METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

Introduction

The figures included in this report are the result of IDMC's most ambitious effort yet to present our figures as transparently as possible. We have also attempted to apply more methodological consistency to our data collection and analysis and to document this process for our readers. These improvements have helped bring our reporting on displacement associated with disasters and that associated with conflict and violence together in one report. They have also enabled us to make more rigorous comparisons between different displacement situations and get more out of our source data.

The evidence presented here represents a baseline, and indicates many areas in which we will need to improve our data gathering and analysis in order to paint a comprehensive picture of internal displacement. This section highlights some of the main challenges we face and illustrates the most significant caveats to which we call readers' attention.

Our data on displacement associated with disasters for 2015 covers 601 sudden-onset natural hazards in 113 countries. We are still in the process of developing and extending our approach to monitoring displacement associated with drought and other slow-onset phenomena, which means we do not yet have global figures for such disasters (see part 3).

Our data on displacement associated with conflict and violence covers 52 countries and one disputed territory. We have data on several other countries, but we chose not to include it in our global figures for methodological consistency.

One of the innovations in our methodology relates to our assessment of confidence in the primary data and what it means for the estimates concerned. The confidence assessments signal our commitment to transparency while providing a roadmap for future work to strengthen data collection, something we are committed to helping our partners achieve over the coming years.

This annex describes how we produce our displacement figures by explaining the source data, calculations, definitions and decision rules we use in our analysis. Our aim is to provide maximum transparency so that readers understand the process, can replicate our work independently and make use of our data in innovative ways. We will make our data publicly available on our website for others to use freely.

We are also using innovative ways for policymakers, researchers, partners, the media and the public to interact with our data via an open portal, making it easier to produce customised reports and analysis.

Given the complexity of displacement, we are forced to rely on a variety of internal and external sources in compiling our estimates. We have reassessed some of the criteria we use to maximise the reliability and accuracy of source data, and this report presents our figures in a way that clearly indicates how recently it was updated.

We currently use two similar but distinct methodologies to produce displacement estimates related to conflict and violence, and disasters. This annex describes both approaches.

To monitor and report on displacement associated with conflict and violence, we collect data on the countries affected and present nationally aggregated figures for:

- New incidents of displacement from 1 January to 31 December 2015
- IDPs who returned, integrated locally or settled elsewhere between the same dates, and when available, for those who crossed an international border and those who were born or died in displacement
- The total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2015

We use an event-based methodology to estimate the number of people displaced by disasters during the course of the year, and derive aggregated figures for new displacement for each of the countries affected.

We have monitored displacement associated with conflict and violence since 1998 and that associated with disasters since 2008. Over time, we have continuously sought to improve the ways we collect and analyse our data. Over the past eight years, we have successfully obtained data on ever larger numbers of new displacement events associated with disasters, accounting for more small to medium-sized events than in previous years (see table A.1). Reporting on these events helps paint a more comprehensive picture in terms of the number of people displaced globally. It also provides the empirical evidence base to understand them and how they differ from mega-events.

Table A.1 Categories of events by magnitude

Event size	Number of people displaced
Small to medium	Fewer than 100,000
Large	100,000 to 999,999
Very large	One to three million
Mega	More than three million

As a result of this year's methodological improvements, including the standardised application of the rules and criteria used to analyse displacement associated with conflict, comparisons between countries are now more valid than before.

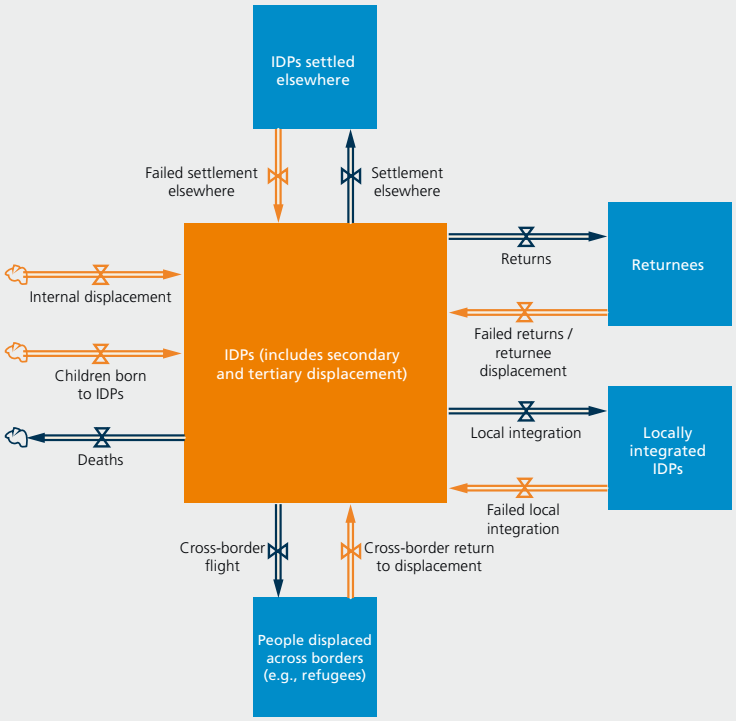
Relating others' data to IDMC's data model

In order to obtain a comprehensive and accurate picture about the state of displacement at any given point in time, we have generated a unique data model (see figure A.1). One of the challenges we face in producing displacement figures is how to relate our partners' primary and secondary data to it.

In order to account comprehensively for the number of people displaced in a given situation, we would have to populate each component of the model, updating the information as quickly as the situation evolved. We are currently working with partners such as IOM, OCHA and UNHCR to do just that, in an effort to better reflect the dynamics of displacement.

The purpose of our data model is to better capture all incidents of new displacement, or "flows", during the year as information becomes available, the number of IDPs reported to have found durable solutions or to have crossed an international border, the number of children born in displacement and the number of IDPs who have died.

Figure A.1: IDMC's displacement data model



The model is an ideal vehicle for compiling displacement estimates, but in reality we have found it difficult to populate systematically. We seldom receive comprehensive data from our partners for all of its components. This is often because the type of data specified is simply not collected or, when it is collected, it is not disaggregated. A primary data source may report the extent to which the number of IDPs has declined during the course of the year, but may not specify the reason for the decrease.

The remainder of this annex explains how we account for the main flows we report, and how they influence our estimates. It also explains how we have selected countries and events to include and why we have excluded some countries we have reported on in the past. It also outlines how we assess and express our confidence in the source data.

Accounting for displacement associated with conflict and violence

We produce our figures for displacement associated with conflict and violence via country-level, or situational monitoring. That is, we learn of a displacement situation and begin collecting data on it over time.

We have historically published three main figures – the total number of people displaced as of the end of the year, the number of people newly displaced during the year and the number of people who returned during the year. Where possible, we have also reported on the number of IDPs who have settled elsewhere or integrated locally, those who have sought safety by continuing their flight across an international border and the number of births and deaths in displacement. We calculate our figures as follows:

New displacement

We may calculate the new displacement inflow for a given year, represented by the orange "internal displacement" arrow in figure A.1, in a number of ways.

