



Internally displaced children attend an outdoor class at Gassire camp, eastern Chad. They fled fighting around the town of Goz Beida near the Sudanese border
 (Photo: Reuters/Finbarr O'Reilly, courtesy www.alertnet.org, June 2008).

Internal displacement in Africa

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Internal displacement in Africa

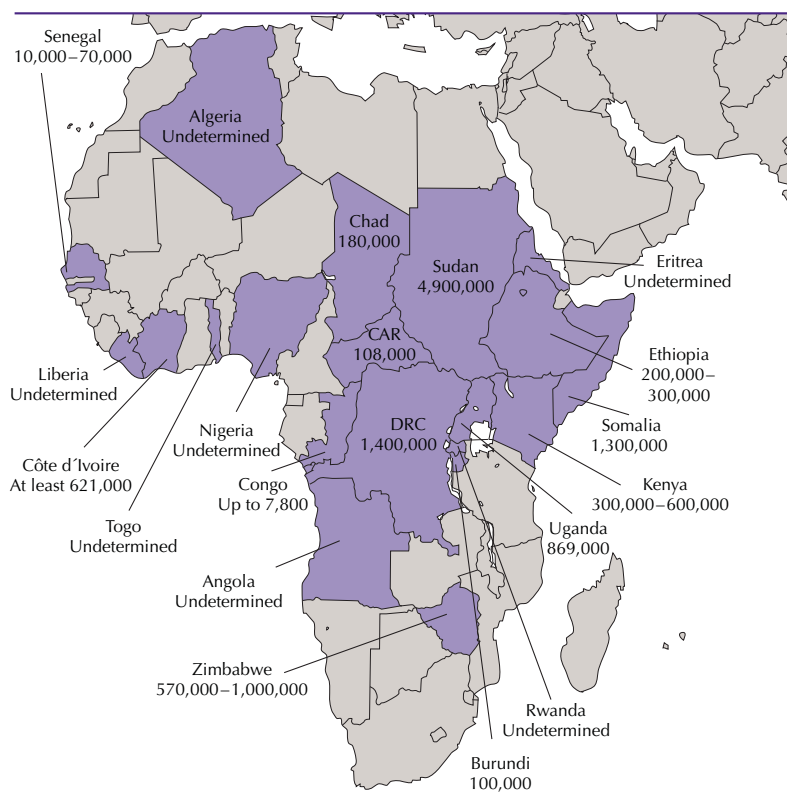
In 2008, IDMC monitored internal displacement in 19 African countries. There were an estimated 11.6 million IDPs in these countries, the lowest internal displacement figure in Africa in a decade but still nearly half of the world's total IDP population. Countries which IDMC monitored included Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. It is likely that smaller groups of people remained displaced by conflict or violence in other African countries, for example the thousands of Togolese which the government reported as IDPs in 2008.

Forced displacement in 2008 did not result from the eruption of new conflicts in the region, but rather from fighting which was ongoing or recurred after ceasefire agreements or peace negotiations failed. Generalised violence caused widespread displacement, as armed criminal groups forced people to flee and inter-communal tensions flared up between indigenous groups and others perceived as new arrivals, between pastoralists and sedentary farmers, and between supporters of election candidates.

New displacements were reported in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia and Zimbabwe, but the largest were in Kenya with 500,000 new IDPs, DRC with 400,000, Sudan (Darfur) with 315,000 and Somalia with 300,000. The highest numbers of returns were in DRC and Uganda, both with 400,000, and in South Sudan with 350,000, while returns were also reported in Algeria, CAR, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea and Kenya. Obstacles to durable solutions in the region included insecurity, the lack of basic services and infrastructure in areas of return, limited livelihood opportunities, and land and property issues.

Internally displaced communities in African countries faced myriad risks, due to immediate threats to their safety in some cases, and long-term neglect in others. Two particularly insidious and widespread protection problems facing IDPs in 2008 were rape and sexual violence against women and girls, and the forced recruitment of children into armed forces and groups. Rape and sexual violence were reported in Burundi, CAR, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan; forced recruitment of children was reported in Burundi, CAR, Chad, DRC, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

More international attention has been paid to these two specific human rights violations in the last few years, with the entry into force of the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children of the Great Lakes Pact, and war crimes investigations and indictments by the International Criminal Court on rape and torture in CAR and murder, sexual slavery and recruitment of children in DRC. However, the problem of rape has continued



to be widely under-reported, with few response programmes on the ground helping victims to cope with the trauma and impact of these crimes.

While several countries including CAR, Chad, and Sudan were in the process of drafting national policies or laws to assist and protect IDPs in 2008, only Uganda had a national IDP policy and only Liberia had incorporated the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into domestic law. Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire had developed draft IDP policies or laws, but their respective governments had yet to enact them. As in previous years, most governments with internally displaced populations were unable or unwilling to respond to their assistance and protection needs, either because of a lack of resources and properly trained staff, or because of a lack of political will.

In 2008, a positive regional development for the protection of IDPs was the entry into force of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in Africa's Great Lakes region (the Great Lakes Pact). It represented a commitment by eleven states to work to end the conflicts plaguing the region, and to cooperate on security, governance, development, humanitarian and social issues. The Pact was ratified by Burundi, CAR, DRC, Kenya, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Angola, Sudan and Zambia had yet to finalise the ratification process at the end of the year.

Two protocols of the Great Lakes Pact, on protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, and on the property rights of returning populations, represented recognition by ratifying states of the crucial link between protecting the rights of IDPs and achieving peace, security and development in the region. The Pact was also the world's first binding multilateral instrument dedicated to the incorporation into national law of the Guiding Principles.

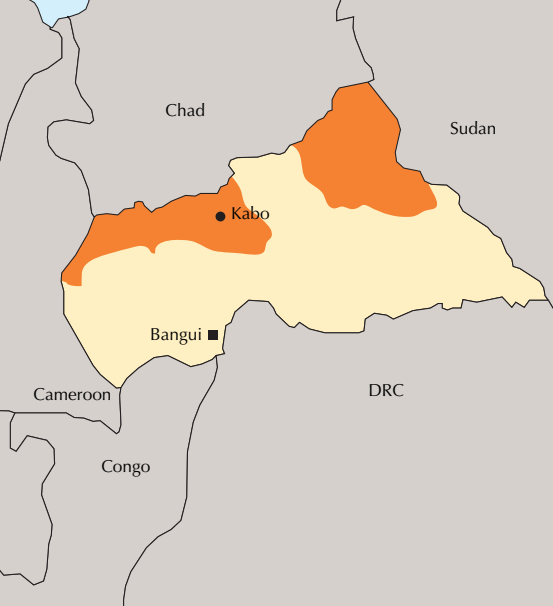
The international response to internal displacement varied widely between countries such as Zimbabwe where response mechanisms for IDPs were very limited, to those where the UN's humanitarian reform was fully implemented to coordinate the delivery of assistance and improve the protection of IDPs. By the end of 2008, 11 countries in Africa had implemented the cluster approach, including Burundi, CAR, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Somalia, Uganda and Zimbabwe (although in Côte d'Ivoire, only the protection cluster was operational, while Zimbabwe had activated five clusters excluding the protection cluster).

International peacekeepers were deployed to six countries following UN Security Council Resolutions: EUFOR in CAR and Chad, UNOCI in Côte d'Ivoire, MONUC in DRC, UNMIL in Liberia and UNAMID and UNMIS in Sudan. While not all the peacekeeping operations had mandates that were directly linked to the protection of IDPs, they were all related to restoring security and supporting the implementation of peace agreements, two fundamental preconditions for achieving durable solutions for IDPs. The forces in DRC and the two missions in Sudan were among the largest peacekeeping operations in the world.

Regional peacekeeping forces were also deployed in several African countries to deal with the ongoing problem of insecurity caused by internal armed conflict. The deployment of regional peacekeeping forces represented an important commitment by African countries to invest in security, rule of law and sustainable development in order to achieve lasting peace. Regional peacekeepers included MICOPAX (formerly FOMUC) of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, deployed to CAR, and the African Union troops deployed to Somalia and Sudan.

Country	Number of IDPs (rounded)	Government figures	UN figures	Other figures	Comments
Algeria	Undetermined			1,000,000 (EU, 2002)	No recent figures available.
Angola	Undetermined		19,566 (UN-TCU, November 2005)		UN figure refers to the number of IDPs in the Cabinda region. No recent figure is available.
Burundi	100,000		100,000 (OCHA, November 2006)		
Central African Republic	108,000		108,000 (OCHA, November 2008)		
Chad	180,000		180,000 (UNHCR, September 2008)		
Congo	Up to 7,800	7,800 (2006)	0–7,800 (OCHA, December 2008)		
Côte d'Ivoire	At least 621,000	709,000 (ENSEA national statistical institute with UNFPA, 2006)	709,000 (UNHCR, January 2008)		The number of 621,000 is obtained by subtracting the 70,000 registered IDPs who have returned to western regions and the 18,000 civil servants redeployed from the 2006 figure. UNHCR has worked with the ENSEA figure in the absence of updated country-wide data.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,400,000		1,373,000 (OCHA, December 2008)		While the total estimate did not change from 2007 to 2008, at least 400,000 people returned home, while 400,000 were displaced, primarily in North Kivu. Estimates are approximate, as most IDPs are with host families and are not registered, and many areas are difficult to reach.
Eritrea	Undetermined				According to UN agencies, all camp-based IDPs had been resettled or returned to home areas by March 2008, but some may still be living with host communities. There has not been a UN assessment since 2006.

