

GRID  
2019

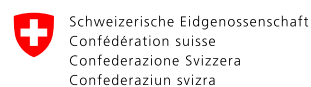
# GLOBAL REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

SUMMARY



## WITH THANKS

IDMC's 2019 Global Report on Internal Displacement has been produced with the generous contribution of the following funding partners: the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the German Federal Foreign Office, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Liechtenstein's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Cover photo: Displaced woman from the island of Bhola living in 'Bhola Slum' in the city of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Many people have had to leave their homes as a result of coastal erosion and other climate impacts in the country's southern regions. The majority of the displaced now live in the slums of Dhaka. Credit: Mahmud Hossain Opu for IDMC, February 2019

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MAY 2019



The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) provides an overview of the world's most significant situations of internal displacement and highlights the political and operational investments needed to address its impacts and reduce the risk of it happening in the future.

This year's report underscores the fact that internal displacement is becoming increasingly protracted and urban. As cities grow and the landscape of urban displacement changes, local authorities will be at the forefront of responding to crises and reducing risk in the longer term. National responsibility and leadership and international accountability must combine with significant tangible support for local action.

As the number of IDPs worldwide continues to rise, it is ever more important that all actors working to address internal displacement have comprehensive and accurate data and evidence to inform their policy and practice. GRID 2019 contributes to filling important knowledge gaps, while also flagging up areas where data and evidence need to be improved.



*Displaced people in Al-Areesha camp in Syria were severely affected by heavy rains and widespread flooding in December 2018. Photo © UNHCR/Hisham Arafat, December 2018*



# Internal displacement is a global challenge, but heavily concentrated in a few countries and regions

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## Conflict and violence: New displacement by region

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Conflict and violence contributed to triggering 10.8 million new displacements worldwide. Ethiopia, DRC and Syria accounted for more than half of the global figure. More than two-thirds of the new displacements associated with conflict occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, which suffered not only new and ongoing violence but also drought and floods during the year. Africa also hosts some of the world's largest protracted displacement caseloads.

Conflict and violence continued to drive displacement and prevented returns in the Middle East. The conflict in Yemen in particular escalated significantly in the second

half of 2018, heightening the vulnerability of a population already in crisis. The conflict in Syria subsided, but still contributed to some of the largest forced population movements in the world. Ongoing insecurity and widespread destruction meant people were unable to return to their areas of origin.

Around 41.3 million people were estimated to be living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence in 55 countries as of the end of the year, the highest figure ever recorded. Three-quarters, or 30.9 million people, were living in only ten countries.

## Ten countries with highest number of people displaced as of end of 2018

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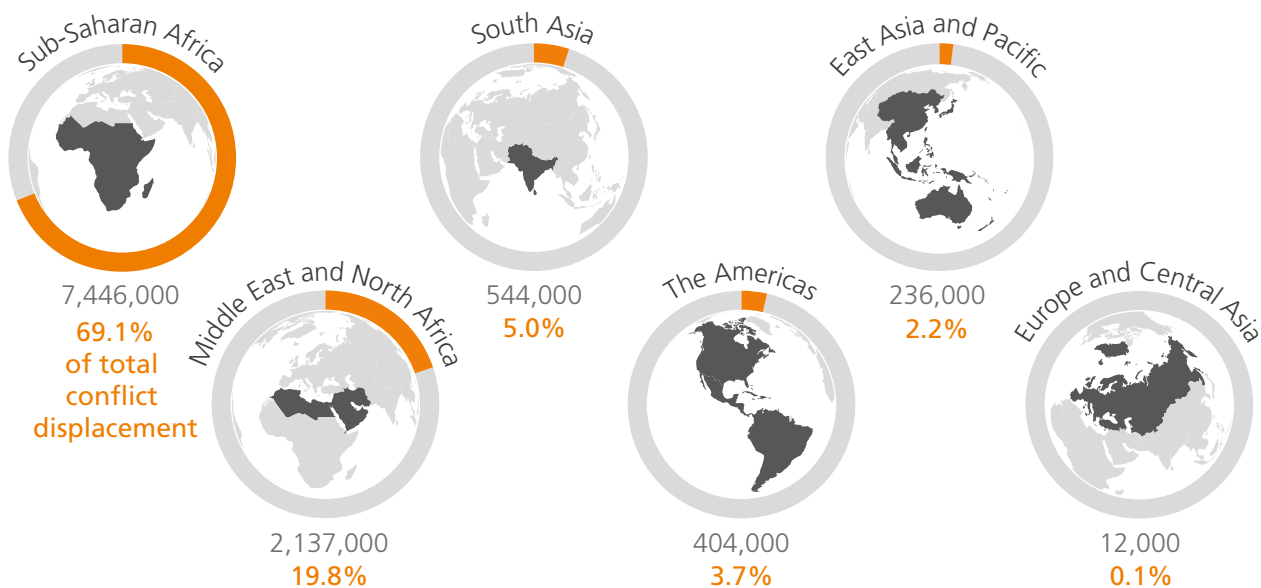
## Disasters: New displacement by region

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Heightened vulnerability and exposure to sudden-onset hazards resulted in 17.2 million new disaster displacements in 144 countries and territories. Storms, particularly tropical cyclones, and monsoon rains forced more people from their homes in the East Asia and Pacific region than anywhere else. The 3.8 million new displacements recorded in the Philippines were a reminder of the country's high exposure. The monsoon season took a heavy toll in South Asia, where 2.7 million new displacements were recorded in India alone.

