

# BURUNDI

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

Burundi has suffered two genocides and a 13-year-long civil war in the past half-century. Most of the recent displacements associated with conflict and violence stem from political violence and a failed coup attempt in 2015. Protests erupted in the country after President Pierre Nkurunziza announced he was running for a third term. Nkurunziza's campaign created a [split between supporters and opponents](#). His re-election in July 2015, was marked by crackdowns on the opposition, and [suppression of civil and political rights](#), and was followed by a failed coup attempt. Hundreds of thousands of people fled across the border or became displaced within the country. Post-electoral conflict continued through 2017.

Violence and human rights violations targeting suspected political opponents of the government were [reported during 2019](#). According to the UN, there was a [noticeable increase](#) in harassment of the media and political intolerance, in particular, against members of the opposition party. Attacks by unidentified armed groups in areas bordering the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Rwanda were also reported during the year.

The governments of Rwanda, DRC, and Uganda had an open-door policy to Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in 2019. Access to Tanzanian territory, however, was restricted with all border entry and reception points for Burundian asylum seekers [officially closed](#). The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and some of its partners began organizing the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017 in accordance with the resolutions of the Tripartite Commission, which consists of Burundi, Tanzania and the UNHCR. The vast majority of Burundian returnees move back from Tanzania, Kenya and the DRC. Only 33 per cent of returnee households, however, were able to return to their former homes, [according to UNHCR](#). IDMC believes that returnees in this situation may live in displacement-like conditions. IDMC reports this caseload in the return to unverified conditions category.

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)	Stock (Year figure was last updated: 2019)	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019)
530	23,000	-	25,000	-

\*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**

Socio-political violence continued in Burundi during 2019. There were at least 530 new displacements in the country in 2019, according to monthly assessments by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM).

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate is based on the reporting of IOM DTM. Data is collected in the country with the support of volunteers from the Burundian Red Cross (BRC) who consult with key informants to identify displacement trends and needs in their communities. Key informants can be community leaders, local government authorities and religious leaders. Enumerators collect three types of surveys:

- Commune level assessments: Provide information on displacement trends in all 119 communes of Burundi. These assessments yield data on displacement periods, provinces of origin and new displacements.
- The "Colline" level assessment: Supplies information regarding humanitarian needs in the top five displacement areas. It includes data on demographics, vulnerabilities and sectoral needs at the level of the colline, a subdivision of the commune.
- Household level assessments: Provide information regarding humanitarian needs in newly displaced households in surveyed collines.

IDMC used monthly IOM DTM's monthly commune-level assessments reports for the 2019 new displacements estimate.

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

Several incidents involving unidentified armed groups occurred in the border areas of Burundi, according to a dataset maintained by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). Given the lack of access to these remote communities, it is possible that some displacements were not included in the IOM assessments.

The figure is probably an underestimate. Violence and human rights violations targeting suspected political opponents of the government were reported during 2019. Some instances of displacements related to these events may not have been reported.

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

The decrease in the number of new displacements reported in 2018 is attributed to a change in IDMC's methodology, as we based our estimates on the commune-level assessments solely.

## 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 of the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) displaced by socio-political violence between 2013 and 2019.

### **Sources and methodologies**

These are the same as in the previous section.

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

As with the total number of IDPs estimate, this figure is based on information provided by key informants. For this reason, the figure could represent an overestimate or an underestimate depending on the locality.

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

The decrease in the figure in comparison with 2018 is mainly a result of the IDPs' possible integration in the places of their displacement or their possible return to their communities of origin, according to IOM. In addition, last year's estimate also included refugees who had returned to Burundi and found themselves in a situation of displacement. These cases have been covered in the "unverified solutions" category this 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 rather than people*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

UNHCR and its partners began organizing the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017. The vast majority of returnees come back from Tanzania, Kenya and DRC. Only 33 per cent of returnee households were able to access their habitual place of residence, according to UNHCR. IDMC considers that households in this situation may live in displacement-like conditions and reports this caseload in the unverified conditions category. More support is needed for sustainable reintegration of returnees at the community level, according to UNHCR.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate is based on UNHCR reports of repatriations of refugees from Tanzania, Kenya, DRC, Zambia, Uganda, Cameroon, Gabon, Senegal and Burkina Faso. UNHCR collects, processes, analyses and disseminates data and information on returnees systematically and regularly via a protection monitoring system that was implemented in September 2017 after the start of repatriations from Tanzania. The system was revised in early 2019 to better meet operational needs.

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

IDMC has not identified additional information about the conditions of returnees or if they have overcome the vulnerabilities associated with displacement. About a third of the 79,720 people reported to have returned to Burundi have access to their habitual place of residence, according to UNHCR. This caseload has not been added to the final stock because of the lack of information on the conditions of return.

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

IDMC did not report on this category 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	Key informants	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Every month	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	No	Partial
Disaggregation by age	No	Partial
Data triangulation	No Triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	Partial
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	Partial	Partial
Data on cross border movements	Partial	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 Burundi please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/burundi>