Ethiopia	200,000–300,000		200,000–300,000 (UN agencies, June 2008)		The UN estimate is not based on any profiling exercise due to government restrictions on access to conflict areas.
Kenya	300,000–600,000		300,000–600,000 (OCHA)		Verification exercise to determine the number still pending.
Liberia	Undetermined		0–23,000 (UNHCR, July 2007)		UNHCR estimated 23,000 people still in former IDP camps in 2007, but no profiling carried out to confirm their status. An unknown number are also still displaced in Monrovia.
Nigeria	Undetermined	1,210,000 (National Commission for Refugees, September 2007)			No reliable figures available. NCR figure does not clearly differentiate between people still displaced and those who have returned.
Rwanda	Undetermined				Unclear if people displaced before 1994 have found durable solutions.
Senegal	10,000–70,000		40,000–70,000 (OCHA, April 2008)	64,000 (IOM, June 2003); 10,000 (ProCas-GTZ, April 2008)	
Somalia	1,300,000		1,300,000 (OCHA/UNHCR, December 2008)		
Sudan	4,900,000		4,576,250 (OCHA, December 2008)	Southern Kordofan: 96,827 IDPs (IOM, 2008). Southern Sudan (displaced by inter-communal violence in 2008): 187,000 (UN RC/HC).	The OCHA figure for December 2008 includes IDPs in Darfur; Khartoum and other northern states; eastern states; Blue Nile; and Abyei. The figure does not include IDPs in Southern Kordofan and in the ten states of Southern Sudan.
Togo	Undetermined	10,000 (2008)	1,500 (OCHA, November 2006)		No more recent figures available.
Uganda	869,000		869,000 (IASC Uganda, November 2008)		Includes 537,000 IDPs in camps and 332,000 in transit sites. A further 603,000 IDPs had returned to their homes villages by November 2008. These figures do not include urban IDPs in cities such as Kampala and Jinja, or IDPs in Karamoja.
Zimbabwe	570,000–1,000,000		569,685 (Operation Murambatsvina: UN Special Envoy, July 2005); 1,000,000 (Fast-track land reform programme: UNDP, September 2008)	2008 political violence: 36,000 (UN); 200,000 (MDC, International Crisis Group).	Some people have been displaced more than once, so the figures overlap. Eight per cent of respondents to the June 2007 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee survey stated they had been “asked to move” in the last five years, implying between 880,000 and 960,000 people nationwide involuntarily displaced in that period.



Central African Republic

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	108,000
Percentage of total population	2.5%
Start of current displacement situation	2005
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	212,000 (2007)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	85,000
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, generalised violence
Human development index	171

The number of people displaced within the Central African Republic fell in 2008 as ceasefire agreements between the government and rebel groups led to an “Inclusive Political Dialogue” in Bangui in December between the government, its political and armed opposition, and civil society. However, neither the army nor international troops have been able to protect civilians from attacks by road bandits, causing new displacements and affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Over 100,000 people were still displaced at the end of 2008 in northern CAR, though almost as many had returned to their villages of origin during the year, as had about 4,000 people who had fled to Chad. With the exception of the residents of the one IDP site in the town of Kobo, most IDPs were dispersed in remote rural towns after periods of living in small groups in the bush without social services. They were relying almost entirely on these host communities for support.

The political conflict broke out in 2005 between the government of president François Bozizé and armed opposition groups seeking representation and power sharing. However, in 2008, human rights abuses caused by road bandits known as “coupeurs de route” or Zaraguina became the main cause of internal displacement. OCHA estimates that a third of all people displaced in CAR were displaced by road bandits operating with impunity in the absence of government forces.

Since 2005, IDPs in CAR have suffered from a range of human rights violations and abuses, including unlawful killings, the looting and destruction of their villages and fields, loss of livelihoods, sexual violence, and the abduction and recruitment of children. All armed groups have perpetrated these crimes. Government forces committed atrocities against civilians until late 2007 in retaliation for their support of opposition groups which, as the de facto authorities in some areas, punished civilians when their authority was not respected. The road bandits have in turn committed atrocities for financial gain; and self-defence militias, created with the support of the government in response to attacks by road bandits, have recruited children.

Although 85,000 IDPs returned home in 2008, durable solutions will be unattainable until north-western CAR is more secure. The primary challenge facing the government is to

re-establish and strengthen state presence by restoring services including health care, water and sanitation, and primary education, and by training, outfitting and deploying security forces to protect communities including those displaced.

There are no laws or policies to protect IDPs, but CAR has ratified the Great Lakes Pact and is expected to enact an IDP law by December 2009 which should incorporate the Guiding Principles. This law is being drafted with the support of UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees.

International military forces deployed as peacekeeping troops have had little impact in areas of displacement. The regional peacekeeping forces FOMUC and subsequently MICOPAX have attempted to provide security by patrolling main roads, but their numbers and area of operations have been limited. In 2008, a European Union force was deployed to Chad and CAR with a Security Council mandate to protect refugees and IDPs affected by the spill-over of violence from Darfur, and to safeguard the delivery of humanitarian assistance. However only 250 EUFOR troops were deployed, near the north-eastern border with Sudan, and road bandits and conflict have mostly caused displacement near the borders with Chad and Cameroon.

UN agencies and international NGOs provide protection and assistance to conflict-affected communities in CAR, and some are also working on early recovery and development programmes. The cluster approach was implemented in CAR in July 2007. Since then, ten clusters have been activated, grouped under the Humanitarian and Development Partnership Team (HDPT), a platform that has been instrumental in increasing visibility and funding. However the Humanitarian Coordinator has yet to ensure a coordinated response to the needs of IDPs, and continued lobbying is still needed for urgent humanitarian resources and funding for assistance programmes that improve the living conditions of IDPs in particular.

Chad

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	180,000
Percentage of total population	1.6%
Start of current displacement situation	2006
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	185,000 (2007)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	15,000–30,000
Causes of displacement	Internal and internationalised armed conflict, human rights violations, generalised violence
Human development index	170



At the end of 2008 around 180,000 people were displaced in eastern Chad, either being supported by host communities or gathered in 30 sites where they could access some level of international aid. They had fled cross-border raids in 2006 and 2007 by Sudanese Janjaweed militias, who exploited long-standing disputes between Chadian ethnic groups sparking inter-ethnic violence that led to massacres and caused widespread displacement.

Other causes of displacement involved fighting between the army and Chadian rebel groups, and attacks by road bandits. Internal armed conflict erupted when Chadian president Idriss Déby reformed the constitution to run for a third term. Rebel groups accused the government of limiting government posts to members of the President's Zaghawa ethnic group, and of using oil revenues to buy arms and bolster the government. Meanwhile, the Chadian government has allowed Darfuri rebel groups (also Zaghawa) to operate from bases in eastern Chad.

Widespread attacks by road bandits known as "coupeurs de route" against civilians including IDPs and humanitarian workers have gone unpunished. In 2008, more than 3,000 European Union troops (EUFOR) were deployed to eastern Chad to protect IDPs and Sudanese refugees, safeguard humanitarian operations, and help restore stability. The UN Mission, MINURCAT, also trained Chadian police officers to provide security in IDP sites and refugee camps. Nonetheless, insecurity remained rampant, with more than 160 serious incidents including physical attacks against humanitarian workers resulting in repeated interruptions in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

IDPs have faced grave threats to their physical security and integrity, due to attacks, the militarisation of IDP sites and proliferation of small arms there. Displaced women and girls have faced high levels of sexual violence, and are particularly at risk when collecting firewood or farming land which they have rented from host communities. Displaced children have faced a range of threats. In IDP sites they have had limited access to primary education and no chance of further schooling. Government forces have continued to recruit children despite a 2007 commitment to desist, while Sudanese and Chadian

rebel groups have actively recruited children from refugee camps and IDP sites.

National and international responses have been shaped by fear of the Darfur conflict spreading rather than a will to solve Chad's internal problems. Although the governments of Chad and Sudan signed the Dakar Agreement in 2008 to normalise relations and end the support of each other's rebel groups, there has been no parallel process for Chad's internal crisis. Peacekeeping missions have focused on resolving cross-border insecurity rather than conflict resolution and peace building in Chad. At the same time the situation of Sudanese refugees there has received more attention and thus funding.

