Internal displacement and food security
Internal displacements by conflict and disasters in 2022

The country and territory names and figures are shown only when the total value exceeds 50,000.
Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Cover Photo:

Encouraging sustainable livelihoods and allocating the right resources to support IDPs in resolving their situation will help to prevent future displacement and food insecurity. © Illustration by Matt Murphy/Handsome Frank, April 2023
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Foreword

Last year, conflict, disasters, and the continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic combined to aggravate people’s pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. The war in Ukraine made everything even worse. And it all fuelled a global food security crisis that hit the poorest and most vulnerable, including internally displaced people (IDPs), hardest. This perfect storm has undermined years of progress made in reducing global hunger and malnutrition.

Three quarters of the countries experiencing food security crises had internally displaced populations. In this report IDMC documents that we have never before recorded internal displacement on this scale. Some 71.1 million people were living in internal displacement as of the end of 2022, a sharp increase compared with 2021, mostly the result of the conflict in Ukraine, but also because of entrenched conflicts and disasters that uproot millions of people every year. Many IDPs live in protracted displacement and extreme food insecurity. The lack of comprehensive data on these overlapping crises hampers efforts to establish a vital evidence base to inform policies to prevent, respond and achieve longer-term solutions to them.

The focus of this year’s Global Report on Internal Displacement on food security is much needed. The report makes a major contribution to the discussion about the relationship between displacement and food insecurity, by providing the most up-to-date data and analysis on their confluence, highlighting gaps in our knowledge and interventions, and exploring the potential to address them together rather than separately. I welcome IDMC’s efforts in shedding light on this important topic, which deserves more attention and urgent action.

At the Norwegian Refugee Council, we believe that stronger partnerships, better data and coherent programming across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors will help us to combat global hunger and malnutrition at the same time as reducing the risk of new and protracted displacement. We also believe that the food and agriculture sector has a valuable contribution to make to the achievement of durable solutions to displacement. Working together, we can tackle the ongoing challenges and reduce the trends presented in this report, which should be seen as a wake-up call to enhance our collective drive for a more sustainable future.

Jan Egeland
Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council
Key Findings

Internal displacement broke new records in 2022

- 711 million people were living in internal displacement worldwide at the end of 2022, a 20 per cent increase in a year and the highest number ever recorded.
- 60.9 million internal displacements, or movements, were recorded during the year, 60 per cent more than in 2021 and also the highest figure ever.
- The number of displacements associated with conflict and violence nearly doubled to 28.3 million. The war in Ukraine triggered 16.9 million, the highest figure ever recorded for any country.
- The La Niña weather phenomenon persisted for a third consecutive year, leading to record levels of flood displacement in countries including Pakistan, Nigeria and Brazil. It also fuelled the worst drought on record in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, triggering 2.1 million movements.

Internal displacement and food insecurity overlap

- Conflict, disasters and displacement have aggravated global food insecurity, which was already a concern as a result of the slow and uneven recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The data available on food security and internal displacement is far from comprehensive, but it reveals how the two phenomena overlap. Three-quarters of the countries where food security assessments were conducted had internally displaced populations.
- DRC, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen had the highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2022. They were also home to more than 26 million IDPs, over a third of the global total.
- Ukraine and Russia are among the world’s largest producers of fertiliser and grain. The conflict between them has had cascading effects on global supply chains and food prices, heightening food insecurity in many countries where internal displacement is also an issue.

National and regional trends

- Conflict and violence left 62.5 million people living in displacement across 65 countries and territories at the end of 2022. Disasters accounted for a further 8.7 million across 88 countries and territories.
- Internal displacement is a global phenomenon, but nearly three-quarters of the world’s internally displaced people (IDPs) live in just 10 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ukraine, Colombia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan. In many, disasters and conflict overlapped in 2022, prolonging IDPs’ situation and displacing some for a second or third time.
- Mirroring the previous 10 years, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa had the highest numbers of IDPs. Figures increased across all regions except East Asia and the Pacific.
- In countries such as the Philippines, Madagascar and South Sudan, consecutive disasters forced people to flee repeatedly, undermining their recovery and prolonging their displacement.
- Nearly half of the year’s disaster events triggered fewer than 100 movements, but taken together, their scale and local impacts were significant, as was the case in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam.

Pursuing solutions

- Unconditional cash assistance is a vital means of supporting the immediate needs of people affected by displacement and food insecurity. It is particularly useful for IDPs, given that their needs and priorities change as a result of leaving their homes and livelihoods behind.
- Developing IDPs’ livelihoods and skills would help to facilitate durable solutions by increasing their food security and their communities’ and countries’ self-reliance at the same time.
- Beyond immediate humanitarian assistance, investments are needed in anticipatory action and risk reduction measures that strengthen displaced communities’ resilience.
- Data gaps limit our understanding of how IDPs are affected by disruptions to food systems. Filling them would help to shine a light on the common drivers and impacts of displacement and food insecurity and provide evidence to inform solutions.
Part 1: The global picture

Ethiopian children running. The country is enduring its worst drought in four decades, that triggered 686,000 displacements in 2022. © Getty Images/Eduardo Soteras/ AFP, January 2023
Internally displaced people (IDPs) at the end of 2022

71.1m

What is the total number of IDPs?
The total number of IDPs is a snapshot of all the people living in internal displacement at the end of the year (see p. 135 for further information).

Displaced by conflict and violence
62.5 million
Internally displaced people as a result of conflict and violence in 65 countries and territories as of 31 December 2022

17%
Increase in the number of people internally displaced by conflict and violence since 2021

Displaced by disasters
8.7 million
Internally displaced people as a result of disasters in 88 countries and territories as of 31 December 2022

45%
Increase in the number of people internally displaced by disasters since 2021

The number of IDPs continues to rise
The number of people living in internal displacement reached a record high of 71.1 million people across 110 countries and territories.

Why does the number of IDPs keep increasing?
Rapidly escalating conflict and violence in countries such as Ukraine and DRC and significant disasters such as flooding in Pakistan forced millions of people to flee in 2022. They joined the tens of millions of people already living in prolonged displacement as a result of protracted conflict, repeated disasters and a lack of durable solutions.

What is needed to reduce the number of IDPs?
Supporting IDPs to return, integrate locally or resettle elsewhere in their countries is essential. Better data and evidence on solutions are key to informing tailored prevention and response that allow to effectively measure the end of displacement. Conflict resolution, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, food security and poverty reduction must all be strengthened.
Internal displacements in 2022

Disasters

32.6m

53%
Share of internal
displacements
triggered by disasters

What are internal
displacements?

The internal displacements figure refers to the number of forced movements of people within the borders of their country recorded during the year (see p. 135 for further information)

Five countries reporting the highest figures

Pakistan
8.158,000
Philippines
5.445,000
China
3.632,000
India
2.507,000
Nigeria
2.437,000

Breakdown by hazard

Weather-related
31,845,000

Floods
19,279,000
Storms
9,980,000
Cyclones
7,592,000

Droughts
2,215,000
Wildfires
366,000
Other storms
2,388,000

Landslides
53,000
Extreme temperatures
12,000

Geophysical
716,000

Earthquakes
699,000
Volcanic eruptions
13,000
Landslides
3,700

6 out of 10 disaster displacements were triggered by floods, surpassing storms for the first time since 2016

98% of disaster displacements were triggered by weather-related hazards such as floods, storms and droughts

*May also include tsunamis.
Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures

Key displacement situations

25% of global disaster displacements were triggered by monsoon flooding in Pakistan

1.1 million movements were recorded in Somalia as the country experienced its worst drought in 40 years

2% of Tonga’s population was forced to relocate after an extremely rare volcanic eruption

Highest figure in a decade

Disaster displacements in 2022 were 41% higher than the annual average of the past 10 years

Internal displacements by disasters in millions

2013: 22.1m
2014: 19.1m
2015: 19.2m
2016: 24.4m
2017: 18.6m
2018: 17.5m
2019: 25.3m
2020: 31m
2021: 23.7m
2022: 32.6m
Internal displacements in 2022
Conflict and violence

28.3m
47% Share of internal displacements triggered by conflict and violence

What are internal displacements?
The internal displacements figure refers to the number of forced movements of people within the borders of their country recorded during the year (see p. 135 for further information)

Highest figure in a decade
3x higher than the annual average of the past ten years

Key displacement situations
60% of global conflict displacements were recorded in Ukraine as people repeatedly fled from rapidly shifting frontlines
4 million conflict displacements took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 15 times more than in 2021
106,000 internal displacements in Haiti, a five-fold increase compared to 2021 and the highest figure ever recorded for the country

Highest figure in a decade
8.2m 11.3m 8.9m 8.3m 11.8m 10.8m 8.6m 9.8m 14.4m 28.3m

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Five countries reporting the highest figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Displacements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>16,870,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem. Rep. Congo</td>
<td>4,004,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>2,632,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1,066,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>821,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Breakdown by type of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violence</th>
<th>Number of Displacements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International armed conflict</td>
<td>17,053,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-international armed conflict</td>
<td>8,859,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal violence</td>
<td>969,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime-related violence</td>
<td>345,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian-state violence</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other forms of violence</td>
<td>1,032,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 out of 10 displacements were triggered by international armed conflicts
75% increase in the number of displacements triggered by non-international armed conflicts in the last three years, largely the result of escalating violence in DRC, Ethiopia and Somalia
Regional overviews

A family looks at their flooded home in South Sudan. Floods left two-thirds of the country under water and affected displaced communities. © Action Against Hunger/Peter Caton, 2022
Sub-Saharan Africa

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

31.7m
45% Share of the
global total
28m
IDPs by conflict and violence
3.7m
IDPs by disasters

Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa as of end of 2022

1. Dem. Rep. Congo: 5,686,000 | 283,000
2. Ethiopia: 3,852,000 | 777,000
3. Nigeria: 3,646,000 | 854,000
4. Somalia: 3,864,000
5. Sudan: 3,553,000 | 227,000

Total number of IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa at year end (2013-2022)

Internal displacements* in 2022

16.5m
27% Share of the
global total
9m
Internal displacements by conflict and violence
7.4m
Internal displacements by disasters

Five countries with most internal displacements in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022

1. Dem. Rep. Congo: 4,004,000 | 403,000
2. Ethiopia: 2,032,000 | 873,000
3. Nigeria: 148,000 | 2,437,000
4. Somalia: 621,000 | 1,152,000
5. South Sudan: 370,000 | 596,000

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in sub-Saharan Africa (2013-2022)
Around 16.5 million internal displacements were recorded in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022, an increase of 17 per cent compared with the previous year. This is explained by a near three-fold increase in the number of disaster displacements to 7.4 million, the highest figure ever recorded for the region.

A prolonged La Niña, the large-scale cooling of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, fuelled widespread drought in the Horn of Africa and storms and floods elsewhere in the region. Crops and livestock were lost, undermining people’s livelihoods and heightening food insecurity across the region. Around 165 million people in 38 countries and territories were acutely food insecure as the year concluded, a situation that was particularly severe in places already struggling with displacement crises (see box 1 in p. 95 for more information).

Conflict and violence triggered nine million displacements as new waves of insecurity struck some countries. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) accounted for almost half of the total. There were 28 million people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence across the region at the end of the year, its highest ever figure and more than 40 per cent of the global total. Despite IDPs’ growing needs, access constraints increasingly impeded the delivery of aid and aggravated the humanitarian situation.

Drought, displacement and food insecurity

Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa have long evolved around livestock’s grazing needs, but as seasonal variability turns into climate shocks, traditional coping mechanisms have been exhausted, forcing farmers to move and some pastoralists to become sedentary. The region faced its longest and most severe drought on record in 2022 after five consecutive below-average rainy seasons, triggering 21 million displacements across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Somalia alone accounted for 11 million, the highest figure recorded globally since data on drought displacement became available in 2017 (see spotlight, p. 29).

Neighbouring Ethiopia recorded around 686,000 drought displacements. The situation was particularly acute in the regions of Somali and Oromia, which were also affected by conflict and violence. Figures for Kenya were hard to come by, but data from the counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit and Turkana yielded a total of 316,000 movements. The drought affected 4.5 million people across the country as a whole.

Its scale and severity led to a significant increase in humanitarian needs across the Horn of Africa, with potentially long-lasting impacts for IDPs. Displaced pastoralists tend to take at least five years to restore their herd after a drought, but the scale and impacts of this latest disaster are likely to leave many with no other choice but to find a different source of income.

There is also growing concern about drought fuelling competition and violence over land, water and other ever scarcer natural resources. Localised conflicts, sometimes directly linked to cattle ownership, have further disrupted seasonal migration trends, triggering more displacement.

The African Development Bank co-hosted the Dakar2: Feed Africa summit in January 2023, bringing together governments, multilateral stakeholders, NGOs and the private sector to share promising practices to combat food insecurity, including increasing agricultural resilience to drought. The summit featured individual countries’ strategies for agricultural development and successful examples of heat-tolerant and water-efficient crops. These initiatives should be maintained, as they support strengthening countries’ resilience to future climate shocks.
Above-average rainfall and floods

Elsewhere in the region, La Niña fuelled above-average rains that led to widespread floods across several countries, some of which recorded their highest ever levels of disaster displacement.11 Main river basins across West Africa burst their banks, and some areas flooded were also dealing with conflict displacement and food insecurity. As these situations overlapped, IDPs’ humanitarian needs increased.14

Nigeria recorded 2.4 million disaster displacements, its highest in a decade and the highest in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022. The increase was mostly the result of severe floods between June and November. Half of the displacements were reported in the southern state of Bayelsa in the Niger river delta, but Anambra and Kogi states were also heavily affected.15 All states bordering Cameroon were moderately flooded, in part because of the release of excess water from a dam in the neighbouring country.16 Displacement camps in the north-eastern state of Borno were also flooded, forcing thousands of people already displaced by conflict to flee again.17

More than 676,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed, affecting essential crops such as rice. The reduction in supply and ensuing increased cost of staples heightened food insecurity to the extent that the National Emergency Management Authority requested UN assistance in October to respond to the disaster.18

The number of disaster displacements in Niger nearly doubled compared with 2021 to more than 248,000, while in Mali the figure was nearly four times higher. The latter increase is in part the result of better access to data. Floods struck the Malian region of Mopti in September and December, which resulted in the widespread destruction of homes in an area also widely affected by conflict.19

Chad recorded 158,000 disaster displacements, more than in the previous nine years combined. A state of emergency was declared in mid-October as the heaviest rainfall in 30 years broke dikes and led to extensive flooding.20 The Chari and Logone rivers burst their banks, flooding a quarter of the country’s capital, N'Djamena.21 Almost 57,000 houses were destroyed, and local authorities sheltered those displaced across 20 sites.22 Many were overcrowded, however, prompting the formation of informal settlements in flood-prone areas.23

After two years of drought, Mauritania recorded above-average rains and floods at the end of July that triggered 23,000 movements, its highest ever disaster displacement figure. The central and southern regions of Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant were worst affected. More than 3,800 homes were destroyed, and infrastructure and farmland were damaged.24 Neighbouring Senegal also recorded its highest flood displacement figure in years, with most movements taking place in urban areas such as Dakar, Thies and Matam.25

Above-average rainfall also brought severe floods to South Africa, where they triggered 62,000 movements, the country’s highest disaster displacement figure since data became available in 2008. The government declared a national emergency in January as dams began to overflow, but the worst was yet to come.26 KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces were hit by devastating floods between 11 and 13 April that triggered about 42,000 displacements.27

The extent of the disaster led to the activation of the International Disaster Charter, which provides the release of satellite data to humanitarian organisations to assist their operations.28 The government built temporary shelters for IDPs and worked towards issuing lost personal documents.29

In countries such as Chad, South Africa and Mauritania, floods triggered the highest figures ever recorded.
Consecutive storms

Three tropical cyclones and two tropical storms hit southern Africa in the first quarter of the year, killing more than 890 people and triggering 696,000 displacements. Tropical storm Ana, which hit Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in January, led to the highest number.

Malawi was the most affected by the consecutive storms. Ana caused significant damage and destruction to homes and triggered more than 190,000 displacements across 16 districts in southern parts of the country. As of April 2022, most people had voluntarily left shelter camps, but 5,400 individuals were still awaiting relocation. The storms also increased the risk of waterborne diseases. A cholera outbreak in February 2023 had become what was considered the worst in 20 years.

Madagascar was the second most affected country, recording nearly 286,000 displacements. The storms followed a severe drought which started in 2021, decimating crops and increasing food insecurity (see spotlight, p. 31).

Tropical cyclone Gombe struck Malawi and to a lesser extent Mozambique in early March, triggering 131,000 displacements across the two countries. Gombe also undermined the recovery of people previously displaced, prolonging their plight. Around 127,000 people were living in displacement as a result of disasters in Mozambique at the end of the year, some of them since cyclones Idai in 2019 and Eloise in 2021.

Protracted conflicts

Despite efforts to improve security and promote peacebuilding, conflict displacement continued to increase in many sub-Saharan countries in 2022, giving the region the highest number of people living in displacement as result of conflict and violence worldwide. Ten countries dealing with protracted crises accounted for 95 per cent of the

297,000 disaster displacements were recorded in Malawi as back-to-back storms hit the country

95% of conflict IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa live in just 10 countries

Young boy fishing in flood waters that engulfed Chikwawa district in Malawi, where tropical storm Ana triggered more than 190,000 displacements. © GettyImages/Angela Jimu/Majority World/Universal Images Group, February 2022
Conflicts and violence also triggered 621,000 movements in Somalia, the country’s highest figure in more than a decade. Around 3.9 million people were living in displacement as of the end of the year, up from three million 12 months prior and the highest figure since data became available in 2009. The increase was also the result of wider coverage and better data collection, particularly in Mogadishu.

