

# INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT UPDATE

Issue 3: 6 - 19 October 2016

*Key internal displacement and policy developments*



## HIGHLIGHTS

Instances of internal displacement caused by conflict, violence, and disasters between 6 - 19 October

### CONFLICT & VIOLENCE

- 📍 Afghanistan (24k new displacements, 52k cross border returns)
- 📍 Somalia (50k - 70k new displacements, 24.6k cross border returns)
- 📍 India (32k)
- 📍 Myanmar (9k)

### DISASTERS

- 📍 Typhoon Sarika – China, Philippines (up to 514k)
- 📍 Hurricane Matthew – Haiti (at least 200k)

## AMERICAS





### El Salvador

📍	AFFECTED AREA	El Castaño (65 km west of the capital, San Salvador)
⚔️	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Gang violence
👤?	FIGURES	Approximately 70 new displacements

### 📖 CONTEXT

A camp in the small town of Caluco has become home to about 70 people from the nearby farming community of El Castaño, who have been forced to flee their homes since mid-September during an escalation in gang violence ([La Prensa Grafica, 9 October 2016](#)). It is El Salvador's first camp for IDPs since the 12-year civil war, during which around 80,000 people were killed and a million forcibly displaced ([The Guardian, 30 September 2016](#)). The situation developed after members of the Barrio 18 criminal gang asked all of Caluco's residents for their phone numbers and gave those who refused to divulge them 24 hours to leave ([Reuters, 27 September 2016](#); [Elsalvador.com, 13 October 2016](#)).

## Haiti

	<b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Grand'Anse, Nippes, Ouest, Nord Ouest, Sud and Sud Est departments
	<b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Hurricane Matthew
	<b>FIGURES</b>	At least 200,000 new and repeated displacements
	<b>CONTEXT</b>	

Hurricane Matthew, the first category four storm to hit Haiti in 52 years, brought rain and winds up to 240 km/h to southern regions of the country on 4 October.

More than 120,000 families' homes were damaged or destroyed, including up to 90 per cent of homes in Sud and Grand'Anse department ([WFP, 12 October 2016](#); [IOM, 18 October 2016](#)). Aerial surveys reveal extensive damage ([Unitar, 18 October 2016](#)).

Among the hundreds of thousands of people displaced, there are at least 175,500 staying in 224 temporary shelters. Many others have sought shelter with friends or relatives or in informal settlements. Authorities in Sud department announced their intention to close the shelters by 17 October, creating serious concern that people would be displaced again ([OCHA, 17 October 2016](#)).

Matthew destroyed about 350 tents and shelters where some of the more than 55,100 people still displaced by the 2010 earthquake were living in 31 camps in Ouest department. The majority of those affected are in communes in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince though damage was also reported to tents in Anse-a-Pitres in Belle Anse commune, where migrants who had returned or were deported from the Dominican Republic were sheltering ([IOM, 18 October 2016](#)).

UN agencies reported displacement from inland rural areas to the coast and urban areas as people looked for food and other assistance. An estimated 806,000 people face extreme food insecurity, especially in Sud, one commune in Nippes, and Grand'Anse ([ACAPS, 17 October 2016](#)).

Humanitarian agencies are worried that when official shelters close, those displaced will cause overcrowding in the homes of families and friends, or be forced to live on the street. They have raised concern for the safety of children and families, particularly the increased risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, disease and vulnerability to violence and exploitation ([OCHA, 17 October 2016](#)).

## EAST ASIA & PACIFIC





### China, the Philippines

	<b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Typhoon Sarika
	<b>FIGURES</b>	474,000 new displacements in China; up to 40,000 in the Philippines
	<b>CONTEXT</b>	

Typhoon Sarika struck north-eastern areas of the Philippines on 16 October and China on 18 October. As of 19 October, 474,000 people had been evacuated in China's Hainan prov-

ince, where more than 500 houses collapsed and more than 2,000 were damaged ([Ministry of Civil Affairs, 19 October 2016](#)). In the Philippines, approximately 40,000 people were pre-emptively evacuated in Regions I, II, III, V and Calabarzon before Sarika (local name "Karen") made landfall. Initial estimates suggest the storm destroyed 1,287 houses and damaged another 6,561 within the affected area ([NDRRMC, 18 October 2016](#)).





## Myanmar

	<b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Kayin (Karen) state, southern Shan state and northern Rakhine state
	<b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Conflict
	<b>FIGURES</b>	Up to 9,000 new displacements
	<b>CONTEXT</b>	

About 5,900 people were displaced in Kayin (Karen) state following fighting in mid-September between the Border Guard Force, the Tatmadaw and a Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) splinter group. There are also unconfirmed reports of as many as 1,000 people staying with host families close to the border with Thailand. The situation remains fluid in southern Shan state where an estimated 900 people have been displaced in Mongkaing ([OCHA, 7 October 2016](#)).