Despite EUFOR's mandate to help secure areas of origin, insecurity has continued to block returns. In 2008 some IDPs did still return despite a lack of access to basic services in their home areas. For these movements to become more widespread, an inclusive political dialogue would be needed to end the internal armed conflict and inter-communal violence, and the government would have to demonstrate its commitment to invest in infrastructure and basic social services in the east.

The government has taken some steps to respond to the situation of IDPs, but their impact has been limited. In 2007, it set up a national committee to assist IDPs known as the CNAPD, but it has limited resources and staff, and delivered only sporadic assistance. In 2008, the government also created the CONAFIT committee to coordinate humanitarian activities with MINURCAT, EUFOR and the humanitarian organisations working in Chad. The government has yet to enact national legislation to protect IDPs.

The UN's humanitarian response in Chad is led by a Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator supported by a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in eastern Chad. The cluster approach was introduced in Chad in July 2007 to coordinate the delivery of assistance and improve the protection of IDPs. Eleven clusters were operational at the end of 2008, with the environmental and early recovery clusters to be implemented in 2009.



Côte d'Ivoire

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	At least 621,000
Percentage of total population	3.2%
Start of current displacement situation	2002
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	1,100,000 (2003)
New displacement in 2008	700
Returns in 2008	89,000
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, generalised violence
Human development index	166

Over 600,000 people were still displaced in Côte d'Ivoire in 2008, six years after civil war erupted in 2002. The politicisation of ethnicity during the economic decline of the 1990s had caused escalating tensions and eventually armed conflict which led the country to be split between the government-controlled south and the north held by the rebels of the Forces Nouvelles ("New Forces"). Thousands of civilians, especially government and public-sector employees, left the north to seek shelter in the south, mostly within the economic capital Abidjan. Meanwhile, in the western "cocoa belt" of Moyen Cavally and Dix-huit Montagnes, tensions around land between indigenous communities and economic migrants escalated and caused massive displacement.

The 2007 Ouagadougou Peace Agreement gave IDPs real hope for an end to their displacement. However the lack of comprehensive figures on return movements since then does not allow for a clear indication of the number still displaced. In 2006 the national statistical institute ENSEA estimated that there were some 709,000 IDPs in southern regions. Up to the end of 2008 around 70,000 registered IDPs returned to western Côte d'Ivoire and 18,000 civil servants were redeployed in the north, and so at the end of 2008 an estimated 621,000 IDPs remained. However this figure does not include those newly displaced who did not return within the year, and people displaced within the north. The only managed IDP site in the country, the Guiglo transit centre which hosted up to 7,900 IDPs at its peak, closed in July 2008 although some IDPs remained there.

In 2008, new displacement continued in the west, due to land disputes and inter-communal tensions which sometimes followed the return of IDPs. Ongoing tensions over land and property also prevented many from returning. Notwithstanding the progress in implementing the peace accord, political setbacks and continued insecurity in many areas of return helped to prolong the displacement situation. There was limited progress in demobilising and reintegrating rebel troops and pro-government militias, and the presidential elections which had been rescheduled for November 2008 were cancelled once again.

There was in 2008 a resurgence in banditry and armed robberies, especially along highways in the west, which joint government and Forces Nouvelles patrols were unable to address. Displaced women and girls were particularly vulnerable to the widespread threat of sexual violence.

Accessing the basic necessities of life has proved difficult in areas of displacement and return, for IDPs and host communities. Social services are inadequate or absent, particularly in the north and west, and food insecurity is high where displacement has interrupted agricultural cycles. Displaced women and girls have more frequently had to resort to prostitution as a means to ensure they and their family have some income.

Return has been the only durable solution considered thus far, but until the causes of the conflict are addressed, foremost legal identity and access to land, and better services and infrastructure are in place to enable livelihoods for returnees, durable returns are still a distant prospect. The restitution of IDPs' property and access to their land remain politically charged; in the north there are concerns about restitution of property illegally occupied or taken by members of the Forces Nouvelles, and in the west land has been occupied by people who remained in villages, by other IDPs or by newly-arrived migrant workers.

Funding and capacity constraints have generally hampered the provision of assistance. UNHCR heads the only cluster in the country, for the protection sector, while the same model has been adopted for other sectors. In 2008, in response to queries over the operational abilities of the national and district cluster working groups, UNHCR enhanced its field presence by deploying protection monitoring teams to the west and north. However, more efficient coordination and increased staff capacity is still needed.

The Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims is the government's focal point on IDP issues. Its impact is limited by the lack of coordination within the government, institutional support and funding. An inter-ministerial committee set up to coordinate the response to the displacement situation has lacked high-level representation, while the government's focus on reducing foreign debt has come at the expense of financial commitments in support to durable solutions.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	1,400,000
Percentage of total population	2.2%
Start of current displacement situation	1996
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	3,400,000 (2003)
New displacement in 2008	At least 400,000
Returns in 2008	At least 400,000
Causes of displacement	Internal and internationalised armed conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations
Human development index	177



It was estimated in December 2008 that almost 1.4 million people were displaced by the various conflicts which have killed several million people and continue to affect the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The situation was dynamic with at least 400,000 returning home and at least 400,000 being newly displaced by armed conflict, generalised violence and widespread human rights violations during the year. The UN’s Emergency Relief Coordinator described the situation in North Kivu Province in November 2008: “Congolese civilians found themselves in the worst of all worlds: subject to attacks, displacement, sexual violence and forced recruitment perpetrated by advancing rebel forces; and to acts of violence, rape and looting carried out by members of the official Congolese armed forces and Mai Mai and other militias.”

The majority of the new displacements were in North Kivu, followed by Ituri and Haut-Uélé Districts (Orientale Province) and South Kivu. People there have been displaced several times since the mid-1990s; the latest wave followed fighting between government forces and militia of the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), and between the CNDP and the Hutu Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) and local Mai Mai militia groups. The violence and displacement in North Kivu between government and CNDP forces peaked between the end of August and the end of November. In Haut-Uélé, Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) attacks led to the displacement of tens of thousands of villagers at the end of 2008, and DRC’s armed forces worked alongside those of Uganda and Southern Sudan to root the LRA out.

All these groups, including government soldiers, have frequently attacked civilians to seize food and belongings, or punish people for perceived or real allegiance to other groups. Armed non-state actors have also abducted children to fight. The government’s troops are ill-equipped, poorly trained, and barely paid. All of them prey on the population, and aim both to defeat historic enemies and secure territory in order to benefit from the extraction of natural resources.

Most IDPs live with host communities. In North Kivu, they have sought shelter in camps, with hosts in areas out of the immediate firing line, or in forests. The majority are support-

ing themselves or relying entirely on the limited resources of their hosts, as humanitarian access has been severely limited by the fighting.

Thus eastern DRC’s IDPs face a range of severe threats. IDP sites have come under attack. They have been victims of widespread killings, rapes, and the destruction and looting of their homes and camps. The vast majority of IDPs and returnees lack access to basic infrastructure such as health centres, schools and roads, clean water, food, seeds, tools, clothes and straw to build houses. In North Kivu, the conflict in 2008 led them to lose access to their fields and so miss the planting season, and caused the disruption of education for many children. There were many reports of separated families in 2008, and few IDPs in North Kivu had the identity documents needed to help them to be reunited.

IDPs at particular risk include children, and particularly those separated from their family, and female-headed households and pregnant women. Women and children are at great risk of sexual violence, and children risk being recruited in armed groups. People from ethnic groups which are in the minority in their displacement area are also particularly vulnerable.

The government has tasked the Ministry for Solidarity and Humanitarian Affairs to address the situation of IDPs, but it has had no impact and there has been no legislation to support their protection. Some national NGOs have distributed food and other items, provided counselling for rape victims, and training and education; they have also worked with international NGOs and UN agencies to register and monitor IDPs.

International responsibility for IDP protection has fallen in the first instance to MONUC. The UN peacekeeping mission has had some successes, but was overwhelmed during the second half of 2008 due to a lack of manpower and clear rules of engagement to protect civilians. The cluster approach was introduced in 2006 and did lead to a better-coordinated response. UN agencies and international NGOs have provided assistance to IDPs in zones they could access, and have made efforts to reach IDPs in host communities despite the access difficulties.

Where peace has returned to their areas of origin, people have been able to return home and restart their lives with very little external help.



Ethiopia

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	200,000–300,000
Percentage of total population	0.2%–0.4%
Start of current displacement situation	2006
New displacement in 2008	700
Returns in 2008	50,000
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations
Human development index	169

Ethiopia has been vulnerable to conflict for many years. During the cold war it was used as a proxy state by the USSR, while in more recent years a border conflict with Eritrea, irredentist insurgencies and problems associated with ethnic boundaries and pastoral conflicts have led to displacements. Also, the US-led “war on terror” has found a willing partner in Ethiopia and critics suggest that this has helped enable the government to apply repressive practices which have led to displacement, especially in Somali region.

