

SOMALIA

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Conflict in Somalia worsened in 2018, with increased activity by Al-Shabaab and an escalation of clashes between Al-Shabaab and Somali and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces in the south-east of the country. The estimated number of new displacements related to conflict and violence was the highest figure recorded in the last 10 years. About 150,000 new displacements were reported in Lower and Middle Shabelle region, with most people seeking refuge in informal settlements in Mogadishu.

The number of forced evictions was also the highest on record. There were approximately 256,000 forced evictions in 2018, compared to 166,000 in 2017. These were linked to widespread tenure insecurity, disputes over land ownership and the reclaiming of state property, particularly in urban areas. Evictions usually occur without notice, and often involve violence and the destruction of housing. Most of the people displaced were IDPs living in temporary housing in the Kaxda and Daynile districts of Banadir region.

Conflict also escalated in Somaliland and Puntland, particularly in the disputed areas of Sool and Sanaag regions. In May, clashes near Tukaraq in Sool triggered about 10,000 new displacements.

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
578,000	2,648,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	200 (1 January – 31 December 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 uses data collected by the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), which was established by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The PRMN is a UNHCR-led platform for identifying and reporting on displacements and returns in Somalia, as well as on protection incidents triggering such movements. On behalf of UNHCR, NRC works with 39 local partners in the field to collect data on internal displacement in Somalia.

IDMC also used NRC/UN Habitat reports on evictions. In support of the HLP Sub Cluster and the Protection Cluster, a team of paralegals deployed by NRC and leveraging local networks monitor and document eviction incidents across Somalia, mostly in urban areas, which affect a high proportion of IDPs. Each incident is verified through on-site interviews with the affected populations, including settlement leaders.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Short-term displacements and subsequent attempted returns may not always be easily identified by the PRMN due to the volatile security situation and access constraints across Somalia.

When recording the number of arrivals at given location, the PRMN does not distinguish between voluntary and forced movements and therefore some recorded movements may not qualify as internal displacement. IDMC could not obtain any information about what would constitute voluntary or forced movement, to be able to estimate the number of forced movements alone. There are also issues related to the inconsistent and diverging definitions of the causes and triggers of displacement.

IDMC figure and rationale

Due to difficulties in obtaining data on new displacements in Somalia, IDMC's calculations consist of three main components: data from the PRMN dataset from January to June 2018, which IDMC were independently analysed; data from PRMN dataset from July to December, which was already analysed by UNHCR; and data on evictions obtained from NRC which was aggregated for the whole year.

Significant changes from last year

The number of new displacements approximately doubled compared to the past year, mostly due to a spike in evictions as well as increased conflict in south-east Somalia.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

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

Sources and methodologies

The Information Management Working Group (IMWG) provided an updated figure for the number of IDPs living in sites or camp-like settings in Somalia. Site visits carried out in 2017 and early 2018 contribute 85 per cent of the IMWG figure. Data was mainly gathered through key informants (KI) and IDP community representatives (known as 'gatekeepers'). The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster conducted detailed site assessments which, in conjunction with IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), were key sources of data. Concerns about overlapping assessments between the DSA and DTM data were allayed through a method of dividing sites into grid-squares and choosing the more recent or reliable source for each square as the source of data. The other 15 per cent of the estimated figure is drawn from datasets provided by local NGOs and agency field offices, which concerned districts not covered by either CCCM or IOM.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The estimated number of IDPs is based on previously aggregated data concerning displacements triggered by conflict, floods and drought. IDMC was unable to disaggregate the figure by cause or trigger of displacement, and therefore did not manage to isolate conflict-specific numbers. Consequently, the figure for Somalia includes people whose displacement was potentially triggered by several factors, rather than those whose displacement was related solely to conflict. The assessments used to produce the estimate took place between 2017 and February 2018. Therefore, our figure does not reflect the IDP situation as of the end of 2018. Additionally, as the site registration figures were not always made available, many figures are based on estimates provided by 'gatekeepers', which are likely to be imprecise.

IDMC also did not include new displacements which occurred in 2018 because many of the displacements were related to people who had already been displaced at least once and we therefore would not be able to eliminate the risk of double counting.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC used the figure produced by the Information Management Working Group.

Significant changes from last year

There was a significant increase in the number of IDPs compared to 2017, mostly because IDMC changed the source used to produce the estimate: last year, we used the IOM DTM assessment data which was disaggregated by cause of displacement. This assessment also covered only half of the country, with a consequently very limited geographical coverage. As no further assessments were carried out by the IOM DTM, IDMC's year-end figure for 2018 is based on the IMWG data which is more up-to-date.

NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

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.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC used data collected by the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) to account for IDPs' reported progress towards durable solutions. The PRMN's method and approach are described in the new displacements section of this analysis.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Due to unavailability of data covering the second half of 2018, IDMC's figure is based only on the data collected between January and June 2018. It may therefore be an underestimate. An additional source of uncertainty derives from the fact that the PRMN does not clearly define how it accounts for attempted returns or forms of achieving durable solutions, nor does it explain how it distinguishes forced from voluntary movements or attempted returns from secondary or tertiary displacements.

IDMC figure and rationale

This figure is very limited, due to the lack of systematic monitoring of returns. However, IDMC uses it as it is the only one available and allows to provide even a partial representation of the situation.

Significant changes from last year

The figure for the last two years are limited in geographical and temporal coverage; therefore, IDMC does not consider them to be representative of the situation in the whole country or the entire relevant period.

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
Methodology	Key informants, unknown	Other, key informants, registration
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	Upon request	Once a year
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	No triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Partial	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

For the full country profile on Somalia please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/somalia>