

Nigeria: Figures analysis

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016: 1,955,000

New displacements associated with conflict in 2016: 501,000

Notes and caveats

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016

We estimate that there were 1,955,000 people displaced by conflict in Nigeria as of the end of 2016. There were nearly 1,770,000 in the north-east of the country, the region worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, and 185,000 in the Middle Belt states. Nigeria is affected by Boko Haram and the crises in the Lake Chad basin, including the Central African Republic (CAR). It also suffers from intercommunal violence and high levels of criminal violence.

Primary source: IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

Geographical and temporal coverage: DTM covers the six north-eastern states worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and other violence. Borno, the furthest north-east, has been by far the hardest hit. IOM estimates that 92 per cent of IDPs in the north-east of the country are located in just three states: Adawame, Borno and Yobe. DTM reports separately on the Middle Belt states of Benue, the Federal Capital Territory, Kaduna, Kano, Nasarawa, Plateau and Zamfara.

Description of source's methodology: DTM data is published every couple of months and includes disaggregated information on age and gender, and the year of first displacement going back to 2013. IOM collects data via registration and key informants.

The consortium of agencies monitoring and tracking population movements in Nigeria began producing more frequent updates at the beginning of 2017. Its emergency tracking tool (ETT) generally covers a week at a time.

There are differences in the figures produced by DTM and ETT. Rather than reflecting trends in population movements, it is thought these may be more the result of different geographical coverage. That said, there has been an observable downward trend thought to be the result of higher return rates.

New displacements associated with conflict in 2016

IOM's DTM reports are also the source for our estimate of new displacements in 2016. We estimated the percentage of displacement reported caused by conflict and violence to remove that triggered by disasters. By doing so we arrived at a figure of 496,000 new displacements for the six north-eastern states and at least 5,000 for the Middle Belt states.