

# Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

## SOUTH SUDAN

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement  
Figures analysis



## SOUTH SUDAN - Contextual update

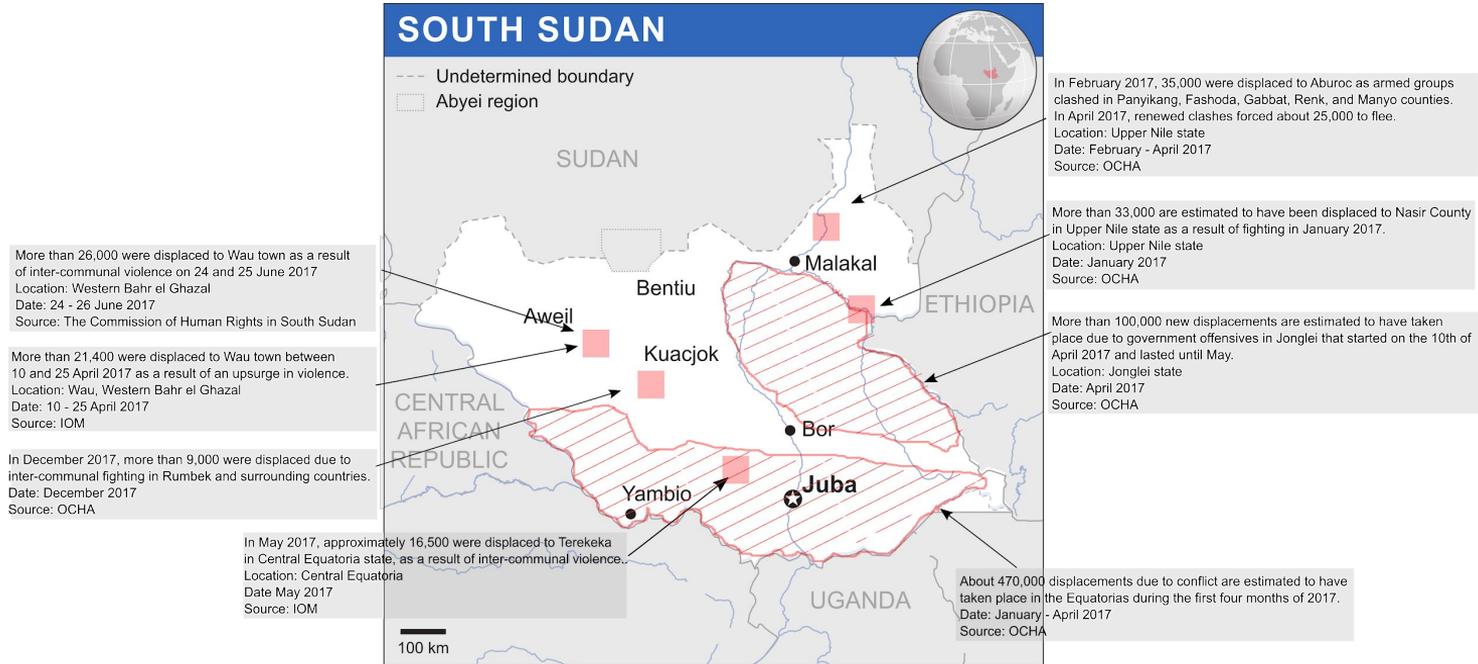
<b>Stock:</b>	1,899,000
<b>New displacements:</b>	857,000
<b>Returns:</b>	N/A
<b>Provisional solutions:</b>	N/A

Displacement patterns in South Sudan continued to be multi-causal, complex and fluid in 2017. The peace process between the two main warring parties - the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) - was officially revitalised in June 2017, but violence continued to cause new and secondary displacement unabated. This partly because the conflict has become factionalised. The official peace process focused on the conflict between SPLM and SPLM-IO, but at least 40 armed groups are involved in various conflicts.

Significant violence between local militias and community defence groups took place in Wau, the Equatorias, Upper Nile, and Unity states, fuelled in part by the latest presidential declaration of new administrative divisions. The looting and burning of homes also continued to trigger displacement. Widespread violence coupled with drought resulted in deteriorating food insecurity and further displacement. Famine was declared in parts of Unity state in February.

