

## SUDAN

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

#### CONTEXT

Conflict worsened in Sudan in 2018, with renewed fighting in the Jebel Marrah mountains on the borders of South, North and Central Darfur. Clashes between the government and local armed factions regularly broke out in this area, and in 2018 the number of new displacements nearly tripled compared to 2017, rising to 41,000. Conflict-induced displacements were also recorded in South Kordofan due to clashes between the Sudanese army and the local armed groups.

People also returned home in 2018, mostly to the five states in Darfur. About 5,600 people reportedly returned through the country, though it is unclear how sustainable these returns are because new settlers have attacked returning IDPs on several occasions. The Sudanese government has also decided to convert several IDP camps into residential areas.<sup>12</sup> The outcomes of these initiatives remain to be seen.

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
41,000	2,072,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	5,600 (1 January – 31 December 2018)
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>

#### NEW DISPLACEMENTS

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

##### Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of new displacements in Sudan in 2018 is based on local media and OCHA reports. Radio Dabanga and Sudan Tribune are local newspapers which re-publish information from international organisations and use information sourced from activists and armed groups. OCHA

publishes figures are derived from their own assessments and those of other humanitarian organisations, and they are then endorsed by the government.

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

IDMC has low confidence in the new displacement figure as the monitoring of new displacements in Sudan is not systematic and is politically biased.

Most of the figures reported by international organisations can only be published once the government has endorsed them and the government tends to underestimate the actual scale of displacement. Displacement monitoring is limited geographically and displacement in areas not under government control is not recorded, which can also result in an underestimate. On the other hand, figures reported by activists, which are often quoted by the media, tend to be overestimates.

In response IDMC used triangulation and contextual information to decide on a figure for each event, using the sources named above. IDMC's figure is different from the OCHA's total end-year figure of new displacements as they did not explain how they calculated their figure.

IDMC also had too few details about how the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) reached its estimate of people newly displaced in the period September to November 2018. IDMC considers UNAMID to be a reliable source, however, and it was the only estimate available for this time period, so we have included it in our analysis.

### **IDMC figure rationale**

IDMC's estimate is the sum of displacement figures based on event-based monitoring. IDMC has low confidence in these figures because of the political bias in reporting and a general lack of monitoring which forces us to rely on estimates from different sources with varying reliability. Most of the new displacements were reported in Jebel Marrah in the intersection of South, North and Central Darfur.

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

Nearly three times as many people were newly displaced in 2018 as in 2017. The major trigger for this was the fighting in Jebel Marrah which was at its most intense from February to April but continued for the rest of the year.

## **TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS**

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

### **Sources and methodologies**

IOM DTM tracks IDPs and returnees in Sudan. It covers the five Darfuri states and South and West Kordofan. IOM does not cover Blue Nile. There are also IDPs in Sennar state, but no organisation nor the government assesses the situation there.

IOM DTM uses biometric registration to register IDPs. It carries this out six months after the initial displacement to avoid registering short-term IDPs. IOM registers IDPs as individuals, rather than as families. OCHA and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), part of the Sudanese government, also publish data on IDPs, although this is not based on registration.

IOM DTM distinguishes between three types of data: reported, registered and verified. Reported refers to reported displacement to IOM by any source and IOM conducts registrations to verify such reports. Its registration dataset contains a mix of registered and verified data.

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

It is unclear how the data on Blue Nile state was gathered and analysed. Geographical coverage in Sudan is not complete and displacement in areas outside government control is not recorded. This should not result in a significant underestimate, however, as these areas are relatively small.

Mobility between IDP camps and return areas is very high and as a result IOM reports are very soon outdated. As the last IOM report was issued in August, it is likely that the situation at the end of the year was slightly different from that reflected in the report.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC used the IOM DTM data as of 31 August 2018 as the basis for year-end figure. This is because the IOM DTM data was the most comprehensive and up to date. However, as IOM DTM does not have data for Blue Nile, we used the 2017 Humanitarian Aid Commission and OCHA figures for this state.

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

The figure remained almost the same compared to the past year.

## 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**

As noted in the previous section IOM DTM tracks IDPs and returnees in Sudan, and it is our primary source of information about partial solutions in Sudan.

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

The government reported much higher figures of returnees than IOM DTM, but because the timeframe when these returns occurred was not specified, IDMC decided not to use these figures.

IDMC's figure is an underestimate because we included only registered returnees as reported by IOM, which has limited geographical coverage in Sudan. Another potential reason our figure is an underestimate is because there were no comprehensive assessments of returnees since June 2018, which means that our figure reflects only returns which happened between January and May 2018.

### **IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

IDMC's estimate of the number of unverified solutions is based on the number of returnees IOM registered and reported between January and May 2018. Based on contextual information about the conditions in Darfur, IDMC considers the returns to be unverified solutions.

### **Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year**

IDMC did not report any unverified solutions last year.

## 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	Media monitoring, unknown	Registration, unknown
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Contradictory data	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
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 Sudan please visit:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/sudan>

<sup>1</sup> Reliefweb, [North Darfur to transform IDPs camps into permanent residential areas](#), 13 June 2018

<sup>2</sup> Reliefweb, [S. Darfur begins to transform IDP camps into permanent residential areas](#), 12 February 2018