In 2008, displacement was reported in Somali and Oromiya regions, due to conflict between the army and the Ogaden National Liberation Front and the Oromo Liberation Front, and due to conflicts over pasture and water. 50,000 people reportedly fled territorial conflicts between members of the Borena, Somali and Guji tribes, and OCHA reported in December that there were 300,000 people displaced by conflict in the country. Most of them were in Somali, Oromiya and Gambella.

Most IDPs have relied on support from members of their family or community rather than national or international assistance. Some of them have moved to urban areas in search of livelihoods, but most have remained in rural conflict-affected areas.

The government’s exclusive control of humanitarian response mechanisms in the country has left many emergency situations either unreported or under-reported. Responses have been fragmented, inadequate and delayed, compounding the impact on affected populations and leaving their needs unmet. Situations of displacement resulting from internal conflicts have been obscured and the plight of conflict-induced IDPs quickly forgotten.

Depending on the causes and areas of displacement, Ethiopia’s conflict-induced IDPs have complex protection needs, due to the actions of government forces, allied militias and insurgent groups, and due to the recurrence of violence in pastoral areas over natural resources.

Pastoralists face specific protection needs given that their livelihoods rely heavily on mobility. They have historically been marginalised by successive Ethiopian governments promoting settled agriculture over nomadic lifestyles. Conflicts

have denied them freedom of movement and made it difficult for them to maintain their livelihoods, forcing them into sedentary destitution.

The prospects for Ethiopians internally displaced by conflict were not good at the end of 2008. For sustainable peace to prevail in areas of insurgency and conflict, the central government would have to do more to recognise the diversity of its population, and meet its constitutional commitment to ethnic federalism by devolving more powers to state governments. The government would also have to work more closely with international and national institutions to find durable solutions for them. Meanwhile, international donors should step up attempts to prevail on the government to respect and protect the human rights of conflict-affected groups.

In 2008, the Government of Ethiopia prepared a draft law that would criminalise human rights activity and seriously undermine civil society groups. If enacted, the law would bar both foreign and Ethiopian organisations receiving more than ten per cent of their funding from abroad from undertaking any activities in human rights, gender equality, children’s rights, disabled people’s rights, conflict resolution or the strengthening of judicial and law enforcement practices. The law would also exclude groups funded by Ethiopians living outside the country.

In 2008 there were no ministries or government focal points with a mandate to respond to conflict-induced displacement; there were no national NGOs or monitoring bodies following IDPs, and there were no laws or national policies to provide a framework for their protection. For the national response to improve, the government would have to establish or encourage these elements, after first of all acknowledging that populations have been displaced by conflict within the country’s borders. For this to happen, donors and international organisations need to maintain a proactive approach in engaging the government.

Kenya

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	300,000–600,000
Percentage of total population	0.8%–1.6%
Start of current displacement situation	2007
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	600,000 (February 2008)
New displacement in 2008	500,000
Returns in 2008	300,000 (Government estimate)
Causes of displacement	Generalised violence, human rights violations
Human development index	148



Generalised violence and human rights violations caused the displacement of an estimated 500,000 Kenyans in the wake of the December 2007 elections. The violence which followed the election was mostly concentrated around the Rift Valley, and to some extent in Nairobi slums and Nyanza and Western Provinces. In early 2008, swift international mediation culminated in a peace agreement and formation of a coalition government. However, the causes of the displacement are yet to be addressed conclusively, and tensions between communities remain high in areas such as the Rift Valley.

Violence in Kenya has recurred over many years, often due to grievances between the Kikuyu and indigenous communities like the Kalenjin and Maasai over land and the distribution of economic and political resources. Election-related violence in 1992 and 1997 also led to displacement in the Rift Valley.

In northern Kenya, small-scale displacement has been common due to fighting over water and pasture resources. A government security operation in Mandera in the north-east also led to displacement between September and December 2008. In the western area of Mount Elgon, displacement has since 2006 been caused by the activities of the Sabaot Land Defence Force militia and government operations to flush them out.

In the Rift Valley, many of the post-election IDPs spent 2008 in the large camps to which they fled, and subsequently in smaller transit sites to which the government encouraged them to move until the situation in their home areas allowed their return. According to the government, 300,000 IDPs returned home during the year; however, at the end of 2008 many of these were still relying on the support of host communities.

IDPs in the north-east faced added protection risks from security forces in what has historically been a “security zone”. Residents have fled in fear of mistreatment, and in September 2008 the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) documented cases of gross human rights violations by security forces there. Pastoralists are also marginalised and pastoral areas lag behind in development. The State has made very little investment in transport, schools, health care or livelihoods development.

Generally, IDPs face myriad protection needs whether they are in camps, transit sites, or even where they have been

deemed to have returned or resettled. Livelihood opportunities in camps are virtually non-existent and education and health facilities are rudimentary. There were reports of school drop-outs, early marriages and child labour in most camps. Given that land disputes were at the heart of the conflict in all the IDPs’ areas of origin, many displaced people have remained unsuccessful in their attempts to return to their lands.

For durable solutions to become possible it would be necessary to address issues of land ownership and distribution across Kenya, strengthen democratic institutions, create employment opportunities, prosecute perpetrators of violence, and develop a coherent national policy on internal displacement. Nonetheless the government has started to address some of these issues. Kenya has ratified the Great Lakes Pact and is in the process of setting up local tribunals to deal with the issue of impunity. The Commission of Inquiry set up to look into the causes of the post-election violence has also recommended that a national IDP policy be enacted in line with the UN Guiding Principles.

The government’s return programme has been criticised for failing to adhere to the Guiding Principles in some instances. The Department for Mitigation and Resettlement in the Ministry of Special Programmes is responsible for resettling the post-election IDPs. The Department helped the majority of IDPs to return in 2008, but achieved little in its peace building or community relations roles, and it is yet to embark on a country-wide IDP profiling exercise, a necessary prerequisite to effective targeting of assistance.

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) became the official government partner and the first and principal organisation to respond to the crisis. The agency’s timely intervention and experience in responding to disasters such as drought and floods saved many lives. However, KRCS’ lack of experience in camp management left it ill-prepared for a crisis of this scale.

Though this crisis was not anticipated, the UN quickly adopted a cluster approach in January 2008, with UNHCR leading the protection cluster. The cluster approach has been broadly effective though critics have noted an excess of national coordination meetings in Nairobi at the expense of local coordination.



Nigeria

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1999
New displacement in 2008	At least 10,000
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations
Human development index	154

People have been forcibly displaced across Nigeria, for short or longer periods, since the end of military rule in 1999. Against a background of systematic patterns of inequality and intense competition for resources, Africa's most populous nation has had little success in bringing together its diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic groups. Perhaps the most significant cause of violence has been the entrenched division between people considered indigenous to an area, and those regarded as settlers. Indigenous groups have routinely prevented settlers from owning land or businesses, or accessing jobs and education, inevitably leading to tensions.

There were both new displacements and returns reported in 2008. In August, Nigeria handed over the Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon following a 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice, and thousands of people fled to neighbouring states in Nigeria in fear of repression by Cameroonian security forces. The situation in the Niger Delta deteriorated, as violence between local militia groups and security forces, and inter-militia fighting, led to widespread destruction of property and the displacement of thousands of people. New incidents of post-electoral violence causing displacement were reported in 2008, the worst recorded being the inter-communal unrest in November in the city of Jos.

In Lagos and in Port Harcourt in the Niger Delta, the local governments have displaced an unknown number of residents in measures to combat local militia groups.

Only rough estimates of the number of IDPs and their locations are available, while relatively little is known of the fate of IDPs. Most have been supported by their family or friends, and only some groups have received assistance from local government bodies or the Nigerian Red Cross. However their protection needs appear to have been significant. Human rights organisations have regularly accused the security forces of failing to provide protection during outbreaks of inter-communal violence, while people displaced into makeshift camps in schools or army barracks have had to endure overcrowded and insanitary conditions.

Many children have been unable to go to school, and displaced women and girls have risked sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation. Though there is no evidence of

children being used in the armed forces, there have been reports of children being recruited by armed groups, especially in the Niger Delta.

In the absence of any national IDP policy, responses have generally featured gaps in support and competing mandates between institutions. The Federal Ministry of Special Duties coordinates the activities of the three bodies charged with responding to situations of internal displacement: the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) focuses on conflict prevention; the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which coordinates emergency relief operations, has often supported IDPs in the emergency phase of a crisis but lacks the resources to assist people displaced for a longer period or to help returnees reintegrate, and it has no age-specific or gender-specific policies. The National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) has taken responsibility for post-emergency and long-term programmes for IDPs. However, the Nigerian Red Cross has often been first to provide aid, as it has the structure and the capacity necessary to respond at short notice.

