GRID
2020

GLOBAL REPORT ON
INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT

iDMC internal displacement monitoring centre

NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | NRC

NEW DISPLACEMENTS BY CONFLICT AND DISASTERS IN 2019

Iraq
37,000 | 104,000

Iran
520,000

Afghanistan
117,000 | 461,000

Pakistan
100,000 | 16,000

India
5,018,000 | 19,000

Nepal
121,000

Bangladesh
4,086,000 | 520

China
4,034,000

Syria
17,000 | 1,847,000

Sri Lanka
87,000 | 1,700

Albania
33,000

Myanmar
270,000 | 80,000

Libya
4,600 | 215,000

Lao PDR
103,000

Canada
41,000

Spain
23,000

Thailand
61,000

United States
916,000

Sudan
272,000 | 84,000

Japan
265,000

Chad
30,000 | 58,000

Cambodia
70,000

Mexico
16,000 | 7,100

Niger
121,000 | 57,000

Viet Nam
89,000

Guatemala
21,000

Mali
6,600 | 284,000

Philippines
4,094,000 | 183,000

El Salvador
1,900 | 454,000

Burkina Faso
513,000

Malaysia
63,000

Nigeria
157,000 | 248,000

Yemen
31,000 | 398,000

Papua New Guinea
31,000 | 1,300

Colombia
35,000 | 139,000

Cameroon
24,000 | 67,000

Somalia
479,000 | 188,000

Brazil
295,000

Congo
166,000 | 2

Ethiopia
504,000 | 1,052,000

Bolivia
77,000 | 31

Central African Republic
102,000 | 96,000

Kenya
74,000 | 1,800

Indonesia
463,000 | 23,000

Paraguay
54,000

Dem. Rep. Congo
233,000 | 1,672,000

Uganda
130,000 | 2,300

Argentina
23,000

Abyei Area
40,000

Burundi
27,000 | 530

Australia
25,000

Uruguay
22,000

South Sudan
294,000 | 259,000

Zimbabwe
52,000

Mozambique
506,000 | 5,300

Malawi
117,000 | 150

More than 3 million
1,000,001 to 3 million
200,001 to 1,000,000
20,001 to 200,000
20,000 or less

33.4m

Total
24,855,000 | 8,553,800
New displacements - disasters | New displacements - conflict

The Americas
1,545,000 | 602,000
(6.4% of the total figure)

Europe and Central Asia
101,000 | 2,800
(0.3%)

Sub-Saharan Africa
3,448,000 | 4,597,000
(24.1%)

Middle East and North Africa
631,000 | 2,566,000
(9.6%)

South Asia
9,529,000 | 498,000
(30%)

East Asia and Pacific
9,601,000 | 288,000
(29.6%)

The country and territory names and figures are shown only when the total new displacements value exceeds 20,000. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

WITH THANKS
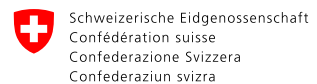
Cover Photo: The mosque of al-Nuri is still in ruins, as is much of Mosul's old city. Throughout Iraq, many internally displaced people (IDPs) are returning, and there has been an overall decrease in new displacement for the last two years. Despite the challenges, durable solutions are within reach. Photo: Tom Peyre-Costa/NRC, 2019

GLOBAL REPORT ON
INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT

APRIL 2020

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People displaced by Cyclone Idai disembark a boat at dawn in the port of Beira, Mozambique. Photo © UNHCR/Alissa Everett, March 2019

FOREWORD

An ever-growing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) remain so for long periods of time, often for many years or even decades. As time passes, returning home becomes less and less relevant as a solution to their displacement. There is no agreed formula to determine when displacement ends but making sure IDPs as citizens can enjoy equal rights to other nationals is an important part of the equation. A significant step toward durable solutions is made when they are valued for their potential contribution to society, rather than as a "burden".

National ownership and political commitment are intrinsic to solutions. A stronger focus on national sovereignty can weaken global collaboration, but national ownership can also provide an opportunity. If solutions to displacement are considered as a national commitment, the ownership that has been missing may follow. Several countries have embraced this opportunity by integrating the concerns of IDPs and returning refugees into their national development plans.

The international media still gives relatively little attention to internal displacement, but coverage of families fleeing bombing in Syria, floods in India and violence in Nigeria has raised awareness of their dire situations among national and global leaders and the world at large. As a result, the issue has started to gain visibility which may fuel our collective will to do something about it.

There is further cause for hope. This year marks the start of UN secretary general António Guterres' "decade of action". The world has 10 years to show it is serious about global equality and sustainable development. A high-level UN panel on internal displacement began its work earlier this year. Fifty-seven countries have endorsed the initiative, creating a unique opportunity to take a fresh look at the political and operational barriers to durable solutions and to lay the groundwork for real advances on prevention and risk reduction. It is hoped that the panel's focus will generate concrete and more forward-thinking recommendations on addressing internal displacement as it relates to other global phenomena such as urbanisation and climate change.

This year's Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), the international community's flagship publication on the phenomenon, is an indispensable evidence base for national and global efforts towards addressing internal displacement. It highlights the scale of displacement around the world and efforts to address it and provides an overview of major regional patterns, impacts and risks. It also casts light on the highly specific nature of each displacement situation and discusses some of the collaborative steps and tools that could be used to help millions of IDPs achieve a sustainable end to their predicament.

2020 marks the end of IDMC's current strategy and the beginning of a new era. Efforts to reduce and address internal displacement over the next decade will be shaped by the decisions we make today. Will we recognise or ignore the triggers, drivers and impacts of displacement? Will we invest more in our collective ability to act? And perhaps most importantly, will we find the political commitment to affect lasting change?

As IDMC's advisors, we are encouraged by the focus of this year's GRID on solutions. We need to identify and invest in initiatives rooted in the principles of inclusive development and equal opportunity and promote pragmatic and progressive solutions. Now is the time to begin in earnest.

Peter de Clercq
on behalf of the IDMC Advisory Group

SUMMARY

New displacements in 2019
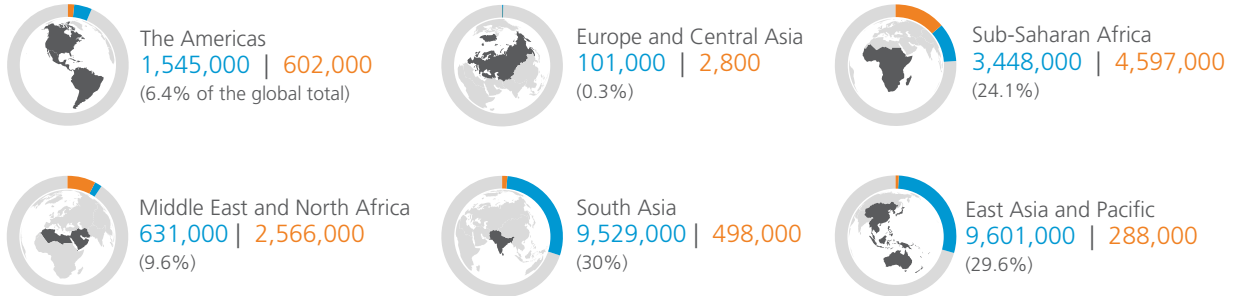
33.4 million
the highest figure since 2012

8.5 million by conflict and violence

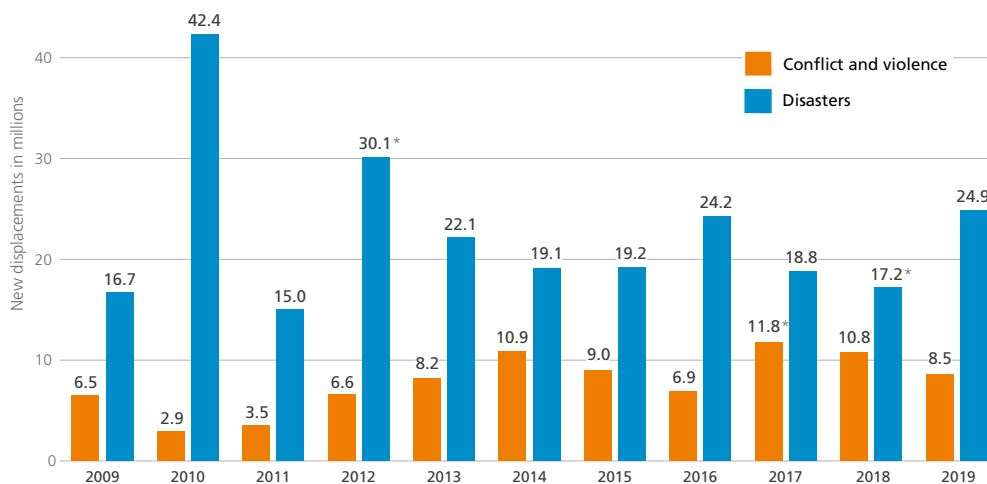driven by increasing levels of violence in Burkina Faso, Yemen and Libya

24.9 million by disasters

of which 23.9 million were weather-related

New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters per region

The Americas
1,545,000 | 602,000
(6.4% of the global total)

Europe and Central Asia
101,000 | 2,800
(0.3%)

Sub-Saharan Africa
3,448,000 | 4,597,000
(24.1%)

Middle East and North Africa
631,000 | 2,566,000
(9.6%)

South Asia
9,529,000 | 498,000
(30%)

East Asia and Pacific
9,601,000 | 288,000
(29.6%)

New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters worldwide (2009-2019)

New displacements in millions

- Conflict and violence
- Disasters

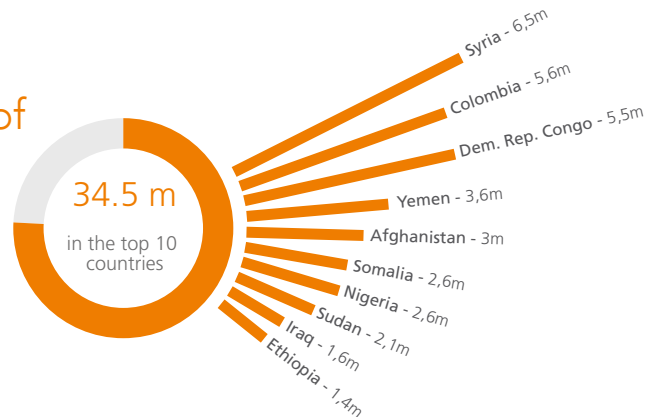| Year	Conflict and violence	Disasters
2009	6.5	16.7
2010	2.9	42.4
2011	3.5	15.0
2012	6.6	30.1*
2013	8.2	22.1
2014	10.9	19.1
2015	9.0	19.2
2016	6.9	24.2
2017	11.8*	18.8
2018	10.8	17.2*
2019	8.5	24.9

Updated figures. For further details see methodological annex, available online.

Total number of IDPs

50.8 million

**45.7** million as a result of conflict and violence
an all-time high

34.5 m
in the top 10 countries

Syria - 6,5m
Colombia - 5,6m
Dem. Rep. Congo - 5,5m
Yemen - 3,6m
Afghanistan - 3m
Somalia - 2,6m
Nigeria - 2,6m
Sudan - 2,1m
Iraq - 1,6m
Ethiopia - 1,4m

1,2 m - Afghanistan
590,000 - India
390,000 - Ethiopia
364,000 - Philippines
272,000 - Sudan
246,000 - South Sudan
220,000 - China
180,000 - Iran
168,000 - Dem. Rep. Congo
143,000 - Nigeria

3.4 m
in the top 10 countries

5.1 million as a result of disasters
the first-ever estimate
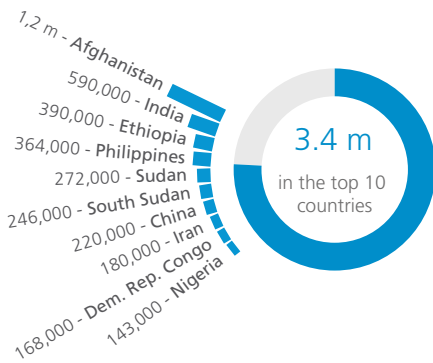
18.3 million IDPs are children under 15 and **3.7** million are over 60

6.6 million
0-4

11.7 million
5-14

9.7 million
15-24

19.2 million
25-59

3.7 million
60+
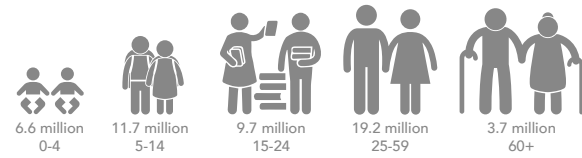
Total number of IDPs worldwide as of end 2019, by age group

Total number of IDPs worldwide at year end (2009-2019)

- Conflict and violence
- Disasters

Number of IDPs in millions

Year	Value
2009	24.9
2010	24.9
2011	22.4
2012	26.3
2013	33.3
2014	37.8
2015	40.5
2016	40.2
2017	39.9
2018	41.3
2019	50.8 (45.7 + 5.1)
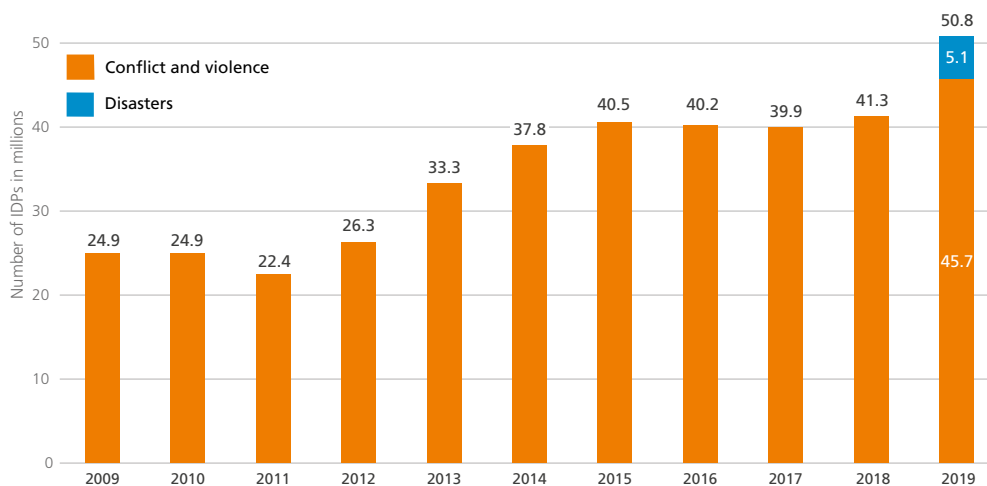
Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Internal displacement by conflict and violence

New incidents of conflict displacement were recorded in 50 countries in 2019. The majority took place in low and middle-income countries including **Syria**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and **Ethiopia**, which accounted for more than a million new displacements each.

Sub-Saharan Africa was the region with the highest figure. Many new displacements were triggered by escalating violence and an overall deterioration of security in the Sahel, particularly in **Burkina Faso**, **Mali** and **Niger**. Ongoing conflict also forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes in **Somalia** and **South Sudan**.

Long-running conflicts in **Syria**, **Yemen** and **Libya** also led to an increase in displacement in the Middle East and North Africa, both in terms of new displacements and people still living in displacement at the end of the year.

8.5 million
new
displacements

45.7 million IDPs

The global number of IDPs has never been higher. All regions are affected by conflict displacement, but it is highly concentrated in a few countries. Of the global total of 45.7 million people still displaced at the end of the year, three-quarters or 34.5 million, were in just 10 countries.

Girls and boys attend class in the ruins of a primary school in Trinkot, Afghanistan. In 2017, efforts were put into rebuilding the school, that was ready to welcome more children in September 2019.
Photo: NRC/Enayatullah Azad, February 2016

GRID
2020

Internal displacement by disasters

Around 1,900 disasters triggered 24.9 million new displacements across 140 countries and territories in 2019. This is the highest figure recorded since 2012 and three times the number of displacements caused by conflict and violence.

Disaster displacement was recorded in low and high-income countries alike. Cyclones Idai and Kenneth forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes in **Mozambique**, **Malawi**, **Madagascar**, **Zimbabwe** and the archipelagos of **Comoros and Mayotte.** Hurricane Dorian's impacts on the **Bahamas** were unprecedented, and the storm also triggered displacement on neighbouring islands and in the **US** and **Canada**.

24.9 million new displacements

Beyond the absolute numbers, disasters hit many communities that were already vulnerable, displacing people with little capacity to recover. Widespread flooding in **South Sudan** displaced people who had already fled conflict for a second time. Relative to population size, the impacts of cyclone Kenneth in **Comoros** were devastating.

Much of the new displacement reported in 2019 took place in the form of pre-emptive evacuations. Cyclones Fani and Bulbul triggered more than five million in **India** and **Bangladesh** alone. Evacuations clearly save lives, but many evacuees had their displacement prolonged because their homes had been damaged or destroyed.

Around 5.1 million people in 95 countries and territories were living in displacement as a result of disasters at the end of the year. This includes people who fled disasters not only in 2019 but also in previous years. From the 1.2 million people displaced by drought and floods in **Afghanistan** over the past few years to the 33,000 still living in displacement a decade after the **Haiti** earthquake, these figures are just the tip of the iceberg.
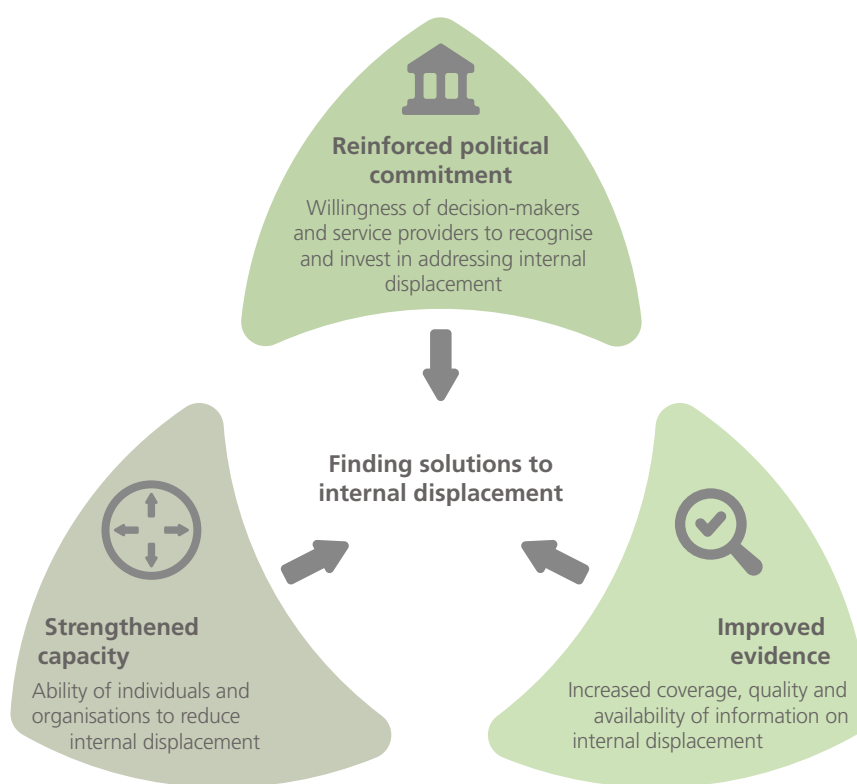
5.1 million IDPs

Finding solutions to internal displacement

There were visible efforts to prevent and respond to internal displacement in 2019, and promising developments in a number of countries highlighted the key ingredients for success.

New national initiatives showed greater levels of political commitment. Countries such as Niger and Somalia improved their policy frameworks on internal displacement. Others, including Afghanistan, Iraq and the Philippines, incorporated displacement in their development plans, in their reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, or when updating risk management strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Strengthened capacity across humanitarian and development sectors manifested in better coordination and increased investment. Improvements in the quantity and quality of data available also enabled better reporting and analysis, which in turn informs more effective responses and risk mitigation measures.

Reinforced political commitment

Willingness of decision-makers and service providers to recognise and invest in addressing internal displacement

Finding solutions to internal displacement

Strengthened capacity

Ability of individuals and organisations to reduce internal displacement

Improved evidence

Increased coverage, quality and availability of information on internal displacement

Anas, 10, spends his day helping his family in sheep breeding. "I'm the man of the house and I help my family with the work". There were 6.5 million IDPs in Syria as of the end of 2019. Photo© UNHCR/Antwan Chnkdji, August 2019

What have we learned?

1. **The recognition of internal displacement is a vital first step toward addressing it.** Changes in how the phenomenon was understood contributed to a significant shift in national policy and practice in Somalia.

2. **Policies and programmes may integrate internal displacement or be dedicated to it, but they should always align with national priorities.** The Afghan government understands internal displacement as both a humanitarian and development issue, and recognises it as a consequence of both conflict and disasters. This has the potential to strengthen institutional coordination and responses.

3. **Regional and global initiatives act as catalysts for national commitment and local action.** Dialogues hosted by the African Union and regional commissions have galvanised political support across the continent. Global initiatives such as the UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement also have the potential to unlock national action.

4. **Effective local initiatives require more predictable and sustained funding.** Multi-year funding in Haiti has enabled a longer and more transparent planning framework, and the UN Peacebuilding Fund's support for durable solutions in Somalia was channelled to local organisations.

5. **Existing tools can be used to provide planners and policymakers with evidence that goes beyond numbers.** Combining official monitoring of disaster displacement in the Philippines with mobile phone tracking data and social media analysis has helped to improve planning for shelters, reconstruction and longer-term urban recovery.

6. **Improved collaboration is making data more available and accessible.** Regional initiatives in Africa, Europe and Latin America strengthen collaboration and coordination, and so make data more coherent and trustworthy as well as increase ownership among providers, users and donors.

7. **Accounting for displacement and reporting on progress is a vital tool in generating and sustaining political commitment.** National data strategies and dedicated budgets in Mali and the Philippines have enabled systematic and regular reporting, which in turn helps to attract more internal and external support for durable solutions.

PART 1

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN 2019

—

A Syrian family walks through the rubble of their neighbourhood in Homs.
Photo © UNHCR/Vivian Tou'meh, March 2019

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Conflict and disasters triggered 33.4 million new internal displacements across 145 countries and territories in 2019. Most of the disaster displacements were the result of tropical storms and monsoon rains in South Asia and East Asia and Pacific. Bangladesh, China, India and the Philippines each recorded more than four million, many of them pre-emptive evacuations led by governments. Many evacuees, however, had their displacement prolonged because their homes were damaged or destroyed.

Conflict continued unabated in countries such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Syria, which are also home to some of the largest numbers of people living in protracted displacement. Violence increased sharply in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, triggering significant new displacement. In countries including Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen, disasters forced many people already displaced by conflict to flee for a second time.

FIGURE 1: Fifty countries and territories with most new displacements in 2019
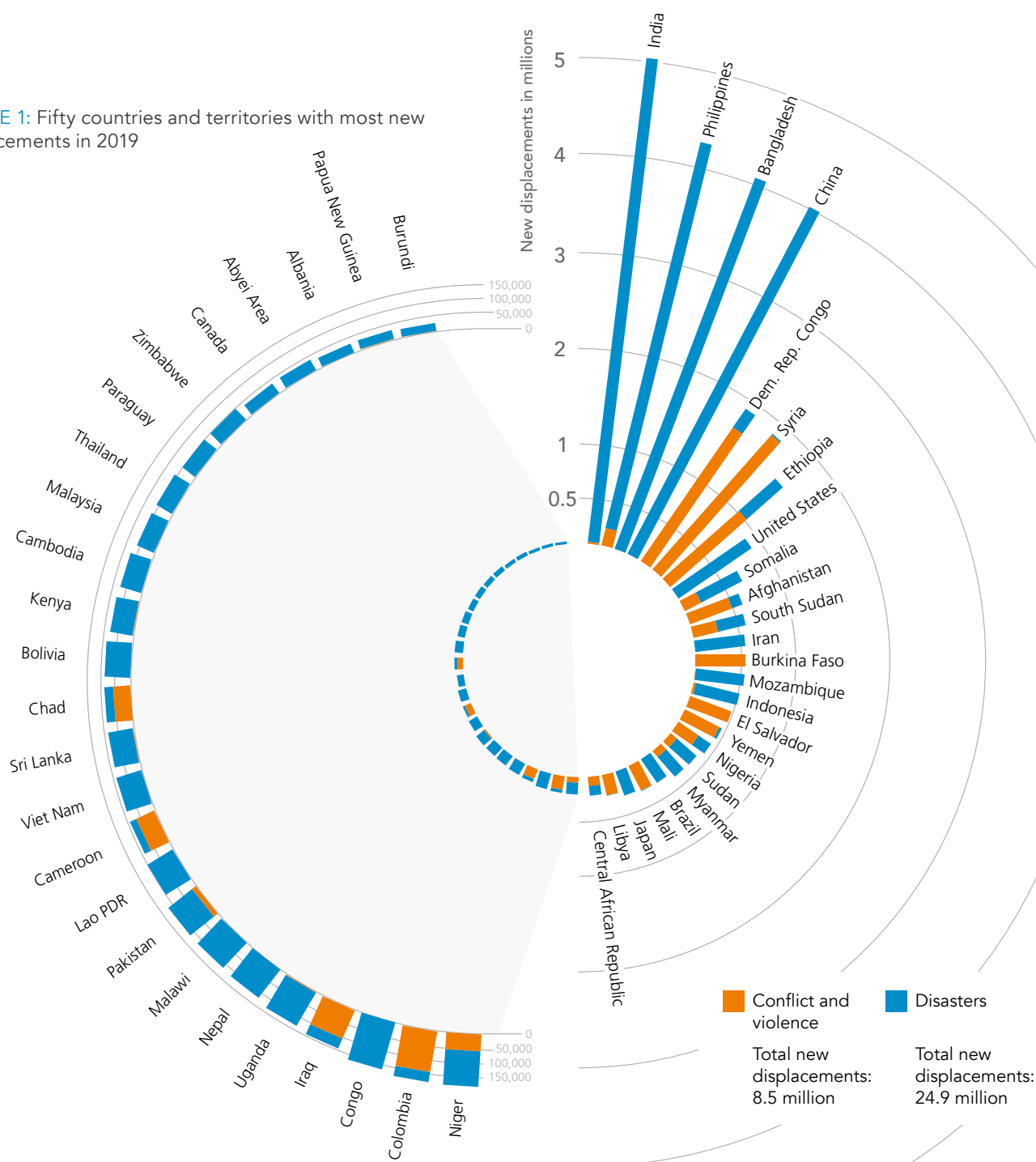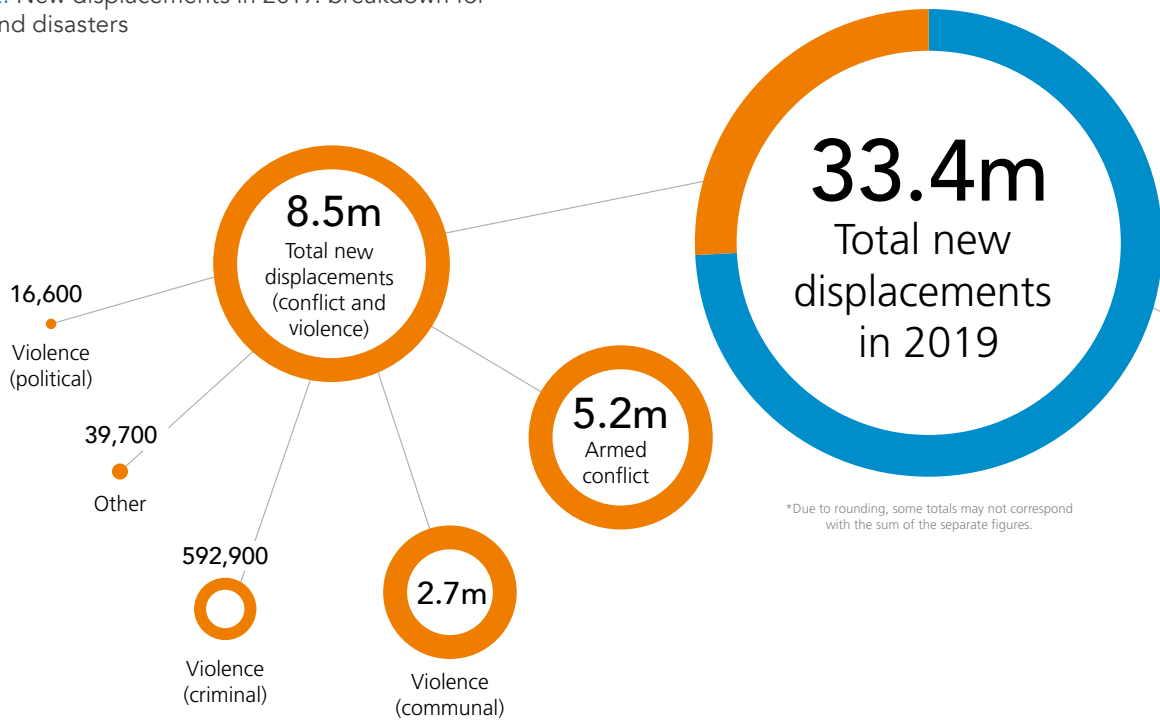

Conflict and violence

Disasters

Total new displacements: 8.5 million

Total new displacements: 24.9 million

FIGURE 2: New displacements in 2019: breakdown for conflict and disasters

16,600
Violence (political)

39,700
Other

592,900
Violence (criminal)

2.7m
Violence (communal)

8.5m
Total new displacements (conflict and violence)

5.2m
Armed conflict

33.4m
Total new displacements in 2019

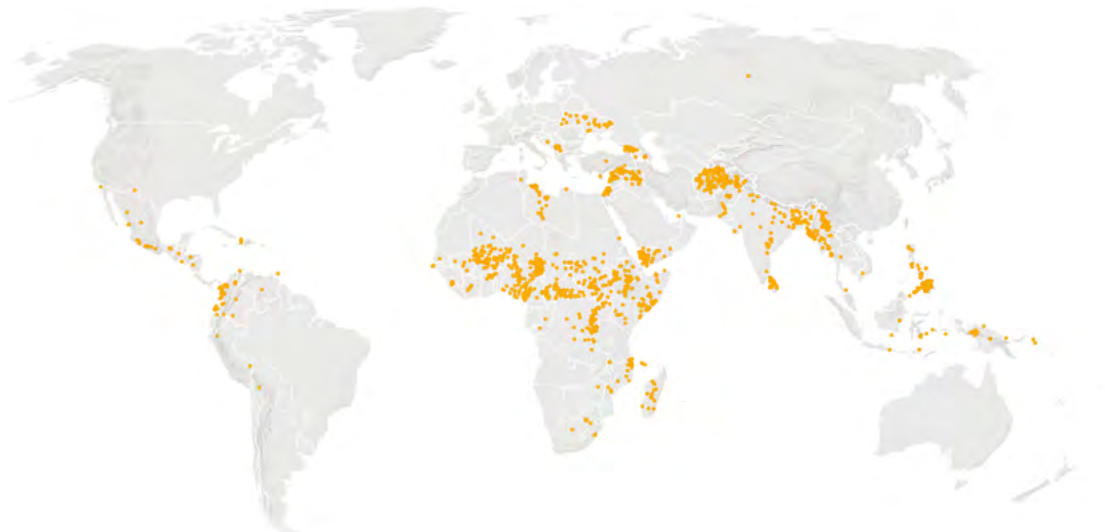*Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Disasters triggered nearly three-quarters of the new displacements recorded worldwide in 2019, accounting for 24.9 million. More than 95 per cent were the result of weather-related hazards such as storms and floods. The overwhelming majority of conflict displacements were triggered by armed conflict, but communal violence accounted for a significant proportion of the global total of 8.5 million (see Figure 2).

Geolocated data on internal displacement shows that although the phenomenon is a global challenge, even within countries and regions it tends to be concen-

trated in certain areas. Conflict displacement occurs in pockets, including the eastern provinces of DRC, southern Somalia or departments on Colombia's Pacific coast (see Figure 3). Disaster displacement often takes place in highly urbanised areas such as the eastern seaboards of China and the US (see Figure 4). Many of these areas experienced various displacement events during the year. Beyond the global picture, it is important to shed light on these local specifics.

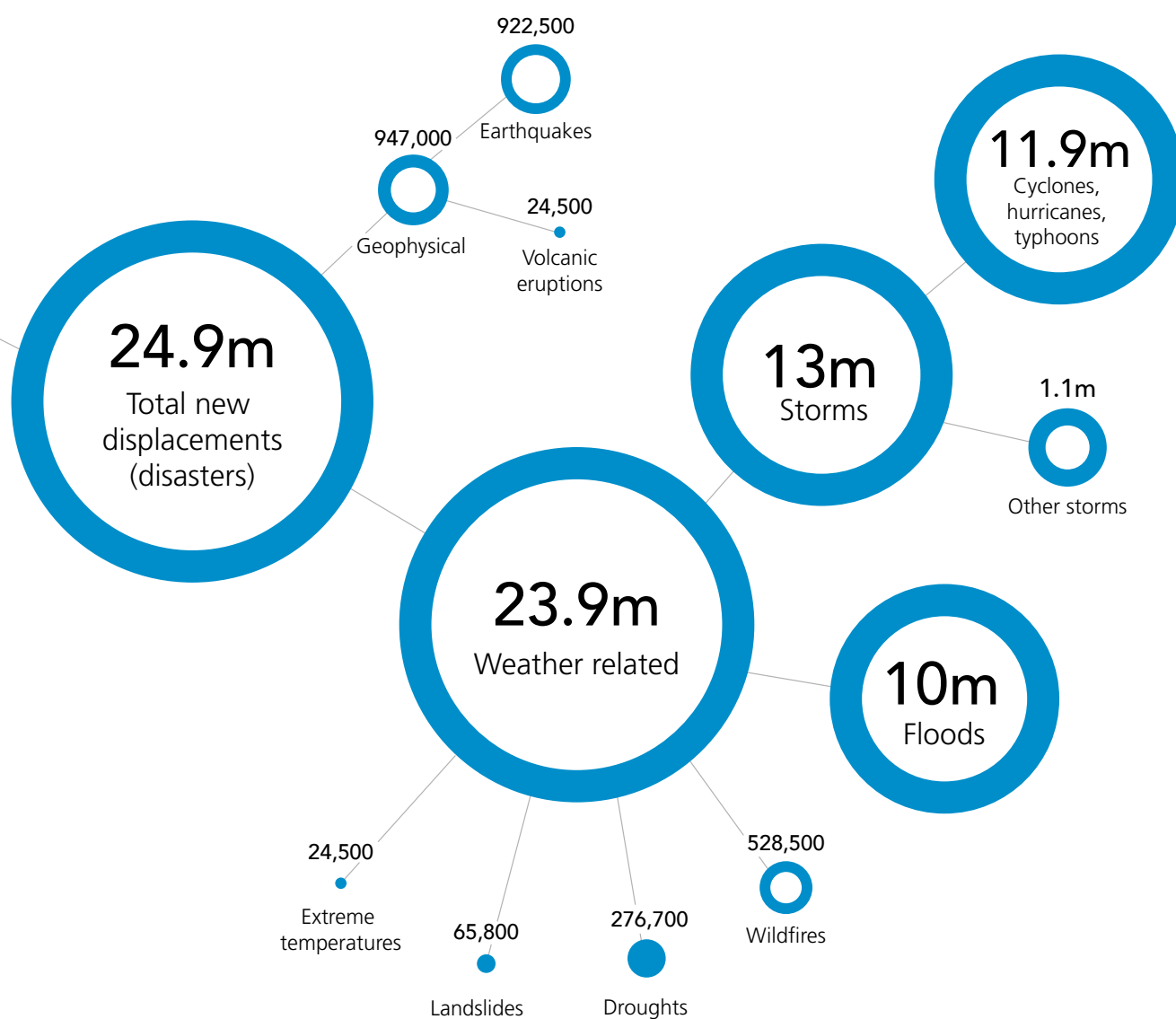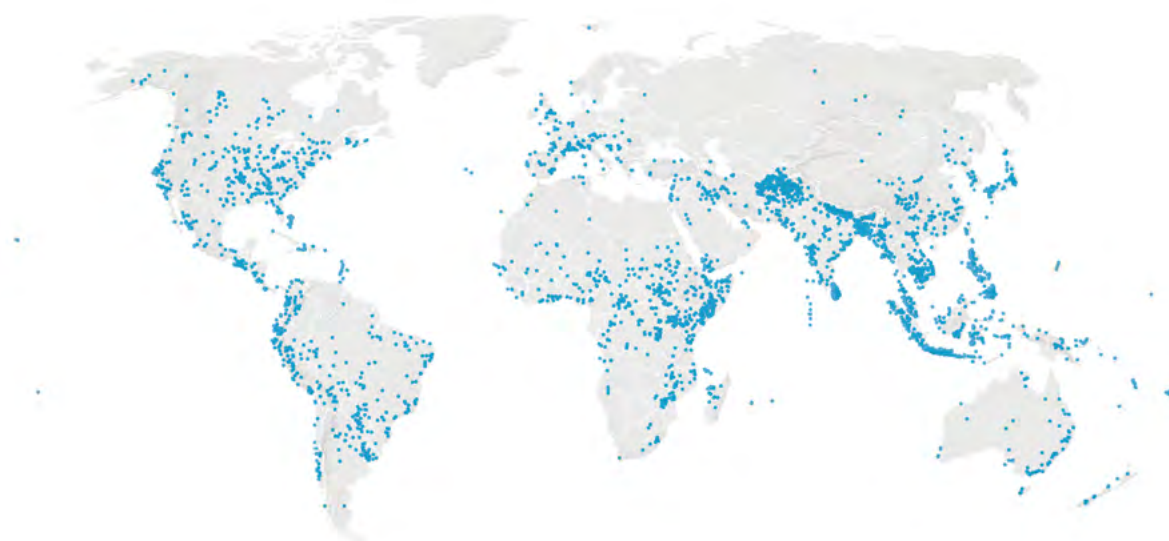FIGURE 3: Conflict displacements in 2019 by location

922,500
Earthquakes

947,000
Geophysical

24,500
Volcanic
eruptions

24.9m
Total new
displacements
(disasters)

11.9m
Cyclones,
hurricanes,
typhoons

13m
Storms

1.1m

Other storms

23.9m
Weather related

10m
Floods

24,500

Extreme
temperatures

65,800

Landslides

276,700

Droughts

528,500

Wildfires

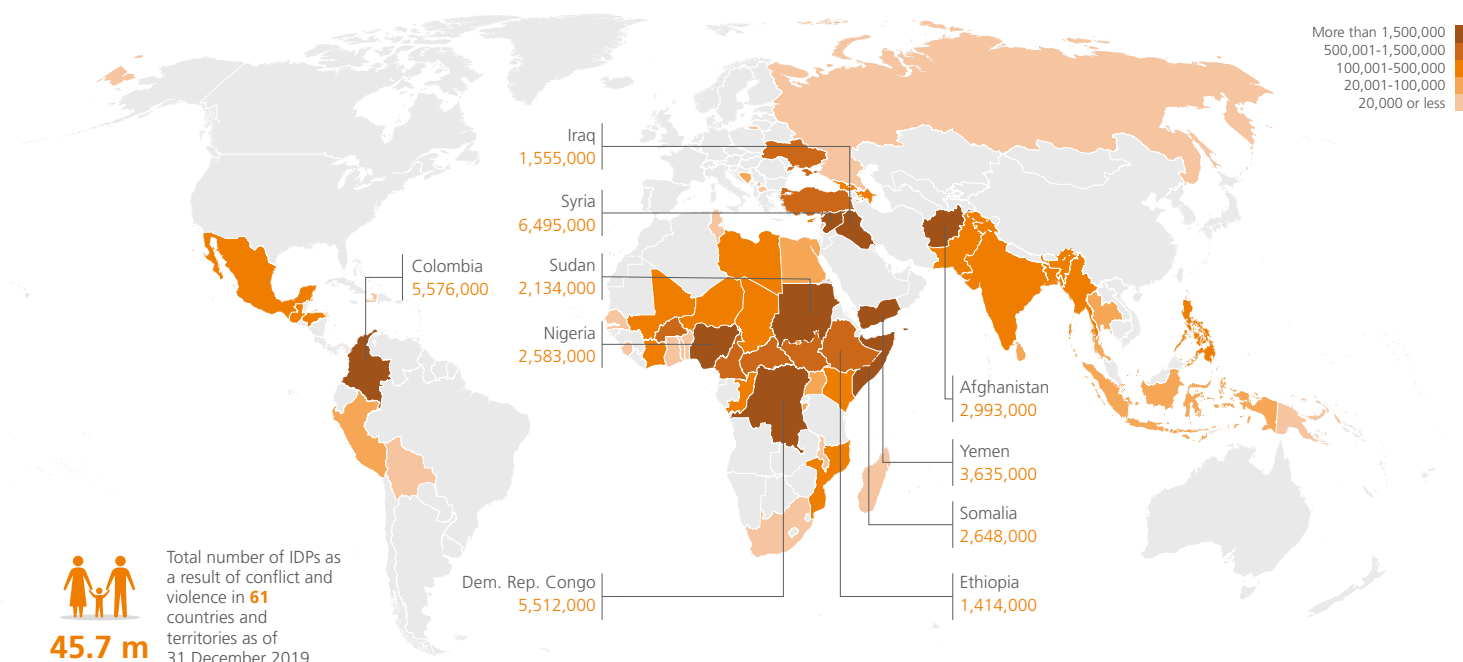FIGURE 4: Disaster displacements in 2019 by location

