

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

The government of the Central African Republic (CAR) and 14 armed groups signed a [peace deal in early February 2019](#) after more than two years of negotiations. Implementation of the peace deal is progressing despite several disagreements and pushbacks, which were mediated and resolved with support from the international community. As a result, the 95,000 new displacements associated with conflict and violence in 2019 were five times less than those in 2018.

CAR experienced low-level violence in 2019. The most serious episode occurred in September in Birao which is located in Vakaga. Twenty-four thousand people were displaced as a result of clashes between the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic and the Movement of Central African Freedom Fighters for Justice, both signatories of the [peace deal](#). In another significant event in late May, several villages between Paoua and Bouar in Ouham Pendé were attacked by armed militias, forcing about 12,000 people to flee to the bush.

The signing of the peace deal also encouraged returns. More than 105,000 IDPs returned and achieved partial solutions to their displacement in 2019. This represented more than a third of all returnees since 2013. An additional 30,000 IDPs attempted to return but ended up living in a situation of internal displacement in their area of origin. The security and economic situation in CAR remains fragile. The search for durable solutions will be long.

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 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
96,000	592,000	105,000	296,000	34,000

*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 a variety of sources, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Population Movement Commission (CMP), local media and others.

The figure is the sum of new displacements reported by the above-mentioned sources.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from CMP, but it also draws upon data and reports from OCHA, the UN Security Council, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), Human Rights Watch (HRW) and broadcasts from Radio Ndeke Luka.

CMP, part of the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster, also produces reports on new displacements. These reports are published on a monthly basis and cover the whole country. OCHA, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, Protection Cluster, Rapid Response Mechanisms, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and National Reconciliation, UNHCR and other organizations feed into CMP with their own data. CMP uses two types of sources: primary (registration data at sites hosting IDPs) and secondary (key informant interviews, mission reports, assessments or direct observations). OCHA and IOM also provide CMP with data they collect independently, which CMP then verifies through its validation mechanisms. The data collected by local CMPs and the partners is cross-checked and sent to the national CMP, which consolidates all the data.

OCHA's partners, including local and international NGOs, RRM and OCHA's own in-country sub-offices, send alerts and updates about displacement movements across the country on a weekly basis. OCHA then collects and compiles this information at the national level and publishes it without further verification.

The UN Security Council's periodic reports are primarily based on data from the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and its humanitarian partners. UNHCR drew its estimate from the protection monitoring network, an entity which monitors protection incidents in the country. HRW quoted OCHA. The UN-funded Radio Ndeke Luka gathers information on the humanitarian situation in the country, using local authorities as its main sources.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The figures published by OCHA are not verified, affecting IDMC's confidence in them. IDMC also considers the figure to be an underestimate for three reasons. First, insecurity hampers access to IDPs and thereby monitoring and data collection. Second, IDMC has not been able to obtain all the reports on displacement produced by partners in country. Third, when IDMC has received reports with a range of displacement estimates, it has chosen to use the lower figures to avoid publishing figures that have not been verified. The real scale of displacement is therefore likely to be higher than the available data indicates.

Significant changes from last year

The decrease is mainly a result of the signing of the peace deal in early 2019. This decreased the violence in the country and encouraged returns.

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 CMP reports, as these include the most comprehensive up-to-date information on IDPs in the country. We subtracted people displaced by floods from CMP's total IDP figure. This figure also includes returnees who failed to achieve a solution to their displacement and ended up living in camps, with host families or in other settings upon their return.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from CMP, whose methodology is described in the previous section.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is no actor or mechanism for registering IDPs living with host families. IDMC's partners have indicated that figures provided by local authorities tend to be inflated. Data on IDPs in certain locations is also outdated, especially in areas where conflict decreased in recent years and, as a result, few, if any, assessments are conducted.

Significant changes from last year

The decrease is mainly a result of the signing of a peace deal in early 2019, which led to the decrease of violence and encouraged returns.

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 taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

IDMC figure and rationale

Movements of IDPs making progress towards Durable Solutions during 2019:

IDMC's estimate is based on the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM). IDMC also accounted for returns reported in Ouham, Nana Mambéré, Vakaga and Basse Kotto, which are not covered by IOM DTM, and which were identified through CMP and RRM. All IDPs who returned to their original houses or rented places were considered to have achieved partial solution to their displacement.

Total number of IDPs who have progress towards Durable Solutions as of 31 December 2019:

IDMC's estimate is based on IOM DTM round 8 as of July 2019. All IDPs who returned to their original houses or rented places were considered to have achieved partial solution to their displacement.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on data from IOM DTM. IOM DTM is active in nine out of 17 prefectures. Each assessment is conducted on four geographical levels: sub-prefecture, which indicates the IDP population of specific villages and towns, and the total estimated IDP population within that jurisdiction; village, in which data is collected through key informant (KI) interviews; site, in which data is also collected through KI interviews; and household, which is done through group discussions or demographic projections.

The methodologies of CMP and RRM are described in the above sections.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IOM DTM covers only nine of CAR's 17 prefectures. This figure is thus an underestimate because of its incomplete geographical coverage. The last assessment was carried out in July 2019, which means that the figure does not reflect the situation for the whole year.

OCHA and other humanitarian organisations also published ad hoc reports on reported returns, but IDMC has not included them, as to do so would likely lead to double-counting of people also assessed by IOM DTM.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC did not report on this metric in the past year.

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 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).

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on CMP reports, which show decreases in the number of IDPs in displacement sites without further information. We only used reports which covered the period between August and December as this was not covered by the IOM DTM assessments. There is a risk of returns being captured by both IOM DTM and CMP which would lead to double counting from our side.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on data from CMP whose methodology is described above.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

No major caveats.

Significant changes from last year

The decrease is mostly a result of improved monitoring of returns. This means that only a fraction of the reported returns remains unverified.

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	Registration, Media monitoring, Key informants	Registration, Key informants, Other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Frequency of reporting	Other	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	Yes
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 the Central African Republic please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/central-african-republic>