

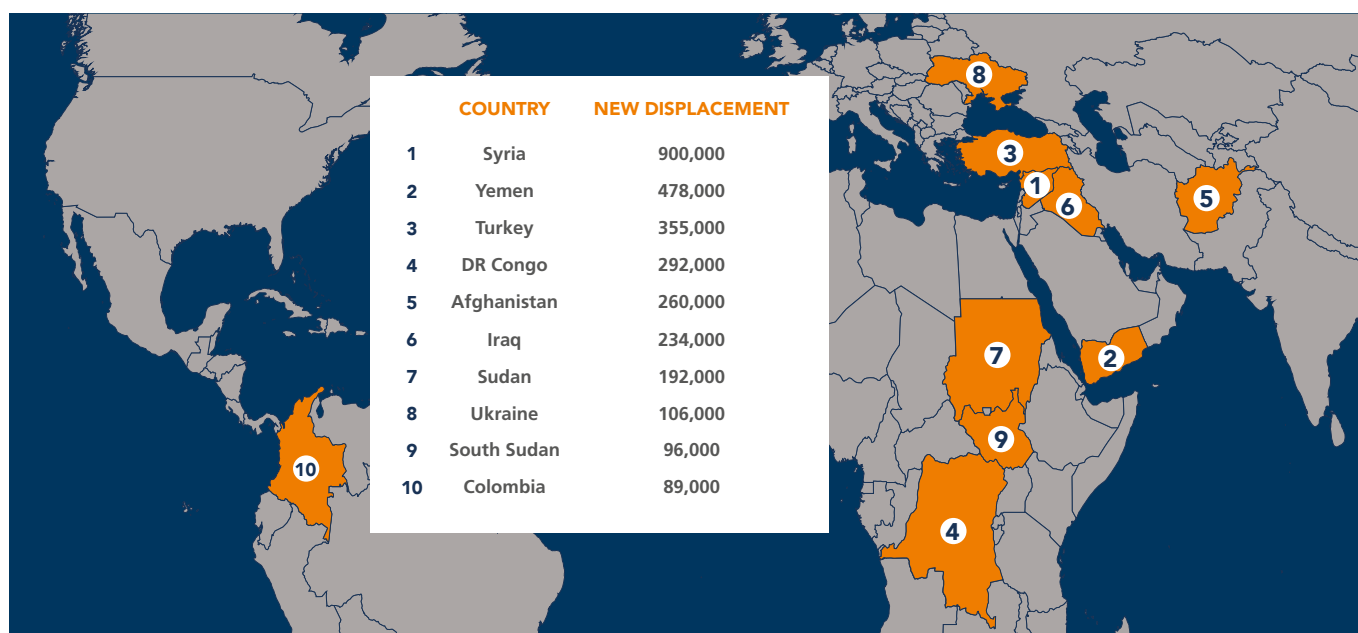
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT UPDATE

Issue 1: January - August 2016

This update is based on internal displacement figures made available to IDMC across 16 countries from January-August 2016. These figures will be updated and expanded upon regularly and can be accessed via IDMC's Global Internal Displacement Database (GIDD) which can be viewed at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/database>.

COUNTRIES WITH MAJOR NEW DISPLACEMENT FLOWS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2016

The ten countries with most new displacements caused by conflict and violence, Jan-Aug 2016