PEOPLE LIVING IN DISPLACEMENT

Conflict and violence

A record 45.7 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence in 61 countries and territories as of 31 December 2019 (see Figure 5). This figure is the highest ever recorded. It is also another reminder that internally displaced people (IDPs) make up an overwhelming majority of people to have fled conflict and violence worldwide. They outnumbered refugees by 19.8 million last year.[1]

Five countries – Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, Syria and Yemen – account for more than half of the global total. People may have been displaced by recent events, but the figures also include those who have been living in internal displacement for decades in countries such as Palestine, Peru, the Philippines and Sudan (see table 3 and the online methodological annex). Many millions of IDPs still face significant obstacles in their efforts to bring their displacement to a sustainable end. This highlights the urgent need to strengthen our collective effort to address an ever-growing challenge.
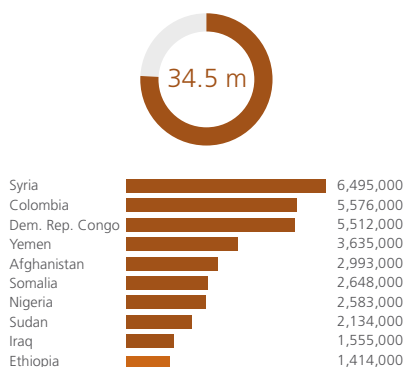
FIGURE 5: Total number of IDPs by conflict and violence as of 31 December 2019
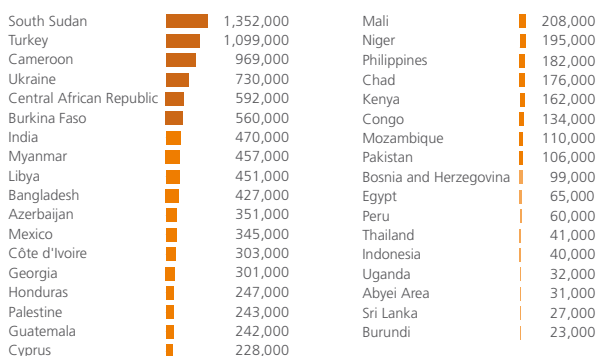

More than 1,500,000
500,001-1,500,000
100,001-500,000
20,001-100,000
20,000 or less

Iraq 1,555,000
Syria 6,495,000
Colombia 5,576,000
Sudan 2,134,000
Nigeria 2,583,000
Afghanistan 2,993,000
Yemen 3,635,000
Somalia 2,648,000
Dem. Rep. Congo 5,512,000
Ethiopia 1,414,000

Total number of IDPs as a result of conflict and violence in **61** countries and territories as of 31 December 2019

45.7 m

The boundaries, names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

10 countries and territories with the highest number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019

34.5 m

Syria	6,495,000
Colombia	5,576,000
Dem. Rep. Congo	5,512,000
Yemen	3,635,000
Afghanistan	2,993,000
Somalia	2,648,000
Nigeria	2,583,000
Sudan	2,134,000
Iraq	1,555,000
Ethiopia	1,414,000

Other countries and territories

South Sudan	1,352,000	Mali	208,000
Turkey	1,099,000	Niger	195,000
Cameroon	969,000	Philippines	182,000
Ukraine	730,000	Chad	176,000
Central African Republic	592,000	Kenya	162,000
Burkina Faso	560,000	Congo	134,000
India	470,000	Mozambique	110,000
Myanmar	457,000	Pakistan	106,000
Libya	451,000	Bosnia and Herzegovina	99,000
Bangladesh	427,000	Egypt	65,000
Azerbaijan	351,000	Peru	60,000
Mexico	345,000	Thailand	41,000
Côte d'Ivoire	303,000	Indonesia	40,000
Georgia	301,000	Uganda	32,000
Honduras	247,000	Abyei Area	31,000
Palestine	243,000	Sri Lanka	27,000
Guatemala	242,000	Burundi	23,000
Cyprus	228,000		

Countries and territories reporting less than 20,000 people displaced by order of magnitude:

Kosovo, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Benin, Madagascar, Haiti, Togo, Russia, South Africa, Ghana, Malawi, Macedonia, Bolivia and Tunisia

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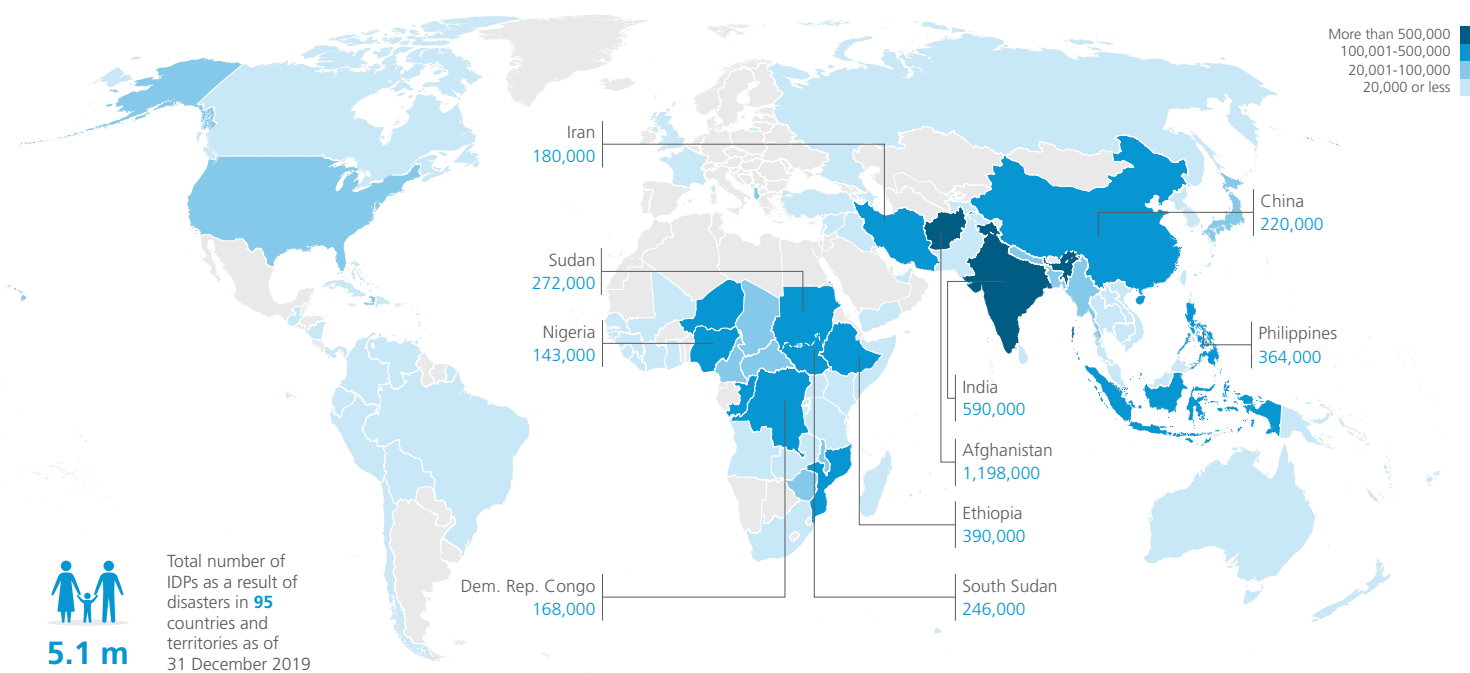
Disasters

At least 5.1 million people were internally displaced by disasters across 95 countries and territories as of 31 December 2019 (see Figure 6). This is the first time such a global figure has been compiled. About 90 per cent of the total is made up of people displaced during the year. The remainder were displaced in previous years, and were included in the estimate when evidence of their continued displacement was available. The overall figure is an underestimate, because little data is collected on how long people are displaced for following disasters (see online methodological annex).

Afghanistan had the highest number of people still displaced as a result of disasters at the end of 2019,

with 1.2 million IDPs who fled drought and floods in recent years (see Figure 6). Hundreds of thousands more were still displaced after disasters that struck during the year in countries such as India, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Around 33,000 people were still living in displacement in Haiti a decade after the devastating 2010 earthquake.[2]

The scarcity of time-series data makes it difficult to fully understand the scale and nature of protracted displacement triggered by disasters and climate change impacts. Assuming that IDPs return to their homes soon after disasters may lead to the incorrect assumption that they no longer have vulnerabilities associated with their displacement. The reality is often more complex and these initial estimates, however conservative, constitute a first step toward filling this major knowledge gap.
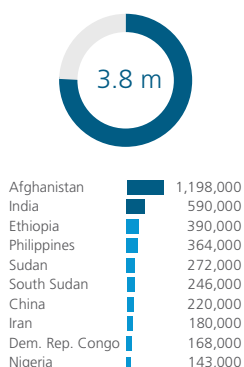
FIGURE 6: Total number of IDPs by disasters as of 31 December 2019

More than 500,000
100,001-500,000
20,001-100,000
20,000 or less

Iran
180,000

China
220,000

Sudan
272,000

Philippines
364,000

Nigeria
143,000

India
590,000

Afghanistan
1,198,000

Ethiopia
390,000

Dem. Rep. Congo
168,000

South Sudan
246,000

Total number of IDPs as a result of disasters in **95** countries and territories as of 31 December 2019

5.1 m

The boundaries, names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

10 countries and territories with the highest number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019

Other countries and territories

3.8 m

Afghanistan	1,198,000
India	590,000
Ethiopia	390,000
Philippines	364,000
Sudan	272,000
South Sudan	246,000
China	220,000
Iran	180,000
Dem. Rep. Congo	168,000
Nigeria	143,000

Mozambique	132,000
Niger	121,000
Congo	107,000
Indonesia	104,000
Central African Republic	95,000
Bangladesh	88,000
Japan	88,000
Malawi	54,000
Zimbabwe	52,000
Haiti	51,000
Myanmar	41,000
United States	37,000
Albania	32,000
Nepal	29,000
Cameroon	28,000
Chad	27,000
Abyei Area	26,000

Countries and territories with less than 20,000 people displaced by order of magnitude:
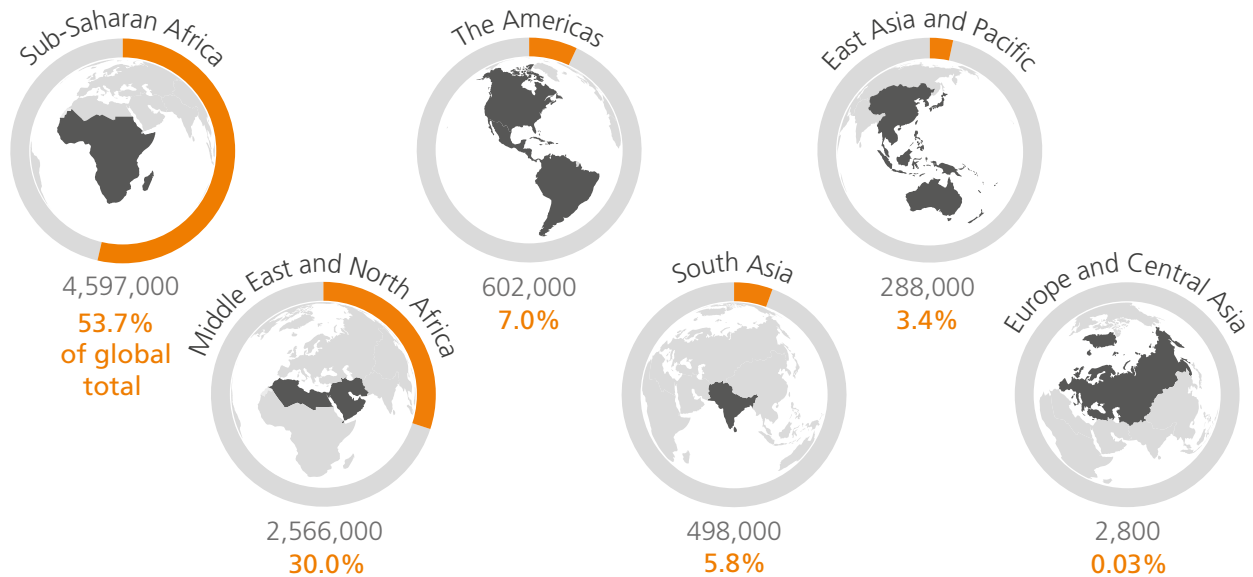
Comoros, Pakistan, Malaysia, Australia, Ghana, Burundi, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam, Canada, Mali, Peru, Rwanda, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Gambia, Russia, Syria, Sierra Leone, Cuba, Tajikistan, France, Bolivia, Korea, Chile, Colombia, United Kingdom, Brazil, Kenya, Madagascar, Guatemala, Cambodia, Tanzania, Angola, Uganda, Dem. People's Rep. Korea, Bahamas, Fiji, Liberia, Somalia, Taiwan, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Thailand, Yemen, Iraq, Venezuela, Ecuador, Israel, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Mauritius, Senegal, Turkey, Vanuatu, South Africa, Zambia, Panama, United Arab Emirates, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Northern Mariana Islands, New Zealand, St. Lucia, Puerto Rico, French Polynesia and Trinidad and Tobago

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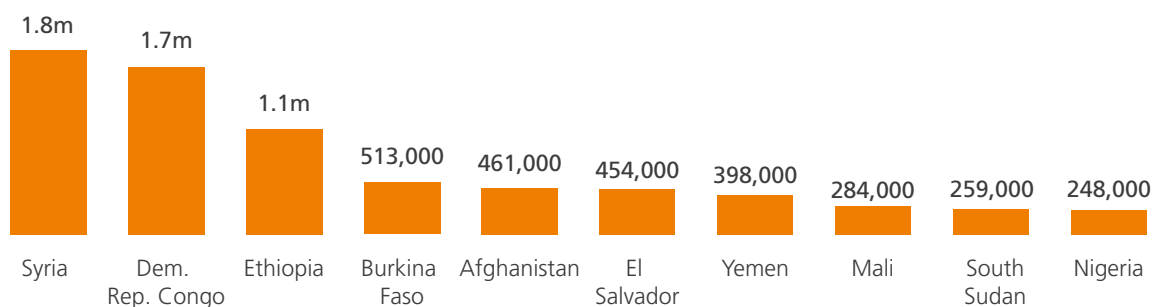
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

Conflict and violence

FIGURE 7: Conflict and violence: new displacements by region in 2019

Sub-Saharan Africa
4,597,000
53.7%
of global
total

The Americas
602,000
7.0%

East Asia and Pacific
288,000
3.4%

Middle East and North Africa
2,566,000
30.0%

South Asia
498,000
5.8%

Europe and Central Asia
2,800
0.03%

Most of the new displacements triggered by conflict and violence in 2019 were recorded in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa. The majority took place in Syria, DRC and Ethiopia, as in previous years. An unprecedented number was recorded in Burkina Faso, and significant increases in Mali and Libya. A combination of improved data collection and persistent conflict and violence also led to a rise in figures for countries such as El Salvador and Yemen.

The number of new displacements fell in some countries thanks to successful ceasefire agreements and peace-building initiatives, as in the Central African Republic (CAR), Iraq and South Sudan. Many such situations are still fragile, however, and more efforts are needed to reduce the risk of conflict and displacement reoccurring. Humanitarian aid remains essential for IDPs, but it will take longer-term development interventions to resolve the underlying challenges that prolong the displacement of millions of people.

FIGURE 8: Ten countries with the most new displacements by conflict and violence in 2019

Syria	Dem. Rep. Congo	Ethiopia	Burkina Faso	Afghanistan	El Salvador	Yemen	Mali	South Sudan	Nigeria
1.8m	1.7m	1.1m	513,000	461,000	454,000	398,000	284,000	259,000	248,000

Disasters

FIGURE 9: Disasters: new displacements by region in 2019

East Asia and Pacific
9,601,000
38.6%
of global
total

Sub-Saharan Africa
3,448,000
13.9%

Middle East and North Africa
631,000
2.5%

South Asia
9,529,000
38.3%

The Americas
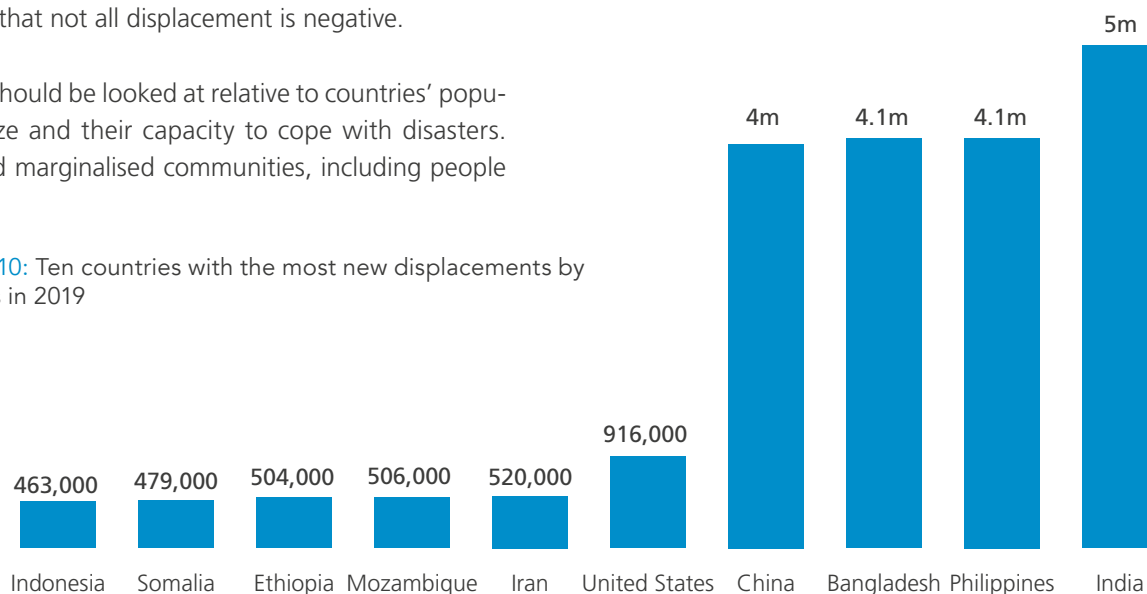1,545,000
6.2%

Europe and Central Asia
101,000
0.4%
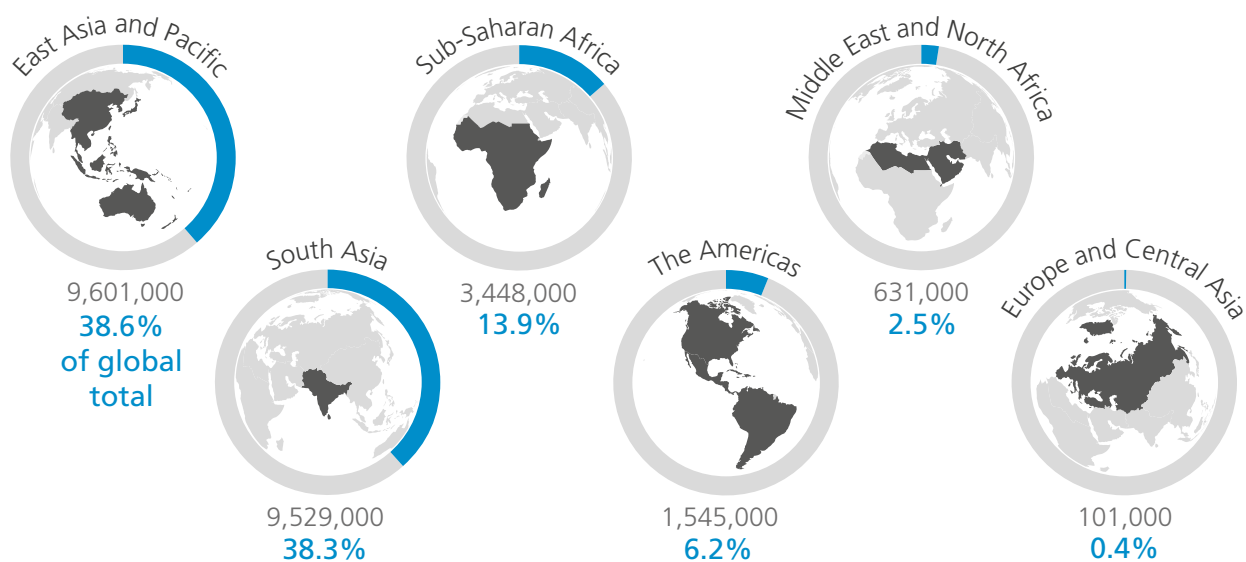
Most of the new displacements triggered by disasters in 2019 were recorded in East Asia and Pacific and South Asia, as in previous years. Monsoon rains, floods and tropical storms hit highly exposed areas that are home to millions of people. The majority of the new displacements were in the form of government-led pre-emptive evacuations. These successfully reduced the number of people killed in a number of large disasters and highlight the fact that not all displacement is negative.

Figures should be looked at relative to countries' population size and their capacity to cope with disasters. Poor and marginalised communities, including people

already displaced by conflict who are then forced to flee disasters, are of particular concern. As countries move forward in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, they should consider displacement as part of their risk reduction, response and recovery frameworks.

FIGURE 10: Ten countries with the most new displacements by disasters in 2019

463,000	479,000	504,000	506,000	520,000	916,000	4m	4.1m	4.1m	5m
Indonesia	Somalia	Ethiopia	Mozambique	Iran	United States	China	Bangladesh	Philippines	India

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Country	New displacements
DRC	1,905,000
Ethiopia	1,556,000
Somalia	667,000
South Sudan	553,000
Burkina Faso	513,000

Conflict 4,597,000
Disasters 3,448,000
24.1% of the global total
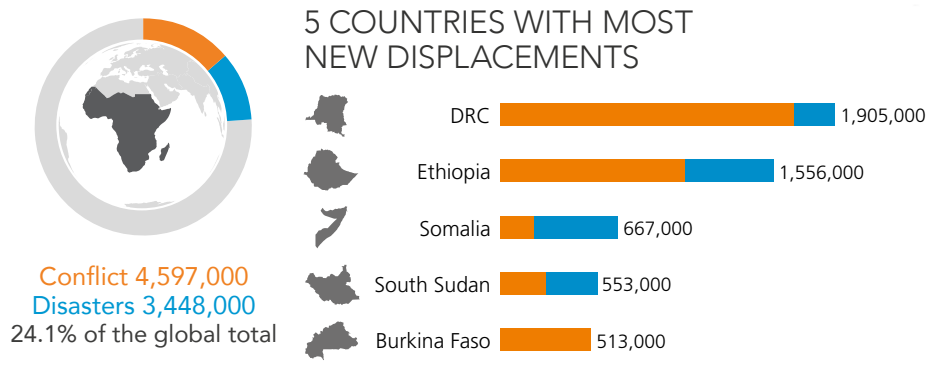
Sub-Saharan Africa was once again the region most affected by conflict displacement in 2019. Armed conflict, communal violence and jihadist attacks continued in several countries, some of which are struggling to deal with protracted crises. Widespread poverty, longstanding economic stagnation, lack of development, competition over diminishing resources and the effects of climate change are among the factors that increase the risk of displacement.

The same factors also aggravate its impacts, heightening and prolonging IDPs' vulnerability. Around 19.2 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of 2019, the highest figure in the world and the highest ever recorded for the region.

Historical data shows that internal displacement associated with conflict and violence has increased in sub-Saharan Africa over the past decade (see Figure 11). There were 4.6 million new displacements recorded in 2019, accounting for nearly 54 per cent of the global total. Jihadist groups operating in the Sahel region escalated their attacks and triggered mass displacement in countries including Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger (see The Sahel spotlight, p.23).

Boko Haram's insurgency, now in its tenth year, and operations against the group continued to trigger significant new displacement and prolong its duration across the Lake Chad basin, a region that also has to contend with environmental degradation and desertification.

Many countries in Central Africa continued to suffer the effects of communal conflicts, while the interlinked triggers of conflict and climate change in East Africa forced people to flee their homes in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.

Figures for displacement associated with disasters in sub-Saharan Africa are lower than for conflict and violence, but they are still cause for concern. The 3.4 million new displacements recorded in 2019 represent one of the highest figures ever for the region (see Figure 11). Unusually heavy rains caused widespread flooding in several countries, where a chronic accumulation of vulnerabilities and risks aggravated its impacts and fuelled displacement.

Countries in the East and Horn of Africa experienced one of the wettest rainy seasons in 40 years.[3] Flooding along the White Nile basin forced many people already displaced by conflict to flee again (see White Nile basin spotlight, p.27). Mozambique bore the brunt of cyclones Idai and Kenneth, which triggered hundreds of thousands of displacements and destroyed homes, infrastructure and crops. Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe were also hard hit (see Mozambique spotlight, p.25).

Nearly two million people were thought to be living in internal displacement as a result of disasters in sub-Saharan Africa as of the end of the year.

Central Africa

The region's most affected country in 2019 was the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, where ethnic tensions, local grievances and chronic poverty are the major drivers of internal displacement. Nearly 1.7 million new conflict displacements were reported during the year, compared with more than 1.8 million in 2018 and 2.2 million in 2017.

Clashes between the military and armed groups in the eastern province of North Kivu triggered 520,000 new displacements, primarily in Lubero and Rutshuru territories, and an upsurge in intercommunal violence between the Hema and Lendu communities triggered 453,000 in the north-eastern province of Ituri. There was also an escalation of conflict between armed groups and intercommunal violence in South Kivu, where 401,000 displacements were recorded, mainly in Mwenga and Fizi territories. Most of the people displaced were women and children.

The political situation in DRC remains tense, despite the fact that 2019 marked the first peaceful transition of power in the country's history.[4] The new government inherited a series of challenges, not least the activities of more than 100 armed groups in the east and ongoing conflict in other areas.[5] Around 5.5 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year, and around 15.9 million were expected to need humanitarian assistance in 2020.[6] The country also had to deal with its second largest Ebola outbreak, a measles outbreak and a cholera outbreak, which between them killed thousands of people.

Heavy rains and flooding affected 12 of DRC's 26 provinces between October and December.[7] The country as a whole recorded 233,000 new disaster displacements, the highest ever figure. Floods triggered 137,000 in Nord-Ubangui and Sud-Ubangui provinces, which border the Central African Republic (CAR), and Tshopo province was also badly affected. Around 168,000 people in DRC were thought to be living in displacement as a result of disasters as of the end of the year.

The government of **CAR** signed a peace deal with 14 armed groups in early February after more than two years of negotiations facilitated by the African Union.[8] Implementation is progressing despite several setbacks and disagreements that were resolved with help from the international community, and the number of new conflict displacements fell from 510,000 in 2018 to 96,000 in 2019. The security situation remains fragile, however, and IDPs' needs largely unmet.

The most serious violence of the year occurred in Birao in Vakaga prefecture, where 24,000 new displacements were recorded in September as a result of clashes between the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic and the Movement of Central

FIGURE 11: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa (2009-2019)
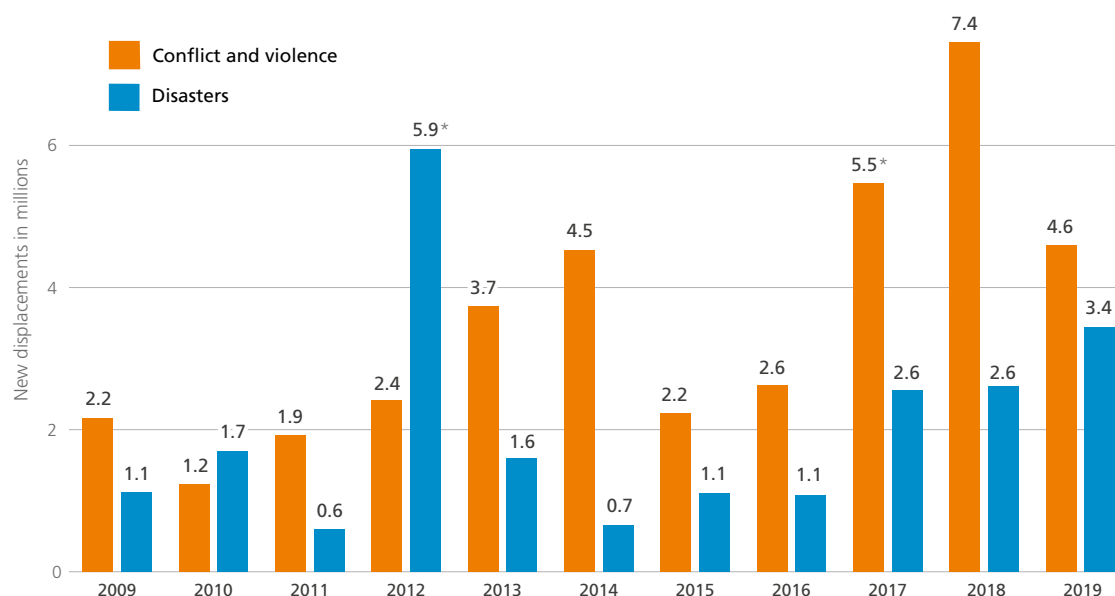
* Updated figures. For further details see methodological annex, available online.

African Freedom Fighters for Justice, both signatories to the peace deal.[9]

CAR also suffered its worst flooding in 20 years in 2019, and the capital Bangui was among the places hardest hit. About 102,000 new displacements were recorded across the country, and the floods caused extensive damage to infrastructure and livelihoods. More than 10,000 homes were destroyed, and wells and latrines overflowed.[10] About 6,700 hectares of farmland in Ouham prefecture were inundated, aggravating food insecurity. More than a third of CAR's population of 4.7 million were facing acute food insecurity and in need of emergency assistance as of the end of the year.[11]

The **Republic of Congo** was also hit by its worst floods in decades, which damaged or destroyed infrastructure, crops and livelihoods. The Ubangi and Congo rivers burst their banks between October and December, inundating hundreds of villages and triggering as many as 163,000 new displacements in the departments of Cuvette, Likouala, Plateaux and Sangha.[12]

Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration activities continued in the east of the country following the signing of a peace deal between the Ninja militia and the government in December 2017.[13] The region has regained stability since, but there were still around 134,000 people living in displacement as a result of the conflict at the end of the year, around 79,000 of them in Pool department.

The security situation in anglophone areas of **Cameroon** has been deteriorating for the last two years. Clashes between anglophone separatists and the security forces have increased in Northwest and Southwest regions, and they spilled over into West and Littoral regions in 2019.[14] Lack of access has impeded an accurate assessment of the number of new displacements, leading to a conservative estimate of 26,000. Boko Haram also continued its activities in Far North region, triggering around 40,000 new displacements during the year.

Despite the scale of displacement and the extent of people's needs, Cameroon's crisis is among the world's

A displaced family stand by their tents in the Gossi region of Timbuktu, Mali.
Photo: NRC/Togo Moise, February 2018

most neglected. Nearly a million people were living in internal displacement as of the end of the year, including in the relatively peaceful regions of Adamaoua and Centre region, which have increasingly become destinations for IDPs fleeing conflict in other areas of the country.

Lack of access also impeded an accurate assessment of disaster displacement in Cameroon, but in common with other countries in the region it experienced widespread flooding and landslides in 2019. Around 24,000 new displacements were recorded, but the figure should be considered an underestimate. The floods affected displacement camps in the Far North region, forcing some IDPs into secondary displacement.

No figures on internal displacement associated with Boko Haram's insurgency were available in neighbouring **Chad** until 2019, when improved monitoring mechanisms were put in place in Lac province. These revealed around 52,000 new displacements during the year.[15] Clashes between pastoralists and farmers in other provinces including Moyen-Chari, Ouaddai and Sila also forced people to flee their homes, bringing the number of new conflict displacements across the country as a whole to 58,000.

Around 30,000 new disaster displacements were also recorded. The most significant event was flooding in Salamat province in August. The Logone river and Lake Maga burst their banks, which affected not only areas of south-western Chad but also north-eastern Cameroon.

West Africa

Long-running conflict and violence persisted across **Nigeria** in 2019. Around 248,000 new conflict and violence displacements were recorded during the year, and nearly 2.6 million people were thought to be living in internal displacement as of 31 December. The government established the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development in August, an important step intended to improve the coordination and mobilisation of resources to prevent and respond to humanitarian and displacement crises.[16]

Boko Haram carried out a series of attacks in the north-eastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe during the year, triggering more than 105,000 new displacements.[17] More than 473,000 IDPs were living in camps without adequate shelter across the three states as of October, and another 34,000 were living out in the open.[18] Torrential rains also flooded several displacement camps, forcing many IDPs into secondary displacement. Insecurity has impeded humanitarian access and the response has been further stretched by the mass arrival of new IDPs, leaving many camps overwhelmed.[19]

Long-standing ethnic conflict between Fulani pastoralists and Hausa farmers in north-western Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara states triggered new displacements in 2019 as it took on new dynamics in the form of rural banditry and criminal violence. Around 178,000 people were living in internal displacement across the three states as of the end of the year.[20] Clashes between farmers and herders in the central states have also escalated in recent years, triggering 53,000 new displacements in 2019. The figure, however, should be considered an underestimate. The growing and shifting patterns of violence in both areas require better monitoring to ascertain the true scale of displacement.[21]

As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria is highly exposed to disasters, particularly floods. It is traversed by several major rivers that often burst their banks during the rainy season. Adamawa and Borno states, which were already affected by conflict, bore the brunt of flooding in 2019 during an exceptionally long rainy season. Flooding in the Niger river basin also destroyed almost 2,700 homes in Niger state in August and September. Disasters triggered around 157,000 new displacements across the country as whole, and were thought to have left about 143,000 people living in internal displacement as of the end of the year.

The security situation in **Burkina Faso**, a relatively peaceful country in recent years, deteriorated sharply in 2019, triggering an unprecedented 513,000 new displacements (see The Sahel spotlight, p.23). Jihadist militants, including al-Qaeda affiliates from neighbouring Mali, were quick to exploit the security vacuum left by the fall of the former president Blaise Compaoré in 2014, and a homegrown group known as Ansaroul Islam emerged in late 2016. Initially active in northern Soum region, the militants have spread by

tapping into local grievances in the east and south-west.[22] They launched near-daily attacks on the security forces in 2019, and as the state struggles to protect civilians, a growing number of self-defence militias have emerged, aggravating the situation still further.[23]

Violence in central **Mali** has been escalating since early 2018 and continued to do so last year. It has its roots in a long-standing crisis in the north, where Tuareg sepa-ratists and jihadist militants seized swathes of territory in 2012 following an attempted coup in Bamako.[24] A French-led military intervention pushed the militants back the following year, but they have since regrouped and expanded from the desert north into the country's fertile central regions (see The Sahel spotlight, p.23).

The government signed a peace agreement with a number of militias in 2015, but despite some progress in terms of social and economic development, political instability has impeded its implementation. The country has since had four prime ministers, and a series of cabinet reshuffles have undermined continuity.[25]

Mali is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Increasing variation in rainfall patterns, land degradation and erosion have disrupted many people's livelihoods. About 60 per cent of the population live in rural areas and rely on rain-fed agriculture. Around 400,000 people are thought to be affected by drought each year, and 500,000 by flooding.[26] There were 6,600 new disaster displacements in 2019, but limited data means the figure is conservative.

In neighbouring **Niger**, the eastern region of Diffa remains highly unstable. Boko Haram and other non-state armed groups carried out a series of attacks during the year, including one that triggered more than 18,000 new displacements in late March and early April.[27] The situation in the western states of Tahoua and Tillaberi is also cause for serious concern (see The Sahel spotlight, p.23).[28]

The government declared a state of emergency in all three states in mid-March, and the UN and a number of NGOs suspended their humanitarian operations in some areas for several weeks in early May.[29] Some have been able to resume their work since, but in a climate of violence and insecurity.

Extensive flooding triggered 121,000 new displace-ments in 2019, mainly in the capital Niamey and Diffa state. Drought is also a major trigger of displacement, but robust data is hard to come by. It is also difficult to distinguish drought and conflict as triggers, and in many areas they are interlinked. What is known is that ever more frequent and intense episodes of drought disrupt pastoralists' livelihoods to the extent that they become unsustainable, forcing many into displacement. Some farmers have no choice but to move seasonally to urban areas in search of alternative income.[30]

East and the Horn of Africa

There was a significant fall in the number of new displacements in **Ethiopia**, from 2.9 million in 2018 to over a million last year. Many IDPs, however, live in insecure areas with little or no access to basic services or humanitarian assistance, and a significant number have been displaced more than once. There were around 1.4 million people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year, also considerably fewer than in 2018.

The decreases are the result of a national steering committee led by the Ministry of Peace approving a three-phase plan in March to return all IDPs to their places of origin in the following months.[31] Implemen-tation began almost immediately, and 1.2 million IDPs were thought to have returned by the end of the year. Most displacement sites in Gedeo, West Guji and East and West Wollegas were dismantled.

Not everyone returned voluntarily, however, and many returnees encountered significant obstacles in re-estab-lishing their lives. Many found their homes damaged or destroyed or were confronted by other issues in trying to reclaim their property and land. Few have access to assistance or basic services, and farmers and small business owners whose livelihoods have been disrupted have received little support. Insecurity in some return areas has led to a significant number of secondary displacements.[32] Some IDPs went into hiding and sought to relocate themselves to avoid having to return to their areas of origin.[33]

Disasters triggered 504,000 new displacements in 2019. Around 190,000 were recorded during the first rainy season between April and June, and 177,000 during the second in October and November, when the rains were

The Horn of Africa experienced above-average rainfall that triggered widespread flooding. This man and his wife lost their home and shop in Lodwar, Turkana county, Kenya. © UNICEF/UNI250645/Chinyenze, December 2019

unusually heavy. Eastern and south-eastern parts of the country were affected by drought, particularly lowland pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas of Somali region, Oromia region, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' region (SNNP) and parts of Afar region.[34] The situation is of particular concern in Somali, where most of the 131,000 drought displacements recorded in Ethiopia last year took place. More frequent and intense episodes of drought had previously affected nearly 56,000 households in the region between 2015 and 2017.[35]

Internal displacement clearly represents a major challenge for the country, but there were important policy developments intended to address the phenomenon during the year. With support from the UN and the international community, the government launched a durable solutions initiative in December.[36] It provides a framework for the achievement of sustainable solutions to displacement, from the policy and legislative to the operational level.

The initiative acknowledges that internal displacement is a development priority that needs to be addressed through coordinated planning and action across sectors.[37] Given its recent launch, 2020 will begin to reveal the extent to which putting it into practice enables safe, voluntary and dignified returns. The government also organised a series of national consultations that culminated in Ethiopia ratifying the Kampala Convention in February 2020.[38]

Conflict and violence in **Somalia** triggered 188,000 new displacements in 2019, mainly in the south-east where the al-Shabaab militia, which is affiliated to al-Qaeda, has its stronghold. More than half were recorded in Lower Shabelle region as a result of clashes between the group and the Somali army supported by African Union forces. Persistent insecurity in rural areas impeded the provision of humanitarian aid, leading many people to flee to overcrowded camps in urban areas, mainly in Mogadishu, in search of refuge and assistance.[39] Tens of thousands of IDPs returned home during the year, but many only temporarily to work their land during the sowing and harvest seasons.[40]

Disasters triggered 479,000 new displacements. In common with other countries in East Africa, Somalia was affected by widespread flooding in the second half of 2019 during an unusually wet rainy season influenced by El Niño. About a quarter of the displacements took place in Belet Weyn city in Hiraan state.[41] Other regions were affected by drought, which triggered around 60,000 new displacements.

Internal displacement is fuelling Somalia's rapid urbanisation, as people who struggle to survive and make a living in rural areas seek opportunities in urban areas.[42]

Communities affected by Cyclone Idai test out the first drops of water from a new water point installed by the Spanish Red Cross. The cyclone has left many people in Mozambique at risk of disease.
Photo : IFRC/Corrie Butler, May 2019

Many, however, establish themselves in informal settlements where they are at high risk of eviction. More than 264,000 people, most of them IDPs, were evicted during the year, making forced evictions one of the main triggers of secondary displacement in the country.

In response to the new and protracted displacement across the country, the government launched a durable solutions initiative (DSI) with UN support in 2016.[43] In 2019 it established an inter-ministerial durable solutions secretariat, ratified the Kampala Convention and approved a national policy on IDPs and returning refugees.[44] Somalia's DSI has been a significant catalyst for these and other developments, leading the government to fully own the country's response to internal displacement, and providing an example for others to follow.

