

NIGERIA

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Conflict and violence continued unabated across Nigeria in 2019. Criminal violence was the biggest trigger of population displacements. The year began with a [large-scale attack on the city of Rann](#) in Borno state. About [50,000 new displacements](#) were recorded in the first half of the year in the north-eastern states, especially in Borno and Adamawa. The overall security situation in that part of the country is complex, and displacement there continues. Violence in the central and north-central states is also ongoing, with less monitoring and fewer systematic reports of displacements from continuing intercommunal violence. In the north-western states of Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto, meanwhile, reports made public in March 2019 described high levels of criminal violence and banditry. This has led to the displacement of an estimated 40,000 people to Niger and resulted in more than 178,000 total IDPs across the three states as of 31 December 2019. In the past, many Nigerians in the north-west fled to Niger’s Maradi region. In the second half of the year, however, Nigeria closed its borders resulting in an increase in internal displacements in those states. The violence in the north-west of Nigeria is rooted in [a long-standing ethnic conflict between Fulani traditional herders and Hausa farmer communities](#).

As in 2018, IDMC was able to identify instances of partial progress towards a durable solution through the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix's (IOM DTM's) rounds 26, 27 and 28 in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. These only represent reported return flows in 2019, not the cumulative number of returnees in the region.

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>
248,000	2,583,000	90,000	-	-

*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 new displacements in 2019 encompasses instances of violence and conflict that have generated forced population movements. The figure represents new displacements from the conflict in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Gombe and Bauchi; the criminal violence in the north-western states of Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina; communal clashes in the country's central and north-central states; and new displacements in southern states linked to clashes between members of different cults or inter-communal violence. There was an increase of new displacements in the north-west and north-central region in 2019. As a result of methodological challenges, however, IDMC's estimate of new displacements in the north-east is lower than that for 2018.

The approximate disaggregation of violence in the country is as follows:

- Criminal violence (88,000)
- Conflict (105,000)
- Communal violence (55,000)
- Political violence (26)

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of new displacements in Nigeria is based on a mix of IOM DTM reports, mostly for the north-east, north-central and north-west states, as well as media monitoring. The media monitoring was conducted through the following: the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), AllAfrica, Sahara Reporters, The Guardian Nigeria, Thomson Reuters and TV5Monde. Information from these sources should be treated with caution, however, as they are not dedicated to monitoring internal displacement. IOM DTM published flash reports on new displacement flows throughout the year. IDMC used the IOM DTM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) weekly reports for the states of Borno and Adamawa, which are affected by the ongoing insurgency. The estimate of new displacement also uses flash reports by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which rely on direct observations and key informants. The new displacement estimate for Nigeria is likely to be an underestimate as many of the population flows go unreported.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Given the still emerging violence, few assessments have been conducted to reflect new displacements in states in the north-west regions of Nigeria.

The estimate is lower than it was in 2018 as a result of methodological changes. When using the weekly IOM DTM ETT reports, IDMC now focuses only on "major movements" where specific movements are described. In 2018, IDMC used the sum of displacements associated with conflict and violence, without that level of disaggregation.

Apart from the states of Borno and Adamawa, there is no systematic monitoring of internal displacement flows through IOM DTM's ETT. This likely makes the figure an underestimate.

Significant changes from last year

Reports of new displacements from conflict or violence covered 19 states in 2019, compared with nine states in 2018. This greater coverage comes largely from the emerging crisis in the north-west of the country.

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 reports by the IOM DTM as of November 2019. This tool has been monitoring and reporting on internal displacement in the north-east for a few years, but just started doing so in other states located in the north-central and north-west regions. The total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) represents different forms of violence and conflict. The north-east states of Yobe, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Taraba continue to experience the impacts of a decade-long insurgency, coupled with instances of inter-communal violence between herders and farmers. The central states of Nasarawa, Benue, Plateau and Kaduna still report high numbers of IDPs from inter-communal violence, also between herders and farmers. Criminal violence and acts of banditry worsened, meanwhile, in the north-west states of Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina in 2019. This led to a very significant increase in the number of IDPs. It was also the first time IOM DTM conducted assessments to determine the scale of internal displacement in those states.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs in Nigeria is based on data from IOM DTM which was calculated using key informants, direct observations and interviews. IDMC also recorded new displacements in ten states not covered by the IOM DTM, such as Osun and Ogun. Without any proof of return, it has included these displacements in the total number of IDPs.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has only been able to identify reports of returnees for three states: Yobe, Adamawa and Borno. As such, the tracking of return movements is still limited and concentrated in the north-east, although the total number of IDPs increased in 2019 as a result of an overall worsening security situation. IDMC increased its overall geographical coverage of internal displacement monitoring in 2019 as IOM DTM began to report on other states. It also did so through media monitoring. There are still many states, however, that are not reported on.

Significant changes from last year

The increase in the total IDP figure is the result of a combination of methodological and contextual factors. The increase in geographical coverage in the North East regions, with some previously unreachable areas accessed and assessments performed, led to a larger total figure, although this does not necessarily represent increased violence. IOM DTM also began reporting on the total number of IDPs in new regions such as the north-west, and north-central states. The estimate of the total number of IDPs in Nigeria covers the states of Kano, Sokoto, Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Nasarawa, Plateau, Benue, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. The overall security situation in the north-west also deteriorated in 2019, with criminal violence and acts of banditry leading to more than 85,000 new displacements. Without evidence of returns from these new displacements in the regions, IDMC has included them in the total number of IDPs for the country.

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 a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on reported movements of returnees in 2019 in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. IDMC has only been able to identify return movements in those states because of the limited geographical coverage and monitoring of such movements.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for the number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution is based on IOM DTM data that indicates the number of individuals and households who were able to return to their habitual place of residence. IOM DTM reports include information about the shelter conditions of people upon their return. IDMC used this data to assess how many returnees made progress toward durable solutions and how many made no progress. Given the lack of sufficient information to deem the return flows as "durable solutions", IDMC has included them in the "partial solutions" category. These return flows occurred in 2019 and do not represent a cumulative number of returns.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Apart from the issue of limited geographical coverage, returns are usually harder to assess, particularly in more volatile areas such as the north-east of Nigeria. This is mainly because there are repeated waves of population movements in areas affected by conflict. As a result, the partial solutions figure is reported as several movements rather than several people who have been able to return. The IOM DTM reports include information about the number of individuals who were able to return home between two DTM rounds and the total number of those movements since record-keeping began. IDMC does not use the latter figure, as it is highly likely to double count people who fled and returned multiple times.

Significant changes from last year

In 2018, IDMC reported on 311,000 movements leading to partial progress towards durable solutions in the same region of the country. With a deterioration in the security situation in the region, less returns were possible in 2019.

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	Registration, Key informants, Media monitoring, Other	Key informants, Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	More than once a month	Every 3 months
Disaggregation by sex	Partial	No
Disaggregation by age	Partial	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Good triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	No
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	Partial	No
Data on cross border movements	Partial	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 Nigeria please visit:

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