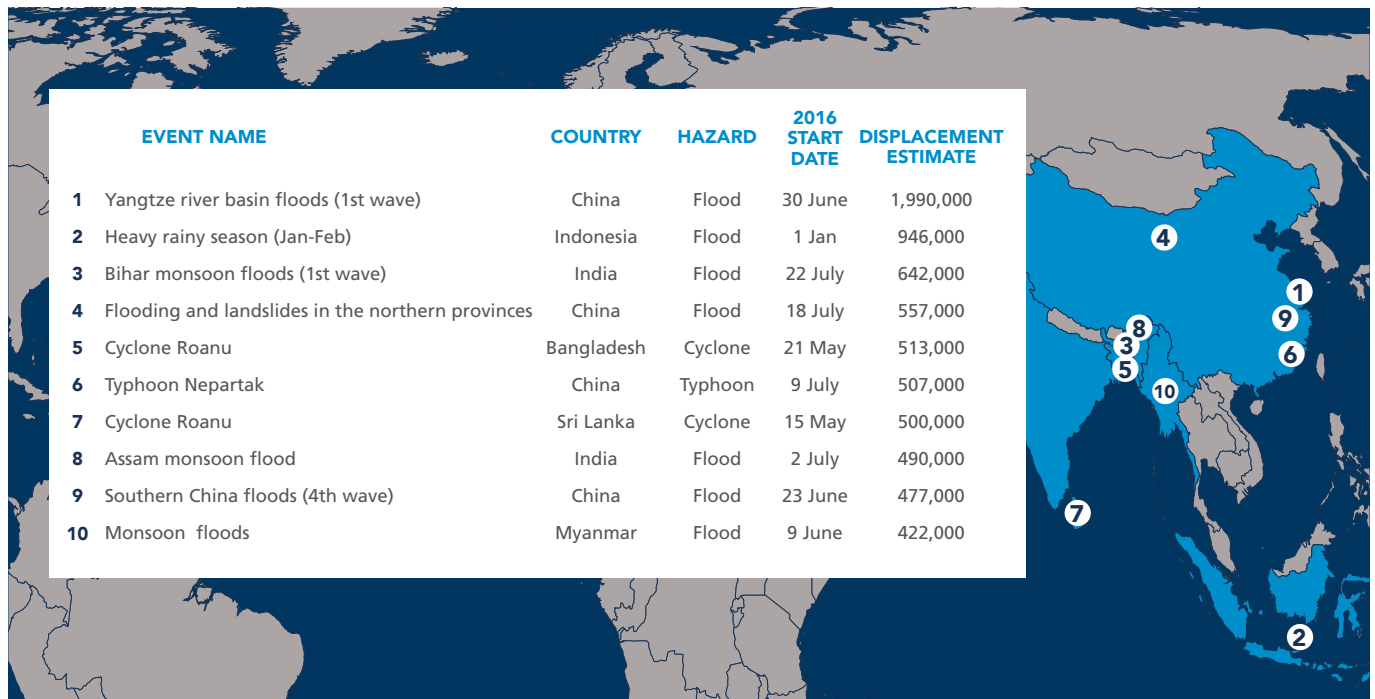
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Afghanistan

Since 1 January 2016, around 260,000 people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict and violence in 31 of the country's 34 provinces (IDMC calculation based

on [OCHA assessment, September 2016](#)). The displacements have taken place against a backdrop of increased violence targeting civilians, perpetrated by both anti-government and pro-government forces ([UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, July 2016](#)). Around 21 per cent of those newly displaced are living in inaccessible areas with limited access to assistance and services. Three provinces - Baghlan, Helmand and Kunduz - have accounted for half of the displacement.

The ten largest new displacements associated with disasters, Jan-Aug 2016



Bangladesh and Sri Lanka: Cyclone Roanu

The Bay of Bengal's first cyclone of the monsoon season, Roanu, left dozens of people dead and hundreds of thousands homeless. Its impacts led to large-scale displacement in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. In coastal areas of Bangladesh, around 513,000 people in 14 districts were evacuated to shelters ahead of the cyclone ([Government of Bangladesh, May 2016](#)). Around 300,000 of the evacuees were able to return to their homes within a week, but 155,000 remained in shelters in Cox's Bazar. Entire villages were devastated, leaving people without basic shelter or access to food, water or sanitation ([UNICEF, July 2016](#)). Around 80,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and local livelihoods were hit hard as paddy fields and other crops were flooded ([IFRC, 31 May](#)). In Sri Lanka, Roanu forced 300,000 people into evacuation shelters and another people sought refuge with friends or family ([ECHO](#)).

China: Yangtze river basin floods

The June to August monsoon season brought severe flooding and tropical storms (see figure 6). Around two million people were displaced by floods in China's southern provinces and Yangtze river basin in June alone (Ministry of Civil Affairs, [23, 17](#) and [13 June 2016](#); Xinhua, [2 June 2016](#)), followed by more than 500,000 in northern provinces in July (Xinhua, [25](#) and [23 July 2016](#)). More than 20 disasters displaced at least 4.5 million people across China in the first half of 2016.

Fiji: Cyclone Winston

On 20 February, Winston, a category five storm and the most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded in the southern hemisphere, struck two of Fiji's largest and most densely populated islands, affecting up to 90 per cent of the population. More than 54,000 people, or around six per cent of the population, were

displaced. The majority were quickly given emergency shelter in evacuation centres, while others sought refuge with relatives and in other unofficial sites ([UNICEF, February 2016](#)). Two weeks after the disaster, there was significant concern about evacuees' health and living conditions, and for the safety and protection of the most vulnerable groups, including women, children and people with disabilities ([IOM, March 2016](#)).