Unprecedented flooding in the East Africa, particularly **Ethiopia**, **Kenya** and **Somalia**, not only triggered widespread displacement but also established conditions for a locust infestation that caused damage across the region. This further eroded people's livelihoods and negatively affected food security.[45] Away from the headlines, the floods also displaced hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people along the White Nile basin, in many cases forcing IDPs who had already fled conflict into secondary displacement (see White Nile basin spotlight, p.27).

The most affected country along the basin was **South Sudan,** where the floods were described as the worst in the country's history.[46] They triggered 98 per cent of the 294,000 new disaster displacements recorded in 2019, and left around 246,000 people still living in displacement as of the end of the year.

The signing of a revitalised peace agreement between the government and a number of armed groups in September 2018 has led to a reduction in conflict and violence.[47] The number of associated new displacements also fell from 321,000 in 2018 to 259,000 in 2019, but there were still 1.4 million people living in internal displacement as of the end of the year. Implementation of the agreement has been slow and there was an increase in violence and displacement in the second half of 2019, but the formation of a unity government in February 2020 has rekindled hopes of lasting peace.[48]

The tense political situation in **Sudan** aggravated ethnic and intercommunal disputes over scarce resources during the year. Clashes in East and Central Darfur and White Nile state triggered nearly 10,000 new displacements in May and June. Violence between Massalit and Arab communities in West Darfur in the last two weeks of December also triggered more than 46,000. There were 84,000 new conflict displacements recorded across the country as a whole, and more than 2.1 million people living in internal displacement as of the end of the year.

The number of disaster displacements in 2019 was among the highest recorded for Sudan, and the vast majority were triggered by flooding in White Nile state.[49] The floods also led to a cholera outbreak in Blue Nile, Gezira, Khartoum and Sennar states (see White Nile basin spotlight, p.27).[50]

Disasters triggered 130,000 new displacements in **Uganda** in 2019, mainly in Bukedi, Sironko and Teso regions, and 74,000 in **Kenya**. The latter figure includes 10,000 recorded in West Pokot county, which was hit by landslides in November. The two countries also recorded 2,300 and 1,800 displacements respectively triggered by localised intercommunal violence.

The small landlocked countries of **Burundi** and **Rwanda** experienced significant disaster displacement. Storms, heavy rains and landslides triggered 25,000 new displacements in Burundi, which peaked in November and December. About 6,000 people were evacuated pre-emptively from high-risk areas of Rwanda in December to escape the onset of heavy rains.[51]

Southern Africa

Mozambique bore the brunt of two unusually powerful storms in 2019 that triggered hundreds of thousands of new displacements, and left around 132,000 people still displaced as of the end of the year. The impacts of cyclones Idai and Kenneth were also felt in Comoros, Malawi and Zimbabwe (see Mozambique spotlight, p.25).[52]

Kenneth triggered around 24,000 new displacements in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, where its impacts were aggravated by an escalating conflict between government forces and jihadist militias. There were more than 160 attacks in 2019, compared with 60

in 2018 and six in 2017.[53] Around 5,300 new displacements were recorded, but the figure should be considered an underestimate given the difficulties in gathering data on highly localised incidents of violence. Many people fled to neighbouring provinces or across the border into Tanzania. Others sought shelter on islands off the coast of Cabo Delgado.[54] Violence and displacement increased around the time of elections in October, and some IDPs were unable to vote in their registered polling stations.[55]

Kenneth also hit **Comoros** hard, destroying about 4,600 homes and affecting people who were already poor and vulnerable, mostly on the island of Grand Comore. Around 19,000 disaster displacements were recorded during the year. The situation on Comoros received little media attention, but damages and losses were put at $185 million, and recovery and reconstruction costs could be as high as $277 million.[56]

Idai struck **Malawi** before it strengthened into a tropical cyclone, but it still triggered around 110,000 new displacements in Southern region. After later wreaking chaos in Mozambique it also triggered 51,000 in **Zimbabwe**, mainly in the rural districts of Chimanimani and Chipinge in Manicaland province. Extensive crop losses aggravated an already fragile food security situation in the area after an extended period of drought.[57] It was not possible to obtain drought displacement figures either for Zimbabwe or the wider region, which has been suffering episodes of severe drought for the last five years. However, evidence shows that its impacts have been widespread, and that they are playing a role in heightening people's vulnerabilities.[58]

THE SAHEL

A deepening crisis of regional dimensions

The Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa suffered a sharp increase in violence and mass displacement in 2019. A number of jihadist groups have become increasingly active in border areas between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, commonly known as the Liptako Gourma region, carrying out attacks, stoking communal and ethnic violence, and raising concerns about a major and escalating security challenge with regional implications. Boko Haram's insurgency and military offensives against the group have also continued to force people to flee their homes in the Lake Chad basin.[59] Around 854,000 new internal displacements were recorded across the three countries in 2019.

The jihadist groups, which are local but globally oriented, have spent years exploiting local grievances, laying the ground for armed insurgencies to emerge and expand. Some of the disputes involve access to land and water, but many attacks are part of efforts to root out individuals linked to one extremist group or another, or to take revenge for previous violence. The militants have also taken advantage of porous borders and the absence of government forces. They have forcibly recruited people, laid siege to villages, burned homes, destroyed the livelihoods of whole communities and perpetrated severe human rights violations.[60]

The security situation in Mali has been deteriorating since 2013.[61] Islamist militants have regrouped in the desert north and expanded into the fertile centre of the country. They have gained ground by recruiting from the Fulani community, nomadic herders left behind by government and development programmes that favour agriculture. Long-standing grievances between Dogon farmers and Fulani herders over land and resources have also increased considerably.[62] More than 290,000 new internal displacements were recorded in 2019, most of them triggered by escalating communal violence in Mopti and Gao. The two regions currently host the largest numbers of IDPs, of whom there were 208,000 across the country as a whole as of the end of the year.

Insecurity has also spread to eastern and southern regions of neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso, where different armed groups are using similar methods to recruit and expand. The situation in Niger is of particular concern because the country sits at a dangerous crossroad of violence, surrounded on all sides by countries facing security crises. The eastern region of Diffa has suffered the effects of Boko Haram's insurgency for a decade, and the government has also been forced to step up military activity and protection efforts in the western regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua in response to escalating violence and displacement, particularly over the last two years.[63]

There are worrying signs that the dynamics of these two separate conflict hotspots are becoming more intertwined, and that Niger may form a potential bridge between them.[64] There were 57,000 new internal displacements, due to conflict and violence, recorded in the country last year, of which 26,000 were in Tillaberi and Tahoua.

It is Burkina Faso, however, which faces the most alarming security situation.[65] Violence spread from northern to eastern regions of the country in 2019, triggering 513,000 new displacements, a ten-fold increase on the figure from 2018. Around 560,000 people were living in internal displacement as of the end of the year. Communities have been generous in hosting displaced people, but the country's infrastructure is poor, the government has struggled to respond to IDPs' largely unmet needs and the international community has paid little attention to the crisis.[66]

Access to health services and education has deteriorated, and IDPs are in urgent need of protection. There are more than twice as many displaced women as men, and many have been subjected to abuse and sexual violence. There are particular concerns about the protection of women in hard-to-reach areas where violence goes unchecked.[67]

The presence and influence of armed groups is growing in all three countries, and their shifting activities and the complex dynamics of the situation make it difficult for individual governments to rein in the insurgents. Military efforts to do so have also triggered significant displacement. New initiatives intended to respond more effectively to the crisis have emerged, including the creation in 2017 of the Joint Force of the Group of Five of the
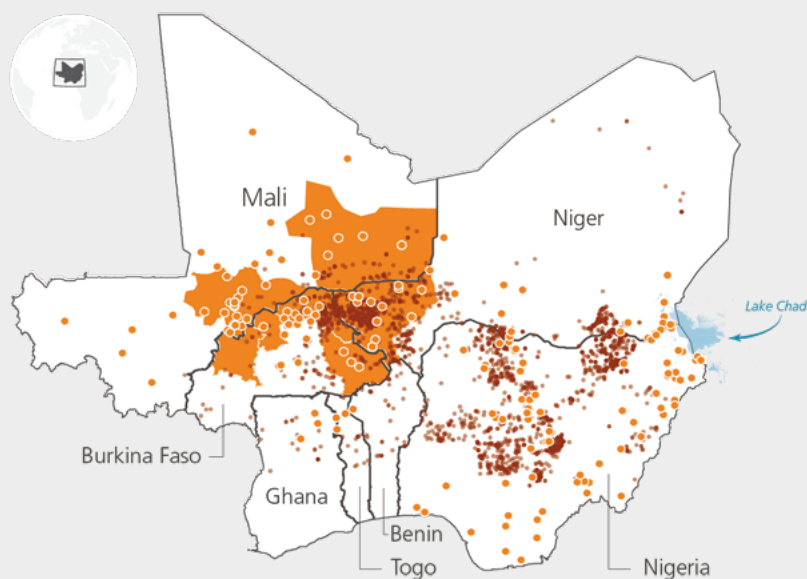
1.1 m new displacements in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo as a result of conflict and violence in 2019.

New displacements by country in 2019:

Country	New displacements
Burkina Faso	513,000
Mali	284,000
Nigeria	248,000
Niger	57,000
Ghana	2,300
Togo	2,000
Benin	190

- Conflict or violence events *
- Location of displacement events
- Liptako Gourma region

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.
*Source: ACLED events associated with air/drone strikes, armed clashes, attacks, looting/property destruction, non-state actor overtakes territory and shelling/artillery/missile attacks in 2019
Displacement data: ACLED, CMP, CONASUR, DRC, ECHO, IOM DTM, IRC, local authorities, local media, MSF, NADMO, OCHA, Protection Cluster, SEMA, REACH, RRM, UNHCR, 2019
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

Sahel (G5 Sahel) to fight jihadist violence and insecurity in the region with UN and African Union support.[68] Many challenges remain, however, and meanwhile there is a growing sense of fear among local communities, including those who have been displaced, prompted by the realisation that living in a conflict zone is becoming the new normal.[69]

There is also increasing concern that the violence and insecurity will spread further south to countries such as Benin, Ghana and Togo. Attacks by Fulani militias triggered new displacements in Benin's northern Atacora region in 2019. Further west, a land dispute between Gangan and Tchokossi communities in northern Togo triggered as many as 2,000 new displacements in late June, and intercommunal violence and clashes forced people to flee their homes in northern Ghana between January and May.

If violence continues to spread into previously calm countries, much more displacement is only to be expected. More efforts to address the main triggers and drivers of conflict across the Sahel are required if the current situation is to be prevented from spiralling into a new regional crisis.

MOZAMBIQUE

The long-term impacts of cyclones Idai and Kenneth

After an extended drought that halved agricultural production and caused widespread food insecurity, two powerful tropical storms wreaked havoc across southern Africa in 2019. Cyclones Idai and Kenneth were unprecedented in the region, and triggered 640,000 and 45,000 displacements respectively. Countries including Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe were hard hit, but it was Mozambique that suffered the worst of the damage and where most of the displacement was recorded.[70]

First to strike was Idai, which as a tropical depression caused severe flooding and forced tens of thousands of people to flee in northern Mozambique and Malawi in early March. It then moved out to sea, where it developed into an intense tropical cyclone equivalent to a category two hurricane.[71] Idai then skirted the west coast of Madagascar before moving back toward Mozambique, where it made landfall on 15 March near the coastal city of Beira, home to 500,000 people. About 90 per cent of the city was damaged, and much of it destroyed. Most of the people displaced were from poor and vulnerable communities living in informal settlements ill-equipped to withstand the ravages of the storm.[72]

As it moved inland, Idai cut across the central provinces of Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia and then neighbouring Zimbabwe, damaging crops and displacing whole rural communities.[73] The storm triggered around 478,000 displacements in Mozambique and left millions in need of humanitarian assistance. More than 93,500 people were still displaced in 71 resettlement sites in the four central provinces as of the end of the year.[74]

Cyclone Kenneth, the equivalent of a category four hurricane, struck just over a month after Idai, between 23 and 29 April. It developed in the Indian Ocean and hit Comoros and Mayotte before making landfall in the province of Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique. Kenneth triggered significantly fewer displacements than Idai, but it was the most powerful cyclone to hit Africa since records began with gusts of up to 220 km/h.[75] An ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado, where several Islamic militias have been attacking and displacing people since 2017, added to the challenges brought on by the disaster. The conflict slowed down the delivery of aid to those affected and is a significant barrier to recovery and reconstruction efforts.[76]

A number of factors combined to make Idai and Kenneth among the most devastating disasters the region has experienced. International meteorological services projected the intensity and path of both storms and national authorities declared them emergencies, but local early warning systems proved ineffective. Few people evacuated from high-risk areas before either made landfall.[77] Even after the wrath of Idai, there was little evidence of displacement being pre-emptive as Kenneth approached. Most people moved during or after the storm, once their homes had been damaged or destroyed.[78]

Both storms also struck places where people were already living in vulnerable conditions. Poor communities in urban areas such as Beira were disproportionately affected and had little capacity to recover and rebuild.[79] Millions of people in rural areas were already facing food insecurity as a result of drought, and the storms only served to aggravate the situation. Harvests and seed stocks were decimated, leaving many farmers unable to sustain their livelihoods. Across the regions affected most people rely on agriculture for a living.[80] Around 67,500 children were facing malnutrition in the country as of the end of the year, and 2.5 million people - or 10 per cent of the country's population - were in need of humanitarian assistance.[81]

As the emergency phase of the response to Idai and Kenneth receded, new challenges emerged, including the resettlement of IDPs in areas at less risk from future disasters. With support from international organisations, the government designated areas it deemed suitable for habitation. About 89,000 people in Manica, Tete and Zambezia provinces were resettled in new sites and allocated plots of land on which to build new homes and farms.[82]

Many of the plots, however, have proved unsuitable for agriculture, leaving many still dependent on food aid.[83] Many of the resettlement sites were also affected when the rainy season arrived toward the end of the year. Downpours destroyed hundreds of tents and emergency
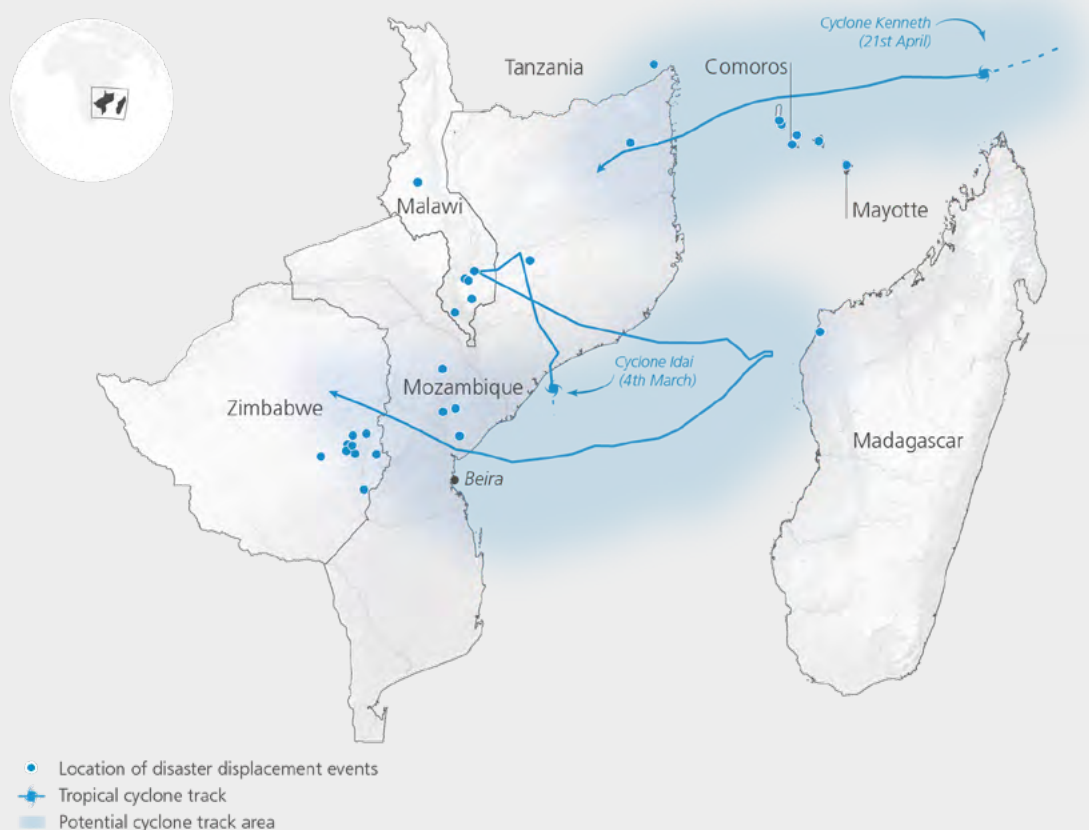
shelters, triggering more than 2,800 secondary displacements between December 2019 and January 2020.[84] This trend continued during the first months of 2020.

Basic humanitarian needs such as food, water and shelter were still unmet across Mozambique several months after the disasters. Only 11 per cent of people surveyed in resettlement sites said they planned to live there permanently, and most cited precarious living conditions, a lack of livelihood opportunities and poor access to basic services as the main reasons. Displaced children and young people, who make up the majority of those in resettlement sites, also struggled to restart their education.[85]

Cyclones Idai and Kenneth show that the impacts of climate change and variability are most acutely felt by people who are already vulnerable, highly exposed and unprepared to respond. Disaster risk reduction measures, including better early warning systems and contingency plans, and the building of climate-resilient infrastructure, are vital if the risk of future displacement is to be reduced.

Significant numbers of people are also still living in displacement as a result of the two storms, and it is clear that humanitarian assistance alone will not address the challenges they face. Mozambique's government and international organisations are planning for the kind of long-term investment needed for reconstruction and the pursuit of durable solutions.[86] Whether these efforts bear fruit remains to be seen and will depend on sustained commitment at all levels.

- Location of disaster displacement events
- Tropical cyclone track
- Potential cyclone track area

New displacements by country in 2019:

Country	New displacements
Mozambique	502,000
Malawi	110,000
Zimbabwe	51,000
Comoros	19,000
Tanzania	1,000
Madagascar	500
Mayotte	450

Cyclones Idai and Kenneth triggered around **685,000** new displacements in Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mayotte, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.
Sources: Local authorities, relief workers, local media, OCHA, Red Cross, INGC, IOM, ECHO and DODMA, 2019. Cyclone data from GDACS, 2019
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

WHITE NILE BASIN

Chronic impacts, cyclical displacement

Floods triggered 73 per cent of the 3.4 million new displacements associated with disasters across sub-Saharan Africa in 2019. Ethiopia, Somalia and Mozambique recorded some of the highest figures. Relative to population size, however, the situation in several areas of the White Nile river basin was cause for particular concern. This includes parts of Uganda, South Sudan, the contested Abyei Area and Sudan, where the people affected were already highly vulnerable in social and economic terms.

Heavy rains caused the White Nile and its tributaries to burst their banks several times during the year, triggering a combined total of more than 700,000 new displacements. Some people already displaced by conflict and violence were forced to flee again by the floods, which made few media headlines and attracted little international attention despite their widespread impacts.

The White Nile basin is 3,700 kilometres long and covers about 1.8 million square kilometres. Different rainy seasons take place along the territories it cuts through, and floods are not uncommon. The river flows from the Ugandan highlands to the vast floodplains of South Sudan, which are home to one of Africa's largest wetlands, known as the Sudd. Its ecosystem supports farming and pastoral cultures and major wildlife migrations.[87]

A complex combination of social, economic and political pressures are at play in this vulnerable sub-region. The river basin has been subject to decades of significant transformation, including for the irrigation of ever greater expanses of cultivated land, the construction of hydropower dams and urban expansion, all of which have increased the risk of disasters.[88] Ongoing conflict, weak governance and political instability in different

New displacements by country or territory in 2019:
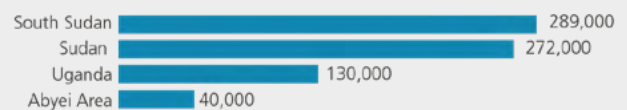
South Sudan	289,000
Sudan	272,000
Uganda	130,000
Abyei Area	40,000

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.
Sources: Local authorities, IFRC, OCHA, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, Save the Children and UN, 2019

The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

areas also contribute to making the White Nile basin a displacement risk hotspot.[89] Last year's floods were not a single disaster, but rather several events of varying intensity that had different impacts on communities along the basin.

Upstream in Uganda, rainy season downpours led to localised floods and landslides, triggering 130,000 displacements. Government regulations seek to avert the construction of housing in high-risk areas and there are plans to relocate populations, but people have continued to establish themselves in informal settlements on steep slopes where the risk of landslides is high. When the rains came, thousands were forced to flee as a result.[90]

Floods triggered 289,000 displacements in South Sudan, many involving people already internally displaced by

conflict and Sudanese refugees who were sheltering in at-risk areas and who became displaced for a second time.[91] Local communities were also forced to flee, crops were damaged and livestock lost. This aggravated food insecurity in areas where malnutrition levels were already high.[92] The floods contaminated the majority of water sources, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera.[93] Submerged roads also delayed the provision of humanitarian aid significantly.[94]

South Sudan's Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management put a two-year strategic plan in place in 2018 that acknowledged the need to address the challenges brought on by the combination of disasters and conflict.[95] The events of 2019, however, revealed the continuing limitations in efforts to prevent and respond to disasters in areas affected by conflict. They also raised concerns about the extent to which humanitarian crises put the brakes on recent peacebuilding and recovery gains.[96]

Further north in the contested Abyei Area, unprecedented rains and floods destroyed at least 5,000 homes and triggered more than 40,000 new displacements, accounting for about a third of the population.[97] Abyei is also home to 31,000 people living in protracted displacement as result of conflict. Many have been doing so for years, and some for decades. The majority were staying in temporary shelters unable to withstand months of heavy downpours and strong winds, and many IDPs were forced into secondary displacement as a result. People who had previously fled conflict in South Sudan were also displaced for a second, and in some cases a third time.[98]

The floods destroyed roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. They also severely damaged farmland, reducing agricultural production. With access routes cut, many communities were isolated for extended periods and local markets were also affected. Fewer than ten per cent of displaced households had livestock or food stocks, meaning the majority had to restrict themselves to one meal a day.[99] The lack of adequate shelter and access to livelihoods and the ongoing risk of further displacement only served to aggravate people's already precarious living conditions.[100]

Flooding in Sudan triggered 272,000 new displacements, most of which were recorded in White Nile state over the period of a few weeks. More than 16,500 homes were destroyed across the state.[101] Some people

without social or family networks struggled to find shelter, and some families were reported as having to sleep in the open air. Both IDPs and refugees from South Sudan were among those displaced. Food insecurity also increased.[102]

The disaster took place on top of a major political transition. The country's president of three decades, Omar al-Bashir, was deposed in April following months of protests over an economic crisis. A transitional government was finally put in place in August, at the height of the flooding, which slowed down the coordination of response efforts.[103] Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission activated the country's flood steering committee and task force, but they were unable to cope with the situation and UN and civil society organisations had to provide support for those affected.[104]
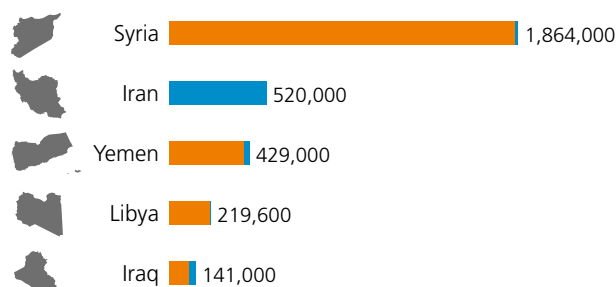
The displacement triggered along the White Nile basin in 2019 shows that disasters can have devastating outcomes when they hit vulnerable communities in politically fragile countries where unsustainable development practices, environmental change and weak governance heighten disaster displacement risk. When conflict and insecurity are also factors, impacts can become chronic and cyclical, as seen with IDPs and refugees forced to flee for a second or third time. Ongoing peacebuilding efforts will have to be reinforced and sustainable development planning and disaster risk reduction supported across the basin to avert what for many has become a downward spiral of vulnerability and displacement risk.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Country		Displacements
Syria		1,864,000
Iran		520,000
Yemen		429,000
Libya		219,600
Iraq		141,000
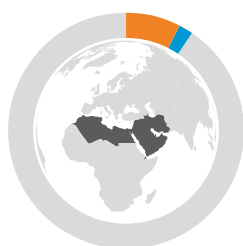
Conflict 2,566,000
Disasters 631,000
9.6% of the global total

The Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) accounts for more than a quarter of people internally displaced by conflict and violence globally. The vast majority are in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, three countries embroiled in protracted conflicts that have triggered mass population movements

Other countries in the region unaffected by conflict displacement are hosting large numbers of refugees. Whether displaced in their home countries or abroad, most people live in protracted conditions, and ongoing violence and disasters put many at risk of secondary displacement. The situation represents a major barrier to development in MENA and a driver of further instability and risk.[105] Around 12.5 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence across the region as of the end of the year.

There has been an overall increase in the number of new displacements associated with conflict and violence in the region over the last decade, and particularly since the 2011 Arab spring (see Figure 12). There were 2.6 million recorded in 2019. Figures for Iraq were slightly lower than the decade average as the country's conflict wanes, but the fighting in Syria is far from over and more new displacements were recorded in 2019 than in 2018 (see Syria spotlight, p.35).

MENA is also prone to natural hazards, and Iran was particularly hard hit in 2019. Flooding triggered more than 600,000 new displacements in the region. Severe winter weather including cold snaps, snowstorms and floods also forced people to flee their homes in Algeria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, but data on disaster displacement in the region is sparse and estimates of its scale are conservative. These hazards often strike vulnerable communities, including people already displaced by conflict. Humanitarian agencies have worked to make displacement sites more resilient, but secondary displacements triggered by floods and storms still took place in Iraq, Syria and Yemen.[106]

Syria

The Syrian conflict, now in its tenth year, triggered 1.8 million new displacements in 2019, mostly the result of military offensives in the north-east and north-west of the country. Around 6.5 million people were living in internal displacement as of the end of the year. Another 5.6 million people have fled the country, meaning that more than half of its pre-war population has been displaced.[107]

Clashes between the Syrian Democratic Forces and ISIS in Hajjin and Baghouz in the eastern governorate of Deir ez Zor triggered around 125,000 new displacements in the first quarter of the year. More than half of those who fled made for Al Hol camp in Al Hasakeh, stretching its capacity to its limits.

The now failed de-escalation zone established in the border areas between Idlib and Hama in 2018 also became a conflict and displacement hotspot in 2019.[108] Shelling triggered about 100,000 new displacements

between January and April, followed by an escalation in fighting that continued for the rest of the year.

Idlib governorate became the main theatre of conflict and the scene of a major humanitarian crisis, the result of extremely limited access and the fact the Turkish border was and still is closed, leaving people with few if any options to escape the fighting.[109] Turkey's widely condemned incursion into north-eastern Syria also triggered more than 220,000 new displacements in just over two weeks, mainly from Kurdish border towns (see Syria spotlight, p.35).

Flooding in several areas of the country triggered 17,000 new displacements in March and December, mainly in Al Hasakeh and Idlib governorates.[110] Most of the people affected were IDPs living in camps who were forced into secondary displacement when their tents and personal belongings were swept away.

Yemen

Conflict and violence triggered 398,000 new displacements in Yemen in 2019, almost double the figure for the previous year, which was partly influenced by improved data collection and access. Most displacement took place in Al Dhale, Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates. For many of the people affected it was not the first time they had fled, each displacement heightening their vulnerabilities.

Efforts to reach political solutions helped to relieve the situation in some areas of the country. The internationally-recognised government and Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthi movement, signed the Stockholm Agreement in December 2018 to establish a demilitarised zone around Yemen's main port of Hodeidah.[111] It was not until May that fighters began to withdraw, but when they did the number of new displacements in the area dropped from 31,000 in the first five months of 2019 to 8,000 during the rest of the year.[112]

The end of the year also brought new hope as the wider conflict also showed signs of de-escalating. The Southern Transitional Council (STC), a political group that emerged in 2017 demanding the establishment of an independent federal state in southern Yemen, signed a power-sharing deal with the government in November. Saudi Arabia separately agreed a truce with Ansar Allah the same month.[113]

Riyadh for its part eased restrictions on Yemeni airspace to allow people to be flown out of the rebel-held capital Sana'a for medical treatment abroad. Ansar Allah announced that attacks on Saudi Arabia would be halted in return, and a broader initiative between the two sides to further pacify the situation was under discussion in December.[114]

Despite these promising developments, Yemen's crisis is still the world's most acute. Nearly 80 per cent of the

FIGURE 12: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in Middle East and North Africa (2009-2019)
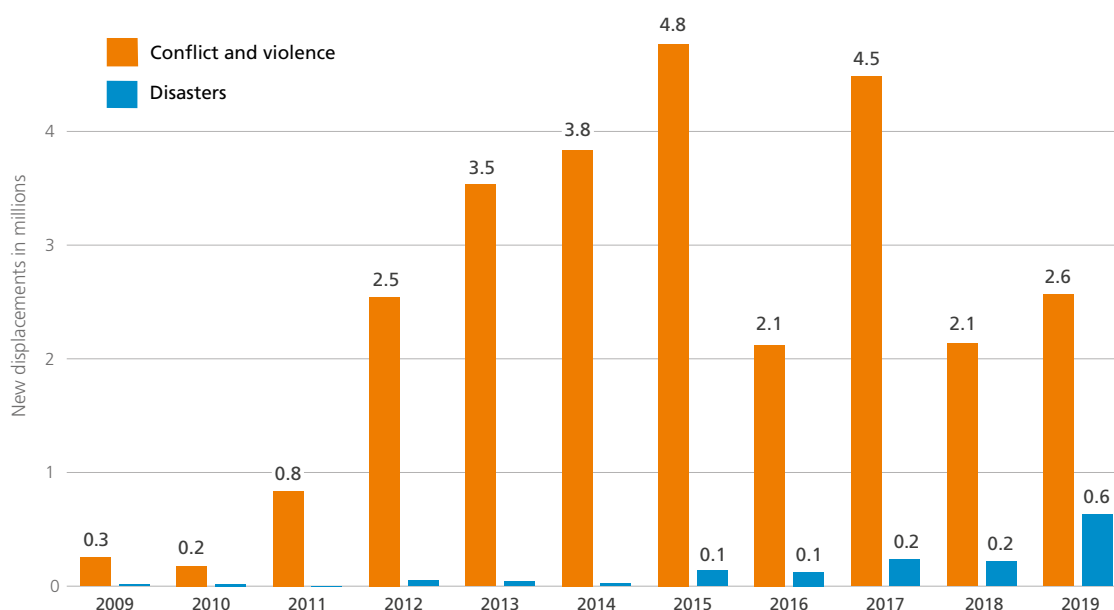
population were in need of humanitarian assistanceas of the end of the year, and 3.6 million people were living in internal displacement, an increase of more than a third on the figure since 2018.[115]

Part of the increase in the number of IDPs is the result of better geographical coverage in terms of data collection, but it also reflects the continuing scale of displacement as local response capacity is overwhelmed and humanitarian access deteriorates.[116] More than half of the country's displaced households live in rented accommodation, but 35 per cent live in vulnerable conditions in informal settlements, collective centres, public buildings, tents and even out in the open.[117] The de-escalation of fighting in some parts of the country has also increased the risk of IDPs being evicted, as happened in the city of Marib.[118]

Disasters triggered 31,000 new displacements in 2019. Twelve of the country's 22 governorates experienced heavy rainfall that led to flash flooding in mid-May.[119] The floods destroyed tents in displacement settlements, triggering around 3,000 secondary displacements. The rains intensified at the end of July, and further flooding triggered 13,000 new displacements in the weeks that followed. Most western governorates were affected, but Hodeidah and Al Mahwit were the hardest hit. IDPs and host communities lost their homes, shelters, livestock and livelihoods.[120]

Flooding also damaged displacement sites in Aden city, Tuban in Lahj governorate and Khanfir in Abyan in September, triggering 15,000 secondary displacements.[121] Storms struck the country in the latter part of the year, but displacement figures were hard to come by. Cyclone Kyarr hit in October and was the most powerful on the Arabian-peninsula in 12 years. Cyclone Maha in November and Pawan in December also hit the country.[122]

Libya

The conflict between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli intensified in 2019. Around 215,000 new displacements were recorded as a result, three times the figure for the previous year and the highest since 2014. Most of the fighting took place in and around the capital after 4 April, when the LNA's commander, Khalifa Haftar, launched an offensive on

the city.[123] The conflict triggered as many as 170,000 new displacements as people fled to safer neighbourhoods, the Nafusa mountains and various locations along the north-west coast. Almost a half of those displaced were under 18, and most sought shelter with host families.[124]

Fierce fighting between the two parties spread to the southern city of Murzuq in August. It included heavy aerial bombardments and numerous attacks on residential neighbourhoods, leading to one of the largest losses of civilian life since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.[125] Almost all of the city's 33,000 inhabitants fled the area. There was also heavy fighting around Tripoli toward the end of the year, and around 451,000 people were living in internal displacement as of 31 December.

The events of 2019 suggest that the war in Libya has entered a new phase. What used to be a low intensity conflict now involves the use of sophisticated weaponry including guided missiles and drones, despite a UN arms embargo on the country. The increasing number of foreign mercenaries fighting on both sides has also enhanced their military capabilities. As the conflict escalates, several countries have called for a ceasefire and raised concerns about growing foreign interference.[126] The German government hosted a summit in Berlin in January 2020 in an effort to limit such interference and shore up the UN arms embargo. An agreement was reached among foreign powers, but the situation in Libya remains extremely fragile.[127]

Severe flooding in the municipality of Ghat and surrounding areas of south-western Fezzan region triggered more than 4,600 new displacements in early June. The floodwaters were up to two metres deep in some areas, and caused severe damage to infrastructure and farmland vital to local livelihoods.[128] A third of the people displaced sought refuge in collective shelters, and the remainder in schools or with friends and relatives.[129] There was no further information available about their conditions.

Iran

Disasters triggered more than 520,000 new displacements in Iran in 2019, by far the highest figure in the region. Torrential rains and floods between mid-March and mid-April caught local people and the water management authorities by surprise, particularly as they

A girl stands at a displacement site where her family is constructing a hut in Abs, Hajjah governorate, Yemen. Photo © UNHCR/Ibrahim Al-Ja'adi, May 2019

came after a long period of drought.[130] The rains began in the northern province of Golestan before moving to south and west, bringing floods to 28 of the country's 31 provinces.

The disaster was described as the worst to hit the country in more than 15 years. More than 2,000 towns and villages, home to more than 10 million people, were affected.[131] Golestan received about 70 per cent of its annual rainfall in 24 hours, and the provinces of Lorestan and oil-rich Khuzestan were also hard hit. The government struggled to react quickly enough to the threat the rains posed, and had to release water from dam reservoirs that flooded farmland and in some cases densely populated areas.[132] Around 180,000 people were still living in displacement at the of the year as a result of the disaster.

Iran is also prone to frequent and powerful earthquakes because of its location at the junction of the Eurasian and Arabian tectonic plates.[133] Three major earthquakes struck the country in 2019, triggering 14,000 new displacements. The most powerful was a 5.9 magnitude quake on 8 November which triggered 13,000 new displacements in East Azerbaijan province.

Palestine

The West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza recorded 1,500 new displacements in 2019, bringing the number of IDPs in Palestine as of the end of the year to 243,000. Housing demolitions, forced evictions, the confiscation of property and acts of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers and the military all forced people to flee their homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Violence also flared up in Gaza in early May and mid-November, leading to the destruction of many homes and the displacement of hundreds of people.[134]

More Palestinian houses were demolished in East Jerusalem in 2019 than in any of the past 15 years, and people living in Area C, East Jerusalem and Hebron are at high risk of eviction.[135] Reports of settlement expansion, settler violence and access restrictions also increased during the year.[136] The establishment of Israeli settlements in Palestine, including East Jerusalem, constitutes a violation of international law, but the number of such projects is expected to rise.[137] The political landscape in Israel and the content of a US plan for the Middle East announced in early 2020 raise concern about an increase in expulsions and displacement in the West Bank.[138]

Iraq

Conflict in Iraq waned in 2019 and the number of new displacements fell to 104,000 as a result. The number of people living in displacement as of the end of the year also declined to 1.6 million from two million in 2018 and 2.6 million in 2017.[139] This illustrates the commendable efforts the government has made to reduce the phenomenon.

That said, 78 per cent of the country's remaining IDPs have been displaced for more than three years, and the pace of returns slowed in 2019 as a result of insecurity, social unrest and a lack of livelihood opportunities and basic services in some areas (see Iraq spotlight, p.37).[140]

Storms and flooding triggered more than 37,000 new displacements along the course of the Tigris river during the year. The Tigris, the Euphrates and their tributaries burst their banks and flood the surrounding plains and urban areas every year. The country has an extensive network of dams and canals that are key to energy generation and irrigation in otherwise arid and semi-desert areas, which may have contributed at increasing flood risk.[141] Storms also affected several governorates bordering Iran.[142]

Water scarcity is also a problem in southern Iraq, where shortages increase pollution and undermine people's livelihoods. Around 34,000 people were estimated to be displaced in January 2019 from the four governorates of Basra, Missan, Muthanna and, Thi-Qar because of water shortages. Many of those affected moved to urban areas, and the scale of displacement has shaped the landscape of some mid-sized towns and cities. For example, new arrivals from rural areas have fuelled rapid population growth and urbanisation in Basra city over the last decade as agricultural livelihoods have dwindled. Its water and sanitation infrastructure, however, has struggled to cope.[143]

A displaced man from Hawja town, at the Laylan camp in Kirkuk, Iraq.
Photo: NRC/Alan Ayoubi, February 2019

SYRIA

No safe place to return to

The Syrian government continued to make territorial gains in the country's nine-year civil war in 2019.[144] A series of military offensives against non-state armed groups pushed the number of new displacements recorded during the year to 1.8 million, compared with 1.6 million in 2018 and 2.9 million in 2017. The figure is one of the highest annual totals since the conflict began. About 6.5 million people were living in internal displacement as the year drew to a close, many of them in dire conditions.

The most intense offensives of 2019 were those in the north-western governorate of Idlib and north-eastern areas of the country bordering Turkey. Each triggered the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom had already been displaced a number of times. The situation in Idlib was of most concern. The government had planned to retake parts of the governorate by force in 2018, but fears of the humanitarian crisis it might trigger led Iran, Russia and Turkey to mediate a ceasefire.[145] Idlib remained one of the last areas controlled by non-government forces, including Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a listed terrorist organisation.[146]

The agreement did not hold, however, and the governorate - home to three million people, half of whom are IDPs - became the scene of unrelenting attacks that triggered mass displacement. Women and children, who make up more than three-quarters of Idlib's population, were particularly affected.[147] The Syrian army, backed by its allies, intensified its airstrikes and ground attacks toward the end of the year, and many people had to move a number of times in search of safety.

Several hospitals were bombed in clear violation of international law, and one airstrike hit a displacement camp in Qah, near the Turkish border, which was hosting about 4,000 IDPs.[148] Around 284,000 new displacements were recorded across the governorate in December alone. The figure of 1.2 million for the year as a whole accounted for 67 per cent of the total nationwide, and the situation continued to deteriorate in early 2020.[149]

*Sources: Institute for the Study of War (ISW) as of situation report 17-28 December and Reuters, 2019. Displacement data: Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme, IDP task force.
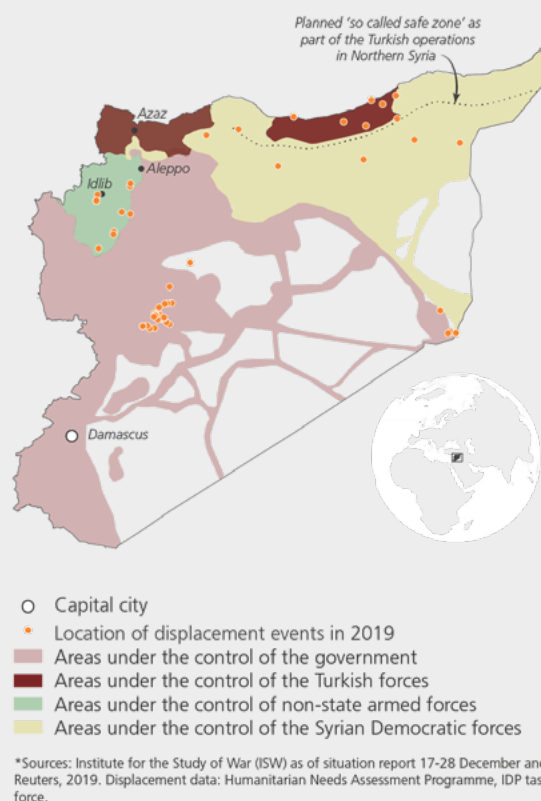
Another major development took place in the north-east of the country, home to 710,000 IDPs.[150] After the US announced the withdrawal of its troops in October, Syrian Democratic Forces fighters in the area found themselves with little military or diplomatic backup. Turkey launched a military operation known as Peace Spring soon after. Ankara said the main objective of the operation was to establish a "safe zone" inside Syria of about 3,600 square kilometres where refugees living in Turkey would potentially be returned and resettled.[151]

The Turkish army crossed into Syria in a widely condemned offensive that triggered more than 220,000 internal displacements, mostly of people living in Kurdish border towns, and 17,900 cross-border displacements into northern Iraq.[152] Around 75,000 people were still displaced in Syria as a result of the offensive as of 26 November. The majority were living with host communities, others in informal settlements and collective shelters.[153]

Operation Peace Spring was also intended to protect Turkey's southern border from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), labelled by Ankara and other countries as a terrorist group.[154] Many people died during the offensive, and serious human rights abuses committed by the Turkish forces against the local population were reported.[155]

The ensuing challenges are far from over. Refugees forcibly returned to Syria from Turkey will struggle to achieve durable solutions in a region that most are not originally from, and where conditions are already extremely precarious for the large number of IDPs who have been living there for years.[156] The Turkish government claims there is no refoulement, but others argue that refugees are being sent back to a war zone.[157]

Forcible returns from other countries have also been reported, but are very difficult to monitor. IDPs trying to return to their homes in north-eastern and north-western Syria face many challenges as a result of the Turkish incursion and subsequent changes in local community dynamics and demographic makeup. Some have been prevented from returning as a result.

