

More than 12 million internally displaced people in Africa, says new report from IDMC

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[The Africa Report on Internal Displacement](#), launched in Addis Ababa today, finds that in 2015 alone, 3.5 million people were newly displaced by conflict, violence and rapid-onset disasters in Africa. This is an average of more than 9,500 people per day uprooted from their homes. At the end of 2015, a total of 12.4 million people were living in ongoing displacement in 21 African countries as a result of conflict and violence. Each of these numbers represents a personal tragedy and presents a challenge for local, national and international responders.

Preliminary figures for the first half of 2016 suggest that this year will be no better. In future, climate change will only exacerbate this trend, with recurrent floods, drought, rising temperatures and environmental degradation amplifying people's exposure and vulnerability.

"The figure of 12.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) is more than double Africa's 5.4 million refugee population across the continent, and is a reminder of the protracted nature of many conflicts in Africa. But it still underestimates the full scale of Africa's internal displacement crisis because data over time is not available for the millions more who become trapped in displacement as a result of disasters and development projects," said Alexandra Bilak, Director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

Moreover, these figures do not account for those displaced by slow-onset hazards, such as the recent and ongoing droughts that have had devastating impacts and caused untold displacement in places like Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique.

"These blind spots in our understanding of internal displacement hamper efforts to provide effective protection and assistance to those displaced, let alone to prevent it from happening in the first place" said Bilak.

African Union Special Rapporteur on refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and IDPs Maya Sahli Fadel said, "Monitoring internal displacement has improved in recent decades, but there are still too many gaps in our knowledge. For two of the key drivers of displacement in Africa, drought and development projects, we lack even the most basic information".

"This report offers a timely reminder of the scale and complexity of internal displacement as we mark the anniversary of the entry into force of the Kampala convention, Africa's landmark commitment to preventing internal displacement and protecting the rights of IDPs," concluded Sahli Fadel.

The Africa Report on Internal Displacement is the first report to bring together comprehensive data and analysis on internal displacement across the continent. Launched with support from the African Union and the NRC Pan-Africa Representation office in Addis Ababa the report also examines some of the root causes of broader displacement and migration patterns within and outside of Africa. In publishing this report, IDMC, the global monitor on internal displacement, commits to providing tools and expertise that can help national, regional and international policy-makers plan for and find lasting solutions to displacement.

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The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (<http://www.internal-displacement.org>) was established by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 1998. Monitoring internal displacement caused by conflict, violence, human rights violations and natural disasters worldwide, IDMC is widely respected as the leading source of information and analysis on internal displacement throughout the world.

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