India: Monsoon floods

In India, people living in north-eastern states were hit hard by floods towards the end of July and into August.

Monsoon floods inundated communities in Assam state in July and August, forcing almost 500,000 people to seek refuge in around 300 government relief camps ([ASDMA, July and August 2016](#)). Unknown numbers took refuge with family or friends, or in other makeshift situations. The number of registered evacuees in government shelters reached a peak within a week, after which it declined rapidly at first and then more slowly (see figure 1). Data does not track their onward movements or the conditions they returned to.

In Bihar state, displacement patterns associated with flooding reveal a series of waves of new displacement, rather than the single large wave seen in Assam ([BDMD, July and August 2016](#), see figure 1 and 2). People were evacuated immediately after a first spell of rain in July, and more had to leave their houses toward the end of August. Figure 2 suggests that as evacuee figures rose, more camps were set up to provide them with shelter, but the number of IDPs needing shelter in the camps quickly exceeded those who were reported as evacuated, according to official figures. This is likely explained in part by evacuees sheltering elsewhere, such as with relatives or in other informal settings. Flooding also affected the states of Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The overall impact of these seasonal floods will only become fully apparent in the next few months.

Figure 1: Number of people sheltered in government relief camps during the Assam floods in July and August 2016. Source of data: Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)

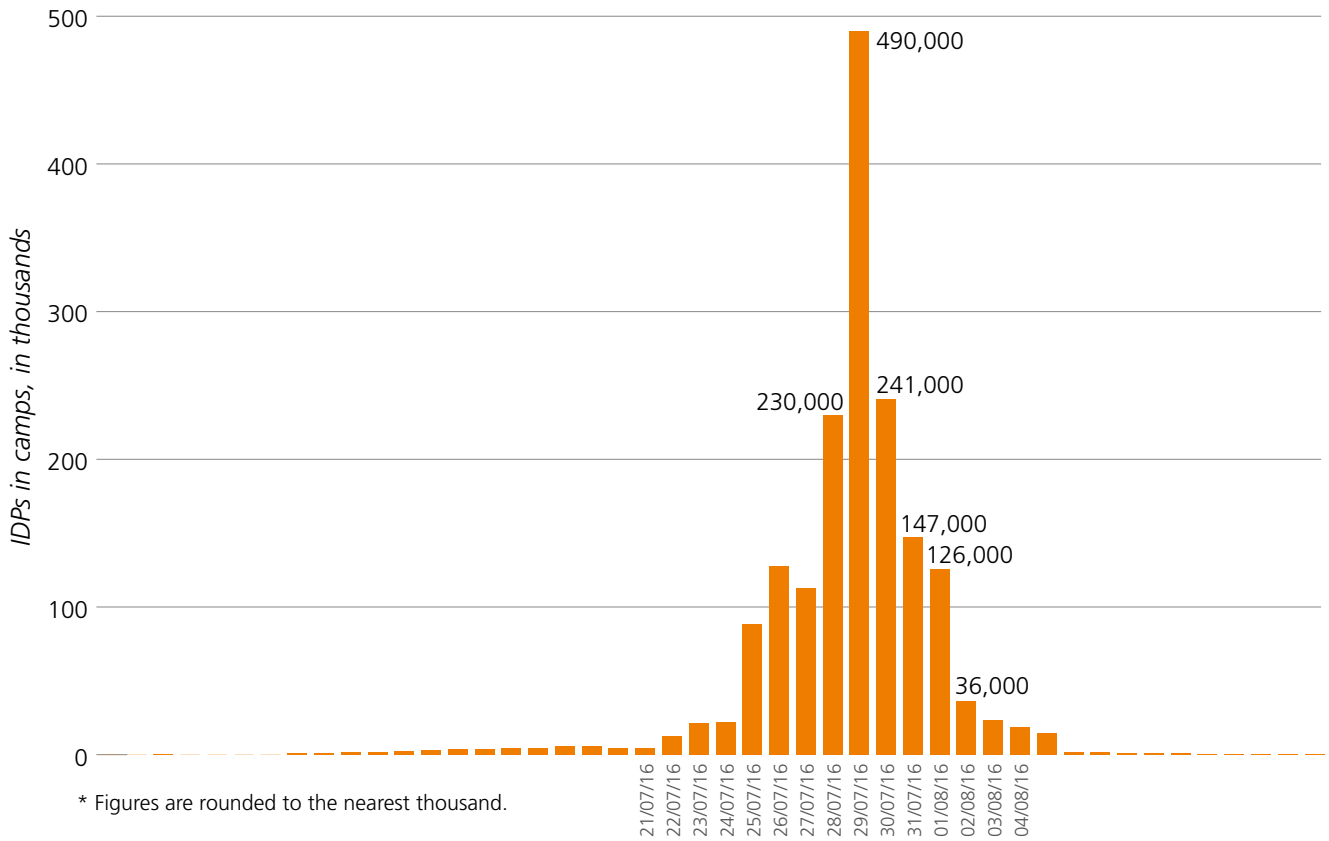
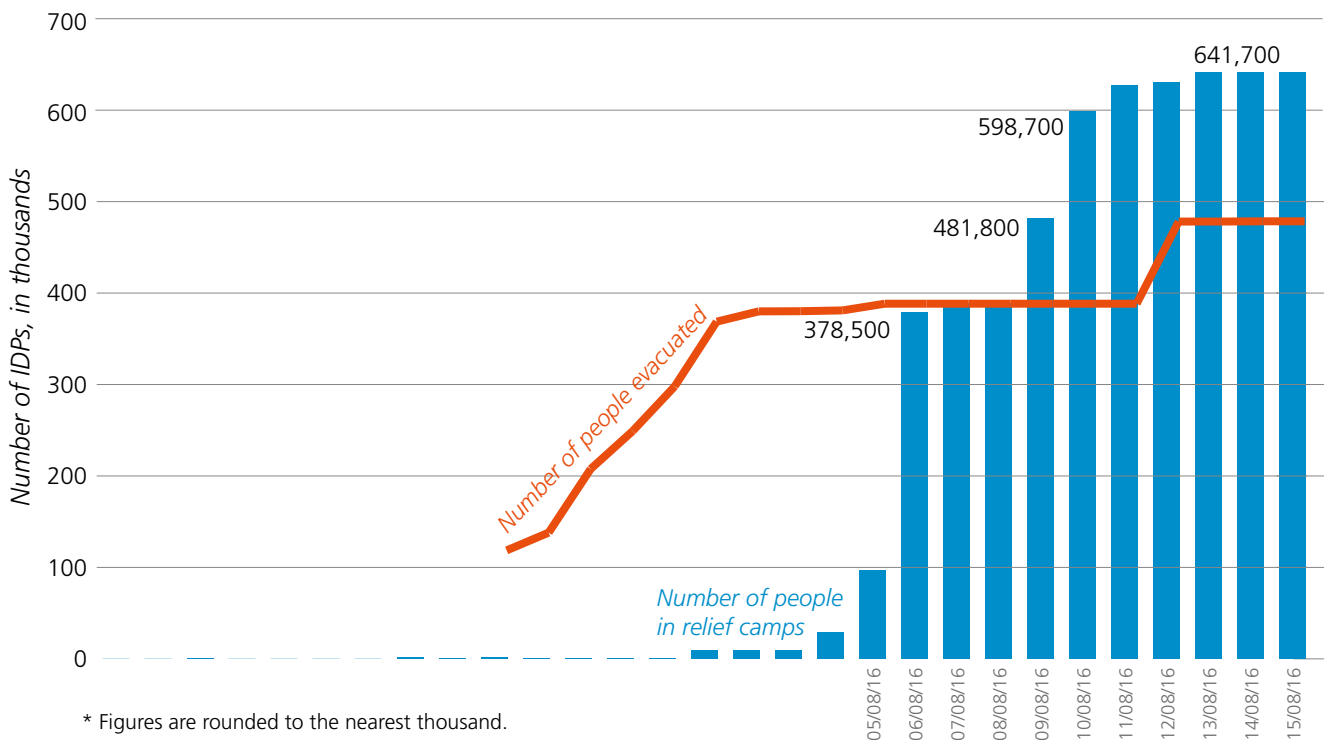


Figure 2: Comparison between the number of IDPs in government relief camps and the evacuation figures during floods in India's Bihar state, July-Aug 2016. Source of data: Bihar Disaster Management Department (BDMD)