Overshadowed by these events, the implementation of Law 10, which is officially intended to expedite the expropriation of land for reconstruction and "redesign of unauthorised illegal housing areas", began to take effect in 2019.[158] People's knowledge of the administrative procedures required to claim their property rights tends to be limited.[159] Many IDPs who lost deeds and other documents during their displacement have found it is too late to do so as a result.[160] Their inability to exercise their property rights effectively means they are unable to return, or at least not sustainably, even if reconstruction is under way in their home areas.

Civilians, including IDPs and returning refugees, continue to bear the brunt of Syria's civil war. As the fighting enters its tenth year, mass displacement continues to take place, and millions of people already displaced lack livelihood opportunities and access to basic services. The voluntary return of refugees may be delayed until the situation improves, but hundreds of thousands of IDPs are going back home or trying to do so, which highlights the need to establish conditions conducive to safe and dignified returns.

The current focus on lifesaving humanitarian assistance is still vital given the depth of Syria's ongoing crisis, but it should not overshadow the need for peacebuilding initiatives and longer-term support for those trying to achieve durable solutions. Without a resolution to the conflict and a reconciliation process that includes all of the country's ethnic groups and religions, displacement will not be brought to a sustainable end.

Iman fled with her family to seek safety eight years ago. "If only we can go back to what we used to", she said, gazing at the cracks in her damaged house and hoping that one day she could go back home. Photo © UNHCR/Antwan Chnkdji, June 2019

IRAQ

Solutions to displacement within reach

Decades of dictatorship, a foreign invasion, years of internal conflict and more recently the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) made Iraq one of the countries most affected by internal displacement in the world. Since the battle against ISIL officially concluded in December 2017, however, there have been signs that the situation is improving and that many IDPs are going back to their homes.

Displacement figures dropped over the last two years to reach an all-time low in 2019, when 104,000 new displacements and more than 1.6 million people still living in internal displacement were recorded. This illustrates the significant progress the government has made in addressing the phenomenon, and sets an example for other countries.

That said, insecurity and social unrest persist, and the pace of returns slowed in 2019 as a result. More than three-quarters of the country's IDPs have been displaced for more than three years.[161] Many obstacles remain to their achieving durable solutions and new challenges are emerging, which reinforces the need to step up peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

Military operations against remaining ISIS pockets continued across north-central and western governorates in 2019, in response to attacks against both government and civilian targets.[162] Large tracts of agricultural land across 11 governorates were destroyed by fires, which ISIL is thought to have lit to deter IDPs from returning home.[163] Low-intensity sectarian violence between Shia and Sunni militias continues across the country, as do tensions between the Kurdish regional government and the authorities in Baghdad.[164] The national government still struggles to exert control over some areas of the country, where insecurity prevails.

There is also a general sense of frustration and mistrust among the population, which led to civil unrest in Octo-

O Capital city
• Locations where returnees face difficult living conditions including lack of access to livelihoods and basic services, safety and social cohesion
• Location of displacement events associated with conflict and violence in 2019

Source: IOM, 2019

ber.[165] Protesters massed in the streets of Baghdad and other cities to demand the government's dismissal. The then prime minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, agreed to resign in early November, but the demonstrations continued. Protesters demanded the fall of the whole government, the speeding up of economic reforms and an end to Iran's influence in Iraqi politics. At least 467 protesters had been killed and more than 9,000 injured as of 30 January 2020.[166]

This insecurity and volatility is not conducive to sustainable returns, and the closure of a number of camps has further complicated the situation for many IDPs. While the government has set a goal of returning all IDPs to their places of origin by the end of 2020, many home areas are still insecure and lack basic services.[167]

In such circumstances, the closure of more than ten camps in 2019 led to the secondary displacement of many IDPs, whether to other camps or urban and peri-urban areas where they live in even more precarious conditions.[168] The loss of civil documentation is also a considerable obstacle to IDPs' efforts to overcome their vulnerabilities, including their access to legal protection and basic services.[169] Of the 462,000 people reported to have returned in 2019, we estimate that 456,000 achieved partial solutions to their displacement, but

6,000 ended up in displacement again despite their efforts to re-establish their lives in their home areas.[170]

The restoration of social cohesion, often overlooked in post-conflict situations, will also be vital in creating an environment in which communities from different ethnic groups and religious affiliations can coexist. ISIL previously exploited the erosion of Iraq's social cohesion to gain influence and expand, and addressing it will help to prevent the re-emergence of violence, shore up reconstruction efforts and ensure that IDPs and returnees are able to achieve genuinely durable solutions.[171]

The government has made commendable efforts to measure, understand and act to address what was one of the world's major internal displacement crises.[172] With support from the international community, it conducted damage and needs assessments to estimate the impact of the conflict and identify recovery and reconstruction needs across seven governorates.[173] The exercise concluded that the damage incurred ran to $45.7 billion. The housing, health and education sectors were identified as the worst affected, which explains why many IDPs are still living in protracted displacement. Efforts are also under way to invest in community recovery and stabilisation.[174]

Recently, IOM and its partners developed a return index for Iraq, which helps to understand displaced people's main priorities when contemplating return and the obstacles they face, and to identify geographical areas where more investment is needed.[175]

Its findings confirm that the destruction of housing stock is by far the main obstacle to return. Areas where at least half of the homes have been destroyed are 15 times less likely to have returns than locations where housing remains relatively intact. Unemployment is another major factor. Families are 10 times less likely to return to areas where residents are unable find jobs, compared with locations where there is enough work. The presence of armed groups was also identified as a significant obstacle to return and other forms of durable solution.

The government launched a recovery and resilience programme in February 2018. Supported by the UN, it has helped to speed up efforts to address the social dimensions of reconstruction and create conditions that would promote safe, dignified and voluntary returns. This has included clearing unexploded ordnance, providing IDPs with legal support and strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for documentation, compensation, property restitution and family reunification.[176]

The Iraq Durable Solutions Network and the Governorate Returns Committee Secretariat were also established at the end of 2019. From its offices in Baghdad, Erbil and Mosul, the latter has the overarching objective of coordinating sustainable returns and supporting the Governorate Returns Committees, which focus on camp consolidation and closures. These institutions have a potentially vital role to play in ensuring that returns and other forms of solution are genuinely sustainable.[177]

The steady decline in internal displacement figures over the last two years suggests these initiatives are working, and that solutions are within reach. If the momentum is to be maintained, ongoing initiatives designed to establish lasting stability and peace will have to be sustained. As people continue to return to their home areas across the country and others try to integrate locally, it is also vital that their living conditions be monitored and improved. Investing in social cohesion and community-based responses will be key. Only by doing so will return, resettlement and local integration come to equate with bringing displacement to a sustainable end.[178]

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Philippines 4,277,000
China 4,034,000
Indonesia 486,000
Myanmar 350,000
Japan 265,000

Conflict 288,000
Disasters 9,601,000
29.6% of the global total
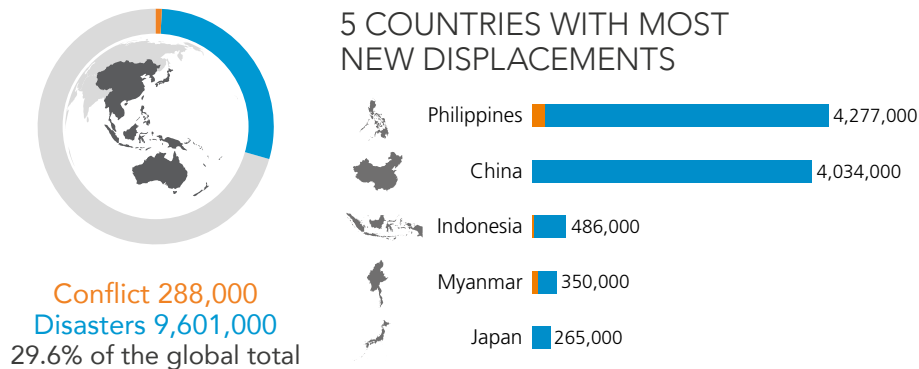
East Asia and Pacific accounted for most of the disaster displacement recorded worldwide in 2019, as it has done in previous years. This is unsurprising, given that the region is home to a large number of densely populated urban areas that are exposed to hazards including typhoons, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.[179] Disasters triggered around 9.6 million new displacements across the region last year, below the average for the decade of 11 million (see Figure 13).

A number of major disasters have triggered mass displacement in the region since the turn of the century, including typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, flooding in China in 2010 and the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, to name but a few. These events serve as a reminder that disasters on a similar scale are bound to happen again, and that reducing the risk of disaster displacement should continue to be a priority.

Some countries' capacity to reduce risk and manage the impacts of hazards has at times been overwhelmed by the sheer number of people exposed and vulnerable to them, but significant progress has been made across the region in setting up early warning systems and managing pre-emptive evacuations. The latter account for many of the disaster displacements recorded in East Asia and Pacific.

The early warning systems and evacuation protocols in China, Fiji, Japan and the Philippines are among those held up as examples of good practice. Island states including Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu are also working to improve their resilience to disasters by strengthening their early warning capacities.[180] Such measures cannot, however, mitigate the destructive power of some hazards, and when homes are damaged or razed it prolongs the displacement of many evacuees.

The impacts of disasters and the displacement they trigger vary greatly across this vast region. Not all countries have the same financial and human capacity for disaster risk management, and when measured relative to population size impacts can be devastating. Absolute figures for displacement in Pacific small island states may appear tiny compared with those for other countries in the region, even if the vast majority of their populations have been affected by a disaster. For low-lying atolls, which are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as salinisation and sea level rise, displacement will have very different implications in the years and decades to come.[181]

Conflict and violence also triggered displacement in 2019 in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Around 288,000 new displacements were recorded across the region as a whole, and about 734,000 people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year.

East Asia

China records some of the highest figures for disaster displacement worldwide each year, the result of its vast population and high exposure to a range of natural hazards. As rapid urbanisation has taken hold over recent decades, cities have engulfed former satellite towns without planning that considers the implications for disaster risk of such expansion.[182] Many of China's disasters occur in urban areas, which are home to around 60 per cent of the country's population, as a result.[183]

Storms, floods, earthquakes and landslides triggered more than four million new displacements in 2019. At least 1.6 million were recorded during the rainy season in June and July. As typhoon Lekima approached in August, the national meteorological centre issued a red alert and more than two million people were evacuated.[184] The storm made landfall in Zhejiang province with winds gusting up to 185 Km/h, destroying more than 15,000 homes and triggering further displacement as it moved inland.[185] Lekima was among the disasters to trigger most displacement globally in 2019. It was the year's deadliest in East Asia and Pacific, and also the costliest. Economic losses were estimated at $10 billion.[186]

A 6.0 magnitude earthquake also struck Sichuan province in June, destroying 3,500 homes and triggering around 95,000 displacements.

Many data gaps remain in terms of the broader phenomenon of displacement in China. No information is available on the number of people who flee political violence, and little on those displaced by development projects. The latter are likely to trigger significant displacement, however, given the country's rapid modernisation and urbanisation.

Storms and earthquakes triggered more than 265,000 displacements in **Japan** in 2019. Typhoon Hagibis was the largest disaster of the year, forcing people to take refuge in temporary shelters in 30 out of the country's 47 prefectures. Around 237,000 people evacuated, but this represented only three per cent of the almost eight million who were ordered or advised to do so.[187] The challenge of getting people to evacuate continues to be a significant concern for authorities.[188] Earthquakes struck Fukuoka, Hokkaido, Kumamoto and Yamagata prefectures during the year, but triggered few displacements.

Little data is available on internal displacement in countries such as **Mongolia**, but the country has been increasingly affected by the impacts of the *dzud*, severe weather conditions that lead to mass livestock loss and disrupt the livelihoods of thousands of nomadic communities.[189]

FIGURE 13: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in East Asia and Pacific (2009-2019)
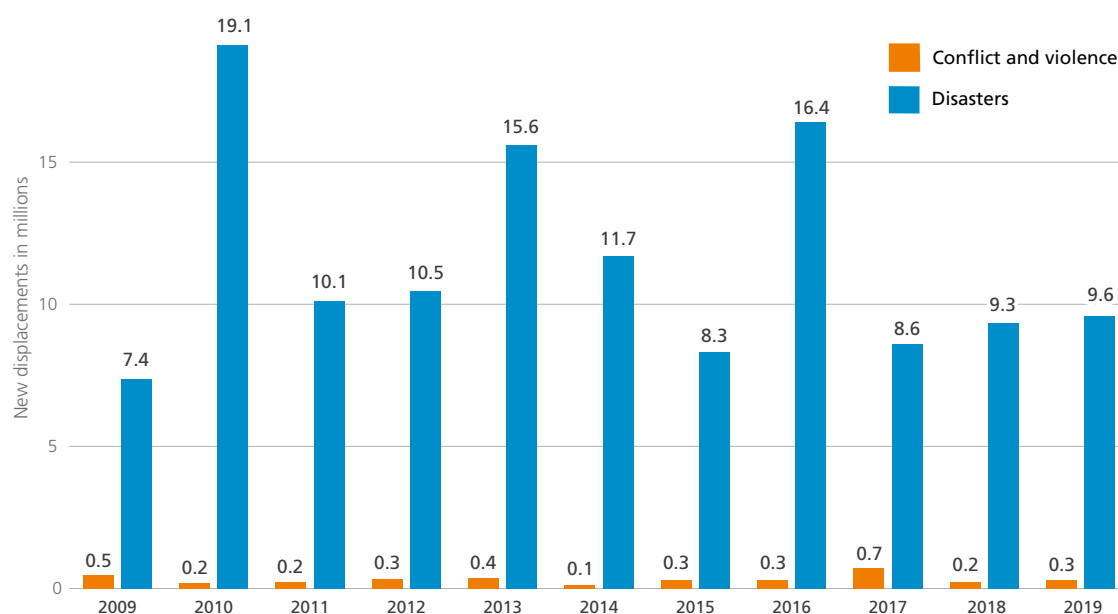
A displaced man stands by the ruins of his home in Balaroa, Palu, Indonesia, one year after the Central Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami. More than 104,000 people were still displaced as a result of disasters in Indonesia as of the end of 2019. Photo: OCHA/ Pierre Peron, September 2019

South-east Asia

Together with China and India, the **Philippines** is among the countries to record most disaster displacement worldwide each year. Between six and nine major typhoons make landfall annually, and the country also sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.[190] Storms and earthquakes triggered 4.1 million new displacements in 2019.

Tropical depression Usman triggered more than 550,000 across nine provinces in early January, and typhoon Lekima, known locally as Hanna, 38,000 in August before moving on to wreak havoc in China. Typhoon Kammuri, known locally as Tisoy, triggered more than 1.4 million new displacements across central regions of the Philippines in December. It was the 20th typhoon to strike the country in 2019, making it an unusually stormy year. It was also among the disasters to trigger most displacement globally.[191] Many of the displacements triggered by these storms were in the form of pre-emptive evacuations.

Earthquakes struck the southern provinces of Cotabato and Davao del Sur in October and December. These and other smaller earthquakes triggered a total of 413,000 displacements. Many of those who evacuated to government shelters remained displaced for some time because their homes had been damaged or destroyed or for fear of aftershocks. The government's commendable data collection, combined with the use of anonymised Facebook user data made it possible to understand where people moved from and to, and for how long they were displaced (see Philippines spotlight, p.83, Part 2). Robust data of this kind is vital to guide responses in the Philippines, which has to deal with the impacts of disasters, including mass displacement, across an archipelago of more than 7,500 islands.

Mindanao, the southernmost island of the Philippines, has been the scene of conflict between the government and separatist groups for four decades. More than 120,000 people have been killed over the years in fighting between the army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the New People's Army, smaller jihadist groups such as Abu Sayyaf, which is linked to ISIS, and others.[192] Tens of thousands of people are displaced each year, and around 182,000 people were still living in displacement as of the end of 2019.

Last year also marked an important milestone in efforts to bring peace to the region with the government's ratification of a law to establish the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Doing so should help to resolve one of the issues at the heart the conflict by giving more independence and autonomy to more than 3.5 million Muslim Mindanaoans.[193] The law also provides for a transitional administration for the region which will transfer power to former Moro Islamic Liberation Front militants who will govern until elections in 2022.

The new BARMM administration is developing strategies and entities to address the humanitarian and development needs of its population, including those of displaced families, but many challenges still lie ahead.[194] Armed groups that were not part of the negotiations are still active, and 95 per cent of the new conflict displacements recorded in the Philippines in 2019 were in Mindanao.

Myanmar recorded 270,000 disaster displacements during the year, triggered by flooding and landslides brought on by monsoon rains. Mon state was worst hit, with 77,000 evacuations.[195] People in many areas remained in shelters for several days and in some cases weeks while they waited for the floodwaters to recede. Farmers were particularly hard hit because crop damage was extensive. The country also recorded 80,000 new conflict displacements, the highest figure since 2012 (see Myanmar spotlight, p.45).

More than 400 disasters of varying scale and intensity struck **Indonesia** in 2019, triggering 463,000 displacements. Because of its location at the junction of three tectonic plates and in the intertropical convergence zone, the country is highly prone to seismic and weather-related hazards that displace hundreds of thousand of people a year.[196]

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Maluku province in September destroyed 6,108 homes and triggered 231,000 displacements, making it the largest displacement event of the year. False rumours of a tsunami and people's fear of aftershocks meant that many stayed in shelters beyond the immediate aftermath of the quake.[197] A number of localised floods triggered another 140,000 displacements during the year.

Hazard intensity plays a major role in driving disasters in Indonesia, but rapid and unregulated urbanisation and other human practices also increase disaster risk. Jakarta, home to around 10.5 million people, is a case in point. The capital is sinking faster than any other city in the world, mainly the result of sea level rise, construction on land prone to subsidence, and illegal pumping. Around 40 per cent of the city lies below the sea level, and when it rains whole neighbourhoods are often flooded and some rivers reportedly even begin to flow upstream.[198]

Local authorities have devised a climate action plan and put flood protection measures in place, and there are longer-term plans to move the city to a new location.[199] Meanwhile, however, disaster risk is increasing. If no action is taken, around 80 per cent of northern Jakarta could be underwater in ten years.[200]

Indonesia also recorded displacement associated with conflict and violence in 2019. Most took place in Papua province in late September, when violent protests between Indonesian and Papuan students triggered more than 17,000 displacements. Localised riots and social tensions also forced people to flee their homes in East Java, East Kalimantan, Papua and Sulawesi.

Tropical storm Podul and tropical depression Kajiki struck **Lao PDR**, **Cambodia**, **Thailand** and **Viet Nam** during the year. Laos was worst affected, with flooding across six provinces in the Mekong river valley.[201] Savannakhet and Champasak were particularly hard hit, and the two storms between them triggered almost all of the 103,000 new displacements recorded in 2019. Podul and Kajiki also triggered 13,000 of the 89,000 displacements recorded in Viet Nam and 29,000 of the 61,000 recorded in Thailand.

The Pacific

More than 25,000 new disaster displacements were recorded in **Australia** in 2019, the majority triggered during an unusually long and intense bushfire season. At least 15,000 people were living in displacement at the end of the year as a result, and fires continued to burn in some parts of the country into January and February 2020.

New South Wales was the worst affected state. It recorded more than 9,000 new displacements between August and December, followed by South Australia, which recorded 4,200 in November and December. The fires also spread to Victoria in December, triggering 2,000 new displacements on top of 1,500 recorded during an earlier spate of fires in March. Bushfires occur every year in Australia, but the season at the end of 2019 was declared the worst on record and recognised as a consequence of climate change.[202] Most of the displacement took place in the form of evacuations.

Fires also triggered 1,400 displacements in Tasmania in January, and a powerful storm left 1,300 people homeless in Queensland at the end of the month. Cyclone Trevor triggered around 1,800 evacuations in East Arnhem Land and Northern Territory in March. The storm made landfall as the equivalent of category four hurricane and officials declared a state of emergency. Flooding brought on by cyclone Veronica also triggered 1,100 evacuations near Port Hedland in Western Australia in March.[203]

Twelve disasters, most of them volcanic eruptions, triggered more than 31,000 new displacements in **Papua New Guinea**. The Mount Ulawun and Manam volcanoes in West New Britain and Madang provinces erupted in June, triggering 16,000 and 4,000 evacuations respectively. The eruptions also destroyed homes, crops and wells, leaving villagers without food and water, and the ash columns disrupted domestic flights.[204] A second eruption of Mont Ulawun in August triggered another 3,000 displacements. People sought refuge in centres that were still hosting families displaced by the first eruption.[205]

Coastal and island communities are also exposed to storms during the rainy season from November to April, and those inland often experience flooding and landslides. Continuous heavy rain in April led to landslides that triggered around 5,000 new displacements in Western Highlands province.[206] Cyclone Trevor, which formed on the east coast in March, triggered more than 400 displacements and caused crop damage that left more 15,000 people facing food shortages.[207]

Papua New Guinea also recorded 1,300 new conflict displacements in 2019. The revenge killing of women and children in a longstanding tribal conflict in Hela province triggered as many as 800 in July, and more than 14,000 people were living in internal displacement as of the end of the year. Most had fled ethnic clashes, tribal conflict and violent land disputes.

Fiji also recorded disaster displacement in 2019. A tropical depression caused floods and landslides in January, leading about 2,300 people to seek shelter in 43 evacuation centres. The storm did little damage, however, and most were able to return quickly to their homes.[208] Cyclone Sarai, the equivalent of a category two hurricane, triggered another 2,500 evacuations in December. Many people were able to return shortly after the storm passed, but large parts of Fiji, including the main island of Viti Levu, continued to experience power cuts for several days. As the country recovered from Sarai, another tropical depression struck, which also affected Tuvalu and parts of Samoa and Tonga.[209]

Tropical storms are not uncommon in Fiji, and their impacts are often devastating. This led the government to launch a cyclone early warning system in November. The first of its kind in the Pacific region, the system is intended to save lives and protect property in low-lying coastal areas. It may also trigger more displacement in the form of evacuations, but will reduce disaster mortality risk. Other countries in the region are also regularly affected by disasters and are in the process of reinforcing their early warning capacities.[210]

Obtaining data on disaster displacement in the Pacific is challenging, particularly for slow-onset and small sudden-onset events. Integrating data on pre-emptive evacuations and displacement into national accounting systems for disaster damage and loss would help to

improve understanding of the phenomenon. It would also enable the monitoring of disaster risk reduction measures.

The low-lying atolls and small island developing states in the Pacific are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and salinisation, and people displaced in such situations may find it increasingly difficult to return. Planned relocations have been taking place in Fiji and the Solomon Islands since 2014, and policies and guidelines are in place in both Fiji and Vanuatu.[211]

People stranded in Mallacoota, Victoria, are evacuated by the Australian army after bush-fires ravaged the town on 30 December 2019. Photo: Justin McManus/The Age/Fairfax Media via Getty Images, January 2020

MYANMAR

Highest displacement in years

Armed conflict and direct attacks on civilians forced people to flee their homes in Myanmar for decades, and displacement has been a vital coping mechanism for civilians confronted with fighting between the government and separatist groups. In 2019, unilateral ceasefires and an ongoing peace process failed to prevent an escalation in conflict that triggered 80,000 new internal displacements, the highest number since 2012 (see Figure 14).[212] There are signs the situation is improving in some states, but many IDPs still face significant challenges in their pursuit of durable solutions.

Rakhine state has been the scene of mass displacement in the past, most notably in 2012 and more recently in 2016 and 2017 when 800,000 displaced members of the Rohingya ethnic group sought refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. Last year, however, it was an escalation of conflict between the military and the Arakan Army, an ethnic nationalist armed group, that triggered significant new displacement.[213] The group has existed since 2009, but its operations had previously been limited mostly to small-scale operations in Chin state and supporting other ethnic armed groups in the north-east of the country.[214]

Only four days of 2019 had passed, however, when coordinated attacks against the military triggered internal displacement that continued throughout the year.[215] As many as 48,000 IDPs were living in 136 sites across Rakhine and Chin as of 16 December.[216] As in previous years, humanitarian organisations were prevented from accessing many IDPs in areas affected by the conflict where needs were high.[217] This contributed to food shortages in the displacement sites.[218]

In Shan state, which borders China, Laos and Thailand, the Brotherhood Alliance - made up of the Arakan Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army - launched a major offensive against the security forces in August in reaction to having been excluded from national peace talks for the previous five years.[219] Clashes led to about

Capital city
Location of displacement events in 2019

New displacements in 2019

More than 20,000
1,001 - 20,000
101 - 1,000
11 - 100
10 or less

Sources: Local authorities, relief workers, local media, ACLED, ECHO, KHRG, OCHA, UNHCR, CCCM Cluster, DSWD, NDRRMC, 2019
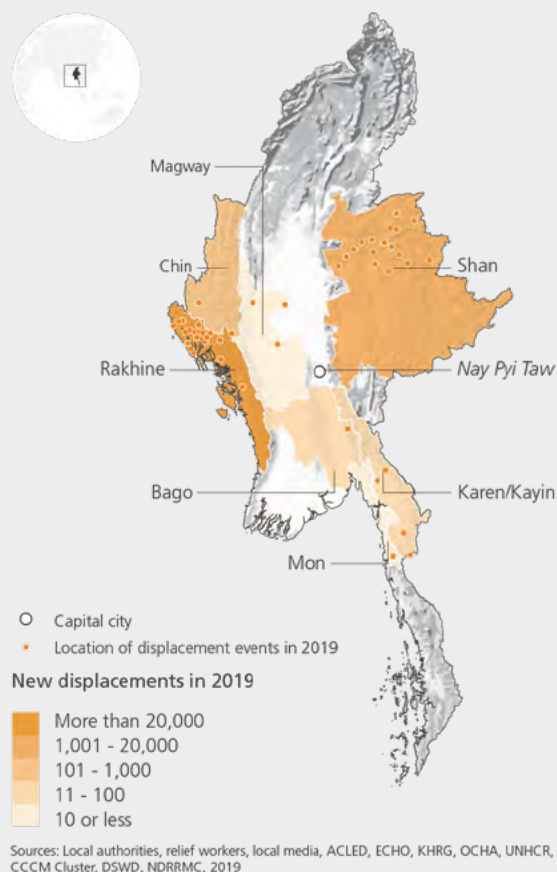
10,000 displacements the following month. The alliance declared a unilateral ceasefire in September, but skirmishes continued to trigger displacement through to the end of the year.[220]

The escalation of the conflict in Shan led to the highest number of new displacements recorded in the state for many years. Displacement tends to be temporary, but it also tends to be cyclical with people displaced time and again from the same places. There were also frequent reports from both Rakhine and Shan in 2019 of people fleeing their homes pre-emptively because of the arrival of soldiers in their villages, which was sometimes accompanied by looting. In other cases, the military told people who had fled violence to return to their homes once they had arrived in new locations in search of safety.[221]

Other protracted displacement situations were still unresolved as of the end of the year. More than 107,000 IDPs were living in displacement in Shan and Kachin states as a result of conflict that escalated in 2011. As many as 131,000 Rohingya and Kaman IDPs were also living in camps in central Rakhine having fled inter-communal violence in 2012 and 2013. Some may have been able

FIGURE 14: New displacements by conflict and violence in Myanmar (2012-2019)
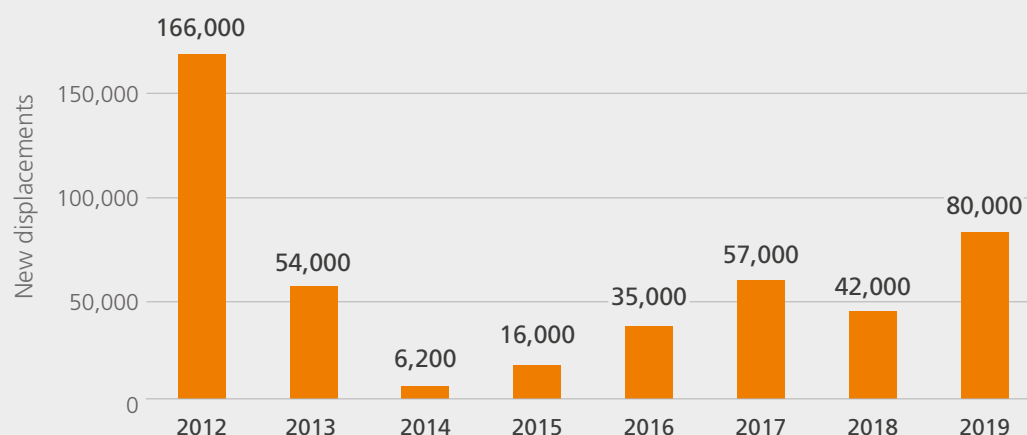
to relocate since 2015 but, like other Rohingya, their freedom of movement and access to basic services continues to be restricted.[222]

Another 163,000 IDPs in southern Shan, Karen, Karenni and Mon states and Bago and Tanintharyi regions have received little attention from the international community. These areas are relatively peaceful compared with other parts of the country, but disputes about border demarcations and territorial control also triggered new displacement during the year.[223]

Despite some promising developments, fighting broke out in November in areas of Kachin that IDPs had previously abandoned but close to where returnees are living. No new displacements were recorded in Kachin state in 2019 for the first time in years, but the clashes highlight the fragile security situation, which is a barrier to durable solutions.[224]

The government, ethnic armed groups and civil society organisations have also expressed their willingness to facilitate the return of 97,300 people still displaced across the state.[225] UN agencies and local organisations are working to ensure that returns take place in a safe and dignified way, but people still have significant assistance and protection needs. Greater emphasis is also required on mine clearance and mine risk education efforts.[226]

The issue of insecure tenure over land also needs to be resolved.[227] There are concerns too that development projects in mining, agriculture and logging are impeding IDPs' return to their areas of origin.[228]

The government has made the closure of displacement camps in areas affected by conflict a priority, and it adopted a national strategy to this end in 2019.[229] The UN welcomed the move, but cautioned that IDPs' freedom of movement and access to basic services continued to be restricted.[230] Unresolved conflicts and continued segregation, particularly of Rohingya and Rakhine communities, also warrants concern.[231]

As long as armed conflict continues in Myanmar, displacement will continue to be a coping mechanism for the civilian population. Returns and relocation do not in themselves constitute durable solutions, and future camp closures will have to be accompanied by systematic monitoring to ensure they result in a sustainable end to displacement.

SOUTH ASIA

5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST NEW DISPLACEMENTS
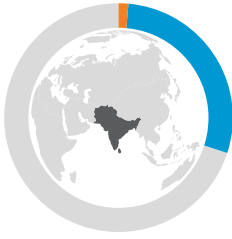
Conflict 498,000
Disasters 9,529,000
30% of the global total

India		5,037,000
Bangladesh		4,086,520
Afghanistan		578,000
Nepal		121,000
Pakistan		116,000
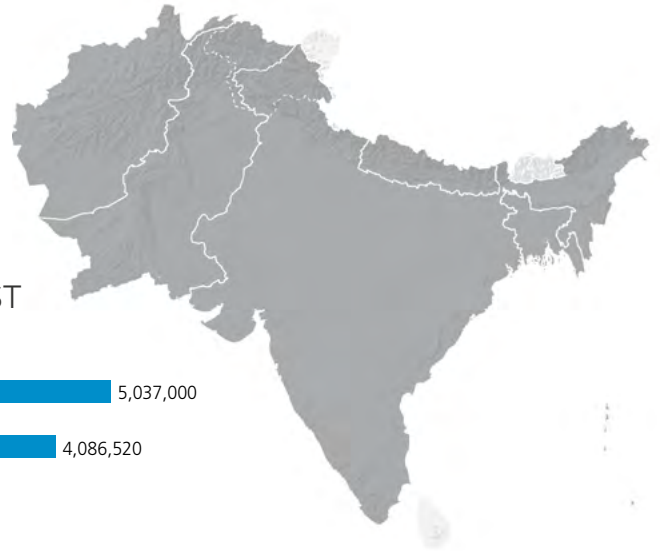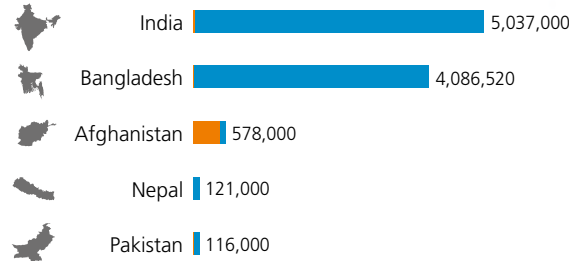
South Asia recorded 9.5 million new displacements associated with disasters in 2019, the highest figure since 2012. Floods triggered by the monsoon in India and Bangladesh and cyclones Fani and Bulbul were among the events to force most people to flee their homes both in the region and globally.

An average of 6.5 million disaster displacements have been recorded in the region over the last decade, making it one of the most affected by the phenomenon worldwide (see Figure 15). From Afghanistan to Bangladesh and from India to Sri Lanka, not only disasters but also conflict and violence trigger mass displacement every year. Many of the triggers, drivers and impacts vary from one country to another, but poverty and inequality are common factors that drive new displacement and prolong and aggravate IDPs' vulnerabilities.

South Asia is home to almost a quarter of the world's population and is experiencing rapid urbanisation.[232] Significant progress has been made in reducing poverty in recent decades, but about 16 per cent of the people still live on less than $1.90 a day.[233] A growing number live in cities exposed to hazards such as monsoon rains, floods, tropical storms, earthquakes and landslides. Slow-onset events such as drought and riverbank and coastal erosion also trigger displacement, but data is hard to come by.

Faced with frequently devastating and deadly disasters, many countries have strengthened their disaster risk management and early warning capacities in recent years. It is not yet possible to disaggregate figures to distinguish clearly between pre-emptive evacuations and displacements after the onset of a disaster, but

evidence suggests that the former account for the majority of population movements triggered by some larger events. Nor is there data with which to fully understand for how long people remain displaced, but our conservative estimate is that around 1.9 million people were still living in displacement as a result of disasters at the end of the year.

Conflict and violence also triggered displacement in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, and to a lesser extent Sri Lanka, in 2019. Around 498,000 new displacements were recorded across the region as a whole. The annual total has fallen over the past decade, mainly because of the de-escalation of violence in Pakistan. Afghanistan's conflict, however, shows little sign of abating. In addition, the situation on both sides of the line of control in disputed Kashmir remains highly volatile. Around four million people were living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year, with Afghanistan accounting for 75 per cent of the regional total.

India

There were five million new disaster displacements in India in 2019, the highest figure in the world and the result of a combination of increasing hazard intensity, high population exposure and high levels of social and economic vulnerability. Nearly 22 per cent of the country's population live below the national poverty line.[234] The year was also the seventh warmest since records began in 1901, and the monsoon was the wettest in 25 years.[235] These conditions helped to fuel the destructive power of the eight tropical storms to hit the country during the year.

The most severe was cyclone Fani, which tracked across the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in early May, before moving north to Bangladesh. Equivalent to a category four hurricane, Fani was the most powerful storm to strike the country in the last five years, and the most intense to form in the Bay of Bengal since 1999.[236] As it approached the coast of Odisha with maximum sustained windspeeds up to 240 km/h, the government organised the evacuation of more than 1.8 million people. The states disaster management authorities were lauded for their life-saving operations.[237] Another 289,000 people were evacuated in Gujarat in June ahead of cyclone Vayu, which changed track and reduced in intensity before making landfall later than expected.[238]

The south-west monsoon triggered more than 2.6 million displacements in the months that followed. In a rare meteorological event, it then came to an end on the same day as the north-west monsoon began.[239] The north-west monsoon continued to trigger displacement in October and November, along with cyclone Maha, which hit Kerala and the Lakshwadeep islands on 31 October. Cyclone Bulbul struck Odisha and West Bengal ten days later, triggering 186,000 displacements.

Drought displacement was also recorded in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. There is little robust data available to estimate its scale, but water shortages in Maharashtra between March and June forced about 50,000 farmers and their families to take refuge in "cattle camps", displacement sites run by NGOs where livestock is also fed and watered.[240] There were thought

to be around 590,000 people living in internal displacement as a result of disasters across the country as of 31 December, but the figure is highly conservative given the high number of new displacements and the damages and losses recorded during the year.

Conflict and violence triggered about 19,000 new displacements in India in 2019. Political and electoral violence, primarily in Tripura and West Bengal in the first half of the year, accounted for more than 7,600. Lesser unrest and inter-communal violence continued to trigger displacement in the second half of the year.

A suicide attack that killed 40 soldiers in Indian-administered Kashmir in February led to retaliatory airstrikes and sporadic shelling near the line of control between Indian and Pakistani-controlled territory that continued into March.[241] At least 2,600 displacements were recorded, but comprehensive figures were hard to obtain. Further shelling across the line of control during autumn triggered more displacement, bringing the total to 5,300.[242]

The government in Delhi revoked the special status accorded to Indian-administered Kashmir in August and imposed a curfew, which led to protests that were met with force.[243] Telecommunications and internet access were shut down, making it difficult to obtain information, including on displacement.

FIGURE 15: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in South Asia (2009-2019)
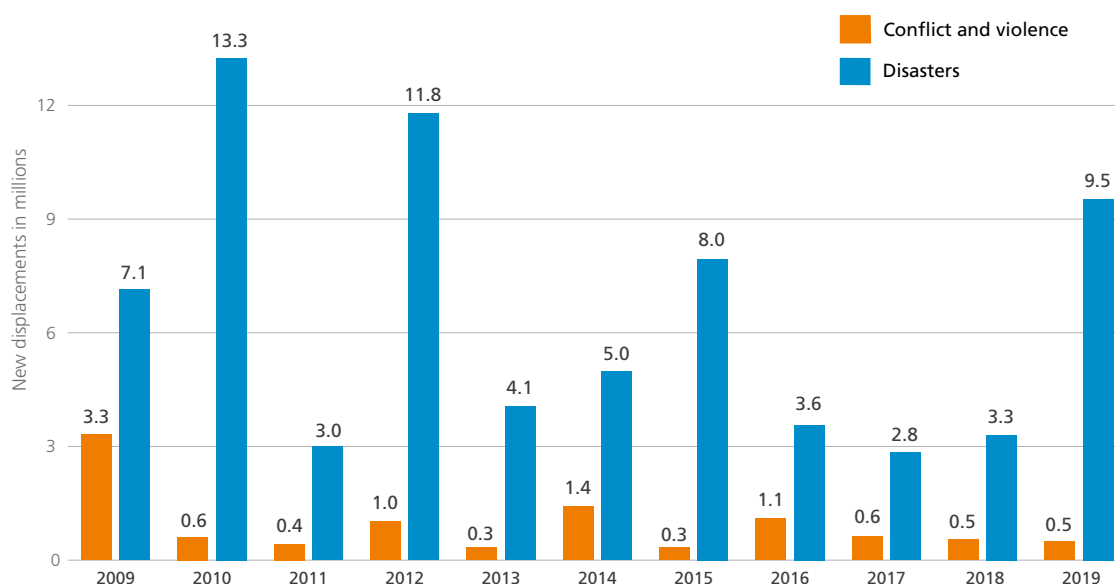
Bangladesh

Together with China, India and the Philippines, Bangladesh was among the countries to record the largest number of new disaster displacements in 2019 with more than four million. It was also the highest figure for the country since data became available in 2008. Most were in the form of pre-emptive evacuations, which is testament to the government's efforts in preparedness. It has put effective early warnings systems in place under which local people receive alerts quickly after the country's meteorological department issues them, allowing them to evacuate and saving many lives.[244]

Cyclone Fani triggered the evacuation of 1.7 million people across several coastal districts in May.[245] Combined with those that took place in India, Fani triggered almost 3.5 million displacements, the highest figure for a single event in 2019. Cyclone Bulbul then triggered more than 2.1 million evacuations in November. Most people returned to their homes after the storm had subsided.[246] The number of pre-emptive evacuations organised in India and Bangladesh before the landfalls of Fani and Bulbul was the highest recorded in a single year. Monsoon floods also triggered more than 307,000 displacements in less than three weeks in July.[247]

Few conflict displacements were recorded in 2019. Inter-communal violence against Ahmadi Muslims took place sporadically during the year in Rangpur division, and violence also broke out between political opponents following elections. Clashes between host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar led to the destruction of shelters in August.[248] Around 427,000 people were living in displacement as result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year.