If our partners provide us with data on new displacement once a year, we simply report the annually aggregated figure. More often, however, they provide us with such data on a monthly or quarterly basis, in which case we publish the sum of the estimates reported. For Afghanistan we received data from UNHCR and the government on newly profiled IDPs by the month of their displacement during 2015, which we aggregated to arrive at an annual estimate (see table A.2). The number of newly displaced people in December is an under-estimate because of the time lag between the displacement event and the IDPs' being profiled.

Table A.2. Monthly data on new displacement in Afghanistan (Source: UNHCR and the Government of Afghanistan)

Month	New displacement reported
Jan 2015	30,697
Feb 2015	12,923
Mar 2015	8,335
Apr 2015	54,686
May 2015	11,504
Jun 2015	25,895
Jul 2015	57,014
Aug 2015	30,374
Sep 2015	30,564
Oct 2015	49,902
Nov 2015	19,693
Dec 2015	3,822
TOTAL	335,409

It should be noted that "new displacement" is something of a misnomer in that data may capture the same people being displaced more than once during the year. Given that we are unable to track individual IDPs, it is often not possible to determine the extent to which this is the case for the numbers reported.

The current lack of disaggregated data on IDPs who fail to achieve durable solutions, and on cross-border returns to displacement, also means that such inflows are taken as incidents of new displacement.

Capturing the end of displacement

We calculate annual return flow estimates in a similar way to those for new displacement. For Afghanistan, the aggregated return flow for 2015 represents the sum of the reported monthly figures (see table A.3).

Table A.3. Monthly data on returns in Afghanistan (Source: UNHCR and the Government of Afghanistan)

Month	Reported returns
Jan 2015	None reported
Feb 2015	None reported
Mar 2015	None reported
Apr 2015	None reported
May 2015	None reported
Jun 2015	300
Jul 2015	30,329
Aug 2015	2,914
Sep 2015	None reported
Oct 2015	66,323
Nov 2015	19,386
Dec 2015	10,136
TOTAL	99,059

The same procedure applies to reporting data on local integration and settlement elsewhere, when it is available. It is important to note that accounting for returns, local integration and resettlement reduces the number of IDPs we report, but it does not necessarily mean that they have achieved durable solutions to their displacement. Data to assess the sustainability of these processes is not available at the global level, nor are there universally accepted indicators for measuring their progress.

Cross-border flight of IDPs

When possible, we deduct the number of IDPs who flee across an international border. In order for us to be able to do this, those collecting information about refugees and asylum seekers need to register whether people had already been displaced prior to fleeing across the border. Failure to do so risks double-counting. The number of refugees and asylum seekers is currently subtracted from their country of origin's general population but not its displaced population.

The spotlight on Syria in part two of this report explains the widespread concern that this issue has led to inflated internal displacement figures that combine numbers on IDPs and refugees, particularly in highly dynamic and politically sensitive crises.

Births and deaths in displacement

We only account for births and deaths in displacement when our partners provide data, and we managed to obtain it disaggregated by sex and age for 20 out of 53 countries in 2015. Given the shortage of disaggregated data and the fact that IDPs' fertility and mortality rates may not correspond with national figures, we do not try to extrapolate births and deaths in displacement from national demographic data.

Depending on the scale and duration of displacement, the lack of primary data on these flows can represent a potentially significant blind spot. In protracted crises such as Macedonia's, reported changes in the size of the displaced population may depend more on demographic trends than on returns, local integration and settlement elsewhere, given the lack of progress in these areas.

Total number of IDPs

The inflows and outflows described above all influence the total number or "stock" of IDPs at a given moment in time – 31 December 2015 in the case of this report. We estimate the number of IDPs at the end of the year by triangulating data reported from one or more sources with a mathematically derived estimate based on the "flow" data available on new displacement, returns, local integration, settlement elsewhere, cross-border flight and births and deaths in displacement.

We arrive at the total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2015 by taking the total at the end of 2014 and adding or subtracting flow data as follows:

$$\text{Total number of IDPs}_{\text{Dec 2015}} = \text{Total number of IDPs}_{\text{Dec 2014}} + [\text{Births}_{2015} + \text{new displacement}_{2015}] - [\text{Returns}_{2015} + \text{settlement elsewhere}_{2015} + \text{local integration}_{2015} + \text{cross-border flight}_{2015} + \text{deaths}_{2015}]$$

The equation is technically incomplete because it does not take into account the "counterflows" represented by failed returns, local integration and settlement elsewhere, or cross-border returns into displacement. Given, however, that data is not collected and these phenomena are accounted for as new rather than repeated displacement, the equation serves its purpose.

In reality, the lack of coverage of the components of our data model and the way outflow data is aggregated mean the actual equation for most countries is often simply:

$$\text{Total number of IDPs}_{\text{Dec 2015}} = \text{Total number of IDPs}_{\text{Dec 2014}} + \text{New displacement}_{2015} - \text{Returns}_{2015}$$

The mathematical formula for estimating the stock of IDPs is at best a modelled approximation. We compare this with the data we obtain from our sources, and when we do they do not always correspond. There are number of reasons for this:

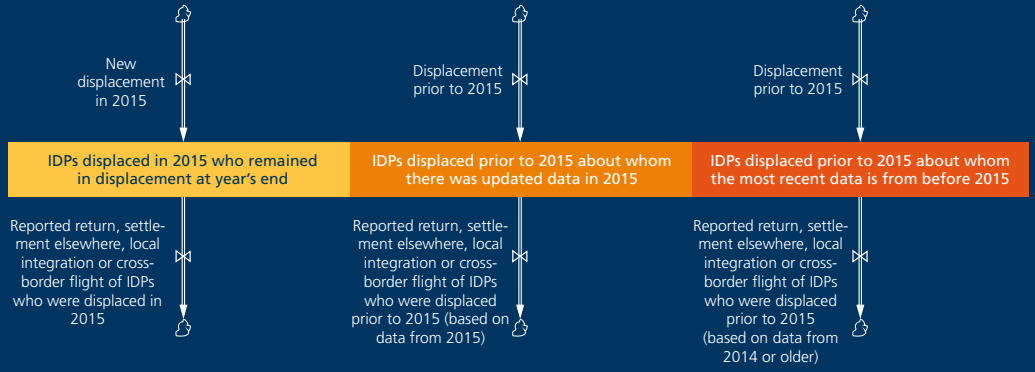
- The initial value – the estimate for the end of the previous year – is incorrect and needs to be revised. In Afghanistan, delays in the profiling of IDPs meant that people displaced in 2014 were captured well into 2015, which meant we had to retroactively revise our December 2014 estimates.
- New displacement includes repeated displacement. This is the case every year in DRC and in many other contexts.
- Double-counting. In Myanmar, a small number of IDPs may have been counted more than once by two or more sources.
- Partners change their data-collection methodology, as in DRC, or the scope of their geographical coverage, as in Nigeria.
- We change our primary source because of the lack of available data or doubts about their credibility.
- There is a lack of data on a flow that significantly affects the number of IDPs in a country. Data on the number of refugees and asylum seekers from Syria does not indicate whether they had previously been displaced internally.