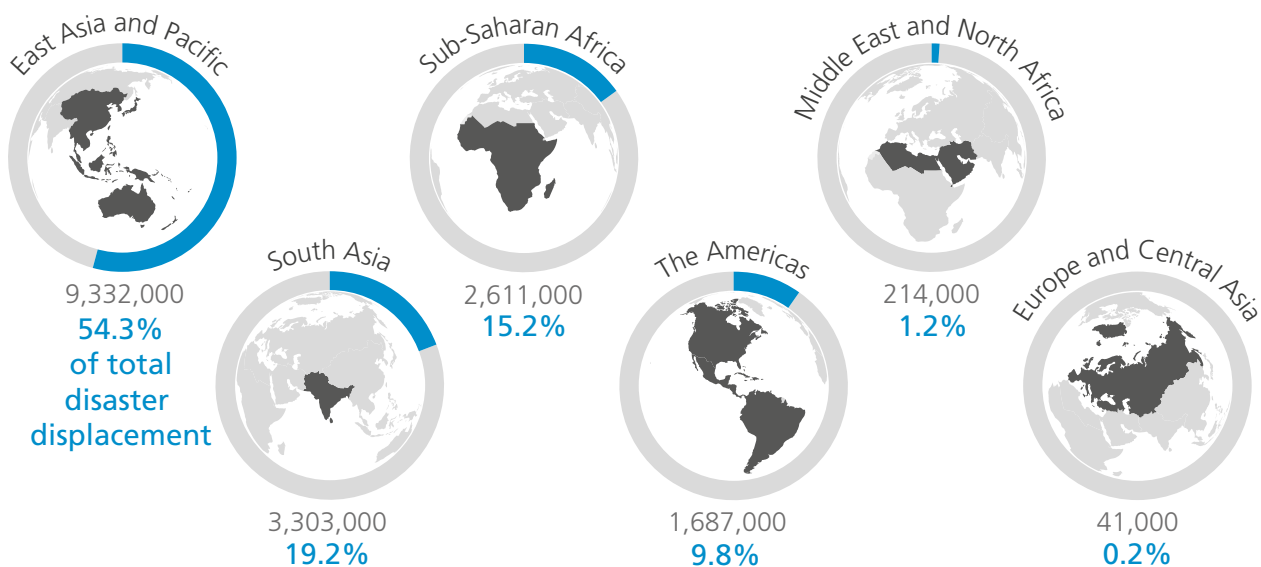
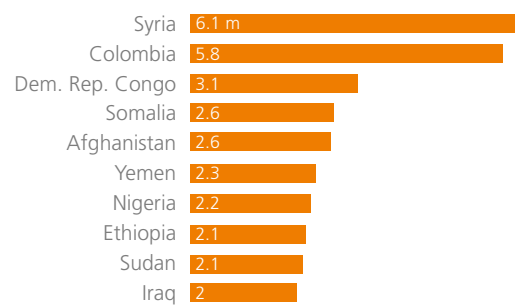
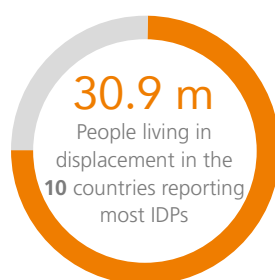
The global number of people displaced by slow-onset disasters remains unknown. Drought conditions monitored in just nine countries – Afghanistan, Brazil, Burundi, Ethiopia, Iraq, Madagascar, Mongolia, Senegal and Somalia – were responsible for at least 760,000 new displacements during the year, a clear underestimate. High temperatures and low precipitation levels also contributed to unprecedented wildfires from the US to Greece to Australia, displacing hundreds of thousands of people, severely damaging property and preventing swift returns.