Afghanistan

Fighting between the army and the Taliban escalated in 2019 and ISIS attacks continued, triggering a rise in the number of new conflict displacements in Afghanistan to around 461,000. Most took place in the east, north and north-east of the country. Around three million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of the year, the highest figure on record for the country.

The Taliban controlled more territory in 2019 than at any time since the US launched its military intervention in 2001. Attacks by ISIS-Khorasan Province on Taliban positions in Chapadara district triggered around 25,000 new displacements in March. Despite government calls for a ceasefire and peace talks between the Taliban and US representatives, the group launched a new offensive in April.[249] Fighting between the security forces and the Taliban triggered 36,000 displacements in Takhar province in June. By July the civilian death toll had risen to its highest level since records began in 2009. Women and children accounted for 41 per cent of the casualties.[250]

Heavy fighting spread to Kunduz city in August, triggering around 22,000 displacements and aggravating the humanitarian crisis in the area by restricting the movement of aid providers and disrupting communications.[251] Insecurity in the country more broadly also contributed to a low turnout in presidential elections at the end of September. The rival candidates disputed the results and as of the end of the year no results had been published.[252] This uncertainty and the collapse of a further round of US-Taliban talks in September helped to make Afghanistan's conflict the deadliest in the world last year.[253] More than half of people displaced as a result were children.[254]

Adding to the insecurity and political challenges, more than 3.3 million Afghans returned from abroad between 2012 and 2019, primarily from Pakistan and Iran.[255] Not all returns have been voluntary, however, and many refugees have found themselves living in internal displacement once back in the country. Tenure insecurity and other land issues are a major challenge for returning refugees and IDPs alike. They also trigger cyclical displacement and heighten people's already chronic vulnerability.[256]

Afghanistan experienced its worst drought in decades in 2018, which triggered more than 371,000 displacements.[257] Its impacts continued in 2019 as poor harvests increased food insecurity across the country, leaving many IDPs in dire conditions of poverty and malnutrition.[258] A further 4,200 new drought displacements were also recorded. A lack of services, markets and social protection has also forced people to move from rural to urban areas, fuelling the rapid expansion of informal settlements in the country's main cities.[259]

Refugees make their way across a flooded Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Later on, clashes between host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar led to the destruction of shelters in August. Photo © UNICEF/UN0325318/Brown, July 2019

Flooding, including flash floods, triggered 111,000 displacements during the year, the bulk of them in March. Badghis, Farah, Helmand, Herat and Kandahar provinces were worst affected.[260] The floodwaters also hampered relief operations. Around 1.2 million people were thought to be living in displacement at the end of the year as a result of disasters.

Pakistan

More than 16,000 displacements associated with conflict and violence were recorded in Pakistan in 2019, of which 15,000 were triggered by an increase in shelling across the line of control that separates Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Those who fled stayed with host families or in camps, and most returned to their homes within a week.

Intercommunal violence against Hindu communities in Ghotki city and Christian communities in Karachi displaced hundreds of families in Sindh province.[261] Cross-border clashes flared between Afghan and Pakistani forces in October, but displacement figures were difficult to obtain.[262] Conflict between different armed groups in the border areas between Afghanistan and

north-west Pakistan concluded in 2017, but more than 101,000 people were still living in displacement in the northern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the end of 2019 as a result of law enforcement operations.

A number of natural hazards struck Pakistan during the year, but disaster displacement figures for the country are hard to come by, leading to a conservative estimate of 100,000. An earthquake in the north-east triggered 55,000 in September, and the monsoon 23,000 in July and August. Flooding and riverbank erosion triggered 10,000 pre-emptive evacuations in Balochistan province in June. Cyclone Kyarr affected coastal areas of the country causing more than 1,100 displacements in October. Flooding, including flash floods, affected several displacement sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in February.[263] More than 15,000 people were living in displacement across Pakistan as a result of disasters at the end of the year.

Nepal

Nepal recorded 121,000 new disaster displacements in 2019, more than 98,000 of them triggered by monsoon rains, floods and landslides.

The south-west monsoon, which originates in the Bay of Bengal and moves along the southern flanks of the Himalayas, tends to bring Nepal around 80 percent of its annual rainfall over a period of three months.[264] The 2019 monsoon arrived later than usual, but from end of June it brought the most rain recorded in a decade. Heavy rains and floods blocked major roads and disrupted communication networks, hampering access to affected communities for the emergency services on Nepal's southern plains.[265]

A powerful windstorm affected the southern districts of Bara, Parsa and Ilam in March, destroying homes and triggering 6,200 displacements. Another affected the western district of Kailali in June, triggering 9,500 and disrupting relief efforts.[266]

Among the 2,8 million people displaced by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, many are still living in displacement at the end of 2019, waiting for their homes to be rebuilt.[267] Nepal's location at the junction of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates makes it highly prone to earthquakes. The Gorkha quake and its long-term impacts are a reminder that significantly more investment in risk reduction, in particular the enforcement of building and zoning regulations, is needed to cope with such intensive events.

Sri Lanka

Monsoon rainfall in Sri Lanka was lower than usual in 2019, and fewer people were displaced than in previous years as a result.[268] A series of small storms did develop from September, however, triggering floods, landslides and around 45,000 evacuations. Heavy rains affected more than 136,000 people across six districts and many homes were damaged.[269] The north-east monsoon triggered floods, landslides and 34,000 displacements in North, East, North Central, Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces in November and December.[270] Some areas received more than two metres of rainfall in a day.[271]

Sri Lanka also recorded a relatively small number of displacements associated with conflict and violence in 2019. A series of simultaneous suicide attacks by radical Islamist militants on churches and hotels killed more than 250 people during Easter celebrations in April.[272] The army conducted counterterrorism operations in response, which caused more than 1,400 evacuations in Ampara district the same month.[273] The violence also inflamed tensions between the country's ethnic and religious groups.[274] Anti-Muslim riots triggered around 300 displacements in the cities of Minuwagoda, Negombo and Kurunegala in May, and many mosques, shops and homes were destroyed.
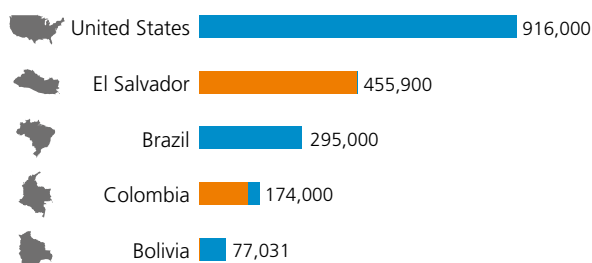
The UN called on all groups involved to work together to stop hate attacks and prevent further violence in Sri Lanka, which continues to grapple with reconciliation after the end of the country's civil war in 2009.[275] Around 27,000 people were living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of the year, the majority of them since the war.

THE AMERICAS

5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Country	New Displacements
United States	916,000
El Salvador	455,900
Brazil	295,000
Colombia	174,000
Bolivia	77,031

Conflict 602,000
Disasters 1,545,000
6.4% of the global total

Floods triggered the majority of the 1.5 million disaster displacements recorded in the Americas in 2019, as rivers burst their banks and forced whole communities to flee (see Figure 16). Wildfires also displaced significant numbers of people in the US and Mexico, and burned large tracts of Amazon rainforest in Brazil and Bolivia. Indigenous communities may well have been displaced by the Amazon fires, but information was hard to come by.

The Americas is a highly urbanised region that is home to millions of people who live in conditions of poverty and inequality. When disasters strike it is poor and marginalised communities that suffer the worst of their impacts, including displacement, as hurricane Dorian showed last year in the Bahamas (see The Bahamas spotlight, p.61).[276]

Conflict and violence triggered 602,000 new displacements across the region, an increase on the figure for 2018 driven largely by criminal and gang violence in Central and South America. Much of this violence takes place in urban areas, triggering displacement not only within towns and cities but also across borders.[277] Rural areas are also affected. Around 6.5 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of the year.

Some countries have monitoring mechanisms to measure and understand the triggers, drivers and impacts of displacement, but in others painting a complete picture of the phenomenon is challenging.[278] Most of the figures for conflict displacement should be considered

underestimates, particularly those for Central American countries, where in the absence of systematic government initiatives it tends to be civil society organisations that collect data. There has, however, been some progress recently in countries such as El Salvador, which passed a law on internal displacement in early 2020, and Mexico, which is developing one.

Filling the data gaps across the region will be vital not only in understanding internal displacement itself, but also its relationship with cross-border flight and other forms of migration, as in Venezuela (see Venezuela spotlight, p.59).

North America

The **United States** recorded more than 916,000 new disaster displacements in 2019, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the regional total. The vast majority were triggered by storms and wildfires. Hurricane Dorian led to the evacuation of more than 450,000 people in the states of North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Virginia between the end of August and early September, and wildfires triggered 423,000 displacements, 400,000 of them in California in October.

A fire in Sonoma county triggered the largest displacement event in the state, when more than 190,000 people were ordered to evacuate on 24 October. As the flames advanced, they destroyed around 176

homes.[279] A fire in Los Angeles county triggered more than 100,000 displacements earlier in the month. The authorities had learned from the devastating wildfires of 2017 and 2018, and had put a number of measures in place that helped firefighters to contain the blazes.[280] Knowing that electrical equipment had sparked fires in previous years, power supplies to 940,000 homes and businesses in northern California were cut to reduce risk.[281]

Floods triggered around 20,000 displacements from Nebraska to Michigan and Illinois to Oklahoma in the first half of the year, when near record rainfall caused the Missouri, Mississippi and Arkansas rivers to burst their banks.[282] More than a month's rain fell in a day in some states, and millions of acres of farmland were inundated.[283] At least 11 states sought federal disaster funds for more than 400 counties.[284] Four tornadoes hit the state of Ohio in May, destroying more than 2,000 houses and triggering 5,800 displacements. Almost 2,000 people were still struggling to find a place to live three months later.[285]

Most disaster displacement in the US tends to take place in the form of pre-emptive evacuations organised by disaster risk management agencies at the federal and state level. There are also a variety of support programmes for people affected by disasters, including those displaced. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, for example, provides support in the form of temporary housing and financial assistance.[286] People whose homes have been destroyed still face long-term impacts, however, and many struggle with the cost of

rebuilding to the extent that some are unable to do so before the next disaster strikes.[287] By the end of 2019, 37,000 people were still displaced by disasters in the US.

Thirty-eight disasters, mainly storms, floods and wild-fires, triggered more than 41,000 displacements in **Canada** in 2019. Spring snowmelt and heavy rain caused major rivers and lakes to overflow in Quebec province, inundating more than 9,000 homes and triggering more than 10,000 evacuations across 310 municipalities.[288]

High winds fanned intense wildfires in the central province of Alberta in May, triggering around 11,000 evacuations.[289] The largest, the Chuckegg Creek fire, burned about 280,000 hectares of land. People began to return soon after the fires were put out, but schools in some areas were closed for the rest of the year.[290] Hurricane Dorian hit the Nova Scotia peninsula on the Atlantic coast in September but with far less intensity than in other countries. Around 200 displacements were recorded.

Around a third of the disaster displacements recorded in Canada in 2019 took place in First Nations communities. The federal government has plans to work with First Nations communities and provincial and territorial governments to improve disaster risk reduction measures and the management of pre-emptive evacuations.[291] Its 2019 budget also included around C$300 million ($215 million) over five years to help First Nations communities to prepare for, mitigate and respond to emergencies.[292]

FIGURE 16: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in the Americas (2009-2019)
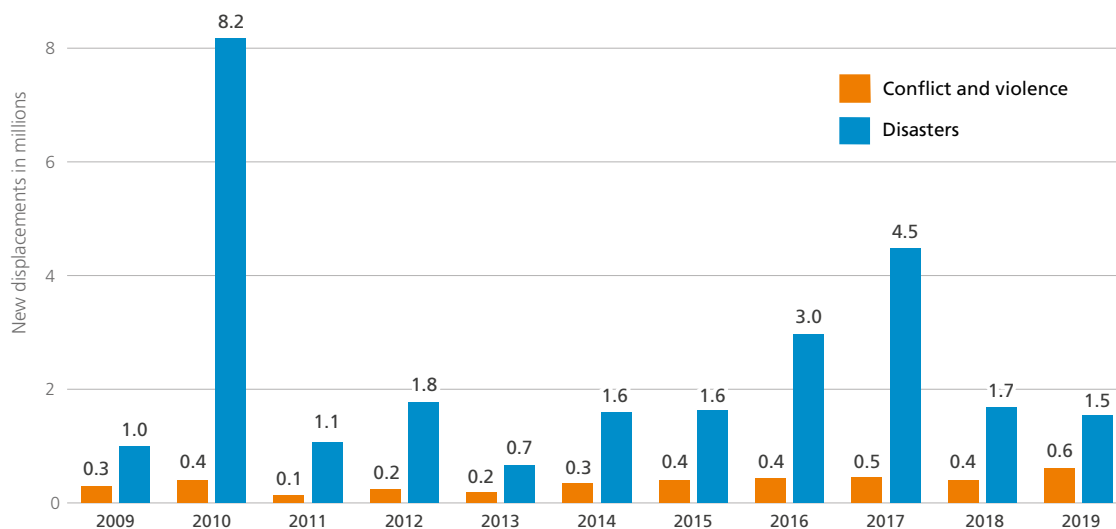
The Caribbean

Hurricane Dorian was the most powerful to strike the **Bahamas** since records began, and the most intense tropical cyclone worldwide in 2019.[293] The category five storm caused unprecedented damage and triggered about 9,800 new displacements across the archipelago. Poor and marginalised communities of Haitian origin living in informal settlements were particularly hard hit (see The Bahamas spotlight, p.61).

The social, economic and political crisis in **Haiti** deteriorated further in 2019.[294] Discontent with the government, price increases caused by the devaluation of the gourde and falling living standards combined to fuel nationwide protests and civil unrest that triggered 2,100 new displacements. This was the first time displacement associated with conflict and violence had been recorded in the country.[295] Streets were barricaded, houses and shops attacked and police and protesters clashed in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and the departments of Artibonite, Nord, Ouest and Sud.[296]

Criminal gangs also took advantage of the insecurity and overstretched security forces to expand their activities and conduct a series of attacks that triggered displacement.[297] The situation deteriorated further in the latter part of the year, and human rights organisations alleged government involvement in the violence and warned all parties against escalation.[298]

Disasters, mainly storms and floods, triggered 1,200 displacements in 2019, fewer than in previous years. Tens of thousands of people, however, were still living in displacement as of 31 December as a result of disasters in previous years. Nearly 33,000 people were still displaced across 22 sites after the devastating 2010 earthquake, many of them because of delays in reconstruction.[299]

The overall humanitarian situation in Haiti is cause for extreme concern. Hospitals, emergency services, civil protection units and orphanages are unable to function fully because of shortages of fuel, safe water and other basic services. The ongoing insecurity and protests have also impeded humanitarian agencies' access to those in need.[300]

Central America

Violence perpetrated by drug trafficking cartels and paramilitary and vigilante groups triggered 7,100 new displacements in **Mexico** in 2019, but the figure should be considered an underestimate. Much of the displacement took place in the states of Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, Guerrero, Michoacán, Oaxaca and Sinaloa. One of the largest events occurred in Guerrero in January, when a criminal group known as *Los Cuernudos* began shooting and looting in the city of Coahuayutla, triggering more than 1,100 displacements.[301]

There was also an increase in the number of people arriving at the US border having fled violence.[302] The situation in Ciudad Juárez was of particular concern, because many people hoping to seek asylum were living in tents on the street. The local authorities cleared those who had pitched their tents near the city's three international bridges and said they had been housed in a collective shelter run by a religious charity.[303] Almost half of them were children and youth under the age of 18, and most had come from the state of Michoacán.[304]

Mexico does not have an official registry of IDPs, and the lack of comprehensive assessments and data make it difficult to fully understand displacement patterns, assess small-scale incidents and unpack the relationship between internal displacement, cross-border movements and returns. Civil society organisations monitor larger displacement events based on media reports.[305]

Efforts to establish a stronger evidence base were stepped up last year, however, when the government published a comprehensive report laying out the challenges inherent in assessing internal displacement associated with violence in the country. The analysis also shed light on opportunities to better measure its scale, patterns and impacts via existing registries.[306]

The report is a mark of greater commitment on behalf of the government to understand and address a phenomenon that represents a historical debt to the hundreds of thousands, if not millions of IDPs. It comes on top of parliamentary debates about a federal law on internal displacement, which has been ongoing since

Geremías was another victim of Colombia's longstanding conflict. After being displaced from his farm, he moved to the city of Cali, where he received government compensation and started a small business. Photo: UARIV, Colombia, 2019

April 2018.[307] This momentum should be built upon, because it holds the promise of positive change after a decade in which the scale of the challenge has grown faster than policy initiatives to address it.[308]

There were relatively few disasters in Mexico in 2019 compared with previous years, and 16,000 new displacements were recorded. A quarter of them were pre-emptive evacuations in response to a false tsunami alarm in the southern state of Chiapas in November. Hurricane Lorena and tropical storm Narda triggered around 2,200 and 2,000 displacements respectively on the Pacific coast. Wildfires also led to the evacuation of about 2,100 people in the state of Veracruz in March, and 1,600 people in Baja California in October.

The displacement crisis in the **Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA)** attracted growing media attention and human rights concerns in 2019, particularly after El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras signed "safe third country" agreements with the US.[309] These mean that people trying to reach the US will not be

able to apply for asylum there before doing so in any of these countries. This raises protection concerns because many people fleeing violence in their home countries may be sent back to unsafe areas where they may have no option other than a life of internal displacement.[310]

There is little robust data with which to analyse the triggers, drivers and impacts of internal displacement, cross-border movements or returns in NTCA, and these gaps need urgent filling.[311] Neither the government nor humanitarian agencies in **Guatemala** collect or publish information on internal displacement associated with conflict and violence systematically, but evidence shows that violence perpetrated by criminal gangs and unidentified armed groups against land rights and political activists has forced people to flee their homes.[312]

El Salvador does not have a national registry, but civil society organisations collect data on internal displacement, mainly to inform their assistance and support programmes. Extrapolated results from one survey suggest there were 454,000 new displacements in

2019. Threats, extortion and assassinations perpetrated by criminal gangs are the main triggers.[313] This considerable increase compared with previous years is in part the result in a change of methodology.

The government adopted a law on internal displacement in early 2020, which raises hopes that some data gaps will be filled.[314] The move followed a constitutional court ruling in July 2018 that officially recognised the phenomenon in the country and instructed the government to develop appropriate legislation. The law provides for a registry of IDPs, which will improve the government's ability to measure, understand and act to address what is a growing challenge.

The government of **Honduras** has long recognised the existence of internal displacement, and established the Inter-Agency Commission for the Protection of People Displaced by Violence in 2013.[315] It has also been in the process of establishing a law on internal displacement since 2016, but the final draft is still to be approved.[316] The draft provides for a registry of IDPs and abandoned property, which is much needed given that it was impossible to obtain any data on new displacements last year despite evidence of violence. Nor was it possible to ascertain how many of the people who joined the so-called "caravans" of people making their way to the US border had previously been internally displaced.

A political and security crisis in **Nicaragua** that began in early 2018 has been escalating ever since. Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands injured, protesters have been arbitrarily arrested and many people have been reported as kidnapped.[317] There have also been frequent reports over the years of armed groups attacking indigenous communities to displace them and expropriate their land for illegal cultivations.[318] Violence, insecurity and human rights abuses have triggered waves of cross-border movements to other countries in the region, but it is impossible to assess how many people have been internally displaced.

South America

Despite the signature of a peace agreement in **Colombia** in 2016 between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's main guerrilla group, internal displacement continued

unabated in 2019. There were 139,000 new displacements recorded, compared with 145,000 in 2018 and 139,000 in 2017. The western departments of Chocó and Nariño were the most affected, followed by Cordoba, Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca.

The ongoing conflict involves right-wing paramilitary and drug trafficking groups such as the Gaitanista Self-Defence Groups and the Gulf Clan, the leftwing National Liberation Army (ELN) and FARC dissidents, who are fighting for control of land, resources and drug trafficking corridors. Around 28,000 people were also forced into confinement during the year as whole communities were caught in the crossfire and unable to move.[319] The majority were in the heavily contested Pacific coast department of Chocó.

In some cases, displacement and confinement happened despite the Ombudsman's Office issuing alerts about imminent attacks, which reveals significant shortfalls in terms of pre-emptive action in response to such early warnings.[320] It also illustrates the scale of the challenge Colombia continues to face in building stability and peace. The government is absent from many areas of the country, which armed groups have taken advantage of to expand their territorial control. The assassination of social leaders and human rights defenders also continues unabated. There were 253 such killings in 2019, bringing the total since the peace deal was signed to 817.[321]

Floods, landslides, wildfires and storms triggered more than 35,000 displacements in Colombia in 2019. Flooding in Putumayo department led to the evacuation of more than 11,000 people in June, and Antioquia, Magdalena and Nariño departments were also affected between September and December. Heavy rain in Chocó in late February caused six rivers to burst their banks, affecting nearly 31,000 people. It was not possible to ascertain how many were displaced.[322]

The situation in **Venezuela** continued to be cause for concern in 2019, and 4.9 million people had fled the country as of March 2020.[323] It is impossible, however, to know how many people were internally displaced before crossing the border or how many IDPs there are inside the country. These and other major data gaps impede a clear understanding of the triggers, drivers, patterns and impacts of the biggest migration crisis in Latin America's recent history (see Venezuela spotlight, p.59).

More than 500 disasters triggered 295,000 new displacements in **Brazil**, making it one of the most affected countries in the region. The overwhelming majority were triggered by floods and landslides. We also obtained figures for slow-onset phenomena such as drought and coastal erosion, which revealed 6,100 and 240 displacements respectively. As the dry season arrived, wildfires destroyed more than 50,000 hectares of Amazon rainforest. No displacement figures were available, but evidence suggests indigenous communities were hard hit by the fires.[324]

Disasters are a persistent challenge in Brazil, but the country's approach to managing them has shifted significantly since 2011, when Rio de Janeiro and its surrounding areas were flooded. New policies, mechanisms and norms were introduced to guide and coordinate disaster risk reduction, prevention and response. Parliament also enshrined a national protection and civil defence policy into law in 2012, which provided for the establishment of the Integrated Disaster Information System (S2ID).[325] This has improved the coordination, transparency and accessibility of national data collection considerably. The S2iD system provides data on housing destruction, homelessness, and internal displacement, but its full potential for measuring disaster displacement is yet to be exploited.[326]

Other types of displacement, however, are more difficult to assess. Criminal and gang violence are believed to displace people, but no figures are available.[327] There is also evidence that development projects do so, but data is almost equally hard to come by.[328]

Small-scale disasters triggered 10,000 new displacements in **Peru** in 2019. An earthquake in the northern department of Loreto triggered around 4,300 in May, heavy rains in the central department of San Martín 2,600 in January and an eruption of the Ubinas volcano in the south of the country almost 1,200 in July.[329]

A view of the damage caused by category 5 Hurricane Dorian in Marsh Harbor, Great Abaco Island, Bahamas. Photo: UN Photo/OCHA/Mark Garten, September 2019

Presidential elections in **Bolivia** in October were to have given Evo Morales a fourth consecutive term in office, but the results were disputed and led to widespread protests. These quickly escalated into broader demonstrations, riots and strikes that forced Morales to resign the following month.[330] Figures were hard to come by, but the violence triggered at least 30 displacements when homes were destroyed.

The country was also affected by severe weather, including torrential rains, hail storms and lightning strikes, between January and April. This led to widespread flooding that triggered 77,000 displacements in the departments of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba and La Paz. Thousands of dwellings were damaged or destroyed, along with crops, roads and water and sanitation infrastructure. Families who lost their homes received support to rebuild them and were able to return some months later.[331] There were also wildfires in the Amazon region, but no displacement figures were available.

Countries further south in the Rio de La Plata basin were also hard hit by unusually heavy rains and floods in 2019.[332] Water levels in the **Paraguay** river reached their highest in almost 50 years.[333] The ensuing floods in several neighbourhoods of the capital Asunción triggered the majority the 54,000 disaster displacements recorded nationwide.

Rains and floods also cut off thousands of families in the department of Alto Paraguay between March and July.[334] Crops and infrastructure were damaged and livelihoods disrupted.[335] In parts of the Chaco region that were unreachable overland, the initial response had to be provided by helicopter. The emergency shelters provided to those displaced had few sanitation facilities, and some families who had lost all their belongings were living in makeshift shelters in public spaces.[336]

Decades of deforestation, the alteration of river courses and other human processes combine to increase the severity of floods in Paraguay.[337] The government has begun to build dikes to protect some riverine areas, and is investing in flood monitoring mechanisms and early warning systems.[338]

Floods also triggered around 23,000 displacements in **Argentina**. The northern provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero and Tucumán were worst affected. The provincial government in Santa Fe declared an agricultural emergency.[339]

Uruguay recorded around 22,000 new disaster displacements in 2019, mainly the result of floods and wildfires. Flooding in January was described as the worst in 30 years. The floodwaters took more than ten days to recede in seven departments and more than 20 days in four.[340] A series of lesser disasters across 19 of the country's 20 departments also triggered displacement.[341]

Thanks to the government's Comprehensive Monitor of Risks and Impacts (MIRA), figures for displacement in Uruguay are robust. The system keeps track of disaster damages and losses, including the number of people displaced during voluntary and government-assisted evacuations.[342]

VENEZUELA

First steps toward filling data gaps

Venezuela has been in the throes of a social, economic and political crisis since 2014, prompting almost 15 per cent of the population to leave the country in the largest exodus in Latin America's recent history.[343] The crisis continues to deepen, and people continue to flee to neighbouring countries in search of better living conditions. More than 4.9 million had done so as of March 2020.[344]

How many of those crossing the border were internally displaced beforehand is not known, nor how many may have been forcibly displaced and remain in Venezuela. More is known about what happens outside the country, but it is still difficult to clearly understand what is driving people to flee within and beyond its borders or the extent to which such movements are voluntary or forced. In essence, lack of data makes it impossible to estimate the scale or severity of internal displacement in Venezuela. The only evidence available is anecdotal, but the gravity of the situation merits much more attention.

Venezuela's crisis began around 2010 during the last years of Hugo Chávez's rule, and deepened in 2014, a year after Nicolás Maduro became president. In a country heavily reliant on oil, falling crude prices put a significant dent in the economy and production became increasingly crippled by lack of maintenance and invest-

ment.[345] International sanctions aggravated the situation further and the country went into economic freefall, marked by hyperinflation and a collapse in oil and other major exports. GDP shrank from $323.6 billion in 2015 to $70.1 billion at the end of 2019 and inflation has risen at the fastest rate in recent world history.[346] This has been accompanied by a political, social and humanitarian crisis that continues to deepen and drive mass population movements (see Figure 17).[347]

Food prices have skyrocketed, leading to high levels of malnutrition. Undernourishment has increased almost fourfold, from 6.4 per cent between 2012 and 2014 to 21.2 per cent between 2016 and 2018.[348] Water shortages are also widespread. Many communities receive water less than once a week, which has a disproportionate effect on vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant and lactating women and elderly people.[349] The lack of medicines and health services has increased mortality rates, and there has been a resurgence of diseases such as diphtheria, measles, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV.[350]

Constant power cuts have also affected healthcare and other services, and at times have left millions of people without electricity, running water or telecommunications, causing chaos in cities.[351] Around seven million people, or 21.7 per cent of the country's population, were in need of humanitarian assistance as of August 2019.[352]
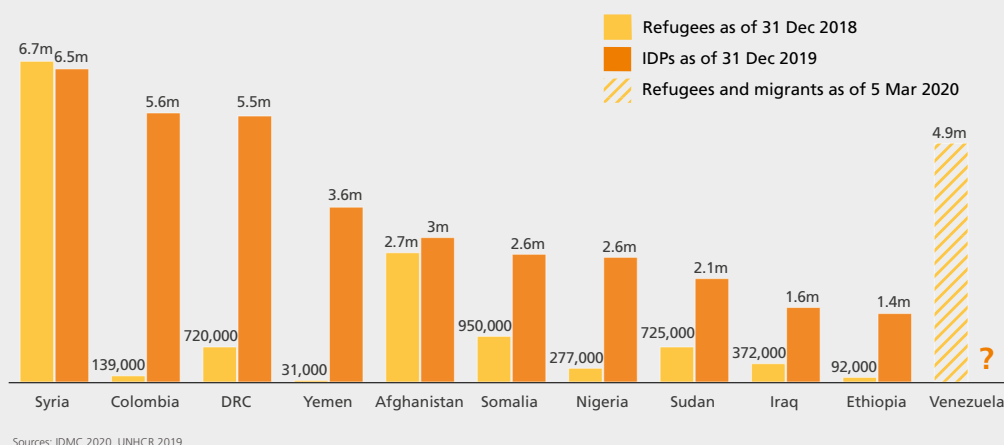
Statistics on violence in Venezuela also make for grim reading. The country has been the most violent in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2017, and has the highest homicide rate in the region.[353] In some areas, particularly those bordering Colombia, non-state armed groups including paramilitaries, criminal gangs and

FIGURE 17: Venezuela's GDP vs. Refugees and Migrants
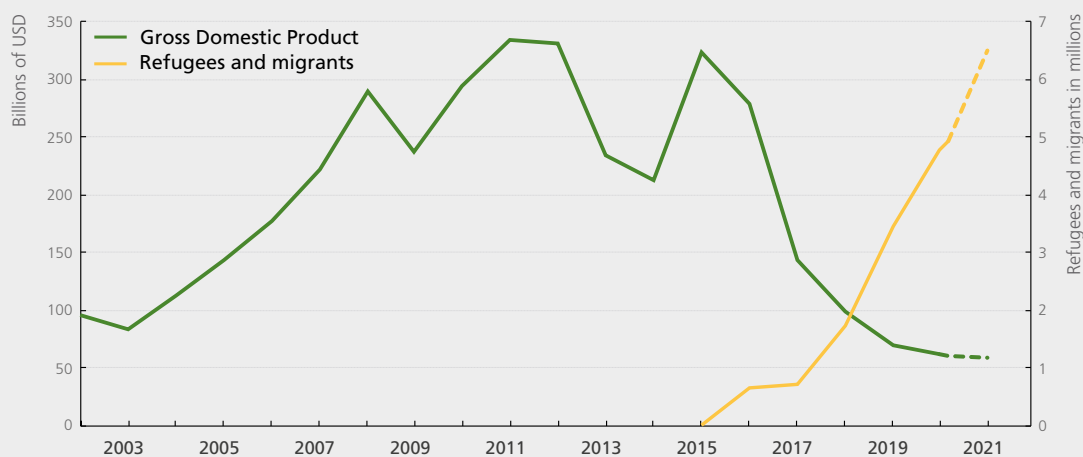
Sources: R4V, https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform, IMF 2020

FIGURE 18: Major displacement crises globally and Venezuelan refugees and migrants for comparison

Legend:
- Refugees as of 31 Dec 2018
- IDPs as of 31 Dec 2019
- Refugees and migrants as of 5 Mar 2020

Data points:
- Syria: 6.7m, 6.5m
- Colombia: 139,000, 5.6m
- DRC: 720,000, 5.5m
- Yemen: 31,000, 3.6m
- Afghanistan: 2.7m, 3m
- Somalia: 950,000, 2.6m
- Nigeria: 277,000, 2.6m
- Sudan: 725,000, 2.1m
- Iraq: 372,000, 1.6m
- Ethiopia: 92,000, 1.4m
- Venezuela: 4.9m, ?

Sources: IDMC 2020, UNHCR 2019

Colombian guerrillas use violence and intimidation to exercise tight control over the population.

All of the above constitute the backdrop for mass displacement within and beyond Venezuela's borders, but the lack of information on population movements within the country limits understanding of the role each factor plays. It is entirely possible, and indeed likely that significant internal displacement is taking place unreported.

The scale of cross-border movements is well documented, however, and it is unprecedented. It is worth remembering that the figure of more than 4.9 million as of March 2020 does not include many who have not registered with authorities and who cross Venezuela's porous borders unnoticed on a daily basis.[354] If the current trend continues, 6.5 million people could have left the country by the end of 2020.[355]

Only Syria, which is mired in a nine-year civil war, has recorded more people fleeing the country, and this reflects Venezuela's unique situation among the world's largest forced displacement crises. In other countries such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nigeria and South Sudan, most internal and cross-border displacements are triggered by active conflict in specific areas, rather than broader economic collapse and insecurity (see Figure 18).

For countries where data is available on both IDPs and refugees, the chart compares the scale of internal displacement and cross-border movements. Venezuela is included for comparison purposes, but it is not possible to make the same distinction because no internal displacement data is available. It is also difficult to distinguish between refugees and migrants among those who have fled the country. Many Venezuelans

who might meet the criteria for refugee status choose not to register and opt instead for alternative legal routes that speed up their access to work, healthcare and education. The majority of those crossing the border need international protection regardless of their status.[356]

What little information is available on the situation inside the country, scattered in reports from international, non-governmental and civil society organisations, shows that people are uprooted by a range of factors, including the lack of services and livelihood opportunities, severe shortages of food and medicines, generalised violence and hyperinflation.[357]

Efforts to gather more information are under way. International organisations have begun to collect data on protection and mobility. National universities and other institutions have also incorporated relevant questions into the National Living Conditions Survey.[358] The survey, which was rolled out in 2019, could shed light on the number of people who have fled their homes since September 2018 and their reasons for doing so. As such it should help to begin to paint a better picture of internal displacement in the country.

As the situation continues to deteriorate and ever more people flee across its borders, it is important to have robust data on the scale, triggers and drivers of internal displacement in Venezuela, and the conditions those forced to flee face. It is vital to allow humanitarian aid providers to collect data on the ground, in order to understand and differentiate between the drivers of migration and displacement, and the respective needs associated. Without such information, this major gap will continue to hamper an objective assessment of one of the world's largest population movements of the 21st century.

THE BAHAMAS

Dorian and the political dimensions of disaster risk

Hurricane Dorian was among the disasters to trigger most internal displacement in 2019. A category five storm with wind speeds of up to 295 km/h, it hit several countries in the Lesser Antilles as well as the US and Canada between 26 August and 7 September. More than 464,000 new displacements were recorded. The Bahamas bore the brunt of the storm, the most powerful to hit the country since records began.[359] Over the course of three days, it caused widespread devastation and triggered 9,800 displacements.

Dorian made landfall in Elbow Cay on 1 September. It moved across the island of Abaco and hit Grand Bahama the following day, inundating the international airport and destroying almost everything in its path. The damage was so extensive because Dorian's storm surge coincided with an exceptionally high tide, known as a "king tide", which occurs when the gravitational forces of the moon and the sun are aligned and at their height. The result was a wall of water several metres high that flooded entire coastal areas.[360]

The country was unprepared for such a disaster, and the consequences were severe. Economic losses were put at $3.4 billion, and 73,000 people, or a fifth of the population, were affected.[361] Abaco and Grand Bahama were worst-hit. Around 9,000 homes were damaged and 2,900 destroyed.[362] Most of the people displaced fled to the main island of New Providence, others to Elbow Cay and Eleuthera. Some rented temporary accommodation, but many stayed with relatives or in collective shelters. Unusually for a disaster, Dorian also triggered cross-border displacements, mainly to Florida in the US and Nova Scotia in Canada.[363]

Dorian's impacts on the Bahamas were unprecedented, but not everyone the storm displaced faced the same conditions.[364] Haitians and Bahamas-born nationals of Haitian origin were particularly affected, a reflection of their historical marginalisation. It is often implied by the authorities and the population that Haitian communi-

ties are not citizens and so should not technically be considered internally displaced or entitled to support and compensation, but for the majority the Bahamas had been their habitual place of residence for years and in many cases generations.[365]

Haitians and Bahamas-born nationals of Haitian origin make up between 10 and 25 per cent of the population.[366] It is not possible to give a more accurate figure because many migrants are undocumented and unaccounted for. The two countries have strong ties that date back to the 18th century, when many Haitian slaves and slave owners established themselves in the Bahamas. Significant numbers of Haitians also migrated to the archipelago in the second half of the 20th century as living conditions at home gradually deteriorated. Such movements reached a peak in the 1980s and 90s as the Bahamian economy flourished, mostly thanks to tourism.[367]

Haitians living in the Bahamas have faced years of stigmatisation, discrimination and marginalisation, and they are widely seen as a burden on the economy. Many live in poverty and their children have little or no access to quality education. Haitian households also have significantly less access to basic services such as water and electricity than other families.[368] Nor does the government recognise citizenship as a birth right.[369] Applying for citizenship often takes several years, and in some cases delays have led to deportations.

Before Dorian struck, 41 per cent of documented Haitians and 20 per cent of undocumented migrants were living in two informal settlements known as The Mudd and Pigeon Peas, low-lying areas of Abaco that the storm all but razed.[370] None remained as of 19 September, and more than 300 Haitians and Bahamas-born nationals of Haitian origin were reported missing.[371]

The storm also left many others at greater risk of further stigmatisation, poverty and deportation. Haitians were among 5,500 people from Abaco and Grand Bahama who sought refuge in government-run shelters across the capital, Nassau, which survived Dorian relatively intact.[372] By the end of November, however, thousands had returned to Abaco and there were only 585 people left in the shelters.[373] Many left as soon as those unable to legitimise their presence in the Bahamas began to be deported. IOM figures for 4 October, for example, show a significant fall in the number of people in shelters the day after 100 Haitians were deported.[374]
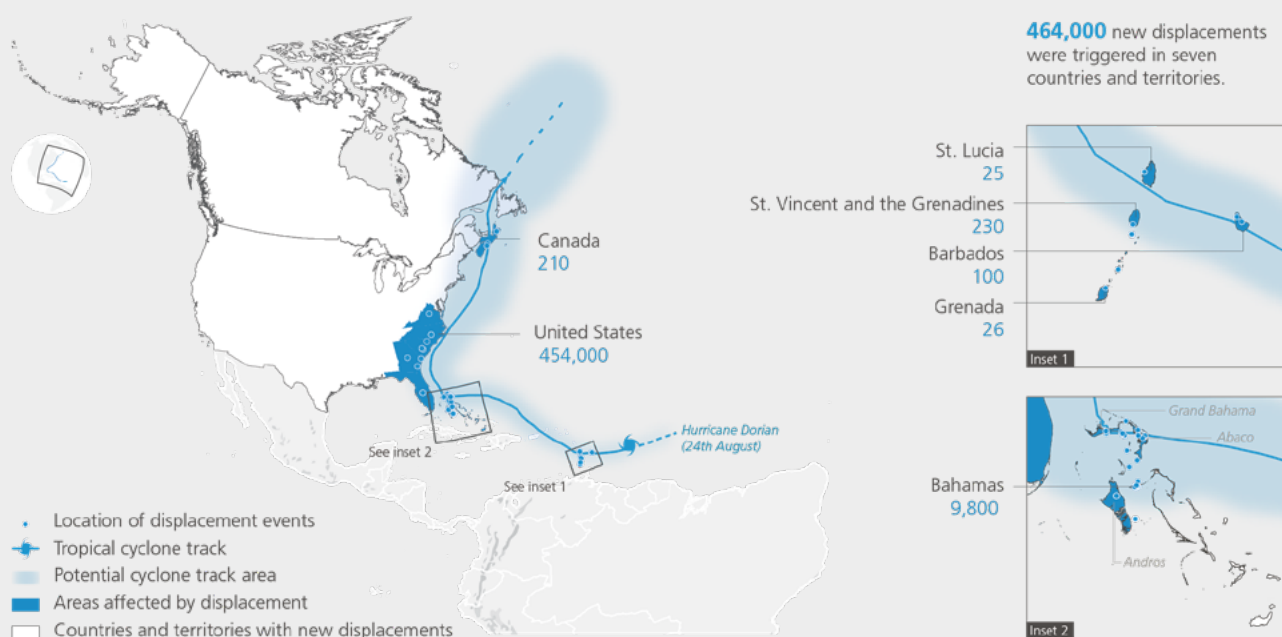
464,000 new displacements were triggered in seven countries and territories.

