The humanitarian situation in the Pool department of Congo-Brazzaville deteriorated in 2017, as the insurgency by the Ninja militia, which was revived in 2016, gained momentum. In 2016, the government launched a new offensive in Pool after arson attacks on administrative buildings in a previous Ninja stronghold of Brazzaville. The attacks came after the presidential election, which saw Sassou Nguesso win a third term despite widespread protests.

The election constituted the culmination of a political crisis that started in late 2015, when the president forced a constitutional amendment allowing him to run for a third term. In 2017, the political opposition outside Pool took the conflict as an opportunity to revamp protest, and 2017 saw a series of events against the government crackdown in Pool. At the same time, Ninja attacks causing a high number of casualties among security forces were reported in Pool. While information on the Pool department remains sparse, highlighting a lack of access to the area due to conflict, it is accepted that the conflict is ongoing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock:</th>
<th>108,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New displacements:</td>
<td>86,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returns:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional solutions:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONGO - Map new displacements in 2017

About 86,000 people were displaced following the resurgence of the conflict between the Ninja militias and the government.

Location: Pool department
Source: Congo's Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs

Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.
CONGO - Stock: 108,000 IDPs

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

Sources and methodologies
The stock estimate is based on a multi-agency assessment coordinated by Congo’s Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs. The estimate details the total number of people displaced and in need of assistance due to the Pool crisis as of October 2017. The assessment used 2007 census data for baseline population estimates for the affected areas. Displacement data was collected through discussions with key informants (local authorities, administrative or technical, leaders of churches, leaders, community leaders, village and neighborhood leaders, people displaced or affected), through focus group discussions and through direct observations.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
Due to the limited access to at least five districts (Kimba, Vindza, Kindamba, Mindouli and Kinkala), the figure is likely to be an underestimate.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
Our estimate is based on the total number of IDPs reported as displaced in Bouenza, Pool, Lekoumou, Niari, Brazzaville, and Pointe Noire, as of October 2017.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
The estimate for 2016 included a protracted caseload of about 7,800 IDPs in the Pool department, reportedly displaced in the region between 2003 and 2006. As no further documentation on this caseload was retrieved in 2017, and as including them in the stock estimate may constitute double counting, the 2017 figure no longer includes this caseload. Despite this, the IDMC estimate for 2017 constitutes an increase compared to the 2016 one. This increase is due to the escalation of the conflict and the high number of new displacements between 2016 and 2017.
CONGO - New displacements: 86,000

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

Sources and methodologies
The new displacement estimate is based on a multi-agency assessment coordinated by Congo’s Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs. The estimate details the total number of people displaced and in need of assistance due to the Pool crisis as of October 2017. The assessment used 2007 census data for baseline population estimates for the affected areas. Displacement data was collected through discussions with key informants (local authorities, administrative or technical, leaders of churches, leaders, community leaders, village and neighborhood leaders, people displaced or affected), through focus group discussions and through direct observations.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
The figure is likely to be an underestimate, firstly because it does not include any displacements during January and February 2017, secondly because of the limited access to several affected districts, and thirdly because the stock update may not cover an unknown number of short-term/localised displacements that may have taken place in between the assessment rounds.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
The IDMC new displacement estimate is based on the estimated number of IDPs displaced in Bouenza, Pool, Lekoumou, Niari, Brazzaville, and Pointe Noire, as of October 2017 according to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs, subtracting about 22,000 people displaced as of March 2017 according to the same source (calculation of a positive difference between the two assessments). This constitutes the best available estimate of the new displacements that took place in 2017, as no assessment was carried out in January or February 2017 (the previous update took place in November 2016).

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
Due to the deterioration of the security situation in the Pool area the number of new displacements has considerably increased in 2017. However, as the accessibility to affected areas is limited, the figures are probably an underestimate.
CONGO - Returns: N/A

We did not identify or obtain any data for this category.
CONGO - Provisional solutions: N/A

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

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