

MALI

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Violence in central Mali spiralled out of control in 2019 after increasing rapidly since early 2018. In the first half of 2019 alone, a total of 140,000 new displacements were recorded, more than in all of 2018. This violence has its roots in a long-standing crisis in northern Mali, where Tuareg separatists joined by Islamist militants seized large parts of territory in [2012 following a military coup in Bamako](#), the capital in the south-west of the country. A 2013 French-led intervention, named Operation Serval, pushed Islamists militants back, but they have since regrouped and [expanded from the desert north into Mali's fertile centre](#). The militants have gained ground by recruiting pastoralists from the Fulani community who have been disadvantaged by government and development programmes that favour agriculture. In response, the [Dogon farmer community formed self-defence groups to protect themselves from the Fulani](#). An overall degradation of the security situation, coupled with a sharp increase in new displacements throughout the year, has put Mali at the forefront of international debates on internal displacement and violence.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (Year figure was last updated: 2019)	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 (1 January – 31 December 2019)	Stocks	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019)
284,000	208,000	-	-	13,000

*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 estimates 284,000 new displacements in 2019 based on an analysis that uses data from the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which is led by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). This includes displacement incidents that have been verified and that are associated with conflict as opposed to disasters.

Sources and methodologies

The RRM is a harmonised tool. It follows a crisis from its "alert," which warns that a crisis is taking place, through to the humanitarian response. The RRM consists of a *veille humanitaire* (humanitarian watch) and multi-sectoral evaluations and responses. It is employed in the case of a sudden, non-cyclical, acute crisis and, in Mali, operates in the country's north and central regions. The system consists of a network of focal points on the regional, *cercle* (the second level administrative unit in Mali) and communal level, sending information about clashes, population movements and disasters from the communal to the regional level. This is done in close partnership with the Directions Régionales du Développement Social (Regional Social Development Authorities) and the representatives from the *cercles*. IDMC only used alerts which movements were verified by a follow-up assessment.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The RRM is confident about the figures included in the alerts because these are published only when these reports have been reviewed and verified. Additional figures are triangulated estimates. The RRM covers only northern and central Mali, which are the areas most affected by conflict and violence. As a result, IDMC has high confidence in this figure. It believes the figure is not a significant underestimate.

Significant changes from last year

This year's estimate of the number of new displacements from conflict and violence in Mali has more than doubled from last year. The increase is mostly a result of an escalation in violence in central Mali, north Burkina Faso and south Niger where extremists have begun to exploit social grievances.

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 of the total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 is 208,000. This is based on the Commission Mouvement Population (CMP)'s last report of 2019 which identifies the total number of IDPs. IDMC used this figure as it includes registered and verified IDPs.

Sources and methodologies

CMP relies on data from the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM). Co-led by IOM and the National Direction for Social Development (DNDS), the CMP is a working group of the Protection Cluster and is composed of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), IOM, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and NGOs including NRC. It compiles the data collected by these agencies at the national level. IOM transferred the management of its DTM programme to the government in November 2014. This has allowed the DNDS to centralise, better integrate and

harmonise data on population movements. As part of the DTM, the DNDS provides information to authorities and the wider humanitarian community.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

When registration is impossible because an area is too volatile, figures are likely to be imprecise as they are based solely on estimates obtained through key informants. Given the increased levels of violence observed in 2019, this concern applies to a significant portion of the data.

Significant changes from last year

The total number of IDPs has almost doubled in the last year as a result of increasing new displacements triggered by the escalation of violence in the central regions of Mali.

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 that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified in Mali is based on information obtained through the CMP reports. Most of the reported movements occurred in Mopti, Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Menaka, Segou and Timbuktu. The CMP recorded 13,000 returns across the country in 2019. Given the lack of other information on the conditions of returns or follow-up, however, IDMC cannot verify the durability or conditions of these returns.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for unverified conditions is based on data from the CMP which was obtained by calculating the sum of positive variations in reported returnees between the different CMP reports. For example, the sum of positive variations of IDP returns between August 2019 and October 2019 as reported by the CMP in seven regions of Mali was 5,630. This calculation was done between the different reports published by the CMP in 2019 and only includes flows, rather than stocks.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has not been able to confirm the location or conditions upon return of the 13,000 returns reported by the CMP in 2019.

Inferring population flows by calculating the sum of positive variation also has its limitations, as it may omit some other return movements that may have occurred between the different reporting periods of the CMP reports.

Significant changes from last year

This is the first year that IDMC has reported on unverified conditions in Mali.

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
Methodology	Key informants	Registration, Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1	Subnational - admin 1
Frequency of reporting	Upon request	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	No	Partial
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local 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 Mali please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/mali>