REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Conflict in the Republic of Congo is related to armed conflict between 2016 and 2017, involving the rebel Ninja militias and the government in the east of the country, particularly in the provinces of Pool and Bouenza. The Ninjas and the government signed a peace deal in December 2017. Since then, very little information has been published regarding displacement in the country. The conflict is often referred to as the "Pool crisis", for the main department where the conflict occurred, but many people fled to Bouenza and other departments. People who had been displaced to Bouenza department at the peak of political violence began returning to Pool, which regained some level of stability.

A small number of people were newly displaced in Kimongo, Niari department in March 2019 when Angolan troops crossed the border to perform military exercises amid rising tensions between the two countries. However, due to limited data available on this event, IDMC has very low confidence in its estimate.

Very little data is available on the number of returns that occurred throughout the year, or the number of people that are still displaced. There were 134,000 displaced people in the country as of July 2018, according to the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Social Affairs.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 *(Year figure was last updated: 2019)*	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 *(1 January – 31 December 2019)*	Stock	Flows
2	134,000	-	-	-

*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 represents people displaced in Kimongo, Niari department in March 2019 when Angolan troops crossed the border to perform military exercises amid rising tensions between the two countries over several days in late March.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and local media. The methodology used to come up with the figures and reports of violence is unknown.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Because of the lack of systematic monitoring of internal displacement in the country, reports on new displacements associated with violence or conflict are infrequent. Information on the new displacements in March 2019 was obtained through local media which reported them as ''residents fled'', further limiting IDMC's ability to quantify the actual number of people involved. To stay on the conservative side, this was interpreted as ''more than 2 people forced to flee''. This is an important caveat.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC did not record any new displacement in 2018.

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 people displaced by the armed conflict between 2016 and 2017, involving the rebel Ninja militias and the government in the east of the country, particularly in the provinces of Pool and Bouenza. IDMC also included people newly displaced in March 2019 in Kimongo, Niari department.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs for new displacements is based on data from the ministry of humanitarian and social affairs which was communicated directly to IDMC. These figures come from an evaluation carried out by the ministry in July 2018 on the number of IDPs in affected areas, using the support of the WFP's (World Food Programme) beneficiary information system. The specific methodology used to conduct these evaluations, however, was unspecified.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The main challenge is the lack of regular data collection. Since the signing of the peace deal in 2017, few assessments have been carried out on the number of new displacements, attempted returns or people still displaced in Bouenza or Pool departments. The methodology employed by the humanitarian and social affairs ministry was not specified in detail. This figure can be considered as decaying as it represents data from 2018, rather than 2019.

Significant changes from last year

This figure does not represent a significant change from the previous year. The difference in numbers is likely not a result of an increase in conflict, since there was almost no new displacement between 2018 and 2019. Instead, this change can be attributed to a possible change in methodology.

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	Unknown
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
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	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 the Republic of the Congo please visit:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/congo