

Sudan: Figures analysis

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016: Around 3.3 million

New displacements associated with conflict in 2016: Between 97,000 and 197,000

Notes and caveats

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016

We estimate that there were around 3.3 million people displaced by conflict in Sudan as of the end of 2016. The figure includes around 1.98 million IDPs living in and outside of camps in Darfur, around 230,000 in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, and others elsewhere in the country.

The presence and activities of armed groups severely impedes access to, and coverage of many areas. The groups have not only prevented humanitarian agencies from helping vulnerable populations. They have also attacked, kidnapped and killed aid workers.

The increase in our estimate compared with last year is attributable in large part to conflict in the Jebel Marra area, at the intersection of North, Central and South Darfur. Significant numbers of people have also fled the area into neighbouring countries, mainly Chad Ethiopia, South Sudan and via the latter into Uganda and Kenya.

Primary source: OCHA

Geographical and temporal coverage: The main displacement hotspots are Darfur and South Kordofan. The presence and activities of armed groups severely impedes access to, and coverage of other areas.

Description of source's methodology: OCHA compiles its estimates based on information it collects directly and that provided by other agencies, particularly IOM via its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), UNHCR, WFP based on the distribution of food and non-food items, and other local, national and international organisations.

OCHA estimated that there were 3,218,000 IDPs in Sudan during a 2016 mid-year overview, to which 97,481 verified new displacements were added to arrive at its end-of-year figure.

IOM's DTM provides only very partial figures through its assessments of individuals in displacement sites or on the move, primarily in South Kordofan and Darfur. It only accounts for around 235,000 IDPs.

OCHA's use of data from agencies that distribute food and non-food items raises the possibility that vulnerable people who are not IDPs are included in its estimates.

New displacements associated with conflict in 2016

We estimate that there were between 97,00 and 197,000 new displacements in Sudan during the year. We quote this range because OCHA's figures include 99,435 unverified displacements.

The actual number of new displacements is thought to be much higher, but the lack of access to large parts of the country means more comprehensive and reliable data was not available. Many cases of displacement go unreported for weeks or months if they are reported at all, because those affected go into hiding or cross borders before requesting assistance.

Primary source: OCHA, with input from partners including IOM, UNHCR, WFP and other agencies that distribute food and non-food items