St. Lucia
25
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
230
Barbados
100
Grenada
26

Canada
210

United States
454,000

Hurricane Dorian
(24th August)

See inset 2

See inset 1

Bahamas
9,800

Grand Bahama
Abaco
Andros
Inset 2
Inset 1

- Location of displacement events
- Tropical cyclone track
- Potential cyclone track area
- Areas affected by displacement
- Countries and territories with new displacements

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.
Sources: Local authorities, IOM, CCCM Cluster, OCHA, FEMA, CDEMA, USAID, PDC, WHO, Red Cross, local media, NEMA, WHO, PAHO, IFRC. Tropical storm data from GDACS, 2019
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

The government has also told those who lost their jobs as a result of the hurricane that they will have to leave the country, even if they still have a valid work permit. Authorities have taken advantage of the disaster to enforce the country's 2014 immigration policy. The immigration minister said: "Dorian did not give persons amnesty. If you were without status before the storm, you remain without proper status after the storm".[375] Thirty-one per cent of people living in affected settlements on Abaco said the immigration services had approached them, and arrests have taken place.[376] Hundreds of Haitians have sought shelter in churches and other unofficial collective sites as a result, fearing deportation to a country that many may not even know.[377]

Prospects for durable solutions for the Haitian diaspora are unclear. The government intends to offer Bahamians the possibility of re-establishing their lives in safe areas, and to reduce disaster risk by building hurricane-resistant infrastructure. Building regulations will also have to be strictly enforced as reconstruction takes place.[378] The government has also undertaken a $6.4 million project called the Family Relief Centre on Abaco to provide temporary housing for those affected by Dorian, and many Bahamians have received low-cost

homes and in some cases plots of land.[379] It has said, however, that undocumented migrants are not eligible, potentially heightening their vulnerabilities and exposing them to the risk of protracted displacement.[380]

A former Haitian finance minister has said the government's policy of deporting Haitians could undermine the reconstruction effort on Abaco.[381] Many have much-needed construction and agricultural skills.[382] Instead even those who stay may continue to suffer marginalisation and chronic poverty. Entire informal settlements in Marsh Harbour where many Haitians used to live will be cleared because of their low-lying location, but it is unclear where their former inhabitants will be relocated to, or even if they will be relocated at all.
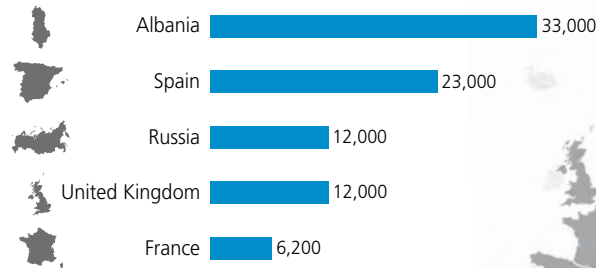
Dorian's impacts on Haitian communities in the Bahamas illustrate the social and political dimensions of disaster risk, and the disproportionate effects that disasters can have on marginalised communities. As the reconstruction phase continues, it is vital that Haitians and Bahamas-born nationals of Haitian origin are not left further behind, otherwise Dorian's impacts may be reabsorbed and trigger a new cycle of risk and displacement.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Country	Displacements
Albania	33,000
Spain	23,000
Russia	12,000
United Kingdom	12,000
France	6,200

Conflict 2,800
Disasters 101,000
0.3% of the global total

Relatively little displacement was recorded in Europe and Central Asia compared with other regions in 2019, preserving a trend set in previous years. The number of new conflict displacements was the lowest since 2014, largely the result of a de-escalation in fighting in eastern Ukraine. The figure for the country itself was the lowest since the conflict broke out that same year (see Figure 19).

The region is, however, home to more than 2.8 million people still living in internal displacement as a result of the war in Ukraine and previous conflicts in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Kosovo, Russia and Turkey. The length of people's displacement and the severity of their conditions vary from one situation to another, but some IDPs have been displaced for as long as twenty years. In many cases it is difficult to ascertain whether or not they have achieved durable solutions.

Disasters triggered 101,000 new displacements across the region in 2019, more than double the figure for the previous year. The majority were the result of floods and summer wildfires, but three earthquakes in Albania displaced the largest numbers of people at once. The availability and quality of data on disaster displacement varies from country to country, making estimates for many conservative. There is very little evidence, for example, about the scale and impacts of disasters in Central Asia.

Eastern Europe

Albania recorded 33,000 new disaster displacements in 2019, the highest figure in the region. A 5.2 magnitude earthquake destroyed more than 50 homes and triggered around 250 displacements near the south-eastern city of Korçë in June, and 5.8 magnitude event and aftershocks around 500 in September.[383]

The most powerful quake, however, and the strongest in decades in Albania, was a 6.4 magnitude event that struck coastal areas near the city of Durres in November.[384] It damaged more than 95,000 homes and triggered around 32,000 displacements. Ninety schools were also closed as result of damage they sustained. Most of those forced to flee their homes were still displaced as of the end of the year.[385]

Russia recorded 12,000 disaster displacements in 2019, most of them triggered by floods. The most significant event took place in Irkutsk, where heavy rain caused the Angara river to burst its banks in June.[386] The subsequent flooding destroyed 1,200 homes in 50 villages and triggered more than 10,000 displacements. The same area was flooded again the following month, triggering more than 1,100 evacuations.[387] The two episodes of flooding together left around 5,000 homes unfit for occupation.[388]

Record high temperatures, electrical storms and strong winds led to unusually fierce wildfires in the south-east of the country. Fires in Trans-Baikal territory burned more than 100 homes and triggered 340 displacements in April.[389] More intense fires in July and August destroyed around 4.5 million hectares of Siberian forest, but no information was available about possible displacements.[390]

No new conflict displacements were recorded during the year, but around 1,800 people were still living in displacement as of 31 December from conflicts in the 1990s.

The number of new conflict displacements recorded in **Ukraine** fell considerably in 2019 as fighting in the east of the country waned. Just 60 were recorded along the contact line that divides government and separatist-held areas, the result of violence, damage to homes, lack of services and forced evictions.[391] There were, however, still around 730,000 people living in displacement at the end the year as a result of the five-year conflict.

The government has taken measures to assist and protect the country's IDPs, including the adoption of a law on internal displacement in 2014.[392] It also adopted a three-year strategy in 2017 to reintegrate displaced people and facilitate their pursuit of long-term solutions, and has run programmes in partnership with international organisations to support, resettle and protect them.[393] Many IDPs have benefited from these measures, but many others still live in precarious conditions.

Representatives from Ukraine, Russia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) met in October 2019 to discuss the next steps in the imple-mentation of the Minsk Agreement and agreed to a multi-step process known as the Steinmeier Formula.[394] This Formula provides for the holding of elections and a potential special status for the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk. The modalities of these elections, however, which would be held under OSCE standards and Ukrainian legislation, have not yet been decided.

Western Europe

Spain recorded more than 23,000 new disaster displacements in 2019, the highest figure in western Europe. Around 18,000 were triggered by summer wildfires that burned nearly 90,000 hectares of land. The fires in the Canary Islands, the most affected region, were the worst in a decade.[395] Around 10,000 people were evacuated in August, many of them from the municipalities of Artenara and Vallesco on Gran Canaria.[396] Most people were able to return to their homes in the days after the fires were put out.[397] Unusually hot and dry conditions helped to fuel the fires, but their impacts were also aggravated by increased development and tourism that mean firefighters have to tackle blazes over wider areas.[398]

Electrical storms and torrential downpours hit the east and south-east of mainland Spain in September.[399] The ensuing floods triggered about 5,000 displacements across the autonomous communities of Valencia and Murcia. They included the evacuation of 2,200 residents from the town of Santomera in Murcia for fear a local dam would overflow.

FIGURE 19: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in Europe and Central Asia (2009-2019)
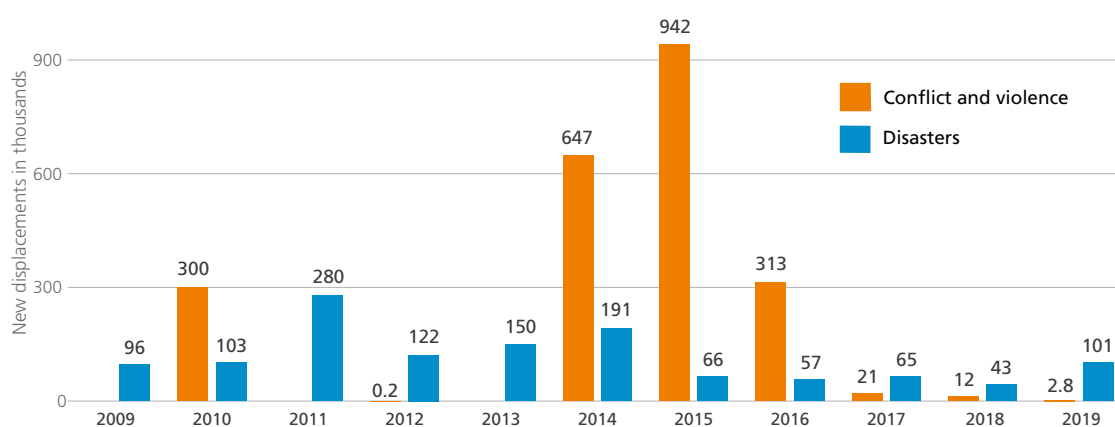
Thirty-two disasters triggered more than 6,200 new displacements in **France**. Around 3,400 were the result of a series of floods, half of them evacuations in southern parts of the country in November. Heavy rains and high winds in the south and west also triggered 635 displacements in December.

The largest single displacement event, however, was an earthquake in Ardèche department in November that destroyed more than 800 homes and triggered 2,000 displacements. The people affected were still living in displacement as of the end of year. Ardèche is in a low-risk area for seismic activity, but the quake was the strongest in France for at least 15 years.[400] Wildfires and landslides also forced people to flee their homes during the year.

Localised disasters triggered around 12,000 displacements in the **United Kingdom** in 2019. Torrential rain caused so much runoff from the Toddbrook reservoir in Derbyshire that the volume of water caused structural damage to its dam.[401] More than 6,500 people were evacuated for fear it would burst as the rains continued. Local authorities, firefighters and the Environmental Agency worked together to reduce the risk of a collapse, including by pumping water out of the reservoir to reduce pressure on the dam.[402] The incident was a reminder of the need to maintain and reinforce aging concrete infrastructure.

Some parts of the county of South Yorkshire received the equivalent of a month's rain in a day in November. This led to severe flooding in and around the cities of Sheffield and Doncaster. More than 100 schools were closed, and around 1,800 homes and businesses badly affected.[403] Around one in six homes in the UK are at risk of flooding, and insured losses amount to around £1 billion ($1.2 billion) a year. The combination of climate change and variability and poor compliance with building standards only serve to heighten the risk.[404]

Floods triggered around 2,400 of the 3,400 disaster displacements recorded in **Italy** in 2019. The most significant event took place in June in towns near Lake Como in the north of the country.[405] Heavy rains caused flash floods that prompted the pre-emptive evacuation of 1,000 people across several municipalities.

A 4.8 magnitude earthquake triggered around 600 displacements near Florence in the province of Tuscany in December. Most of the people displaced were sheltered in civil protection facilities.[406] A volcanic eruption on the island of Stromboli triggered about 70 displacements in August. The Stromboli volcano is one of the world's most active and has been erupting regularly since 1932. The island is sparsely populated but is frequented by tourists on day trips.[407]

Central and western Asia

Attacks against Turkish soldiers launched from inside neighbouring Syria triggered more 2,000 new displacements in **Turkey** in October 2019.[408] The figure should be considered an underestimate because other attacks also took place in border areas but there was little access to information on the ground with which to estimate the scale of any possible displacement.

Around 1.1 million people were still living in displacement as of the end of the year as a result of conflict between Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the 1990s and security operations in the southeastern Anatolia region in 2015 and 2016.

Around 550 disaster displacements were also recorded in 2019, figures that should be considered underestimates.

Obtaining displacement figures in countries across Central Asia is challenging. We were only able to compile an estimate for disaster displacement in **Tajikistan**, where 4,800 people were evacuated in the south-western districts of Vose' and Farkhor in June as a result of heavy rains, mudflows and widespread flooding.[409] More than 1,000 homes were damaged, 354 of them seriously.[410] The people affected incurred significant financial losses and lacked food, safe water and sanitation. About 2,100 people were estimated to still be displaced by the end of the year.

People in several countries in the region continue to suffer the legacies of previous conflicts and violence. Intercommunal violence in southern **Kyrgyzstan**, for example, triggered more than 300,000 displacements in 2010.[411] Around 170,000 people were still living in displacement the following year, but little information is available about their conditions since.[412]

Around 770 new displacements were recorded in the country in 2019. People were evacuated from a village

near the border with Tajikistan after clashes in March and July.[413] The human rights situation in Kyrgyzstan has improved in recent years, but minorities continue to suffer discrimination and have few education and job opportunities.[414]

Since the conflict started in 2014, this man and his family have been living in an abandoned house on a farm near the village of Novyi Donbas in Eastern Ukraine. Photo: IOM/Muse Mohammed, August 2018

PART 2

ENDING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

—

Relocated internally displaced people access the water supply in a New Public Site in Baidoa, Somalia. Photo: IOM/Hyungbin Lim, July 2019

POSITIVE LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

Internal displacement cost the world about $20 billion in 2019.[415] This economic burden is borne by displaced people themselves, the communities that host them, struggling frontline government agencies and an overstretched humanitarian system. The figure does not include longer-term or indirect costs, but it still equates to an average of $390 a person for each year of displacement just to provide basic services and account for temporary loss of income.

Based on such rough estimates, the past eight years of ongoing displacement in Syria have cost nearly $43 billion. The figure for Iraq is around $20 billion since 2009. The burden this represents for national economies is significant. The cost of meeting the needs of Somalia's 2.6 million IDPs and accounting for their loss of income for a year adds up to just over $1 billion, which represents around 21 per cent of the country's GDP. Such figures make it clear that the cost of protracted displacement is untenable for countries and communities, which should make sustainable solutions and international support for them a priority.

With 45.7 million people worldwide living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence, and around 5.1 million because of disasters, it is glaringly obvious that the phenomenon cannot be addressed through humanitarian interventions alone. The costs involved are significantly higher than the budget of most government and UN agencies that assist IDPs. Civil society fills some of the gaps, and in the absence of more comprehensive support so do many displaced people and their hosts. The impacts of displacement

that both groups absorb are multidimensional and affect almost every aspect of their lives and communities.

After more than two decades of local, national and international efforts to respond to internal displacement as a humanitarian issue, the gulf between international principles and aspirations and local and national realities is as wide as ever. This makes it apparent that solutions to displacement will have to be found elsewhere, namely via longer-term development initiatives and funding.

One-size-fits-all approaches to durable solutions will also have to be replaced with more granular processes, adapted to the distinct situations of different groups and individuals. Displaced women, men, children, older people and those with disabilities each have specific needs and resources that must be taken into account in designing better policies and programmes to support them.

We estimate that at least 6.6 million children under five were living in internal displacement worldwide as of the end of 2019 with particular development and nutritional needs. Another 11.7 million were between five and 14, and in need of primary or secondary education. Older people may also have specific needs in the form of long-term care or financial support if they are no longer able to work. At least 3.7 million IDPs were over the age of 60 as of the end of 2019 (see Figure 20). A more detailed breakdown of the number of IDPs not only by age, but also by gender, disability status, socio-economic level and other criteria would inform better targeted and more inclusive emergency responses and development plans.

FIGURE 20: People internally displaced by conflict, violence and disasters as of 31 December 2019, by age group

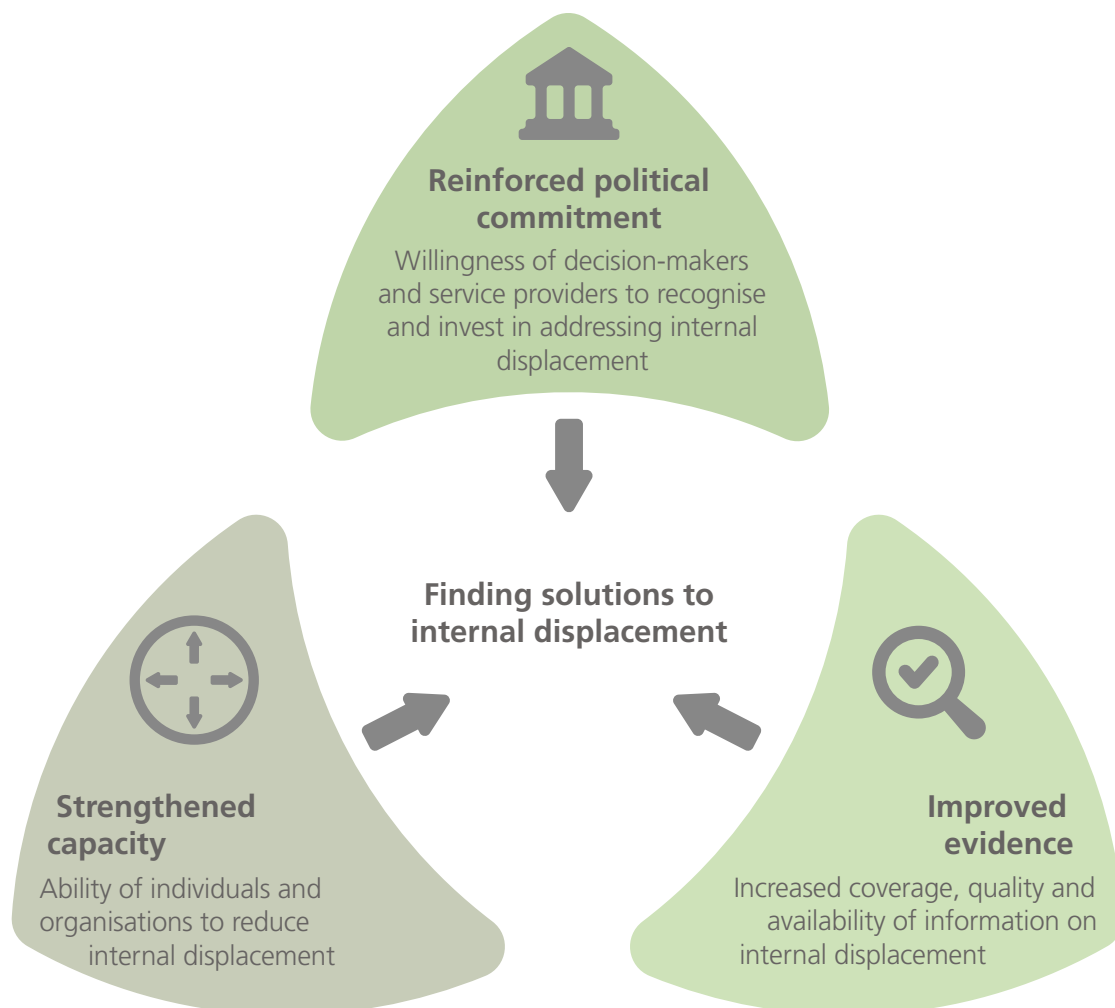| 6.6 million 0-4 | 11.7 million 5-14 | 9.7 million 15-24 | 19.2 million 25-59 | 3.7 million 60+ |
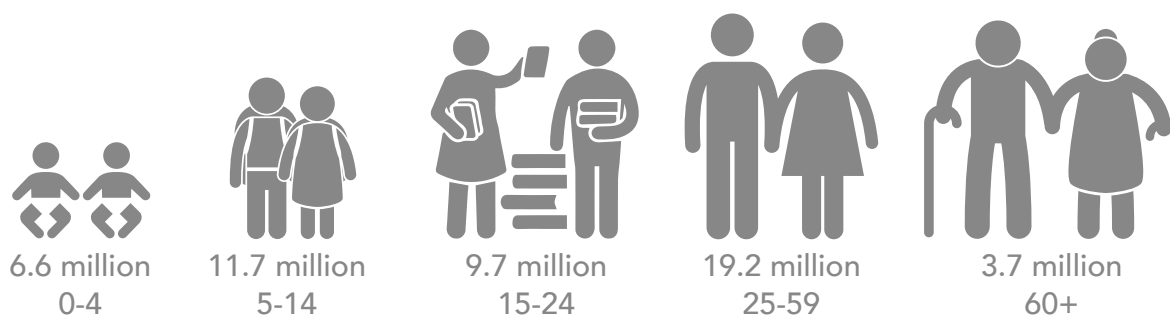
Solutions to displacement are rarely if ever achieved in a single step. In addition to the 50.8 million IDPs worldwide as of the end of 2019, almost 13.5 million people displaced by conflict had made some degree of progress toward durable solutions. They may have chosen to return to their place of origin, integrate locally or resettle elsewhere, but they have only been able to partially re-establish their lives and still have vulnerabilities related to their displacement. We have accounted for this group separately from those still living in displacement, but recognising that they are still to fully resolve their situation means that more than 64 million people worldwide may still suffer from the consequences of their displacement (see Table 3, p.105).

Given the growing scale of the problem, the quest for solutions and robust data to inform them is ever more pressing. The good news is that promising approaches have emerged in recent years, from establishing effective and inclusive coordination mechanisms in Indonesia and comprehensive monitoring systems in Mali, to formally making internal displacement a visible part of development efforts in Afghanistan. These serve, among other things, to highlight the specific nature of local situations.

This part of the GRID presents further examples from countries trying to address internal displacement and discusses the main ingredients of future practice intended to bring about durable solutions and lasting change. These fall into one or two of three areas: improving evidence, strengthening capacity and fostering political commitment (see Figure 21). In other words, practices that contribute to knowing what to do, being able to do it and being willing to do it now and for the foreseeable future.

FIGURE 21: Three areas for action needed to end displacement and reduce displacement risk

Reinforced political commitment
Willingness of decision-makers and service providers to recognise and invest in addressing internal displacement

Finding solutions to internal displacement

Strengthened capacity
Ability of individuals and organisations to reduce internal displacement

Improved evidence
Increased coverage, quality and availability of information on internal displacement

POLITICAL COMMITMENT AS THE BASIS FOR ACTION

When asked what is missing for significant progress on internal displacement to be made, many commentators reply, "political commitment". It may also be called political will, institutional buy-in or national owner-ship, but whatever the term it is commonly held to be lacking. There are, however, examples of newly emerging commitment to be found.

Official statements or mentions of internal displacement in speeches and reports can be a form of "expressed" political commitment. A number of countries have gone further to demonstrate their expressed commitment by reporting on internal displacement, including against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) (see Philippines spotlight, p.83).

Expressed commitment may also translate into clearly demonstrated institutional or budgetary commitment via the development of policies, the adoption of laws, the allocation of funding and the implementation of programmes.[424] These may be instruments and initia-tives specific to internal displacement in their own right, or measures integrated into broader development strat-egies, programmes and budgets.

The Afghan government, for example, is committed to making land available to returning refugees and IDPs, and collaborated with UN agencies and international NGOs to develop a new legal framework on land rights and ownership. This culminated in a presidential decree issued in August 2018 on the identification and alloca-tion of suitable land and the construction of affordable housing for returnees.[425]

Ethiopia, which already had a complex set of policy frameworks on displacement, launched the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) toward the end of 2019 intended to establish a coordinated approach under national leadership.[426] In the Pacific region, the UN Human Rights Council set a precedent in recognising the risk of new and protracted displacement associated with climate change impacts when it ruled that there may be instances in which people fleeing them would have to be afforded international protection.[427] Individual states including Fiji and Vanuatu are also developing domestic policies.[428]

Recognising and properly framing internal displacement is critical to government action

Recognising and accurately framing internal displace-ment has the potential to catalyse major shifts in polit-ical attention and institutional commitment. In Somalia, for example, changes in how the phenomenon came to be understood played a significant role in reshaping national policy and practice.

Somali officials had long favoured return as a way of resolving displacement, and policies were geared toward IDPs going back to their places of origin.[429] Many were evicted from their temporary homes and land as a result and sought refuge in peri-urban areas around Mogadishu, where they were at risk of further displacement.[430] Aided by consistent engagement of various humanitarian and development organisations, however, the government's thinking shifted. It began to recognise local integration not only as a viable solu-tion but also IDPs' preferred option in many cases. It launched a DSI in 2016, which it leads, and a regional durable solutions secretariat led by civil society to put its new policy angle into practice.[431]

The country's 2017 national development plan recog-nised IDPs' rights and included provisions to support their local integration in urban areas, and the Benadir regional administration established a durable solu-tions unit in the mayor of Mogadishu's office.[432] It also launched a durable solutions policy for IDPs. This regional initiative has since spawned a federal effort, including a new national policy on IDPs adopted by the cabinet and the country's durable solutions secre-tariat with significant political buy-in and ownership.[433] Chaired by the Ministry of Planning, the secretariat incorporates 14 government institutions, including the Office of the Prime Minister and the National Commis-sion for Refugees and IDPs. Somalia also ratified the Kampala Convention.[434]

Internal displacement under the SDGs and the Sendai Framework

Forty-seven countries published voluntary national reviews (VNRs), the follow-up mechanism for reporting progress against the SDGs, in 2019. Fourteen of them were countries affected by conflict displacement, but only seven - Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Ghana and Iraq - included the phenomenon in their reviews. This still constitutes a modest improvement on previous years. Only three of the countries with conflict displacement did so in 2016, four in 2017 and five in 2018. The Philippines also recognises disaster displacement and sets out options to address it in its 2019 VNR.

There was also greater emphasis on internal displacement in the 2019 VNRs. Those in previous years tended merely to mention the issue or list the number of IDPs in the country, but the latest reviews go further in unpacking the causes of displacement and how to address them through preventive measures and support for durable solutions. Azerbaijan's 2019 VNR also stresses the need for disaggregated data and for IDPs to be involved in the implementation of the SDGs and the preparation of related reports.[416] It also mentions concrete measures taken to support IDPs, such as increasing their monthly allowance from 40 to 60 manats ($24 to $36).

Bosnia and Herzegovina's VNR identifies lack of access to work as one of the main obstacles to sustainable return for both IDPs and refugees.[417] It also reports an example of good practice in the form of the government's provision of small business, agriculture and vocational training support for around 1,000 returnee households.

2020 marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the SDGs and a higher number of VNRs are likely to be submitted as a result. Fifty are already under preparation, including 19 from countries with people displaced by conflict or violence. DRC, Libya, Syria and Ukraine will present their first VNRs, as will the Russian Federation.[418]

The Sendai Framework, which the UN General Assembly adopted in 2015, complements the SDGs by outlining seven targets and four priorities for action for member states to protect development gains from the risk of disasters.[419] It recognises displacement as a major global consequence of disasters, and target B is to reduce the number of people affected by disasters, including those who are displaced, by 2030.

Target E is to substantially increase the number of countries that adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the framework by 2020. More than a third of the 69 national DRR strategies reviewed refer to displacement, but only a quarter were created or have been revised since 2015 and so are aligned at least in part with the Sendai Framework's provisions.[420]

Vanuatu's DRR strategy is a good example. It calls for attention and support to be given to IDPs' specific needs, and the development of a national policy on internal displacement to strengthen disaster recovery arrangements.[421] India's DRR strategy also refers to the Sendai Framework and emphasises the need to avoid secondary displacement in the aftermath of disasters, calling for customised relocation packages that support recovery and access to livelihoods.[422]

As under Sendai's predecessor, the Hyogo Framework for Action, member states can document their progress toward global targets by providing validated data on 38 indicators into the Sendai Framework's online monitoring tool.[423] Twenty-six countries provided data on housing destroyed by disasters in 2018, but only 11 did so in 2019. This is unfortunate, because such information serves as a useful proxy for displacement and provides a baseline to advocate for more investment in risk reduction.

FIGURE 22: Internal displacement and the SDGs
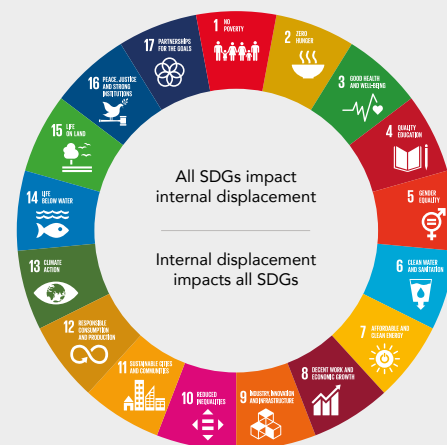
Sayed, 13, and his family were allocated government land on which they were able to build this home. Photo: NRC/Enayatullah Azad, October 2019

These developments show how a shift in the way internal displacement is framed and a country's recognition of the scale, nature, risks and impacts associated with it can radically alter the institutional landscape and create opportunities for action.

In Brazil, newly proposed provisions in the national civil defence plan and policy would recognise disaster displacement and have the potential to improve promising efforts to account for and address the phenomenon.[435] The government set up the Integrated System for Information about Disasters (S2ID) in 2012 to compile official data on disaster losses and publish damage reports.[436] Lessons from the country with the highest number of disaster displacements in Latin America show that fuller national recognition of the potential duration, severity and complexity of displacement has the potential to become the bridge between emergency responses and broader policies that address the issue more holistically in the aftermath of disasters.

Whether dedicated or integrated, policies on internal displacement need to align with national priorities

National policies that address internal displacement comprehensively as a humanitarian and development issue can catalyse the establishment of institutions and mechanisms dedicated to preventing and responding to it in a more coordinated way. Other national policies that recognise displacement, including development plans, peacebuilding strategies and DRR frameworks, may also help to prepare the ground for more coherent and effective protection and assistance, and investments in preparedness, risk reduction and prevention.[437]

Uganda has a dedicated national policy on IDPs that covers both conflict and disaster displacement and includes measures that range from prevention to facilitating durable solutions and mitigating broader social impacts.[438] Developed, as so often happens, in response to a crisis, it pays only limited attention to reducing displacement risk, but it is still a good example of a strong standalone policy that has provisions for different displacement situations. South Sudan's national framework on return, resettlement and reintegration of 2017

was also developed in response to a crisis, but because the displacement involved was associated with conflict, it only provides for durable solution initiatives for people whose flight was triggered in that way.[439]

Burundi's IDPs are recognised as victims of the country's 1993 to 2005 civil war and included in the national strategy for socioeconomic reintegration, but no prevention measures are included.[440] The strategy does, however, include measures to mitigate the negative consequences of conflict and displacement for groups other than IDPs, and this is an important step toward fostering social cohesion and maintaining peace.

Creating direct links between efforts to support IDPs and achieving national development goals, such as poverty reduction and stability, has been shown to be a promising avenue toward sustainable progress. Somalia's last national development plan includes provisions for IDPs and other vulnerable groups, and Afghanistan has recognised internal displacement as a significant challenge to poverty reduction in its SDG reporting (see Internal displacement under the SDGs and the Sendai Framework spotlight, p.71).

More and more countries have also started to include the phenomenon into their national DRR policies and strategies.[441] Burkina Faso and Namibia have developed national disaster risk management plans that include displacement risk, prevention measures and the provision of assistance for those displaced and their host communities.[442] Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have also developed a range of policy instruments that address displacement, including relocation guidelines, migration policies and national development plans.[443]

Regional and global initiatives can act as catalysts for national commitment and local action

Regional and global initiatives play a vital role in generating political support for issues that may be difficult to tackle at the national level. The African Union (AU) and other regional and sub-regional bodies on the continent have done much to encourage the implementation of national laws and policies on internal displacement.[444] Other regional bodies, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Council of Europe, had previously called on their member states to develop

legislation and national policies in line with international standards, but it was in Africa that the first legally binding regional instruments for IDPs' protection were developed.[445]

The 2006 Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, also known as the Great Lakes Pact, and its protocol on IDPs' protection and assistance require member states to incorporate the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into their national legislation.[446] The AU adopted the Kampala Convention, a landmark instrument that established a common regulatory standard for IDPs, in 2009. The convention also draws on the Guiding Principles and is the first regional framework to define roles and responsibilities for a wide range of institutions and organisations operating in displacement settings.

Regional economic bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have also promoted dialogue and policy development on internal displacement by drawing together a wide range of stakeholders to exchange experiences in supporting IDPs' resilience and their achievement of durable solutions.[447]

IGAD's attention to the issue triggered a sense of competition between countries in the Horn of Africa to make their efforts to support IDPs more visible.[448] Examples from across the region show that there is no one way to facilitate dialogue on internal displacement and that increasing attention to it is a long-term process. Consultative and less formal processes are also conducive to peer-to-peer learning and increasing ownership.

The continent marked the 10th anniversary of the Kampala Convention in 2019, which the AU declared the Year of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs. A review of the year's achievements shows that it acted as a catalyst in strengthening national normative frameworks.[449] Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and South Sudan all ratified the convention. Ratification does not equal implementation, but it does constitute an important step in raising the political profile of displacement by reinforcing national responsibility. Continent-wide regional meetings that included a large number of civil society organisations may also have helped raise awareness of the issue in the media and among the general population.

At the global level, the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement set up by the UN secretary general, António Guterres, in 2019 is a strong sign of renewed political attention on the part of the UN system and member states. The panel's main aims are to identify concrete and long-term solutions to protracted displacement, develop a realistic agenda for the prevention of future displacement and mitigate its negative effects.[450]

Ongoing reform of the UN development system also presents an opportunity for greater international coordination to support governments in tackling internal displacement at the operational level. The new UN sustainable development cooperation frameworks could be a potent platform for increased visibility of the phenomenon at the country level.[451] The frameworks are based on UN common country assessments (CCAs), which review country-specific data on risks to development, including conflict, displacement, climate change and disasters, to improve UN support and prioritise its resources.[452]

The UN's regional monthly reviews (RMRs) are an opportunity to integrate displacement risk considerations into the system's global horizon scanning exercises, which in turn may encourage more forward-looking approaches.[453] The enhanced role of resident coordinators (RCs), who lead UN country teams and are managed by the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), also presents an opportunity to develop comprehensive strategies to address internal displacement in line with national needs and development priorities. The RC offices in Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan already have durable solutions advisors or teams in place, and others are beginning to show interest in providing similar support.

A displaced family received emergency assistance when they first arrived on Maewo island, after being evacuated from their home on Ambae island, Vanuatu.
Photo: Australian Red Cross/IFRC/ Dilini Perera, May 2019

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES NEEDED AT ALL LEVELS

Countries with robust governance mechanisms, including a clear allocation of responsibilities across sectors and administrative levels, adequate human, technical and financial resources and transparent budgets, are best placed to develop strong capacity to address internal displacement. This section discusses how governments, international agencies and NGOs have stepped up their efforts to strengthen planning, implementation and monitoring capacities at the national and local level.

National governance mechanisms and levels of decentralisation have direct implications for countries' capacities to address internal displacement

An analysis of short and long-term responses across different contexts shows how both formal and informal governance structures already in place influence a country's ability to address protracted displacement.[454] Capacity to account for and respond to the phenom-enon needs to be strong across the board, which often requires additional resources, particularly at the local level. This includes involving IDPs and their host communities in planning and in the provision of basic services and supporting them in developing new skills. The planning and implementation of initiatives and the monitoring of progress in countries with truly decentralised systems and budgets will be led by local administrations as a matter of course, but basic local capacity to undertake assessments and collect data is also needed in those with more centralised systems.

Despite progress in Somalia since the launch of the country's DSI in 2016, it has become clear that more capacity investments need to be devolved from the national to the municipal level.[455] This should include the devolution of responsibilities, budgets and decision-making power, not only in urban centres such as Mogadishu, Baidoa or Kismayo, where the international presence is strong and technical assistance available, but also in secondary cities such as Burco, Galkayo and Qardho.[456]

At least 6.6 million children under five were living in internal displacement worldwide as of the end of 2019. A project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, supports permanence of students in school. Photo: Mariel Almuiña, 2019

Colombia's Transitional Solutions Initiative has been recognised as good practice beyond the country's borders.[457] Implemented from 2012 to 2016, it was a concerted effort by the government and its partners to address protracted displacement in some of the most affected areas of the country. It did, however, encounter challenges in terms of local-level involvement and it may also have increased the population's dependence on external assistance and threatened to create tensions in communities with weakened social fabric.[458]

A key lesson from this significant investment by both humanitarian and development stakeholders was the important role that local committees played. They brought communities, municipalities and local, national and international NGOs together for biweekly meetings, emphasising the importance of involving local authorities in the design, implementation and continuation of international responses.

Georgia has also recognised the need for better coordination between national and local stakeholders. The country set up a strong mechanism in the form of a dedicated ministry for IDPs and a steering committee made up of several ministries, UN agencies and civil society organisations, which operated until early 2019. It has more recently developed a promising multiyear decentralisation strategy that has the potential to grant local government entities more powers to deal with internal displacement.[459] Georgia's experience shows that strong coordination between a national focal point and other national and local stakeholders is essential for effective implementation, and that such a mechanism is also a clear signal of political commitment.[460]

Funding for sustainable solutions must prioritise local initiatives

Sustainable solutions to displacement require predictable long-term funding at the local level.[461] This is particularly the case for rapidly growing cities that become a destination for large numbers of IDPs but which may not be prioritised in national budgets.[462] Despite growing recognition of the fact, there is still a yawning gap between the overall funding available and the small percentage channelled to those "at the frontline".[463]

This issue is not specific to internal displacement, and a number of lessons can be drawn from other areas. Of all the global climate funding available to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, less than 10 per cent was earmarked for local action between 2013 and 2016.[464] A series of factors prevent more funds from trickling down, including how success is measured and the transaction costs involved in managing small versus large funding flows.

The dominance of large international organisations and development banks as intermediaries also acts as a barrier because they are less able to finance or support small-scale projects, and many donor countries still prefer risk-averse funding mechanisms to the detriment of more innovative instruments that might reach local stakeholders more easily.[465] As a result, "few funds provide capacity support for building local capacity, and those that do seldom allow sufficient time to build the skills needed".[466]

Somalia's DSI experience confirms this. Limited local-level capacity means municipalities struggle to deal with the increasing numbers of IDPs who want to integrate locally. Despite a range of federal and state policies and guidelines introduced in recent years, services and infrastructure in many towns and cities are still severely overstretched. There is an effort, via the DSI, to increase investment in rural capacities, markets and infrastructure to reduce the pressure on urban areas, but the reality on the ground dictates that more investment will also have to be made in strengthening the capacity of urban municipalities.[467]

Some of the best performing climate funds that target local initiatives, such as the Global Environmental Fund's small grants programme, have participatory structures in which "local communities are able to engage directly in the design, appraisal and evaluation of climate and development projects".[468] Ultimately funding has to reach the people directly affected, which for the purpose of this report means IDPs, their host communities and their local representatives.

Where local-level funding is provided, whether for initiatives targeting IDPs directly or organisations that support them, experience shows it to be more successful when based on multi-year strategies and funding that connect humanitarian and development work.[469] Some countries, such as Denmark, are responding to this realisation. Its framework for international cooperation emphasises the need to bridge humanitarian and devel-

opment action so that immediate needs can be met in parallel with longer-term work on durable solutions.[470]

The hope is that more predictable longer-term funding may support multi-year planning and strategic engagement at the country level. Multi-year funding and planning were key to the success of the Simon Pelé urban development programme in Haiti, which facilitated the return of people displaced by the 2010 earthquake. Habitat for Humanity's Pathways to Permanence strategy provided a predictable five-year funding period for the programme, enabling its strategy to go beyond support for IDPs to include investments in neighbourhood infrastructure, security and DRR measures. It was the first neighbourhood-scale project to be implemented with grants from institutional donors such as the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, and Canada's Department for Foreign Affairs, Training and Development (DFATD).[471]

Evaluations of multi-year funding programmes in countries such as DRC and Sudan also suggest that the benefits of such arrangements remain unevenly distributed, but there are promising signs that adopting a longer-term approach helps to improve the quality of humanitarian programming and encourages organisations to adopt more integrated responses to protracted displacement.[472]

Predictable multi-year funding also acts as a counterweight to waning donor attention. Many examples exist of funding for longer-term reconstruction and integration efforts falling off dramatically after initial funding cycles.[473] Perhaps as a result of this, the international community and humanitarian agencies tend to shy away from taking a "long-term view, as well as strengthening the State's capacity to face the long tail of returns and stabilisation".[474]

A revisit to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was intended to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, seems appropriate. Financing for solutions to internal displacement will have to be based on and support "cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks".[475] These may be new instruments or adaptations of existing ones, including loans.

Lessons from refugee situations show that loans can be useful if they are concessional. The Global Conces-sional Financing Facility provided Colombia with such funds as part of a broader loan agreement to support the country in hosting Venezuelan refugees, effectively increasing the volume and decreasing the cost of the overall transaction.[476]

Just as providing support for countries trying to deal with large influxes of refugees is considered a global public good that may justify concessional lending, so should facilitating sustainable solutions to internal displacement be seen as an investment that brings broader regional and global benefits in terms of stability and peace and a reduction in poverty and inequality. Learning from promising financing instruments already in place will be important in changing the landscape of financing to address and resolve internal displacement.

The UN's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) may have a role to play in getting more funding to the local level to address the phenomenon. It is willing to take more risks in its investments than development donors and has already proved a catalyst for securing funding for large, area-based durable solutions interventions, as in Somalia.[477] The more visible role the World Bank has taken in financing responses to refugee situations is encouraging, and the increased funding it has earmarked for countries affected by conflict may also be made available to finance assistance for IDPs.[478] Development funds, however, are usually channelled based on poverty and vulnerability rather than status, which is why better information on IDPs' socioeconomic conditions is vital if such instruments are to support longer-term investments.

