

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

BURKINA FASO

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



BURKINA FASO - Contextual update

Stock:	4,900
New displacements:	4,900
Returns:	700
Provisional solutions:	0

In 2017, violence in the north of Burkina Faso intensified. Violence increased in Soum province, Sahel region, with attacks linked mostly to the Ansarul Islam group. Often considered an extension of insecurity in Mali, the conflict actually has a local character, drawing from local inequalities with the aim of disrupting the social order. The group is infamous for settling accounts violently, for example against former supporters.

The Burkinabe and French military forces have carried out operations in the area via Operation Barkhane, most notably in Spring 2017, targeting suspected armed groups. But it didn't have a long term effect on curbing insecurity.

Major conflict events covered by the international media include the December 2016 attack on Nassoumbou military base by Ansarul Islam and Islamic State in Greater Sahara, and an attack in August in a restaurant in Ouagadougou. In addition, many less mediatised but devastating attacks have occurred in Soum province in a regular basis over the course of the year, including kidnappings, individuals being murdered and schools burnt.

BURKINA FASO - Map of major displacement events in 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

BURKINA FASO - Stock: 4,900 IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017



Sources and methodologies

Data on internal displacement linked to conflict in Burkina Faso is published by OCHA, which has been receiving data from the Government of Burkina Faso (SP/CONASUR department) since they started registering IDPs in the Sahel region in Autumn 2017. While IOM is also present in Burkina Faso, it focuses largely on migration and does not publish data on internal displacement linked to conflict.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

The number of registered IDPs is likely to represent only a small portion of the total displaced population in Burkina Faso's Sahel region. OCHA estimates that an additional 20,000 people may have been displaced in these areas throughout the course of the year and are not registered yet. This is due to problems of accessibility and because IDPs are afraid to identify themselves as they fear retaliation from armed actors. Another problem is that the figure of 4,900 registered IDPs is only valid until the 4th of December: it was not possible to obtain data for the rest of the month.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We report on a total of 4,900 people displaced at the end of 2017. This only refers to IDPs who have been registered by SP/CONASUR, and is thus a conservative estimate.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

The crisis in the Sahel region is a new one, and internal displacement linked to it has only started to be reported in 2017. The previous case of internal displacement concerned post-electoral violence in Karangasso Vigué commune, which displaced a total of 700 people. So there has been a significant increase in conflict-related internal displacement from one year to the next.

BURKINA FASO - New displacements: 4,900

This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year



Sources and methodologies

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IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

As the crisis in the Sahel region is a new one, both the stock figure for 2017 and the new displacement figure is the same. We report on a total of 4,900 new displacements in 2017. This only refers to IDPs who have been registered by SP/CONASUR, and is thus a conservative estimate.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

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BURKINA FASO - Returns: 700

This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence



The returns figure refers to the case of 700 people who became displaced at the end of June 2016 as a result of post-electoral violence in Karangasso Vigué commune, near Bobo-Dioulasso town. This was a temporary displacement linked to the political context, and we have since then received news from OCHA that these people were able to return home.

BURKINA FASO - Provisional solutions: N/A

This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution



We did not identify or obtain any data for this category.