DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Ethnic tensions, local grievances and chronic poverty are the major drivers of internal displacement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is still the country most affected by internal displacement in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 1.6 million new displacements were reported in 2019, compared with more than 1.8 million recorded in 2018 and 2.2 million in 2017. Conflict and violence continued to drive displacement in the eastern provinces of Ituri, South Kivu and North Kivu.

In the north-eastern province of Ituri, an upsurge in intercommunal violence between the Hema and Lendu communities led to 453,000 new displacements. In South Kivu, there was an escalation of conflict between armed groups and intercommunal violence. This caused 401,000 new displacements, mainly in Mwenga, Kalehe and Fizi territories. In North Kivu, clashes between armed groups and the country's armed forces led to 520,000 displacements, primarily in Rutshuru and Lubero territories.

The political situation in the DRC was still tense in 2019, despite the first peaceful transition of power in the country's history. The new government faced various challenges, including its second largest Ebola outbreak ever, a measles outbreak that killed thousands and a cholera outbreak. The presence of more than one hundred different armed groups across eastern DRC and ongoing conflict in other areas continued to aggravate the humanitarian situation for IDPs and other vulnerable groups. An estimated 5.5 million people were internally displaced by conflict and violence as of the end of 2019 in the country. The UN estimated that around 15.9 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020.

About 4.5 million people were reported as having returned by the end of the year. Lack of information on their conditions, however, means that we classified them as unverified.

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)	Stocks	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019)
1,672,000	5,512,000	-	-	4,542,000

*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 of the total number of new displacements in 2019 is derived from data compiled by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and complemented with data from the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM). The final estimate is based on OCHA's data for 29 territories across 9 provinces. IOM DTM's data is used to cover those territories for which OCHA has no estimates or where IOM's coverage is more reliable. This is the case for Lubero territory in North Kivu, and Djugu and Irumu territories in Ituri. The new displacement estimate also includes a displacement event that took place in Irumu territory, Ituri, in November that was reported by IOM's Emergency Tracking Tool. This event occurred after OCHA and DTM's assessments had been completed and is not included in their estimates. Overall, Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu recorded the largest number of new displacements.

Sources and methodologies

Data on displacement in the DRC comes from OCHA's Humanitarian Tools (EH Tools) and IOM DTM's evaluations. EH Tools is an OCHA database that centralizes all of the data on population movements in the DRC, including displacements and returns. It is based on evaluations of population movements from different humanitarian clusters and NGOs in the different provinces. This data is verified on a monthly basis by provincial Population Movement Commissions (CMP) made up of NGOs and representatives of government agencies.

The IOM DTM programme started collecting displacement data in late 2017, surveying over 22,000 villages in seven provinces in 2018. There were eight territories across Ituri, North Kivu and Tanganyika provinces surveyed in 2019. IOM DTM regularly contributes its data to the EH tools website.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

DRC's size, topography and complex displacement patterns make it difficult to accurately identify IDPs, and no formal national registration system exists. Manycaseloads, cannot be verified, usually because of access restrictions, meaning that some population movements may be undetected, or the estimates provided imprecise. The pendular nature of displacement and lack of access to some areas of origin make it particularly difficult to assess the number and sustainability of returns.

Significant changes from last year

The 2019 estimates show a reduction in the number of new displacements recorded. Displacement slightly dropped by 168,000, or nine per cent, compared to 1,840,000 displacements reported during 2018. This slight reduction does not, however, mean that the displacement situation improved in 2019: merely that the hotspots of conflict have changed.

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 of the total number of IDPs in DRC in 2019 is based on data from OCHA's EH Tools and from IOM DTM. OCHA EH Tool data is based on validated evaluations from its humanitarian partners on population movements between October 2017 and October 2019. The data for some provinces is supplemented by village-level assessments conducted by IOM DTM. Data on displacement is available for 17 provinces.