In northern Rakhine state several hundred people have been displaced from their homes and around 1,200 people have taken refuge in a school in Buthidaung. The total number of IDPs and their needs have not been assessed yet due to lack of access to affected communities ([OCHA, 17 October 2016](#)).





## Vietnam

	<b>AFFECTED AREAS</b>	Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh provinces
	<b>CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT</b>	Floods associated with tropical storm Aere
	<b>FIGURES</b>	More than 16,000 new displacements
	<b>CONTEXT</b>	

The government declared a state of emergency on 15 October in response to the impact of floods and strong winds associated with Aere and ahead of the impacts of typhoon Sarika. Some reports indicate that up to 30,000 homes may have been destroyed ([DTI News, 16 October 2016](#)). As of 18 October, approximately 6,000 people had been evacuated in Nghe An and Quang Binh provinces, and 10,000 people in the northern coastal provinces of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh and Nam Dinh ([CCDPC, 18 October 2016](#)).

## MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

### Iraq

	AFFECTED AREAS	Mosul
	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Conflict
	FIGURES	At least 1,900 new displacements
	CONTEXT	





On 17 October, the Iraqi army launched a large-scale offensive to dislodge Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from its last major stronghold in Mosul. It is a joint operation by more than 30,000 Iraqi troops, Kurdish Peshmerga fighters and a Shia paramilitary force, which are advancing on the city from three sides.

The fighting could affect as many as 1.5 million people, and 200,000 are expected to be displaced in its first weeks. Some scenarios suggest as many as a million people could be displaced. Accommodation for more than 230,000 displaced people is under construction or planned ([OCHA, 14 October 2016](#); [UNHCR, 17 October 2016](#)). As of 18 October, 1,900 people were sheltering in reception centres and camps in Al-Qayyarah district, south of Mosul ([OCHA, 19 October 2016](#)).

There were already 3.2 million IDPs in Iraq before the Mosul offensive began ([Iraq DTM, 12 October 2016](#)).

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

	AFFECTED AREAS	Kabul, Kunduz, Mazar-i-Sharif, Nangarhar, Pul-e-Khumri and Taloqan
	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Conflict
	FIGURES	24,000 new displacements; 52,000 cross-border returns from Pakistan
	CONTEXT	





Fighting in the northern city of Kunduz in early October displaced 24,000 people who fled to Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Pul-e-Khumri and Taloqan ([ECHO, 10 October 2016](#)). Many took refuge with host families already living in poverty ([Reuters, 10 October 2016](#)). Heavy fighting also took place in Lashkar Gah, the capital of the southern province of Helmand, Farah province in the west, Baghlan in the north and Nangarhar in the east ([ECHO, 10 October 2016](#)).

At the same time, officials encouraged about 59,000 IDPs to return to Kunduz by offering transport and other assistance. Significant numbers of people are reported to have departed for Kunduz, including 30 per cent of those taking refuge in Taloqan, 60 per cent of those in Pul-e-Khumri and 95 per cent of those in Mazar-i-Sharif ([OCHA, 17 October 2016](#)).

Across Afghanistan between January and mid-October 2016, 382,000 people were displaced by conflict, of whom 56 per cent were children under 18 ([OCHA dashboard, as of 24 October 2016](#)).

During this period, 370,000 registered and undocumented Afghans have been forced to return from neighbouring Pakistan, with the rate rising significantly since mid-July. The most-affected areas are reportedly Kabul and Nangarhar, where more arrivals are expected in the coming months. Between 1 and 8 October, 52,000 Afghans crossed the border from Pakistan, the highest figure recorded for a seven-day period since 2009. The returns have been spurred on by increased incidents of forced evictions, police raids and harassment. Reports suggest that most, if not all, Afghans forced to return from Pakistan have effectively become IDPs in Afghanistan, and international agencies are racing to provide essential aid as winter approaches ([VOA, 16 October 2016](#); [OCHA, 30 September 2016](#)).

### India





	AFFECTED AREAS	Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab states
	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Conflict
	FIGURES	32,000 new displacements
	CONTEXT	

In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 1,500 people moved away from areas at risk of cross-border shelling as fears of a military escalation between India and Pakistan mounted at the end of September ([AFP, 30 September 2016](#)).

In Punjab, some sources suggested that 30,000 people had evacuated as of 3 October ([Indian Express, 3 October 2016](#)) in compliance with an order issued on 29 September by the state interior ministry to communities living within 10 kilometres of the state's 553-kilometre border with Pakistan. However the number of displaced people may have been higher given that more than 400,000 people were ordered to evacuate ([India Today, 7 October 2016](#)).




## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### Central African Republic (CAR)

	AFFECTED AREAS	Kaga Bandoro
	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Conflict
	FIGURES	At least 6,000 new displacements
	CONTEXT	

On 12 October, clashes broke out in Kaga Bandoro in Nana Grebizi prefecture between armed groups and the UN mission in CAR (MINUSCA). According to initial reports, at least 21 people were killed, including nine civilians and nine members of armed groups ([ECHO, 13 October 2016](#)). At least 6,000 people were displaced and sought refuge in two sites close to the MINUSCA base and UN compound ([ECHO, 15 October 2016](#)). MINUSCA also reported that during another incident of violence in the north-west on 11 October, 30 people sought refuge in Cambatt camp at the southern entrance to Kouï town and another 130 did likewise in Gabbatt camp to the north ([UNHCR, 12 October 2016](#)).

## Somalia

	AFFECTED AREAS	Gaalkacyo, Baidoa, Kismayo, Luuq and Mogadishu
	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Conflict
	FIGURES	50,000 to 70,000 new displacements; at least 24,600 cross-border returns from Kenya since January




### CONTEXT

As of 13 October, between 50,000 and 70,000 people were displaced in Gaalkacyo, the capital of the north-central Mudug region, as a result of fighting between armed groups from Galmudug and Puntland. OCHA estimates that roughly 60 per cent of these people were IDPs who were displaced for at least the second time ([OCHA, 14 October 2016](#)).

More than 24,600 Somalis have been repatriated from Kenya since January 2016, the result of mounting pressure from the authorities in Nairobi to clear the Dadaab refugee camp under an agreement between the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Kenyan and Somali governments. Most people have returned to Baidoa, Kismayo, Luuq and Mogadishu, where they are living as IDPs. More than 80 per cent of the returnees have remained in Kismayo in makeshift camps, adding to the 40,000 IDPs who were already in and around the city, while the rest have moved to other areas or are living in makeshift settlements ([NRC, 7 October 2016](#)).

The Norwegian Refugee Council highlighted concerns about the plight of Somali returnees in a recent article: "Families ... leaving a refugee camp in Kenya must not end up in a displaced camp in Somalia ... We must do everything to prevent a revolving door scenario, where they return to Kenya as unregistered refugees. This will only be achieved if the authorities and aid agencies on both sides of the border are focused on helping people set up new lives for the long run" ([NRC, 7 October 2016](#)).

## South Sudan

	AFFECTED AREAS	Kaljak, Ding-Ding, Jazeera, Koch and Buaw in Unity state
	CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Conflict
	FIGURES	At least 2,000 new displacements

### CONTEXT

Thousands of people have reportedly fled renewed fighting in parts of Unity state, where flashpoints include Buaw, Ding-Ding, Jazeera, Kaljak and Koch. The fighting has displaced people into swampy areas, with many traveling long distances

on foot in search of safety. There are reports of civilians being killed, raped and abducted during the fighting and while fleeing, and of the forced recruitment of children in Guit. Aid workers have also been relocated, causing the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance to be suspended ([OCHA, 5 October 2016](#)).

## POLICY DEVELOPMENTS & OTHER DISPLACEMENT NEWS

The UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, **Habitat III**, was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October. Its agenda pledged to "leave no one behind", including IDPs. [Read more](#). To coincide with Habitat III, IDMC published [Leaving no one behind: internal displacement and the New Urban Agenda](#) a briefing paper with recommendations to UN member states to support integration of IDPs in urban areas.

The **Platform on Disaster Displacement's** advisory committee was established and met for the first time on 13 and 14 October in Geneva. It brought together stakeholders with relevant expertise, including IDMC, to implement a protection agenda for people displaced across borders by disasters. The committee shared lessons learned, and discussed challenges, opportunities for further cooperation and action, and the platform's strategic framework for 2016 to 2019. Watch a video of the workshop [here](#), and visit the platform's [website here](#).

An [expert meeting on climate change and human rights](#), organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, was held on 6 and 7 October in Geneva. It brought together states, civil society organisations and UN agencies to consider the implications of recent commitments, including the Paris Agreement on climate change. As part of a panel session focused on migration and displacement, IDMC presented its findings on protection concerns for people displaced by disasters and took part in conversations informed by a short [discussion paper](#).

The **Global Migration and Asylum Governance Symposium 2016** was held in Geneva on 10 and 11 October as a joint initiative by the University of Geneva and the University of California, Davis, with the League of European Research Universities. IDMC participated in workshops on regional approaches and climate change and disaster displacement.

## DISCLAIMER

The terminology, names and designations used in this update and the material in links do not imply any opinion on the part of IDMC.

Displacement figures in this update are indicative only. For validated figures, read our Global Report on Internal Displacement [here](#).

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