REFLECTING THE DATE OF SOURCES

When situations remain unchanged from one year to the next, or when flow data is not available, we base our end-of-year estimates on the data provided by our partners. In many countries, however, it has not been updated for several years. In countries with complex or multiple displacement crises, such as Chad, Iraq and Myanmar, data for one crisis may be regularly reported, while for others it may be outdated or missing. If there is no credible evidence that IDPs in such situations have returned, integrated locally or settled elsewhere, we have in the past included them in our global figures.

In the interests of transparency, this year's report stratifies the stock of IDPs based on when the primary data was collected (see figure A.2). The length of the bar as a whole represents the total number of IDPs for whom we were able to obtain data. The right-hand section represents data which is increasingly out of date.

Figure A.2. Different strata for stocks of IDPs, ordered by the date of the source data



Accounting for displacement associated with disasters

Our estimates for displacement associated with disasters are generated by event rather than by country. We monitor and collect displacement information from our partners and international media outlets for all reported disasters. We apply no threshold when doing so, either in terms of the number of people involved or the distance they have travelled. Our database includes records of one up to 15 million IDPs.

We generate a single estimate for each event for the total number of people displaced. It is important to note that our figures do not necessarily capture the peak number of IDPs, but instead aim to provide the most comprehensive figure for those displaced with minimal double-counting.

In order to generate our estimates, we collect data from a number of reports on the same disaster, each specifying whether its figures refer to individuals or households, the reporting terms and sources used, the publisher, the title of the source document and the date of publication.

This dataset allows us to better interpret the context of the figure in each report. In determining our estimates, it is vital that the data selected represents the most comprehensive figure from the most reliable source available for that event.

When possible we triangulate the figures using competing reports. In most cases, however, our estimates are derived from a single report. In others, they are the aggregation of a number of reports that together cover the wide geographical area affected by a disaster.

Reporting bias

We are aware that our methodology and data may be subject to different types of reporting bias, some of which are detailed below:

- Unequal dissemination of data: Global reporting tends to emphasise large events in a small number of countries where international agencies, funding partners and media have a substantial presence, or where there is a strong national commitment and capacity to manage disaster risk and collect information.
- Under-reporting of small-scale events: Small-scale displacements are far more common, but less reported on. Disasters that occur in isolated, insecure or marginalised areas also tend to be under-reported because access and communications are limited.
- "Invisible" IDPs: There tends to be significantly more information available on IDPs who have taken refuge at official or collective sites than on those living with host communities and in other dispersed settings. Given that the vast majority usually fall into the second category, figures based on data from collective sites are likely to be substantial underestimates.
- Real-time reporting is less reliable, but later assessments may underestimate: Reporting tends to be more frequent but less reliable in the most acute and highly dynamic phases of a disaster, when peak levels of displacement are likely to be reached. It becomes more accurate once there has been time to make more considered assessments.
- Estimates based on later evaluations of severely damaged or destroyed housing will be more reliable, but they are also likely to understate the peak level of displacement, given that they will not include people whose homes did not suffer severe damage but who fled for other reasons.

Our estimates for many disasters are calculated by extrapolating from the number of severely damaged or destroyed homes or the number of families in evacuation centres. In both cases we multiply the housing and family data by the average number of people per household.

ESTIMATING AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Primary sources often report the number of homes rendered uninhabitable or the number of families displaced, which we convert into a figure for IDPs by multiplying the numbers by the average household size (AHHS). There is, however, no universal dataset with updated and standardised AHHS data for all countries.

In its absence, some global disaster datasets have opted to apply an average across all countries or groups of countries. The Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) uses an average family size of five for developing countries and three for industrialised countries.[1]

Our 2014 and 2015 Global Estimates reports relied mainly on two international datasets containing household size information, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)'s population data for 2013, with source data from 2000 to 2011; and its population data for 1995, with source data from 1989 to 1993. We also used data retrieved directly from the websites of a few national statistics offices, but for the 121 countries where this was not possible we had to estimate the AHHS by adding a constant to the fertility rate.

Given the potentially significant effect of AHHS on our estimates, we have improved our methodology for the 2016 GRID in several ways. We searched for more datasets on household size, and found a number compiled by international organisations based on census data: seven UNSD population datasets published between 2009 and 2015; Eurostat data published in 2016; the OECD Family Database published in 2015; and the World Bank's 2012 world development indicators.

We also used two other datasets that rely mostly on national census data, Euromonitor's World Economic Factbook 2014 and an academic dataset based mostly on official data compiled by Official Statistics of Finland.[2] To these we added data from USAID's Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), which are available for 75 developing countries and, while not being full national censuses, are based on nationally representative samples – usually between 5,000 and 30,000 households. They are also designed to be comparable internationally.[3]

Merging these 13 datasets into a relational database allowed us to identify gaps and discrepancies, which we addressed by searching the websites of national statistics offices to glean official figures not yet disseminated, and by receiving data from partner organisations such IOM and JIPS operating in the field. Where several sources were available, we analysed the differences between them, which turned out to be minor for most countries. We investigated larger discrepancies in a few developing countries with large AHHSs further. Table A.4 illustrates how we prioritised the various datasets.

This approach allowed us to increase the scope of our AHHS dataset from 215 to 251 countries and territories, without having to rely on estimates based on fertility rates.

To compensate for the differences in data collection dates, which were more than ten years ago for a few countries, we built a statistical model of the change in household size over time. We calibrated it using two datasets with multiple data points and good international and intertemporal comparability: the DHS dataset, keeping values that were measured at least 10 years apart, and another OECD dataset.[4]

The time elapsed between two measurements was found to have a significant influence on AHHS, which generally decreases over time. Demographic and economic indicators such as changes in the fertility rate, population or GDP per capita growth and regional indicators were found to be less significant.

Table A.4. Prioritisation of the various AHHS data sources (the most recent data was selected for each row)

Data source	Priority
National statistical office websites and recent field data from partner organisations	One
Census data from intergovernmental organisations and DHS data less than five years old	Two
World Economic Factbook 2014	Three
Census or survey data more than six years old and academic datasets such as that of Official Statistics of Finland	Four

Depending on the size of the displacement event, even a small change in the household size figure can make a huge difference to the final estimate. In 2015 we calculated estimates for Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) based on the number of families registered as displaced. We then received new information that led us to use an average household size of 6.2 rather than 5.2 people, which in turn produced an estimate for the number of IDPs nearly 200,000 higher than that we would have published last year based on the same source data (see table A.5).

