

# NIGER

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

Niger's most significant displacement event of 2019 occurred in late March and early April when about 18,000 people were displaced as a result of [attacks by non-state armed groups in villages in the Gueskérou and Cherimari communes in the Diffa region](#). IDMC has not encountered any evidence to suggest that the displaced population has returned. The region of Diffa is still highly unstable and frequently experiences new attacks leading to the displacement of people already living in vulnerable conditions. In Tahoua and Tillabéri, violence continued and worsened, specifically [along the border with Mali and Burkina Faso](#). NGOs and the UN suspended their humanitarian operations in those two states in early May because of security concerns, including kidnappings, explosive hazards and attacks. More recently, the Maradi region has experienced an [inflow of Nigerian refugees](#) from Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina states. This has led to a strain on the provision of aid and basic services for internally displaced people (IDPs). Given the persisting insecurity in north-west Nigeria, most IDPs and refugees, have not yet been able to return to their habitual place of residence.

A new state of emergency was declared in mid-March in [Diffa, Tillabéri and Tahoua states following an increase in armed attacks](#) and the mass displacement of people. Niger passed a [protection law for IDPs](#) in December 2018, but there is still no evidence of steps taken towards its concrete implementation.

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	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
57,000	195,000	-	-	-

\*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's estimate of about 57,000 new displacements in 2019 is based on population flows resulting from conflict and violence recorded in the regions of Tahoua, Tillabéri, Diffa and Maradi. The Tillabéri and Tahoua regions have experienced more new displacements this year as a result of the overall deterioration of security conditions in the south-west regions of the country, specifically in the areas bordering Mali and Burkina Faso.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on reports from the Protection Cluster, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), ACTED and others. Most of the reports were redacted and published on an *ad-hoc* basis whenever a population alert was sent out on new displacements from violence or conflict. Each report uses a different methodology, through key informants, interviews or assessments.

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

IDMC's estimate of new displacements is likely to be an underestimate given the lack of systematic monitoring of new displacements in the country. The population alerts used are for operational purposes, rather than monitoring, and have limited coverage. Many of the alerts also are sent out where key informants or organizations have a presence, such as in Tahoua, Tillabéri and Diffa. This limits the geographical scope of the figure.

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

The new displacement estimate for 2019 of 57,000 does not represent a significant change from the 52,000 of 2018. This is the first time, however, that IDMC has reported on new displacements in the Maradi region. In that region, there has been an overall strain on resources from the arrival of thousands of Nigerians crossing the border from north-west Nigeria.

## 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 data for the south-west regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri from the Protection Cluster, as well as reports for the Diffa region by the government's Regional Directorate for Civil Status (*Direction Régionale de l'État Civil*, DREC), published by the Protection Cluster. As of December 2019, the majority of IDPs (109,000) were in Diffa. IDMC's estimate also includes people displaced by violence in 2019 in the Maradi region whose current status or location cannot be verified.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs is of 31 December 2019. The monitoring and reporting of internal displacement in Niger have traditionally been carried out by DREC, which collects and publishes data on refugees, IDPs and returnees in the Diffa region, the part of the country most affected by the ongoing armed insurgency. The data published by DREC is compiled from numbers reported by local and community leaders at irregular intervals. International organisations were not able to collect and publish data on internal displacement until 2018. The change that year was a result of increased violence in the north-west regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua. Data is now made

available through the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR. This publishes regular updates on internal displacement. It only publishes the total number of IDPs at a given moment in time, however. It does not capture new displacement flows.

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

Only three regions are covered by the various institutions collecting data on internal displacement. Even in those regions, the coverage is not comprehensive, and as a result of continued insecurity, access is still a challenge. Some indicators used by DREC do not correspond to commonly used metrics, such as the “returnees” category it reports on. As in previous years, evidence from partners in the field indicates that this caseload in fact represents individuals who have returned from displacement abroad and who were displaced once back in Niger.

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

The increase in the total number of IDPs in Niger as of 31 December 2019 reflects a worsening security context in the south-west regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri, as well as Diffa. It also reflects the addition of a new region, Maradi, in the total figure.

## 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	People, Households
Methodology	Key informants, Registration	Registration, Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	Upon request
Disaggregation by sex	Partial	No
Disaggregation by age	Partial	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	Partial
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 Niger please visit:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/niger>