

BENIN

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

IDMC's estimates of the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Benin and the total number of new displacements in 2019 are based on data from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and local media. They refer to people displaced by clashes between pastoralists and agriculturalists in July 2018 in Atacora department and people displaced in the Atacora region in December 2019. Because of the lack of systematic monitoring of displacement in the country, these are the only cases of internal displacement linked to conflict and violence that IDMC has been able to track. IDMC estimates that there were 3,700 IDPs in the country as of 31 December 2019. This estimate is based on displacements that occurred as a result of clashes between pastoralists and agriculturalists on 8 July 2018 in Cobyly commune (Atacora department) that displaced 3,500 people, a situation that calmed after the deployment of security personnel. IDMC has not received any information indicating that these IDPs have returned home or achieved any other form of durable solution. 185 new displacements in December 2019 as a result of an attack by Fulani militias near Cobyly have also been included in the total number of IDPs for 2019.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
190	3,700	-	-	-

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 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 having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

**This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate of new displacements in 2019 reflects cases of internal displacements in the Atacora region of Benin in December. The displacements were a result of an attack by Fulani militias near Coby. This was the only case of new displacements that IDMC was able to track for 2019.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on data from local media and the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). IDMC has limited confidence in the figure as it was not able to triangulate the information with any other sources. The methodology used to calculate the estimate was not provided.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

This is likely an underestimate as there is no systematic monitoring of internal displacement in Benin. IDMC has not been able to triangulate this figure which further limits its reliability.

Significant changes from last year

The new displacements recorded in Benin represent a decrease from the 2018 figure of 3,500. Internal displacement in Benin is not systematically monitored, and most estimates are likely underestimates.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC estimates the total number of IDPs in Benin as of 31 December 2019 at 3,700. This figure represents the new displacements reported in July 2018 by the IFRC and local authorities in Coby, Matéri and Tanguiéta as well as 190 new displacements that occurred in the commune of Coby in December 2019 as a result of an attack by Fulani militias. There have been no reports on the returns of these new displacements, and as such, IDMC is including this figure in the total number of IDPs in the country as of the end of 2019.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's sources for its estimate of the total number of IDPs are the IFRC, local authorities and local NGOs. IFRC issued a report on 12 July 2018 reporting that 2,700 people were staying in five shelters in Coby and Matéri. On the same day, the Agence Benin Presse (ABP) published an article, citing local authorities and NGOs, which reported the displacement of 3,500 people in Coby, Matéri and Tanguiéta. Another ABP article on 18 July, citing the Benin Red Cross, reported the same number of people displaced in connection with the violent clashes. The figures were based on a headcount of people staying in shelters.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Because of the lack of systematic reporting and data collection on IDPs in the country, IDMC has not been able to find any new information on the conditions of the displaced population in Coby, Matéri and Tanguiéta. Without such evidence of return, IDMC includes this estimate in the total number of IDPs in the country.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC has not received any information indicating that the IDPs have returned home or achieved any other form of durable solution. As such, this figure represents the new displacements that occurred in 2018.

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
Methodology	Media monitoring	Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational – Admin1	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation by sex	No	Yes
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
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 Benin please visit:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/benin>