Indonesia

Around 946,000 people were displaced across 15 provinces during the rainy season in January and February ([BNPB, February 2016](#)). This year's season began slowly and reached its rainfall level peak later than usual. Indonesia's disaster management authorities credited the abnormal timing to the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon. Aceh, Bangka Belitung, North and West Sumatra and Riau were particularly affected by flooding, and people in some districts of Purworejo in Central Java fled their homes as a result of both flooding and landslides.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

Around 234,000 people have been displaced in Iraq since the start of 2016 (IDMC calculation based on [IOM data, August 2016](#)). Most of the new displacements were recorded in Anbar governorate, particularly around the city of Fallujah where people fled the Iraqi army's campaign to recapture areas held by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In the Mosul corridor, 52,000 people have been displaced since March ([UNHCR, September 2016](#)). Salah al-Din governorate reported the largest increase in the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) between July and August, the result of the ongoing military operations in Al Shirqat, and Al Qaiyara in the neighbouring province of Ninewa. Most of the IDPs are housed in rented homes, hotels or with host families. A smaller number have taken refuge in informal settlements, religious buildings, schools and unfinished or abandoned structures ([IOM, August 2016](#)).

Syria

Around 900,000 people have been displaced since January 2016. Government offensives in both the north and south of the country have displaced more than 400,000, and around 200,000 people have fled within Aleppo alone ([ACAPS, September 2016](#)). The humanitarian situation for between 250,000 and 275,000 people in the east of the city is severe, and ongoing violence means access to them is extremely limited ([OCHA, August 2016](#)). The true number of new IDPs is likely to be higher than the reported figures, given that many families take refuge with relatives or host communities, and that people who fled or were evacuated in late August have not yet been registered or accounted for.