Table A.5: The impact of household size on displacement estimates for KP province and FATA in Pakistan

Number of families registered as displaced	Former average household size (people per family)	Former IDMC estimate (rounded to nearest 1,000)	New average household size (people per family)	Updated IDMC estimate (rounded to nearest 1,000)	Variance between the two estimates
191,018	5.2	993,000	6.2	1,184,000	191,000

We also use average household size data widely in compiling our estimates for displacement associated with disasters. The most striking example of its impact on our estimates in 2015 involved the earthquakes in Nepal. Had we used the old 2014 average household size of 5.4, we would have arrived at an estimate of 3,294,000 IDPs. Based on new, more accurate data, our actual estimate is 2,623,000, a difference of 671,000.

We also revised some of the estimates we published for disasters in 2014 based on updated average household size information, in order to ensure that our trend analyses are as accurate as possible (see table A.6).

Table A.6: Revised estimates for displacement associated with disasters in 2014, based on new average household size data

Event	Former average household size (people per family)	Former IDMC estimate (rounded to nearest 1,000)	New average household size (people per family)	Updated IDMC estimate (rounded to nearest 1,000)	Variance between the two estimates
Ethiopia - Awash river flood	7.831	63,000	4.5	36,000	– 27,000
Niger - rainy season displacement	7.7512	63,000	5.8	47,000	– 16,000
South Sudan - severe floods in Warrup state	7.62	46,000	5.0	30,000	– 16,000

IDMC's data collection, analytical process, definitions and decision rules

Country identification

IDMC collects and presents data on IDPs for each country it monitors based on internationally recognised borders or, in the case of foreign occupation such as Palestine, on demarcation lines. The 2016 GRID dataset for displacement associated with conflict also includes the Abyei area, which is disputed between Sudan and South Sudan and whose final borders are to be determined in a referendum. We report on displacement in new states created by secession, such as Kosovo and Timor Leste, when they have broad international recognition.

People displaced within areas of an internationally recognised state under foreign occupation are considered IDPs, irrespective of their location with respect to the de facto borders or the territorial claims of the occupying power, providing the original international borders still have broad international recognition. Examples are eastern Ukraine, Crimea, South Ossetia and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

For the purpose of this report, countries are defined as independent nation states, including their overseas territories. Our dataset for displacement associated with disasters includes some countries, such as Taiwan, that do not have broad international recognition. The inclusion of such countries and other contested territories does not imply any political endorsement or otherwise on IDMC's part.

To make analysis of the dataset easier and more effective, we use UN country terminology and the three-digit ISO country code. For areas such as Abyei, which have no standard ISO code, we created one.

Definition of an IDP

We use the definition of an IDP contained in the 1998 Guiding Principles. The criteria related to the "forced" nature of displacement "within internationally recognized borders" is clearly fundamental in determining whether the person is an IDP, but the Guiding Principles do not set other criteria by which to identity a person fleeing their "home or place of habitual residence".

As such, we interpret IDPs to include not only citizens of the country in which displacement takes place, but also non-nationals such as migrants and asylums seekers in Libya, and Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon; refugees who have returned to their home country but have been unable to go back to their habitual place of residence, such as Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan; and stateless people such as the Rohingya who have been displaced by conflict or violence.

Forced displacement should not only be associated with the notion of a fixed place of residence, but also flight from traditional "living spaces" that support people's livelihoods, such as pastoralists' grazing areas. Given that the concept of habitual residence is intimately linked to the issue of livelihoods, people who have lost them as a result of their displacement – such as pastoralists in Somalia and elsewhere in eastern Africa – are considered IDPs. We consider a person to be displaced regardless of how far or for how long they flee.

In accordance with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions, displacement is deemed to end when IDPs have returned home, integrated locally in their place of refuge or settled elsewhere in the country in a sustainable way, and no longer have vulnerabilities linked to their displacement. We acknowledge this concept, but for the purpose of our monitoring and reporting, we do not count returnees as IDPs, and subtract the figure from our total estimates, whether they are known to have achieved a durable solution or not. This is because it is not possible in the vast majority of cases for us to properly gauge the extent to which IDPs have achieved a lasting end to their displacement or not.

On the other hand, we consider children born in displacement to be IDPs, and they are included in our estimates. This is particularly pertinent in countries such as Azerbaijan, where displacement has lasted for decades. As such, the number of IDPs in these countries may increase over the years as a result of demographic trends, despite the fact that the original trigger has long ceased to cause any new displacement.

For countries that have been divided into two internationally recognised states, such as Sudan and South Sudan, we do not consider people whose former place of habitual residence is in one of the new entities and refuge in the other as IDPs (see box below). For instance, we do

not consider a person who fled from what was formally southern Sudan to northern Sudan an IDP following the creation of South Sudan, but people displaced within either Sudan or South Sudan are considered IDPs.

Data sources

Our ability to report on displacement and provide reliable estimates is contingent on the availability of sources, and their willingness to gather and share data. We draw on information produced or compiled from a wide range of source types. Governments might be expected to have the primary responsibility for counting IDPs, but many others are involved in data gathering, including international organisations, community-based organisations, specialised websites, thematic databases, local authorities, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and private sector institutions. Such sources play a significant role, particularly when governments lack the capacity or will to collect the data or when their estimates are unreliable.

Different sources gather different data for different purposes, with different methodologies and for different objectives. These include operational planning, which is influenced by considerations of timely funding. Divergent objectives often affect the way in which data gatherers estimate target populations or beneficiaries.

We are aware that various data sources may also have an interest in manipulating or tweaking the number of IDPs. They may choose to do so in order to call international attention to a crisis, maximise the amount of external assistance received, downplay the scale of a conflict or disaster if the government is held accountable, or because of political sensitivities such as to deflect international attention.

In order to mitigate this potential bias, whenever possible we triangulate the data by using several sources and prioritising those we have historically deemed to have been most objective.

Language bias also affects our ability to source displacement data comprehensively. We can only obtain and analyse information in the languages in which we speak and read. Our staff and network of partners speak most languages, but we inevitably fail to capture some information, particularly for parts of Asia.

Disaggregated data

We systematically seek to obtain not only disaggregated quantitative data from our sources on a possible increases and decreases in figures, but also other kinds of information, such as data disaggregated by sex and age (SADD). Such information is vital in guiding an appropriate and effective response to IDPs' protection and assistance needs.

Little SADD is available for displacement associated with either conflict or disasters. The main reason is that specific information on IDPs' sex, age and disabilities is more easily captured in organised settings such as relief camps, while in many cases a significant majority of IDPs live in dispersed settings among host families and communities.

We also aim to gather and report disaggregated information by geographical area and time period in order to paint the most comprehensive and dynamic picture of displacement and provide a sound basis for more complex research and analysis.

Even when disaggregated data is available, however, it tends not to represent a statistically significant portion of the overall data collected. More is vital if we are to accurately inform the identification of, and response to the specific needs of different groups of IDPs.