The government launched a large-scale military offensive against the al-Shabaab militant group in August, and the ensuing fighting led to more than 182,000 displacements in Hiraan region. Violence was also reported in Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle, and clashes continued until the end of the year.

In neighbouring Ethiopia, conflict and violence triggered two million movements in 2022, down from 5.1 million in 2021 when escalating conflict in northern regions, and particularly Tigray, pushed the figure to an all-time high. The government announced a humanitarian truce in March, and, despite a resumption of fighting in August, the parties signed a peace agreement in November, raising hopes for those displaced to find durable solutions. Even if the peace agreement holds, however, it will take years to fully stabilise northern areas of the country.
There were nearly 3.9 million people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence across Ethiopia at the end of the year, the third highest figure in the region.

A number of West African countries were also hosting large numbers of IDPs as of the end of 2022. Nigeria had 3.6 million, of whom 1.9 million were living in protracted displacement in the north-eastern state of Borno. Around 148,000 movements were recorded during the year, fewer than in 2021, mostly in the states of Zamfara, Kaduna and Borno.

In the Central Sahel region, Burkina Faso was home to 19 million IDPs at the end of 2022, its highest figure on record. Non-state armed groups control large parts of the country’s territory, which impeded the delivery of aid to those displaced. Areas under blockade were only able to receive shipments by air. These and other hard-to-reach areas experienced emergency levels of food insecurity or worse, and services were extremely limited for millions of people (see spotlight, p. 97).

In Niger, nearly 372,000 people were living in displacement as of the end of the year, up from 224,000 in 2021. The majority were in the Tillabéri and Diffa regions. The south-west and south-east of the country continued to experience armed attacks that resulted in tens of thousands of displacements, although many were unaccounted for. Violence in Diffa, located in the Lake Chad basin, triggered more than 16,000 secondary movements from a displacement site in August.

Conflict also continued in Mali’s central and northern regions, triggering 154,000 displacements countrywide. As in Burkina Faso, a significant deterioration in humanitarian access increased IDPs’ needs in both Mali and Niger.

The same was true in Sudan, where intercommunal violence increased, particularly in West Darfur. Around 15.8 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, including 2.5 million IDPs. Around 3.6 million people were living in internal displacement across the country as a whole as of the end of the year, up from 3.2 million in 2021.

A revitalised peace agreement signed in 2018 brought hopes of an end to South Sudan’s conflict, but disputes among its main signatories have gridlocked the process. Repeated violations of the agreement were reported in 2022 as violence continued to escalate, triggering 337,000 displacements, most of them in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states. Almost 1.5 million people were living in displacement at the end of the year, a figure that has been largely unchanged for the past four years. The country was also hit by severe floods that hampered the provision of humanitarian aid and increased food insecurity (see spotlight, p. 109).

The government of Mozambique asked the Southern African Development Community to support its fight against non-state armed groups in Cabo Delgado via a regional military coalition in 2021. Violence in Cabo Delgado and the neighbouring province of Nampula reignited, particularly in the second half of the year, triggering a total of 283,000 movements, 50 per cent more than in 2021.54 As the coalition made gains, it began a peacebuilding support programme intended to improve social protection, law and order and humanitarian assistance. As the year concluded, over a million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence in Mozambique.

A man collects firewood from the bushes in the north-eastern state of Borno, which hosts more than half of Nigeria’s IDPs. © NRC/Samuel Jegede, 2022
Spotlight – The Democratic Republic of the Congo: overlapping displacement and food insecurity in the east

The humanitarian situation in DRC deteriorated in 2022 as non-state armed groups (NSAGs) increased their attacks in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. Around 4 million internal displacements were reported across the country as a whole, a 48 per cent increase from 2021. Around 5.7 million people were living in displacement at the end of the year, the third highest figure in the world. DRC is also home to the largest number of acutely food insecure people worldwide, illustrating the overlapping nature of these crises.

The March 23 Movement (M23), one of more than 200 NSAGs operating in the east of the country, had curtailed most of its activities after a 2013 peace agreement, but it renewed its attacks in November 2021, primarily in North Kivu. Its re-emergence is partly explained by disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration challenges as well as economic interests. Violence escalated significantly in March 2022 and intensified further in June, October and November, triggering more than 520,000 displacements. The situation in Ituri illustrates the multifaceted crisis DRC faces as the armed forces struggle to contain an array of NSAGs and intercommunal violence that is forcing people from their homes across several provinces.

More than a quarter of the country’s population, or 26.4 million people, were estimated to face acute food insecurity between July and December last year. Access constraints caused by M23 violence reduced the local movement of food into Goma, the capital of North Kivu, and increased residents’ reliance on imports from neighbouring countries. NSAGs also targeted existing food stocks, further aggravating the prevailing food insecurity.

Data on food security in DRC is not disaggregated by displacement status, but anecdotal evidence suggests that IDPs are among the most vulnerable. Forced to leave their homes, lands and livelihoods behind when they flee, they become less able to produce food for themselves and their communities, rendering staple items increasingly rare and expensive. The fact that 93 per cent of IDPs shelter with host families also adds pressure on the latter, who themselves face growing food insecurity, increasing the needs of the population as a whole.

Despite the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the east in 2022, the response, which targeted 8.8 million people, was only 48 per cent funded.
Spotlight – Somalia: worst drought in 40 years fuels food insecurity and displacement

Drought is a recurring phenomenon in Somalia and has increased in scale and severity in the last decade. Almost 260,000 people died in the 2011 famine after two below-average rainy seasons.68 Drought and famine were declared in 2017 and 892,000 associated displacements were recorded.68 Authorities declared a state of emergency in November 2021 in response to a drought that intensified in 2022 to become the longest and most severe in 40 years with five consecutive failed rainy seasons.69

The drought affected almost half of the population and triggered a record 1.1 million internal displacements in 2022, almost six times the figure for the previous year.70 The situation was still ongoing at the start of 2023. As in previous years, these conditions combined with conflict to fuel food insecurity and force people from their homes. Competition and violence over scarce resources, triggering an emergency response.79 Many areas were insecure, especially following large inflows of new IDPs. Many of those evicted in Banadir in February 2022 had previously been displaced by drought.77

Most IDPs are concentrated in urban areas, such as the country’s capital of Mogadishu in the Banadir district and the city of Baidoa in Bay region.75 The scale of the inflows into already overcrowded areas puts IDPs at risk of forced eviction and secondary urban displacement.76 This dynamic has gained attention in recent years, leading to coordinated prevention efforts, a moratorium on evictions and the formalisation of lease agreements in displacement sites, all of which have contributed to a reduction in the number of evictions.77 They still occur, however, especially following large inflows of new IDPs. Many of those evicted in Banadir in February 2022 had previously been displaced by drought.77

Such high population density also increases humanitarian needs by aggravating diseases, driving up food prices, and fueling food insecurity. The large influx of IDPs into Baidoa put added strain on already scarce resources, triggering an emergency response.78 Many areas were classified as facing emergency, or IPC phase 4, levels of food insecurity and some even catastrophe, or IPC phase 5, levels.79

With a sixth failed rainy season forecast from April to June 2023 and food prices at exceptionally high levels, a new alert for looming famine was issued in September 2022.80 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has repeatedly called for increased and sustained humanitarian assistance, warning the death toll could be as high as it was in 2011.81 As of the end of 2022, however, only 57 per cent of the required funding had been received.82

More drought displacement is expected in 2023 as a result, with long-lasting impacts. More than 80 schools in Jubaland and Galmudug states had already been closed as of April 2022 from impacts of the drought. By the end of the year, 17 million children had had their education disrupted.83

Given that agriculture and livestock rearing are the country’s main economic activities, investing in adaptation strategies and diversifying livelihoods options is crucial to counter the adverse effects of prolonged reliance on aid.84 To this end, the Saameynta project, a new partnership between the federal government and the UN, is intended to promote durable solutions for more than 75,000 IDPs and their host communities by investing in rural development and urban integration.85

Mechanisms such as the IDP Working Group, which includes stakeholders working on humanitarian and displacement issues, have also established a much more accurate evidence base on displacement dynamics.86 Partners are producing and using disaggregated data in their programmes, which has helped them better target their prevention and response measures by taking the different patterns and impacts of displacement into account. Such data also contributes to emerging drought displacement modelling to inform preventive action.87
Spotlight – Madagascar: storms and drought trigger displacement and heighten food insecurity

A combination of poverty, vulnerability and exposure to a wide range of hazards make Madagascar one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries. Severe storms last year came on top of an ongoing drought that reduced soil absorption capacity and increased the impacts of floods and other disasters, many of which struck informal urban settlements. The combined effects of slow and sudden-onset disasters aggravated food insecurity and led to 291,000 internal displacements, the highest figure ever recorded for the country.

Six tropical storms, including three cyclones, hit the country between January and April, triggering 286,000 movements. The most intense period was between mid-January and the end of February, when rains were almost uninterrupted. Put into perspective, the figure represents about 20 per cent of all disaster displacements recorded in Madagascar since data became available in 2008. Strong winds, heavy rains and floods destroyed more than 15,600 homes, prolonging the prospects of return for those displaced.

Tropical storm Ana, which hit on 17 January, was not the most severe in terms of hazard intensity, but its impacts in the capital area of Greater Antananarivo accounted for 40 per cent of the disaster displacements reported in 2022. Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati, which struck in January and February, were stronger but between them triggered fewer displacements. The scale of displacement and extent of the damage Ana wrought is partly explained by the rapid and informal urban expansion that has taken place in recent years. Around 700,000 people live in the capital’s flood-prone informal settlements.

Rural to urban displacement is in part driven by the country’s cyclical climate variability and low rainfall periods to which Grand Sud region is particularly prone. Consecutive failed rainy seasons since 2019 have plunged the region into its worst drought in 40 years. As it can take farmers up to three years to fully recover from one year of drought, disasters and economic drivers combine to trigger migration and displacement.

The impacts of natural hazards are aggravated by human-made erosion brought on by unsustainable land management, including widespread deforestation and the repurposing of land for housing in contravention of regulations. As much as a third of the island’s land resources are now affected by erosion, with severe effects on livelihoods, agriculture and food security.

The consecutive storms of 2022 damaged cassava, maize and cash crops, further weakening the country’s already limited agricultural production. About 60,000 hectares of rice fields were also flooded twice, resulting in a below-average harvest. The Grand Sud-Est region was pushed into crisis, driving 5,000 people to move to the capital, Antananarivo.

Depleted of food provision, some people had no alternative but to rely on humanitarian aid. Madagascar had the fourth highest number of people in the world facing catastrophe, or IPC phase 5, levels of food security, in 2021, especially in Grand Sud. Humanitarian aid was scaled up in the first half of 2022 as a result, which helped to prevent famine, but conditions remained dire for many. Among the 28 per cent of the population assessed, around 2.2 million people were still acutely food insecure at the end of the year.

Madagascar’s government has made significant efforts in recent years to understand risk and put policies in place to reduce the impacts of disaster and climate change. It introduced a national disaster loss database in 2015, an initiative that has improved baseline information, including on disaster displacement. This was followed by a review of the country’s disaster risk management act and the introduction of a national strategy on the issue the following year. A climate change adaptation plan was also adopted in December 2021, but displacement does not feature in these initiatives.

These undertakings have been followed by projects to build resilience to disasters, including one supported by several international partners in Greater Antananarivo to develop risk informed urban planning by improving drainage systems and using nature-based solutions to reduce risk. Given that the country is bound to be affected by more seasonal weather events that trigger displacement, the inclusion of elements that specifically address the phenomenon in existing and future policies is paramount.
Middle East & North Africa

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

12.8m
18% Share of the global total
12.7m IDPs by conflict and violence
71,000 IDPs by disasters

Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in the Middle East and North Africa as of end 2022

1 Syria: 6,865,000
2 Yemen: 4,523,000
3 Iraq: 1,169,000 | 69,000
4 Libya: 135,000
5 Palestine: 12,000

Internal displacements* in 2022

787,000
1% Share of the global total
482,000 Internal displacements by conflict and violence
305,000 Internal displacements by disasters

Five countries with most internal displacements in the Middle East and North Africa in 2022

1 Yemen: 276,000 | 117,000
2 Syria: 171,000 | 21,000
3 Iraq: 32,000 | 151,000
4 Iran: 42,000
5 Morocco: 9,500

Total number of IDPs in the Middle East and North Africa at year end (2013-2022)

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in the Middle East and North Africa (2013-2022)

Conflict and violence Disasters

A bakery destroyed by fighting in Syria. While conflict and violence force people to flee, it can also have severe impacts on their livelihoods, entailing sustainable returns.

© NRC/Tareq Mnadili, July 2022
The number of internal displacements associated with conflict and violence decreased in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for the third year in a row in 2022. Around 482,000 were recorded, down from a million in 2021. Disasters, on the other hand, triggered 305,000 displacements, 25 per cent more than the previous year. Most were recorded in countries already affected by conflict, illustrating how drivers are converging in the region.

Around 12.8 million people were living in internal displacement across MENA as of the end of the year, 98 per cent of them as a result of conflict and violence in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. The trends show that, despite a significant reduction in conflict, protracted displacement is a major challenge to be addressed.

**Protracted conflict displacement**

Large-scale conflict and associated displacement have reduced significantly in MENA in the past few years, but durable solutions are still a distant prospect for many of the region’s IDPs. Indeed, the number of IDPs increased by 3 per cent in 2022. These opposing trends show that a reduction in violence does not necessarily translate into fewer IDPs if people are still unable to return home, integrate locally or resettle elsewhere. Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya between them account for 20 per cent of all people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence worldwide.

Violence continued in Syria last year, particularly in the northern governorates of Idlib and Aleppo. The rise in global food prices and the devaluation of the country’s currency pushed the country into its worst economic crisis since the war began, aggravating the humanitarian situation. The humanitarian community has made progress in building dignified shelters for IDPs living in camps, but longer term investments to restore housing, infrastructure and basic services if the country’s 6.9 million IDPs are to achieve durable solutions.

Internally displaced Yemenis saw their camp flooded by heavy rain in the outskirts of Taez, in September 2022. (© Getty Images/Almattar Ar-Rashidi/AAP)
Despite a significant reduction in conflict and new displacement in Yemen after a truce in April, the country’s humanitarian crisis has not eased and, by the end of the year, it was still home to 4.5 million IDPs. Some have attempted to return, but their prospects are limited by the constant threat of renewed violence and a lack of livelihood opportunities. More than half the population is thought to be acutely food insecure and humanitarian access is still heavily restricted (see spotlight, p. 43).114

Iraq and Libya have also faced protracted conflict and displacement crises, but both have recorded a significant drop in their number of IDPs in recent years. The decrease in Iraq has happened since the defeat of Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) in 2017. Challenges for solutions remain, however, including lack of tenure security and the prevalence of non-state armed groups. Latest figures showed that more than 592,000 returnees were living in conditions of poverty and vulnerability, exposed to protection risks including exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence and human trafficking.115

Pockets of violence triggered nearly 32,000 displacements in 2022. A third took place in northern Iraq in early May when the security forces clashed with non-state armed groups.116 Few have returned to their homes, in part given a lack of livelihood opportunities, delays in compensation for damaged housing and the trauma of repeated displacement and violence.117 Sustainable return continues to be hampered by a tenuous security situation and the prevalence of multiple armed groups, especially in governorates that witnessed fierce fighting between 2014 and 2017.
Unemployment rates among IDPs in Iraq are at least ten per cent higher than among their non-displaced counterparts, which in turn has heightened their food insecurity. This has pushed many into adopting negative coping strategies including taking their children out of school, selling productive assets, becoming involved in crime, and early marriage.18

In Libya, almost 674,000 IDPs have returned home since 2016.19 The number of people living in displacement at the end of 2022 was the lowest since 2013 at nearly 135,000. Almost half were in the west of the country, where damage to homes and infrastructure is severe and basic services are lacking in return areas.20

IDPs face heightened protection and security risks, including the risk of eviction. Around 2,800 were given a day to vacate their settlement in May without any alternative accommodation being offered.21 The government and the UN launched a three-year sustainable development cooperation framework in December, which merged migration and development cooperation with durable solutions strategies to improve coordination and increase the scope of programmes to strengthen social cohesion, an important step toward bringing displacement to a sustainable end.22

The stability achieved since the October 2020 ceasefire was, however, threatened last year by delays in holding elections, which fuelled tensions between the rival administrations and raised fears of renewed fighting.23 Clashes broke out in Tripoli on 27 and 28 August, leading to dozens of fatalities and 360 displacements in the most significant escalation of violence in more than two years.24 Indiscriminate shelling of densely populated areas and the destruction of civilian property including vehicles, homes and medical facilities were reported.25

Internal displacement in Palestine is among the most protracted in the world, and hostilities and housing demolitions force people from their homes every year.26 Nearly 1,800 such displacements were recorded in 2022. The most significant event took place in the Gaza Strip in August, when Israeli airstrikes damaged more than 1,700 homes and triggered more than 640 displacements.27 Around 1,000 were recorded in the West Bank during the year, mostly the result of the demolition of homes. There were around 12,000 people living in internal displacement across Palestine as of the end of the year.