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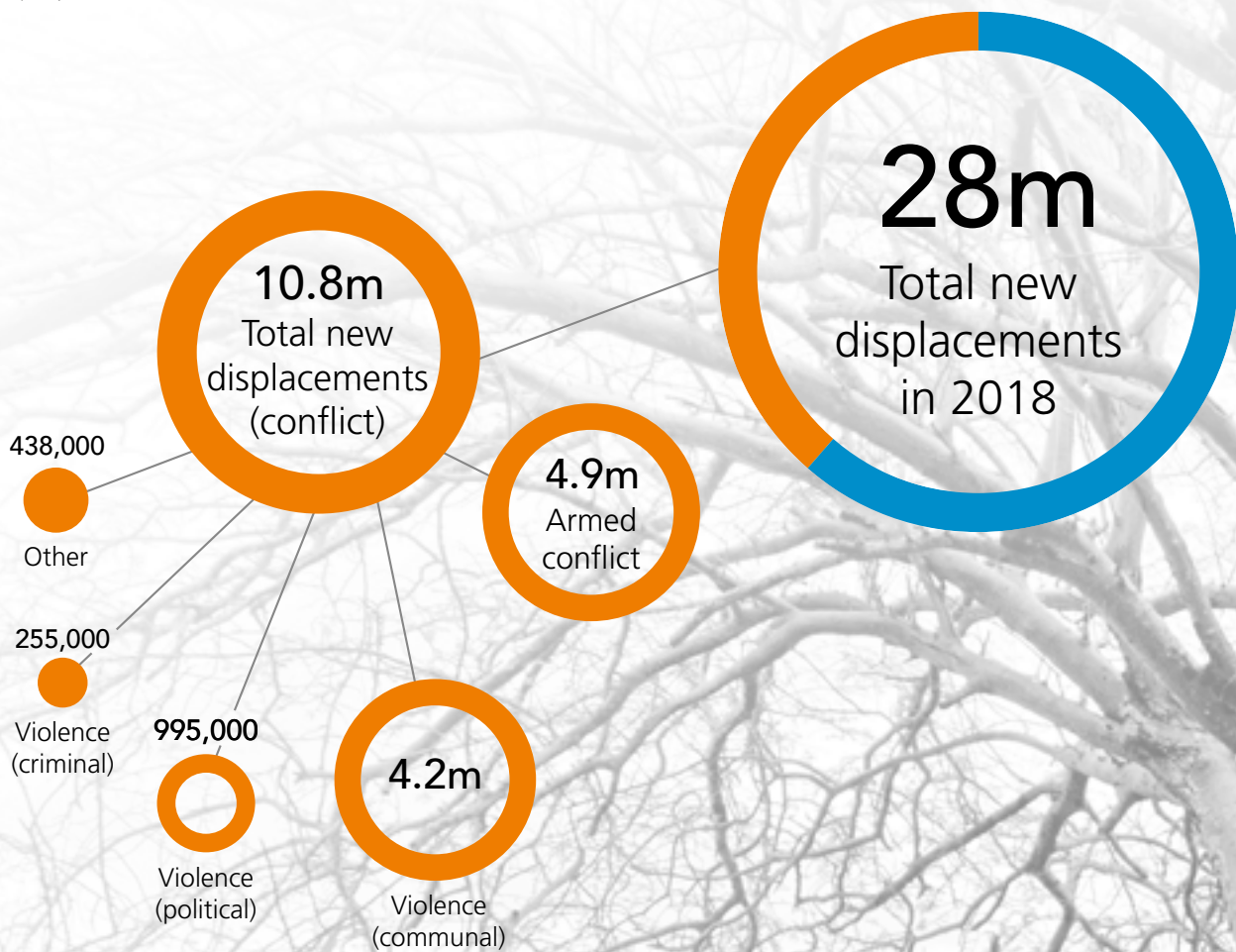
People living in displacement as result of conflict and violence in 55 countries and territories as of 31 December 2018



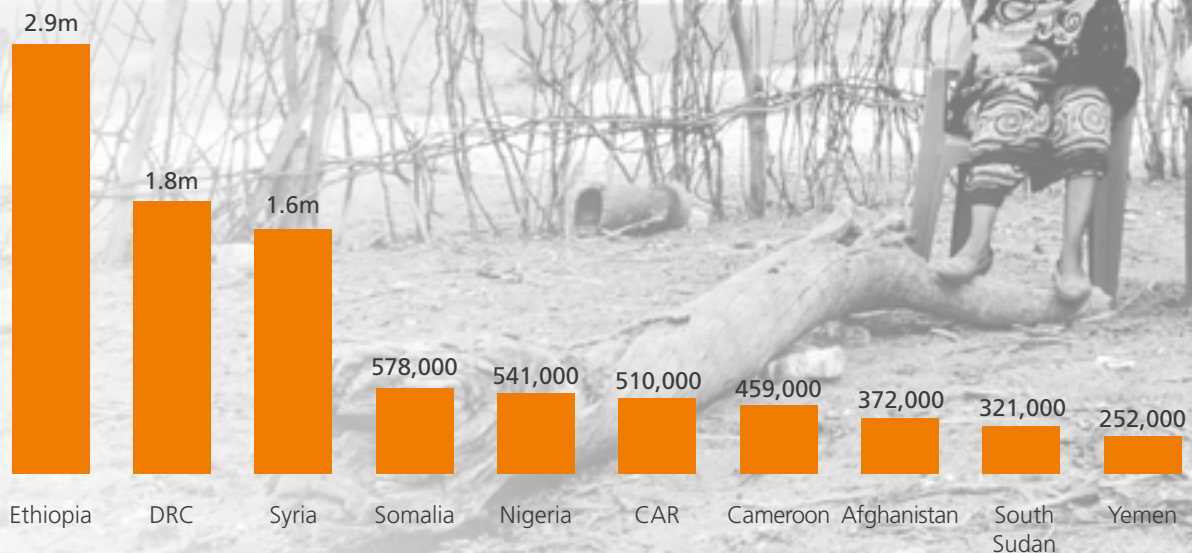
A view of the IDP settlement in Badghis, Afghanistan. There are thousands of makeshift homes spread between mountain hills on the outskirts of Qala-i-naw city. Photo: NRC/Enayatullah Azad, November 2018