Nearly 210,000 IDPs remained in UN's Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites as of December. There are many challenges associated with the management of these sites, including a lack of inter-agency coordination, persistent insecurity and the politicisation of the sites by armed groups. The majority of IDPs, however, live outside camps, many in churches or small villages isolated from the fighting. Others hide in the wilderness, where they are forced to scavenge, heightening the risk of malnourishment.

# SOUTH SUDAN - Major displacement events in 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Jan 2012. 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. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

# SOUTH SUDAN - Stock: 1,899,000 IDPs

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



## **Sources and methodologies**

Our figure is based on OCHA's data, which is compiled monthly and disaggregated at the county level. OCHA's estimates are based on figures reported by its field offices and a number of data-collecting agencies including DTM, REACH, the protection cluster, UNHCR, and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Their methodologies vary but include KI interviews, household surveys, housing destruction assessments, biometric registration, headcounts and focus group discussions.

## **Caveats, limitations and monitoring challenges**

Data is country-wide, but the scale of displacement and the fact that it spans vast areas makes it challenging for a relatively small number of agencies to verify the accuracy of all estimates. Access restrictions also inhibit assessments in some parts of the country.

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

We subtracted 9,254 people from OCHA figures because it reported them as displaced in Abyei, which we report on separately given its disputed status.

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

Our estimate represents an increase of about 45,000 compared with last year's figure, which is very significantly smaller than the number of new displacements we report. This is because many of the new displacements were secondary, and because an unknown number of IDPs either returned or crossed the border into neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

# SOUTH SUDAN - New displacements: 857,000

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



## **Sources** and **methodologies**

Our figure is drawn from array of sources, including OCHA, REACH, UNMISS, UNHCR, the CCCM and protection clusters and local media. Data collection methods include KI interviews, household surveys, housing destruction assessments, registration and camp data and focus group discussions. A meta-data disaggregation of the methodologies used to produce the county-level estimates is however not available.

## **Caveats, limitations and monitoring challenges**

The fluidity of displacement and the fact that many people have been displaced more than once makes it highly challenging to monitor new displacement. Our estimate is conservative in so far as it only takes into account displacement generated as a direct result of fighting and violence. It does not cover arrivals in camps unless we were able to verify the specific incident which caused displacement in order to avoid double counting.

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

We calculated our estimate using events-based monitoring, whereby we assessed the estimated number of displacements for different offensives, battles, incidents of inter-communal violence and bouts of generalised insecurity. To avoid double counting, the location and flow dates were thoroughly controlled for. The Equatoria region was a major exception in that reliable breakdowns by event were unavailable for the first four months of the year, so we included a figure of about 470,000 new displacements reported by the protection cluster.

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

The significant increase in new displacements compared with our 2016 figure is mainly the result of methodological changes. Last year's estimate was calculated by adding the sum of the positive differences in monthly aggregate national figures, which did not capture local movements and repeated displacements.

## SOUTH SUDAN - 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 the category, because none of the data-collecting agencies track returns systematically. Some data on returning IDPs was available, but it was not comprehensive enough to form the basis of a meaningful estimate. There are also significant doubts about the durability of any returns reported.

# SOUTH SUDAN - Provisional solutions: N/A

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



## **Challenges in accounting for returns**

Partners reported returns in 2017, particularly in Unity, Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei, but there are a number of challenges in monitoring such movements. Returns tend to be highly fluid and often pendular, which makes them difficult to analyse absent very granular, micro-level data which is currently unavailable. The numbers that do exist are partial, and often not universally agreed upon, in part because of the politicisation of returns by armed groups and local authorities.

Returnees also tend to be highly vulnerable and many can be considered as living in displacement-like situations, but no comprehensive assessment of their vulnerability exists. Some relocations from PoC sites in Melut and Bor were also reported, but these included relocations to other PoC sites. Given these drawbacks, we did not calculate an estimate for this category for 2017.