The recurrence and severity of the floods, which also wreaked havoc in 2020 when they led to the highest disaster displacement figure ever recorded for the country, shows again the need for greater protection of IDPs, who are often more exposed to hazards. It also calls for more comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures in the informal urban settlements where most IDPs live and in displacement camps, which can get flooded, forcing people to move again.17

In Syria, high winds led to more than 13,000 displacements at the beginning of January, only a few weeks after floods in the same area had destroyed the tents of more than 5,000 people who had fled conflict.28 Snowstorms and severe winter conditions destroyed tents in January, triggering around 1,500 onward displacements.29 The conditions, combined with the destruction of infrastructure over a decade of conflict, slowed the provision of aid and health services to those in need.30

The overlapping effects of conflict and disasters were also evident in 2022 in Palestine, where floods led to 220 temporary evacuations in the Gaza Strip.31 The blockade of Gaza has heightened flood risk by hampering the development of resilient infrastructure and increasing the vulnerability of the territory’s inhabitants.32

Drought and wildfires

MENA is one of the most water scarce regions in the world. As such, it faces associated slow-onset hazards, including drought, and is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.146 Our understanding of how these heighten the social and economic vulnerabilities that drive displacement is still limited, however, because data is only available for a handful of countries.

Drought and wildfires triggered 69,000 displacements in MENA in 2022, the highest figure since 2016. In Iraq, 51,000 movements were recorded, accounting for around a sixth of all disaster displacements across the region as a whole. Eight governorsates were affected, in particular Thi-Qar where the Mesopotamian Marshes are located.31 The wetlands are home to large communities of water buffalo herders whose livelihoods were severely affected by livestock deaths.38

The drought also led to a drop in food production and a rise in prices that undermined the livelihoods of farmers and herders more broadly, particularly in the south.39 Poor water management and the building of upstream dams served to aggravate the situation.40

Lack of rain also fuelled wildfires across the region, which triggered more displacements than in previous years. Countries along the Mediterranean basin, including Morocco and Algeria, were some of the most affected during a heatwave in July and August. Wildfires triggered 9,500 displacements from rural areas of northern Morocco in mid-July.41 Across the country, more land had been destroyed by wildfires by October 2022 than the previous nine years combined.42

Floods triggered 209,000 displacements across the region in 2022. Yemen recorded 170,000, or around 81 per cent of the total. Many were secondary movements of people who had already fled conflict and who were living in vulnerable conditions (see spotlight, p. 43).122

In Yemen, almost 674,000 IDPs have returned home since 2016. The number of people living in displacement at the end of 2022 was the lowest since 2013 at nearly 135,000. Almost half were in the west of the country, where damage to homes and infrastructure have sustained significant damage and there is a lack of basic services in return areas.120

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While the number of IDPs in Libya has reduced significantly, homes and infrastructure have sustained significant damage and there is a lack of basic services in return areas. Internal displacement in Palestine is among the most protracted in the world.
Wildfires also led to 2,000 displacements in north-eastern Algeria, where they destroyed 10 per cent of an important biodiversity reserve and its surroundings, killing dozens of people and many more head of livestock.\(^{144}\) In Yemen they triggered close to 1,200 movements, mostly in the conflict-affected governorate of Hodeidah.\(^{145}\)

MENA is home to 12 of the world’s 17 most water stressed countries, which has prompted governments to take more action to reduce drought risk and better manage water systems.\(^{146}\) Those of Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco have entered into partnership with the International Water Management Institute for a project intended to anticipate, prepare for and mitigate drought impacts.\(^{147}\) A similar initiative would also benefit countries such as Syria and Iraq, which face the overlapping effects of drought and conflict and where the former has already fuelled communal tensions, violence and displacement.\(^{148}\)

In Morocco, more land was destroyed by wildfires in 2022 than the previous 9 years combined.

Initiatives that support countries to anticipate, prepare for and mitigate the impacts of disaster displacement in MENA should be scaled up.
Spotlight – Yemen: crisis persists despite truce and drop in conflict displacement

The eighth year of Yemen’s conflict was marked by a significant reduction in fighting, fatalities and associated displacement after a truce.149 However, the overall number of new internal displacements by conflict and violence remained persistently high in 2022, at 276,000. Disasters also triggered a high number of movements, totalling 171,000. This is the second highest figure for the country since data became available in 2008. The majority were the result of flash floods during the rainy season.

Clashes between Ansar Allah and the Saudi-led coalition intensified at the end of 2021 and continued to trigger a high number of displacements in the first quarter of 2022. Almost 71,000 movements were recorded in January alone, and IDPs’ humanitarian situation deteriorated. Attacks against humanitarian staff and administrative impediments hindered access to and delivery of life-saving assistance to 21.6 million Yemenis in need.150 This was followed by a two-month truce that came into effect on 2 April after weeks of negotiations facilitated by the UN. It was extended twice until 2 October, contributing to a more than five-fold reduction in internal displacements from an average of 48,000 in the first quarter to an average of 9,100 in the last.151

Despite a significant lull in the conflict following the truce, some displacement continued to be recorded, particularly around densely populated areas and frontlines. Almost half of the associated movements occurred in Hodeidah and Marib, governorates where much of the fighting took place.152

The two governorates, along with Hajjah, were also the most affected by disaster displacement, particularly during the June-to-August rainy season. The rains in 2022 were 300 per cent above the average annual intensity and swept across 80 per cent of the country, forcing many people already displaced by conflict to flee again.153 As during the 2020 floods, water sources were contaminated, reducing access to safe drinking water and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.154 The situation was particularly severe for IDPs living in camps, which tend to lack adequate water and waste management infrastructure.155

Local integration could be a potential solution for many IDPs, but it has been hindered by a significant increase in forced evictions, partly because IDPs are unable to afford rent in their host areas.156 These factors combined mean that Yemen records persistently high levels of new and repeated movements, and an increasing number of people living in displacement at the end of each year. The figure for 2022 stood at 4.5 million, one of the highest in the world.

Reducing disaster risk and clearing ERW must be priorities if cyclical and protracted displacement are to be reduced and ultimately avoided. Persistently high levels of insecurity and the lack of livelihood opportunities in return areas also discourage many IDPs from returning, preferring instead to wait for clear signs of peacebuilding before they go back to their homes.157

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## Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

- **2.6m** Total number of IDPs in East Asia and Pacific at year end (2013-2022)
- **11.3m** Internal displacements* in 2022

### Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in East Asia and Pacific as of end 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>IDPs by conflict and violence</th>
<th>IDPs by disasters</th>
<th>Total IDPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1.498,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>1.6m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>533,000</td>
<td>5,445,000</td>
<td>5.9m</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>146,000</td>
<td>68,000</td>
<td>214,000</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>262,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>91,000</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>111,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Internal displacements* in 2022

- **1.8m** Share of the global total IDPs by conflict and violence
- **1.2m** Internal displacements by conflict and violence
- **10.1m** Internal displacements by disasters

### Five countries with most internal displacements in East Asia and Pacific in 2022

<table>
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<td>5,445,000</td>
<td>5.6m</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>3,632,000</td>
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<td>3.7m</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>1.1m</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>353,000</td>
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<td>483,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>730,000</td>
<td>308,000</td>
<td>1.0m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total number of IDPs in East Asia and Pacific at year end (2013-2022)

- **2013**: 0.9m
- **2014**: 0.8m
- **2015**: 1.1m
- **2016**: 1.5m
- **2017**: 1.6m
- **2018**: 1.5m
- **2019**: 2.5m
- **2020**: 2.6m
- **2021**: 2.8m
- **2022**: 2.6m

*First year disaster data is available.

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in East Asia and Pacific (2013-2022)

- **Conflict and violence**
- **Disasters**

© UNICEF/UN0711549/Clark, July 2022
Disasters were the main trigger of internal displacement in East Asia and the Pacific in 2022. Around 101 million movements were recorded, down from 137 million in 2021 and below the annual average of 116 million over the last decade. In a rare occurrence, the La Niña phenomenon continued for a third consecutive year, shifting weather patterns significantly. Most parts of East and Southeast Asia experienced less intense rainy and cyclone seasons, and recorded fewer associated displacements. However, nearly a third of the region’s countries reported an increase in disaster displacement, many of them in Southeast Asia.

The number of displacements associated with conflict and violence rose by 92 per cent compared with 2021 to reach 12 million, the highest figure recorded since data became available. Escalating conflict and violence in Myanmar accounted for around a million, the highest figure ever reported for the country (see spotlight, p. 53). Conflict displacements also increased in Papua New Guinea to more than 64,000, an almost seven-fold increase on the 9,500 recorded in 2021.

Around 2.6 million people were living in internal displacement across the region as of the end of the year, 1.8 million of them as a result of conflict and violence and the vast majority in Myanmar. Figures for people living in displacement as a result of disasters are hard to come by, because most countries’ assessments end soon after the main impacts of disasters recede, leaving many IDPs unaccounted for.

### Storms

Storms were less severe than in previous years, but they still triggered more displacements than any other hazard. Around 6.8 million were recorded, down from eight million in 2021. Philippines and China, which are both highly exposed to hazards, again reported the highest figures. Both countries were hit by tropical storm Nalgae, typhoon Muifa and tropical storm Megi, which between them accounted for more than three-quarters of the region’s storm displacements.

Nalgae, known locally as Paeng, cut across ten provinces of the Philippines between 26 and 30 October, triggering around three million displacements, the highest figure for a single event in the region last year. Most were pre-emptive evacuations led by the government, which set up nearly 10,700 evacuation centres to host those displaced. Around 55,000 people were still displaced as a result of Nalgae at the end of the year.

Megi struck the country in April, hitting the same areas affected four months earlier by typhoon Rai, which had been the most severe storm of 2021. When Megi hit, people still displaced by Rai were forced to flee again. The situation shed further light on the repeated nature of displacement for many people exposed to severe storms in the Philippines (see spotlight, p. 55).
Many of the storms that hit the Philippines moved north towards coastal China, where they triggered around 18 million displacements, mostly in Zhejiang, Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. Typhoon Muifa triggered 1.3 million movements in Zhejiang, all of which were pre-emptive evacuations as the storm approached. Further pre-emptive evacuations accounted for 72 per cent of all disaster displacements in China last year. As in the Philippines, the country’s high exposure to major storms has prompted authorities to set up early warning systems and evacuation protocols that have successfully reduced the number of people injured and killed by disasters.

Similar protocols have been put in place in other highly exposed countries including Viet Nam and Japan. Around 96 per cent of all disaster displacements recorded in Viet Nam last year were pre-emptive evacuations ahead of typhoon Noru. In Japan, evacuations are not mandatory. The government issued evacuation alerts to nearly two million people as typhoon Nanmadol approached, but by the time the storm made landfall on 18 September only 30,000 displacements had taken place.

**Floods**

Floods triggered 2.7 million internal displacements across the region, significantly fewer than the 5.3 million recorded in 2021. Flooding in China during East Asia’s monsoon season between May and September accounted for almost two-thirds of the total. Rainy season floods also triggered 20,000 displacements in Indonesia, a significant reduction from the 411,000 reported in 2021.

By contrast, flood displacements in the Pacific saw a significant increase. Australia was particularly affected. The eastern states of New South Wales and Queensland experienced floods from late February to early April and again in July, triggering nearly 16,000 movements, some involving people displaced more than once. The scale of the flooding led authorities to declare a national emergency. It was the first such declaration since congress reviewed the law after the deadly 2019/20 bushfire season.

Further rains and floods hit the country’s south-east in October, triggering 1,000 displacements across the states of Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales, where soils were already saturated and dams full after previous heavy rains. The overall displacement figures are conservative given the lack of systematic monitoring and reporting in the country. The New South Wales floods were considered Australia’s costliest disaster on record.

Floods were also reported in other parts of the Pacific, including Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and New Caledonia. New Zealand reported heavy downpours in the Northern and Central regions, particularly in August, causing floods that triggered almost 2,600 displacements.

**Geophysical hazards**

Given their location on the Pacific Ring of Fire, several countries in East Asia and the Pacific are vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity. Such hazards triggered 518,000 displacements in 2022, 98 per cent of them in the Philippines, Indonesia and China.

Two powerful earthquakes hit Abra province in the Philippines within a period of three months. The first, of magnitude 7.0, occurred on 27 July and the second, of magnitude 6.4, on 25 October. Between them they triggered around 205,000 displacements, and left 50,000 people still living in displacement at the end of the year.

In Indonesia, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck near the town of Cianjur in West Java on 21 November, triggering at least 115,000 displacements. More than 300 people were killed, about a third of whom were children. Landslides caused by the 5.6-magnitude earthquake which hit Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia on 21 November 2022. © GettyImages/Aditya Irawan /NurPhoto, November 2022.
In Japan, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the coast of Fukushima, triggering 1,700 displacements. The quake occurred near the area affected by the 2011 East Japan earthquake and tsunami, which prompted disaster management authorities to keep a close watch on the situation. Around 45,000 people were living in displacement as a result of disasters nationwide at the end of the year, of whom 31,000 were displaced by the 2011 disaster. Aftershocks and seasonal rains further hampered rescue and relief efforts. In Japan, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the coast of Fukushima, triggering 1,700 displacements. The quake occurred near the area affected by the 2011 East Japan earthquake and tsunami, which prompted disaster management authorities to keep a close watch on the situation. Around 45,000 people were living in displacement as a result of disasters nationwide at the end of the year, of whom 31,000 were displaced by the 2011 disaster. Aftershocks and seasonal rains further hampered rescue and relief efforts.

Conflict and violence

Conflict and violence triggered 1.2 million displacements across East Asia and the Pacific in 2022, the highest figure for the region since data became available in 2008. They took place in Myanmar, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, with the figure for Myanmar representing 84 per cent of the total as the security situation in the country continued to deteriorate (see spotlight, p. 53).

In the Philippines, conflict and violence triggered around 123,000 displacements, 91 per cent of which took place in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The number of people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence countrywide fell from 445,300 in 2017 to 102,000 at the end of last year. The reduction is explained by the return of most of the people who had fled the 2017 conflict in Marawi city, but the event still accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the country’s remaining conflict IDPs as of the end of 2022.

Conflict displacement has increased in Papua New Guinea in recent years. National elections in July 2022 fuelled tensions, and the ensuing violence triggered 64,000 displacements. Ongoing insecurity in the Highlands region hampered needs assessments, making displacement estimates conservative. Disruption to children’s education was reported, along with an increase in gender-based violence and shortfalls in healthcare provision as medical staff were displaced, supplies disrupted and facilities damaged. Around 91,000 people were living in displacement as result of conflict and violence nationwide at the end of the year, of whom 13,000 had been doing so for more than five years.

The eruption of Tonga’s underwater volcano of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai in January also led to significant damage and displacement relative to the country’s size and population. It caused a tsunami that hit several islands across the archipelago, triggering around 2,400 movements. The tsunami also disrupted the country’s electric grid, which slowed response efforts (see spotlight, p. 57).

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The eruption of Tonga’s underwater volcano of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai in January also led to significant damage and displacement relative to the country’s size and population. It caused a tsunami that hit several islands across the archipelago, triggering around 2,400 movements. The tsunami also disrupted the country’s electric grid, which slowed response efforts (see spotlight, p. 57).
Spotlight – Myanmar: escalating conflict leads to unprecedented displacement

In February 2021, a military takeover sparked protests that were violently suppressed. The demonstrations, however, quickly evolved into an armed resistance movement that spread across the country: the People’s Defence Force (PDF). They continued to grow in 2022, adding a layer of complexity to long-running conflicts between the military and a number of ethnic non-state armed groups.

Fighting escalated nationwide, with large-scale offensives and indiscriminate attacks triggering around a million internal displacements across eleven of Myanmar’s 14 states and regions, the highest annual figure recorded for the country. By the end of the year, 15 million people were living in displacement as a result of new and protracted conflict, a two-fold increase compared with figures before the military takeover.

Nearly 67 per cent of the new movements took place in the north-western regions of Sagaing and Magway, where 568,000 and 104,000 respectively were recorded. Both areas had been relatively unaffected by violence before 2021, but they quickly became resistance hotspots. Military raids and arson attacks forced whole villages to flee and destroyed nearly 36,000 homes in Sagaing in 2022.

Conflict also forced thousands of people from their homes in the south-east of the country. Armed clashes and airstrikes increased significantly in Bago region in July, leading to significant displacement. Around 56,000 people were living in displacement in Bago as of 31 December, 91 times more than at the beginning of the year.

On top of the conflict sparked by the military takeover, tensions between the Arakan Army and the armed forces reignited in Rakhine and Chin states in June, bringing an informal ceasefire that had lasted almost two years to an end. Armed clashes and fear of violence triggered 77,000 displacements in August and September, adding to the 77,000 IDPs displaced by the conflict in the two states since 2018. Another informal ceasefire was announced on 26 November, but the situation remained fragile and displacement continued to be reported in December.

Humanitarian needs have increased significantly across the country. Around 17.6 million people are expected to need assistance in 2023, up from 14.4 million in 2022. IDPs live in particularly dire conditions given their high exposure to violence and the challenges they face in accessing support. Most live in informal sites such as monasteries, churches or the forest around their villages. A surge in the use of landmines is also a serious concern. IDPs across the country have reported deaths and injuries while searching for safety, food and basic supplies, and they say landmines are an obstacle to return.

Myanmar’s health system was crippled after the military takeover and has become increasingly intertwined with the conflict. At least 286 incidents of violence against healthcare facilities and workers were reported during the year. These, in combination with blockades on supplies to displacement camps, left many IDPs without access to healthcare.

Around 15.2 million people were facing food insecurity as of October, with needs highest in the north-west and south-east. IDPs in these areas are more likely to have their access to income, crops and markets disrupted. Insecurity and movement restrictions in Rakhine state led to the suspension of food and humanitarian programming in eight towns from September. Freedom of movement was restored in some areas by December, but challenges persist and needs remain high. Humanitarian partners in Shan state also said that food programmes to support IDPs threatened by camp closures needed to be scaled up.