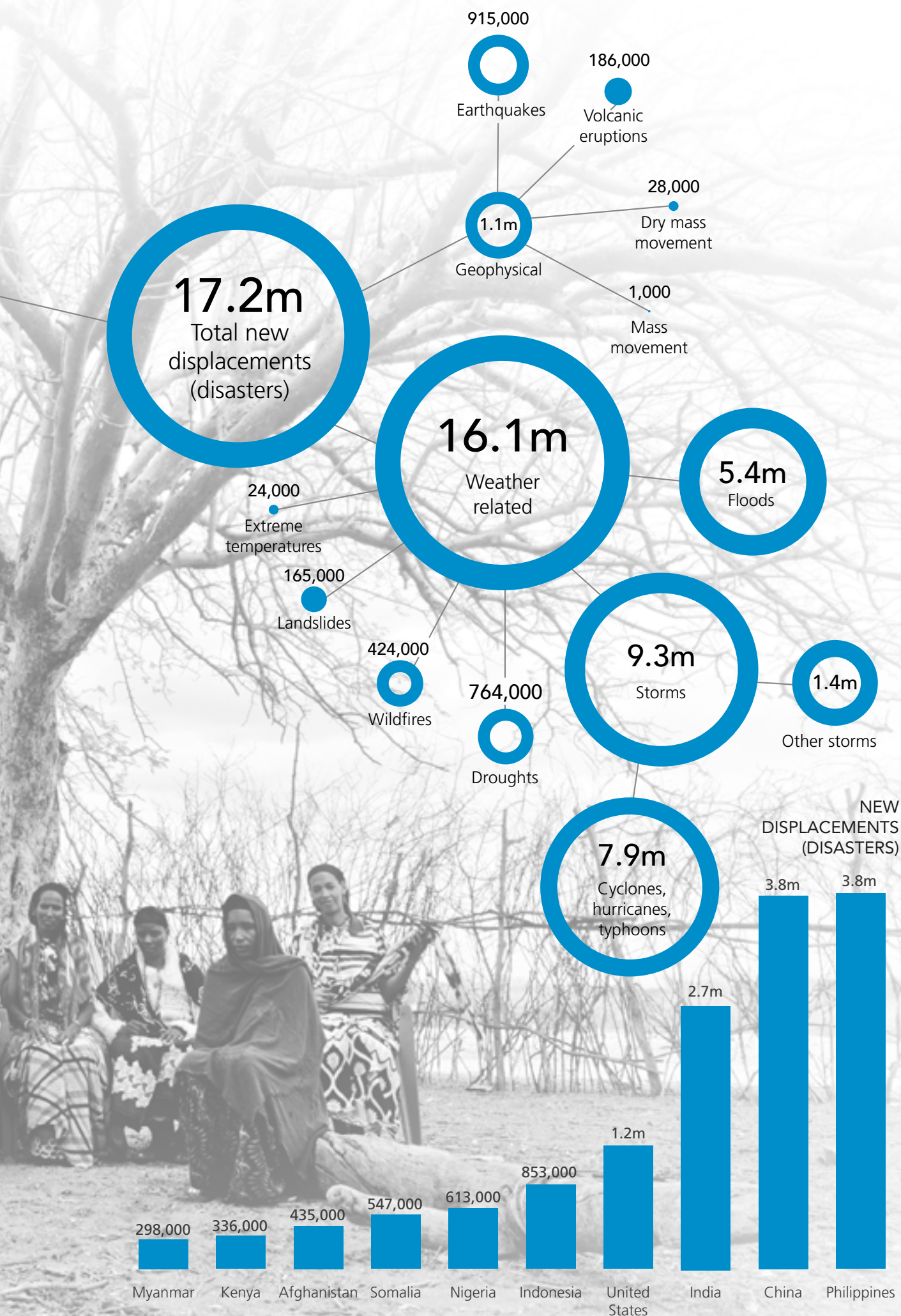
Displaced women attending a focus group discussion on beneficiary satisfaction in Guji Zone, Oromia Region, Ethiopia. Photo: Rikka Tupaz / UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017



#### NEW DISPLACEMENTS (CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE)







## The risk of displacement continues to grow as drivers and impacts converge

Cyclical and protracted displacement continues to be driven by political instability, chronic poverty and inequality, and environmental and climate change. Many IDPs try to return to insecure areas with few socioeconomic opportunities. Instead of establishing the conditions for lasting solutions, this recreates risk and increases the likelihood of crises erupting again in the future.