Normalising displacement data by country population size

To illustrate the magnitude of internal displacement at the country level, we normalise the data to account for population size using the UN Population Division's population estimates for each country. In doing so, a clear distinction has to be made between the notion of population and inhabitants. When displacement is acute, including refugees fleeing across international borders, the population in a country at a given time may be significantly lower than the official figure. Syria is the most graphic case in point, but the issue also affects other countries such as Libya and Somalia, for which there are no up-to-date and reliable national population figures. As such, the ratios of IDPs to population and inhabitants will differ, but both provide useful information for research and analysis.

Table A.7. Comparison of main monitoring attributes for displacement associated with conflict and disasters

Displacement monitoring attribute	Conflict and violence	Disasters
Event-based	No	Yes
Geography or situation-based	Yes	No
Global coverage	Yes	Yes
Quantitative threshold	No	No
Enables reporting of number, or stock of IDPs	Yes	No, lack of data
Covers incidents of new displacement	Yes	Yes
Includes other inflows and outflows that determine the number of IDPs	Yes, subject to availability of data	No, lack of data
Includes SADD	Yes, subject to availability of data	Yes, subject to availability of data
Figures disaggregated based on age of source data	Yes	No, not applicable
Application of average household size data	Yes	Yes

Methodological challenges particular to displacement associated with conflict

We gather data from primary and secondary sources on the number of people displaced by international and non-international armed conflict and other situations of violence. We aim to include all people forcibly displaced in such contexts.

Our monitoring is based on the sourcing and analysis of other's primary and secondary data. Data sources tend to be numerous during humanitarian crises and visible emergencies, when they compile information to target assistance, as in Syria. During protracted and neglected crises, displacement data tends to be unavailable or out-of-date, as in Armenia, Cyprus, Georgia, Togo and Turkey.

Sources do not often use the same definition of an IDP as the Guiding Principles. Nor do they use the same methodologies, which creates a serious challenge when compiling our estimates. In several countries, including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, DRC, Georgia, Pakistan and Ukraine, only IDPs who have been officially registered with the authorities are counted.

In some countries only one data source is available, while in others there may be several. For each country listed in the 2016 GRID dataset, we systematically looked for several sources. We always strive to identify new data sources, even for countries and situations where others already exist. This enables us to crosscheck, but it may also create confusion because sources rarely explain their methodologies.

When different sources are available, or when a new source provides information, we may still decide to base our estimate on only one source. That decision may vary from year to year depending on objective criteria, such as their geographical and temporal coverage, or their perceived reliability (see confidence assessment section below). Or we may aggregate different data from separate sources, which may help us extend the geographical coverage of our estimates. As such, our figures are more likely to take into account and reflect both qualitative and quantitative uncertainties.

In many countries affected by conflict and violence, no agencies or mechanisms collect data on the number and kind of people who have sought refuge in urban areas, those who are hosted by relatives or other families or those who have fled to remote areas. This leads to the number of IDPs being under-estimated.

On the other hand, some sources identify returnees as still being IDPs and include them in their figures, which in terms of our methodology constitutes an over-estimate and a particular computing challenge, given that we subtract returnees for reporting purposes. For example, IDMC's previous estimate for Sri Lanka included IDPs who had returned, but who had not achieved a durable solution. This year, in keeping with the rule we apply to other countries, we subtracted these returnees, which reduced our estimate by nearly half.

SELECTION OF COUNTRIES IN THE GRID DATASET ON DISPLACEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

The 2016 GRID dataset contains information on 52 countries and one disputed region, the Abyei area, where we have received or been able to obtain information on displacement. The inclusion of a country in the dataset is not contingent on a quantitative threshold for the number of IDPs. It depends only on the availability of credible data. The fact that a country is not included should not be taken as implying that no displacement has taken place, but rather that no information has been forthcoming, or that the displacement is not caused by conflict or violence.

Our 2016 GRID estimates include a number of changes from our 2015 Global Overview that result from the systematic and consistent application of decision rules to all situations of displacement. Unlike instances in which we have simply updated or revised a previous figure based on new evidence, they represent substantive departures from previous practice and concern whether to account for, and report on certain situations and caseloads at all.

Such decisions were based on issues related to a more consistent interpretation of information received from our sources, our analysis of the primary causes of displacement and geopolitical considerations that affect the definition of international borders that are essential to determine whether someone is an IDP, a refugee or stateless. These border issues cover foreign occupation, the creation of new states and unilateral secession.

As a result, in some cases we have made quantitative changes to previous estimates for the same stock of IDPs, while in others we chose not to include certain countries in the 2016 GRID.

Interpretation of information received from sources

An in-depth reassessment of the sources available for all of the countries we included in our 2015 Global Overview and a close examination of the data led to the following countries being excluded from this year's report:

- Eritrea
- Laos
- Liberia
- Timor Leste

Analysis of primary causes of displacement

A thorough review of our data and contextual analysis revealed that in some cases, the main causes of displacement were not linked to conflict but to other triggers such as forced eviction. We found that such triggers were the only cause of displacement in the following countries, so we removed them from our 2015 dataset for displacement associated with conflict and violence:

- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Zimbabwe

For other countries, where we found that the causes of displacement varied between different caseloads of IDPs, we subtracted those IDPs whom we ascertained had not been displaced by conflict. This led to a reduction in the total number of IDPs for the following countries:

- Indonesia
- Papua New Guinea
- Liberia

Geopolitical parameters

a. Foreign occupation

We consider people displaced within areas of an internationally recognised state under foreign occupation as IDPs, irrespective of their location with respect to the de facto borders or the territorial claims of the occupying power, providing the original international borders still have broad international recognition.

As such, our 2015 estimate of the number of IDPs in Cyprus does not only include Greek Cypriots who moved to the southern part of the island at the time of Turkey's invasion in 1974, as was the case in the past. It also incorporates estimates for Turkish Cypriots who moved from southern to northern Cyprus at the time. This interpretation and accounting is consistent with the methodology we have used for other occupied areas, such as Crimea and other parts of eastern Ukraine.

b. Creation of new states

For countries that have been divided into two internationally recognised states, such as Sudan and South Sudan, we consider all people displaced within each of the new entities as IDPs, and we produce separate estimates for each one. People who fled within the previously undivided state and who crossed the border that delineates the new entities are no longer counted as IDPs.

As such, we no longer count people who fled from Timor Leste to West Timor when the former was established in 1999. Their number has been subtracted from our 2015 estimate for Indonesia.

c. Unilateral secession

For regional entities such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which have unilaterally seceded outside an internationally supported process, we do not count IDPs within them separately from those in the state the entity has seceded from. In cases where a majority of UN member states have established diplomatic relations with a seceding entity, however, we do produce estimates for IDPs who have fled within it.