Given the intensity of the conflict and the widespread destruction of homes, the prospect for returns is limited. In Kayah state, for example, only ten per cent of those displaced since February 2021 had gone back to their homes as of October 2022. Partners have scaled up their programming nationwide, but the Humanitarian Response Plan was only 41.7 per cent funded despite the deteriorating conditions. Without a de-escalation of the conflict and better humanitarian access across the country, people’s needs and the risk of further and protracted displacement are likely to increase.
Spotlight – The Philippines: overlapping disaster impacts and the importance of monitoring displacement

Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire and in East Asia’s typhoon belt, the Philippines is one of the countries most affected by disaster displacement globally. Storms tend to account for the majority of the movements, and 2022 – when they triggered 4.6 million – was no exception. The figure represents 85 per cent of the disaster displacements recorded for the country during the year. Many were repeated movements of people who had fled previous disasters.

The recurrence of storms and other weather-related hazards has prompted authorities to strengthen their monitoring systems to produce more actionable data that has been used to inform policy and operations for disaster risk reduction and durable solutions to internal displacement.

The efforts of the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Centre (DROMIC) serve as a good example of how such data is produced and how it enables more comprehensive understanding of displacement trends. In monitoring after two disasters, Typhoon Rai and tropical storm Megi, which hit the same areas four months apart, is a case in point.

Typhoon Rai, known locally as Odette, triggered around 3.9 million displacements in December 2021, the highest figure of the year for a single event globally. Sustained winds of 195 km/h over 3 days left around 17 million homes damaged and around 530,000 people displaced as of the end of the year. Half of them were still unable to return to their homes in the early months of 2022. Thanks to DROMIC’s thorough monitoring, it was possible to understand the pace of returns in Rai’s aftermath. Most displacements took place between 16 and 21 December 2021, and some people began to return within days.

In Western Visayas, where most displacements were reported, the pace of returns was much faster. Nearly 95 per cent of IDPs had returned to their homes in three weeks. A specific rehabilitation and recovery plan was implemented for the region given the scale of displacement and it was instrumental in ensuring swift response to the disaster. Only 1,200 people were still displaced as of mid-October 2022 because their homes had been severely damaged or destroyed.

This was the last data point available for the year.

Tropical storm Megi, known locally as Agaton, began to develop on 4 April. It intensified into a tropical storm six days later, triggering more than 871,000 displacements. Megi hit the same regions as Rai, namely Cagayan, Western Visayas and Central Visayas, which accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the movements between them. Western Visayas was again the most affected. Around 40 per cent of the region’s returnees after Rai were forced to flee again, and people still living in displacement sites had their plight prolonged.

The scale and impacts of the displacement two storms triggered were significant, but they also tell a story of resilience. The two storms were similar in intensity to typhoon Haiyan which struck in 2013 and was considered the most destructive storm to ever hit the Philippines.

The production of more timely and relevant data to support local early warning and early action has been key to mitigating disaster impacts and speeding up recovery and the achievement of durable solutions. It took more than a year for many IDPs to return to their homes after Haiyan, but the pace of returns after Rai was much faster. Around 95 per cent had returned within three weeks.

DROMIC’s data can be used to run time-series analyses and understand displacement and return trends over time. When plotted on maps, it unveils the geographical footprint of disaster displacement and identifies hotspots. This information is useful in organising timely humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of a disaster and informing future decisions on resource mobilisation and preparations for similar events.

Disaggregating data further by sex, age and disability status would help authorities to better understand IDPs’ social and economic vulnerabilities. This is still a work in progress, but DROMIC’s efforts to monitor disaster displacement systematically over space and time are significant, particularly as they are strongly aligned with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. They represent a model that could be replicated and adapted by countries that face similar levels of disaster displacement risk.

Thanks to DROMIC’s thorough monitoring and the monitoring after two disasters, Typhoon Rai and tropical storm Megi, which hit the same areas four months apart, is a case in point.

Typhoon Rai destroyed this boardwalk in Siargao, Mindanao in the Philippines. A few months later, many of the country’s regions were hit again by tropical storm Megi.

© GettyImages/Rio Deluvio /Anadolu Agency, January 2022
Spotlight – Tonga: volcanic eruption and tsunami reinforce need to build resilience

After weeks of activity, Tonga’s Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai volcano produced the world’s largest eruption in more than a century on 15 January 2022.218 The event set off tsunami waves of up to 15 metres, causing significant damage to homes in coastal areas and covering the country’s islands in a thick layer of ash.219 It also triggered almost 2,400 displacements on the Tongatapu, Ha’apai and ‘Eua island groups. A third of those displaced were under the age of 16.220

The impacts of the disaster, which took place while the country was still dealing with the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, were significant. The tsunami waves destroyed all homes on Mango Island, one of the closest to the undersea volcano.221 53 per cent of people surveyed on the Ha’apai island group said their homes had been severely damaged and 17 per cent reported moderate damage.222 The eruption also severed underground internet cables, causing distress to separated families by cutting their communication channels and compromising needs assessments.223 Given that almost 40 per cent of the country’s GDP is based on remittances, most of which are processed electronically, the outage had significant consequences. Women in particular rely on these sources of income and they are less able to cope with financial shocks, especially after the pandemic suspended the tourism industry.225

Despite the disruption to communications, which hampered the response in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the government and its international partners brought in scientists to produce data on the impacts of the eruption and tsunami, and increased their efforts to conduct disaster risk assessments. These initiatives generated information to inform recovery and reconstruction.229 Efforts have been made to support IDPs in achieving durable solutions. The Paletu’a project intends to build a new village on Matatoa Island to resettle hundreds of people.232 Other people from ‘Atata Island have been relocated to new homes in Masilamea village on Tongatapu island.233 Residents from Mango Island were relocated to a new resettlement area in ‘Eua in early 2023.234

The government also launched a Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai recovery and resilience building plan, which focuses mainly on the repair and reconstruction of key infrastructure.235 This is an important initiative, but further measures are needed to support IDPs in achieving solutions and restoring social safety nets that support their self-reliance. Supporting the recovery of the agriculture and fishing sectors will be key to achieving this objective.236

Tonga will continue to face disaster displacement in the years to come, particularly given its exposure to climate change impacts, and the issue has received increasing attention in the country’s disaster risk reduction and climate change agendas.237 The government launched its first strategic roadmap for emergency and disaster risk management in 2021 and established a cluster to manage disaster displacement. An emergency management bill is also under discussion and is likely to include measures to reduce and address the phenomenon.238 Taken together, these initiatives hold the promise of a more resilient country.
South Asia

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

8.8m

12% Share of the global total

5.5m IDPs by conflict and violence

3.3m IDPs by disasters

Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in South Asia as of end 2022

1. Afghanistan: 4,394,000 | 2,364,000
2. Pakistan: 21,000 | 1,025,000
3. India: 631,000 | 32,000
4. Bangladesh: 427,000 | 8,600
5. Nepal: 58,000

Internal displacements* in 2022

12.6m

21% Share of the global total

35,000 Internal displacements by conflict and violence

12.5m Internal displacements by disasters

Five countries with most internal displacements in South Asia in 2022

1. Pakistan: 680 | 8,168,000
2. India: 21,000 | 1,025,000
3. Bangladesh: 21,000 | 1,025,000
4. Afghanistan: 32,000 | 32,000
5. Nepal: 93,000

Total number of IDPs in South Asia at year end (2013-2022)

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in South Asia (2013-2022)
Disasters trigger the vast majority of internal displacements in South Asia each year, and 2022 was no exception. Around 12.5 million such displacements were recorded, double the annual average of 6.3 million over the past decade. The increase was mostly the result of the severe and widespread flooding that occurred in Pakistan during the monsoon season.

Conflict and violence triggered 35,000 displacements, a 95 per cent decrease from 2021. This was primarily the result of a lull in conflict in Afghanistan, which had historically accounted for most of the region’s conflict displacement. Around 8.8 million people were living in internal displacement across South Asia as of the end of year, 5.5 million as a result of conflict and violence and 3.3 million as a result of disasters.

A changing monsoon season

Floods triggered 90 per cent of the region’s disaster displacements in 2022. All countries recorded flood displacement, but Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh were the most affected. Monsoon rains were normal or below average for most countries, with most movements occurring during the south-west monsoon between June and September.

Pakistan, however, was a notable exception. Record-breaking rainfall and flash flooding from July to September left ten per cent of the country under water and led to its highest levels of displacement in a decade.255 The floods were the disaster event triggering most displacements globally in 2022, with 8.2 million movements, almost two-thirds of the region’s total disaster displacements.256

Such an exceptional event had severe immediate and long-term impacts. It led to increased rates of disease among IDPs by October, and damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods was predicted to heighten food insecurity and poverty for millions of people, prolonging the displacement for many IDPs (see spotlight, p. 69).257

India and Bangladesh started to experience flooding even before the official start of the monsoon season, which normally runs between mid-July and September.258 India’s north-eastern state of Assam was affected by early floods in May and the same areas were once again flooded in June. Nearly five million people were affected across the state. People fled in makeshift boats as their homes were destroyed, many of them to camps where water and sanitation conditions were poor.258 In Nagaon district, the Kopili river rose to a record height more than a metre above danger level.258 An estimated 742,000 flood displacements were recorded during the pre-monsoon season between mid-May and mid-July.258 Torrential rains that affected India in May also caused rivers to overflow in neighbouring Bangladesh, triggering nearly 5,500 displacements in Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts.259

Rainfall and flooding were normal or below average for the rest of the monsoon season in both countries. Some parts of India reported their lowest July rainfall in 122 years.260 By the end of the monsoon, 2.1 million displacements had been recorded across India, a significant decrease from the five million that occurred during the 2021 season. Monsoon floods in Bangladesh triggered at least 482,000 displacements. Damage to roads and a shortage of boats hampered the delivery of aid to evacuation centres and temporary shelters.260
In Nepal, the monsoon season was offset from its usual period. The rains arrived in May, around a week earlier than usual, leading to predictions of above-average rainfall that prompted farmers to plant accordingly and authorities to initiate disaster management protocols. The expected rains, however, did not come. This may have been in part because the forecasting models were not specific to Nepal, but weather patterns have also become more erratic.

Instead, many districts faced dry spells and drought-like conditions in August, which reduced crop yields and farmers’ resilience. The full impact of the monsoon did not occur until October, about a week later than usual. Unseasonal rainfall caused floods and landslides that were aggravated by dry soil conditions in several provinces. Nearly 89,000 displacements were recorded during the monsoon across the country, more than half of them in October. Similar post-monsoon events had also occurred in 2021.

Sri Lanka had a relatively quiet monsoon between May and August, when only 4,300 movements were recorded, 96 per cent fewer than in the same period of 2021. Toward the end of the season, however, the rains intensified, triggering significant displacement between 14 and 20 October, particularly in the country’s most populated districts of Colombo and Gampaha. Floods and landslides triggered 5,600 displacements in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central and North-Western provinces, accounting for half of the country’s annual displacement figure.
Changing weather patterns in South Asia are clearly making the monsoon more unpredictable, not only in terms of when it begins and ends but also how the season develops. This has potentially significant implications for efforts to reduce disaster and displacement risk. It calls for more accurate forecasting and early warning systems and more flexible response planning. Relying on the patterns of previous monsoons is unlikely to be sufficient in the coming years.

Fewer and less severe storms

Storms triggered around 11 million internal displacements across South Asia in 2022. The Bay of Bengal in particular is one of the areas most affected by tropical cyclones.255 They occur throughout the monsoon but tend to peak at the beginning and end of the season.

Cyclone Sitrang formed in the Bay of Bengal on 20 October and made landfall in Bangladesh five days later with maximum wind speed of 83 km/h.256 It affected more than 1.5 million people across six districts and triggered around a million evacuations, the highest figure for a storm in the region in 2022. Its impacts were less severe than expected and all of those displaced returned home within days.257 Sitrang also triggered 66,000 displacements in India, bringing rainfall and strong winds to the states of Odisha and West Bengal before weakening into a depression.258

Two other cyclones formed in South Asia during the year, both of them affecting India. Cyclone Asani triggered 1,500 displacements to relief camps in Andhra Pradesh between 5 and 12 May, and cyclone Mardaus 9,500 in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry in December.259 Neither storm caused severe damage to homes, and in both cases those displaced returned in a matter of days.

Geophysical hazards

Earthquakes triggered 151,000 displacements across the region in 2022, more than in the last six years combined. Ninety-seven per cent took place in Afghanistan and the remainder in Nepal and Pakistan.

The Afghan province of Badghis was hit by a 5.3 magnitude earthquake on 17 January.256 It damaged or destroyed almost one thousand homes and triggered more than 21,000 displacements.257 Two other cyclones formed in South Asia during the year, both of them weaker than expected and all of those displaced returned home within days.260

A second earthquake struck the country on 22 June. Considered the deadliest in 20 years, the shallow 5.9 magnitude event and its aftershocks triggered around 118,000 displacements across the eastern provinces of Khost, Paktika and Pakta.261 Around 1,000 people were killed, and 70 per cent of homes were damaged or destroyed in some areas. Continuous rainfall in the days after the earthquake increased the risk of landslides and flooding and slowed the humanitarian response.262

Badghis is one of Afghanistan’s most impoverished provinces, having been affected by drought in recent years and a surge in conflict in 2021.263 Communities affected by the earthquake in Khost and Paktika already had high humanitarian needs as a result of the country’s economic crisis, and many people expressed concern about not being able to afford to rebuild.264

A reduction in conflict and violence

Conflict and violence triggered 35,000 displacements in South Asia in 2022, the lowest figures in more than a decade. The decrease was largely the result of a major shift in dynamics in Afghanistan, which had previously accounted for most of the conflict displacement in the region.

As the Taliban took control of the country on 15 August 2021 and foreign forces withdrew, large-scale conflict and the number of associated displacements reduced, from the 723,000 in 2021 to 32,000 in 2022.265 The reduction in violence has also led to a significant increase in returns. More than 4.6 million people went back home between January 2021 and April 2022, nearly half the figure recorded since 2012.266

IDPs, however, along with the rest of the Afghan population, still face one of the world’s most acute humanitarian crises, fuelled by steep rises in unemployment, poverty and food insecurity.267 These overlapping crises are not only drivers of new internal displacement but also serve to prolong it. More than 6.6 million people were living in internal displacement in Afghanistan as of December 2022, two-thirds of them as a result of conflict and violence.268 They also serve to prolong it. More than 6.6 million people were living in internal displacement in Afghanistan as of December 2022, two-thirds of them as a result of conflict and violence.269

IDPs in Afghanistan, the second highest figure globally following Syria

Over 6.6 million IDPs in Afghanistan, the second highest figure globally following Syria.
**Progress and challenges in monitoring**

Despite being highly prone to disasters, most countries in South Asia still lack comprehensive data on the displacement they trigger. Disaster reports in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan tend only to be produced for medium to large scale events, meaning that small-scale disasters which together could lead to significantly higher displacement figures are not included.

Assessments also tend to focus on disaster damage and loss, but not on displacement, so figures have to be extrapolated from housing destruction data by applying average household size calculations. When displacement is specifically reported, data only captures people in relief camps or evacuated by authorities, not those who seek shelter with host families or in informal sites, which leads to underestimates.

The lack of comprehensive coverage and time-series data also means that estimates have to be produced by triangulating and aggregating government and media reports, which have varying levels of reliability. Nor is displacement associated with slow-onset hazards such as drought, riverbank and coastal erosion and glacier melt often reported.

Afghanistan was the only country where drought displacement data was available for 2022, when 17,000 movements were recorded. Pakistan and India were also confronted with a severe heatwave that triggered drought, but no displacement figures were available. More efforts need to be put into monitoring slow-onset disaster displacement, considering the region’s vulnerability to climate change.

Despite such challenges, positive steps were taken toward better understanding displacement in South Asia in 2022. India’s National Emergency Response Centre (NERC) published daily reports of damage caused by floods and rainfall, including housing destruction and the number of evacuations and people sheltering in relief centres. NERC also produced a cumulative estimate of the number of people displaced during the monsoon, standardising the data available across all states and union territories and improving the reliability of our estimates.

Reporting on monsoon displacement also improved in other countries. The Nepal Red Cross Society conducted emergency assessments, and Pakistan’s provincial disaster management authorities and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) carried out assessments of IDPs affected by floods. Both sources provided information on initial movements and people who were still displaced months later, giving a more comprehensive account of the geographic and temporal impacts of the monsoon season.