Accounting for displacement and reporting on progress

A country's ability to account for the number of IDPs on its territory, monitor assistance and report on progress toward durable solutions is a potent tool for generating and sustaining commitment at all levels. Countries with a national data strategy that enables regular reporting, which has a dedicated budget and is aligned with a legal framework are also able to communicate their efforts and intentions in ways that are more likely to attract internal and external support.

This means that national strategies to develop capacity need to include not only data collectors and analysts, but also staff from entities that will use the data and

Monsoon rains often trigger flooding and displacement in Sri Lanka. Authorities publish daily weather reports, early warnings and updates on disaster displacement figures. This is valuable information to inform prevention, recovery and reconstruction efforts. Photo: Ishara S. Kodikaral/AFP via Getty Images, May 2017

results. These include line ministries involved in service provision, labour and employment ministries, central and urban planning departments and civil protection bodies. The capacity to generate, analyse and use robust data vary enormously from one country to another, but a number of promising practices exist.[479]

The security situation in Mali has been deteriorating since 2013 and the number of new displacements rose sharply in 2019. The increase, however, is in part due to the fact that the country has set up a relatively comprehensive system for data collection, verification and sharing.[480] Its rapid response mechanism (RRM) kicks in during sudden and acute crises, and acts as the primary source of information on new displacements in the country.[481] It provides validated alerts for population movements that it subsequently tracks. The mechanism currently operates in northern and central regions of the country and consists of a network of focal points at different levels that share information from the communal to the regional level. This is done in close partnership with the Regional Social Development Authorities and local administrations.[482]

There are significant differences between the collection of information on disaster displacement and that triggered by conflict and other forms of violence, an indication that government ownership of the data collection and validation processes also varies significantly depending on the trigger.[483] More than 70 per cent of our disaster displacement figures are based on data obtained from government bodies, most of which are national or regional disaster agencies and local authorities.[484]

Sri Lanka's government agency for DRR publishes daily weather reports, early warnings and daily updates on disaster losses, including displacement figures.[485] The country's Disaster Management Centre (DMC) also leads research that supports mitigation efforts and preparedness planning, emergency responses and the coordination of relief and post-disaster recovery.[486]

Indonesia follows the same protocol, recording data that includes the type of disaster, the number of people affected or displaced, and the number of houses damaged or destroyed. Most of the information is available in the DesInventar database.[487] This global open resource is a unique global repository of disaster loss data. The fact that countries are unable to record the duration of displacement is a critical gap, but one that could be relatively easily filled.

The Philippines provides a particularly good example of strong government ownership of displacement data. The Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Centre (DROMIC) is one of the most reliable national systems in Asia for data on displacement associated with both disasters and conflict (see Philippines spotlight, p.83).

The country can be considered an exception in that the amount of conflict displacement data recorded in national accounting systems tends to be much smaller. Governments usually keep population registers, but the most readily available data on internal displacement is often produced by international partners that provide humanitarian assistance. They are a valuable source of information if national authorities are unwilling or unable to take on the work, but the lack of government leadership or participation can lead to a disconnect between the data produced and decision making at the national level.[488]

In some countries where conflict displacement is high on the political and public agenda, national or local authorities do set up registries or multiple-source databases. Colombia's systematic collection of information on IDPs as part of its registry of victims of the country's civil war has been recognised as good practice for many years. The system is well resourced and supported by a clear mandate under which the government's Victim's Unit is dedicated to maintaining the Victims Registry (RUV) created in January 2012 and providing services to IDPs in collaboration with line ministries and departments.[489]

The first comprehensive official registration of displaced people in Bosnia and Herzegovina was carried out after the Bosnian war in late 2000 and evolved into the Database of Displaced Persons and Refugees (DDPR), the main source of quantitative data on internal displacement, in 2005. Despite a solid methodology, however, the complex administrative structure makes it difficult to collect reliable data because displaced people have to submit a request or be assigned a status as such in accordance with the law to be included. That said, the fact that changes in people's status are passed directly to municipalities means that assistance could be targeted more effectively.[490]

There are many lessons to be learned from the different experiences to date with accounting systems. One of the most obvious is that for them to work and be useful to planners and service providers, they have to cover a range of indicators and metrics that offer insight and outputs to a range of stakeholders. A system intended solely to account for internal displacement will not have the same traction as one that provides information across various dimensions, time and space. Investments in broader statistical and data systems can also be starting points for the integration of information on internal displacement, particularly if there is limited appetite, capacity or resourcing for more dedicated activities.

Lessons from initiatives to improve SDG reporting show the need for the internal displacement agenda to be aligned with broader national priorities, particularly when it comes to data collection systems.[491] For capacity building to be sustainable, gain momentum and become worth the time and money invested by governments and donors, it must be integrated into existing support mechanisms.

IOM and FAO recently launched a partnership with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) in west and central Africa intended to address disaster displacement by mobilising regional stakeholders and building national capacity.[492] Using an existing collaboration of more than 20 organisations, the partnership is a promising example of how collaborative efforts can strengthen local, national and regional capacities on internal displacement. Given that both sudden and slow-onset disasters are key triggers of displacement in the region, initiatives such as CADRI could offer countries tools and services that help account for and reduce the phenomenon.

Capacity-building efforts must target not individuals, but organisations and national institutions, and they must have political support. Without it they may end up as short-term investments that peter out before new systems have been established, resulting in failure. A clear understanding of existing capacities and the challenges in different contexts is also essential.

STRONGER EVIDENCE CAN PRODUCE BETTER POLICY AND PRACTICE

Not only the quantity but also the quality of data on internal displacement has increased significantly over the past decades. There is still much to do to improve coverage and reliability, but progress is being made. Good practices are emerging from new approaches, technologies and partnerships that help to improve our understanding of the scale, nature, impacts and risk of displacement.

Better data to inform the pursuit of durable solutions

The first global survey of IDPs was published in 1998 to coincide with the launch of the Guiding Principles. It covered 56 countries and estimated that between 20 and 22 million people were living in internal displace-

ment as a result of conflict and violence.[493] The way that internal displacement is recorded globally has advanced significantly since, in some cases to include systematic data collection on countries, displacement events and situations and IDPs' trajectories. Coverage has also expanded significantly in recent years. The amount of information in our Global Internal Displacement Database has increased by 274% since 2016.[494]

The robustness of our figures and our confidence in them have also improved. Not only has the number of incidents of displacement in our database risen, but also the number of records for many events. As the range of sources has increased, so has our ability to triangulate and validate data on new displacements and people living in displacement (see Figure 23).[495]

FIGURE 23: Increasing confidence in global estimates of internal displacement
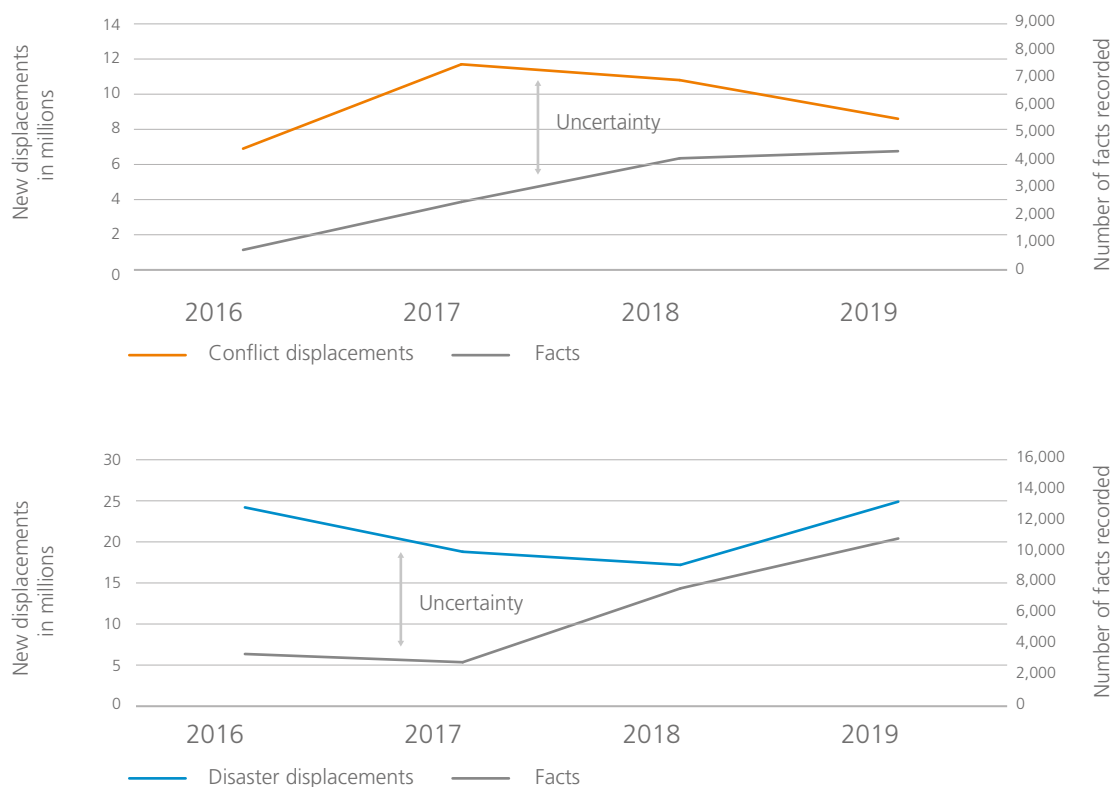
More needs to be done, however, to generate reliable data on IDPs' location and demographics and the patterns and duration of their displacement. Without such information, neither governments nor humanitarian and development stakeholders are able to plan effective interventions to reduce the impacts of displacement or the risk of it happening in the future.[496]

Given information on the spatial distribution of displacement, for example whether IDPs or certain subgroups are concentrated in urban centres or dispersed across rural areas, the provision of services and investments in infrastructure can be better targeted. In urban displacement settings as described in the first part of this report in Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria and Somalia, this type of information becomes vital because support has to be provided outside camps and via channels determined by existing urban infrastructure and service delivery.[497]

Some IDPs are displaced several times, and others undertake pendular movements between their places of origin and refuge. People tend to become more vulnerable economically, socially and psychologically with each new displacement, so knowing how many times people have been forced to flee helps to plan and prioritise support accordingly.

Understanding the risk of future displacement underpins efforts to prevent it from happening. We estimate that around 13.9 million people worldwide are at risk of being displaced by sudden-onset disasters each year.[498] Eight of the ten countries with the highest risk of future displacement and loss of housing are in south and south-east Asia. In Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam, high hazard risk combines with the fact that large populations are exposed to fuel displacement risk.

Hydro-meteorological hazards are by far the largest trigger of displacement. They also pose the greatest risk of it happening in the future, and this risk is set to increase with population growth and the fact that climate change is making such hazards more frequent and intense. The good news, however, is that hazards such as floods and cyclones can be predicted, and early warning systems work. Information on the scale, location and nature of projected displacement can also be used to inform pre-emptive measures that mitigate risk and improve preparedness, reducing the impacts of disasters when they strike.[499]

This type of information helps in planning broad interventions, but not all IDPs experience displacement in the same way, even if they are displaced at the same time and by the same trigger. Data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics is needed to design more effective programmes that tailor limited resources to specific needs.[500] It is also needed to inform policy and meaningfully assess progress in reducing displacement.

Gaps in disaggregated data tend to be filled with qualitative and anecdotal evidence, with some notable exceptions. The number of IDPs of different sex and age can be estimated using demographic information about the general population. We used this method to calculate that around 21 million women and girls worldwide were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of 2018.[501] This figure can be further broken down by age group to identify those who may need nutritional support, early childhood or other education or reproductive healthcare.

We have also developed a methodology for gauging the severity of displacement, which uses qualitative indicators to assess IDPs' living conditions and highlight priority areas for intervention.[502] The returns index developed by IOM and Social Inquiry in Iraq similarly assesses living conditions in IDPs' areas of origin, with a focus on livelihoods, basic services, social cohesion and perceptions of safety.[503]

A longitudinal study conducted by IOM and Georgetown University also assesses progress toward durable solutions for 4,000 Iraqi IDPs and returning refugees over four years against the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) criteria.[504] A similar undertaking in Lebanon sought to understand the spectrum of what constituted returns and solutions for IDPs, less than 40 per cent of whom are estimated to have returned since the civil war.[505] Applying a more nuanced assessment to returns, however, showed that several areas saw partial returns, where people returned on a seasonal basis or parts of the family returned, keeping strong ties to areas of refuge.

Understanding the short and longer-term impacts of displacement and their direct and indirect repercussions for people, societies and economies is useful to estimate the cost of responses and the benefits of prevention. The estimated $20 billion that internal displacement costs each year globally, show the potentially dramatic

economic impacts displacement can have. Combined with in-depth analysis of the multidimensional impacts of displacement on individuals and local communities, this information makes a strong case for preventive action and investment in reducing the risk of future displacement.[506]

Data collection and analysis can and has to go beyond simple counting

The evidence base on internal displacement has been further improved through new ways of gathering and processing data and increased collaboration between collectors, analysts and users. Mobile technology and data from social media, which is mainly used to support emergency operations and disaster relief, has also been applied to understand displacement patterns before, during and after disasters, and its duration. This type of data can be combined with official figures on evacuation and shelter occupation in the Philippines to providing unique insight into the phenomenon (see Philippines spotlight, p.83).[507]

Progress has also been made in assessing displacement via proxy indicators such as housing destruction and the extent of flooding, information about which is gleaned from satellite and aerial imagery. [512] The method is particularly suited to urban settings, where the availability of images also helps to track reconstruction as a proxy for the duration of displacement, keeping in mind that rebuilding does not always equate to return.

New technologies and modelled projections help to produce aggregate information and global estimates, but more in-depth data collected directly from affected communities is also needed. We conducted research in 15 countries involving more than 2,800 survey interviews and 200 key informant interviews which shows that a mixed-method approach is most useful in many settings. This might include household surveys, open-ended key informant interviews, observations and participatory research such as social cartography and gender walks.

Lessons learnt from decades of humanitarian and development practice show that the participation and leadership of communities in programmes that affect

Conflict displacement remained unabated in Colombia in 2019. Amapar-radó and Cañaveral indigenous communities were subject to confinement as clashes between armed groups intensified in August in the department of Antioquia. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities remain at high risk of forced displacement and confinement.
Photo: NRC/Marcela Olarte, October 2019

PHILIPPINES

Painting a fuller picture of disaster displacement

The Philippines is one of the few countries in the world to systematically collect data on disaster displacement, and this puts it in the unusual position of being able to understand how the phenomenon evolves. Data collection on disaster displacement elsewhere tends to stop shortly after a hazard strikes, meaning that little if any information is available on how long people are displaced for and how their conditions change over time.[508]

DROMIC, the Philippines' disaster response agency, collects information on the number of people evacuated and the number staying in shelters over time. When this is combined with other sources of information such as anonymised Facebook user data, it provides humanitarian responders and development planners with vital and potentially lifesaving insight into displacement flows and patterns and IDPs' conditions.

The Philippines recorded 55 disasters in 2019, triggering 4.1 new displacements, of which more than 413,000 were triggered by nine major earthquakes. When three earthquakes struck the southern regions of Mindanao in the space of two weeks in October, DROMIC started to record damage, losses and displacement and continued to do so in the months that followed.[509] Its data shows that the number of IDPs in official and unofficial shelters grew from 8,400 in the immediate aftermath of the disaster to a peak of around 190,000 in early December, before falling to about 160,000 toward the end of the month (see Figure 24).

When another 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Matanao in Davao del Sur in December, it triggered 167,000 new displacements and prolonged the plight of many people who had fled the October quakes. DROMIC data shows that many people were still displaced months later (see Figure 24). Given the extent

FIGURE 24: Number of people displaced in the Philippines after earthquakes in October and December 2019
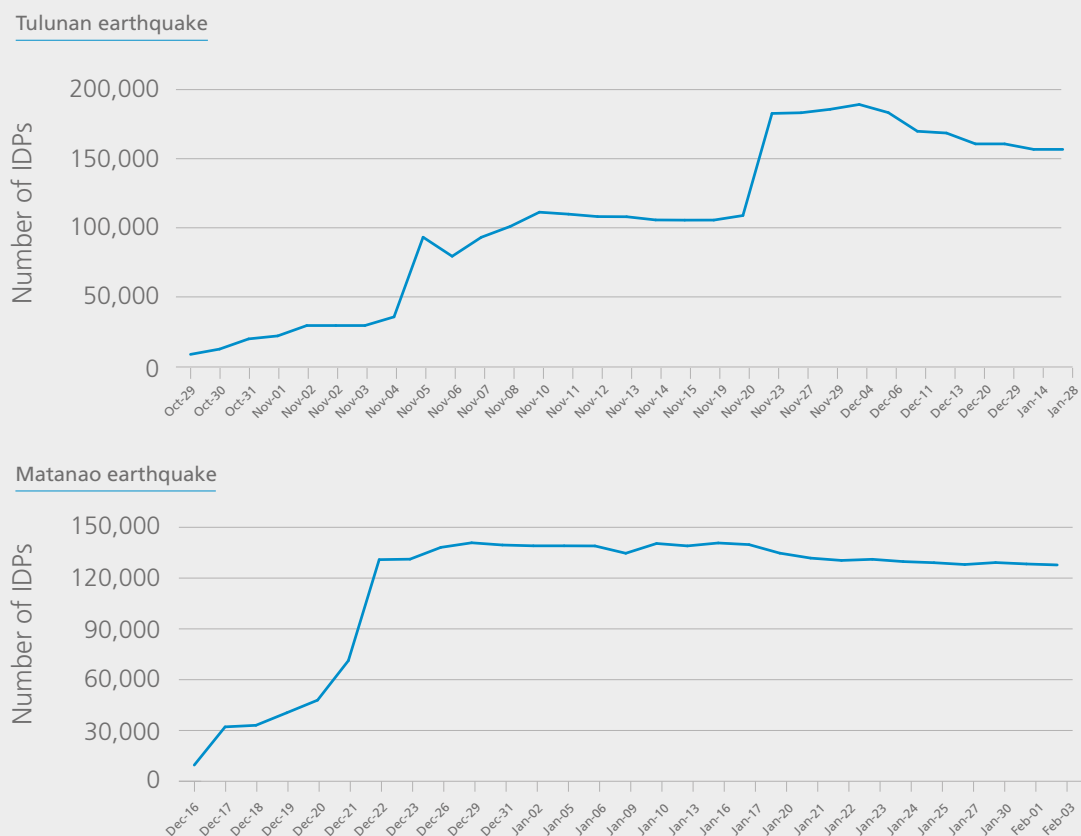
of the damage and the evacuation of communities in areas prone to landslides, some people may remain displaced for much longer periods, but there is no solid data to verify this.[510]

Facebook user data can complement DROMIC's datasets in such instances by showing movements through space and over time. The data is also useful in estimating daily displacement patterns, which is key to understanding how long a disaster has affected a given area and why some cities recover faster than others. When combined with DROMIC data, such information can support humanitarian response, but also authorities' longer-term measures to facilitate return and build resilience to reduce future displacement risk.

We have been collaborating with Facebook since 2017 to build displacement maps using anonymised data aggregated at the city level. These give additional insight into the duration of people's displacement, where they move from and to and their prospects for durable solutions.[511]

As the methodology is improved and refined, it will become possible to create maps for small-scale as well as larger disasters, which will help to fill further data gaps in situations not covered by official statistics. As digital technologies become more readily and widely available, other undertakings of this kind to collect comprehensive, validated and interoperable data on disaster displacement over space and time will also become possible. This in turn will better inform efforts to manage disaster risk and facilitate durable solutions.

The Philippine Red Cross conducts damage and loss assessments after typhoon Ursula hit Virginia village in Culaba, Biliran on 24 and 25 December. Photo: IFRC/ Mayor Humphrey B. Olimba, December 2019

them is essential for success. Participatory research is intended to complement analyses carried out by governments and aid providers with the perspectives of people affected by displacement, involving them not only as recipients but also as responsible agents. IDPs and their hosts have invaluable information about their personal experiences, the barriers they face and how they expect to overcome them. Without such insights, aid providers risk putting together costly programmes that will not be relevant or taken up by those who should benefit from them.

The scale, nature, impacts and risk of displacement vary greatly from one situation to another and depending on the people affected. Designing better preventative measures and responses requires taking these differences into account, and who better to highlight them than IDPs and their hosts?

Participatory approaches engage affected people, local governments, aid providers and other practitioners at every stage, from the design of policies and programmes to their implementation and evaluation. This degree of participation strengthens all three pillars of durable solutions to displacement: evidence, capacity and political commitment.

Because of the difficulties of conducting research with IDPs in often challenging settings, it tends not to be representative and findings cannot be extrapolated to all displaced people in a country or region. They still, however, offer a valuable snapshot of what needs to be considered when developing policies and programmes. Such primary research would ideally be complemented with data collected more systematically and at a larger scale.

More and better collaboration can increase the availability and accessibility of data on internal displacement

Producing authoritative evidence to inform policies and programmes that support the pursuit of durable solutions requires collaboration and partnership. Donor countries and private funders have invested in a range of data centres and initiatives over the last decade intended to inform better policies and programming on displacement. Many are simple data-sharing platforms targeted predominantly at humanitarian practitioners. Displacement data presented in ways that are useful

for longer-term development planning is still not readily available, but there may be lessons to learn from new efforts in this area with refugee and migration data.[513]

Several commissions and UN regional groups have developed data-hosting centres where aggregated information on migration and displacement from different sources is made available to decision-makers and planners. Twelve countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have created an online repository that includes basic migration data with guidance from the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).[514] Its counterpart in Latin America and Caribbean, ECLAC, has an open database on internal migration.[515]

The AU and the Moroccan government agreed in 2019 to establish the African Observatory for Migration and Development (OAMD) in Rabat. The observatory is intended to collect information, share data and analysis on migration issues and facilitate coordination between African countries based on the premise of "understanding, anticipating and acting".[516] It should also help to coordinate policies, harmonise national strategies and improve African countries' interaction with partners abroad.[517]

New initiatives to improve displacement data for specific vulnerable groups have also emerged, such as the International Data Alliance on Children on the Move recently launched by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), IOM, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Eurostat, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and key partners including IDMC.[518] This unprecedented collaboration aims to improve statistics on migrant and displaced children by supporting in-country data systems and capacities, and mapping gaps, challenges and solutions. It brings together a broad range of resources to advance the objectives set out in the SDGs and the global compacts on migration and refugees.

Strengthening the evidence base on internal displacement will require the development of dedicated capacity at all levels and the institutional commitment to sustain it over time. Data collection and analysis on the phenomenon and the development of tools for planning and monitoring progress all require strong capacities and resources. Reinforcing them by creating an organisational infrastructure with a budgetary commitment in the form of earmarked allocations would be a clear expression of political will.[519]

Ways forward: generating political incentives

Fostering political commitment helps to generate the resources and official authorisations necessary for increased data collection. The inverse is also true as better evidence on internal displacement helps to generate political incentives and can bolster political will. The incentives for governments to engage can, for example, be highlighted by contrasting the benefits of investing in durable solutions with the estimated economic cost of inaction. Assessing the impact of projected future displacement on a country's overall socioeconomic development is another approach, as is documenting and reporting on progress in resolving internal displacement systematically.

Data on countries' different experiences of displacement is also needed, as are lessons from specific situations that are applicable to others. There have been several attempts to document good practices and lessons from a range of displacement situations, but almost none used a systematic approach based on a coherent framework.[520] This means we do not have a complete understanding of what works and what doesn't in different situations, and most importantly whether overall progress has been made.

A new global initiative to support the assessment of progress seeks to address this gap. The Internal Displacement Index (IDI) is a composite measure that brings together indicators of governments' capacity to address displacement, the impacts of current crises and the underlying drivers that may lead to future displacement or enable solutions.[521]

The index is intended as an accessible tool to introduce non-specialists to a complex phenomenon and at the same time to facilitate the monitoring of progress in resolving displacement at the national and global level. It also helps to identify challenges and good practices from around the world. The indicators for the IDI's policies and capacities component act as a solid checklist for measuring progress against all three pillars of durable solutions.

Applying the index's basic principle but making it adaptable to specific countries allows national dashboards to be developed. The Georgian government developed a country-specific assessment tool in collaboration with IDMC and other national stakeholders in 2019 to monitor progress in resolving displacement more closely and better inform its efforts to support IDPs and prevent further displacement.

The tool includes indicators relevant to the situation in Georgia, which help to assess the government's capacity in terms of data, national policies and financial and institutional resources. It also collates data on the factors such as the number and intensity of floods and landslides that may lead to new displacement or aggravate the conditions in which IDPs and host communities live. Indicators on the scale, severity and economic impact of displacement are used to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to prevent and reduce displacement.

With nationally owned data sources that are updated at least annually, the Georgian experience provides an example of how to develop a national instrument that can help monitor progress over time more accurately and comprehensively.

CONCLUSION
The next 10 years

This next decade has the potential to become an important chapter in global efforts to reduce protracted displacement. Examples of advances at the political, policy and operational levels presented in this report show that progress is being made and many lessons can be learned from existing experience.

To date, however, there has been no systematic global assessment of what drives progress toward lasting solutions. Examples of good practice have been assembled, but a framework is needed for a comprehensive review of the processes involved in achieving solutions and the factors that contribute to success.

Bringing internal displacement to an end has been understood mostly in terms of the durable solutions set out in the Guiding Principles, namely return, local integration and resettlement. This has limited the way in which existing practices and promising new approaches have been assessed. What is needed in the coming years is a thorough analysis of how countries and communities have managed to resolve displacement crises and what windows of opportunities enabled progress.

There is growing interest in understanding how to navigate the structural challenges and opportunities inherent in addressing internal displacement, but countries looking for lessons from peers in their efforts to do so currently have no trusted source or repository they can draw on.

For such learning to take place, a global partnership is needed to systematically collect, evaluate and share practices and experience, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning and support. Such an undertaking should cover a range of operational and political practices, from the collection and analysis of data and common standards for planning and reporting, to coordination and partnership, integrated policy development and the monitoring of progress.

Countries able to demonstrate progress and show how their investments in governance and capacity have translated into resolving displacement and making communities more resilient will be able to advocate for more support, both within their societies and institutions and from external partners. Establishing a strong evidence base on solutions will be key for states as end-users and would foster ownership and action.

Exchange and cooperation among states that are dealing with internal displacement will be essential. What constitutes good practice and success cannot be defined externally. Countries are looking for spaces for dialogue and open peer-to-peer exchanges at the regional and international level, and they are eager to make use of existing mechanisms. Their partners should invest more in supporting these exchanges, even if it means less visibility for international organisations. Beyond learning opportunities, they have the potential to be significant catalysts in creating incentives for countries to act.

Women prepare food at an IDP site in Bunia, Ituri, DRC.
Photo: OCHA/Ivo Brandau, October 2019

GLOSSARY

Armed Conflict: An armed confrontation between the armed forces of states (international armed conflict) or between governmental authorities and organised armed groups or between such groups within a state (non-international armed conflict).[522]

Communal Violence: Violence perpetrated across ethnic, religious or communal lines that has not met the threshold of a non-international armed conflict. Communal, in particular inter-communal violence can overlap to a significant extent with political violence with one type of violence triggering the other.[523]

Criminal Violence: Homicides, threats, extortion and a general atmosphere of violence due to, inter alia, drug cartels, organised crime, or gang activity, in a situation that has not met the threshold of a non-international armed conflict.[524]

Cross-border displacement: Forced movement of persons across borders, whether as a result of conflict, disasters, or other drivers of movement including development projects, irrespective of legal status in receiving countries.[525]

Disaster: A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.[526]

Driver of displacement: Underlying structural factors that combine, overlap and accumulate to enable a crisis to erupt. Synonyms include root cause, push factor, or stressor. Examples of displacement drivers include environmental (e.g. desertification), social (e.g. ethnic tensions), political (e.g. corruption), and economic (e.g. poverty or inequality).[527]

Durable Solutions: In the context of internal displacement, a situation where internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.[528]

Flows: The number of individuals or instances of displacement that cause the total number of IDPs (stock) to increase or decrease. Flows include new displacements, returns, cross-border displacement, settlement elsewhere, and local integration.

Forced evictions: The permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection.[529]

Locally integrated: A situation where former IDPs, based on a voluntary and informed decision, have achieved safe, dignified and sustainable integration in the location they were displaced to. Those who do not meet the criteria set out in this definition should still be considered to be IDPs.

Protracted displacement: A situation in which the process for securing a durable solution to displacement is stalled, and/or IDPs are marginalised as a consequence of a lack of protection of their human rights.[530]

Relocation: The act of moving evacuated people to a place where they stay until return or settlement elsewhere in the country becomes possible (temporary), or the act of moving people to another location in the country and settling them there when they no longer can return to their homes or place of habitual residence (permanent).[531]

Resettled: A situation where former IDPs who, based on a voluntary and informed decision, have settled in a location other than their place of former habitual residence or place of displacement, and have achieved safe, dignified and sustainable integration in this location.

Return: For internal displacement, return implies movement from the place of displacement back to the place of former habitual residence, ideally the former home. In the case of cross-border displacement, return signifies movement from the host country back to the country of origin.

Returnees: A distinction should be made between 'returning refugees' and 'returning IDPs'. In the case of internal displacement, a returnee is a former IDP who, based on a voluntary and informed decision, has returned in safety and dignity to their place of former habitual residence. Former refugees or migrants who cannot go back to their former habitual residence for one of the reasons set out in the Guiding Principles and are unable to sustainably integrate elsewhere are IDPs. Similarly, former refugees or migrants who, after their return, are forced to flee or leave their home or place of habitual residence for one of the reasons set out in the Guiding Principles, are also IDPs.

Risk: The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.[532]

Stock: Number of individuals living in situations of internal displacement as a result of conflict, disasters, or other drivers of displacement at any given point in time. In the absence of durable solutions, the stock figure may include IDPs who have attempted to return to their areas of origin, resettle elsewhere, or integrate locally in their place of displacement.

Trigger: Events in the wider environment that threaten people's security. Triggers may or may not lead to displacement as people evaluate the level of threat posed by an event to their immediate physical and economic security and their capacity to flee their homes. While these events directly trigger displacement, they come about as a result of the complex interaction of multiple underlying drivers.[533]

Vulnerability: The characteristics determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.[534]

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TABLE 1
Summary of key figures

Country or territory	New displacements in 2019 (conflict)	New displacements in 2019 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (conflict)	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (disasters)
Abyei Area		40,000	31,000	26,000
Afghanistan	461,000	117,000	2,993,000	1,198,000
Albania		33,000		32,000
Algeria		3,200		
Angola		6,700		1,100
Argentina		23,000		
Australia		25,000		15,000
Austria		270		
Azerbaijan		140	351,000	100
Bahamas		9,800		600
Bangladesh	520	4,086,000	427,000	88,000
Barbados		100		100
Belgium		10		
Benin	190	5,000	3,700	
Bolivia	31	77,000	31	1,900
Bosnia and Herzegovina		270	99,000	
Brazil		295,000		1,400
Burkina Faso	513,000		560,000	
Burundi	530	27,000	23,000	12,000
Cambodia		70,000		1,300
Cameroon	67,000	24,000	969,000	28,000
Canada		41,000		6,800
Central African Republic	96,000	102,000	592,000	95,000
Chad	58,000	30,000	176,000	27,000
Chile		3,900		1,600
China		4,034,000		220,000
Colombia	139,000	35,000	5,576,000	1,600
Comoros		19,000		19,000
Congo	2	166,000	134,000	107,000
Costa Rica		390		
Côte d'Ivoire	330	720	303,000	400
Cuba		9,900		2,100
Cyprus			228,000	
Dem. People's Rep. Korea		6,400		900
Dem. Rep. Congo	1,672,000	233,000	5,512,000	168,000
Djibouti		10,000		
Dominican Republic		4,900		18
Ecuador		1,100		200
Egypt	4		65,000	
El Salvador	454,000	1,900		
Ethiopia	1,052,000	504,000	1,414,000	390,000
Fiji		5,000		600

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

Country or territory	New displacements in 2019 (conflict)	New displacements in 2019 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (conflict)	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (disasters)
France		6,200		2,000
French Polynesia		30		4
Gambia		4,000		4,000
Georgia			301,000	
Germany		680		
Ghana	2,300	16,000	230	15,000
Greece		2,800		
Grenada		26		
Guam		450		
Guatemala		21,000	242,000	1,300
Guinea		18		18
Guinea-Bissau		410		400
Haiti	2,100	1,200	2,100	51,000
Honduras		390	247,000	
Hong Kong, China		210		
Hungary		110		
India	19,000	5,018,000	470,000	590,000
Indonesia	23,000	463,000	40,000	104,000
Iran		520,000		180,000
Iraq	104,000	37,000	1,555,000	300
Israel		1,200		200
Italy		3,400		
Japan		265,000		88,000
Jordan		46		
Kenya	1,800	74,000	162,000	1,400
Korea		5,600		1,700
Kosovo			16,000	
Kyrgyzstan	770			
Lao PDR		103,000		5,400
Lebanon		4,300	7,000	200
Liberia		600		600
Libya	215,000	4,600	451,000	
Luxembourg		190		
Macedonia			140	
Madagascar	1,000	5,700	3,000	1,400
Malawi	150	117,000	150	54,000
Malaysia		63,000		15,000
Maldives		300		
Mali	284,000	6,600	208,000	6,300
Marshall Islands		200		
Martinique		2		
Mauritania		6,600		
Mauritius		1,000		100
Mayotte		10,000		
Mexico	7,100	16,000	345,000	
Mongolia		13		
Morocco		200		
Mozambique	5,300	506,000	110,000	132,000
Myanmar	80,000	270,000	457,000	41,000
Namibia		2		
Nepal		121,000		29,000
New Zealand		1,300		11
Nicaragua		580		19
Niger	57,000	121,000	195,000	121,000

Country or territory	New displacements in 2019 (conflict)	New displacements in 2019 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (conflict)	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (disasters)
Nigeria	248,000	157,000	2,583,000	143,000
Northern Mariana Islands		870		12
Norway		620		
Oman		1,100		
Pakistan	16,000	100,000	106,000	15,000
Palestine	1,500	2	243,000	
Panama		240		30
Papua New Guinea	1,300	31,000	14,000	11,000
Paraguay		54,000		
Peru	35	10,000	60,000	5,800
Philippines	183,000	4,094,000	182,000	364,000
Poland		18		
Portugal		640		
Puerto Rico		240		5
Romania		460		
Russia		12,000	1,800	3,500
Rwanda		12,000		5,500
Saudi Arabia		260		
Senegal		4,400	8,400	100
Serbia		300		
Sierra Leone	2,500	5,300	5,500	2,500
Solomon Islands		31		
Somalia	188,000	479,000	2,648,000	600
South Africa	2,300	1,700	250	100
South Sudan	259,000	294,000	1,352,000	246,000
Spain		23,000		
Sri Lanka	1,700	87,000	27,000	4,900
St. Lucia		25		8
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		230		
Sudan	84,000	272,000	2,134,000	272,000
Sweden		47		
Switzerland		10		
Syria	1,847,000	17,000	6,495,000	2,900
Taiwan, China		13,000		600
Tajikistan		4,800		2,100
Tanzania		11,000		1,300
Thailand		61,000	41,000	400
Togo	2,000		2,000	
Trinidad and Tobago		48		3
Tunisia	4	32	4	
Turkey	2,000	540	1,099,000	100
Uganda	2,300	130,000	32,000	1,100
Ukraine	60		730,000	
United Arab Emirates		220		20
United Kingdom		12,000		1,500
United States		916,000		37,000
Uruguay		22,000		
Vanuatu		1,000		100
Venezuela		320		300
Viet Nam		89,000		7,200
Yemen	398,000	31,000	3,635,000	400
Zambia		1,300		100
Zimbabwe		52,000		52,000

TABLE 2
Largest disaster displacement events per region in 2019

Region		Event name	Month disaster began	Countries and territories	New Displacements*	Figure source(s)
East Asia and Pacific 9,601,000 **38.6%** of total disaster displacement	🌀	Typhoon Lekima (Hanna)	August	3 countries and 1 territory China Philippines Taiwan (China) Japan	2,138,000 2,097,000 38,465 2,708 44	 Government Government Government Government
	🌀	Typhoon Kammuri (Tisoy)	November	1 country and 1 territory Philippines Guam (United States)	1,424,000 1,423,667 19	 Government Government
	🌊	Flood Season - June-July 2019	June	China	1,298,000	Government
South Asia 9,529,000 **38.3%** of total disaster displacement	🌀	Cyclone Fani	May	2 Countries India Bangladesh	3,487,000 1,821,042 1,666,043	 Government Government and NGO
	🌊	Monsoon season	May	India	2,623,000	Government and local authorities
	🌀	Cyclone Bulbul	November	2 countries Bangladesh India	2,293,000 2,106,918 186,218	 Governement NGO and local authorities
Sub-Saharan Africa 3,448,000 **13.9%** of total disaster displacement	🌀	Cyclone Idai	March	4 countries Mozambique Malawi Zimbabwe Madagascar	640,000 478,169 110,110 50,905 500	 Government IOM IOM Government
	🌊	Somalia floods (Gu rains)	October	Somalia	407,000	PRMN (Protection and Return Monitoring Network)
	🌊	Sudan floods	May	Sudan	272,000	OCHA

Region		Event name	Month disaster began	Countries and territories	New Displacements*	Figure source(s)
The Americas 1,545,000 **6.2%** of total disaster displacement		Cyclone Dorian	August	7 countries United States of America Bahamas St. Vincent and Grenadines Canada Barbados Grenada St. Lucia	**464,000** 453,903 9,840 232 214 102 26 25	OCHA Government and local authorities IOM; WHO, IDB, UN ECLAC Government via CDEMA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency) Indigenous Services Canada and Media Government via CDEMA Government via CDEMA Government via CDEMA
		Wildfire - Kincade (California)	October	United States	**190,000**	Government
		Wildfire - Saddleridge (California)	October	United States	**100,000**	Government
Middle East and North Africa 631,000 **2.5%** of total disaster displacement		Iran floods	March	Iran	**500,000**	OCHA and IRCS (Iranian Red Crescent Society)
		Iraq floods	March	Iraq	**37,000**	OCHA and IRCS (Iraqi Red Crescent Society)
		Yemen floods	September	Yemen	**15,000**	OCHA and Shelter Cluster
Europe and Central Asia 101,000 **0.4%** of total disaster displacement		Albania Earthquake	November	Albania	**32,000**	IFRC
		Spain Wildfires	January	Spain	**18,000**	Civil Protection
		Russia floods (Irkutsk)	June	Russian Federation	**10,000**	ECHO

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

TABLE 3

Displacement by conflict and violence in 2019

Definitions

| **New displacements:** This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement during 2019.
| **Total number of IDPs:** This corresponds to the total number of people living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019
| **Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions:** this corresponds to IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests either that this progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions, or that this reported progress towards durable

solutions cannot be corroborated or verified, due to a lack of sufficient evidence. The latter is primarily due to gaps in the data provided by our sources and partners, which could not be explained or justified.
| **'Partial flow':** refers to IDPs who reportedly made progress towards a durable solution during the year 2019, and whose progress IDMC considers to only be partial. As per with New Displacements, the figures under this category refer to movements, and not individuals, as the data obtained from our sources and providers might include double counting.
| **'Partial stock':** refers to IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions is only partial and who can are considered to still be in this situ-

ation at the end of the year, since the data provided with regards to their condition allows us to identify their approximate number at that moment in time.
| **'Unverified conditions':** refers to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. Since this is based on data that is incomplete, or which provides an insufficient level of evidence to ascertain the condition of these IDPs, the figures in this category also refer to movements, rather than people, as the information we obtained does not allow us to identify even an approximate number of people.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Abyei Area		31,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Abyei Area is based on two intention surveys carried out by IOM in Abathok and Agok in April and November 2017. Based on an analysis of this data, we subtracted the estimated number of households that consider themselves locally integrated in their area of displacement. IDMC also included IDPs newly displaced in 2018 in the figure. This estimate is based on an analysis of data from IOM DTM's Event Tracker, which primarily identified incidents of displacement triggered by armed attacks in Abyei Town in mid-July 2018. IDMC recorded no new displacements in 2019.
Afghanistan	461,000	2,993,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Afghanistan is based on an analysis of IOM DTM data collected from key informants between December 2017 and June 2019. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is mainly based on the number of people registered by OCHA's Displacement Tracking System as newly displaced and whose situation has been verified. Data from an NRC monitoring report on forced evictions were also included. Given that humanitarian agencies do not verify many short-term or secondary displacements, IDMC's reported number of new displacements is likely to be an underestimate.

