

SUDAN

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Sudan has faced severe economic crisis since the beginning of 2018. The elimination of wheat and flour subsidies in February 2018, coupled with continual devaluations of the Sudanese pound, caused shortages of essential commodities and hard currency. The economic crisis has disrupted public services, negatively affected agricultural activities, and resulted in increases in the prices of staple foods. Deteriorating living standards have triggered countrywide protests since mid-December 2018. On 11 April 2019, President Omar al-Bashir was ousted by the military after he allegedly ordered an attack on peaceful protesters. The Transitional Military Council, which took over, faced international pressure as well as public protests to allow for a transition to a civil administration. On 5 July, the military council and the opposition Alliance for Freedom and Change reached [an agreement](#) on power sharing during a transitional period of three years and three months, which is to be followed by general elections.

The tense political situation has had an impact on tribal disputes and the relations between communities. This stems from the scarcity of resources which, in turn, are caused by limited imports and price hikes. Nearly 10,000 people were displaced as a result of tribal fighting and fighting over resources in East and Central Darfur and White Nile state in May and June 2019. Violence, caused by intercommunal tensions between Massalit and Arab tribesmen in and around el Geneina, spiked in West Darfur in the last two weeks of December 2019. More than 46,000 new displacements were triggered.

| New displacements that occurred in 2019 | Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (Year figure was last updated: 2019) | 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 (1 January – 31 December 2019) | Stocks (Year figure was last updated: 2019) | Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019) |
| 84,000 | 2,134,000 | - | 484,000 | - |

*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 several sources and was calculated through event-based monitoring. IDMC has low confidence in these figures because of political bias in reporting and a general lack of monitoring that forces us to rely on estimates from different sources with varying reliability.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of new displacements is based on the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM), reports by the UN Security Council, the UN–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as local media.

IOM DTM tracks internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees in Sudan. It covers the five Darfuri states and South and West Kordofan. It uses biometric registration to register IDPs, carrying this out six months after the initial displacement to avoid registering short-term IDPs. IOM DTM registers IDPs as individuals, rather than as families. IOM DTM distinguishes between three types of data: reported, registered and verified. Reported refers to displacement reported to IOM by any source. IOM conducts registrations to verify such reports, and its registration dataset contains a mix of registered and verified data.

Local media outlets Radio Dabanga and Sudan Tribune re-publish information from international organisations and use information sourced from activists and armed groups. OCHA publishes figures derived from their own assessments and those of other humanitarian organisations, which are then endorsed by the government. UN Security Council and UNAMID usually cite humanitarian partners.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has low confidence in the new displacement figure as the monitoring of new displacements in Sudan is not systematic and is politically biased. Most of the figures reported by international organisations can only be published once the government has endorsed them, and the government tends to underestimate the actual scale of displacement. Displacement monitoring is limited geographically, and displacement in areas not under government control is not recorded. This can also result in an underestimate. On the other hand, figures reported by activists, which are often quoted by the media, tend to be overestimates. In response, IDMC used triangulation and contextual information to decide on a figure for each event, using the sources named above.

There is a slight chance that some of the displacements recorded in December in West Darfur actually occurred in January 2020. Based on our monitoring of conflict events, however, we are confident that most of the displacement happened in December 2019.

Significant changes from last year

The increase is mainly a result of the rise in intercommunal fighting towards the end of the year, as well as clashes in Darfur between armed groups and government forces.

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 IOM DTM data as of 31 October 2019. As IOM DTM does not have data for Blue Nile, however, we used the 2017 Humanitarian Aid Commission and OCHA figures for this state.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on IOM DTM. The DTM tracks IDPs and returnees in Sudan and covers the five Darfuri states and South and West Kordofan. It does not cover Blue Nile. There are also IDPs in Sennar state, but neither the government nor any organisation assesses the situation there. IOM DTM uses biometric registration to register IDPs, carrying this out six months after the initial displacement to avoid registering short-term IDPs. IOM DTM registers IDPs as individuals, rather than as families. OCHA and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), part of the Sudanese government, also publish data on IDPs, although this is not based on registration.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

It is unclear how the data on Blue Nile state was gathered and analysed. Geographical coverage in Sudan is not complete, and displacement in areas outside government control is not recorded. This should not result in a significant underestimate, however, as these areas are relatively small. Mobility between IDP camps and return areas is very high, and, as a result, IOM reports quickly become out of date. As the last IOM report was issued in October and only 20 per cent of the locations were re-assessed during 2018 and 2019, it is likely that the situation at the end of the year was different from that reflected in the report. IDMC's figure is higher than the one from the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) by about 200,000. We have very little information about the difference. Based on information provided by the IOM DTM, however, we assume some returnees were subtracted from the HNO figure and this might explain the difference.

Significant changes from last year

The slight increase is mainly a result of the rise in new displacements in 2019.

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 having taken place in 2019 rather than a total number of people.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on the IOM DTM data as of 31 October 2019.

Sources and methodologies

These are explained in the previous section.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Geographical coverage in Sudan is not complete, and displacement in areas outside government control is not recorded. This should not result in a significant underestimate, however, as these areas are relatively small. Mobility between IDP camps and return areas is very high and, as a result, IOM reports quickly become out of date. As the last IOM report was issued in October and only 26% of the

locations were re-assessed in 2019, it is likely that the situation at the end of the year was different from that reflected in the report.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC did not report on this metric in the past year for Sudan.

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 |
| Methodology | Key informants, Media monitoring, Other | Registration |
| Geographical disaggregation | Admin 2 or more | Subnational - admin 1 |
| 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 | Yes |
| Data on local integration | No | No |
| 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

For the full country profile on Sudan please visit:

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