Continued displacement despite peace-building efforts in countries such as the Central African Republic and South Sudan and the peace deal in place in Colombia is indicative of this point. Unaddressed drivers of conflict also triggered new crises that forced millions of people to flee in 2018, from the anglophone conflict in Cameroon to new waves of violence in Nigeria's Middle Belt region and unprecedented conflict in Ethiopia.

People in many countries were displaced by an overlap of conflict and disasters, some of them not for the first time. Drought and conflict triggered a similar number of displacements in Afghanistan, and extended rainy seasons displaced millions of people in areas of Nigeria and Somalia affected by conflict. Most of the people displaced by disasters in Iraq and Syria had previously fled conflict and were living in camps which were flooded.

## Millions of IDPs are invisible and durable solutions remain elusive

Many IDPs remain unaccounted for. Figures for DRC, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen are considered underestimates, and data is scarce for other countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Russia, Turkey and Venezuela. This prevents an accurate assessment of the true global scale of internal displacement.

Assessing solutions also continues to be a major challenge. Reports of people having returned, relocated or integrated locally during the year rarely provide enough evidence to fully assess whether the vulnerabilities asso-

ciated with their displacement have been addressed. Large numbers of people reportedly returned to their areas of origin in Ethiopia, Iraq and Nigeria, but conditions were not conducive to their long-lasting reintegration.

As such, monitoring the end of displacement remains an elusive quest, and precious little information exists on how and when durable solutions are achieved or progress toward them. There is growing evidence that many displaced people wish to integrate locally, but there is limited acceptance of this solution. This is reflected in the almost complete lack of reporting on successful local integration.

## Internal displacement is increasingly becoming an urban phenomenon

Cities are the preferred destination for many people fleeing conflict and disaster, and a wide range of factors also accumulate in urban areas to generate new displacement. Airstrikes and shelling in urban centres triggered large waves of displacement in 2018, from Hodeida in Yemen to Tripoli in Libya and Dara'a in Syria. Despite the end of active conflict in Mosul in Iraq and Marawi in the Philippines, widespread destruction and unexploded ordnance have prevented people from returning to their homes.

Given the rapid urbanisation the world is undergoing, people's exposure and vulnerability to disasters and the displacement they trigger is likely to continue to rise. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, for example, urban sprawl and badly managed embankment and drainage schemes have increased the risk of flooding and waterlogging. As the city continues to expand, this risk will grow with the population unless adequate measures to reduce it are put in place.

A global average of more than 17 million people are at risk of being displaced by floods every year, and more than 80 per cent of them live in urban and peri-urban areas. Most urban flood displacement risk is concentrated in South Asia and East Asia and Pacific, but it is also high in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## National responsibility must support local action to address urban displacement

The provision of basic services for IDPs remains an important humanitarian challenge in active crises and camp settings, but it also lies at the heart of development efforts in complex urban and protracted displacement situations. Conflict and long-term displacement in already deteriorating socioeconomic conditions makes it difficult for local authorities to provide services that meet the needs of the urban poor. Many IDPs are trapped in poverty, which in turn contributes to prolonging their displacement and increasing the risk of secondary movements.

More investment is needed at the city level to strengthen the capacity of communities and local authorities to analyse, plan and act jointly. Inclusive legislation, housing provision and service delivery need to become a part of the DNA of urban governance if urban IDPs are to escape protracted and cyclical displacement. Effecting change will require the involvement and ultimately the leadership of displaced people themselves and their host communities.

Concerted and coherent poverty reduction efforts, including targeted assistance and broader social protection, need to be developed in place of siloed,