These efforts are helpful in revealing the true scale of disaster displacement in the region. Having a more accurate baseline on the duration of both disaster and conflict displacement would also help to understand the extent to which programmes to support durable solutions are succeeding in putting an end to the displacement of millions of people across the region.
Spotlight – Pakistan: floods trigger the world’s largest disaster displacement event in a decade

The 2022 monsoon season brought record-breaking rainfall that affected 33 million people across Pakistan.279 Floods triggered 8.2 million internal displacements, making it the world’s largest disaster displacement event in the last ten years.286 At the peak of the monsoon in August, around 85,000 km² of land, the equivalent of ten per cent of the country, was flooded.286 The water took months to recede and caused direct damage and economic losses put at around $30 billion, ushering in the country’s worst humanitarian crisis in decades.282

A series of other disasters aggravated the impact of the 2022 monsoon and reduced the resilience of affected communities. Several provinces faced severe drought in 2021 that damaged crops and hit rural communities hard, and by March 2022, soaring temperatures and a 62 per cent rainfall deficit had affected millions and worsened pre-existing conditions across the country.283 The heatwave also prompted rapid snowmelt and glacial lake outburst floods in May.284

The monsoon arrived in June and increased significantly in intensity in August, which was considered the wettest ever in some provinces. Sindh recorded a 730 per cent rise in rainfall compared with the historical monthly average, and the figure for Balochistan was 590 per cent higher.285 Heavy rainfall and glacial runoff also triggered flash floods and landslides, leaving 20.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by October.286

With more than 2.3 million homes damaged or destroyed and roads flooded, the monsoon stretched the response capacity of the government and humanitarian agencies.287 Around 70 per cent of IDPs were without adequate shelter weeks after the emergency was declared.288 Access to those in need was complicated by the fact that fewer than eight per cent of IDPs were sheltering in relief camps.287 Millions sought refuge at roadsides, on embankments or with relatives, out of reach of assistance.289 In Sindh and Balochistan, which hosted 90 per cent of those displaced by the floods, shelter was still IDPs’ primary need in October.289

Drought had already reduced the summer mango harvest in Sindh by 60 per cent and the subsequent flooding of 31 million acres of crops is expected to increase the number of food insecure people in Pakistan to 14.6 million in 2022, twice as many as before the floods.290 In Balochistan, at least 435,000 head of livestock perished, depriving people of a key source of income in a province where drought had already killed animals in 2021.290 Some IDPs avoided relief camps because of restrictions on sheltering animals.290

Water contamination and damage to sanitation facilities also led to disease outbreaks, particularly among IDPs.290 Diarrhoea cases increased five-fold in Sindh and Balochistan.290 Water shortages had already led to a cholera outbreak in some areas earlier in the year.290 Districts designated as calamity-hit already suffered from high poverty and limited access to services before the floods, which are expected to push 12.1 million people in these areas into poverty.290

Major disasters are not a new phenomenon in Pakistan. In 2010, floods triggered 11 million displacements, prompting the government to establish the National Disaster Management Authority.298 Significant progress has been made since in terms of risk reduction and response, but disasters have continued to trigger significant displacement. Around 16.4 million movements were reported over the last decade.298 Put in perspective, the 2022 floods triggered nearly half of that figure in a matter of weeks. This outlier event has led experts to suggest that climate change played a role in its scale and severity.298

More than 1 million people remained displaced as of December, demonstrating the challenges that IDPs still face in finding solutions following a disaster of this magnitude.298 The government recognises the importance of improving its responses and rebuilding communities that are more resilient to future shocks.299 This will be much needed given that Pakistan is highly vulnerable to climate change. Scientists suggest that the probability of floods and heatwaves continuing to occur is high, and that they are likely to increase in intensity and frequency.300

Reconstruction and community recovery following the 2022 floods should take place alongside efforts to reduce poverty as a driver of disaster risk, given that the communities repeatedly affected by disasters are often the poorest and most vulnerable.300 To succeed in this endeavour, understanding disaster displacement and mainstreaming measures to prevent and address it in policies and legal frameworks on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience will be key.
The Americas

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

6.7m
9% Share of the global total
5.9m IDPs by conflict and violence
720,000 IDPs by disasters

Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in the Americas as of end 2022

1. Colombia: 4,766,000
2. United States: 543,000
3. Mexico: 386,000
4. Honduras: 247,000
5. Guatemala: 242,000

Haiti: 339,000
281,000
3,600
3,900

Total number of IDPs in the Americas at year end (2013-2022)

Total number of IDPs in millions

Internal displacements* in 2022

2.6m
4% Share of the global total
533,000 Internal displacements by conflict and violence
2.1m Internal displacements by disasters

Five countries with most internal displacements in the Americas in 2022

1. Brazil: 5,600
2. United States: 675,000
3. Colombia: 339,000
4. Haiti: 106,000
5. Cuba: 90,000

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in the Americas (2013-2022)
The Americas recorded 2.6 million internal displacements in 2022, up from two million in 2021. Nearly 80 per cent were triggered by disasters. Brazil and the US, which have large populations and are prone to hazards, each accounted for a third of the total. Around 720,000 people were living in displacement as result of disasters across the region at the end of the year. The US accounted for three-quarters of that total, but this is in part because most countries in the region do not monitor disaster displacement beyond the initial crisis phase and lack data on protracted displacement as a result.

Conflict and violence triggered around 533,000 displacements, a conservative estimate but still an increase on the figure for 2021. Colombia accounted for most of the total, but crime-related violence in Haiti and Mexico also contributed to it. Around 5.9 million people were living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence across the region at the end of the year, 4.8 million of them in Colombia. This figure is influenced by the greater availability of data compared with other countries.

Storms and floods

Storms triggered nearly 1.2 million displacements across the region, and floods nearly half that figure. Most storm displacements happened during the Atlantic hurricane season in the Caribbean basin, while flood displacements took place throughout the year, mostly in Brazil and Colombia.

The 2022 hurricane season had fewer named storms than the year before, but it was the third costliest on record. The season started later than usual, the first major storm being Fiona in mid-September, which triggered 94,000 displacements. Most took place in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, where the storm caused widespread flooding and landslides that obstructed the delivery of human-
The two events together triggered almost a third of the disaster displacements recorded in Brazil in 2022. The country also experienced 1,300 smaller disasters, 800 of which triggered fewer than 100 displacements each, but by the end of the year 708,000 displacements had been recorded, the highest figure in over a decade.

Disaster displacement figures were also the highest in more than a decade in Colombia, where floods caused by heavy rains led to almost all of the 281,000 movements recorded. Increased availability of data also contributed to such a high figure. The largest numbers of displacements took place in the northern departments of Sucre and Bolívar. More than half of those recorded in Sucre occurred in May, when the rainy season tends to peak.

The two departments, which form part of the broader sub-region known as La Mojana, are highly prone to floods because they are traversed by major rivers including the Cauca and the Magdalena. La Mojana’s geography and inadequate land management have reduced soil absorption and gradually increased flood risk. The 2022 floods not only damaged homes and led to displacement. They also made roads impassable, which impeded the delivery of aid to communities in need.

Around 41,000 people were living in displacement as a result of disasters in Colombia at the end of the year, of whom 39,000 had fled floods and storms, most of them in the low-lying departments that make up the broader Caribbean region and which are the brunt of La Niña’s impacts.

Other storms triggered significant displacement in Brazil. Heavy rains hit the north-eastern state of Pernambuco between 24 and 30 May, triggering more than 131,000 internal displacements, the second largest event in the region after hurricane Ian. The rains also triggered landslides and led to the declaration of a state of emergency in a dozen municipalities. The event was considered the worst disaster to hit the state in half a century, its intensity attributed to La Niña and a local meteorological phenomenon. The municipality of Jaboatão dos Guararapes was the hardest hit with 100,000 displacements. Heavy rains at the end of 2021 also continued to affect the state of Minas Gerais in January 2022, triggering 107,000 displacements in the first two weeks of the month.

The worst disaster to hit the state in half a century, its intensity attributed to La Niña and a local meteorological phenomenon. The municipality of Jaboatão dos Guararapes was the hardest hit with 100,000 displacements. Heavy rains at the end of 2021 also continued to affect the state of Minas Gerais in January 2022, triggering 107,000 displacements in the first two weeks of the month.
Wildfire activity in Canada was lower than in 2021, largely the result of the lingering La Niña, which contributed to prolonging spring snow cover. When conditions became warmer and drier by the end of June, fires triggered 5,500 displacements across the country, significantly fewer than the 41,000 recorded the previous year.

Cuba suffered its worst ever wildfire in August when lightning struck the country’s main fuel storage facility in the Matanzas industrial zone. The ensuing fire caused widespread blackouts and triggered 4,700 displacements. Cuba suffered its worst ever wildfire in August when lightning struck the country’s main fuel storage facility in the Matanzas industrial zone. The ensuing fire caused widespread blackouts and triggered 4,700 displacements.

**Conflict and violence**

Conflict displacement was concentrated in a few countries in 2022, particularly in Colombia and Haiti, which recorded 339,000 and 106,000 movements respectively. Smaller figures were reported in Mexico, Central America and Brazil.

The figure for Colombia was the highest in more than a decade. It was partly the result of a rise in the number of displacements resulting from attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) against civilians, other NSAGs and the military, but a change in the methodology to estimate displacement also played a role. South-western departments including Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Putumayo and Nariño were among the most affected, along with Antioquia, Chocó and Córdoba in the north-west. Displacement was also reported in Caquetá, Cesar and Magdalena. Most incidents took place in the first half of the year.

NSAGs particularly targeted and intimidated social and community leaders and environmental and human rights defenders, forcing them to flee. Some rural communities were also dispossessed of their land.

The increase in displacement and cases of forced confinement heightened humanitarian needs across the country, while access deteriorated during the year. Ninety-seven per cent of IDPs did not have their needs met in at least one sector of humanitarian assistance, compared with 67 per cent of host communities.

Colombia has one of the most advanced registries on internal displacement in the world, but it relies on voluntary registration. Lack of IDP registration was highlighted as a concern last year, which points to some estimates being conservative. One survey suggested that 51 per cent of IDPs had not registered, whether because of fear for their safety, not knowing how to do so or the belief that it would not bring them any benefits.

There were 4.8 million people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of the year, down from 5.2 million in 2021. This does not correspond with the historical figure from the government’s Victim’s Unit, which is cumulative, because IDPs who have died, disappeared or overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities are subtracted by IDMC to arrive at an end-of-year estimate. Around 200,000 IDPs were identified as having overcome such vulnerabilities in 2022.

Crime-related violence triggered 106,000 displacements in Haiti, where the phenomenon has been on the increase in recent years and particularly since the assassination of the country’s president in July 2021. Incidents of violence nearly doubled in 2022 compared to the previous year, as gangs gained control of 60 per cent of the country’s capital, Port-au-Prince. The overall displacement figure should be considered an underestimate given that data collection was limited and impeded by insecurity.

The increase in violence in Port-au-Prince also triggered 9,000 displacements to the southern departments of Grand’Anse and Sud, where insecurity and road closures restricted IDPs’ access to humanitarian aid. Around 11,000 IDPs...
were identified elsewhere in the country, particularly in the northern departments of Artibonite and Centre, which were also affected by localised violence.342

There were around 171,000 people living in displacement due to conflict and violence at the end of the year, a ten-fold increase on the figure for 2021. Around 88 per cent were concentrated in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, and some had been displaced for more than a year. Nearly three-quarters were living with host communities rather than in displacement sites, and many were confined to their neighbourhoods with only limited access to goods and services.343 Gender-based violence continues to be a major concern in Haiti. Cases are significantly underreported, but the problem has extended to camps, which may lead some IDPs to avoid formal sites.344

Violence triggered 9,200 displacements in Mexico in 2022, a significant decrease from the 29,000 recorded in 2021 but in line with the figures for 2019 and 2020.345 Most of the municipalities where displacements took place in 2022 had already recorded movements in previous years.

Almost all of the displacements recorded were triggered by criminal violence, nearly 90 per cent of which occurred in the states of Chiapas, Michoacán and Zacatecas. Violence in Chiapas led to around 4,300 movements from the municipalities of La Trinitaria and Frontera Comalapa in July, accounting for almost half of the country’s overall figure.346

The Jalisco New Generation drug cartel was responsible for at least 2,700 displacements in Michoacán and Zacatecas. About 2,100 occurred on 29 September when cartel members entered the municipality of Chincuilla in Michoacán less than two weeks after a 7.7 earthquake had struck.347 They had reportedly already forced more than half of the town’s population to flee by the end of 2021.348 Clashes between rival criminal groups over territory in Zacatecas triggered 600 displacements in May, particularly in the rural community of El Mirador. Many of the families returned, but continuing insecurity heightens the risk of repeated displacement.349

There were 386,000 people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence in Mexico at the end of the year, a figure that has been rising consistently over the last decade.

Obtaining data on displacement associated with conflict and violence in northern Central America continues to be a major challenge. The only country where survey data allows an annual picture to be painted is El Salvador, where around 52,000 people were living in displacement at the end of 2022. As some had been forced to flee various times, the number of displacements during the year was put at 73,000.350

Data for Honduras dates back to 2018, when 247,000 people were estimated to be internally displaced.351 The lack of information since hampers an analysis of trends in recent years. Data on Guatemala is even older, with the last data point dating back to 1997, when 242,000 people were displaced as a result of the country’s internal conflict.352 Few displacements could be confirmed in either country last year, but this may not capture the full scale of the phenomenon, which highlights the need to fill data gaps.353

IDMC obtained data on displacement by conflict and violence in Brazil for the first time in 2021, and the latest figures suggest that land disputes triggered 5,600 movements last year, mostly in rural areas. More than 20 per cent were reported in the state of Goiás. Displacements associated with other forms of violence, including urban criminal violence, are not accounted for, making overall figures conservative.
Europe & Central Asia

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total IDPs (in millions)</th>
<th>Share of the global total (%)</th>
<th>IDPs by conflict and violence (in millions)</th>
<th>IDPs by disasters (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>5.914</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1.099</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Türkiye</td>
<td>1.069</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>0.659</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>0.308</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>0.246</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in Europe and Central Asia as of end 2022

1. Ukraine: 5,914,000
2. Türkiye: 1,099,000
3. Azerbajan: 659,000
4. Georgia: 308,000
5. Cyprus: 246,000

Internal displacements* in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total IDPs (in millions)</th>
<th>Share of the global total (%)</th>
<th>Internal displacements by conflict and violence (in millions)</th>
<th>Internal displacements by disasters (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1.6870</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>1.1760</td>
<td>0.5100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>0.1660</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0170</td>
<td>0.0490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0031</td>
<td>0.0421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0107</td>
<td>0.0203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>0.073</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0276</td>
<td>0.0454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five countries with most internal displacements in Europe and Central Asia in 2022

1. Ukraine: 16,870,000
2. Kyrgyzstan: 1,660,000
3. France: 45,000
4. Spain: 31,000
5. Russia: 7,100

Total number of IDPs in Europe and Central Asia at year end (2013-2022)

- 2013: 2.2m
- 2014: 2.9m
- 2015: 3.9m
- 2016: 4m
- 2017: 3.2m
- 2018: 3.2m
- 2019*: 3m
- 2020: 3.3m
- 2021: 3.3m
- 2022: 8.6m

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in Europe and Central Asia (2013-2022)

- 2013: 150
- 2014: 190
- 2015: 66
- 2016: 313
- 2017: 313
- 2018: 21
- 2019: 66
- 2020: 33
- 2021: 107
- 2022: 17.1m

*First year disaster data is available.
Europe and Central Asia experienced a significant shift in internal displacement trends in 2022, mainly as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. This crisis alone triggered around 16.9 million movements and left 5.9 million people living in internal displacement at the end of the year, making Ukraine the fastest growing conflict displacement situation in the world (see spotlight, p. 87).354

Other countries including Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Russia and Kazakhstan also experienced internal displacement associated with conflict and violence, albeit on a much smaller scale. Across the whole region 17 million such movements took place, the highest in more than a decade.

The number of disaster displacements fell in 2022 to 107,000, compared with more than 276,000 in 2021. Most were triggered by wildfires in the Mediterranean basin, particularly in France and Spain. Floods also forced people from their homes across the region.

Conflict and violence

Russia reported a relatively small number of internal displacements associated with the conflict in Ukraine. The governor of Belgorod cited security reasons for 7,000 such movements having taken place between February and November.355

Border clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were reported throughout the year, triggering more than 160,000 displacements on the Kyrgyz side, over three times as many as in 2021. Clashes took place in January and mid-April, triggering 11,000 and 19,000 respectively.356 The most significant event, however, was in September, when guards clashed along a disputed section of the border, prompting the Kyrgyz government to declare a state of emergency. Nearly 137,000 evacuations took place in the Batken region.357

Almost 93,000 people had gone back to their homes by the end of the month after relative stability returned, but some IDPs did not feel safe to do so having been displaced by clashes in the two
The figures for France were the highest ever recorded. The vast majority of the displacements took place in the south-western department of Gironde, half of which is forested. Two fires that broke out in July burned almost twice as much land in a week as the national annual average and triggered 30,000 evacuations. One of the fires reignited in August, prompting another 8,000 evacuations.

The number of fires in Spain and the extent of the area burnt were four times higher than the average for the period 2006-2021. Most broke out in July, including the event that led to most displacement. A fire that burned in the western province of Zamora between 15 and 21 July triggered 5,800 movements from at least 30 villages.

Evacuations helped to mitigate the potential death toll from wildfires in both countries, illustrating how displacement can be a life-saving measure. France’s mechanisms to prevent and fight wildfires have proven effective in the past, but the changing nature and intensity of these fires fuelled by rising temperatures and a changing climate has led to a proposed new legislation and more funding, equipment and staff to reduce the impacts of future fires.

EU member states strengthened their preventative measures after the 2021 wildfires under the coordination of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre. The European Forest Fire Information System monitors the number of fires and areas burnt, but does not record associated displacements, evacuations and returns. Producing such data could help to monitor the effectiveness of responses and adapt strategies to identify displacement risks and avoid repeated movements.

Italy, Portugal, Kazakhstan and Russia also recorded 9,000 wildfire displacements between them. Turkey and Greece recorded 1,500 and 700 respectively, a significant decrease from 81,000 and 58,000 in 2021. Turkey has increased its firefighting capacity since the devastating fires of 2021, and it also benefitted from weather conditions less conducive to wildfires in 2022. As a result, the area burnt last year fell by 90 per cent to nearly 16,000 hectares. In Greece, the figure was 83 per cent lower.

**Floods and storms**

Floods and storms triggered 11,000 displacements across the region, a near ten-fold decrease from 2021 when 100,000 were recorded, mainly the result of the exceptional July floods in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Turkey was the country most affected, accounting for more than a quarter of the 2022 figure. The Western Black Sea Region was hit by floods at the end of June that triggered almost 2,800 displacements. Snowmelt in Kazakhstan led to floods in April which prompted 1,600 evacuations in Aktobe, Karaganda, Pavlodar and West Kazakhstan regions. Almost all evacuees were able to return home soon after.