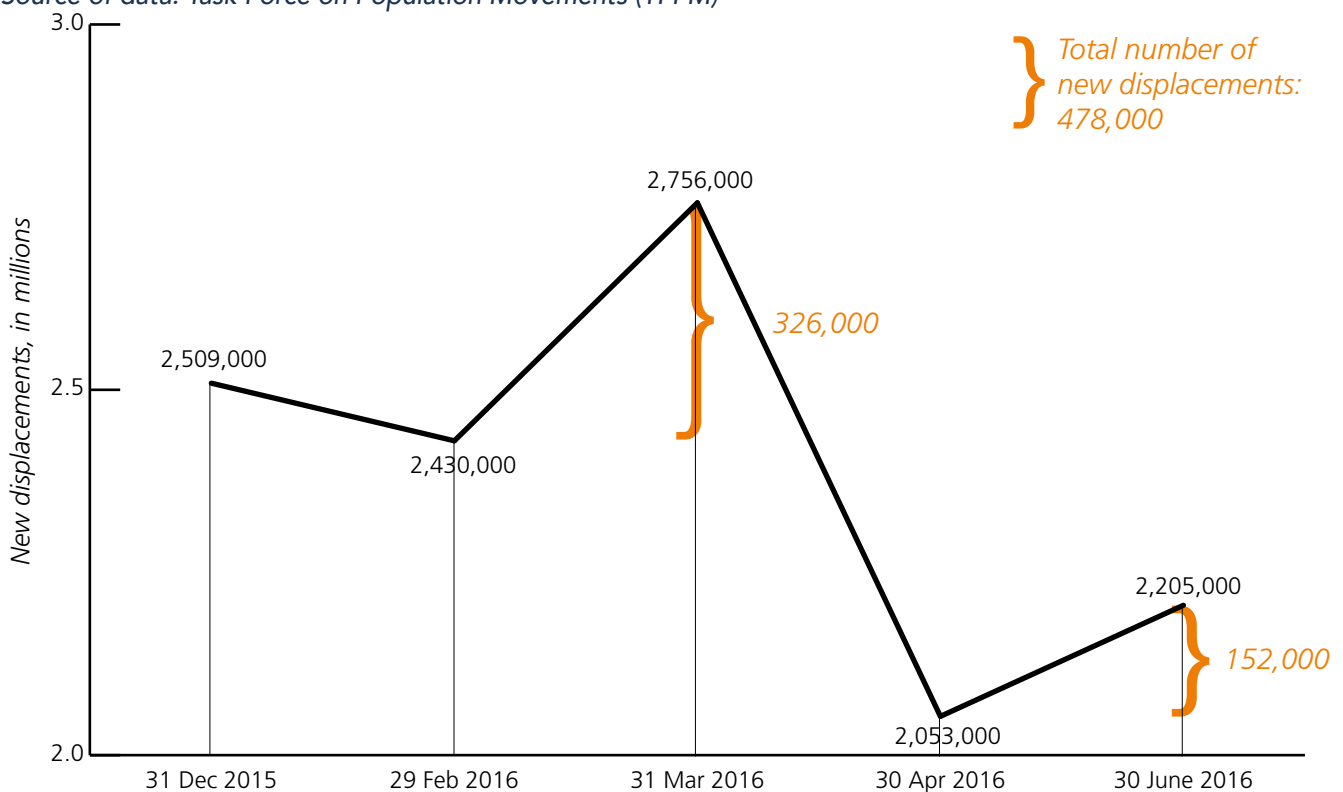
Turkey

Significant new displacement has been registered in south-eastern Kurdish areas since the start of 2016, the result of renewed hostilities between the government and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). IDMC is aware of at least 355,000 people displaced between January and March ([the Guardian, March 2016](#); [Time, July 2016](#)). The figure does not include the thousands of people displaced in the aftermath of an attempted coup on 15 July, or those evacuated in relation to hostilities with ISIL that took place during August ([the Guardian, August 2016](#)).

Yemen

The number of IDPs dropped by around 300,000 between January and June as 760,000 people attempted to return

Figure 3: Reported number of IDPs displaced by conflict in Yemen, 1 Jan-30 June 2016. Source of data: Task Force on Population Movements (TFPM)



* Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

to their homes (OCHA, June 2016). The decline, however, masks the volatility of the crisis, and nearly 500,000 new displacements have been recorded in the same period (IDMC calculation based on TFPM data, see figure 3). Most of the new displacement has been caused by ongoing Saudi-led airstrikes on areas predominantly controlled by the al-Houthi movement. Most have taken place in the west of the country, with the governorates of Taizz, Hajjah, Sana'a, Amanat Al Asimah and Dhamar worst affected. Between them, the five governorates currently host 67 per cent of Yemen's IDPs.

The vast majority of those newly displaced have sought refuge with host families or in rented accommodation, and most have fled to locations within the same rebel-controlled areas (OCHA, April 2016). The humanitarian situation in Yemen is one of the world's most severe. More than 13 million people are in need of immediate life-saving assistance and nearly 90 per cent of IDPs report having been displaced for more than ten months (UNHCR and IOM, August 2016). Food and nutrition, security and health-care are among the most critical areas of need (OCHA, June 2016).

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC experienced significant new displacement in the first half of 2016. OCHA estimates that around 337,000 people fled insecurity caused mainly by military operations against armed groups in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, Orientale and South Kivu (OCHA/CMP, June 2016, French; OCHA, March 2016). In North Kivu, there was a 44 per cent increase in displacement during the second trimester, with most of the IDPs concentrated in the territories of Beni, Lubero, and Masisi (see figure 5). It is not uncommon for people to be displaced more than once over time.

Around 75 per cent of IDPs are thought to seek shelter with host families, while the rest live in camps and other organised sites (OCHA, May 2016, French). Displacement in DRC is largely the result of localised inter-communal conflict that often has ethnic dimensions, but which is primarily a struggle for land and natural resources.

Ethiopia

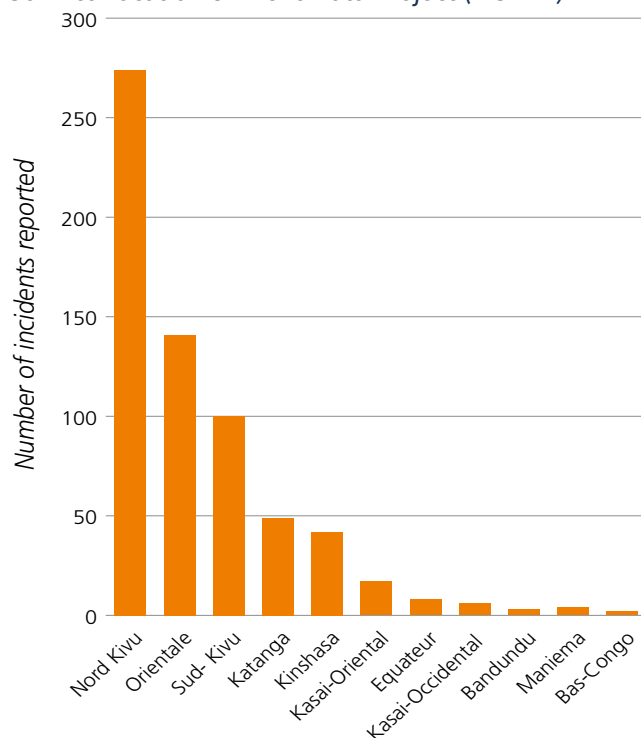
Between March and the end of June, flooding in Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Hareri, Oromia, Somali and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) displaced 56,000 people, the largest displacement brought on by the impact of natural hazard events in Africa so far in 2016. As of the end of July, 50,471 people had returned to their places of origin as the floodwaters receded (IOM, July 2016).

