Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

CHAD

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis
As with other countries in the region affected by Boko Haram’s insurgency, there was an increase in the number of attacks in Chad in 2017, reportedly the result of military operations driving members of armed groups out of Nigeria. Killings, kidnappings and the destruction of housing increased in Lac region, after a few months of respite late in 2016. The attacks peaked between May and September, and have since reportedly decreased.

An opposition group known as the Front pour l’Alternance et la Concorde au Tchad (FACT), which emerged in early 2016, has also been operating in northern regions of the country and in Libya, where it has a base. The country’s president, Idriss Déby, has declared the northern border regions military areas as a result.

The country’s economic crisis, caused by the falling oil price, high external debt and reduced public spending, also sparked nationwide strikes and protests. As part of its austerity measures, the government has threatened to withdraw troops from regional operations, causing concern among partners and neighbours. Libya and Sudan have temporarily shut their borders with Chad to fight drug trafficking, and the border with CAR has been closed for several years to counter insecurity. These measures have harmed Chadian business and trade, and added to the country’s economic woes.

| Stock:    | 158,000 |
| New displacements: | 5,800 |
| Returns:  | N/A     |
| Provisional solutions: | 51,000 |
CHAD - New displacements in 2017

More than 5,770 new displacements recorded in the Lac region during 2017, as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency.
Location: Lac Region
Source: IOM DTM/UNHCR
Sources and methodologies
Our estimate is based on a new round of DTM assessment conducted by IOM in the last quarter of 2017.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges
The monitoring of population movements in Chad focuses on three main regions: Lac in the west, which is the main conflict hotspot because of the Boko Haram insurgency; the south-east, which borders CAR and has been affected by an overspill of tensions and violence there; and the eastern regions that border Sudan, from where many people have crossed the border. The monitoring of IDPs, however, is limited to Lac, despite occasional reports of internal displacement in the other areas, particularly the south-east. The last comprehensive round of assessment in the south-east was in 2016 and yielded a figure with low confidence attached to it. A loss of funding meant that no DTM assessment was conducted for most of 2017 in Lac, leading to a decaying figure being reported for much of the year. The final stock figure has also been questioned by many agencies in Chad, and is being revised. Confidence in its accuracy is low.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
We used the total number of IDPs reported in the latest DTM report in 2017 as a sole source and in the absence of any other available data.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year
Our estimate is significantly higher than last year’s, which was considered an underestimate. The increase is most likely attributable to continued conflict in the country and the overspill of violence from its neighbours.
CHAD - New displacements: 5,800
This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year

Sources and methodologies
This figure is based on variations from various reports published by OCHA and UNHCR, relaying decaying data from IOM.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges
We have very low confidence in this figure, which is a huge underestimate because it is only based on positive variations and only relates to one region. Access to many parts of Lac is also very limited given the topography and the presence of many groups on the numerous islands on Lake Chad. Our partners deemed the variation between last year’s and this year’s stock to be far too high, so we decided to go with the much lower, more conservative estimate. This reflects the absence of reliable, regularly updated and consistent data.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
We used the sum of positive variations between ad-hoc reports during the year, prior to the publication of the latest round of DTM data.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year
Our figure is significantly lower than last year’s because of the absence of reliable and updated data for most of the year.
We were unable to identify return movements because of the absence of reliable, consistent and updated data.

CHAD - 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.
CHAD - Provisional solutions: 51,000

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

Challenges in accounting for returns

Based on OCHA reports, one group identified as “IDP returnees” were actually people going back temporarily to farm or fish, leaving some or all of their family members in displacement camps, which they later returned to themselves. On this basis we decided to categorise them as having achieved provisional solutions in order to conduct a better assessment of their situation.