

BURKINA FASO

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

There was a significant deterioration in the security situation and the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burkina Faso in 2019. In the first half of the year alone, more than 170,000 people were displaced, more than tripling the number of IDPs compared with the end of 2018. By the end of the year, the total number of IDPs was more than 1000% greater than the year before. IDPs have sought refuge in other communities and villages and urgently need shelter, food, water and health services. The displacement and humanitarian crisis are unprecedented in Burkina Faso, a country previously considered a beacon of coexistence and tolerance in Western Africa.

The fall of the former president, Blaise Compaoré, in 2014 created a security vacuum, which was quickly exploited by Islamist groups, including al-Qaeda affiliates in neighbouring Mali. Since late 2016 when a homegrown Islamist group Ansaroul Islam became active in the northern Soum region, insecurity has spread geographically with militants tapping into local grievances in the east and south-west. [The militants launch near-daily attacks on Burkina Faso's embattled security forces](#), which respond by committing abuses against civilians during counter-terrorism operations, including mass summary executions and arbitrary arrests. As the state struggles to protect civilians, a growing number of ["self-defence" militias have emerged](#), deepening levels of insecurity.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
513,000	560,000	-	-	-

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

**This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate of new displacements in 2019 reflects the difference between the total number of IDPs at the end of 2018 and the total number of IDPs at the end of 2019.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on data collected by the country's National Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Council (CONASUR) and published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) covering all of 2019. The estimate was also triangulated with data collected by several partners including the Belgian Red Cross, Burkina Faso Red Cross CONASUR, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The methodologies of the various partners are unknown, but they reportedly include ad hoc assessments and assistance planning and delivery.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

CONASUR's methodology for estimating the number of IDPs is unclear. Most of the data is published as reported and not verified further. This decreases confidence in the figure's reliability. There is currently no system in place that tracks new displacements in Burkina Faso, meaning that many pendular movements of populations go unreported. This results in the figure being an underestimate.

The figure also is considered to be an underestimate because of the difficulty in accessing some areas and the lack of overall capacity to monitor a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis.

Significant changes from last year

The new displacements recorded in Burkina Faso during 2019 represent a significant increase from 2018, an increase of more than 1000% compared to last year. This was a result of both a deterioration in the security situation and efforts by CONASUR and its partners to update the IDP database, leading, in turn, to a sharp increase in the total number of IDPs between September and October 2019.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs in Burkina Faso reflects a deteriorating security situation and is an increase of more than 1000% compared to last year.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on data from CONASUR, published by OCHA covering all of 2019. It includes data collected by several partners including the Belgian Red Cross, Burkina Faso Red Cross, CONASUR, IFRC, DRC and UNICEF. The methodologies of the various partners are unknown, but they reportedly include ad hoc assessments and assistance planning and delivery.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

OCHA's partners' methodologies for figures on internal displacement are unclear. Most of the data is published as reported and not verified further, decreasing confidence in the figures' reliability.

IDMC has not been able to capture any return movements from the total number of IDPs reported in the country. This has resulted in an increase in the total number of IDPs, with no outflows of returns.

It is both a result of the lack of systematic monitoring of returns and the overall security situation, which has made returns complicated.

Significant changes from last year

The total number of IDPs in Burkina Faso has increased by more than 12 times compared with the figure at the end of 2018.

CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People	People
Methodology	Registration, Key informants, Media monitoring	Registration, Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Every month	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	No	Yes
Disaggregation by age	No	Partial
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	Yes
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

For the full country profile on Burkina Faso please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/burkina-faso>