

# INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT UPDATE

Issue 20: 15 – 28 June 2017



*Any boundaries, names or other designations shown on the above map do not imply IDMC's official endorsement or acceptance of them.*

## FEATURE

### Syria

	<b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Raqqa governorate
	<b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
	<b>FIGURES</b>	As many as 14,000 new conflict displacements between 5 and 22 June; as many as 443,000 returns between January and 30 June; about 31,000 cross border returns from Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt between January and May

## CONTEXT

As many as 14,000 people were newly displaced in and from Raqqa governorate between 5 and 22 June due to heavy fighting between the Syrian Democratic Forces and the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) ([OCHA, 26 June 2017](#); [OCHA, 10 June 2017](#)). This brings the total new and secondary displacements in Raqqa to about 109,000 between 1 May and 26 June. Most were displaced to locations within the governorate, although about 15,000 people fled to Aleppo, 2,700 to Idleb and 1,600 to Deir ez-Zor. Those fleeing the fighting in Raqqa city continue to face a number of protection risks, including punitive measures put in place by ISIL, threats posed by landmines and other weapon contamination, family separation, forced recruitment at checkpoints, as well as the removal of identification and restricted movement upon entering displacement camps. Between 50,000 and 100,000 people remain in Raqqa city; however, more displacements are expected as hostilities move closer towards the city centre ([OCHA, 26 June 2017](#)).

As many as 443,000 internally displaced people returned to their places of origin across Syria between January and 30 June 2017. In addition, about 31,000 Syrian refugees returned to Syria from January to May 2017, including about 20,000 who crossed the border from Turkey, 7,100 from Lebanon, 1,800 from Iraq, 1,500 from Jordan and 290 from Egypt. The situation remains volatile and UNHCR holds that conditions do not exist in the country for a safe and dignified return. Despite this, Syrians are choosing to return to the country to seek out family members and check on property. Hardships faced by Syrian refugees in host countries, such as limited job opportunities, prohibitive costs of living and expensive medical care, are among other push factors driving returns (UNHCR, 30 June 2017).

## EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

### China

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Anhui, Chongqing, Fujian, Hubei, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunnan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang provinces
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Disaster
 <b>FIGURES</b>	As many as 692,000 new disaster displacements between 12 and 27 June

#### **CONTEXT**

More than 660,000 people were evacuated in the southern provinces of Anhui, Chongqing, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunnan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan and Zhejiang between 22 and 27 June because of heavy rainfall, floods and landslides that began on 22 June (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 26 June 2017; 27 June 2017). This includes more than 400 people who were evacuated from a Maoxian village in Sichuan Province between 24 and 25 June following a landslide that hit the village killing 141 people on 24 June (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 26 June 2017; Hindustan Times, 24 June 2017).

As many as 16,000 people were evacuated from Fujian, Guangdong and Jiangxi provinces between 12 and 15 June after Typhoon Merbok made landfall on 12 June (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 15 June 2017).

About 7,400 people were evacuated from Fujian and Guangdong provinces between 15 and 19 June because of heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 19 June 2017).

More than 900 people were evacuated from Chongqing, Guangxi and Guizhou provinces between 13 and 16 June following flooding (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 16 June 2017).

More than 400 people were evacuated from Hubei Province between 12 and 15 June because of heavy rain and flooding (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 15 June 2017).

About 600 people were evacuated from Yichang city, Hubei province between 16 and 18 June because of earthquakes on 16 and 18 June (Ministry of Civil Affairs, 19 June 2017).

More than 7,000 people were evacuated from Aba in Tibetan and Qiang autonomous prefecture, Sichuan Province, between 11 and 19 June because of heavy and consistent rains (Xinhua News, 20 June 2017).

### Philippines

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao (Autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao), Negros Occidental (Negros region)
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict, Disaster
 <b>FIGURES</b>	As many as 47,000 new conflict displacements between 14 and 27 June; as many as 1,200 new disaster displacements between 14 and 21 June

#### **CONTEXT**

As many as 47,000 people were displaced by armed conflict in Marawi city in Lanao del Sur province between 14 and 27 June, as the Armed Forces of the Philippines clashed with Maute insurgents and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, who have pledged allegiance with ISIL. This brings the total conflict displacements between 23 May and 27 June from the armed conflict in Marawi City to about 383,000 people (DROMIC, 27 June 2017).

About 1,000 people were displaced by flooding between 14 and 21 June in the province of Maguindanao, ARMM, bringing the total flood displacements to 321,000 between 5 May and 21 June (DROMIC, 21 June 2017).

About 240 people were displaced following a tornado and strong winds in Negros Occidental province in the region of Negros between 15 and 21 June (DROMIC, 21 June 2017).

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

### Portugal

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Centro region
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Disaster
 <b>FIGURES</b>	As many as 500 new disaster displacements between 17 and 21 June

#### **CONTEXT**

As many as 500 people were displaced in Pedrógão Grande, Leiria district, and Gois, Coimbra district in Centro region, to camps set up by the army between 17 and 21 June because of raging forest fires (IFRC, 21 June 2017; Reuters, 19 June 2017; Publico, 20 June 2017).

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

### Iraq

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Nineveh governorate
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
 <b>FIGURES</b>	About 36,000 new conflict displacements between 1 and 21 June; about 57,000 returns to Mosul between 1 and 26 June

#### **CONTEXT**

About 36,000 people fled conflict in Mosul and surrounding districts between 1 and 21 June ([UNHCR, 15 June 2017](#); [UNHCR, 22 June 2017](#); [IOM live dashboard, 28 June 2017](#)).

