

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

SOMALIA

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



SOMALIA - Contextual update

Stock:	825,000
New displacements:	388,000
Returns:	0
Provisional solutions:	93,000

Somalia remains one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies. The multifaceted crisis has been ongoing for three decades and displacement increased in 2017.

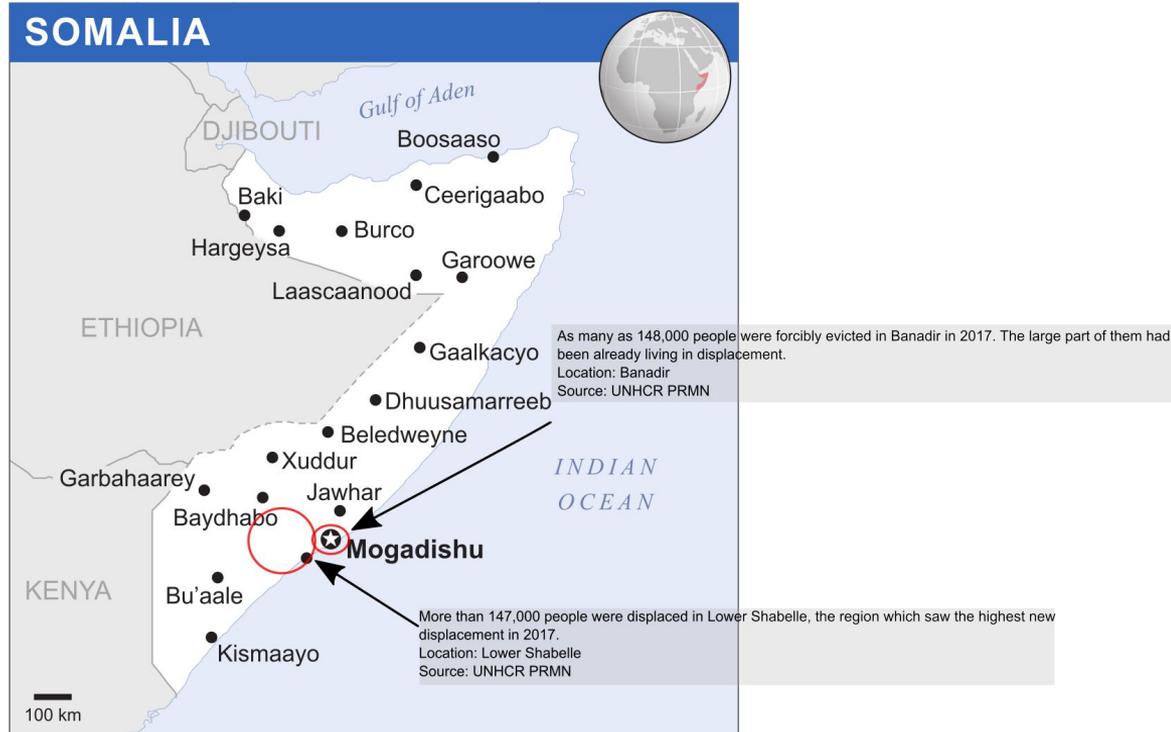
Al Shabaab continued its attacks against civilians, humanitarian personnel and government officials, displacing tens of thousands of people. Most of the attacks took place in south-central Somalia, where the majority of Al Shabaab forces are located and where the group took control of several towns in Lower Shabelle, Bay, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. It also launched attacks in northern areas of Puntland and Galguduug, including the Mudug and Bosasso regions, causing further displacements.

Inter-communal clashes over land and water sources also resulted in significant casualties and displacement.

More than 160,000 people were displaced as a result of forced evictions, many of whom were already living in displacement. Evictions occur when IDPs illegally occupy government buildings or when they are unable to pay their rent.

More than 800,000 people were displaced by the effects of drought, including the disruption of livelihoods and shortages of water and food, but their displacements are not included in these figures, which relate to displacement associated with conflict.

SOMALIA - Major displacement events in 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2011. 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.

SOMALIA - Stock: 825,000 IDPs

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



Sources and methodologies

We use IOM's DTM data to produce our stock estimate. DTM compiles information on IDPs from key informants (KIs) and does not undertake primary data collection. The latest data from September and October covers around half of the country's districts. The KIs use official household registration data collected by the CCCM cluster, and if this is unavailable, they use their own estimate to produce displacement figures. IOM assesses host communities, formal and informal settlements and also lists the three main reasons for displacement to a given settlement.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

We consider this figure to be an underestimate because geographical and temporal coverage is only partial. Assessments took place between May and October, meaning that some data was last updated in May. Some figures are also based on estimates of gate-keepers, which are likely to be imprecise. We also lack clarity on the disaggregation provided by reason for displacement and incident, which decreases our confidence in the estimate. Reasons are recorded by site rather than individual, making them only an approximative indicator.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

All caseloads IOM recorded as displacements caused at least in part by insecurity are included in our estimate, meaning that at least one reason given for displacement was insecurity or eviction, or that the incident was classified as insecurity-related.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

Our figure is down by 400,000 compared with 2016, because we were unable to disaggregate last year's figure, and so included the entire caseload of IDPs reported by OCHA, including people displaced by drought, outbreaks of diseases and other triggers.

SOMALIA - New displacements: 388,000



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

Sources and methodologies

We use data collected by the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) led by UNHCR and NRC. NRC works on UNHCR's behalf through 39 local partners who employ trained staff. They monitor displacements by targeting strategic points including transit sites, established displacement settlements, border crossings and other ad hoc locations. The data is captured by interviewing IDPs primarily at their point of arrival or KIs at displacement settlements, transit centres and other locations. Reports are uploaded onto a platform, through which NRC controls their quality.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

PRMN attempts to capture short-term displacements, doing so is very challenging given their fluidity. Nor does the monitoring distinguish between voluntary and forced movements, meaning that not all of the movements PRMN records necessarily qualify as internal displacement. We were unable, however, to disaggregate the data to this level. We are also aware that many of the reasons given for displacement reasons overlap and that disaggregating them is inexact and artificial. Nor does PRMN employ strict definitions of displacement triggers in their monitoring, and NRC and UNHCR provided some contradictory information regarding methodology and analysis which was not further clarified.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We included movements triggered by insecurity or limited access to services, because the latter is generally the result of Al Shabaab's activities. We also added people displaced by forced evictions.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

The number of new displacements has more than doubled, mostly because of a sharp increase in evictions.

SOMALIA - Returns: 0

This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence



We did not record any returns in Somalia in 2017. We reported most return movements as “provisional solutions” since they cannot be considered durable yet.

SOMALIA - Provisional solutions: 93,000

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



Challenges in accounting for returns

PRMN reports on people who go back to the places of origin because of “improved conditions in the place of return”, “forced returns” and “voluntary returns”. We do not have a clear understanding of these notions, nor do we have any further information about the fate of people who try to return. Given the situation in Somalia, however, we determined that the returns are likely to have led to provisional rather than durable solutions because few if any of IASC’s benchmarks are likely to have been met.