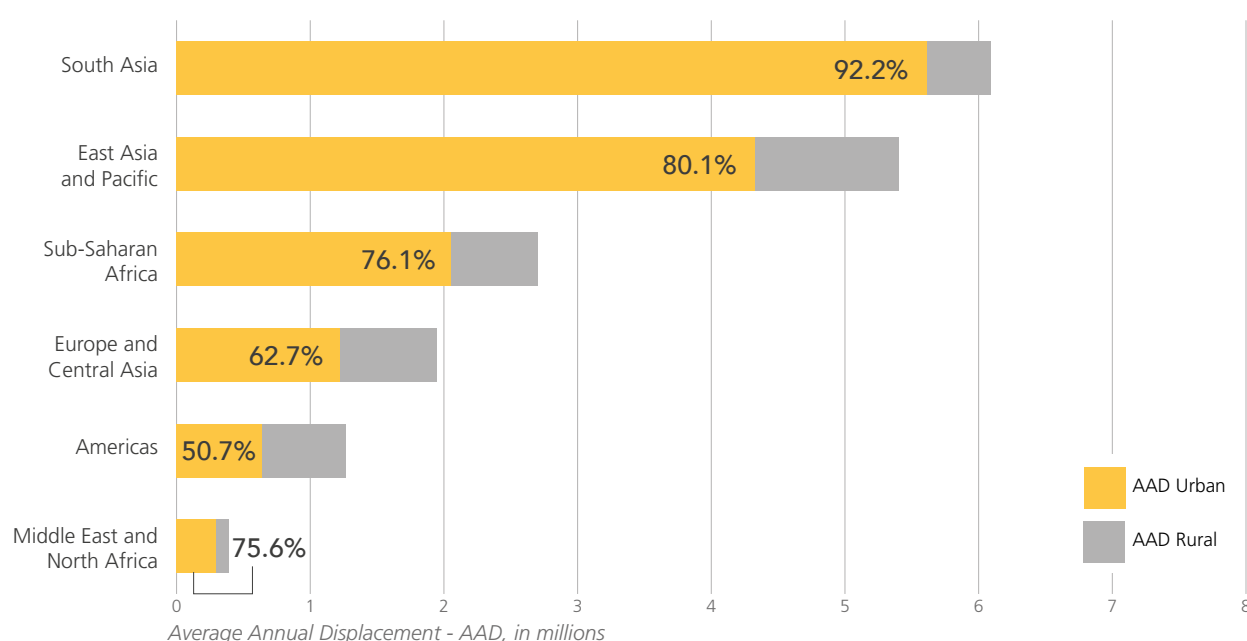
short-term humanitarian interventions. To support local action effectively, the international community must address institutional barriers to coherence and pursue coordination in funding and programming across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose.

## New policy developments show promise but more political will is needed

There were promising policy developments in several regions in 2018. Niger became the first country to domesticate the Kampala Convention by adopting a law on internal displacement, and Kosovo recognised the importance of supporting returning refugees and IDPs, and updated its existing policy to that end. Vanuatu produced a policy on displacement associated with climate change and disasters, and Fiji showed foresight in adopting new guidelines on disaster-related resettlement, developed in consultation with affected communities.

Cities are also tasked with localising and applying global and national development frameworks as part of the sustainable development agenda, but often struggle to do so. The way and extent to which authority and resources are decentralised will determine their capacity for effective governance and implementation.

## Flood displacement risk, by region





Promising new approaches in the provision of housing, basic services and employment are emerging. A “rent to own” initiative set up by the municipal authorities in Mariupol, Ukraine, addressed the lack of affordable rented accommodation for IDPs in the city. In Mosul, local businesses’ employment of IDPs combined with self-build support for housing facilitated returns and helped to reinvigorate neighbourhoods and the local economy.

Effecting city-level change will require progress across at least three main areas. Knowledge and evidence of the drivers, impacts and risks of urban displacement and appropriate interventions to address and reduce it are a prerequisite for effective action. The capacity to act on the evidence and develop inclusive and sustainable approaches also needs to be strengthened, particularly in low-income countries and those that face large displacement crises.

Most importantly, increased political will is needed at both the municipal and national level. For this, the right incentives need to be established to adapt urban planning, investment, regulation and service delivery to the realities of informality and protracted displacement. Urban opportunities cannot be unlocked without political solutions, and those solutions need to move beyond short-term responses to embrace long-term risk reduction and inclusive development.

## Solutions are within reach: stronger data and evidence is a first step

The challenges associated with internal displacement data are clearly interlinked. A systemic approach that involves common standards and improves cooperation, coordination and data interoperability is vital if governments and other stakeholders are to fully understand, prevent and address the phenomenon through better policymaking, planning and risk reduction.

Only around a quarter of global internal displacement data is geo-referenced and little to no information exists on the duration of displacement, which means only limited insight into where people move to and how long they remain displaced. These gaps impede not only effective responses, but also successful development

strategies to end displacement and reduce the risk of it happening in the future.

A systemic response to addressing gaps in data and evidence is possible. Common standards and better cooperation and coordination are within our reach, and will go a long way in providing the evidence base required for policy work, development planning and humanitarian operations. Appropriate tools for needs assessments, risk analyses, investment planning and progress monitoring already exist and allow states to develop sustainable approaches to ending displacement. The priority now is providing national and local authorities with the financial and technical support they need to apply them.

New technologies and approaches have the potential to overcome some of the challenges in obtaining comprehensive, timely, accurate and disaggregated data on a range of displacement situations. Used with due regard for ethical questions of privacy and data protection, they could help to fill significant knowledge gaps.

Armed with stronger data and evidence, governments and other stakeholders are better equipped to understand and plan for future risk and to monitor progress toward targets under frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement. Importantly, they will also be in a better position to address displaced people’s needs.

As we look ahead, the conclusions from IDMC’s previous global reports remain alarmingly valid. This year’s GRID shows, however, that promising new approaches exist. In a rapidly urbanising world, many of the opportunities for solutions to displacement are located in and around cities. When responsible states work hand in hand with local governments and people, supported by the international community, solutions can be found that reduce global displacement risk and make the future of those displaced today less bleak.