South Sudan

Despite the signing of a peace agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) in August 2015, renewed clashes in the capital Juba and other locations across the country displaced around 96,000 people between January and August 2016 (OCHA, August 2016).

Around 12,800 people are living in collective sites, including a UN camp in Juba (OCHA map, July 2016). Around 83,100

Figure 5: Reported incidence of violence in DRC by province, Jan-Aug 2016. Source of data: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)



were displaced in the Wau region of Unity state, following intense fighting in late June and July (OCHA bulletin, July 2016).

Sudan

Violence and insecurity continue to cause displacement 13 years after the start of the conflict in Darfur. Between January and the end of August 2016, around 192,000 people were displaced in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile (OCHA, June 2016), adding to Sudan's estimated two million IDPs. Around 1.6 million people are currently living in 60 camps across the country (ECHO, July 2016).

The majority of the displacement occurred in Central Darfur between mid-January and the end of July, when between 159,000 and 192,000 people were displaced from Jebel Marra as a result of hostilities between the Sudanese military and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW) (OCHA, July 2016).

EUROPE

Italy

A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck central areas of the country on 24 August and displaced more than 3,500 people (Protezione Civile, August 2016, Italian). The epicentre was around 45km from the city of L'Aquila, where a magnitude 6.3 earthquake displaced more than 60,000 people in 2009. The vast majority were relocated to new towns built to withstand future earthquakes, but around 16,000 were still displaced as of 2015 (Reuters, August 2016; IDMC, July 2015).



Panama neighborhood has one of the highest concentration of internally displaced population in Tumaco, Colombia. Displaced children arrive without the opportunity to access education and face the risk of being recruited by criminal groups in the area or of suffering sexual violence, especially girls. Photo: NRC/Edgar León, 2016

Ukraine

More than 106,000 people have been displaced since January, bringing the number of IDPs in the country to more than 1.7 million. The majority of the displacement has occurred in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, and from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol ([UNHCR, April 2016](#)). Many IDPs have remained near their homes, but some have migrated to the capital, Kiev, in search of economic opportunities.

THE AMERICAS

Canada

In early May, wildfires in and around Fort McMurray, Alberta forced around 88,000 people to flee their homes ([CNN, May 2016](#)). Initial estimates suggest that 2,400 homes and other buildings were destroyed ([Globe and Mail, May 2016](#)). By September, around 95 per cent of those displaced had been able to return to their homes. The remaining five per cent were living in rented or other temporary accommodation while they waited for their homes to be rebuilt. The speed and scale of the recovery was helped by the fact that the majority of damaged homes were insured (IDMC correspondence with the Alberta government, September 2016).

Colombia

At least 89,000 people were displaced by conflict during the first half of 2016 ([OCHA, August 2016](#)). There have been fewer cases of mass displacement compared with last year, but indigenous and African-Colombian communities continue to be the most affected. A historic ceasefire came into effect on 29 August, marking a major step toward ending a 52-year conflict between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that has claimed more than 250,000 lives and displaced close to seven million people.

Ecuador

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake on 16 April displaced around 73,000 people across six provinces. It was the most powerful earthquake to strike Ecuador in decades. At least 272 people were killed and 2,527 injured in the north-western area of Manabí ([New York Times, April 2016](#)). A month later, around 29,000 people were still being sheltered in more than 250 collective centres ([OCHA, May 2016](#)). An unknown number were living in spontaneous sites or with host families.