For the purpose of the GRID only, we no longer count people as IDPs if they have crossed what has become a de facto international border and find themselves in different entity from the one in which they were originally displaced. As such, our estimate for Kosovo refers only to people who have fled within the territory itself. Given the Serbian government reported all IDPs in the country as having come from Kosovo, Serbia is not included in the 2016 GRID.

These decisions not to continue counting people we previously considered IDPs in no way implies that they no longer have vulnerabilities related to their displacement.

Geographical scope and coverage

Our methodology aims to capture the full geographical scope of displacement and strives to monitor and report on all situations across the entirety of each country we cover. In many, such as DRC, Syria and Yemen, however, data sources do not cover all of the regions where displacement took place. As a result, displacement figures only reflect geographical areas where humanitarian agencies have been operating, and the objectives of their response.

Humanitarian agencies often lack access to conflict zones because of insecurity, which can lead to significant information gaps. Our sources tend to monitor and report on displacement more easily in areas where IDPs are most visible, such as in camps. In most cases, however, agencies fail to record the geographical dynamics of IDPs' movements when registering them. In other cases, such as Myanmar and Syria, they collect data in regions that overlap, often using different methodologies.

Data gatherers are very likely to overlook IDPs living in more dispersed settings. These include people who move to urban areas where they blend in with local inhabitants; those who flee to remote areas, such as the bush in CAR or the forests of Côte d'Ivoire; and those who are hosted by other families or relatives, as in the Philippines. They end up unreported, and the scope and nature of such displacement cannot be quantified and assessed. Their number and fate remain unknown.

Temporal scope and frequency of reporting

The 2016 GRID dataset reports separately on the total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2015, and the number of people newly displaced during the year. The former reflects the number of people still displaced at the end of the year, but does not capture repeated displacement or other movements of people who fled or returned home during it.

The figures reported are static, but IDPs' movements are not. For this reason, we aim to improve our methodology and increase not only its geographical, but also its temporal coverage. We plan to produce displacement figures more frequently in order to capture the fluidity and complexity of IDPs' movements.

To do so, we will soon begin piloting a hybrid monitoring methodology that combines event-based and country-based monitoring of displacement situations as they evolve over time. The idea is to identify displacement events in near-real time, manually verify those we deem to have led to people fleeing and then to engage partners in the field to collect time-series data. For the purpose of initiating a humanitarian alert, in some cases our partners in the field will also help us to identify events that have the potential to trigger displacement.

Methodological challenges particular to displacement associated with disasters

The 2016 GRID presents our latest findings on new displacement associated with disasters in 2015, and compares it with our historical dataset for 2008 to 2015.

Typological considerations

The 2016 GRID estimates are based on new displacement known to have taken place as a result of disasters for which natural hazards have been identified as the primary trigger. When available, we use the internationally acknowledged name of the hazard and categorise them initially into four main types: geophysical, meteorological, hydrological and climatological. These are then refined into types, sub-types and sub-sub-types (see table A.8).

To better understand the complexities of the phenomena, we plan to break down the different stages of a disaster by identifying its primary from its secondary, tertiary and subsequent triggers.

The 2015 dataset presents figures for displacement associated with sudden-onset hazards, but in future reports we intend to include that associated with slow-onset hazards such as drought. In 2014, we developed a model-based methodology, which we used to monitor the displacement of pastoralists in the Horn of Africa during the 2010 to 2011 drought, and we started to collect data on slow-onset hazards in 2015.

Table A.8. Typology of natural hazards*

Hazard category	Type	Sub-type	Sub-sub-type
Geophysical	Earthquakes, mass movements, volcanic activity	Ground shaking, tsunamis, sudden subsidence, sinkholes, landslides, rockfalls, ashfalls, lahars, pyroclastic flows, lava flows, toxic gases, glacial lake outburst flows (GLOF), volcanic eruptions	
Meteorological	Storms, extreme temperatures	Extra-tropical storms, tropical storms including hurricanes and cyclones, convective storms, cold waves, heatwaves, severe winter conditions	Derechos, hailstorms, thunderstorms, rainstorms, tornados, winter storms, dust storms, storm surges, haze, gales
Hydrological	Flooding, landslides, wave action	Coastal floods, riverine floods, flash floods, ice jam floods, avalanches – snow, debris, mudflows, rockfalls – rogue waves, seiches	
Climatological	Drought, wildfires	Forest fires, land fires –bush, brush and pasture	Fire whirls

* This typology is adapted from the classification system developed by the international disaster database (EM-DAT) maintained by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) in Louvain, Belgium.

Spatial and geographical coverage

Our estimates aim to provide a global picture of displacement associated with disasters, but we face a number of challenges in compiling them. Thanks to long-standing partnerships with organisations such as IOM, we have been able to overcome some, and reach out at the national and local level for information. Language barriers, however, are a major challenge, particularly for events that occur in south and south-east Asia. To address this, we constantly seek to improve our access to data by expanding our network of reliable collaborators, with particular focus on our partners in the field.

Temporal coverage

Our dataset records incidents of displacement that began in 2015 and are supported by a reliable and comprehensive source. The main challenge we faced in collecting data for the year were overlapping events, such as cyclone Komen and Myanmar's monsoon floods, which made it difficult to identify people displaced by each disaster because our sources provided a final aggregate figure for all events.

Protracted displacement in the aftermath of disasters is a highly challenging area. We produced a first scoping exercise in 2015, which aimed to shed light on the phenomenon by challenging the notion that people who flee a disaster are not likely to remain displaced for long. This false assumption is fostered by only occasional reporting of ongoing cases, often to mark the anniversary of a particular disaster. Our scoping exercise allowed us to re-examine the issue, and conclude that there are likely to be many more people living in protracted displacement than previously thought. We plan to monitor and analyse the phenomenon in-depth using our data model.

Terminology

We use the term "displaced", but it is rarely if ever adopted consistently and unequivocally by different countries or sources (see table A.9). People displaced by floods in 2015 were referred to as "homeless" in Madagascar and as "moved" in Iraq. Often, sources refer to people displaced by disasters as "directly affected". It is true that IDPs are part of a wider population affected by a disaster, but not all those affected are IDPs. As such, additional analysis is required to make sense of the terms sources use, and to understand when and how they signal displacement.

Table A.9. Explanation of reporting terms

Term	Explanation
Displaced	Involuntary or forced movements, evacuation or relocation – when not specified – of individuals or groups of people from their habitual housing
Evacuated	Voluntary and forced evacuations, both preventive and in response to onset of hazard
Relocated	Voluntary and forced relocations, both preventive and in response to onset of hazard
Sheltered	People accommodated in shelters provided by national authorities or organisations such as NGOs, the UN and IFRC
Homeless	People rendered homeless and without adequate shelter
Uninhabitable housing	Limited to habitual place of residence, and includes houses, retirement homes, prisons, mental healthcare centres and dormitories
Other	Any term not mentioned above

Even within the UN and coordinated international humanitarian reporting mechanisms there is inconsistency in how different populations are described and counted, with some estimates based on "people affected" and others on "people in need" or "people targeted".

