

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

CAMEROON

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



CAMEROON - Contextual update

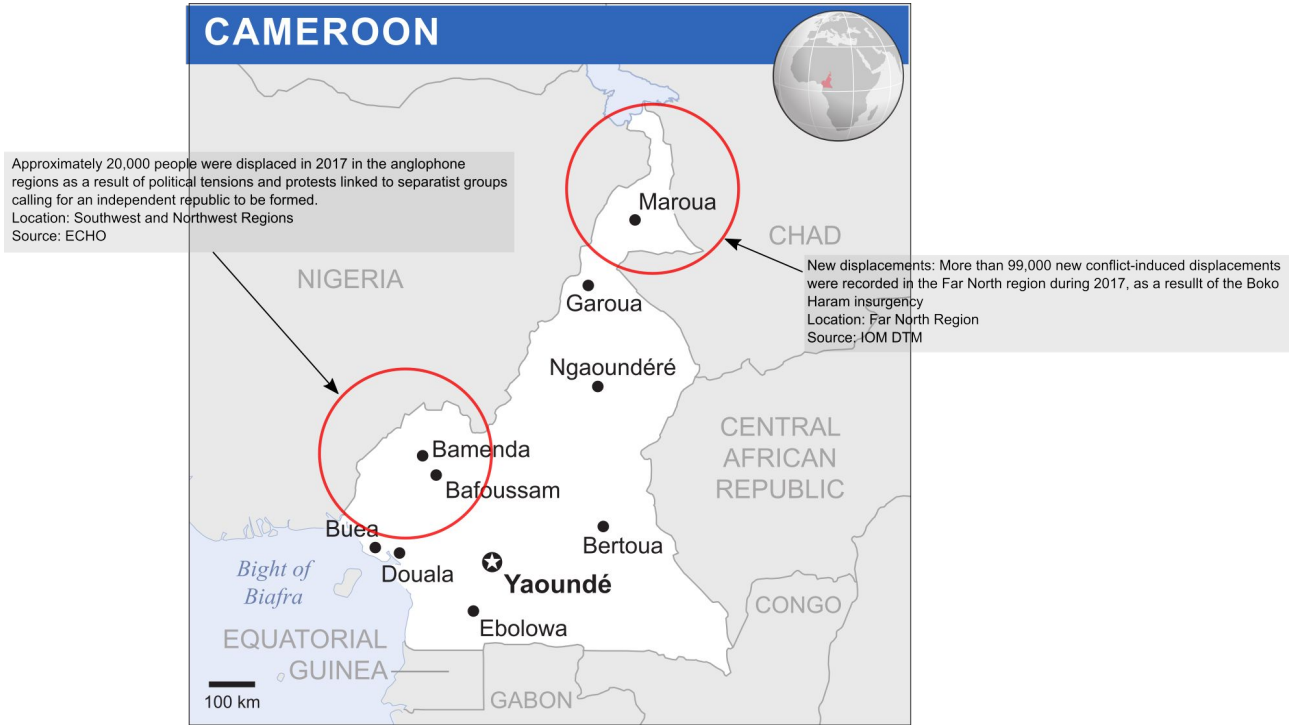
Stock:	239,000
New displacements:	119,000
Returns:	N/A
Provisional solutions:	N/A

Cameroon has suffered overspill from Boko Haram's insurgency in neighbouring Nigeria since 2014, particularly in the Far North region. Frequent incursions and attacks perpetrated by or attributed to the group have killed thousands and generated a constant climate of insecurity and unpredictability. There were a number of attacks in the last quarter of 2017, including suicide bombings carried out by children.

Boko Haram's activities in Cameroon are thought to have increased since April as a result of increased military operations in Nigeria, driving insurgents and civilians from the latter to the former. Their arrival has caused tensions and led to forced returns at the hands of Cameroonian forces, which in turn led to the signing of tripartite repatriation agreement between the governments of the two countries and UNHCR.

Tensions also flared up again in the anglophone areas of Cameroon, particularly the Northwest and Southwest regions, toward the end of 2016. A number of separatist groups formed the Southern Cameroon Ambazonia Consortium United Front (SCACUF) in early 2017, calling for an independent republic to be recognised. Dozens of people were killed when protests increased in the second half of the year, leading to symbolic declaration of independence that was met with a government crackdown and arrests. The violence triggered the displacement of tens of thousands of people.

CAMEROON - 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.

CAMEROON - Stock: 239,000 IDPs

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



Sources and methodologies

Our estimate is based on IOM's DTM data, which focuses on the Far North region. Data is collected by enumerators in partnership with local and regional authorities, who collect information on IDPs, unregistered refugees and returnees through surveys.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The DTM data and analysis is considered thorough and detailed, but its geographical coverage is incomplete even though many of the events that trigger displacement take place in the Far North. IOM does not capture events that occur in other regions such the Southwest and Northwest because of political and access restrictions.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We used the total number of people displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency and related causes such as incursions by armed groups, military operations and fear of attacks.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

Our figure is higher than last year's, and the increase is thought to be the result of escalating violence and military operations in Cameroon and Nigeria. The increase is not reflected in our new displacement estimate, because many displacements were secondary and involved people already registered as IDPs.

CAMEROON - New displacements: 119,000

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



Sources and methodologies

This estimate is based on the sum of caseloads reported by IOM in the Far North region, and individuals reported by ECHO and ACAPS as displaced as a result of the protests and government crackdown in the Southwest and Northwest regions.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The figure is considered to be an underestimate. The limited geographical coverage implies that not all displacement is likely to have been captured, and access was very limited in the Southwest and Northwest regions, where it is thought the number of people displaced may be much higher than reported.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We use IOM's figures for movements identified within each reporting period as attributed to the Boko Haram insurgency and other forms of violence or fear of violence. As only one reliable caseload could be identified in the Southwest and Northwest regions, this was the only one we used to complement IOM's data.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

Our figure is higher than last year's, but the difference for the caseloads identified by IOM is not considered to be hugely significant, given the increase in violence in the country. The increase is also attributable in part to the violence in the Southwest and Northwest regions.

CAMEROON - Returns: N/A

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



We are not reporting on returns, because we were unable to ascertain whether those reported by our sources were sustainable or not. Some evidence suggests that many were not.

CAMEROON - Provisional solutions: N/A

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



Challenges in accounting for returns

The breakdown of return movements reported by IOM includes cases of failed returns because it is believed people's homes had been either damaged or destroyed. The breakdown did not, however, allow for clear disaggregation and identification of successful returns or provisional solutions.