

# MALAWI

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

There is no ongoing conflict in Malawi. Presidential elections held in May 2019, however, were marked by allegations of fraud. Malawi's constitutional court, citing widespread irregularities, [annulled the results and ordered new elections](#) in February 2020. Despite protests and violence between the announcement of the results and the court's ruling, IDMC has not recorded new displacements associated with political violence.

IDMC based its estimates on media monitoring of episodes of violence that occurred in October and November 2019 in Nkhata Bay, in the Northern Region of the country. These were cases of interpersonal violence that escalated to the point that people were murdered, and houses set on fire by mobs. This is the first time IDMC is reporting on displacement associated with violence in Malawi.

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>
149	149	-	-	-

\*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 media monitoring of violence in Nkhata Bay in the Northern Region of Malawi. These were two reported cases of interpersonal violence in October and November 2019 that escalated to the point that people were murdered, and houses set on fire.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from local media outlets, such as Malawi 24, Nyasa Times, The Times Malawi and The Maravi Post. These news publications often quote local authorities such as the police. The final estimate was based on a figure of 120 people who were reported as having gone into hiding as a result of the episode in October, in addition to an estimated 29 people who were displaced after 7 houses were burnt down in a later episode of violence in November.

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

This estimate is not completely reliable, as it is based on media reporting and not on evaluations designed to produce displacement figures. We found many articles, however, with which to triangulate the figures and, given that they were small-scale events, the figure is likely to be more or less accurate.

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

This is the first time IDMC is reporting on internal displacement associated with conflict in Malawi.

## 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 media monitoring of episodes of violence in Nkhata Bay in the Northern Region of Malawi in October and November 2019.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate of the total number of people in a situation of displacement is based on data from the media.

No information is available to suggest that any of the people displaced during 2019 achieved progress towards durable solutions. For this reason, the final estimate was calculated by adding the new displacement estimate to the previously inexistent stock.

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

The main caveats are the same as the new displacements estimate.

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

This is the first time IDMC is reporting on internal displacement associated with violence in Malawi.

## 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	Media monitoring	Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	Yes	Yes
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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