

More than 9 million people already displaced globally in 2017

16 August 2017 (Geneva)

Conflict, violence and disasters have caused more than 9 million new internal displacements globally in the first half of 2017, according to new estimates released today by the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)](#).

Of the 9.1 million new internal displacements, 4.6 million were caused by conflict, a figure which is already two-thirds of last year's total. The countries with the highest new internal displacement by conflict are: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): **997,000**; Iraq: **922,000**; Syria: **692,000**; the Philippines: **466,000**; Ethiopia: **213,000**; Central African Republic (CAR): **206,000**; South Sudan: **163,000**; the Gambia: **162,000**; Afghanistan: **159,000**; Nigeria: **142,000**; Yemen: **112,000**; and Somalia: **70,000**.

The deteriorating situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has resulted in almost a million (997,000) new displacements in the first half of the year. The total figure of those displaced by conflict in the country now stands at 3.7 million, which is an increase of around two million new displacements on June 2016, and remains the highest in Africa. The conflict has spread to new areas and eight of the country's 26 provinces are now affected by violence.

Iraq follows closely with 922,000 new displacements, mainly due to several waves of offensives on Mosul. Extensive damage to the city means that those displaced are unlikely to be able to return in the near future. In Kirkuk governorate, which is still under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), clashes in the Hawiia district resulted in approximately 37,000 displacements.

692,000 new displacements also took place in Syria, where over the first six months of the year, fighting between government and non-government forces intensified in several governorates, including the offensive on Raqqa City, triggering large waves of displacement.

In the Philippines, 466,000 new displacements were reported in connection with ongoing tensions and armed conflict on Mindanao Island, concentrated mainly in and around Marawi city. More than 350,000 people are estimated to be displaced in the city and surrounding region.

There are also deepening concerns about other African countries, with high figures being recorded in CAR where violence has escalated since September 2016 because of clashes between the country's various armed groups. Unrest in Ethiopia is also on the rise, with armed groups trying to take down the government. With over 213,000 new displacements in the first half of 2017, the total number of people internally displaced by conflict in Ethiopia has now risen to more than 588,000.

Disaster displacement continues at an unabated pace too: already more than half the number of relevant disaster events were reported by end-June 2017 as compared to the total of 2016, but only around a fifth of new displacements were recorded, 4.5 million new displacements across 350 events. While comparably low, however, these numbers are equally concerning as sudden-onset seasonal storms and floods in South and South East Asia as well as the hurricane season in the Americas are still to come and numbers can be expected to rise exponentially, like in previous years.

The disasters triggering the highest numbers of new internal displacements were: floods in the southern provinces, China, in June: **858,000**; tropical cyclone Mora, across Bangladesh, India and Myanmar, in May

and June: **851,000**; Visayas and Mindanao floods, in the Philippines, between January to March: **381,000**; rainy season, in Peru, between January to June: **293,000**; tropical cyclone Enawo, in Madagascar, in March: **246,000**; Oroville Dam flood, in the US:, in February: **188,000**; Maguindanao floods, in the Philippines, in May: **182,000**; tropical cyclone Dineo, in Mozambique and Botswana, in February: **147,000**; typhoon Merbok (known locally as Bai Miao), in China, in June: **117,000**; and Monsoon floods, in Sri Lanka, between May to June: **104,000**.

The two largest events of displacement by flooding in China and by Cyclone Mora in Bangladesh, Myanmar and India are stark reminders of the fact that the concentration of populations in flood plains and on hazard prone coastlines combined with high levels of vulnerability repeatedly trigger large-scale new displacements - and will continue to do so in the face of climate change.

Large-scale new displacements in the Philippines, Peru and Sri Lanka also took place in the context of seasonal flooding. "This shows us that seasonal, to be expected, weather patterns still result in large numbers of new displacements year after year, clearly illustrating that we are not investing enough in reducing vulnerability and exposure. While preparedness, early warning and evacuation systems may have improved over the years, the overall risk of being forced out of your home and becoming displaced in these countries has not been reduced." says Bina Desai, Head of Policy and Research at IDMC.

END

NOTES TO EDITORS

The highlights document can be accessed at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/library/publications/2017/midyear-figures-2017>

As of 16 August, the full set of 2017 mid-year figures can be found at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/database> and country updates can be found at <http://internal-displacement.org/countries/>.

What is the difference between an IDP and a refugee?

The main difference between IDPs and refugees is that internally displaced people remain within the borders of their own country. Refugees have crossed an international border in search of refuge, and this gives them legal refugee status which entitles them to certain rights and international protection. An IDP, however, is not a legal status because IDPs are still under the jurisdiction of their own government and may not claim any rights additional to those shared by their fellow citizens.

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About us

[IDMC](#) was established in 1998 and is part of the Norwegian Refugee Council. Monitoring internal displacement caused by conflict, violence, human rights violations and natural disasters worldwide, IDMC is widely respected as the leading source of information and analysis on internal displacement throughout the world.

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