The region’s most significant storm displacement event was Franklin, which triggered 1,200 displacements in the United Kingdom in mid-February. It was the third named storm to hit the country within a week after Dudley and Eunice. Eunice had the strongest winds, but Franklin brought heavy rainfall and led to more than 100 flood warnings in England alone.
Spotlight – Ukraine: war triggers 60 per cent of global conflict displacement

Eastern Ukraine has experienced conflict and displacement since 2014, when Russia annexed the autonomous region of Crimea and non-state armed groups seized parts of the Donetskie and Luganske regions. Ukraine’s military response and the ensuing fighting triggered 17 million internal displacements between 2014 and 2021.386

The conflict took on new dimensions when Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Shelling and airstrike hit major towns and cities, including the capital, Kyiv. Civilians sought safety underground and cars jammed highways and border crossings while trains evacuated hundreds of thousands of people from affected areas.387

Internal displacement was a constant necessity throughout the year as a result of attacks, damage to critical infrastructure and lack of access to basic services.388 The situation escalated quickly, triggering 16.9 million movements. Many were repeated displacements of people unable to earn an income or find accommodation, or those seeking safety and access to services.389 The figure represents 59.6 per cent of all internal displacements associated with conflict and violence recorded globally last year.

Displacement and return patterns shifted with the ebb and flow of the violence. Some people sought protection from airstrikes and shelling, while others moved away from the rapidly shifting frontlines across the north, east and south of the country. At the end of July, the government called for the mandatory evacuation of civilians in the Donetsk region to prevent further casualties.390

Evacuation calls were soon extended to other frontline areas such as Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolayiv and Zaporizhzhia.391 They were scaled up at the end of the summer in preparation for winter because people were at risk of being left with no heating or basic services to survive the cold. Authorities had organised the evacuation of more than 350,000 civilians from dangerous areas by the end of November.392 Many others, unaccounted for, risked evacuation by their own means.

As of December, 74 per cent of IDPs thought that return to their places of origin would offer the best prospect of a long-term solution to their displacement. Such intentions were unfeasible for many, however, as a result of instability, the presence of explosive remnants of war, absence of services, and livelihood opportunities, or the belief that their homes had been destroyed or were under the control of Russian forces.393

Around 5.9 million people were thought to be living in internal displacement across Ukraine as of 5 December.394 Many others crossed the border, bringing the number of refugees to eight million.395 The rapidly changing situation has made data collection difficult, and information from occupied areas including Crimea and parts of the east is hard to come by, meaning that internal displacement figures should be considered conservative.396

IDPs tended to face more challenges than non-displaced people, including loss of income and lack of access to food, education and clean water. Their needs varied across regions. In Luhansk, 25 per cent said they had struggled to get enough food, while in Kharkiv, 44 per cent reported economic difficulties.397 IDPs’ overall needs increased during the year, with financial support being the most pressing.398

In part as a result of men’s conscription, the vast majority of those displaced were women, children and elderly people, each with specific needs and vulnerabilities.399 Women reported greater needs across nearly all indicators, including financial support, clothes, hygiene products and other non-food items. Seventeen per cent of households said their children were unable to go to school and many minors were sent away unaccompanied.400

Responding to the crisis

The scale, intensity and unpredictability of the conflict hampered the mobilisation of human and financial resources. Local aid workers and volunteers were among those displaced, which slowed the humanitarian response. Civil servants were also forced to flee, impeding the work of local and national government institutions.401

That said, humanitarian funding increased significantly during the year.402 The government also had a solid legal basis for its response, thanks to the 2014 law on internal displacement, the establishment of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories in

Displacement impacts

Housing became a major issue in host areas in the months after the invasion. As it became clear the conflict would become prolonged. In cities such as Lviv, where more than 200,000 people sought shelter in the first two weeks of the conflict, housing prices soared, putting pressure on local communities and markets.403 The cost of food, medicine and fuel also increased across the country as a whole.404

Older people and those with disabilities struggled to obtain information and humanitarian assistance.405 A quarter of Ukraine’s population is over 60, and some said they did not have full access to their medication or support network as a result of their displacement.406 People with limited mobility faced challenges on their journeys to safety because evacuation transport, bomb shelters and transit sites were not always safely accessible, forcing some to remain in their homes despite facing imminent threats.407 Shelters and displacement sites may hold a higher proportion of vulnerable people who were unable to stay with host families or who require specific assistance.408

A teenage girl sits in her destroyed school in Zhytomyr, Ukraine. Conflict-related displacement is pushing millions of children out of school each year, jeopardising their safety and their future development © DANZER, UNICEF/2022/Pablo Sanchez, September 2022
One of the Ministry of Social Policy’s first actions after the invasion was to improve IDPs’ ability to register in their new places of residence. In collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the UN, it expanded the Diia mobile app to facilitate their registration and applications for pensions, state subsidies and services.

National and international organisations collaborated to put policies and protocols in place to support IDPs and accelerate the production of timely data to inform the response to the crisis. Surveys were conducted to assess needs, which helped to build evidence for the design of cash and housing assistance. More than 1.4 million people applied for the latter through digital services.

IDPs and their hosts also played a remarkable role in responding to the crisis. Networks of volunteers proliferated, and community-based initiatives were scaled up across the country. These were useful in delivering more timely aid to those in need, particularly in areas most affected by conflict and inaccessible to humanitarian organisations. Free of larger organisations’ bureaucratic procedures, they expedited the supply of medicines, food and other items.

Ukrainians’ previous experience of displacement was useful in swiftly adapting responses. The Charity Foundation Stabilisation Support Services, for example, set up IDP councils in 2019 to increase the participation and protect the rights of those who had fled the conflict in the east since 2014. Made up of IDPs and affiliated to local governmental entities, the councils monitor community concerns, build coordination mechanisms and advocate for durable solutions for IDPs through local socio-economic integration, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

The first three councils were affiliated with local authorities in the city of Kramatorsk and regional administrations of Kharkiv and Luhansk, all in the east of the country. More have been set up since the start of Russia’s invasion to cover more than 440,000 IDPs and the foundation has shifted its focus to humanitarian work, including the coordination of aid and emergency housing. Further councils were being established as of the end of the year, including one in Kyiv’s Obolon district.

Taken together, government, international and community-led initiatives have shown the value of combining top-down and bottom-up approaches to make the response more flexible in highly volatile situations. Scaled-up international humanitarian aid, pre-existing legal, policy and institutional arrangements on internal displacement and a vibrant civil society have been key to enabling Ukrainians to adapt quickly.

A teenage girl stands in her school in Irpin, Ukraine, which was heavily damaged during fighting. Across the country, two-thirds of the children have been forced to flee their home in 2022. © UNICEF/2022/Carlos Sánchez, September 2022
Part 2: Internal displacement and food security
Overlapping crises

As shown in Part 1 of this report, the number of internally displaced people kept increasing in 2022 and reached an all-time high of 71.5 million. The war in Ukraine not only contributed to such an increase, but had significant socio-economic implications far beyond its borders. Russia and Ukraine are some of the main producers of fertiliser and grain, including maize and wheat, and the conflict has disrupted food systems and led to sharp rises in global oil, fertiliser and food prices.415

The La Niña phenomenon, the large-scale cooling of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, was unusually long once again, bringing higher rainfall to parts of Asia and the Pacific while driving severe drought and extreme temperatures in the Horn of Africa and parts of the Americas and Europe.416

Disasters were recorded around the globe, triggering significant displacement and destroying homes, crops and agricultural livelihoods with potentially long-lasting impacts.

Taken together, entrenched conflict, disasters and displacement aggravated global food insecurity, which was already a concern as a result of the slow and uneven recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.417 Low-income countries, many of which are dealing with internal displacement, were most affected, in part given their reliance on food and fertiliser imports and international humanitarian aid.418

Over 182 million people faced crisis-level food insecurity or worse as of the end of 2022.419 Efforts have been made to provide more humanitarian aid, but the scale and severity of the situation have outstripped the allocation of funds to fight it.420 These factors have created a perfect storm that is hitting the most vulnerable, including IDPs, hardest.

The fact that deepening internal displacement and food insecurity overlap in some parts of the world has significant humanitarian and development implications in both the short and long term. This makes it all the more relevant to better understand their common drivers and impacts, and produce more evidence and analysis to inform policies and interventions that lead to lasting solutions. This chapter looks at these issues in depth and suggests ways forward for addressing the challenges.

What the data reveals

The data available on food security and internal displacement is far from comprehensive, but it reveals how the two phenomena overlap. Many of the countries with the largest numbers of IDPs also face crisis levels of food insecurity or higher. This is also known as acute food insecurity, or phase 3+ of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). See box 1 for more information, p. 95.421 There were only 49 countries where IPC/CH data was available, and 37 – three-quarters – had internal displaced populations.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Yemen had the largest numbers of people experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3+) in 2022, accounting for 53 per cent of all acutely food insecure people across the 49 countries covered by IPC. Taken together, these five countries were home to over 26 million IDPs in 2022, nearly 37 per cent of the global total IDPs.

No IPC data is available for some countries with large internally displaced populations, including Colombia, Myanmar and Syria. It is essential such gaps are filled, because it is likely that many IDPs are experiencing food insecurity but their needs are not identified.

Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Somalia were the only countries for which IPC data was disaggregated by displacement status. Around 2.7 million IDPs were acutely food insecure across the three countries. The information, which is disaggregated at the sub-national level, also reveals to which extent IDPs were significantly more food insecure than non-displaced populations. In Burkina Faso, for instance, both food security and internal displacement have increased since 2018, and recent data shows how the two phenomena overlap in several regions (see spotlight, p. 97).422

Somalia is the only country where all the population was assessed by IPC, including IDPs. Findings show that more than 10 per cent of the country’s population were acutely food insecure and internally displaced. Over one third of them live in the region of Banadir, where the capital Mogadishu is located. Some areas of Banadir were classified as experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC phase 4). Ongoing conflict, coupled with severe drought, explain such high figures. Internal displacement is likely contributing to worsening the overall situation (see spotlight, p. 29).423
BOX 1:

**Definition of food security and food systems used in this report**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) considers people to be food insecure “when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This may be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resources to obtain food”424.

There are different measurements of food insecurity. The humanitarian community tends to use the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and the linked Cadre Harmonisé (IPC/CH).425 IPC has three scales: acute food insecurity, chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition. The data discussed in this report uses the first, which “classifies food insecurity found at a specific point in time and of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration”426. This differs from chronic food insecurity, which is “when people are unable to consume enough food over an extended period to maintain a normal, active lifestyle over time mainly due to structural causes, including intra-annual seasonal food insecurity”427.

IPC’s acute food insecurity scale has five phases, which are summarised below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase name and description</th>
<th>Phase 1: None/Minimal</th>
<th>Phase 2: Stressed</th>
<th>Phase 3: Crisis</th>
<th>Phase 4: Emergency</th>
<th>Phase 5: Catastrophy / Famine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.</td>
<td>Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.</td>
<td>Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority response objectives</td>
<td>Action required to build resilience and disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods</td>
<td>Urgent action required to:</td>
<td>Protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps</td>
<td>Save lives and livelihoods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report uses data for countries with crisis level or higher, which is often referred to as acute food insecurity, or IPC phase 3+. People in IPC phase 3 and above are considered to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Food security should be understood as the broader functioning of a food system, defined by FAO as one that “gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the output of those activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes”428.
Spotlight – Burkina Faso: disaggregated data reveals links between displacement and food insecurity

Violence, internal displacement and food insecurity have increased significantly since the start of the conflict in Burkina Faso. The number of violent incidents rose seven-fold between 2018 and 2022, the number of food-insecure people nine-fold and the number of IDPs 30-fold. At the end of the year, around 19 million people were living in internal displacement and 2.6 million were experiencing acute food insecurity. Both figures are among the highest recorded for the country.

In six out of the 12 provinces that make up the Centre-Nord, Sahel and Est regions, food security data was disaggregated by displacement status, revealing differing impacts on displaced and host communities. An average of 45 per cent of IDPs experienced acute food insecurity compared with 28 per cent of host community members. The gap differed significantly between provinces, however, reflecting the distinct nature of each situation and highlighting the fact that such disaggregation is essential to better understand and address food insecurity.

Burkina Faso is one of the few countries where data on internal displacement and food insecurity as per IPC measurements is disaggregated at the sub-national level and by displacement status, making it possible to unveil the true scale of these overlapping crises and to unpack their temporal and spatial footprints. This provides useful information for the design of humanitarian programming.

Burkina Faso is one of the few countries where data on internal displacement and food insecurity as per IPC measurements is disaggregated at the sub-national level and by displacement status, making it possible to unveil the true scale of these overlapping crises and to unpack their temporal and spatial footprints. This provides useful information for the design of humanitarian programming.
When conflict breaks out or a disaster strikes, they may damage or destroy assets, resources and non-food items (NFIs) needed to make food systems work. People who produce food or work in the supply chain may be injured, killed, forced to move or simply unable to fulfil their usual roles. Food markets will then be disrupted, leading to shortages and market volatility, which in turn undermines communities’ or even a country’s food security. Many factors play a role in fuelling conflict, disasters and food insecurity, and depending on how they combine they may force people into displacement.

Conflict and violence

Conflict and violence are major triggers of internal displacement, and also some of the main causes of acute food insecurity globally, including through the disruption of the production and distribution of food. In Syria, urban sieges and transport blockades have been common since the start of the conflict and have played a significant role in increasing food insecurity. Having faced acute levels, some trapped populations fled en masse when sieges were lifted. The conflict has led to a slowdown in agricultural production over the years, a situation aggravated by an economic crisis and sanctions that have made it difficult for farmers to buy the machinery, fertiliser and other non-food items they need to produce food. Syria’s food security has deteriorated significantly as a result, and its reliance on imports and humanitarian aid has increased, leading to a steep rise in the cost of the basic food basket. IDPs who initially fled conflict increasingly cite food insecurity as the main reason for their onward movement.

Elsewhere, parties to conflict and violence may deliberately target food systems and stocks and deny populations access to essential commodities and humanitarian assistance. Non-state armed groups looted food stocks last year in the DRC, where escalating clashes between the armed forces and the M23 movement in particular also disrupted the production and distribution of food and the provision of aid in eastern provinces. Several towns where IDPs were sheltering were inaccessible for days, leaving them and their hosts to face food shortages (see spotlight, p. 27). Conflict, displacement and food insecurity have also overlapped in Yemen. The country’s main port of Hodeidah, which is vital for the import of food, medicines and fuel, became the scene of intense urban conflict in 2018. The fighting hampered the delivery of life-saving assistance to more than 20 million people. A food sitio used by the UN and a food delivery truck were also attacked. Many people were forced to flee Hodeidah and the surrounding area in search of safety, services and humanitarian aid, including food, moving to other cities including Sana’a, Aden and Taiz. Hodeidah was still affected by conflict and internal displacement in 2022, and remains a vital port for importing food aid.

Lack of opportunities, prevalent humanitarian needs and food insecurity make IDPs vulnerable to exploitation and recruitment by non-state armed groups. They may be more susceptible to join their ranks as a negative coping mechanism, which fuels further conflict and instability. In Nigeria, for instance, Boko Haram has exploited food insecurity and lack of livelihoods to recruit fighters. This, in turn, is fuelling further conflict, displacement and food insecurity.

Disasters

Sudden-onset hazards, such as torrential rains, floods, cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, trigger mass displacement every year. They also damage or destroy crops and food stocks, warehouses and other assets needed to produce, deliver and sell food. Slow-onset hazards, such as drought, erosion and salinisation, may render entire areas unsuitable for agriculture and force communities to move. When both types of disaster combine, their impacts can be devastating and displacement may become prolonged.

Pakistan’s southern province of Sindh is a case in point. The province, which is key to the country’s agricultural production, suffered severe drought in 2021 and early 2022. The situation prompted the government to issue alerts as water scarcity became a major threat to the production of crops such as cotton and wheat, undermining the livelihoods of millions of farmers.

The monsoon floods of August 2022 left 18 per cent of the province under water, triggering mass displacement and severely damaging crops (see spotlight, p. 69). National losses to the agricultural sector amounted to $9.2 billion, 72 per cent of which were recorded in Sindh.

Many warned that the floods could trigger a food crisis, which turned out to be an accurate prediction. Almost six million people faced IPC 3+ levels of food insecurity across Pakistan at the height of the monsoon in July and August. More than half of them were in Sindh, which together with Balochistan were the provinces where most flood displacement was recorded.

Displacement and agricultural losses have also been significant in Honduras after back-to-back disasters. Hurricanes Eta and Iota triggered 918,000 internal displacements in two weeks in November 2020. Many farmers were affected, with widespread implications for the agricultural sector across 16 departments. Crops such as coffee and bananas, which account for a significant proportion of the country’s exports and GDP, were damaged. Honduras sits in Central America’s dry corridor and drought has also played a role in recent years in reducing harvests and undermining farmers’ resilience. The combined effects of drought and the 2020 storms halved agricultural production and heightened food insecurity, forcing many to flee internally and across borders.

To tackle the situation, the government and its partners see revamping agricultural production as one of the main priorities in the coming years and the most sustainable way of addressing both food insecurity and displacement.

