

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

BURUNDI

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



BURUNDI - Contextual update

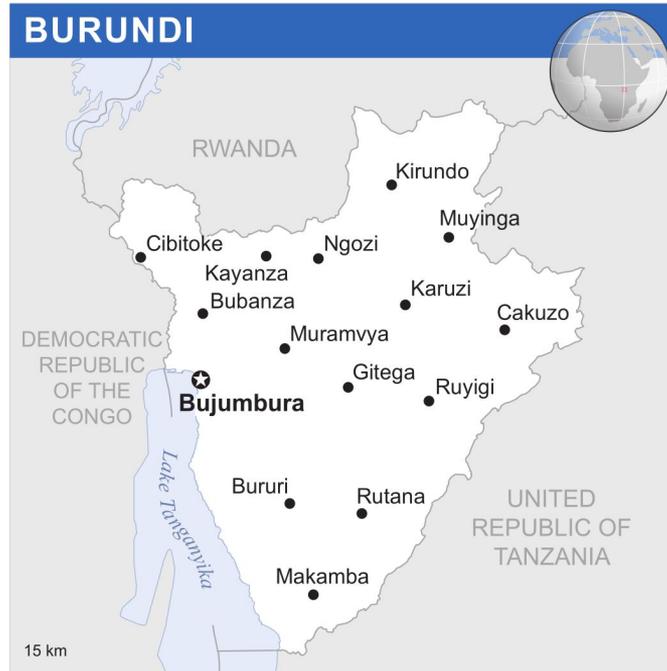
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|-------------------------------|--------|
| Stock: | 57,000 |
| New displacements: | 14,000 |
| Returns: | N/A |
| Provisional solutions: | 13,000 |

Humanitarian partners on the ground and the Government of Burundi suggest that widespread political violence has decreased in Burundi in 2017 compared with previous years. Most people who became displaced due to conflict fled the country after an outbreak in political violence in 2015, and became refugees in neighbouring countries including Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In line with the reduction in widespread violence, a tripartite agreement was signed between the Government of Tanzania (where most Burundian refugees are staying), the Government of Burundi and UNHCR to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania.

However, in 2017, the country was still not free politically, and commentators such as the International Crisis Group have suggested that political intimidation and violence have continued, although to a lesser extent than before. This can include the experience or threat of political intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and torture carried out by the police, intelligence services, or armed groups linked to the ruling or opposition parties.

BURUNDI - Map of new displacements in 2017



About 14,000 people were displaced over the course of 2017, due to political violence or the threat thereof.

Location: Countrywide

Source: IOM

Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

BURUNDI - Stock: 57,000 IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017



Sources and methodologies

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme is the main data collector for IDP figures in Burundi. The data is based on commune-level assessments, which take place every month. Key informants (health workers, government workers) are asked to estimate the total population of IDPs in their commune, including the time period that they most recently left their homes and the main reason (disaster, socio-political, other) why they did so. IOM also works in partnership with the Burundian Red Cross to conduct needs assessments, but they do not collect data on IDP numbers.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

The data is not based on registration but general surveying: key informants in each commune comment on the number of IDPs currently living in the area and the main reason (disaster, socio-political violence, other) that they became displaced. This means that the overall figure is an estimate, in addition it is possible that some IDPs may not feel comfortable disclosing that they became displaced for socio-political reasons.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

Our estimate is based on the total number of people estimated as displaced due to socio-political reasons by IOM DTM as of 31 December 2017. This estimate covers all of the provinces and communes of Burundi.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

There was an increase in coverage in IOM DTM surveying from one year to the next, with 11 provinces covered at the end of 2016, in comparison to 18 provinces covered (full coverage) at the end of 2017. Despite this, there was a slight reduction in the stock figure, from 59,000 at the end of 2016 to 57,000 at the end of 2017. However, analysts describe that the socio-political situation had largely improved in 2017, so it makes sense that the stock figure is lower, even with an increased coverage in the DTM provinces assessed.

BURUNDI - New displacements: 14,000



This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year

Sources and methodologies

Like for the stock data, IOM DTM is the main data source for new displacements linked to conflict in Burundi. The data comes from commune-level assessments which take place every month. Key informants (health workers, government workers) are asked to estimate the total population of IDPs in their commune, including the time period that they most recently left their homes and the main reason (conflict, disaster or other) why they did so.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

It is difficult to obtain a figure for conflict-related new displacement for 2017 for several reasons. First of all, the coverage of IOM DTM surveying increased over the year, from 3 provinces in January to 18 at the end of the year, meaning that some cases of new displacements at the beginning of the year could not be accounted for. Secondly, the reason for displacement (disaster, socio-political, other) is not recorded for different time periods of displacement, which means that the new displacement figure must be estimated based on trends concerning the entire IDP population.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We calculated the new displacement figure based on monthly increases in IDP populations recorded in each province, examining only increases in cases of IDPs who say that they became displaced in 2017. As a yearly average of 34% of the overall IDP population have given political insecurity as their main reason for displacement, this percentage has been applied to the cases of people displaced in 2017, to obtain about 14,000 new displacements in 2017 linked to political violence.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

A similar calculation was used to obtain the new displacement figure last year. There was a slightly higher new displacement figure, perhaps because of a worse socio-political context.

Burundi - Returns: N/A

This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence



We did not identify or obtain any data for this category.

BURUNDI - Provisional solutions: 13,000

This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution



As the political situation in Burundi has improved from previous years, Burundian refugees staying in neighbouring countries have been encouraged to move back by the Government of Burundi and other Governments in the region. About 13,000 refugees who were staying in Tanzania have moved back to Burundi in the context of organised voluntary repatriations between September and December 2017. However, as no data has been obtained on the living condition of these people after arrival in Burundi, we cannot determine whether they have become displaced upon arrival or have reached a durable solution, placing this case in the provisional solutions category.