## Toward a checklist for action on urban displacement: start by building an evidence base

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### Data and analysis

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- | Systematically account for urban IDPs. Record their number and the duration and severity of their displacement, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant criteria
- | Monitor movements and conditions of those displaced over time, not just during and immediately after crises
- | Undertake profiling exercises that include both displaced and host populations
- | Collaborate with humanitarian, development and other stakeholders working to reduce vulnerability and risk to ensure that any data collected is interoperable

### Capacity and participation

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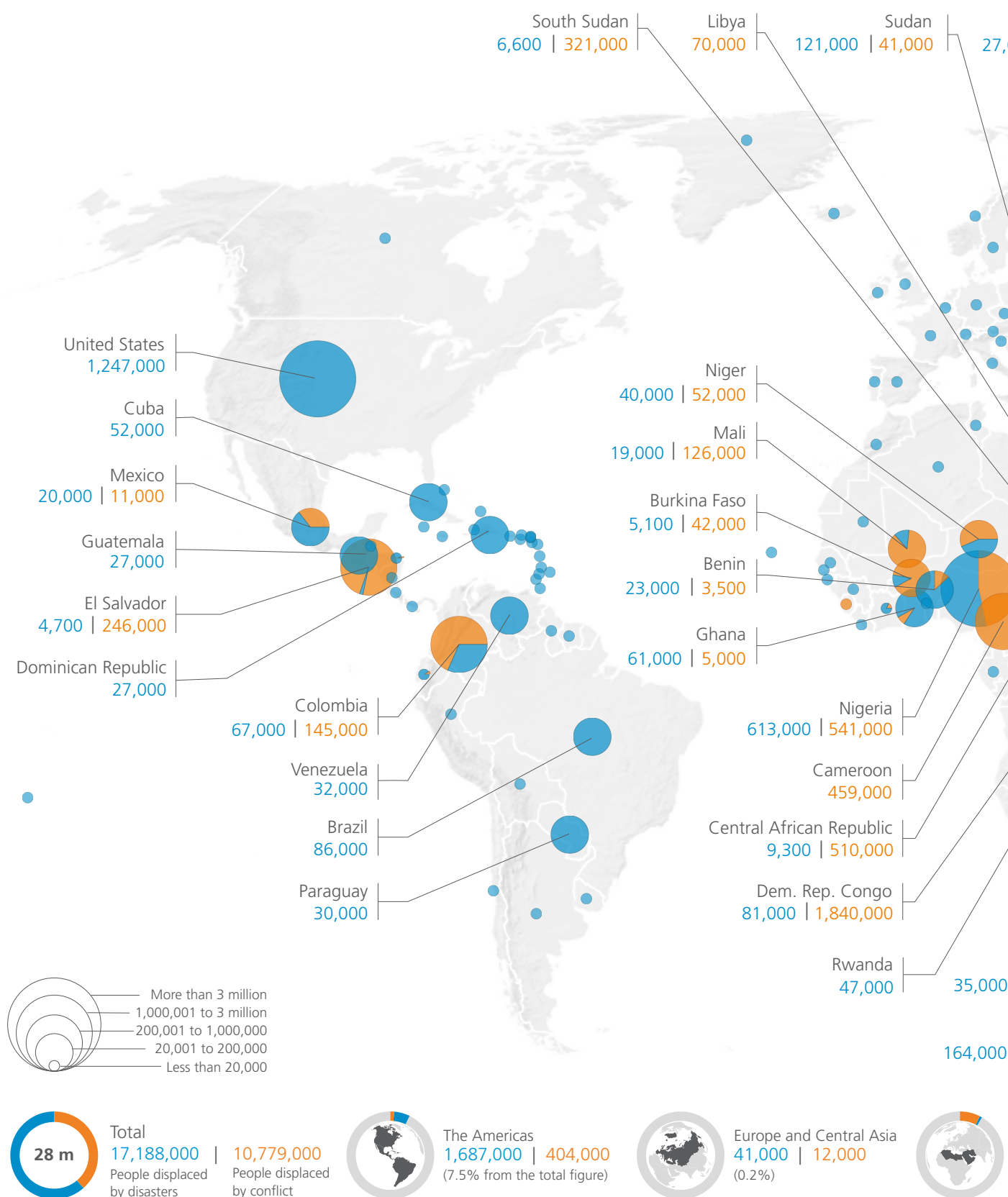
- | Build on communities' existing capacities, including for the collection of data on their vulnerabilities and needs, but also their existing resources, skills and community services
- | Strengthen the capacity of local organisations and government departments for data and statistical analysis
- | Work with IDPs and those at risk of displacement to identify priority areas in service delivery and infrastructure development
- | Identify urban development approaches that accommodate informality, including through flexible and secure tenure arrangements and adaptive labour market strategies in line with national and international sustainable development initiatives