In Afghanistan, drought and floods have combined with conflict to aggravate displacement and food insecurity. Similar situations arise in other countries too, South Sudan being a case in point (see spotlight, p. 10).
Spotlight – South Sudan: floods, violence and food insecurity fuel ongoing crisis

A combination of floods, conflict and food insecurity triggered 933,000 internal displacements in South Sudan in 2022, the second highest on record for the country. Conflict and violence accounted for 337,000 and floods 596,000. The country experienced above-average rainfall for a fourth consecutive year. The floods, which affected 36 counties, 31 of which reported displacement, also caused widespread agricultural damage. Nearly 54 per cent of the population, or around 6.6 million people, were classified as facing acute, or IPC phase 3+, levels of food insecurity by the end of November as a result. Rains and floods were prevalent throughout the year and by October two-thirds of the country were under water. The floods affected displaced communities living in camps and some built dikes to prevent further displacement. Impassable roads impeded the provision of food and other aid to more than 460,000 IDPs in Bentiu, the capital of Unity state. Humanitarian organisations had to adopt other means of delivery, including by air and boat. Between July and October, however, non-state armed groups increased the number of check-points along White Nile river. They looted convoys and extorted organisations for money and supplies. The disruption of humanitarian supply lines reduced stocks, hampered the functioning of food markets and increased prices, aggravating food insecurity. Some analyses have suggested a correlation between climate anomalies, localised violence and increased displacement risk in South Sudan. On top of heightened climate variability, cattle raids, revenge attacks and violence against civilians by armed cattle keepers further disturbed pastoralists’ habitual mobility patterns and triggered at least 257,000 displacements. The dynamics, which often have an ethnic dimension, represent a challenge to the implementation of the revitalised peace agreement signed in 2018. Development and governance interventions will be key to breaking this vicious cycle. South Sudan’s government launched a four-year project in May with support from the International Organization for Migration and the Dutch government to reduce flood risk by developing local early warning systems, water management and flood resilient infrastructure. The Food and Agriculture Organization also launched a multi-year strategy to support agricultural development. South Sudan has significant potential to produce food, but only four per cent of prime agricultural land is consistently cultivated. Combined with renewed efforts to implement the peace agreement, these initiatives could help tackle the country’s ongoing displacement and food security crises.
Social and economic impacts

Internal displacement has significant impacts on food security for both displaced and non-displaced populations. Evidence suggests conditions are often worse for IDPs, who tend to lower their food intake as a result of their displacement, regardless of its trigger. Their food insecurity also tends to get worse the more often they are displaced. Understanding how these characteristics manifest in different situations is key to the design of policies and interventions to reduce food insecurity for all populations affected by displacement.

A survey conducted by IDMC in several countries sheds light on the impacts of displacement on IDPs’ food security. In Cameroon, 87 per cent of survey respondents displaced by conflict and violence reported difficulties accessing food, an increase of 66 percentage points on the figure before their displacement. Only about 20 per cent of non-displaced respondents in the same areas faced similar difficulties. In Mali, 61 per cent of IDPs reported difficulties accessing food, three times more than before their displacement and significantly more than their non-displaced counterparts.477 More than half of those surveyed in Colombia said they had reduced the quality or quantity of food they ate, skipped meals or borrowed food or money.480 Another assessment made by WFP revealed that 30 per cent of IDPs surveyed in Iraq also said they had resorted to food-based coping strategies to survive. They cited high food prices, loss of livelihoods and insecurity as their main concerns.481

Rural communities, indigenous people, farmers and pastoralists usually rely on natural resources as a source of food and income, but when forced to move they leave those resources behind. Many are unable to find alternative income-generating activities in their host areas, which increases their food insecurity.482 This is particularly true for those who move to urban settings. Drought near the Ethiopian city of Gode not only led to urban displacement, but also to the death of IDPs’ cattle, further undermining their livelihoods and food security.483 People displaced by violence to the Nigerian city of Jos also said they had struggled to sustain themselves after leaving their farms behind and being unable to establish alternative livelihoods.484

Internal displacement may also affect non-displaced communities’ food security, but more data is needed to fully understand how. One study conducted in northern Nigeria shows that the arrival of IDPs increased demand for food, stretching the capacity of local markets and increasing difficulties for all in the area, including host communities.485 More in-depth assessments of this kind would help to fully unpack these implications and understand how food availability and price variations shape food security outcomes for all populations affected by conflict and disasters. They would also help to better direct limited humanitarian resources to where they are most needed.

Access constraints take many forms and can represent a major barrier to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including food, in many displacement situations. They may be physical, when floods make roads impassable or natural hazards otherwise cut off beneficiaries, or they may be the result of conflict, insecurity or violence against humanitarians. Authorities or non-state armed groups may prevent needs assessments or the delivery of aid, or IDPs may not be captured in assessments because of other constraints. Some may not be able to receive aid without presenting identity documents, which many IDPs lose during their flight.486 The issue of access needs careful attention, given its potential to increase or reduce food insecurity.

Intersecting vulnerabilities

Internal displacement aggravates people’s pre-existing vulnerabilities. Surveys conducted in Cameroon, Kenya, Mali and Niger in early 2023 show that IDPs from lower income groups, ethnolinguistic, religious or cultural minorities, or those living with long-term illnesses or disabilities are at higher risk of falling into extreme poverty and isolation, with repercussions for various aspects of their lives, including their food security.487 Displaced households that include at least one person with a disability also consistently reported more difficulties accessing food than households without one, regardless of the events that triggered their displacement.488

Food security and nutrition assessments reveal higher levels of malnutrition among internally displaced children than their non-displaced peers, which can be due to their families’ loss of livelihoods, but also poor water, hygiene and sanitation conditions in displacement sites.489 Undernourished children may have impaired physical and cognitive development, and they are more likely to be forced into child labour or early marriage.490 In South Sudan, for instance, an assessment conducted in 2022 found that the food insecurity situation was increasing the risk of early and forced marriage among girls.491 Our understanding of such issues is far from complete, because most of the information available on food insecurity, malnutrition and internal displacement is captured at the household level and is not disaggregated by age.492

When such data is available, it reveals how impacts are differentiated across different age groups. Findings from the surveys conducted by IDMC show that IDPs aged 60 and over report more difficulties accessing food.493 Older IDPs may also be left out of nutritional support and food distribution programmes, or their specific needs may not be recognised. Displacement also tends to isolate them from their social networks.494 They can have difficulties in registering for rations, attending food distributions or carrying food and water to their shelter.495

Gender norms play a role in women’s access to food and livelihoods before and during displacement.496 Female IDPs tend to be more food insecure than their male counterparts. In the East and West Hararghe zones of Ethiopia, displaced female heads of household were less involved in
income-generating activities than male heads of households, and were more prone to food shortages.\textsuperscript{497} Female heads of household in displacement camps in north-east Nigeria said they had difficulty accessing food and non-food items because of their marital status.\textsuperscript{498} In some areas of Pakistan, only men were given permission to go to relief distribution points to receive aid and supplies after the 2022 monsoon floods.\textsuperscript{499} Without adequate food and nutrition, displaced pregnant and lactating women are particularly at risk of immediate and longer-term health consequences.\textsuperscript{500}

The differentiated impacts of internal displacement are often the result of overlapping factors of marginalisation and discrimination, multi-dimensional poverty, insecurity and increased protection risks. Understanding the specific vulnerabilities different groups of IDPs face by collecting inclusive and disaggregated data and using it to inform tailored programming, is key to preventing and responding to food insecurity in displacement situations effectively. This should be complemented by assessments of the economic impacts of IDPs’ food insecurity (see box 2 p. 106).

**BOX 2:**

**Economic impacts of IDPs’ food insecurity**

Internal displacement has significant financial consequences at the individual, national and global level.\textsuperscript{501} Based on an analysis of information published on 18 countries in OCHA’s humanitarian response plans (HRPs), its humanitarian needs overviews (HNOs) and other sources, IDMC estimated that the economic cost of addressing IDPs’ basic needs for one year of displacement was about $21.5 billion globally in 2021. The cost of addressing their food needs accounted for a quarter of the total.\textsuperscript{502}

Based on data from HNOs and HRPs published in 2023 for seven countries, the average cost of providing each IDP with food security assistance for a year was estimated at $151, ranging from $53 in Sudan to $224 in Mozambique. This includes the provision of food, and in some cases seed, livestock and agricultural tools, cash-for-work programmes and cash grants to build productive assets and create income-generating activities.\textsuperscript{503} Additional resources are dedicated to preventing malnutrition among displaced children under five and pregnant and lactating women. The estimated average cost of this for the seven countries was $84 per person, ranging from $38 in CAR to $144 in South Sudan.

The estimated cost of providing food security and nutrition to all IDPs in need in Ukraine for one year would be over $621 million, the highest for all of the countries assessed.\textsuperscript{504} The total cost of providing food security and nutrition assistance to IDPs across the seven countries would be more than $1.8 billion. The cost of providing humanitarian assistance in different countries depends on the severity of the crisis, market fluctuations, the type of interventions planned, the cost of supplies and logistics support and other factors. Fully unpacking these costs can inform actions and investments to respond to food security and internal displacement.
Longer-term repercussions

When displacement is large-scale and becomes protracted, repercussions can extend to societies as a whole and affect food systems in the long term.506 In Colombia, many farmers have moved permanently to urban areas as a result of the country’s protracted conflict.507 Non-state armed groups have also imposed movement restrictions, which has further hampered the production and transport of food. This amounts to a double-edged sword in that displaced communities who rely on agricultural production and trade to sustain their livelihoods are unable to produce and sell food, while movement restrictions and other impacts of the conflict have further heightened their food insecurity. The local and regional impacts of this have been significant, particularly for displaced smallholders.508

In northern Ethiopia, 80 per cent of the population relied on agriculture as their main source of income and food before conflict erupted in November 2020. As the conflict unfolded, crops were burned and pillaged, forcing farmers to abandon their land. Agricultural tools and livestock were destroyed, access to fields was restricted and the transport of food was blocked. These factors increased food insecurity across the region.509

Some displaced farmers were able to return after a truce in March 2022, but damage to their land and equipment continued to hinder food production. Most of the planting season had already passed by the time they returned, and this, combined with extended drought, prevented farmers from beginning a new production cycle that might have improved the food security of displaced and non-displaced populations alike.510 Ethiopia is also highly dependent on imports of fuel, wheat and fertilisers, and rising commodity prices as a result of the war in Ukraine have added another layer of hardship to the situation.511

Reliance on food assistance was high in all areas affected by the conflict in 2022 as a result, but numerous challenges, including blockades and looting, impeded the provision of aid.512 In an effort to address the situation, the UN provided farmers in Tigray with a $10 million loan in August to increase the supply of fertilisers and boost agricultural production.513 This was followed by a ceasefire agreement, which allowed the establishment of four humanitarian aid corridors into Tigray from neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions. Thousands of trucks delivered aid, mostly food, preventing the food security situation from deteriorating further.514

Longer-term investments are needed to strengthen the resilience of communities affected by and at risk of displacement and to increase opportunities for IDPs to return to their homes or integrate into their host communities, access land and re-establish their livelihoods. Doing so would not only benefit their welfare and well-being and reduce the need for humanitarian assistance. It would also strengthen food systems and improve stability and socioeconomic development of all.

A teenage girl fetches water from a well before school starts in Ethiopia. Gender norms play a role in restricting a woman’s access to food and livelihoods due to gender inequality. © UNICEF/UN0694032/Demissew Bizuwerk, August 2022
Food security and durable solutions

Increasing levels of internal displacement and worsening food insecurity globally call for concerted efforts to address the two issues together. This section discusses actions that could be taken to do so by designing and implementing evidence-based policies and programmes for durable solutions. It also discusses some of the main data gaps that need to be filled.

Support IDPs via cash assistance and social protection

The traditional provision of food aid still forms part of responses in the immediate aftermath of shocks, but there has been a shift in the last decade in the way humanitarian organisations support people in need. Stakeholders working on food security have increasingly taken anticipatory action, successfully shifting the paradigm from emergency aid to providing other forms of assistance, including cash, to build resilience. 109

WFP launched its anticipatory action agenda in 2015 to support governments and communities in better preparing for and recovering from climate shocks through financing and early warning. It has since been implemented in 21 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, covering about two million people in 2022. 110

The 2020 floods in Bangladesh were some of the most devastating in the country’s history. They triggered 1.9 million internal displacements, but successful anticipatory action reduced their long-term impacts on IDPs. 111

To support communities at risk, WFP collaborated with the government, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre to distribute unconditional cash transfers to households along the Jamuna river up to four days before the waters reached their highest levels. This helped them buy food and move their assets to safer areas. 112 An independent evaluation showed that most people used the money to buy food and water, which increased their food security during and after the floods. 113

Unconditional cash assistance is a viable and flexible option to address the immediate needs of people affected by crises, giving them choices in how to manage their own expenses. This is particularly relevant for IDPs, whose priorities and needs change as a result of leaving their homes and livelihoods behind. Food may become one of their most pressing needs, and having the means to buy it may reduce the risk of becoming food insecure and help them to recover from their plight. 114

In countries vulnerable to drought, destocking livestock helps to minimise herders’ losses and works well when there is an imminent risk of an economic downturn. Before the Horn of Africa drought in 2017, FAO bought animals from pastoralists in Ethiopia’s Somali region who were at high risk of hunger, poverty and displacement. By buying sheep and goats that were already weak at fair prices, the scheme created a market where it had collapsed, and provided the pastoralists with much-needed financial support to cope with the situation. 115

Anticipatory action, including cash assistance, can reduce the impacts of food insecurity linked with displacement.

Social protection systems offer another form of solution, particularly when tailored to address the specific vulnerabilities of groups like IDPs.

Programmes, or SISBEN by its Spanish acronym. SISBEN provides a score which is calculated based on a series of indicators that measure vulnerability, including food insecurity. This allows the government to tailor social protection for different population groups. IDPs and other victims of the country’s conflict who are registered in its victims’ registry are integrated in the SISBEN database, which allows government agencies and other partners to support them via cash transfers and other forms of social protection. 116

WFP, for example, has aligned its food assistance interventions with the national system. 117

Another recent study shows how Colombia’s social protection scheme has been successful in supporting IDPs as well as vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and concludes that it is a good example of a government-led initiative able to adapt quickly to the fast-changing needs of beneficiaries. The study acknowledges the value that international agencies bring in responding to displacement, but it underscores the importance of aligning their interventions with government priorities and social protection structures. 118

Food security and durable solutions

Colombia is a good example of a country that links humanitarian assistance to IDPs’ social protection. It has several social protection schemes, the main one being the System of Identification of Potential Beneficiaries of Social Programmes, or SISBEN by its Spanish acronym. SISBEN provides a score which is calculated based on a series of indicators that measure vulnerability, including food insecurity. This allows the government to tailor social protection for different population groups. IDPs and other victims of the country’s conflict who are registered in its victims’ registry are integrated in the SISBEN database, which allows government agencies and other partners to support them via cash transfers and other forms of social protection.

Both FAO and WFP have supported governments in developing and maintaining social protection systems for food security and nutrition. 119 Some of these initiatives have had positive outcomes for IDPs and their hosts, but internal displacement has not always been explicitly included in them, making it difficult to identify good practices. Such information would be valuable in developing policies and interventions to tackle the overlapping effects of displacement and food insecurity.

One recent study sheds light on the nascent field of social protection for IDPs and the importance of safety nets to respond to internal displacement. It highlights a significant disconnect between data systems for displaced and non-displaced people. Very few countries operate systems that cover both populations but differentiate between them, which makes IDPs’ specific needs and the challenges they face in accessing social protection services invisible. 120 It is essential that priority be given to filling this gap, particularly because stakeholders that provide social protection for food insecure people may not always be aligned with those providing similar services for IDPs, which leads to uncoordinated efforts, unnecessary overlaps and financial inconsistencies.

projects’ budgets and timeframes, and humanitarian agencies do not have the financial resources to ensure their continuity and bridge them with social protection schemes led by governments and their development partners. More flexible and longer-term funding is key to preventing and responding to food security and internal displacement crises in a sustainable way. 121

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Support livelihoods and skills development for IDPs’ self-reliance

It is clear that IDPs should be central to their own solutions, but their role in humanitarian responses is not always considered, making them passive recipients of aid. Both donors and humanitarian organisations have acknowledged this major gap in recent years, and have called for a substantial review of the way assistance is provided to put people’s agency at the heart of responses. Focusing only on their needs tends to eclipse their capacity to overcome them, diminishing their role in achieving durable solutions and longer-term development.

Shifting such an approach is all the more relevant in countries affected by the overlapping impacts of displacement and food insecurity. Long-term solutions to either or both phenomena cannot rely on the humanitarian response alone, but must make use of IDPs’ knowledge and capacities to establish or rebuild their chosen livelihoods. Beyond providing cash assistance and social protection, supporting their livelihoods is key to their self-reliance and sustainable recovery. It is important to leverage the role they have as farmers, labourers, vendors, consumers and entrepreneurs, and their potential to contribute to rebuilding and maintaining food systems and positively shape food security outcomes.

Sudan provides an example of such good practice, considering the ongoing situation that is taking place in the country. Strengthening Livelihoods Security for Peace and Recovery in Darfur, a project led by the UN Development Programme, focuses on expanding livelihoods and improving economic development as a means of supporting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among communities affected by conflict. It seeks to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups, including IDPs, returnees and host communities, through greater access to productive assets and markets, helping to reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid.

The project has also addressed access to natural resources and strengthened the capacity of national authorities to lead and sustain recovery. The interventions have reached around 12,000 households across 15 localities and have gradually expanded from one state to the next, providing productive infrastructure such as warehouses, livelihood hubs and dams, establishing or reactivating producer associations and developing groundnut and Arabic gum value chains.

Another key element of the project is to link producer groups with private sector entities that can connect them to markets and provide financing and access to new technologies for more productive farming. It has also helped to restore interdependence between livelihood groups, namely sedentary farmers and nomadic herders, which broke down after the escalation of conflict about two decades ago.