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

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Armenia					8,400	IDMC's estimate for Armenia is based on data from a mapping survey published by NRC and the government's State Department for Migration and Refugees in 2004. It indicated that most of Armenia's IDPs, who amount to around 8,400 and were displaced as a result of conflict with Azerbaijan in 1994, had resettled in unknown conditions. Given the lack of updated information on their situation, IDMC has accounted for these resettlements as unverified conditions.
Azerbaijan		351,000		301,000		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Azerbaijan is based on an analysis of data provided by the government's State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. It showed that there were around 651,000 IDPs in the country as of December 2019 as a result of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. This figure is divided into two groups: 351,000 people living in protracted displacement who still have housing, employment, education and health needs; and 300,000 people reported as having been relocated. IDMC has accounted for the second group as having achieved a partial solution to their displacement because they have been relocated and receive assistance from the government, but are living in temporary housing.
Bangladesh	520	427,000	29			IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Bangladesh includes two groups: the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) IDPs, displaced since an internal armed conflict that occurred between 1973 and 1997; and the Urdu-speaking Bihari, also known as "stranded Pakistanis", displaced during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence. In the absence of recent updates on the size of these populations, IDMC's estimate of CHT IDPs is based on a 2009 survey conducted by the Human Development Research Centre, a local NGO. Our estimate of Bihari IDPs comes from a profiling study commissioned by UNHCR in 2006 and carried out by another local orgsanisation, Al-Falah. IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs also includes people displaced in 2019, identified through our event-based monitoring, based on five different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. Based on these reports, we also include people who reportedly returned to destroyed housing as having made partial progress towards durable solutions.
Benin	190	3,700				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Benin and the total number of new displacements in 2019 are based on data from IFRC and local media reports from Agence Bénin Presse, gathered through the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database. They refer to people displaced by clashes between pastoralists and farmers in Atacora department in July 2018 and December 2019. IDMC included these people in its estimate in the absence of any evidence indicating they had returned home or achieved another form of durable solution.
Bolivia	31	31				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Bolivia is based on media monitoring of political violence that followed elections held between 20 October and 16 November 2019, based on six different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. According to media and additional reports from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Ombudsman's Office of Bolivia, around 10 households (31 people) were displaced after mobs destroyed their homes in the cities of Chuquisaca, El Alto, La Paz, Oruro and Potosi.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		99,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Bosnia and Herzegovina is based on official government statistics, which rely largely on lists from the country's electoral commission. The statistics were shared with IDMC by the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN. The displacement was triggered by conflicts following the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia, and the data was last updated in 2015. More than half of the country's IDPs live in Republika Srpska, more than a third in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a minority in Brcko district.
Burkina Faso	513,000	560,000				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Burkina Faso and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on data from the government's National Council for Emergency Assistance and Rehabilitation (CONASUR). The estimates represent the greatest increase globally, in relative terms, as a result of a deterioration of the security situation in the Sahel, Centre-Nord, Est and Nord regions of the country. The total number of IDPs increased significantly, from 47,000 at the end of 2018 to 560,000 a year later. Given the growing insecurity, which has made data collection more complicated, IDMC has limited confidence in the figures.
Burundi	530	23,000			25,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Burundi is based primarily on an analysis of IOM data. Most of the country's IDPs fled political violence in 2015, but the threat of further outbreaks has continued to trigger displacement, including in 2019. The figure also includes a decrease of approximately 25,000 in the total number of people reported to be living in displacement as a result of conflict between 2018 and 2019 as security improved. IDMC accounted for this change as people in unverified conditions because no information about their conditions could be obtained. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on monthly reports from IOM on the number of people displaced due to socio-political events.
Cameroon	67,000	969,000	12,000			IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Cameroon and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on data obtained from IOM DTM, OCHA, IFRC, Human RIghts Watch (HRW) and media reports from Thomson Reuters Foundation and Jeune Afrique. The figures include people displaced by the regional crisis caused by the ongoing insurgency in the Far North region and an increase in violence, as part of the Anglophone crisis, in the Northwest, Southwest, West and Littoral regions. This crisis has worsened significantly, leading to assessments in new regions that account for the notable increase in the number of IDPs in 2019. The total also includes IDPs who fled from the Anglophone regions to the Adamaoua and Centre regions, as reported by OCHA and Cameroonian Humanitarian Organizations Initiative (CHOI). Based on its analysis of IOM DTM's data on people who returned in the Far North region in 2019, IDMC accounts for those reported to be living in damaged or destroyed housing or shelters and those reported as having returned to undamaged homes as having made partial progress towards durable solutions.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Central African Republic	96,000	592,000	105,000	296,000	34,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in CAR is based on reports from the Commission of Population Movement (CMP), from which IDMC subtracted people displaced by disasters. IDMC's estimate of new displacements in 2019 is based on OCHA and CMP reports, complemented with analysis of additional information from reports published by international organisations and local media. IDMC considers the new displacement figure to be an underestimate since not all displacement reports were made accessible. Based on the analysis of CMP, IOM DTM and Rapid Response Mechanism data, IDMC concluded that 296,000 people had achieved partial solutions by attempting to return home as of 31 December 2019, including 105,000 who did so during the year. Based on analysis of CMP data for the second half of the year, IDMC also concluded that 34,000 people had attempted to return but their conditions could not be verified.
Chad	58,000	176,000				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Chad and the total number of new displacements in 2019 are based on IOM DTM data, supplemented with additional media reports from Voice of America. The figures refer primarily to people whose displacement was triggered by the ongoing armed insurgency in Lac province and intercommunal violence in Moyen-Chari, Ouaddai and Sila provinces. The increase in new displacements reflects the application of IOM DTM's emergency tracking tool in the Lac province and an overall deterioration in the country's security situation. IDMC was unable to obtain evidence that the people displaced in Moyen-Chari, Ouaddai and Sila provinces had been able to return home or seek another solution, and so considers them still displaced.
Colombia	139,000	5,576,000		2,164,000		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Colombia is based on an analysis of data provided by the government's Victims' Registry (RUV), which keeps a record of all victims of the country's civil war. The RUV data accounts for all people displaced since 1985, including those who have died or made progress in their pursuit of durable solutions. IDMC has worked with the RUV to estimate the number of people who are still displaced by discounting these two caseloads. IDMC's estimate of the number of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions is based on an analysis of RUV data on the social and economic indicators of people registered. IDMC accounts for 1,621,186 people who had reportedly overcome vulnerabilities related to housing, family reunification, identification and documentation, nutrition, health, education and income in this category; and 542,456 people to have only overcome housing-related vulnerabilities. The estimated number of new displacements in 2019 is a projection performed by UN OCHA, based on RUV data from previous years.
Congo	2	134,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in the Republic of Congo is based on an analysis of data collected by the government's Ministry for Social and Humanitarian Affairs. The ministry's evaluation was conducted in August 2018 and includes people displaced by conflict and living in Bouenza, Congo-Brazzaville, Kouilou, Lékoumou Pool, and Pointe-Noire departments.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Côte d'Ivoire	330	303,000				IDMC's estimate of internal displacement in Côte d'Ivoire is primarily based on a 2014 JIPS-UNHCR assessment and refers to people displaced during the 2002-2003 war and the 2010-2011 political crisis. It is considered a decaying figure. The total for 2019 also includes people displaced in 2017 as a result of land disputes between the Baoulé and Wê communities, and who have reportedly not yet returned; people whose homes were destroyed in May 2018 during a land dispute between the Toura and Burkinabé Giandé communities in Biankouma department; and people displaced by communal violence in Vallée du Bandama and Sassandra-Marahoué in May, September and October 2019. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on media reports from the Agence Ivoirienne de Presse.
Cyprus		228,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Cyprus is based on figures provided by the country's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. These were included in a report on the continent's IDPs published in 2018 to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The figures refer to people displaced since the armed conflict with Turkey and the latter's occupation of the northern part of the island in 1974.
Democratic Republic of Congo	1,672,000	5,512,000			4,542,000	IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in DRC and the total number of new displacements in 2019 are derived from OCHA data and complemented with data from IOM DTM. OCHA data is based on validated evaluations from its humanitarian partners on population movements between October 2017 and October 2019. The data for some provinces is supplemented by village-level assessments conducted by IOM DTM. Data on displacement is available for 17 provinces. Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu recorded the largest displaced populations. Both IOM DTM and OCHA also reported significant numbers of returns. However, IDMC did not receive sufficient evidence that the people reported as returnees by OCHA and IOM DTM achieved durable, or even partial solutions to their displacement and therefore we classified them as unverified conditions. The significant increase since last year's estimate of the total number of IDPs is primarily linked to methodological considerations and the more limited geographical scope of the data used to produce last year's estimate.
Egypt	4	65,000		6,300		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Egypt is primarily based on a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report from 2018 which relied on satellite imagery to assess housing destruction, as well as interviews with affected families in North Sinai. IDMC supplemented this analysis with media reports from the local media outlets Mada Masr and Coptic World. IDMC's estimate of the number of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions is based on data provided by the Government of Egypt, through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva, on compensations provided to displaced families in North Sinai. IDMC's estimate for the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on the local media Mada Masr reporting of a small number of people who fled an attack by militants on their villages, also in North Sinai.
El Salvador	454,000				510	IDMC's estimate of new displacements in El Salvador is based on the analysis of a representative survey conducted between January and February 2020 by the Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP) at the Central American University (UCA). IDMC extrapolated the survey results based on population projections from the country's most recent census, published in 2007. Information on progress towards durable solutions was provided by the government's National Directorate for the Attention of Victims and Forced Migration.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Ethiopia	1,052,000	1,414,000	1,203,000	1,203,000	1,700	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Ethiopia is based on an analysis of several sources: IOM DTM mobility assessment data covering most of the country; IOM DTM village assessment survey data for Kamashi zone in Beninshagul Gumuz region and East Wollega zone in Oromia; and OCHA data collected from local authorities for Gedeo zone, SNNP. The figure also includes 90,000 IDPs, reported by IOM DTM to have tried to return but who ended up living in camps and collective shelters or with host families. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 was calculated by analysing increases in figures published by IOM DTM and new caseloads identified by other sources including OCHA, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database and the European Commission. IDMC's estimate of 1.2 million people having achieved partial solutions or in unverified conditions in 2019 is based on an analysis of IOM DTM data from village assessment surveys.
Georgia		301,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Georgia refers to three separate caseloads, two of them relating to IDPs displaced by secessionist conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia in the early 1990s and the 2008 conflict between Russia and Georgia. They were reported by OHCHR and OCHA in 2008 and 2009. The third caseload is made up of IDPs in 11 provinces, based on data provided by the country's Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs.
Ghana	2,300	230			2,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Ghana is based on the monitoring of media reports on displacements triggered by intercommunal clashes between the Kokomba and Chokosi communities and Fulani armed attacks on villages in Northern region. These reports come from Joy Online and Ghana Web, triangulated and validated with information obtained through the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database. IDMC's estimates of new displacements and people living in unverified conditions in 2019 are based on data from the government's National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), triangulated using local media reports. New displacements were triggered by clashes between the Kokomba and Chokosi communities and Fulani armed attacks on villages in Northern region. IDMC was unable to obtain data on the conditions of IDPs who had reportedly returned to their homes following their displacement, and so accounted for these returns as unverified conditions.
Guatemala		242,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Guatemala is based on a 1997 UNFPA figure for people left internally displaced after the country's civil war. The figure is outdated, but IDMC has not obtained any evidence to suggest these people have achieved any form of durable solutions.
Haiti	2,100	2,100				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Haiti includes four caseloads of new displacements in 2019, for which no further information on attempted returns or progress towards durable solutions to their displacement has been obtained. It is based on media reports from Alterpresse, Le Nouvelliste and Vedeth. They are linked to the country's protracted socioeconomic crisis, which triggered widespread violence during the year, mainly in the form of criminal gang violence. IDMC could not obtain evidence that the displaced were able to return home or seek any form of durable solution and has therefore accounted for the people displaced in 2019 as part of the total number of IDPs in the country at the end of the year.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Honduras		247,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Honduras is based on the results from the latest profiling exercise conducted in 2018 by the government's Inter-Agency Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV). This profiling exercise is a follow-up to the one from 2015 and it surveyed 836 displaced and 837 comparison households, covering 78 municipalities across 16 departments. The IDP figure includes people displaced by violence and other human rights violations between 2004 and 2018.
India	19,000	470,000	760		7,200	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in India is based on a review of academic research and reports from thirteen different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and valida-tion. The figure includes people displaced as a result of armed conflict and intercommunal and political violence, but we have limited confidence in the estimate given that much of the data it is based on is out of date. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on event-based monitoring and draws primarily on media reports and other publications. Our estimate of the number of IDPs who made partial progress towards durable solutions is also based on media reports. It includes reported return and resettlement movements for which there is a lack of tangible evidence that these led to the achievement of durable solutions. IDMC's estimate of the number of people in unverified conditions is also based on media and government reports. It includes all returns and resettlements reported in 2019, which could not be verified. IDPs whose whereabouts as of the end of the year were unknown were also accounted for as part of the unverified conditions category.
Indonesia	23,000	40,000			31,000	IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Indonesia and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on media reports and event-based monitoring from four different outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. The total number of IDPs includes people displaced by inter-communal or insurgent violence between 1998 and 2004 and who have since been unable or unwilling to return to their homes, people displaced between 2007 and 2013 by attacks against religious minorities, and people forcibly evicted as a result of land disputes. The figure also includes people displaced by the long-running separatist conflict in Papua, where most new displacements also took place in 2019. Reported returns from new displacement in 2019 are considered to consti-tute unverified conditions because there is little if any evidence about returnees' conditions. IDMC's estimates are conservative because of the lack of data from the government or any other agency on displacement associated with conflict.
Iraq	104,000	1,555,000	456,000	4,852,000		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Iraq is based primarily on an analysis of data from IOM DTM mobility assessments. It includes 1.5 million people displaced by conflict since 2014 and 22,000 IDPs who returned but are living with host families, or in informal settlements or collective shelters. The estimated number of new displacements in 2019 includes 16,000 people displaced for the first time, 79,000 IDPs who were repeatedly again during the year, and 9,000 IDPs who were displaced again after attempting to return. Based on an analysis of data from IOM DTM's 'Return Index Survey', IDMC categorised 4.8 million reported returns, 456,000 of them in 2019, as partial solutions since it could not be determined whether the people involved still faced vulnerabilities related to their displacement in their places of origin.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Kenya	1,800	162,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Kenya concerns several caseloads and is based on data from various sources, including the government's National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), IOM, NGOs, civil society organisations and local media (Standard Media, Kenya News Agency and Daily Nation). The figure includes people displaced by election-related violence in 2007, 2008 and 2017, and others displaced by inter-communal violence, conflicts over resources and attacks by al-Shabaab in 2017, 2018 and 2019. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on data published by local media and the NDMA. IDMC considers the figure to be an underestimate because reporting on internal displacement in Kenya is limited in its geographic scope and regularity in terms of data collection.
Kosovo		16,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Kosovo is based on a national database maintained by the government's Ministry for Community and Return concerning people displaced as a consequence of the 1998-1999 conflict. The database is updated with the support of UNHCR and other partners and is used to provide assistance to displaced families. The slight decrease in the number of displaced people since 2018 is a result of people reported by UNHCR as having returned within Kosovo.
Kyrgyzstan	770				170,000	IDMC's estimate for new displacements in Kyrgyzstan is based on media monitoring and displacement data published by the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, local and emergency authorities, as well as media outlets such as Radio Free Europe and 24 Kg. IDMC recorded 770 evacuations after clashes along the border with Tajikistan. The estimate for people in unverified conditions is based reports published by UNHCR in 2011, highlighting internal displacement in the country after communal clashes in 2010, supplemented with information from the above mentioned media outlets.
Lebanon		7,000	2,400	22,000		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Lebanon is based on UNRWA data on Palestinians displaced in 2007 from the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp, considered their place of habitual residence, and who have been unable to return or achieve any form of durable solution. Based on data from UNRWA, IDMC also estimates that approximately 2,400 people displaced in 2007 made partial progress towards a durable solution in 2019 by returning to the refugee camp.
Libya	215,000	451,000	14,000	514,000		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Libya is based primarily on IOM DTM reports and refers to people displaced by the country's conflict. The number of people who tried but failed to return, also estimated based on an analysis of IOM DTM data, is included in the figure. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on an analysis of data from IOM DTM's Event Tracker. Data for the last two months of the year were limited due to decreased reporting. IDMC's estimate for people having reached partial progress solutions is based on an analysis of IOM DTM reports on reported returnees, and includes people living in their former homes, new homes, rented accommodation or other type of shelter, with insufficient evidence to indicate that this constituted durable solutions.
Macedonia		140				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Macedonia is based on data obtained from the government's Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and refers to Albanian minorities displaced by violence in 2001. The figure was last updated in 2017. Only limited data is available on these IDPs' living conditions and any progress they may have made in their pursuit of durable solutions as of 2019.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Madagascar	1,000	3,000			390	IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs, new displacements in 2019 and unverified conditions in Madagascar are based on an analysis of data from a 2018 IOM DTM assessment, which refer to displacements caused by Dahalo bandits, supplemented with data from four different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. These reports were obtained through the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database. Given the lack of evidence of returns among IDPs reported as having fled their homes in 2018 and 2019, IDMC considers these people still displaced or as people whose progress toward durable solutions cannot be verified.
Malawi	150	150				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Malawi and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on local media reports about violence that occurred in October and November, from four different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. Given the lack of evidence that people reported as being newly displaced in 2019 were able to return or achieve durable solutions, IDMC considers that their progress toward durable solutions cannot be verified.
Mali	284,000	208,000			13,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Mali is based on data obtained from the Commission on Population Movement (CMP), which in turn is based on IOM DTM data compiled from IDPs' registration. The figure includes people displaced by intercommunal violence and ethnic conflicts. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements is based on data obtained from Mali's Rapid Response Mechanism, led by NRC, which reports on verified incidents of displacement associated with the same causes. The increase in both figures since the previous year can be attributed to the deteriorating security situation in the country. IDMC is also reporting for the first time on the number of IDPs in Mali whose progress toward durable solutions cannot be verified, as recorded by the CMP.
Mexico	7,100	345,000			120	IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Mexico and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on media monitoring carried out between IDMC and the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Protection of Human Rights (CMDPDH), and previous stock estimates provided by the CMDPDH. The total number of IDPs refers to people displaced by political and territorial conflict and the activities of organised armed groups including criminal gangs and drug-trafficking cartels. IDMC's estimates of the number of new displacements and unverified conditions in 2019 are based on data collected by CMDPDH and IDMC via event-based media monitoring. IDMC's estimate of the number of people in unverified conditions refers to 122 people who had reportedly returned to their homes but for whom no further information was available.
Mozambique	5,300	110,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Mozambique is based on IOM's Crisis Response Plan which provides updates on the number of people displaced by the crisis in the northern and central regions of Cabo Delgado province in 2019. It also includes an older caseload of people displaced by political violence in 2016 in Manica and Sofala provinces, complemented with local media reports on political violence in 2019, from five different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. The estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is derived from these media reports, which include informatin on housing destruction linked to attacks primarily in Cabo Delgado. Cases of violence were also reported by local media sources in Sofala, Nampula and Manica provinces.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Myanmar	80,000	457,000		21,000	26,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Myanmar is based on various data sources covering different regions of the country, mainly the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) and shelter clusters and the Border Consortium. The figure also includes new displacements in Rakhine and Chin states reported by OCHA, the Rakhine state government and media. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on reports by OCHA, national media, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database and the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG). Our estimate of the number of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions is based on reports by OCHA, camp management, shelter, and WASH clusters and UNHCR on IDPs who attempted to return, resettle or integrate locally in previous years and who are being monitored by these organisations. The number of unverified conditions includes returns reported by OCHA as temporary, and those reported in the media. The limited access to IDPs in Myanmar means IDMC has limited confidence in these estimates.
Nepal				100,000		IDMC's estimate of internal displacement in Nepal is based on government figures provided by the UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) indicating that more than 100,000 people displaced during the 1996-2006 Maoist conflict had been provided with return packages. Based on contextual information provided by UN RC from government sources, IDMC considers these people displaced during the Maoist conflict to have attempted to return or resettle, but accounts for them as partial solutions because no follow-up information about their location or conditions was available, and the return packages were reportedly limited to the temporary provision of financial support.
Niger	57,000	195,000				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Niger and the number of new displacements in 2019 are primarily based on data from the government's Regional Directorate of Civil Status Registration and Refugees (DREC) for the Diffa region, and from the Protection Cluster for Maradi, Tahoua and Tillaberi regions. The data was obtained through surveys conducted by local authorities. IDMC's estimates also reflect information obtained from the Protection Cluster about displacement caused by attacks in Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri associated with a spill-over of violence from Mali and Burkina Faso. Diffa recorded the highest number of IDPs in the country as of 31 December 2019, as a result of the ongoing armed insurgency in the Lake Chad region.
Nigeria	248,000	2,583,000	90,000			IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Nigeria and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on reports by IOM DTM, UNHCR and OCHA, and media reports from seven different outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. IDMC used these sources to identify people displaced by conflict and violence. New displacements associated with criminal violence are also included in the figures. IOM DTM published updated estimates for the number of IDPs in north-eastern, north central and north-western states in 2019. The increases recorded are the result of the ongoing insurgency in the Lake Chad region as well as escalating criminal and intercommunal violence in north-western and north-central states, and wider coverage of data collection and media reporting, including in states not previously covered. Based on an analysis of IOM DTM reports, IDMC categorised more than 90,000 IDPs as having achieved partial solutions to their displacement in 2019.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Pakistan	16,000	106,000	36		45,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Pakistan is based on data from the complex emergencies wing of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Disaster Management Authority (KPDMA). Its data collection process covers Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where people live in protracted displacement as a result of military operations. Data collected on other regions by the government's National Disaster Management Authority is less comprehensive and is likely to underestimate the number of IDPs living there, so IDMC supplements its coverage of these areas with media monitoring, using data from four different outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on data from the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) of Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It also includes movements triggered by small-scale events and reported on by media and civil society groups. IDMC's estimate of IDPs having made partial progress towards durable solutions is based on data on reported returns obtained from the SDMA, KPDMA and media monitoring.
Palestine	1,500	243,000	5,900		47,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Palestine is based on an analysis of data obtained from OCHA, the Shelter Cluster and the BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights. It includes people newly displaced in 2019 as well as those displaced for several decades and about whom little up-to-date information is available. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is also based on Shelter Cluster and OCHA reports and refers to people displaced by housing destruction, evictions, sealing off of properties and confiscations in the West Bank, and those who lost their homes due to an escalation of violence in Gaza. Our estimate for the number of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions is based on an analysis of Shelter Cluster data on the number of houses reconstructed in Gaza in 2019. IDMC's estimate for the number of IDPs in unverified conditions is based on a study from OCHA's that stipulates that 47,000 people returned to their demolished houses, for which no additional information or tangible evidence could be obtained.
Papua New Guinea	1,300	14,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Papua New Guinea comes mainly from IOM DTM data. IDMC considers the figure conservative and approximate, given that access to displaced communities is limited and there are no other sources with which to validate IOM's data. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on IOM data as well as media reports.
Peru	35	60,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Peru is based on information from the government's Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, which maintains a register of IDPs. The registry includes people displaced during conflict between the government and armed groups from 1980 to 2000, and people relocated as a result of violent attacks since 2000. The estimate for new displacements in 2019 is based on media reports from the Agencia Peruana de Noticias (ANDINA) and Diario Libre about people being evacuated because of communal violence.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Philippines	183,000	182,000	115,000		8,300	IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in the Philippines and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on reports from the government's Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Centre (DROMIC) and UNHCR, which provide current and cumulative figures for incidents of internal displacement. UNHCR is the primary source of displacement data for Mindanao, and DROMIC for other regions. As in previous years, most new displacements in 2019 were associated with armed attacks, political violence and communal tensions in Mindanao.
Russia		1,800			460	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Russia is derived from data from the government's Federal Service of State Statistics. This is turn is based on people registered with the Ministry of Interior as forcibly displaced within the country as a result of violence, harassment or persecution as of 1 January 2019. The estimate for unverified conditions is the difference between the official total figures for 2018 and 2019.
Senegal		8,400			16,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Senegal is based on government data for 2019. The figure represents a significant decrease from previous years, because it has been updated to reflect recent trends in reported returns, relocations and resettlements. Given the absence of evidence on why the number of IDPs has fallen, IDMC has accounted for the difference between the figures for 2018 and 2019 in the unverified conditions category. The displacements were originally triggered by a separatist conflict between the Movement of Democratic Forces in Casamance (MFDC) and the national armed forces in the 1990s and early 2000s.
Sierra Leone	2,500	5,500				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Sierra Leone and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on multiple media reports that cite Caritas and the World Rainforest Movement as sources. The total number of IDPs includes people displaced by post-electoral violence in April 2018 and clashes in Pujehun region in 2019. In the absence of evidence that IDPs have managed to return or achieve other types of durable solution, IDMC continues to account for them as still being displaced.
Somalia	188,000	2,648,000			9,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Somalia is based on the Information Management Working Group's (IMWG) February 2018 estimate, which was compiled from sources including key informant interviews, site assessments, IOM DTM data, local NGO assessments and registration data on IDPs collected by the camp coordination and camp management cluster (CCCM). Because the data was not clearly disaggregated by cause of displacement, the figure included people displaced by both conflict and disasters. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on information from the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), a UNHCR and NRC initiative, which IDMC analysed independently. The estimated for people having made partial progress towards durable solutions is also based on our analysis of PRMN data.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
South Africa	2,300	250	2,000			IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in South Africa in 2019 refers to episodes of xenophobic violence in March, April and September. The figure was derived from data on arrivals in shelters in Gauteng and Kwa Zulu Natal provinces, reported by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and Human Rights Watch (HRW). IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs in South Africa is also based on data from HRW, for which no information on attempted returns or other solutions could be obtained. The estimate for partial solutions refers to individuals who returned and rebuilt their homes after the violence in September, as reported by IFRC.
South Sudan	259,000	1,352,000	276,000	901,000		IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs in South Sudan is based on data from IOM DTM mobility assessments. The figure also includes 80,000 refugee returnees living in internal displacement. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on a combination of data from IOM DTM mobility assessments and event-based monitoring, which relied on data from OCHA, IOM DTM's Event Tracker, REACH, UNMISS, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database and local media reports from Radio Dabanga and Radio Tamazuj. The figure is likely to be an underestimate given the lack of systematic data collection in the field. The estimate of 901,000 partial solutions as of the end of 2019 is also based on IOM DTM mobility assessments, and includes 276,000 returns reported during the year.
Sri Lanka	1,700	27,000			11,000	IDMC's estimate of total number of IDPs in Sri Lanka includes all of those still awaiting resettlement since the end of the civil war in 2009, as reported by the country's Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs. This was supplemented with reports on people identified as displaced in 2018 from four different media outlets, some of which were used for triangulation and validation. No information was available to ascertain whether those people who were displaced in 2018 had made progress towards a durable solution. The figure also includes new displacements in 2019 identified using event-based monitoring, for which IDMC did not obtain information on potential return or progress towards durable solutions. The same caseload also forms part of the estimate for new displacements, which includes two other caseloads identified using event-based media monitoring.
Sudan	84,000	2,134,000		484,000		IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Sudan is based on an analysis of data from IOM DTM's October 2019 report, which covers the five Darfuri states and South and West Kordofan, as well as data published by the government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and OCHA's figures for Blue Nile state. Sennar state, which is also reported as hosting IDPs, is not covered, making the overall figure an underestimate. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is based on data from UN OCHA, the UN Security Council, the European Commission, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and local media reports from Radio Dabanga and Sudan Tribune. The figure doubled compared to the past year, which is attributed to an escalation of violence in West Darfur at the end of 2019 and as well as increased intercommunal violence across the country. IDMC categorised all returns reported by IOM in October 2019 as partial solutions. Given that IOM only accounts for registered IDPs and returnees in the above-mentioned states, and that only part of the data was updated in 2019, the actual number of attempted returns is likely to be much higher than reported.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Syria	1,847,000	6,495,000	342,000	1,431,000		IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs in Syria is based on an analysis of data published by the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP). IDMC combined the number of IDPs with the number of people affected by shelter damage who are displaced within their communities. The estimated number of new displacements is based on IDMC's analysis of data obtained from HNAP and Syria's IDP Task Force. The figure is considered to be an underestimate because it excludes people who were displaced for fewer than 30 days. Given the high levels of insecurity and lack of services and infrastructure, IDMC considers all reported returns by HNAP to be partial solutions.
Thailand		41,000				IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs in Thailand is based on data from a 2010 Harvard University study. It in turn draws on the results of a survey conducted by Prince Songkhla University to evaluate the outcomes of the ethnic and separatist insurgency on Buddhists in the south of the country. Given that there is no systematic mechanism to identify victims and provide assistance to IDPs and affected communities, and that the available data is several years old, IDMC has low confidence in this figure.
Togo	2,000	2,000				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Togo and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on information gathered via event-based monitoring through the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database and media reports from RFI Afrique. The new displacements were triggered by a land dispute between the Gangan and Tchokossi communities in Gando (Oti Sud Prefecture) in June. IDMC has not been able to identify any evidence of attempted returns or other forms of durable solutions, and so considers the people to still be displaced.
Tunisia	4	4				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Tunisia and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on one incident identified through media monitoring and obtained through the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) database. One family was displaced as a result of militant violence in El Guettar region. This is the first time IDMC has recorded displacement associated with conflict and violence in Tunisia.
Turkey	2,000	1,099,000				IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Turkey includes three caseloads: people living in protracted displacement since the Turkish-Kurdish conflict in the 1990s, those displaced during security operations in south-eastern Anatolia region in 2015 and 2016, and those fleeing cross-border attacks related to military developments in north-east Syria in October 2019. IDMC's estimate for the first group is based on data published by Hacettepe University in 2006. The source for the second caseload is a transcript of a parliamentary session in November 2018, during which Turkish officials mentioned the number of homes destroyed during security operations in Cizre, Diyarbakir Sur, Hakkâri, Idil, Mardin Nusaybin, Silopi, Sirnak centre and Yüksekova. Data on the third caseload was extracted from a UN press briefing, during which an OHCHR spokesperson reported that thousands of people in a Turkish town close to the border with Syria had been forced to flee their homes. The last wave of displacement reported in Turkey was a consequence of crossborder fire during the Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria in October 2019. As a consequence, 2,000 new displacements were reported.

Country or territory	New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions			Comments on the figures
			Partial Flow	Partial Stock	Unverified Conditions	
Uganda	2,300	32,000				IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Uganda and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on data from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Daily Monitor newspaper. The first figure accounts for people displaced between 2016 and 2019 and for whom no tangible evidence of attempted return or achievement of any other durable solution could be obtained. The second relates to four incidents in 2019 triggered by intercommunal clashes and other forms of violence.
Ukraine	60	730,000	260			IDMC's estimates of the total number of IDPs in Ukraine and the number of new displacements in 2019 are based on data and information provided by UN OCHA, NRC and the Protection Cluster. The Ukrainian government's Ministry of Social Policy reported 1,434,585 registered IDPs as of 31 December 2019, but IDMC estimates that there are between 730,000 and a million IDPs, based on informaition obtained from OCHA and its humanitarian partners regarding the number of IDPs living in government-controlled areas. The discrepancy between the ministry's and OCHA's figures arises from the fact that many people in the ministry's database are no longer displaced but have remained registered as such as a means of receiving their pensions, as this is contingent on being registered as an IDP. The number of IDPs in non-government-controlled areas is unknown. IDMC's estimate for the number of new displacements is based on event-based monitoring and media reports from four different media outlets, some of which were used for validation and triangulation.
Yemen	398,000	3,635,000	26,000	1,193,000	9,000	IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Yemen refers to people reported in IOM DTM's baseline assessment 37 as displaced by conflict since 2014. The assessment was carried out in all 22 governorates in November 2018, but only published in March 2019. IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 was also calculated from IOM DTM data. The figure is considered to be approximative and conservative because access to displaced people is limited and the security situation volatile. IOM DTM also reports 1,193,000 people as returnees as of December 2019, as well as 26,300 reported return movements in 2019, but IDMC accounts for them as having achieved only partial solutions because conditions in return areas are unlikely to be conducive to durable solutions. IDMC's estimate of people whose conditions cannot be verified corresponds to the number of people reported by IOM-DTM as having "left" their displacement location in 2019 but for which there is no more information available.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GRID 2020 benefitted from the input of many partners, research institutions and independent experts who submitted background papers to the main report. Full versions of the papers are available online at http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2020

Coordination and participation in Georgia: what worked and what didn't
Good examples and challenges from Georgia

Tamar Bolkvadze, Danish Refugee Council

The issues of coordination and IDP participation are not new for Georgia and the country has developed several mechanisms of coordination and citizen engagement. As much as the experiences from Georgia can provide positive examples for other countries, Georgia is also an example that developed frameworks are no use unless they are put in practice. The coordination among stakeholders and IDP participation are challenging and requires capacity and willingness of major stakeholders (particularly, government bodies) as well as advocacy efforts of non-governmental organisations and IDPs themselves. In addition, the example of Georgia shows that coordination and IDP engagement must be ensured not only on horizontal level among state, regional or local stakeholders but also vertically – between these levels.

Considering limited financial resources and unresolved IDP needs the coordination among stakeholders and IDP engagement in priority identification is highly relevant. Coordinated programming among state, local government bodies as well as other stakeholders can maximise the impact of provided support and ensure IDP ownership.

In this paper I will briefly go through the background of and policy framework on displacement in Georgia, then elaborate in more detail the coordination and participation on IDP issues at different levels and will conclude with recommendations for Georgia and other countries affected by internal displacement.

Drought-induced internal displacement management in Ethiopia: promising trajectories

Birhan Teka

Internal displacement has become a concern of states and civil society organisations because of its unprecedented rate of increase across the world. Likewise, the drought-induced internal displacement that was resident since 1970s has been a concern of Ethiopia. Therefore, based on secondary data, this desk research sought to explore and analyse the successive trajectories of drought-induced internal displacement management structures in Ethiopia in three successive regimes: during Emperor Haile Selassie I's reign, the Derg regime which was defined by its Communist ideology, and EPRDF, the current political party that has been in power for the last 29 years. On the basis of the data analysis the research has found out that unlike Haile Selassie and the Derg regime, where recovery-focused measures were taken to address the drought-induced internal displacement, the measures that are being taken under the EPRDF regime are prevention-focused and more promising.

Leaving is living
The impact of family, the economy and violence on migrant children from El Salvador

Alfonso Álvarez, Silvana Audia Comandari, Marielos Burgos and Miguel Artiga, World Vision El Salvador

Despite migration being a common trend in El Salvador's recent history, there is limited evidence on the perspectives of children, their motivations and experiences while in irregular and regular migration processes. World Vision, an international child-focused development, humanitarian and advocacy organisation, conducted two migration studies, interviewing children directly as well as their caregivers, to gain a deeper understanding into the phenomenon of migration in El Salvador during the most recent migratory events: the mass migration of children in 2014 and the caravans in 2018. Based on the findings of these studies, World Vision identified that Salvadorian children were principally motivated to migrate for three main reasons: family reunification, economic exclusion and/or opportunities elsewhere, and fleeing social violence occurring in their community. This paper provides evidence of these migration motivations – as expressed by children and primary caregivers in El Salvador – and recommendations for multiple stakeholders engaged in addressing this issue.

Lessons from history: ending internal displacement in post-civil war Lebanon

Faten Ghosn, University of Arizona

After the devastating 15-year civil war in Lebanon (1975-1990), two strategies were implemented to deal with the destruction and displacement. The implementation of these plans varied across the country and over time as they were impacted by power relations and political rivalries among government officials. As a result, we witnessed different levels of return.

By defining return on a continuum, different areas in Lebanon can be plotted to reveal that while numerous areas have witnessed no return (e.g. Aaramoun), there is quite variation when it comes to return. That is, some areas have seen partial permanent return (i.e. a number of individuals who previously fled have moved back to their localities of origin such as in Aley), others have witnessed seasonal return (i.e. on weekends and summer breaks such as Khiam), and a number of areas have witnessed full permanent return (e.g. Qraye). Three factors that have impacted the variation in the levels of return: 1) economic opportunities and development activities; 2) reparations/compensations; and 3) reconciliation.

Making disaster displacement visible in Brazil
An analysis of the official national disaster information system

Erika Pires Ramos, Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville, Luiza de Moura Pallone, Andrea Zamur, South American Network for Environmental Migration (RESAMA)

Better mapping, understanding and management of disaster-induced internal displacement depend on enhanced data collection, which, in turn, can foster evidence-informed decision making. RESAMA conducted a study of the Brazilian national disaster information system, identifying gaps related to data collection methodology, systematisation, and sharing, that hamper the production of reliable evidence of disaster displacement in Brazil. The current national DRR legal framework and governance do not include concepts that reflect situations of displacement, hindering the identification of displaced persons and the monitoring of the phenomena. Other related gaps were identified, such as challenges associated with data on slow-onset events and the lack of sufficient post-disaster data monitoring. Hence, people displaced by disasters in Brazil remain invisible within disaster risk reduction policies and laws. Improved data collection related to disaster displacement would allow Brazil to overcome gaps that currently jeopardise the visibility of displaced persons, and to develop effective response strategies.

Measuring long-term displacement using Facebook data

Eugenia Giraudy, Paige Maas, Shankar Iyer, Zack Almquist, JW Schneider, Alex Dow, Facebook

Every year, disasters caused by natural hazards displace millions of people from their homes. To address the needs of internally displaced people, humanitarian organisations need to have accurate data on how many people have been displaced and how that number varies over time. However, humanitarian organisations often lack accurate data to quantify this. In this paper, we present a novel approach, co-developed with IDMC, for using aggregated and anonymised Facebook location data to measure displacement patterns in the weeks and months after disasters. This approach contributes to fill several data gaps, such as creating daily estimates of displaced people, understanding where these people have been displaced to, and the duration of displacement. This paper also explores the insights we have found in two specific crises: Cyclone Fani in India and Bangladesh and Typhoon Hagibis in Japan.

Reinventing post-disaster shelter provision

Airi Iris Ryu, Daruma, Founder, University of Cambridge, Postgraduate Researcher

During an urban disaster, overcrowded and unsanitary emergency shelters can cause sickness, sexual violence, and exacerbated living conditions for displaced people. However, other informal shelters exist that are offered by spontaneous volunteers in the form of shared spaces, vacant hotel rooms, and dormitories. Not only are these shelters more fit-for-purpose, but they present an opportunity to reduce the number of internally displaced people who cannot find adequate shelter.

This study, based on literature review and semi-structured interviews with spontaneous volunteers in Australia, Japan, and the US, examines issues in the current shelter delivery process that hinder the effective delivery of informal emergency shelter during urban disasters. With a particular focus on developed nation cities, this study explores how a digital platform can improve and streamline shelter arrangements between spontaneous volunteers and internally displaced people to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Why has nobody come back here?

Monitoring physical and social conditions in places of origin to understand IDP return patterns

Roger Guiu, Nadia Siddiqui, Social Inquiry

Having better and more localised data at disposal on the physical and social conditions of return can help explain why some conflict-affected locations experience a full return of their internally displaced populations and others do not. Building on a monitoring system established by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix in Iraq that assesses 1,700 locations whose populations were displaced due to the ISIL conflict and are now starting to return, we developed an indicator framework and we combined it with statistical modelling to measure the relationship between physical and social conditions at the local level and the likelihood of populations to return there. This paper highlights the construction and methodology of such a framework and its scoring system applied to a post-conflict setting, before setting out lessons learned in its application that may be relevant for others seeking to explore ways of using large-scale location level data in providing more nuanced understanding displacement and return movements. Finally, we explore the ways in which data-driven tools may help in shaping responses to populations in need as well as broader global frameworks linked to displacement and the tensions inherent in seeking to generalise tools and frameworks without losing context relevance and applicability.

Monitoring overcoming vulnerability of victims of forced displacement in Colombia

Oscar Ivan Rico Valencia. Unit for Integral Attention and Reparation of Victims, Colombia

Colombia's internal armed conflict has displaced an estimated 8 million people in the course of sixty years. To monitor progress towards durable solutions for IDPs, the government's Victims´ Unit started to conduct assessments of displacement-related vulnerabilities in 2015. The assessment is conducted twice a year, based on administrative records and household surveys made by official government agencies. The measurement applies to victims of internal displacement registered in the Single Victims´ Registry, an on-demand official registry that is in place since 1997. For every single IDP, an Index of Socioeconomic Reestablishment is calculated. Overcoming displacement related vulnerabilities, on a rights-based approach, represents the extent to which the individual enjoys the following rights: identification, health, psychosocial assistance, education, food, adequate housing, family reunification and income generation. The outcome of this vulnerability assessment is used for both allocating budget to municipalities and government agencies and targeting social programs.

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The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement. Since our establishment in 1998 as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), we have offered a rigorous, independent and trusted service to the international community. Our work informs policy and operational decisions that improve the lives of the millions of people living in internal displacement, or at risk of becoming displaced in the future.