Many terms and expressions are specific to internal displacement, and our database captures the most common ones, as shown in table A.9. They may refer to individuals, groups of people such as families or households, or housing. We use the number of houses destroyed as a proxy because it shows that at least one household has been left homeless. We calculate the number of individuals by applying the average household size available for each country (see box).

Housing information

Housing information is vital in estimating displacement associated with disasters. In 2015, 35.5 per cent of the sources we used for our estimates reported figures for uninhabitable housing when describing displacement. In order to use housing data as a valid proxy, we only consider figures for homes that have been damaged to the extent they are no longer habitable.

Terms that indicate the extent of damage include "houses at risk (of collapse)", "houses severely affected/damaged" and "houses destroyed". We consider housing to be any place where people have established a habitual residence, including retirement homes, prisons, religious residences and schools when dormitories are present. We include hospitals if the information provided suggests that long-term patients have been displaced.

We also include shelters in refugee and displacement camps, for instance "collapsed tents" in in Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp are counted as uninhabitable housing. Such cases constitute multiple displacement, in which people may have fled conflict only to become displaced again when their camp is flooded.

Evacuation data

We often use data on mandatory evacuations and people staying in official evacuation centres to estimate event-based displacement. On the one hand, the number of people counted in evacuation centres may underestimate the total number of evacuees, as others may take refuge elsewhere. On the other, the number of people ordered to evacuate may overstate the true number, given that some are likely not to heed the order. The potential for such discrepancies is much greater when authorities advise rather than order evacuation, and as a result we do not incorporate such figures into our estimates.

Quality assurance and independent peer review

As in previous years, and in order to improve our methodology, we submitted this year's estimates to a quality assurance process to verify the data. The verification stage is as important as the data collection itself, because it allows possible discrepancies to be identified, and the data to be refined before it is finalised. This year's process was led in-house, and all of our entries have been double-checked.

For disaster events in 2015, all records with estimates of 500 IDPs or more have been fact-checked. In future we aim to extend the verification process to the entire set of annual entries. We have also submitted this methodological annex to external peer reviewers, and elements of our methodology were reviewed in previous years by a different set of independent experts.

We will embed the external peer review and internal quality assurance processes into our future work to ensure that the methods we use to produce our figures are robust and that we have presented them accurately.

Qualitative assessment of confidence in estimates for people displaced by conflict

Building upon lessons from existing assessments

There have been several attempts recently to design confidence assessment schemes to evaluate data on internal displacement, part of a broader movement in the field of humanitarian needs assessments.[5] The Task Force on Population Movement in Yemen (TFPM), for example, has developed a confidence rating based on disaggregation by sex and age, and the availability of data on districts of origin and displacement.[6]

IOM Iraq calculates a confidence rating in order to produce an estimate for each location in its displacement tracking matrix, based on the number of informants used, discrepancies between information from different sources, the accessibility of the location and the ability to independently validate the data received.[7] The Syria multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) gives a confidence rating for the population estimates it provides, including the number of IDPs, using a six-point scale with up to seven criteria for each point.[8]

Such assessments may seem reassuring, but if poorly conceived or implemented they may provide a false sense of certainty or confidence. They may hide the arbitrariness of the underlying criteria and the way they are weighted and aggregated. They may also reflect the biases and challenges inherent in the various steps involved in constructing an index and collecting the data.

To limit evaluators' bias and improve objectivity and consistency, clear decision rules are needed that limit the number of dimensions taken into account. To improve the Syria MSNA's descriptive confidence scale and overcome its lack of proper aggregation, a technical note suggested the application of a points-based index with three criteria, effectively discarding four of the seven included in the original confidence scale.[9]

There are ways of overcoming the limitations of point-based scores, but their complexity may render them opaque, adding another layer of potential confusion. Using only four indicators with two to five possible values for each, IOM Iraq's assessment framework yields up to 126 unique possible combinations.[10]

The challenge of applying nationally specific tools at the global level

It is difficult to extrapolate to the global level from confidence ratings designed for national circumstances. The three examples discussed above all refer to situations in which a single organisation or cluster designs the entire national data collection process.

At the global level, aggregation and cross-country comparison is made more difficult by the number of data sources and the fact that their motivations for collecting information ranges from rapid needs assessments to victim compensation without any a priori global coordination. Sources' methodologies also vary widely, from satellite imagery, registration, sampling, key informant interviews and censuses, to name but a few.

This diversity stands in stark contrast to the standardisation of data in the three national examples mentioned above. As such, the same set of criteria cannot easily be used to judge reliability, and the diversity in which the results are reported makes it more difficult to make comparisons between countries.

IDMC's confidence assessment

We have made an initial attempt to design a comprehensive framework to assess the confidence we have in the estimates we publish. The methodology and results presented in this report are the first steps of a process we will continue to develop through several more iterations.[11]

Given that we are as yet unable to apply many of the criteria to our data on displacement associated with disasters, we have only assessed our data and 2015 estimates for that associated with conflict in 11 representative countries (see table A.10). In assessing our confidence in the data, we applied a common set of criteria based on:

- The methodologies used to collect it
- Whether it could be independently validated
- The degree to which it is geographically comprehensive in terms of the extent of the conflict and associated displacement
- Whether it is disaggregated by sex and age
- The frequency with which it was collected
- How extensively it covers the components of our data model

For this initial assessment, we have not attempted to weight or rank these factors, nor have we assigned quantitative point values for them or generated an overall score for each source and estimate. In order to do so rigorously, we will first need to empirically test the relative significance of each of the factors.

Some of the data gaps reported can be attributed to the way governments and organisations collect and disseminate data, but this is not always the case. We try to be as comprehensive as possible in our own data collection, but we may overlook some sources that may address the gaps we report. As such, our assessment reflects the level of detail of the data we were able to collect and process from various sources – not the level of detail of all the data that exists or was published by each provider.

The assessment is shown in the table below, and reveals several features of our source data and the estimates based on it:

- In many cases we were unable to obtain thorough documentation of our providers' data collection methodologies or protocols.
- We often rely on only one source that we are unable to verify independently.
- In no country or displacement situation did the data cover our model comprehensively. This means that information about some flows is missing, resulting in a distorted or incomplete picture.
- We were unable to receive data frequently enough to keep up with events as they unfolded on the ground, particularly for highly dynamic situations. Again, the likely result is a skewed picture of displacement that does not capture events which evolved or were resolved quickly.

The encouraging news is that in several of the 11 countries, the data we obtained was disaggregated both geographically and by IDPs' sex and age. We have more confidence in these datasets and our estimates based on them than on those we derived by multiplying the number of destroyed houses or families evacuated by average household size.