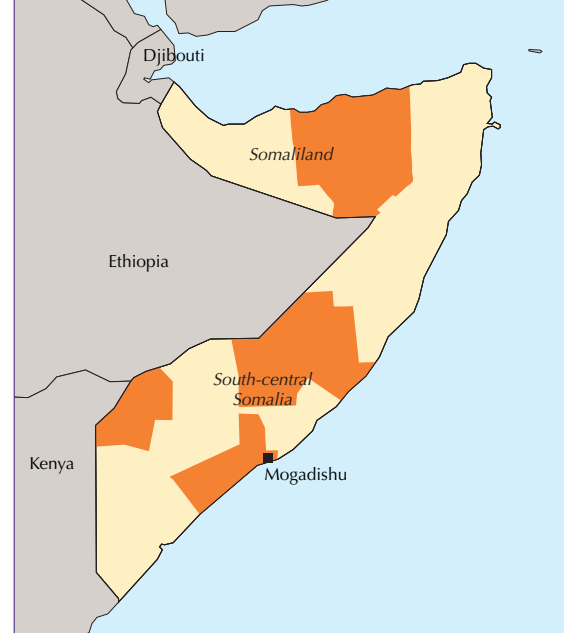
There has been no consistent drive for durable solutions; in many cases there has been no support for the rebuilding of homes and livelihoods in areas of return, and where IDPs have sought to integrate locally or resettle in another part of the country, material support has been scarce. Apart from addressing the root causes of communal violence, comprehensive compensation and restitution mechanisms and reconstruction efforts in areas of return are needed. These would depend on clearer mandates, greater institutional support to IDP focal points, better and more efficient funding, and greater staff capacity.

The UN in Nigeria has focused on development rather than humanitarian issues, where it feels there is more to be gained in tackling the recurrent conflicts. Coordination between humanitarian agencies at all levels has been inconsistent.

Somalia

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	1,300,000
Percentage of total population	13%
Start of current displacement situation	2007
New displacement in 2008	300,000
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal and internationalised armed conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations
Human development index	–



In December 2006 Ethiopian forces joined those of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to defeat the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) which had taken control of much of South-Central Somalia including the capital Mogadishu. Two years later, fighting between those forces and insurgent groups has displaced 1.3 million people and left nearly half the population in need of urgent humanitarian support. Some 300,000 people were displaced in 2008 as a result of continued fighting.

IDPs in South-Central Somalia face a profound humanitarian crisis. Insurgent groups operating from IDP camps have led to TFG soldiers and their Ethiopian allies attacking and harassing IDPs. Humanitarian access is severely limited by insecurity which makes it difficult to provide food aid and other life saving assistance to IDPs. IDP camps lack basic facilities like schools, health care, and water and sanitation, leading to widespread acute malnutrition and diarrhoea. Poor shelter compromises the safety and integrity of IDP families.

The position of displaced women and girls has been extremely precarious. This has been accentuated as the armed conflict has gone hand-in-hand with strict enforcement of clan rules, and many displaced families are headed by women, the men either being casualties of war or migrating in search of work. Women are disadvantaged when it comes to property ownership and inheritance, and the risk of girls missing out on education is higher due to a bias towards the education of boys.

This situation of IDPs worsened in 2008 due to the continuing conflict, the lack of any national institutions providing services or security, and the difficulties international humanitarian agencies have had in getting support to IDPs. While some people staying in towns were able to maintain livelihoods, IDPs fleeing to rural areas generally looked to other members of their clan to provide a degree of community support. However the resilience of communities was increasingly strained by a rise in food prices, currency devaluation, and greater insecurity. In this context, IDPs from minority groups such as the Bantu, Bajuni, and the Bravanese were particularly vulnerable as they were unable to benefit from the protection of major clans.

The durable peace needed for IDPs' situations to improve may take some years to achieve. UN member states have

not shown great enthusiasm in the establishment of a widely accepted peacekeeping force to supplement the current AU mission, nor has the international community's support brought about a government acceptable to the majority of Somalis. The limited capacity of the TFG and its inability to provide security in most parts of the country has greatly undermined its credibility and compromised the delivery of aid to displaced people and the general population.

Some national NGOs have partnered UN and other international agencies in programme implementation and protection monitoring. However they have suffered not only from a lack of funds and human resources capacity, but also (in the case of human rights organisations) from attacks by both the insurgents and government forces. Their continued contribution depends firstly on greater security and space to operate, and also on continued capacity building and improved funding.

Coordination between UN and other international agencies follows the cluster approach. The UNHCR-led protection cluster has collected data remotely to analyse and disseminate information on population movements, protection concerns and coping strategies. The efforts of the WASH cluster under UNICEF coordination have also been affected by shrinking access. UNICEF reported in December 2008 that some 70 per cent of people in Somalia had no access to safe water.

The UN has been facilitating a peace-building process in Djibouti since May 2008. However, the deep division between groups and regional strategic interests still stand in the way of a durable peace.

Sudan

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	4,900,000 (including 2,700,000 in Darfur, 1,200,000 in Khartoum and northern states, 420,000 in eastern states, 356,000 in transitional areas, 187,000 in Southern Sudan)
Percentage of total population	12.4%
Start of current displacement situation	1983 (Southern Sudan); 1997 (eastern states); 2003 (Darfur)
Peak number of IDPs (and year):	2,700,000 in Darfur (2008); 4,000,000 in Southern Sudan (2004)
New displacement in 2008	315,000 (Darfur); 187,000 (Southern Sudan); 50,000 (Abyei)
Returns in 2008	350,000 (Southern Sudan)
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflicts
Human development index	147

By the end of 2008, 4.9 million people in Sudan were displaced by the numerous conflicts which had afflicted the country for over two decades; together they made up the single largest internally displaced population in the world.

Sudan has long been the scene of internal conflicts instigated by various rebel groups in response to an unequal distribution of resources and a concentration of power in Khartoum. In Southern Sudan, armed conflict broke out soon after Sudan gained independence in 1956. That conflict ended in 1972, but in 1983 civil war started again between the government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). In 2005 the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed, establishing home rule for the southern states under the Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan, and providing for a referendum on secession in 2011. However the status of some border areas was not resolved by the CPA, and outbreaks of fighting continued to displace thousands of people in these areas in 2008.

In Eastern Sudan, conflict between the army and an insurgent coalition which became known as the Eastern Front continued from 1997 to 2006; by the end of 2008 there were still up to 420,000 people displaced within a region that is among the poorest in Sudan.

Armed conflict broke out in Darfur in 2003. As with Sudan's other conflicts, the causes of the war in Darfur lay in a history of neglect by the central government, and a failure to share resources and wealth. The dynamics of the conflict have changed over time, with the rebel movement fracturing into a number of rival factions.

People displaced within Sudan by all these conflicts have sought shelter within their own region or have fled to Khartoum and other cities in Sudan's northern states. In Southern Sudan, IDPs are mostly dispersed among host communities. Many IDPs in Darfur have sought refuge in organised camps and in smaller settlements that share land and resources with nearby villages, but substantial numbers live in towns and villages among the local population. IDPs in Eastern Sudan live in camps as well as in urban and semi-urban areas, notably

in Port Sudan and Kassala. Some of the people recently displaced in the so-called Transitional Areas (Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and Abyei) are dispersed, while others are gathered in IDP settlements.

The Greater Khartoum area has continued to host an estimated 1.2 million people who fled the various conflicts. They have mostly supported themselves, both among Khartoum's urban poor and in four areas designated as "IDP camps" by the authorities. Since 2005, many southern IDPs have returned from Khartoum to the south, but some have since returned to Khartoum after failing to re-establish themselves in their places of origin. As in previous years, IDPs in Khartoum were at risk of new displacement in 2008, with the city authorities demolishing homes in the Mandela camp in November.

In 2008 the government was in the process of drafting a national IDP policy, setting out IDPs' rights during different phases of displacement and the required responses to their needs. In December, the international humanitarian community decided to adopt the cluster approach in Sudan. However, ultimately the prospect of solutions for the many displaced groups depended more on achieving sustainable peace across Sudan, and the delivery of effective development support to areas ravaged by long-term conflict.

Darfur

By far the largest displaced population in 2008 was in Darfur. The number of IDPs grew by some 315,000 during the course of the year, to 2.7 million, as attacks on civilians by the Sudan Armed Forces, allied militia groups and various rebel factions continued. The hybrid UN and African Union peacekeeping mission UNAMID took over from the beleaguered African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), but troop levels remained significantly lower than promised and security across the region continued to deteriorate. The security problems forced WFP to reduce rations for over three million people dependent on food aid, and led the UN to increase its security level in July,

leading to the withdrawal of staff and a reduction in access to displaced populations. By September, the UN could only reach 65 per cent of affected populations. NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent still working in UN “no-go” areas were facing rising levels of banditry and armed confrontation.

