Japan
Displacement associated with Disasters
Figures Analysis – 2020

	Figure	Highlight	Methodology and Sources	Caveats and Challenges
New Displacement	186,000	This figure refers mostly to displacement triggered by Typhoon Haishen, which triggered 175,000 people to move to shelters, particularly in southern Japan in September. Most of the remaining new displacements come from unprecedented torrential rains in July that led to more than 10,900 people sheltering across the country.	This figure was obtained from the Cabinet Office. It is based on detailed and regularly updated reports by the Cabinet Office which contains figures on evacuation orders and advisories, the number of homes destroyed and the number of people in temporary shelters. The information is also disaggregated to the prefecture level.	We have high confidence in this figure. However, one main caveat is that while data on people displaced to official shelters is available, there is a gap in terms of understanding how many people are displaced to non-shelter locations, such as hotels, or are staying with family and friends. During large-scale disaster events, orders can reach millions of people. The actual number of people reported in shelters, however, is only a small percentage of that. Evacuation orders in Japan are not mandatory. As a result, IDMC's estimate is conservative at best because it uses shelter figures rather than evacuation orders. National government reports may also not include displacement from smaller scale events like localized storms, landslides, or earthquakes.
Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2020 *Pending further information and evidence, those who are in a situation of displacement, but progressing towards a durable solution have not been included.*	61,000	Our year-end estimate is based on time series data and housing destruction data for specific disaster events, as well as aggregated figures on the number of people displaced by disasters recorded by governments and other stakeholders. In addition to the people displaced by disasters in 2020, this figure includes cases from previous years where there was information on the number of people still displaced. We used an algorithm that reduces tens of thousands of data points entered into IDMC's database into a final IDP stock estimate per country. The script also filters the data into a variety of pre-defined scenarios and to ensure that no overestimation can occur. The code was written by the Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, and funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Impact Acceleration Account grant. Our methodology remains a work in progress.	Providers of disaster displacement data tend not to include information about when, how and for how long people were displaced. One of the main gaps and challenges in accurately estimating the number of IDPs is the lack of measurement of return flows. Data tends not to be collected on people who have achieved durable solutions either by local integration or resettlement elsewhere in the country. Our headcount does not include people displaced from hundreds of events for which we recorded only one data point (i.e., one figure provided at only one moment in time). These figures often reflect the maximum number of people displaced, commonly during an evacuation, and including these figures would have led to an overestimate.

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