Table A.10: Initial IDMC confidence assessment

		Bosnia and Herzegovina	Colombia	Indonesia	Iraq
Data on displacement	Methodology of the source(s) used	Registration	Registration	Unknown	IOM DTM*
	Data could be triangulated nationally	No	No	No	No
	All relevant areas well covered	Yes	Yes	Unknown	No
	Disaggregation of data in subnational administrative entities	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Frequency of reporting	Yearly	Yearly	No update	Bi-monthly
	Disaggregation by sex	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Disaggregation by age	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Data on end of displacement and other processes	Returns	No	No	Partial	Partial
	Deaths	No	No	No	No
	Births	No	No	No	No
	Cross-border movements	No	No	No	No
	Local integration	No	No	No	No
	Settlement elsewhere	No	No	No	No

* International Organization for Migration's displacement tracking matrix

For each country or territory, data on new displacements and the number of IDPs as of the end of 2015 have been assessed together. In many cases the same report is the source for both numbers.

The following notes expand upon and refine some of assessments in the table above.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Source: Government – direct email contact with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees
The government gives information on "ceased displacement" without providing further details.

Nigeria	Papua New Guinea	Sudan	Syria	Thailand	Ukraine	Yemen
IOM DTM	Multiple (partly unknown)	IOM DTM	Lacks transparency	Unknown	Registration	Multiple
No	No	No	No	No	No	No
No	No	No	No	No	Uncertain	No
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Quarterly	No update	Biannually	Yearly	No update	Almost weekly	Every two months
Partial	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Partial	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Partial	No	Partial	Partial	No	No	Partial
No	No	No	No	No	No	No
No	No	No	No	No	No	No
No	No	No	Partial	No	No	No
No	No	No	No	No	No	No
No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Colombia

Source: Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims (UARIV), government agency
Methodology: UARIV's registration system counts the number of people who have a claim as a victim of the country's conflict, not the current number of IDPs. Many people have been displaced more than once, leading to multiple registration and double counting. Our estimate aggregates data since 1985, with a peak period of displacement between 2000 and 2005. There is no information available on IDPs who might have found durable solutions to their displacement since 1985.

Indonesia

Sources: Media reports; one source citing the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), but we were unable to trace the original document.
Methodology: BAPPENAS's methodology is unknown.
Geographic coverage: BAPPENAS's reach is uncertain. Media reports mention new displacements in only a few regions such as Aceh, Yahukimo and Karubaga.
Geographic disaggregation: The BAPPENAS data we obtained was just one aggregated estimate.

Iraq

Source: IOM
Geographic coverage: Access is limited in Anbar and Ninewa governorates, which Islamic State (also known as ISIL or ISIS) controls.
End of displacement: Data on returns covered only part of the year.
Other: There is no data on people displaced before 2014.

Nigeria

Source: IOM in collaboration with the authorities
Geographic coverage: Access was not possible to 17 of the 27 local government areas (LGAs) in Borno state. In other states, it was only partial in some LGAs.
Data disaggregated by sex and age: SADD published by IOM is available for each site, but only for aggregated figures for displacement associated with both conflict and disasters, which does not permit a differentiated analysis.
End of displacement: In Adamawa, data on returns is only available for the northern part of the state.

Papua New Guinea

Sources: ICRC, media report
Methodology: Partly unknown. We compile data from sources using various methodologies.
Geographic coverage: Only places where ICRC and the media are present are covered. Ethnic clashes often take place in remote areas where access is hindered by insecurity and difficult terrain.
Geographic disaggregation: Data is gathered in a only limited number of locations.

Sudan

Source: IOM
Only Darfur and Kordofan are covered, which excludes areas such as Khartoum and the east of the country where displacement associated with conflict is likely to have taken place.
End of displacement: Detailed information is available, including SADD, vulnerability and occupation, but again only for Darfur and Kordofan.

Syria

Source: OCHA, which collates sources from various entities
Geographic coverage: A number of areas are hard to reach, particularly in the north-east of the country, and estimates are unreliable.
End of displacement: Data on returns and cross-border movements is scarce.
Other: Data collection takes place in a complex security environment, in which some stakeholders including armed groups have motives for providing biased information.

Thailand

Source: An International Crisis Group (ICG) report that mentioned a few displacement cases
Methodology: We compiled data from sources cited in a single ICG report dated 2007, and which does not focus on IDPs. The report in turn uses various sources whose methodologies are unknown.
Geographic coverage: The report covers only parts of southern Thailand.
Geographic disaggregation: The data covers only a limited number of displacements in a few locations.

Ukraine

Source: Ministry of Social Policy
Geographic coverage: The data has national coverage, but that for areas near the Russian border not under government control is possibly less reliable.
End of displacement: Data disaggregated by region is updated roughly once a week. The figures sometimes show a decrease, which implies that the displacement of IDPs between regions and/or durable solutions are somehow taken into account, but no further details are available.

Yemen

Sources: UNHCR in the north of the country and IOM in the south coordinate a population movement task force, to which 22 organisations contribute data.
Methodologies: UNHCR uses population movement tracking, and IOM its displacement tracking matrix.
Geographic coverage: For around half of the country's 21 governorates, data could not be collected in some districts. The largest gaps were in the Al Hudaydah, Hadramaut, Lahj and Shabwah governorates.
End of displacement: IOM's December 2015 report only covers some returnees who had fled disasters. Its February 2016 report does not disaggregate data temporally between 2015 and 2016, so it could not be used.

Notes on IDMC's confidence assessment criteria

SADD: The availability of SADD does not directly factor into the calculation of the number of IDPs, but it can be considered a proxy for detailed data collection practices. The Task Force on Population Movement in Yemen used SADD as a criteria in its fifth, sixth and seventh reports in a decision rule aimed at prioritising data.[12]

Geographically disaggregated data: Such data is not, per se, an absolute requirement for accurate national estimates of displacement. In many countries, however, some of the entities that collect data only have access to some regions. Geographical disaggregation allows for triangulation and gaps to be identified, while its absence can lead to possible double-counting. The Task Force on Population Movement in Yemen uses a similar rationale in its confidence rating to justify discarding data when location information is incomplete.

Multiple data sources: The availability of data from a number of independent sources does not guarantee higher quality or more accurate overall results. It can, however, prompt discussion of the various estimates available and the methodologies used to derive them. It also sometimes permits triangulation, which is useful in situations for which displacement estimates are highly sensitive or more susceptible to data collectors' biases.

Temporal dimensions: The frequency of updates is a relative criteria. Unfolding crises and rapidly changing situations such as those in Syria, Iraq and Yemen require more frequent updates than stable and often protracted situations such as in Armenia and Cyprus. Yearly updates may suffice for some situations, but for others, it can exclude some of the shorter-term displacements.

Next steps

Our confidence assessment is a work in progress, and we welcome input from partners interested in contributing to its development. We plan to apply our criteria to all of the data we receive and analyse so that our estimates are as accurate as possible. In doing so, our data users will be made aware of the magnitude of uncertainty the data contains, and the underlying reasons for it.

Notes

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