

# ETHIOPIA

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

Despite the decrease in new displacements in Ethiopia in 2019 compared to the previous year, the displacement and humanitarian situation remain severe. More than a million new and secondary displacements were recorded, most of them in Somali and Oromia regions. A new spike in violence and displacement was recorded in Guji zone (Oromia) since June and Amhara region since March.

Despite the insecurity, a national steering committee led by the Ministry of Peace approved on 29 March 2019 [a three-phased plan](#) to return all IDPs in the coming months. The implementation started almost immediately. By the end of the year more than 1.2 million IDPs had reportedly returned, and most IDP sites in East and West Wollegas and West Guji and Gedeo zones were dismantled. Returnees, however, encountered many obstacles. These included minimal, if any, assistance in the areas of return, destroyed housing and livelihoods, and continued insecurity. As a result, thousands of [secondary displacements](#) were reported in return areas. Some IDPs were also reported to have gone [into hiding in order to avoid being returned](#) to their areas of origin. At the end of the year, 1.4 million people were still living in conditions of internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence. That was a decrease of more than a million compared with 2018.

The government has made commendable efforts to address the challenges brought on by displacement. With the support from the UN and the international community, it launched a Durable Solutions Initiative in December.<sup>38</sup> This provides an operational framework for implementing long-lasting solutions and aims to provide support from the policy and legislative to the operational level. The initiative acknowledges that internal displacement is a developmental priority that needs to be addressed through cross-sectoral and coordinated development planning.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Partial Solutions or Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
1,052,000	1,414,000	1,203,000	1,203,000	1,700

\*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

\*\*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

## NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

*This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate is based on reports from the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM). We complemented these with other sources reporting on specific displacement events.

IDMC added reported movements from various sources to those calculated through reported increases in the number of IDPs at a given site between each two IOM DTM rounds. Those sources include the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), local and international media and the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO). In order to avoid errors and minimize double counting, IDMC analysed an array of parameters: dates of displacement, displacement flows, contextual information and the reported drivers of displacement at each site.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data and rapid response assessments (discontinued from May 2019) and mobility assessments from IOM DTM, OCHA, ECHO, ACLED and media reports.

IDMC's main source for the number of new displacements is IOM DTM rounds 15 to 20. The DTM rounds are published every two months and are based on data collected from key informants at zone, woreda (district), kebele (village) and site level. Data collection is carried out along with the government's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), regional, zonal and woreda counterparts.

IDMC complemented the figure obtained through DTM rounds 15 to 20 with data from additional sources. For example, we used data from the DTM Rapid Response Assessments. These provide up-to-date information on large-scale displacements which occurred outside the DTM data collection periods in West Guji and Gedeo zones, as well as data from OCHA bulletins, which usually cite multi-agency assessments and zonal authorities.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

IOM DTM mobility assessments only assesses sites containing 20 IDP households or more. Given the number of sites with fewer than 20 households, a number of IDPs were not accounted for.

Disaggregation of the number of IDPs by the cause of displacement is also inexact. Since DTM assessments rely on group level data collection, reporting on majorities, individual and households' situations may differ from majority situations.

IOM DTM issues new figures every two months, so it is likely that many displacement movements in the period between each update are not captured. This, in turn, does not allow IDMC to be fully confident in new displacements based on changes in site populations reported in the IOM DTM rounds.

We were not able to calculate a positive difference between round 14 (November - December 2018) and round 15 (January to February 2019) because the last assessments for round 14 took place in early December, and there was thus a risk of adding people who were displaced in the last three weeks of December 2018.

**Significant changes from last year**

The decrease is mainly a result of government peace and reconciliation efforts that led to a reduction in violence and, in turn, displacement.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.*

**IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate is based on the figure reported by IOM DTM's round 20 report as of 31 December 2019. This report does not provide full coverage of the country, as a result of access issues. IDMC complemented the figure to get that full coverage with data from the IOM DTM Village Assessments Surveys (VAS) from 11 November 2019, and the OCHA dataset that was used for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) in October 2019.

**Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs is based on data from IOM DTM which was complemented by the other sources mentioned above. The DTM rounds are published every two months and are based on data collected in the manner previously described in the section on new displacements.

The VAS targets villages with reported returns equal to or greater than five returning IDP households, and collects demographic data on returning IDPs, IDPs, returned migrants and host community members. The purpose of VAS is to assess the capacity of villages to absorb returns through accessible services, with a focus on livelihoods and reintegration. Data is collected at the village level through key informants, focus group discussions and observation. VAS data is collected in close collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC).

OCHA collected the information for the HNO dataset from a myriad of sources. The information IDMC used came from zonal and regional authorities.

**Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

IOM DTM solely assesses sites containing a minimum of 20 households, which means that the figures obtained by IDMC are likely underestimates. IOM DTM's disaggregation of IDPs by cause of displacement is inexact as it specifies the reason of displacement given by the majority of each site's population rather than reporting what was indicated by each individual household.

**Significant changes from last year**

The decrease in the total number of IDPs is mainly due to the high rate of reported returns in 2019. Most of these were recorded as partial solutions by IDMC.

## NUMBER OF IDPS WHO HAVE MADE PARTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A DURABLE SOLUTION

This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In some instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

Movements of IDPs making progress towards Durable Solutions during 2019:

IDMC's estimate is based on three VAS assessments that took place in 2019. A large majority of returns in Ethiopia occurred after the government's return policy took effect on 8 April 2019. There may be some people who returned in 2018 and were registered by IOM in 2019, but they represent only a fraction of the total figure. As a result, we consider everyone that the VAS reported as having returned to their original homes or rented homes as having achieved a partial solution in 2019.

Total number of IDPs who have progress towards Durable Solutions as of 31 December 2019:

IDMC's estimate is based on the third and last VAS assessment in 2019. We considered returnees who returned to their original homes or rented homes as having achieved a partial solution.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from VAS, whose methodology and purpose is explained in the previous sources and methodologies section.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The VAS assesses sites with at least 5 households, therefore smaller sites are not assessed. Some returns may have happened before 2019. If they did, however, they represent only a fraction of the total figure.

### **Significant changes from last year**

This is the first year IDMC reports on this metric in Ethiopia.

## NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019(flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate is based on third and last VAS assessment in 2019. It concerns people who returned to unspecified shelter and therefore we were not able to assess their progress towards durable solutions.

### **Sources and methodologies**

These are described in previous sections describing VAS.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

These are described in the section on partial progress towards a durable solution (stock).

### Significant changes from last year

This decrease is mainly due to better return assessments and monitoring that have allowed us to determine the progress of IDPs towards durable solutions.

## CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People, Households	People, Households
Methodology	Key informants, Unknown, Media monitoring	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation by sex	No	Partial
Disaggregation by age	No	Partial
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

For the full country profile on Ethiopia please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/ethiopia>