IDPs in Darfur faced many threats to their physical security and integrity and to their access to the basic necessities of life and other rights. In August, Sudanese government forces opened fire in Kalma camp, killing 33 civilians and wounding at least 85 people. Women and children in and around IDP camps and settlements were especially vulnerable. Rape and sexual violence continued to be systematic and widespread, while children continued to be recruited and used by all parties to the conflict. Human rights and protection monitors were frequently unable to enter areas due to widespread insecurity and to efforts by the government or armed groups to deny them access.

Some IDPs tried, without success, to prevent the 2008 census from taking place in Darfur, fearing that the results were unlikely to be representative as long as hundreds of thousands of people remained displaced, and that the census would instead legitimise the presence of people who had occupied IDPs’ homes and land. While the census went ahead, the results were yet to be released at the end of the year.

The prospects for Darfur’s IDPs remained grim in 2008. Efforts to obtain a peace agreement for Darfur remained without success, and the government continued to obstruct international relief efforts. UNAMID has hardly provided more effective protection to IDPs than the AU force which preceded it, and is unlikely to do so until the international community commits all the troops and equipment authorised by the UN Security Council.

Southern Sudan and transitional areas

The civil war led to the internal displacement of an estimated four million Southern Sudanese, while half a million fled abroad. The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) estimated that by December 2008, a total of 2.4 million IDPs and refugees had returned to their homes in Southern Sudan. However, the achievement of durable solutions by these returnees was difficult to confirm in a region where access to clean water, basic services and livelihood opportunities were still very limited, and malnutrition widespread. In many cases, members of receiving communities, many of whom had themselves been displaced at some point during the war, were just as vulnerable as the returnees, and had little capacity to help returnees to rebuild their lives. IOM has estimated that ten per cent of returns have not lasted and have led to secondary displacement. At the same time, inter-communal conflicts over land and resources caused significant new displacement in Southern Sudan in 2008.

The authorities in Southern Sudan have so far focused exclusively on return as the only durable solution, but many IDPs would prefer to integrate in the towns they fled to, or to settle in other urban areas. Local authorities, including in the southern capital Juba, demolished some IDPs’ homes, notably where IDPs had been squatting on private land or on land designated

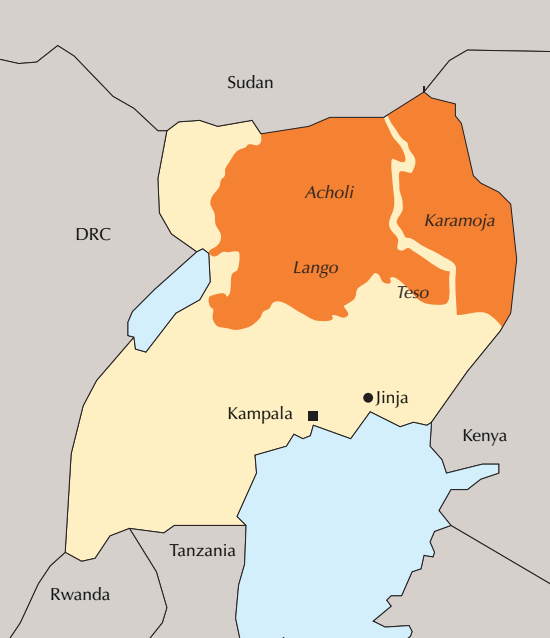


for public use. In some towns, including Yei and Nimule, wives and children of SPLA soldiers were living on land owned by people displaced by the war who now wanted to return. The local authorities tended not to get involved in these cases for fear of displeasing the SPLA.

The South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has responsibility for the situation of IDPs and returnees, but it has been hampered by a lack of resources and manpower, and has faced allegations of corruption in the distribution of food aid. The Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission could in theory play an important role in protecting the rights of IDPs, but it too is struggling with a lack of manpower and resources.

The UN mission in Southern Sudan, UNMIS, has contributed to improving the situation of IDPs and returnees through its Protection of Civilians section and the Return, Reintegration and Recovery section. However UNMIS has been criticised for not doing enough to protect civilians, and the international response which the UN leads has also faced criticism for an excess of coordination activities at the expense of actual delivery of support.

Tensions have remained high in Abyei and Southern Kordofan, two of the “transitional areas” recognised by the CPA. In May 2008, fighting between northern and southern forces in the town of Abyei, which is close to lucrative oil fields and an important oil pipeline, led to the displacement of between 50,000 and 60,000 people and the almost complete destruction of the town. By December, up to 10,000 residents had returned, but fresh fighting forced almost all of them to flee again. By the end of 2008 it was estimated that over 200,000 people remained internally displaced in Blue Nile State, and more than 100,000 in Southern Kordofan.



Uganda

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	869,000 (Northern Uganda)
Percentage of total population	2.7%
Start of current displacement situation	1988
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	1,800,000 (2005)
New displacement in 2008	0 (Northern Uganda); undetermined (Karamoja)
Returns in 2008	400,000
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict (Northern Uganda), generalised violence and human rights violations (Karamoja)
Human development index	154

Around half of the 1.8 million people originally displaced in camps in northern Uganda's Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions had returned to their home areas by the end of 2008 (with 400,000 IDPs returning in 2008 alone), two years after the government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) signed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. The conflict began in 1988, but most of the displacement dates back to 1996, when people were forced into camps under the government's "protected villages" policy, and 2002 and 2004, when military operations against the LRA caused further waves of displacement. Unknown numbers of people fled to towns and cities in other parts of Uganda.

Neighbouring Karamoja sub-region saw further displacement in 2008 due to inter-clan fighting among Karamojong pastoralists and an ongoing disarmament campaign by the army which was accompanied by human rights violations.

The sustainability of the return movements in northern Uganda is not yet guaranteed. The LRA's leader Joseph Kony repeatedly failed to show up to sign a final peace agreement, and while it carried out no attacks in northern Uganda in 2008, the LRA has continued to kill and abduct civilians in Southern Sudan, DRC and CAR from bases in DRC.

Moreover, while the situation in the IDP camps has been far from perfect, returnees face difficult circumstances in their home areas too, not least the severe lack of basic services, including access to clean water, clinics and schools. In Lira district of Lango sub-region, malnutrition and mortality rates increased from 2006 to 2007 as IDPs who had left the camps faced reduced access to food and services. Many children in the Acholi sub-region have stayed behind in the camps to continue their education, putting them at risk of abuse. There is an urgent need for infrastructure to enhance livelihood opportunities, for example by improving access to local markets.

Some returnees are facing difficulties in asserting their customary ownership of land, including widows, orphans and members of other vulnerable groups such as former child soldiers and single women with children born out of wedlock. Meanwhile, disputes between IDPs and the owners of land on which the camps were based have hampered local integration as a durable solution. The authorities have not done enough to solve these

disputes and so facilitate local integration; instead they have mainly pressed for return as the only durable solution.

A disproportionate number of the IDPs who are still in the camps are elderly, sick and disabled people, including people living with HIV/AIDS. They face serious obstacles in returning home, such as their inability to build a hut and lack of access to health care in the return areas. At the same time, the support structures in the camps are disintegrating because so many other people have returned home. While guidelines for the phasing out of camps have been adopted, at the end of 2008 the authorities had yet to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing these vulnerable people's needs.

To address the causes of the conflict, the government must develop the north to bring it up to the same levels as the rest of the country. However, the postponement of the implementation of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) for Northern Uganda until July 2009 made this prospect more distant.

The impact of Uganda's national IDP policy has so far been limited. The policy designates the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees and the District Disaster Management Committees as the national and local lead agencies for IDPs, but the government has allocated insufficient resources to these bodies. In practice the international humanitarian community has taken the lead in responding to the crisis.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) has fulfilled a valuable role in protecting IDP rights through advising the government on the national IDP policy and reporting on the implementation of the policy in its annual reports to Parliament.

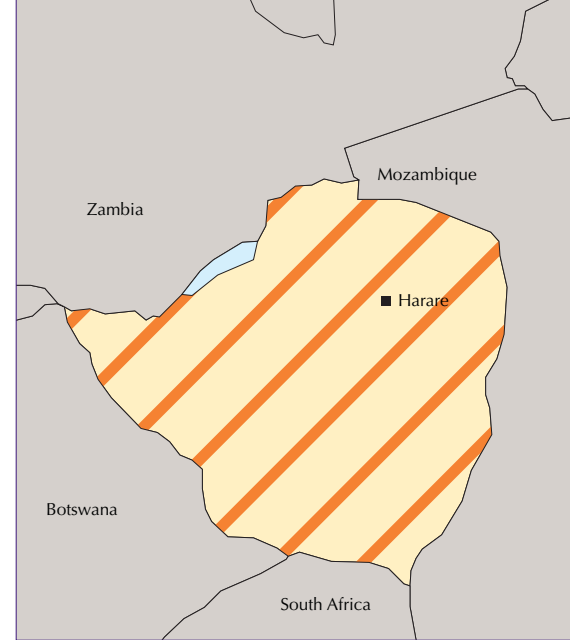
Uganda was one of the pilot countries for humanitarian reform, with the cluster approach being adopted in January 2006. UNHCR is the lead agency on protection. While the cluster approach has generally led to better coordination, humanitarian agencies and Uganda's donors have struggled to formulate an adequate strategy to manage the transition from emergency to recovery and development.

