IDP sites from the CCCM cluster, this figure is also considered to be a significant underestimate as most IDPs in the province live in out-of-camp settings, primarily staying in host families.

Data on displacement for those provinces is available from OCHA, which obtains data on new displacements via an alert mechanism. Alerts about new population movements are regularly relayed to OCHA by humanitarian partners and government authorities. Through a group of NGOs and other key partners, the *Commission de Mouvements de Population* (CMP), these alerts are verified every couple of months, and published as population movements, forming part of the country's overall IDP figure.

However, for 2018, consolidated data for those provinces were not widely published to the public. In addition, it was decided not to use this data due to methodological incompatibilities. IDP estimates for each province are likely cumulative figures that fail to accurately account for returns and count some IDP caseloads multiple times. This is because it is difficult to tell, under the current methodology, which caseloads of IDPs still remain displaced, particularly with regards to protracted displacement.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimated total number of IDPs is about 3,081,000. This includes data from IOM DTM for Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu, equivalent to about 2,964,000. IDMC adds to that about 105,000 people in camps in North Kivu, as these are easier to account for given their location at the time of assessment, as well as 12,000 whose displacement was triggered by the conflict in Mai-Ndombe in late December, according to data published by ACAPS.

Significant changes from last year

The main change from 2017 is that data for a large number of provinces, normally covered by OCHA and the CMP, is not accounted for this year, due to methodological considerations. This means that the total IDP figure for 2018 (approximately 3,081,000) is much lower than that of the previous year (approximately 4,480,000), although significant numbers new displacements have indeed occurred.

NUMBER OF IDPS WHO HAVE MADE PARTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A DURABLE SOLUTION

This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial due to the conditions in which these IDPs are living.

Sources and methodologies

This data comes from movements reported as returns by IOM DTM for the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu, as well as movements reported as returns by OCHA for North Kivu, Haut Katanga, Ituri and Maniema.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC only includes in this category people who are reported to have returned to their original place of residence and who are not considered to have shelter-related needs.

IDMC figure and rationale

From the data provided by OCHA, IDMC only included people who were reported as having returned to their habitual place of residence in 2018, which corresponds to about 569,000 people. We included all return flows reported by IOM, except those whose priority need on returning was listed as shelter. The number of people reported by IOM as having returned and included in our estimate is about 911,000.

Significant changes from last year

A similar methodology was employed last year, although the source of the data for the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu has now changed.

CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People, households	People, households
Methodology	Media monitoring, key informants	Key informants, media monitoring, registration
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Contradictory data	Contradictory data
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Yes	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

For the full country profile on the Democratic Republic of the Congo please visit:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

¹ ACAPS, [Briefing Note DRC: IDPs and Refugees from Yumbi territory](#), 14 February 2019

² WHO, [Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), 11 October 2018

³ ACAPS, [Briefing Note DRC: IDPs and Refugees from Yumbi territory](#), 14 February 2019

⁴ CCCM, [Zones de provenance des personnes vivant dans les sites de déplacement au 25 décembre 2018](#), 10 January 2018

⁵ ACAPS, [Briefing Note DRC: IDPs and Refugees from Yumbi territory](#), 14 February 2019