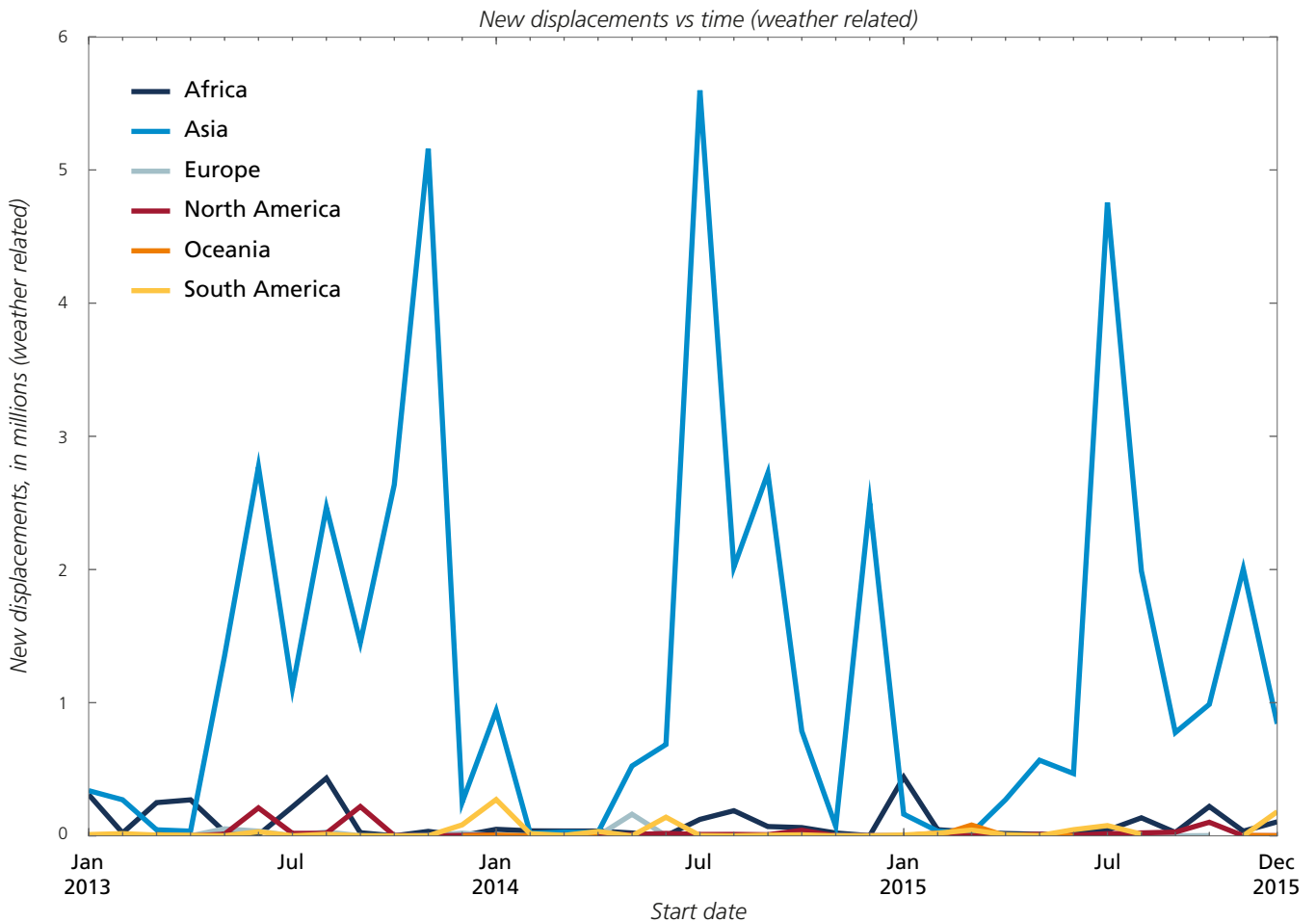
More seasonal flood and storm-related disaster displacement ahead

Based on displacement patterns in past years (see figure 6), further large-scale displacements can be expected, particularly in Asia over the remainder of 2016 with the onset of the south-west and north-east Asian monsoon.

The Mosul offensive

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) spokesman Adrian Edwards has expressed concern about the impact of intensifying military operations against ISIL in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. At a press conference on 23 August he said as many as 1.2 million people could be affected ([UNHCR, August 2016](#)). Edwards said the agency was doing what it could to be prepared and had made contingency plans to cope with 120,000 IDPs, but that additional land for camps and funding is still needed.

Figure 6: Monthly displacement caused by weather-related disasters by region, based on data from 2013-2015



CONTACT

For more information regarding the data, email us at: data@idmc.ch

For more general information, email us at: info@idmc.ch

IDMC
Norwegian Refugee Council
3 rue de Varembé
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
www.internal-displacement.org
+41 22 552 3600