As many as 57,000 people returned to Mosul between 1 and 26 June 2017 ([IOM live dashboard, 28 June 2017](#)). Recent returns come as the city council tightens mobility restrictions, announcing on 20 June that displaced families of suspected members of extremist groups will not be allowed to enter the city. In addition, those that have been living in Mosul since June 2014, when the city came under the control of extremist groups, will be expected to return to their places of origin unless their homes have been destroyed. The announcement echoes recent evictions and eviction threats to families in Nineveh governorate ([UNHCR, 22 June 2017](#)).

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Faryab, Ghazni, Herat, Jawzjan, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Uruzgan provinces
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
 <b>FIGURES</b>	More than 12,000 new conflict displacements between 19 and 25 June; about 4,600 cross border returns from Iran and about 670 from Pakistan between 11 and 17 June

#### **CONTEXT**

More than 12,000 people were newly displaced by conflict between 19 and 25 June in central, northern, north-eastern and eastern parts of Afghanistan. Of those displaced, about 7,000 people fled violence within Faryab province; more than 2,100 people fled within and to Ghazni province, some from Uruzgan province; about 3,000 people fled heavy fighting in Darzab district, Jawzjan province; and about 200 people were displaced within Jalalabad City, Nangarhar province, and Mehtarlam in Laghman province.

About 4,600 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran to Afghanistan between 11 and 17 June, crossing into Herat and Nimroz provinces. Of these, over 2,800 were deported.

About 670 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan between 11 and 17 June, crossing the border into Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces ([IOM, 17 June 2017](#)).

Countrywide, about 138,000 people fled their homes due to conflict between January and 25 June. The northern and north-eastern regions of the country were most affected, accounting for 44 per cent of the total displacements this year ([OCHA, 25 June 2017](#)).

### India

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	West Bengal State
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
 <b>FIGURES</b>	As many as 7,000 new conflict displacements between 23 and 24 June

#### **CONTEXT**

As many as 7,000 boarding school students were evacuated between 23 and 24 June from Darjeeling, West Bengal, amid violent escalations around protests demanding a separate Gorkhaland state led by the Gorkhas people ([CNN, 23 June 2017](#); [One India, 23 June 2017](#); [India, 25 June 2017](#)).

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### Ethiopia

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Afar, Gambella, Oromia, Somali
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict, Disaster
 <b>FIGURES</b>	About 2,400 new disaster displacements between 18 May and 16 June; more than 211,000 conflict displacements and about 225,000 disaster displacements between January and mid-June 2017

#### **CONTEXT**

About 2,400 people were displaced in Gambella town between 18 May and 16 June following heavy rains and flash floods ([UNICEF, 20 June 2017](#); [OCHA, 16 June 2017](#)).

More than 211,000 people displaced by conflict between January and mid-June 2017 remain displaced as of 23 June, the large majority in Oromia region (IOM DTM Round 5 received via email on 23 June).

As many as 225,000 people displaced by drought between January and mid-June 2017 remain displaced as of 23 June, most in the eastern Somali region (IOM DTM Round 5 received via email, 23 June 2017). Insufficient rains in the region mean that access to water and adequate pastures are expected to remain limited until the next rains in October 2017 ([UNICEF, 20 June 2017](#)).

## Nigeria

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Borno state
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
 <b>FIGURES</b>	About 1,700 cross border returns from Cameroon between 17 and 27 June

### CONTEXT

About 1,700 people returned to Nigeria from Cameroon between 17 and 27 June arriving in Banki town, Borno state. Of the new returns from Cameroon, more than 800 people came from Minawao refugee camp on 17 June and about 890 people from Kolofata on 27 June.

This brings the total number of cross border returns from Cameroon to Nigeria to more than 13,000 since mid-April. This population influx has strained already limited resources and congested IDP sites. To alleviate overcrowding, Borno state officials and relief agencies are establishing a new IDP site in Bama, and considering an additional site in Gwoza ([USAID, 23 June 2017](#); [IOM ETT, 19 June 2017](#)).

## Republic of the Congo

 <b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Bouenza, Brazzaville, Pool departments
 <b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
 <b>FIGURES</b>	More than 51,000 newly displaced by conflict between April and May 2017

### CONTEXT

More than 51,000 people were newly displaced by conflict from Pool department between April and May 2017. This spike brings the total number of new displacements to 81,000 since June 2016. About 24,400 people remained displaced in Pool department as at 23 June, while about 29,000 had fled to Bouenza and 28,000 to Brazzaville ([UN Country Team, 17 June 2017](#); [UN Country Team, WFP, Government, 23 June 2017](#)). Aerial bombardments have reined on Pool department for over a year, since the government launched a military operation against an alleged resurgent rebellion by the Ninja militia led by Frédéric Bintsamou (also known as Pastor Ntumi). Both sides accuse the other of being responsible for the recent upsurge in violence. Malnutrition and food insecurity levels are high, with displaced people largely beyond the reach of aid workers. Journalists and human rights organisations are equally impeded from accessing the area ([UN Country Team, WFP, Government, 23 June, 2017](#); [Deutsche Welle, 23 June 2017](#); [TRT, 24 June 2017](#)).

## DISCLAIMER

*The terminology, names and designations used in this update and the material in links do not imply any opinion on the part of IDMC. Displacement figures reported here are indicative only and have been rounded to the nearest 10 (if the figure is less than 999), 100 (if the figure is less than 10,000) or 1,000 (if the figure is 10,000 or larger). The IDU gives priority to displacement flows that occurred or were reported in stated period. However, due to reliance on third party sources, certain entries may include information that refers to an earlier reporting period. For the purposes of this update, refugee and IDP returns do not imply the achievement of a durable solution. For IDMC-validated and peer-reviewed figures, read our [Global Report on Internal Displacement](#).*

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