The final estimate for the total number of people living in internal displacement is based on data from OCHA for eight provinces not covered by the village-level DTM assessments. This includes Maï-ndombe, Kwango, Haut-lomami, Lualaba, Tshopo, Haut-katanga, Kwilu and Maniema provinces. OCHA's estimates include estimates of IDPs and returns to displacement or failed returns. In turn, IDMC refers to IOM DTM data to estimate the number of people in a situation of displacement in Sankuru, Kasai Oriental, Tanganyika, Lomami, Kasai, South Kivu, Kasai Central, Ituri and North Kivu.

Overall, the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, Kasai Central and South Kivu recorded the largest displaced populations throughout 2019.

Sources and methodologies

Data on displacement in the DRC comes from OCHA EH Tools and IOM DTM.

The IOM DTM programme started gathering displacement data in late 2017 and collected information on IDPs across nine provinces in 2019. Data collection is carried out through village level assessments based on key informants. DTM assessments look at the number of people displaced, returned, the time period, and the displacement cause. IOM DTM collects data at a highly granular level and, for that reason, often has higher, more comprehensive estimates for the different provinces.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC's stock estimate has the same caveats as the new displacement estimate, given the use of the same sources.

Significant changes from last year

The total number of people in a situation of displacement increased from 3,081,000 IDPs in 2018, almost doubling to 5,512,000 IDPs by the end of 2019. This increase can be attributed primarily to a change in methodology in compiling the final stock estimate, with a significant increase in provinces being covered by the two main different data providers. Data was available for seventeen provinces for IDMC's 2019 estimate, in contrast to nine provinces for the 2018 estimate. In addition, new displacements continued unabated over the course of 2019, also influencing the high stock figure for 2019.

For the 2018 stock figure estimate, data was available from IOM DTM for 7 provinces: Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, Sankuru, Tanganyika and South Kivu. This was collected in village-level assessments during 2017 and 2018. In late 2018 and over the course of 2019, IOM DTM also started collecting data for Ituri and North Kivu. These estimates have been added to the 2019 stock figure, impacting the final total since they were the worst affected provinces in both 2018 and 2019, hosting more than a million IDPs each.

The 2018 estimate also did not cover data from provinces covered by OCHA, as these were not being widely published. This means that data for Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami, Kwango, Kwilu, Lualaba, Maniema and Tshopo were not included in the 2018 estimate.

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 rather than people

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on a combination of the data on returnees from IOM DTM Rounds 4 on Kasai Oriental, 6 on Kasai Central, 4 on Kasai, 8 on Tanganyika, 2 on Beni in North Kivu, 1 on Rutshuru and Masisi in North Kivu, 3 on Lubero in North Kivu and 2 on Ituri with Humanitarian Tools data on returns in 2019.

We used the latest IOM DTM round for each province published in 2019 to estimate the total number of unverified solutions in those provinces, disregarding the rounds from 2018. That is because the returnees reported in 2018 might have been re-displaced again. We combined this data with Humanitarian Tools data on returns in 2019 for provinces not covered by IOM DTM. We filtered out failed returns which were included in the stock (IDPs returning to host families and sites).

We have not received any comprehensive explanation on how the return conditions are assessed. For this reason, we account for all the returnees and returns as unverified solutions.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for Unverified Conditions is based on data from IOM DTM and OCHA's Humanitarian Tools.

IOM DTM collected data on returnees in North Kivu, Tanganyika, Ituri, South Kivu, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, and Kasai in 2019. The data is collected on a village level by key informants. This data should feed into Humanitarian Tools, but this is not always the case. We identified several conflicting estimates for the same geographical areas.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

We have not received any comprehensive information on the conditions upon return and for this reason account for all returns and returnees as unverified solutions. A greater number of the reported returnees should be included in the stock as they might have remained displaced, ended up in sites or host families upon return. The current data, however, does not allow us to assess this.

This is a hybrid figure combining stocks and flow data. This illustrates the uncertainty around data on returnees in DRC, where we are not able to assess the conditions for 4.5 million people and determine whether they effectively returned, achieved any form of durable solution or were still living in a displacement situation.

Significant changes from last year

This is the first time IDMC publishes data on this metric in the DRC.

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	Key informants	Key informants, Registration
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	More than once a month	More than once a 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	Yes	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Yes	Yes
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 Democratic Republic of Congo please visit: http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/drc