

CAMEROON

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

The insecurity in the Far North and anglophone regions of Cameroon continued unabated in 2019. Anglophone separatists continued to clash with security forces in the anglophone North-west and South-west areas of the country. IDMC was not able to report on new displacements in the first half of the year because of a lack of available data regarding displacement in the anglophone regions. It learned in November 2019, however, that the total number of IDPs in those regions had increased by more than 116% in the span of a few months. Most of the displacements in the anglophone areas occurred as a result of [attacks on villages and the destruction of houses](#). Educational institutions are highly targeted and are at the core of the ongoing, or, worsening, conflict in the South-west and North-west regions of the country. On [May 13th the UN Security Council held its first meeting](#) about the humanitarian crisis in Cameroon and expressed its discontent with President Paul Biya’s management of the crisis. It also suggested that economic sanctions were possible if the situation did not change. Violence and the presence of armed groups in the Far North is also ongoing. In recent months, numerous attacks involving explosives and grenades have led to the death of hundreds of people in this region. Attacks on villages continue to lead to displacements. The total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 includes the Far North, Adamaoua, West, Littoral, Northwest, Southwest and Centre regions of the country. The reported number for new displacements is likely to be an underestimate given the lack of systematic monitoring of such population flows.

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>
67,000	969,000	12,000	-	-

*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 is based on new displacements in the Far North, West, Littoral, North-west and South-west regions of Cameroon in 2019. Violence in the anglophone regions continued, but given security restrictions and the difficulty of access, IDMC was not able to obtain comprehensive figures on new displacements for those regions, as it had in 2018. This, coupled with political sensitivities regarding the public release of data and other information, resulted in the new displacement estimate being relatively small. In the Far North, as in the anglophone regions, there was no system in place for the tracking of new displacements in 2019, although an Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) was introduced in 2020. This also contributes to an underestimate.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and local media monitoring. In the Far North, IDMC calculated new displacements using the sum of positive variations between the different round of the International Organisation for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) rounds and triangulated this information with other reports and data. In the anglophone regions, IDMC's estimate of new displacements is based on data from OCHA and represents a significant underestimate.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The geographical coverage is limited to the areas most affected by conflict and violence and does not include other regions in which displacement might also have occurred. In the regions affected by conflict and violence, access for conducting assessments was restricted this year, reducing the amount of available data. In 2019, the figure for the total number of IDPs represented the Far North, Northwest, Southwest, West, Littoral, Centre and Adamaoua regions.

The frequency at which the IOM DTM collects and publishes data means its reports are likely to be missing smaller scale and short-term movements that occur between data collection rounds. OCHA's 2019 assessment of displacement in the anglophone region was published in November and is the result of a one-off exercise. People displaced after this assessment are thus not included in the OCHA data, which also likely misses previous and smaller-scale instances of displacement.

Some of those movements have also led to cross-border flights, particularly to the Cross-River State in Nigeria. Systematic monitoring of new population flows is lacking, and IDMC does not have enough evidence to suggest it has captured all of them.

IDMC did not calculate the new displacement estimate for the anglophone regions using the sum of positive variation in 2019, as there was not enough data to conduct this comparative analysis.

Overall, the contextual information gathered and compiled by IDMC suggests that the security situation in the Far North and the anglophone regions have worsened in 2019. IDMC's new displacement figure is therefore likely to be an underestimate and does not paint a full or comprehensive picture of new flows of internal displacement in the country.

Significant changes from last year

The reported new displacements for 2019 in Cameroon represent a decrease from that reported in 2018. This comes as a result of a change in methodology, restricted access to areas where there are

new displacements, political sensitivities regarding the sharing of data and other information, and an overall deterioration in the security situation.

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's estimate is based on the total number of IDPs reported in the anglophone, Far North, Adamaoua, Northwest, Southwest, West, Littoral and Centre regions as of 31 December 2019. The IDPs in the Far North region of Nigeria have long been affected by the ongoing insurgency. In the anglophone regions, the data obtained and compiled in 2019 shows no evidence of sustainable returns or solutions. The data was included as part of the estimate of total IDPs, pending follow-up assessments to determine the IDPs situations and living conditions.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on data from the IOM DTM in the Far North region, a scoping assessment conducted by the Cameroonian Humanitarian Organizations Initiative (CHOI) for the Centre region, OCHA's reporting of the total number of IDPs in the anglophone regions, and an assessment conducted by OCHA in the country's Adamaoua region. The Far North is the area most affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, through direct attacks and incursions, as well as from the overspill of violence from neighbouring countries, particularly Nigeria.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The IOM DTM programme in Cameroon is limited in its geographical scope and focusses primarily on the Far North region. It covers less extensively other parts of the country that might have been more indirectly affected, for example by an overspill of people from the Far North. As a result, this figure is likely to be an underestimate. The assessment and report published by OCHA related to the anglophone crisis refers only to a specific moment in time, following a one-off exercise conducted in August 2019. This estimate of the total number of IDPs in the four regions represents a significant increase from the end of 2018. The estimate may not include people or groups displaced as of the end of the year, or smaller-scale displacement events prior to the assessment. Access restrictions related to the deterioration in overall security and political sensitivities in publicizing information on the conflict meant that the data available was limited in 2019.

Significant changes from last year

The increase in the total number of IDPs in Cameroon is mainly driven by a worsening of the anglophone crisis that is generating much greater population movements. This is also the first time that IDMC is reporting on the total number of IDPs in the Adamaoua and Centre regions. The security conditions in the Far North also continued to generate new displacements in 2019.

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 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 occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC based its estimates of partial solutions on reports of shelter conditions upon return, as published by IOM DTM. Since IDMC was not able to confirm that the returns constituted a durable solution, we have included them in the partial solutions metric.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's sole source for this estimate are IOM's DTM reports, which include data on the number of individuals and households who reportedly returned to their habitual place of residence. IOM DTM details returnees' shelter conditions. This information, combined with a lack of sufficient evidence on the achievement of durable solutions by returnees and the continued security issues in the country, has led IDMC to classify these movements as partial solutions.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

In addition to the limited geographical coverage of the data and reports, returns are usually harder to assess than new displacements, particularly in more volatile areas, such as the Far North region of Cameroon. This is largely a result of the repeat nature of population movements in these areas: People are often forced to move more than once out of concern for their safety. As a result, IDMC reports the partial solutions figure as several movements, rather than several people who have been able to return. The IOM DTM reports include information about the number of individuals who returned home between each IOM DTM round, as well as the total number of such movements since records began. IDMC does not use the latter figure as it is highly likely to double- or triple-count individuals who were displaced several times. IDMC has not been able to obtain any information on the number of return flows in other regions of the country.

Significant changes from last year

Because of a change in methodology, IDMC's estimate of the number of partial solutions towards a durable solution reported in 2019 are lower than the estimate reported 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, Households	People, Households
Methodology	Registration, Key informants, Other	Registration, Key informants, Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	No	Partial
Disaggregation by age	No	Partial
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	Partial
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	No	Partial
Data on cross border movements	Partial	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 Cameroon please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/cameroon>