The former depend on the nomads for milk and meat, while the latter depend on farmers for fodder, deterring further conflict and motivating the parties to engage in mediation. The project established peace and development committees with farmers and nomads to provide an avenue for conflict resolution, which has helped to increase trust and reduce friction. It shows the importance of involving host communities and other stakeholders in creating shared benefits.

Similar initiatives could be extended to other countries affected by the overlapping effects of internal displacement and food insecurity, but they would need to be adapted to local realities. In camp-like settings, for example, IDPs’ integration into food systems may be challenging, because camps may be located away from local markets and the availability of agricultural land may be limited.
That said, it is not impossible. Humanitarian partners in Cameroon worked hand-in-hand with people displaced by violence in the Far North region to support their livelihoods via agriculture. Coming from different backgrounds and with different skills, IDPs living in the Ardisén camp found themselves jobless and dependent on aid. The project provided them with plots of land and a communal garden where they could plant crops, and supported them with training to acquire skills that would be useful to them in both the short and long term. The project allowed IDPs to meet their own dietary needs and send their children to school.535

This example also shows that IDPs who have never farmed can still engage in agriculture, and that skills development is essential in supporting their livelihoods and self-reliance.536 This is equally if not more important in rural-to-urban displacement situations, where agricultural activities are unlikely to be an option for displaced farmers and pastoralists as their skills may not be easily transferable. Beyond food production, it is important to underscore that the food and agriculture sector can create jobs across the food value chain, which displaced communities can benefit from and contribute to.

Regardless of the specific characteristics of each crisis, acting from the early stages of the humanitarian response cycle and giving flexible support tailored to IDPs’ needs will be key.537 Such support should be accompanied by at-scale investments in areas crucial to successful livelihoods such as access to land and water, markets, agribusiness capacity building and climate change adaptation.538 Harnessing the role of the food and agriculture sector in displacement situations has the potential to support durable solutions by increasing food security and communities’ and countries’ self-reliance at the same time.

**Fill the data gaps**

Partners leading global efforts to monitor food insecurity have made important contributions to our understanding of the phenomenon by collecting data, producing analysis and communicating its status across some of the world’s most acute humanitarian crises to a wide range of stakeholders.539 Many assessments, however, do not disaggregate data by displacement status, limiting our understanding of how IDPs may be unevenly affected by food insecurity.

Nor are many datasets disaggregated in other ways, including by gender, which hampers the production of more in-depth analyses of the differentiated impacts of displacement and food insecurity on vulnerable groups.540 The lack of disaggregated and longitudinal data also limits our understanding of how displacement affects broader food systems.541

Filling this gap is complex, and requires stakeholders working on food security and displacement to collaborate and consider the relationship between the two phenomena as an integral part of their data collection efforts. There may be significant financial, logistical and methodological obstacles, but ensuring the inclusion of millions of IDPs who may be suffering disproportionately from food insecurity should be considered a priority.542

Some food security assessments take IDPs into consideration, but their methodologies, indicators, geographical coverage and reporting timeframes often differ. This means much of the data is not interoperable, which constitutes a barrier to the provision of a comparable, up-to-date global baseline of food security among IDPs.

More data is needed to inform action aimed at resolving food insecurity and advancing solutions for IDPs.

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**More data is needed to inform action aimed at resolving food insecurity and advancing solutions for IDPs.**

Boys sit beside a pond of contaminated flood water near Zamzi Breh Village in Sindh, Pakistan. Along with Bangladesh, these provinces hosted 50 per cent of those displaced by the floods. © UNICEF/UN0761217/Arsalan Butt, January 2023.

This also applies at the sub-national level. In countries that report significant numbers of internal displacements every year, such as Kenya, Madagascar and Pakistan, food security assessments only cover certain geographical areas. Accurate assessment is even more difficult given the dynamic nature of displacement, which may mean IDPs move in or out of areas covered by food security assessments.

There are also gaps in internal displacement data itself. The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics have been essential in aligning stakeholders to produce more interoperable data, but fully implementing the recommendations across all countries for both conflict and disaster displacement is still a challenge.543 Nor does food security tend to be included when displacement data is collected, though doing so could be highly beneficial in complementing assessments such as IPC/CH, capturing information they do not, and providing greater insight into how the two phenomena overlap.544

Good practices exist. IOM’s displacement tracking matrix (DTM) has worked with the global food security cluster to incorporate food security indicators into its custom-built data dictionary, a repository of all expert-informed survey indicators and questions for its survey tools.545 DTM’s multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) are conducted at location level through regular key informant interviews, and include indicators on the availability of food and cooking fuel, and barriers to accessing food and food distribution services. Food security stakeholders can ask DTM to collect this data.546

DTM has also included household-level food security indicators in its data dictionary, including questions to calculate food consumption scores, dietary diversity scores and the reduced coping strategy index. These indicators are aligned globally and DTM can be asked to include them in household surveys it administers, including as part of MSNAs.547
IMPACT Initiatives’ REACH has been conducting MSNAs since 2016 using semi-standardised data collection and analysis tools. A key objective is to understand how needs vary between different groups, particularly IDPs, returnees and non-displaced populations. They inform humanitarian stakeholders of the most pressing needs households report and facilitate inter-sectoral analysis by identifying the concurrence of needs across territories and population groups. MSNAs cover food security and livelihoods, which helps to understand and compare the needs of displaced and non-displaced populations. MSNAs were conducted in 20 countries last year, providing greater insight into how IDPs specifically experience food insecurity.

There are many other measurements and tools which, while they may have a range of methods and objectives, could be used in one way or another to understand how agricultural production, food markets and supply chains play a role in food insecurity and displacement dynamics. Tools and systems will need to be designed to monitor and analyse vulnerabilities and identify how and to what extent food market shocks have ripple effects on displaced and non-displaced people’s food insecurity.

Most data collection and analysis takes place in the early stages of crises, but it tends to stop soon after the most acute phase is over. This approach serves short-term planning and response purposes, but it does not measure or help to understand the chronic dimensions of food insecurity in protracted displacement situations. The widespread use of short-term, project-based funding plays a role in these practices. More flexible multi-year funding is needed to support the gathering of information on chronic hunger and malnutrition over time.

The production and analysis of time-series data would help partners to understand food security dynamics before situations reach crisis levels, and to tackle the structural factors that drive the risk of repeated and protracted displacement. Understanding how food prices and communities’ resilience to shocks vary over time and in periods outside crises would help to identify which sectors and population groups require the most pressing interventions to reduce the risk of both displacement and food insecurity.

All of this said, quantitative data collection and analysis will not suffice to unpack the different aspects and cross-cutting factors that influence such a complex dynamic. To do so calls for mixed-method approaches that combine quantitative and qualitative assessments to inform tailored and actionable policies on food security and durable solutions.

Producing more joint analyses would also help to shed light on the common drivers and impacts of displacement and food insecurity. Initiatives such as the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), a technical platform that brings together key stakeholders from the sector and agencies working on displacement, including IOM and UNHCR, should be strengthened. FSIN has helped to elevate the issue of food insecurity among displaced populations by running analyses and reporting on some of the key situations, including in its Global Report on Food Crises.

Implementing the suggestions and overcoming the challenges discussed here will only be possible if stakeholders collaborate and share data. Strengthening current partnerships and establishing new ones would also benefit our common understanding of what drives displacement and food insecurity and our ability to identify good practices from around the world.
This year’s GRID coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. We have made significant progress since their publication in better monitoring and reporting on the trends, patterns and impacts of the phenomenon. We have also made our data and analyses available to decision makers and practitioners to guide the development of policies and programmes to support those displaced by conflict, violence, disasters and climate change effects. This had led to increased awareness of the need to invest in durable solutions and prevention at the global level.

The number of people living in displacement worldwide continues to rise, however, as do the number of new movements recorded each year. Conflict displacement continues to be a major concern from sub-Saharan Africa to Ukraine, but disaster displacement had a much larger geographical footprint last year. The phenomenon was recorded in 148 countries and territories, and at a scale previously unseen in many. We are, however, still missing a significant part of the picture, given that displacement triggered by slow-onset hazards linked to climate change is still largely unaccounted for.

The fact that these displacement trends are set against the backdrop of food insecurity that is aggravating many of the world’s most acute humanitarian crises is also alarming, and calls for renewed efforts to tackle their common drivers and impacts. The complex links between the two phenomena have yet to be fully unpacked, but the evidence presented in this report shows that they are often interwoven and reinforce each other to create lasting vulnerabilities and numerous challenges for IDPs, their host communities and the governments and aid providers supporting them. Without comprehensive information and analysis on how they overlap, we will not be able to provide meaningful, long-term solutions to what is a growing challenge.

For this to succeed, creating partnerships and collaborating to tackle their common drivers will be key. Beyond providing IDPs with assistance to meet their immediate humanitarian needs, we should continue to invest in and improve initiatives that support their resilience to shocks via anticipatory action and risk reduction measures. Doing so through a development lens would help to tackle the underlying drivers of displacement including poverty, inequality and climate change.

Examples of good practice from around the world already exist, and they bring hope that such solutions are achievable. Encouraging sustainable livelihoods and allocating the right resources to support IDPs in resolving their plight would also help to prevent future displacement and food insecurity crises, with significant long-term development gains.

We also need to establish comprehensive ways of considering the internal displacement’s broader repercussions on communities and societies, including food security, health, education, labour and security. Producing and using more and better data to guide these efforts will be paramount. After 25 years of progress in this direction, we need to continue improving the coverage, granularity, timeliness and disaggregation of internal displacement data, and to complement it with other information needed to understand and address current crises and reduce the risk of them occurring in the future.
Endnotes

1 IDM, How we monitor, May 2023
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Internal displacements (“flows”)

An "internal displacement" refers to each new forced movement of person within the borders of their country recorded during the year.

What is repeated displacement?

Repeated displacement is when someone is forced to move more than once. Some people become displaced a number of times before finding a solution to their displacement.

Internal displacements

("flows")

A mother and daughter are forced to flee their city in country X when fighting between rival gangs breaks out, resulting in two internal displacements.

Heightened insecurity in the host community, sheltering the mother and daughter, forces them to flee to a displacement camp.

An attack on the camp forces the mother and daughter and two other IDPs to flee again in search of safety, in other words triggering four more internal displacements.

We count eight internal displacements triggered by conflict in country X at the end of the year.

Heightened insecurity in the host community sheltering the mother and daughter forces them to flee to a displacement camp.

A mother and daughter are forced to flee their city in country X when fighting between rival gangs breaks out, resulting in two internal displacements.

There were already eight people living in internal displacement as a result of previous conflicts. Two more are added to the total number of IDPs.

This counts as a further two internal displacements, but the number of people living in internal displacement stays the same.

Meanwhile two of the 10 people living in internal displacement are able to return home.

We count a total of eight people as living in internal displacement at the end of the year.

Why is the total number of IDPs sometimes higher than the number of internal displacements?

Because the total number of IDPs includes people displaced in previous years and still living in internal displacement.

How to read our data

Total number of IDPs

("stocks")

The "total number of IDPs" is a snapshot of all the people living in internal displacement at the end of the year.

100 people were displaced for the first time. 100 people displaced twice is counted as 200. 100 people displaced three times is counted as 300.

2 + 2 + 4 = 8
8 + 2 - 2 = 8

100 people were displaced for the first time. 100 people displaced twice is counted as 200. 100 people displaced three times is counted as 300.

100 people displaced for the first time + 100 people displaced twice + 100 people displaced three times = 300 people.

100 people displaced twice is counted as 200. 100 people displaced three times is counted as 300.

2 + 2 + 4 = 8
8 + 2 - 2 = 8

100 people were displaced for the first time. 100 people displaced twice is counted as 200. 100 people displaced three times is counted as 300.

100 people displaced for the first time + 100 people displaced twice + 100 people displaced three times = 300 people.

100 people were displaced for the first time. 100 people displaced twice is counted as 200. 100 people displaced three times is counted as 300.

100 people displaced for the first time + 100 people displaced twice + 100 people displaced three times = 300 people.
## Summary of key figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Internal displacements in 2022 (disasters)</th>
<th>Internal displacements in 2022 (conflict and violence)</th>
<th>Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (disasters)</th>
<th>Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (conflict and violence)</th>
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Acknowledgements

IDMC Team

Direction: Alexandra Bilak
Coordination: Vicente Anzellini
Monitoring: Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa: Clémentine André, Katharina Borsig, Tomás de Almeida, Ivana Hajžmanová, Manuela Kurka, and Anca Paducel
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External contributions and support

Maps: Stéphane Kluser (Komplio)
Editor: Jeremy Lennard
IDMC would like to thank especially the expert advice provided by the following persons:
Expert advice and peer review: Derva Cleary and Sally James (FAO); Sara McHattie (FSIN); Nazim Aypad, Malo Dutta, Christoph Herby, and Shahnaz Parker (ICRC); Katrina Kosce and Rob Vos (IFRR); Zeade Leonard Nicole (IFRC); Benson Mbogani, Eric Rich Raveloajoana, Jasmine Tham, Tyler Thompson and Zeerunw Zevdie (IOM); Laura Rubio (ITAM); Wilhelmina Welsh (JIPS); Karolina Monner Silebenia (Mercy Corps); Cadim Brady, Ceolin Briggs, Angelita Caredda, Samah Hadid, Christelle Huré, Ernesto Lordhs, Haij Maasil, Kennedy Mabonga, Maureen Msige, Ivonne Marcela Olarte Acosta, Carlos Olaya, Marine Olivesi, Javier Perez Jaen, Elise Porson, Renata Rendon, Tessa Richardson, Giovanni Rizzo, Magalie Vaireto and Roberto Vila-Sento (NRC); Albert Habou Hamra and Alan Gondi (OCHA); Greta Zeender (OCHA)
Special thank you to the Governments of the following countries for their engagement and support in internal displacement data collection and analysis: Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Rep. of Congo, Cyprus, France, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Niger, North Macedonia, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Somalia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Vaniuatu, Yemen, Zambiz
We thank the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Regional Office for North Central of the Pacific Islands, and Regional Office for Eastern Africa and Yemen, Regional Office for Central and West Africa, Regional Office for the Middle East, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.
We thank the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) offices in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso/Niger, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Regional Office for North Central of the Pacific Islands, and Regional Office for East Africa and Yemen, Regional Office for Central and West Africa, Regional Office for the Middle East, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.
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Background papers and external contributions: Deruva Cleary and Sally James (FAO); Fanny Tepe, Clémentine André, Marine Olivesi, Hassane Hamadou, and Christelle Huré (IDMC/NRC), Alexey Reynold (IMPACT Initiative); Wilhelmina Welsh (JIPS); Kusum Hachhethu and Ahmad Ghaith (WFDP), José María Tárraga and Eva Sevilliano Marco (University of Valencia), Chiara Orlassino and Oliver Fiala (Save the Children), Elise Belcher, Heji Rahmawati and Rebecca Murphy (GNDR).

We thank the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) offices in Afghanistan, Asia and the Pacific regional office, Burkin Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Niger, Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Office of the Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand (Regional Office), Ukraine, West and Central Africa regional office, and Southern and Eastern Africa Regional Office, Yemen.
We thank the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) offices in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Geneva Headquarters, Jamaica, Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and Ukraine.
We thank the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) offices in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso/Niger, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Regional Office for North Central of the Pacific Islands, and Regional Office for East Africa and Yemen, Regional Office for Central and West Africa, Regional Office for the Middle East, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.
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We thank the following persons for their continuous collaboration: Andries Bello Catholic University; Assessment Capacities Project (ACAP); the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED); the ASCE Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AH/A Centre), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Caribbean Development Bank; CCMC Cluster for Myanmar; CCMC for Somalia; CCMC Cluster for Somalia, Civil United Nations Holdings Group of Influence; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH); Comisión Pastoral de la Tierra (CPT); Crisisdata; Friendly Space (DFS); Department of Environmental Systems Science of ETH Zurich (ETH); Department of Statistics, University of Oxford; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Kenya, Directorate of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations; Displacement Management Cluster (Bangladesh); European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC); Meta’s Data for Good Program; FloodRisk, Ford of DNL Humanitarian Office in Colombia; Durable Solutions Working Group (South, Iraq); Groupe de Coordination Opérationnelle de la Rapid Response (GOCR); Humanitarian Information Services (IFRC); IDP Working Group in Somalia; Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (IUDOP) de la Universidad Centroamericana (UCA); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); International Crisis Group; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC); IFRC São Tomé and Príncipe; IFRC Southern Africa Regional Office, The National Coordinating Centre of the Australian Red Cross; The National IDP Network Kenya, Needs Assessment Working Group (Bangladesh); the Negrop Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality; Nepal Red Cross Society (NRC); Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS); Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR); Protection Cluster (Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Niger, Ukraine), R2P Right to Protection; Rafael Landivar University; REACH Initiative (Afghanistan, Somalia, Ukraine), Rwandan Red Cross, Shelter Cluster (Bahamas, Myanmar, Palestine, Yemen); State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs Republic of Azerbaijan; South African Red Cross Society; South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA); Unit for Internal Attention and Reparation of Victims (Colombia); Tanzania Red Cross Society, the Nepalese and The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); The United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Offices in Nepal and Egypt; Uganda Red Cross Society, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITARI-UNOSAT), United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the World Food Programme (WFP), West Bank Protection Consortium, and the Yemen Population Task Force, Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Centre (DROMIC), Disaster Management Centre (Sri Lanka), Humanitarian Response Forum (Cambodia), National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in Kenya, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRC), Kenya Land Alliance (KLA)
Every day, people flee conflict and disasters and become displaced inside their own countries. IDMC provides data and analysis and supports partners to identify and implement solutions to internal displacement.

Join us as we work to make real and lasting change for internally displaced people in the decade ahead.