

ETHIOPIA

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Ethiopia experienced the highest number of new displacements related to conflict and violence in the world in 2018. Violence in the country significantly increased and spread to new areas, and four times as many people were displaced as in the previous year.

Inter-communal violence, which broke out in the West Guji zone of Oromia and Gedeo zone in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s region (SNNP) in April and again in June triggered the highest levels of displacement. The precise causes for the clashes are still relatively unclear, given the magnitude of the violence, but underlying drivers include ethnic tensions and competition over scarce resources. This conflict left more than one million people displaced in dire conditions, struggling to find space in overcrowded collective centres (e.g. schools, churches, etc.).

The latest outbreak of violence and displacement along the border between the Somali and Oromia regions, which began in December 2016, continued and led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in 2018. The Somali regional capital, Jijiga, a previously calm and vibrant city, came under attack in August. The fighting that ensued led to the displacement of 140,000 people in only a few days.

Ethnic violence broke out between Oromos, Amharas and Gumuz in the Benighangul-Gumuz region in October 2018, following the killing of three zonal police officers. At least 250,000 new displacements were recorded in only eight weeks.

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
2,895,000	2,137,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	412,000 (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 calculations are based on IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data, IOM DTM rapid response assessments, OCHA, the Ethiopian government, the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO), the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) as well as media reports.

IDMC's main source for the number of new displacements is IOM DTM (Rounds 9 to 14). The DTM rounds are published every two months and are based on data collected from key informants (KIs) at zone, woreda (district) and site level. Data collection is carried out along with the government's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), regional, zonal and woreda counterparts as well as DTM's implementing partner, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). They assess three types of sites: those in priority woredas; those which were assessed in the previous DTM round; and new sites identified through the Emergency Tracking Tool since the previous DTM round.

IDMC complemented the figure obtained through DTM Rounds 9 to 14 with data from additional sources. For example, we used data from the DTM Rapid Response Assessments, which provide up-to-date information on large scale population displacements which occurred outside the DTM data collection periods, as well as data from the Benishangul Gumuz regional government's estimates of new displacements.

Additionally, IDMC used an OCHA report on a wave of displacement in West Guji and Gedeo that took place in April, which cites official government data; a report from OCHA; a NDRMC report, which cites rapid assessments carried out under the leadership of the Somali Region's regional government in August; an Addis Ababa City Administration August report as well as ECHO reports citing data gathered by local authorities and local media.

Finally, IDMC also used local and international media articles, most of which cited local authorities as sources.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

A major caveat linked to IDMC's figure is the uncertainty about the scale of displacement in West Guji and Gedeo zones due to an outbreak of violence in June and July 2018. The reasons for the uncertainty are explained below.

The initial IOM DTM and government assessments are thought to have over-estimated the number of IDPs, as it is possible the figures included host community members who were mistakenly counted as IDPs. The first comprehensive site assessment was conducted by IOM at the end of November 2018 and identified 560,000 people living in displacement. The assessment also revealed a high prevalence of repeated displacement among the IDPs.

IDMC considers that the original July estimates published by IOM DTM might have overestimated the scale of displacement, but given the absence of monitoring of attempted returns and repeated displacement between July and November, as well as strong evidence such movements occurred on various and frequent occasions, we decided to use the figure from the July report published by the IOM DTM as it provides a more accurate picture of the situation between the months of July of November 2018.

IOM DTM only assesses sites containing 20 IDP households or more. Given the large number of sites with few than 20 households, a significant number of IDPs were not accounted for.

Furthermore, disaggregation of the number IDPs by the cause of displacement is inexact, as it attributes one cause of displacement to the entire population of the site, rather than considering each household individually.

As IOM DTM issues new figures every two months, it is likely that many displacement movements in the period between each update are not captured, which in turn does not allow IDMC to be fully confident in the figures of new displacements based on changes in site populations reported in the IOM DTM rounds.

IOM DTM assessments are conducted on a household level. When calculating the number of individuals displaced, IDMC uses an average household size figure of 4.5, which is based on a calculation (compilation and analysis of nine datasets on household sizes), instead of values used by IOM DTM. As a result, estimates of individuals displaced between IDMC and IOM DTM can differ.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC added reported movements from multiple sources including OCHA, the Ethiopian government, local and international media as well as ECHO to those calculated through reported increases in the number of IDPs in a given site between two IOM DTM rounds. In order to avoid errors and minimize double counting, IDMC analysed an array of parameters: dates of displacement, displacement flows, contextual information and the reported drivers of displacement per site.

Significant changes from last year

The number of new displacements significantly increased from last year due to a major escalation of conflict and its spread to additional hotspots throughout the country.

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 based its estimate of the total number of people internally displaced in Ethiopia on IOM DTM's round 14 report (published on 31 December 2018). The process by which the DTM rounds are compiled is described above.

IDMC complemented the round 14 figure data from IOM DTM rapid response assessments, also as described previously.

We also used IOM registration data on deportees from Saudi Arabia and data from the Benishangul Gumuz regional government. The regional government's figures are only estimates given that some regions in the country were largely inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to ongoing insecurity.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

As mentioned earlier, IOM DTM solely assesses sites containing a minimum of 20 households, which means that the figures obtained by IDMC are likely underestimates.

Additionally, as previously noted, IOM DTM's disaggregation of IDPs by cause of displacement is inexact as it specifies the reason of displacement given by the majority of each site's population rather than reporting what was indicated by each individual household.

IDMC figure and rationale

The total number of IDPs IDMC reports on reflects the sum of the figure reported by IOM DTM's round 14 report as of 31 December 2018 (which excludes the West Guji zone). IDMC also uses the figure for

West Guji and Gedeo reported by IOM DTM on 30 November 2018; the figure for Benishangul Gumuz estimated by regional authorities on 31 December 2018, and the number of deportees from Saudi Arabia as of 31 December 2018.

Significant changes from last year

The number of IDPs reported by the above sources doubled compared to 2017. This is due to the significant increase in new displacements associated with the violence, which worsened significantly across the country. The figure did not, however, increase by the same amount as the number of new displacements, as many of the people displaced in 2018 were displaced multiple times.

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 given their living conditions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC based its estimate for this category on two sources: a report by the Ethiopian government, which cites the Oromia Disaster Risk Management Commission as well as a report from the Xinhua News Agency, which cites the Addis Ababa city administration.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

No organization carries out systematic and detailed monitoring of returns in Ethiopia. Consequently, IDMC's figure for the number of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions is based only on anecdotal reports and does not capture the totality of people reported as having returned to their home communities.

IDMC did not include reported returns reported in West Guji and Gedeo due to the lack of information on the precise nature of those movements, as well as monitoring challenges caused by the fluidity of the situation in the area.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's figure of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions corresponds to the total number of IDPs reported as having returned to their habitual place of residence in the border areas of Oromia and Somali regions in 2018, whose conditions upon return IDMC could not confirm, and people who were reported as having returned after the end of hostilities in Addis Ababa in September. The latter required significant support, which is why IDMC includes them in this category.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

IDMC did not report any such numbers in previous years.

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	People
	Households	Households
Methodology	Key informants	Registration
	Media monitoring	Key informants
	Registration	Other
	Other	
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	Partial	Partial
Disaggregation on age	Partial	Partial
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	Partial
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 Ethiopia please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/ethiopia>