

## BURKINA FASO

### Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

#### CONTEXT

Armed Islamist groups have dramatically increased their presence in Burkina Faso since 2016, creating an environment of insecurity throughout the country. In response, Burkinabé security forces conducted counterterrorism operations in 2017 and 2018 that resulted in numerous allegations of extrajudicial killings, abuse of suspects in custody, arbitrary arrests, as well as forced displacement.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 42,000 new displacements were reported in 2018, nearly 10 times more than were reported in 2017. The most affected region remained Sahel, located in the north of the country and bordering Mali.

Some 166 armed attacks have been recorded between January and October, about 100 of which occurred in the Sahel region. As a result, 396 schools were consequently forced to close, depriving or interrupting the education of approximately 3,300 children.<sup>2</sup>

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
42,000	47,000	No data available	No data available
(Year figure was last updated: 2018)			

*This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.*

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.*

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.*

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.*

#### NEW DISPLACEMENTS

*This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.*

##### Sources and methodologies

IDMC based its estimate on data from OCHA, which covered the whole of 2018. It includes data collected by several partners including the Belgian Red Cross, Burkina Faso Red Cross, *Conseil national de secours d'urgence et de réhabilitation* (CONASUR), the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and UNICEF. The methodologies of the

various partners are unknown, but they reportedly include ad hoc assessments and assistance planning and delivery.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The total number of IDPs published by IDMC at the end of 2017 (4,900) was considered to be an underestimate, as it included only people who were registered as IDPs in Soum and Loroum, and it did not account for approximately 20,000 people who were reportedly displaced but not registered. This was due to access issues and because IDPs were afraid to identify themselves as they feared retaliation from armed actors. It is likely, as a result, that some of the new displacements which IDMC included in this year's new displacements figure reflect displacements that occurred in 2017 but were not officially recorded until 2018.

Furthermore, OCHA's partners' methodologies remain unclear. Most of the data is published as reported and not verified further, therefore decreasing confidence in the figure's reliability.

The figure IDMC published was obtained through a calculation recommended by OCHA, and it is about 7,000 higher than the figure published by OCHA itself. The reason why OCHA published a lower figure is unclear. It could, for example, reflect an attempt by OCHA to subtract displacements that occurred in 2017.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

The new displacements figure reflects the difference between the total number of IDPs at the end of 2017 and the total number of IDPs at the end of 2018.

### **Significant changes from last year**

The figure is almost ten times higher than at the end of 2017. The security situation in Burkina Faso, particularly in the Sahel region, deteriorated significantly during the year, which resulted in increased displacement that has continued into 2019.

## **TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS**

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.*

### **Sources and methodologies**

As for the new displacements figure, IDMC used data from OCHA, which covers the whole of 2018, although the methodologies employed by OCHA's partners and data providers remains unclear.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The methodologies of the OCHA partners remain unclear and there is a possibility that a small caseload from Mali has been included in the IDP estimate for Burkina Faso. Most of the data is published as reported and not further verified, which affects the reliability of the figure. Additionally, the figure IDMC obtained through a calculation as advised by OCHA is higher by about 7,000 than that published by OCHA. The reasons for this discrepancy were not clarified.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's figure is based on the data provided by OCHA. We consulted them in order to correctly interpret their dataset.

**Significant changes from last year**

As explained in the previous section, the total number of IDPs published by IDMC at the end of 2017 (4,900) is considered to be a significant underestimate. It referred only to people who were registered as IDPs in Soum and Loroum. The government and OCHA estimated that an additional 20,000 people were displaced in these areas during 2017 but were not registered by the end of that year. As a result, the increase in the total number of IDPs this year is likely to have been smaller than the numbers suggest: to at least some degree the increase from 2017 reflects a change in measurement and improved reporting. That said, the security situation in Burkina Faso, particularly in the Sahel region, deteriorated significantly during the year, contributing to the increase in displacement compared to that recorded in 2017.

## CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

*The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.*

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People, households	People, households
Methodology	Unknown	Unknown
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Upon request	Upon request
Disaggregation on sex	Partial	Partial
Disaggregation on age	Partial	Partial
Data triangulation	No triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Partial	Partial
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

For the full country profile on Burkina Faso please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/burkina-faso>

<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch, [“By Day We Fear the Army, By Night the Jihadists” Abuses by Armed Islamists and Security Forces in Burkina Faso](#), May 2018

<sup>2</sup> OCHA, [West and Central Africa: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot \(6– 12 November 2018\)](#), 12 November 2018