

MADAGASCAR

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Internal displacement in Madagascar has been linked to the “*dahalo*” (Malagasy for “bandits”) phenomenon. [Armed gangs target villages and loot cattle and goods](#), sometimes attacking villagers and burning homes in the process. These attacks reportedly occur across rural areas of the country, especially in locations where [security forces have little territorial control](#).

IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs, the number of new displacements in 2019, and unverified solutions are based on an analysis of data from media articles and a 2018 assessment by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM), both of which refer to displacements caused by *dahalo*. There is a lack of evidence of returns regarding the new displacements reported in 2018 and 2019, so IDMC considers the internally displaced people (IDPs) to be still displaced or with progress towards durable solutions that cannot be verified.

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 and 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>(as of December 2019)</i>
1,000	3,000	-	-	390

*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 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 information from local media and the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) which was consolidated throughout the year. Displacement associated with conflict in Madagascar is linked to the *dahalo*, or banditry, phenomenon. This is thought to occur throughout rural parts of the country, particularly the south.

Sources and methodologies

This figure is likely an underestimate as there is no systematic monitoring of internal displacement in the country.

The local media articles used to come up with the final estimates are limited in that they do not provide a specific number for houses destroyed or people displaced. As such, IDMC uses the minimum number of houses destroyed identifiable to estimate a number of people displaced, using the destruction of housing as a proxy for displacement. Since an actual figure cannot be provided, IDMC remains conservative and uses 2 as a minimum estimate, when our sources use a plural form. These estimates are therefore likely to be very underestimated.

There is no publicly available methodology on how the figures and instances of new displacements were recorded and reported on by our sources.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is no systematic monitoring of internal displacement associated with conflict and violence in Madagascar. The new displacement estimate in the country is therefore based on different articles reporting on *dahalo* violence. As such, many new displacements or acts of violence may have gone unreported.

There has been no follow-up on whether people are still displaced from their initial displacement. Without such evidence of returns, IDMC considers them to be still displaced and includes them in the total number of IDPs for the country.

Significant changes from last year

This is the second time that IDMC has reported on new displacements linked to conflict and violence in Madagascar. The trigger, banditry, remained the same.

With no systematic reporting on internal displacement in the country, the total number of IDPs for the country will likely continue to increase. IDMC reported 1,700 new displacements linked to the same type of violence in 2018.

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 represents the total number of IDPs who have been displaced by violence linked to banditry. Because there is no systematic monitoring of the phenomenon, IDMC has included the new displacements in its total figure for IDPs.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs is based on data from a 2018 IOM DTM report, which provides a total figure for people displaced by conflict in Androy province, as well as local media and ACLED reports of new displacements in 2018 and 2019 linked to the same type of violence.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

This figure is likely to be a significant underestimate. Many news articles have reported on violence, without providing clear information on the number of people displaced or those forced to leave their destroyed homes.

Owing to the lack of systematic monitoring of internal displacement in the country, information allowing for disaggregation by gender, age, and geographical location (rural/urban) is unavailable. There is also an information gap with regards to returns or other end-of-displacement phenomena. IDMC has not been able to identify whether different instances of displacement have displaced the same people many times.

The local media articles used to come up with the final estimates are limited in that they do not provide a specific number for houses destroyed or people displaced. As such, IDMC uses the minimum number of houses destroyed identifiable to estimate a number of people displaced, using the destruction of housing as a proxy for displacement. Since an actual figure cannot be provided, IDMC remains conservative and uses 2 as a minimum estimate, when our sources use a plural form. These estimates are therefore likely to be very underestimated.

Significant changes from last year

This is the second time that IDMC has reported on displacement associated with conflict in Madagascar. The figure for the total number of IDPs in 2018 was 2,000. Without evidence of returns which align with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions, IDMC has been unable to justify removing newly displaced people from the total figure.

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 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements rather than people

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on reported returns from *dahalo* violence in 2018, as monitored by IOM DTM. Without evidence on the conditions upon return, or the whereabouts of the returnees, IDMC is including them in the number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified is based on data from IOM DTM in 2018. This same dataset and assessment have been used to estimate a part of the total IDPs figure. The source reports on the number of people who have been able to return since their initial displacement. Without any additional information, however, IDMC cannot verify the conditions or durability of the reported return.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has not been able to verify where the returned individuals are in 2019 and whether or not they have achieved some type of solution. IOM DTM no longer conducts assessments linked to this type of violence in Madagascar, so no follow-up was possible.

Significant changes from last year

This is the first time that IDMC is reporting on unverified solutions in Madagascar. This is a result of a methodological change and the introduction of the Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions category which enables IDMC to reflect on cases of returns that cannot be verified. These return movements reportedly happened in 2018.

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	Media monitoring	Media monitoring, Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	No Triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	Partial
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

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