

# SOMALIA

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

There were 188,000 new and secondary displacements recorded in Somalia in 2019. More than half of this displacement was reported in Lower Shabelle, which is still an al-Shabaab stronghold. The displacements were caused mostly by clashes between the group's militias and the Somali army supported by forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The US also increased its airstrikes against the group, with airstrikes between January and February representing half of all those in 2018. This causes [additional insecurity and displacement](#).

Tens of thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) returned home during the year, but many of those returns were only temporary, to take care of their farms during the seeding and harvesting seasons. Forced evictions remain a main driver of secondary displacements with over 264,000 people, most of them IDPs, evicted in the course of 2019.

Persisting conditions of insecurity in rural areas are a major obstacle to the provision of humanitarian aid. This has created heightened vulnerabilities among people who are seeking refuge and assistance in overcrowded camps in urban areas, especially Mogadishu.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2018)</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	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
188,000	2,648,000	-	-	9,000

\*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 is based on an analysis of data collected in 2019 by the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). IDMC analysed and verified the dataset, mostly looking at the reason for displacement and the personal stories behind each movement. IDMC also determined whether a given movement can be classified as internal displacement or whether it is a different type of migration.

### **Sources and methodologies**

The PRMN was established by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). It is a UNHCR-led platform for identifying and reporting on displacements and returns in Somalia, as well as on protection incidents triggering such movements. On behalf of UNHCR, NRC works with 39 local partners in the field to collect data on internal displacement in Somalia.

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

Short-term displacements and subsequent attempted returns may not always be easily identified by the PRMN because of the volatile security situation and access constraints across Somalia. When recording the number of arrivals at a given location, the PRMN does not distinguish between voluntary and forced movements. For this reason, some recorded movements may not qualify as internal displacement. There are also issues related to the inconsistent and diverging definitions of the causes and triggers of displacement given the complex situation in Somalia where displacement triggers overlap. As a result, it remains difficult to ascertain which movements are solely attributed to conflict and which are caused by a mix of triggers.

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

The decrease is mainly a result of the fact that we did not add forced evictions to the conflict and violence caseload on the recommendation of the NRC.

## 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 produced by the Information Management Working Group (IMWG).

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC used IMWG's data on IDPs living in sites or camp-like settings in Somalia. Site visits carried out in 2017 and early 2018 contribute 85 per cent of the IMWG figure. Data was mainly gathered through key informants (KI) and IDP community representatives, known as "gatekeepers". The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster conducted detailed site assessments which, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM), were key sources of data. Concerns about overlapping assessments between the Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) and DTM data were allayed by dividing sites into grid squares and choosing the more recent or reliable source for each square as the source of data. The other 15 per cent of the estimated figure is drawn from datasets provided by local NGOs and agency field offices for districts not covered by either CCCM or IOM.

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

The estimated number of IDPs is based on previously aggregated data concerning displacements triggered by conflict, floods and drought. IDMC was unable to disaggregate the figure by cause or trigger of displacement. For this reason, it was unable to isolate conflict-specific numbers. The figure for Somalia thus includes people whose displacement was potentially triggered by several factors, rather than only those whose displacement was related solely to conflict.

The assessments used to produce the estimate took place between 2017 and February 2018, and our figure does not reflect the situation of IDPs as of the end of 2019. As the site registration figures were not always available, many figures also are based on estimates provide by "gatekeepers", which are likely to be imprecise. IDMC also did not include new displacements which occurred in 2019 because many of the displacements were related to people who had already been displaced at least once, and we would not be able to eliminate the risk of double counting.

IOM DTM published a new assessment in early March 2020 that looked at 24 districts across ten regions as of July 2019. The assessment provided an updated figure disaggregated per the displacement trigger. Because of time constraints, however, IDMC was not able to take this figure into account for the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020. It will work closely with IMWG and IOM DTM to get the updated and disaggregated figure for the next report.

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

The figure is the same as in the previous year.

## 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 that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

This is described in the new displacements section of this analysis.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate is based on data from the PRMN. The PRMN's method and approach are described in the new displacements section.

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

Short-term displacements and subsequent attempted returns may not always be easily identified by the PRMN due to the volatile security situation and access constraints across Somalia. There are also issues related to the inconsistent and diverging definitions of the causes and triggers of displacement given the complex situation in Somalia where displacement triggers overlap. As a result, it remains difficult to ascertain what reported return movements relate to conflict and are intended to be permanent and which ones refer to other triggers or are only temporary for harvesting or planting seasons

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

This is the first time IDMC reports on this metric for Somalia.

## 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
Methodology	Key informants	Key informants, Other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Frequency of reporting	More than once a month	No update
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	No Triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Yes	No
Data on local integration	No	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](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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