

SOUTH SUDAN

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Despite a new peace agreement signed in September 2018, violence continued unabated in South Sudan in 2018 as the country's conflict entered its fifth year.

The conflict is multifaceted, and includes clashes and raids by armed groups, intercommunal violence and fighting over land and livestock. It is also highly challenging to collect data in the South Sudanese context and many areas most heavily affected by conflict remained inaccessible throughout the year. The number of new displacements halved compared to 2017.

More than 47,000 new displacements were recorded in Unity state, where clashes in Leer County in May were accompanied by indiscriminate killings, sexual violence, the burning of homes and looting. In Jonglei state, there were more than 44,000 new displacements as a result of cattle raids and intercommunal clashes, which peaked in January and April in Pibor, Akobo, Nyirol and Uror counties. More than 20,000 people were displaced around Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal between June and September. This figure, however, is likely to be a significant underestimate, because the area was and remains inaccessible.

In the Central Equatoria state, clashes between armed groups around Yei town displaced over 61,000 people.

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
321,000	1,869,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	12,000 (1 January – 31 December 2018)
<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 primarily used IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) flow monitoring and event tracking to estimate the number of new displacements in 2018. Additionally, IDMC used OCHA reports, compiled from figures collected by OCHA field offices as well as by REACH, IOM DTM, UNHCR, the Protection Cluster, and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), on a monthly basis. The methodologies among the agencies vary, but are a combination of multi-sector assessments, key informant (KI) interviews, head counts and registrations.

IDMC also used United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reports. UNMISS usually asks the local leaders for their estimates of displacement and shares it with humanitarian organisations who assess the area as soon as it becomes accessible. Furthermore, IDMC used the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissions, which are present in each state and are a part of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disasters. Their task is to support humanitarian organisations, but they also conduct their own assessments and registration of displaced people. Last but not least, IDMC also used articles from Radio Tamazuj, a daily news service covering South Sudan, the southern states of Sudan, and the borderlands between the two countries. It usually cites local media or affected people.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The figure is a significant underestimate because humanitarian access in South Sudan is extremely challenging and areas deemed to be too insecure are not covered. Additionally, there is no systematic monitoring of new displacements in the country, and IDMC relies on a wide range of sources to produce the figure. This creates a challenge when producing nationally aggregated estimates based on data that was collected using several different methodologies.

South Sudan is a pastoral society where people constantly move, however, not all people on the move are IDPs and it is extremely challenging to distinguish those who are internally displaced from those moving for another reason. A further caveat is that many KIs are local authorities and tend to inflate and fabricate data in order to attract humanitarian assistance, which decreased our confidence in their estimates.

The monthly IDP figures combined would suggest that there were about 611,000 new displacements in 2018, but IDMC believes this represents a significant amount of double-counting the same individuals by multiple institutions or multiple times. As a result, IDMC disregarded the combined monthly figures and used instead the figure compiled from event-based monitoring.

IDMC figure and rationale

The calculation is based on the sum of new displacement figures reported by the above-mentioned sources based on event-based monitoring. Triangulation is available for some of the figures.

Significant changes from last year

The number of new displacements in 2018 more than halved compared to 2017, but IDMC's confidence in the figure is very low. IDMC estimates the real scale of new displacements is significantly higher.

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 used OCHA data, the methodologies of which are detailed in the previous section.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The figures are based on nationwide data, but the data collecting agencies are not present in many areas of the country. IDMC does not have data on the sources of every county-level estimate and the methodology used to calculate each sub-estimate. OCHA has not confirmed the exact date for different IDP caseloads and many of them are believed to be significantly outdated.

As mentioned above, many KIs are local authorities and have been accused of inflating figures and fabricate data in order to attract humanitarian assistance. Additionally, when extrapolations are used to project population figures, humanitarians usually refer to census from 2008 as baseline, which was significantly inflated, or to growth rates which do not consider displacement dynamics, such as the number of people who fled across international borders or who were displaced more than once during the year.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's figure uses the reported data by OCHA as of 31 December 2018. The number of people displaced each month does not necessarily result in a rise in the overall number of IDPs as many people had been displaced more than once and had already been counted as IDPs.

OCHA's data is the most comprehensive at our disposal. Partners such as the Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster (CCCM), IOM and UNMISS publish only figures that cover only specific locations or shelter types.

Significant changes from last year

The figure fluctuated in 2018, starting at 1.3 million, increasing steadily to 2.1 million in November and then falling to 1.9 million in December. The increase can be explained by the rise in inter-communal violence across the country. Some of the fluctuations, however, including the sudden decrease in December, are the result of data cleaning.

NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

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

Sources and methodologies

IDMC used OCHA reports, the methodology of which is detailed in the previous sections. IDMC also used articles from Radio Tamazuj, described equally in the previous sections.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

This figure is only a sum of anecdotal reports on returns IDMC was able to capture during the year. No actor is systematically monitoring returns in South Sudan. As a result, this figure is unlikely to accurately represent the reality of the situation in the country.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

This figure, as noted in the previous paragraph, is only a sum of anecdotal reports on returns IDMC was able to capture during the year.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

We did not report on unverified solutions in the past year as we did not obtain any data which would fall under this category.

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
Methodology	Media monitoring, other, registration, key informants	Registration, key informants, other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	Other	Upon request
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Partial	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 South Sudan please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/south-sudan>