By the end of the year, the clusters were in the process of formulating phase-out strategies, and OCHA was planning to end its presence in northern Uganda by September 2009.

Zimbabwe

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	570,000–1,000,000
Percentage of total population	4.2%–7.4%
Start of current displacement situation	2000 (fast-track land reform programme); 2005 (Operation Murambatsvina); 2006 (Operation Chikoro-koza Chaperera); 2008 (political violence)
New displacement in 2008	36,000
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Generalised violence (2008 political displacement), human rights violations (all other displacement)
Human development index	151



It is impossible to say with confidence how many Zimbabweans are internally displaced. UNDP estimated that a million farm workers and their families lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the fast-track land reform programme which started in 2000 and which led to the almost complete collapse of the commercial farming sector in Zimbabwe. The UN estimated that 570,000 people were made homeless by the urban demolitions of Operation Murambatsvina (“clear the filth”) in 2005, while the government destroyed the homes of thousands of informal mine workers in Operation Chikorokoza Chaperera (“stop the gold panning”) in late 2006 and early 2007. Estimates of the number of people displaced by the 2008 electoral violence range between 36,000 and 200,000. To complicate matters, a substantial proportion of the displaced have been displaced multiple times by successive operations. Thus many displaced farm workers who went to the towns and cities or to mining areas were later caught up in Operation Murambatsvina or Operation Chikorokoza Chaperera. Moreover, some people who were internally displaced have since joined the estimated three to four million Zimbabweans who have left the country altogether.

The ZANU-PF government led by President Mugabe refused to acknowledge that its policies and actions had led to internal displacement. Indeed it objected to the use of the phrase “internally displaced people” with reference to displaced Zimbabweans, and agencies used the phrase “mobile and vulnerable populations” instead. As a result, it has been impossible for comprehensive surveys of IDPs in Zimbabwe to be conducted. However, the 2007 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment conducted by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) found that about eight per cent of respondents had been involuntarily displaced in the past five years. Based on recent population estimates for Zimbabwe of between 11 and 12 million people, this would indicate a total number of IDPs in Zimbabwe of between 880,000 and 960,000 people.

Political violence in the run-up to the second round of the presidential elections in June 2008 led to the displacement of tens of thousands as the homes of suspected opposition supporters were burned down and people were

threatened, attacked and forced to flee the constituencies in which they were registered to vote. By the end of the year most of these displaced people had returned home, but some continued to fear for their safety because of ongoing political violence. Further farm invasions connected to the political violence led to new displacement of both farmers and farm workers during the year. Meanwhile a ban on humanitarian operations between June and August 2008 made it impossible for agencies to reach beneficiaries including displaced people.

Lack of access to adequate shelter, food, clean water and medical services are all serious concerns for IDPs, as are access to education and livelihoods. However, with the rapidly deteriorating economic situation in Zimbabwe which has brought the country to the brink of a humanitarian emergency, many non-displaced people are faced with similar problems. Estimates put the unemployment rate at the end of 2008 at 94 per cent, and Zimbabwe’s health and education systems had all but collapsed.

Although almost the entire population could thus be considered as vulnerable, IDPs are likely to find it much harder to rebuild their lives following political changes and to make use of new opportunities brought by an improvement in Zimbabwe’s general economic situation. Displaced people, and particularly those people who have been displaced more than once, start from a much lower base than non-displaced people. At the same time, tens of thousands of former farm workers and their families who have nowhere else to go are currently stuck on commercial farms that no longer operate due to the fast-track land reform programme; they continue to be at risk of displacement by whoever claims ownership of the land.

UN agencies and international NGOs have struggled to respond to the needs of IDPs, in part because of obstruction by the authorities and in part because of a lack of clear arrangements for leadership on IDP protection. Durable solutions for Zimbabwe’s displaced people will depend on effective urban planning and the adoption of new building regulations for towns and cities, as well as a new programme for the distribution of farm land.

Rwanda

In 1998 and 1999 around 650,000 people, most of them Hutus, were displaced into makeshift camps in the north-western prefectures of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi, when an insurgency there was put down by the Tutsi-dominated government. In 2000, the UN considered that “governmental and international efforts to stabilise the situation through durable solutions have advanced beyond the threshold of what still could be called internal displacement”. These efforts consisted largely of the implementation of the 1996 “villagisation” policy to relocate all Rwandans from scattered homesteads into new villages.

However, difficult conditions in the villages subsequently called into question whether the resettled IDPs had really achieved durable solutions. IDMC observed in 2005 that many of them still lived in inadequate conditions.

In late 2008, the return of refugees from DRC created new reintegration challenges and the risk of their renewed displacement in Burundi. In eastern DRC, joint operations from November between the governments of the two countries weakened the Rwandan Hutu rebels of the Democra-

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1997
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	650,000 (1999)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal and internationalised armed conflict, generalised violence
Human development index	165

tic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) and presented a new chance for thousands of refugees to return to Rwanda.

Some refugees had been prevented from returning home by the FDLR, but they had also been reluctant to return because did not trust the Rwandan Gacaca courts and did not think they would be able to reintegrate. The prospects of returnees and those resettled depends on continuing reconciliation and the equitable distribution and management of scarce land.

Despite ongoing ethnic mistrust and regional instability, their prospects appear fair. The Rwandan government encourages returns and considers returnees as a vulnerable group, at least in the context of economic development.

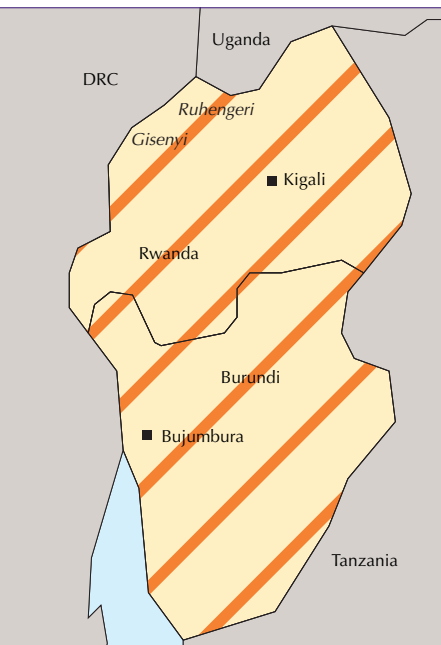
Burundi

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	100,000
Percentage of total population	1.1%
Start of current displacement situation	1993
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	800,000 (1999)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, human rights violations
Human development index	172

on land belonging to someone else) risk being evicted. Single female heads of households especially struggle to raise their family and ensure the basic necessities of life in IDP sites.

The international agencies in Burundi adopted the cluster approach in October 2008, with UNHCR taking the lead protection role. UNHCR has funded and guided the Project of Support for Repatriation and reinsertion of War Affected Persons (PARES!), a government agency providing basic housing and infrastructure for returning refugees and IDPs. Since 2006, the UN Peace Building Commission has also worked with the government to support post-conflict recovery, including for IDPs, but it has had no measurable impact on their lives.



Most of the 100,000 people who remain in IDP sites across the country were displaced in the 1990s and early 2000s by ethnic violence and

fighting between the army and rebel groups. The sites are being gradually transformed into villages and local authorities are often reluctant to consider the inhabitants displaced.

In April 2008, the shaky ceasefire between the government and the Party for the Liberation of Hutu People National Forces for Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) broke, and Palipehutu-FNL attacks in and around Bujumbura killed more than 30 people and caused the temporary displacement of several thousand. In addition, an unknown number of people returned or were expelled from Tanzania, where they had fled from conflict in 1972, and they were housed in temporary accommodation centres as their homes had been occupied.

Most IDPs are struggling to support themselves, and many of their difficulties are shared by the rest of the population in one of the ten least-developed countries in the world. In this context women and children’s enjoyment of rights is often at risk, and sexual violence remains widespread. IDPs have additional problems: those without valid property documents (such as those living in IDP sites with unclear legal status or built

Algeria

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1992
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	1,500,000 (2002)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	1,400 reported
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict
Human development index	100

An unknown number of people – estimates range between 500,000 and 1.5 million – have been displaced in Algeria since 1992 due to ongoing conflict between insurgent Islamist groups and the government. In particular, large-scale massacres of civilians between 1996 and 1998 by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) forced many Algerians to flee affected areas. Security has improved considerably during recent years, but Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) emerged in 2007 with attacks against Western targets and the Algerian security forces. In 2008 low-level armed conflict continued but there were no reports of new displacement.

Because of limited access to displacement-affected areas, no reliable figures are available. The newspaper El Watan suggested there were 500,000 IDPs in 2004; since then there has been no

official reference to internal displacement. The Government considers that practically all IDPs have returned.