### Incentives and political will

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- | Estimate the impacts of displacement on city development and the risks inherent in inaction, including effects on the city's economy, security, stability and social wellbeing
- | Use risk assessments to advocate for new and appropriate financing mechanisms to support city action and make displacement risk one of the core considerations in urban planning and development
- | Document successful approaches to managing and reducing internal displacement in cities and provide a platform for exchange and learning for municipalities and their partners
- | Recognise IDPs as local citizens, even when return is their preferred long-term solution, by allowing voting rights and providing space for public participation, and supporting their access to documentation

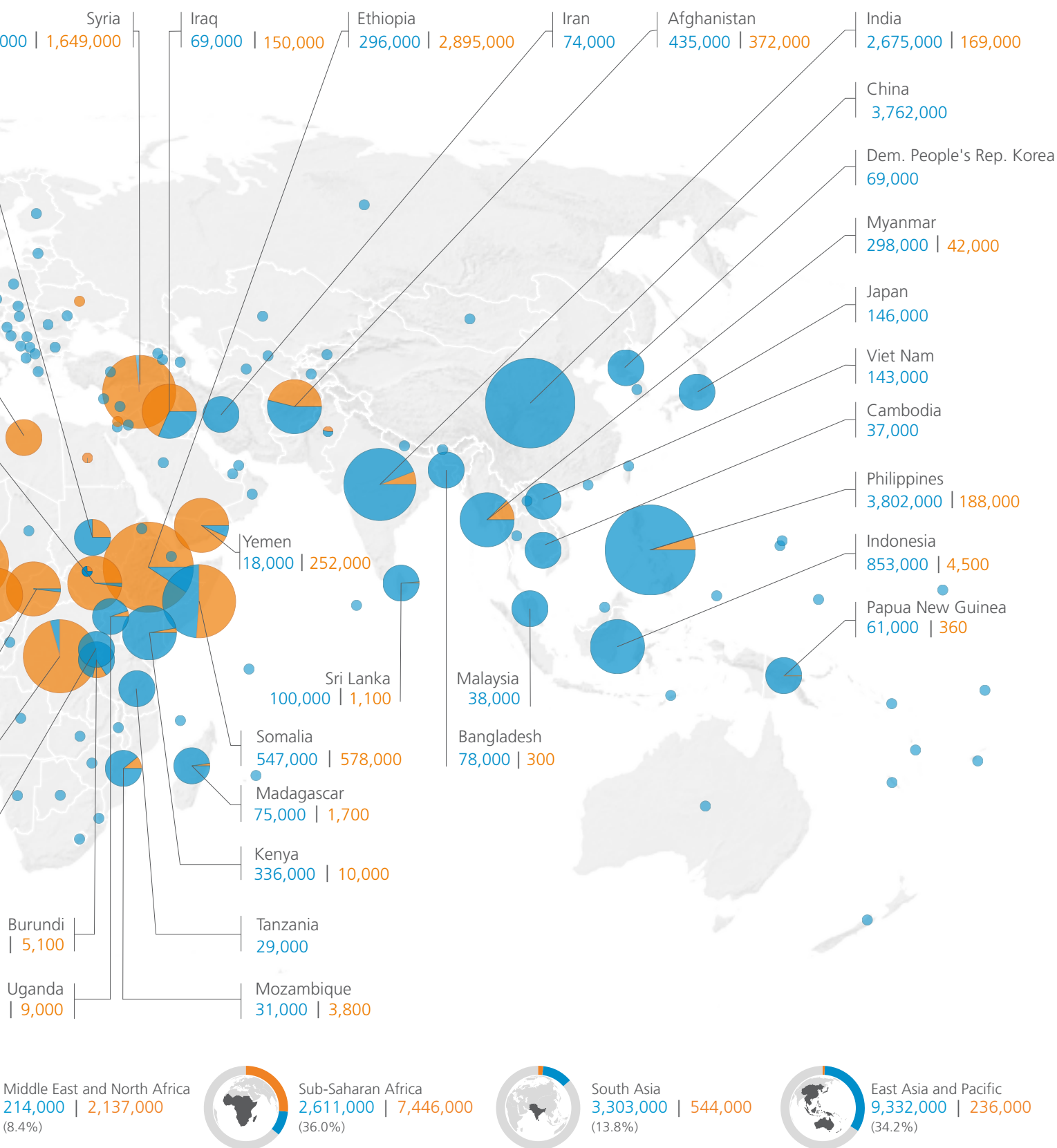
# NEW DISPLACEMENT BY CONFLICT AND



The country names and figures are shown only when the total new displacements value exceeds 20,000. Due to round  
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by ID



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The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement. Since our establishment in 1998 as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), we have offered a rigorous, independent and trusted service to the international community. Our work informs policy and operational decisions that improve the lives of the millions of people living in internal displacement, or at risk of becoming displaced in the future.

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