In partnership with international development agencies, the government committed to build some 475,000 new homes between 2005 and 2009 to facilitate the durable return of both economic migrants and IDPs to rural areas affected by the conflict. In 2008, infrastructural rehabilitation allowed for the return of some 240 families to the commune of Sidi Moussa.

There have been no reports of projects to promote local integration or resettlement to another area of the country, and a number of obstacles remain in the way of durable return. AQIM is still active, especially in the provinces of Boumerdés, Tizi-Ouzou, Bejaïa, Batna, Khenchela and in the regions of Aurés and Jijel. The north of the country is contaminated by an unknown number of home-made explosives laid by insurgents and by some 15,000 antipersonnel mines laid by the Algerian army. Finally, notwithstanding reconstruction programmes, people have been discouraged from returning to their home villages with no safe drinking water, poor general infrastructure and a lack of health facilities. Durable solutions are unlikely while the armed conflict and the state of emergency (in place since 1992) continue.



Eritrea

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1998
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	1,100,000 (2000)
New displacement in 2008	0
Returns in 2008	20,000–30,000
Causes of displacement	International armed conflict
Human development index	164

Massive displacement was witnessed in May 1998 as a result of border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Out of a population of 3.8 million Eritreans, over a million people were uprooted from their homes in the regions of Gash Barka and Debub.

Following a ceasefire in 2000 most of the people displaced returned to their home areas. In March 2001, 4,200 UN peacekeeping troops were deployed under the auspices of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to monitor the ceasefire, and in April 2002 an independent Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC) announced a virtual demarcation of the border which placed Badme in Eritrea. This decision was contested by the Ethiopian government, and no progress was made towards the implementation of the decision.

UN sources have reported that by March 2008, all IDPs had either returned or been resettled in new villages, though it was acknowledged that some might still be living with hosts.

The government in 2005 instituted a new policy which promoted self-reliance and discouraged international involvement, and the number of NGOs operating in the country fell sharply. UNDP did manage to engage the government in assisting with return and resettlement in areas of development, and remains as the lead UN agency on the reintegration of IDPs. However, the uneasy relationship between the government and UN and other international agencies has undermined efforts to find durable solutions for IDPs.

Concerns have been voiced about the viability of the returns, in particular because limited access to infrastructure, and livelihoods have threatened their sustainability. In 2007, UNICEF called for the urgent delivery of emergency items and basic social services for some 10,000 returnees.

For sustainable peace to be achieved, both Eritrea and Ethiopia need to have constructive dialogue and honour the binding decision of the Boundary Commission.



Senegal

Senegal's Casamance region, to the south of Gambia, has witnessed protracted low-intensity conflict since 1982 between government forces and the separatist Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC). A 2004 peace agreement was rejected by an MFDC faction, and occasional armed skirmishes, violent attacks and political killings continued into 2008, leaving an unknown number of people still displaced across Casamance. Current estimates range between 10,000 and 70,000 IDPs.

The extent to which those who were displaced merit a specific response is not clear, as the conflict has generated different types of vulnerable groups, including people remaining in conflict areas. IDPs were being supported by family members or host communities while commuting in some cases to their home areas by day, to tend their orchards and engage in those agricultural activities that did not require their constant presence. Long-standing land disputes and population movements have generally complicated their efforts to access compensation for lost property or assert their land rights.

According to the evidence available, most IDP returns have been spontaneous and unassisted, to insecure com-

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	10,000–70,000
Percentage of total population	0.1%–0.6%
Start of current displacement situation	1982
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict
Human development index	153

munities without basic infrastructure. In some cases in 2008, armed men attacked IDPs to prevent them from returning. Because of landmines planted by the MFDC, freedom of movement has generally remained limited. Gender-based violence is believed to be widespread, but has tended to go unreported.

Senegal has no IDP-mandated bodies but regional development plans have targeted IDPs among others. Because of the lack of access, international organisations have outsourced most programme implementation to local NGOs. The ICRC resumed as the only international body present in conflict areas in April 2008, after a fatal mine accident in 2006.

For the situation to improve, recovery and reintegration efforts should be undertaken regardless of the final resolution of the conflict, based on a clear profile of the IDP population.



The internal displacement of up to 500,000 people in Liberia was caused by the 14-year civil war that ended in 2003 with the Accra Peace Agree-

ment. IDP camps were officially closed in 2006 and the return of IDPs and refugees was completed in mid-2007. However, later that year, UNHCR and NGOs found some 23,000 people remaining in and around former IDP camps, of whom 16,000 had received a return package but had not managed to restart their lives in return areas. In addition, an undetermined number of people who had found refuge in public buildings in the capital Monrovia were left out of the registration process, and were still displaced there at the end of 2008. Small-scale displacements due to land-related conflicts were reported in 2008.

Liberia is facing extraordinary reconstruction challenges and many of the vulnerabilities shown by the remaining IDPs and returnees are shared by the rest of the population. As evidenced by the return of some IDPs to their former camps, there is a severe lack of basic services and infrastructure in areas of return. There is also continuing insecurity, with clashes between rival ethnic groups over land ownership becoming increasingly frequent. Durable solutions will depend on better services and infrastructure and the peaceful resolution of land conflicts, and

Liberia

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1989
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	500,000 (2003)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflicts, generalised violence
Human development index	176

improved security of tenure for those who exercised their right to local integration or settlement in another part of the country.

The Guiding Principles were adopted into national legislation in 2004 but there is still room for better governance and wider access to justice to guarantee durable solutions, while the remaining IDPs are yet to have their needs assessed. The introduction in 2006 of the cluster approach, and the creation of an Inter-Agency Standing Committee country team including non-UN organisations, appear to have addressed some of the initial coordination problems. The current challenge is, however, to implement the cluster's phase-out strategy effectively, to enable the transition to recovery and development without leaving unsustainable gaps in assistance.

Republic of Congo

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Up to 7,800
Percentage of total population	Up to 0.2%
Start of current displacement situation	1992
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	800,000 (1998)
New displacement in 2008	0
Returns in 2008	0
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict
Human development index	130

Up to 800,000 people were displaced during the 1990s by conflict in the Pool region around Brazzaville, between government forces and rebels originating from among the Lari people. Fighting flared up again in 2002 but transformation of the rebel group into a political party gave hope by 2007 of an end to the violence. By 2006, according to a government estimate, only 7,800 people remained displaced in Pool. Since then no new assessments of the number of IDPs have been conducted, but the UN estimated in 2008 that the number had decreased considerably, and reported that there were no more IDPs in its last Displaced Populations Report of December 2008.

However, IDPs have long been hard to identify as most sought refuge with families and host communities, often in the

Angola

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1975 (Angola proper); 1975, 2002 (Cabinda)
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	4,100,000 (2001)
New displacement in 2008	0
Returns in 2008	0
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflicts, human rights violations
Human development index	157

According to the government and most international observers, internal displacement in Angola proper (excluding the exclave of Cabinda) has come to an end. At the height of the civil wars which raged from 1975 and 2002 between the governing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), over four million people were displaced, but since 2005 displacement and return have no longer been monitored.

However, not all IDPs found truly durable solutions to their situation. Many settled in the towns and cities they had originally fled to, hoping to build livelihoods there, and so many

Bacongo and Makelekélé neighbourhoods of the capital Brazzaville. Sites in which IDPs received assistance from humanitarian organisations, in Brazzaville or elsewhere, were closed by the government following a small-scale return exercise.

In 2008 any remaining IDPs and returnees continued to share considerable hardship with other residents of Pool. For example, due to extreme poverty and the government's incapacity to deliver basic services, less than half of the population had access to clean water. According to Médecins Sans Frontières in 2007, the medical needs of the region were still indicative of a chronic crisis. While the situation is no longer considered as a humanitarian emergency, two million dollars were nonetheless disbursed to UN agencies in 2008 by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), to assist returnees and local communities, as well as 50,000 refugees from DRC. The funds were used to provide health care services including emergency obstetrics, agriculture and food security support, and nutrition, water and sanitation projects.



of the urban poor are former IDPs living on land that is not theirs. Over the past six years they have frequently experienced forced evictions.

Angola's reconstruction has progressed slowly, but in the rural areas most affected by the war and resulting displacement, the enduring inadequacy of infrastructure and social services have made it very difficult for returnees and others to access health care, livelihoods and education. In an often forced and hasty return and reintegration process, many IDPs returned to villages with conditions well below the standards outlined in the government's "Norms for the Resettlement of the Internally Displaced".

The latest information on IDPs in Cabinda, the small, oil-rich exclave to Angola's north, dates from the end of 2005, when 19,500 people were unable or unwilling to return home because of a low-intensity separatist conflict between government forces and the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave in Cabinda (FLEC). Despite a 2006 peace agreement, serious human rights violations have since been carried out by both sides.