

BURUNDI

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Political violence in Burundi continued in 2018. There were more reported instances human rights violations, though to be linked to the constitutional referendum, which took place in May. Before and during the campaign to amend the Constitution, political violence increased, with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, and its youth league, the *Imbonerakure*, stepping up its campaign of forced recruitment, as well as political intimidation in the form of compelling people to register to vote.¹ Arbitrary arrests, torture and disappearances continued throughout the year. Economic pressures, including the suspension financial support from international partners and the imposition of new taxes and duties combined to put an increased economic burden on the population.²

Despite this, general trends show that the total number of people displaced by political violence in the country has been decreasing, as people return home or find resettlement elsewhere. Thus, the total number of people living in displacement at the end of 2018 was 49,000; in comparison to 57,000 in 2017 and 59,000 in 2016. This is quite a marked difference from the 99,000 recorded in 2015, at the peak of political violence in Burundi.

The total number of people living in displacement in 2018 would be smaller if not for the fact that it also includes refugee returns into displacement. This comprises a small proportion of refugees who returned from Tanzania in 2018 and found themselves in a situation of displacement, living with host families, or in sheeting and tents, according to a UNHCR assessment.³

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
5,100	49,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	25,000 (1 January- 31 December 2018)
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 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 rather than people.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.</i>

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.

Sources and methodologies

The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme is the main data collector regarding IDPs in Burundi. The data is based on commune-level assessments, which take place every month. Key informants including health workers and government employees are asked to estimate the total population of IDPs in their commune, as well as when they most recently left their homes and the main reason for it. IOM also works with the Burundian Red Cross to conduct needs assessments, but they do not collect data on IDP numbers.

Over the course of 2018, IOM DTM also began doing events-based monitoring, detecting new arrivals in communes due to disasters or socio-political violence. This additional data allows for a better understanding of the reasons for any variation in total numbers of displaced people at the commune level.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

As with the stock data, the figure is not based on registration but general surveying: key informants in each commune comment on the number of IDPs currently living in the area and the main reason (disaster, socio-political violence, other) that they became displaced. This means that the overall figure is an approximation. Additionally, there is some evidence suggesting IDPs may not be comfortable disclosing that they became displaced for socio-political reasons.

IDMC figure and rationale

To obtain its estimate on new displacements due to political violence in 2018, IDMC analyzed the increases in total number of IDPs at the commune level for each month of the year and subtracted the data on new arrivals due to disasters.

Significant changes from last year

The new displacement estimate is much smaller than what was reported in 2017 (14,000), because a different methodology was used. There was less accuracy in 2017 regarding the changes in IDP populations at the commune level over time because not all communes were surveyed throughout the year; in addition, there was no events-based monitoring to report on new displacements each month.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.

Sources and methodologies

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Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The data is not based on registration but general surveying: key informants in each commune comment on the number of IDPs currently living in the area and the main reason they became displaced. This means that the overall figure is an approximation. Additionally, there is some evidence suggesting IDPs may not be comfortable disclosing that they became displaced for socio-political reasons.

IDMC figure and rationale

Our estimate is based on the total number of people estimated to be displaced due to socio-political reasons by IOM DTM, at 31 December 2018. This estimate covers the entire country.

It also includes refugees who have returned to displacement, based on a needs assessment conducted by UNHCR regarding the approximately 59,000 refugees who have returned to Burundi, primarily from Tanzania, since August 2017. Based on a representative sample of returning refugees, 37 per cent were found to be living with host families or in other shelter situations, such as tents or sheeting, when surveyed within the first three months of return. This percentage was applied to the 45,000 people who returned in 2018, to obtain an approximative estimate of the number of refugees who returned to a situation of internal displacement that year.

Significant changes from last year

The data from IOM DTM was collected in the same way as in the previous year. As the security situation has shown some relative improvement, the total figure of IDPs has been decreasing. The main difference from last year in terms of methodology is the addition of refugee returns to displacement, as that data became available in 2018.

NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC has identified about 25,000 whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified. This relates to the decrease in the total number of people whose displacement occurred for socio-political reasons from 2017 to 2018, as identified by IOM DTM. The latter does not collect data on returns or local integration, so it is unclear whether people have achieved a durable solution, or whether they have returned to their home region or integrated in the place to which they displaced. Due to the absence of tangible evidence as to their situation and the reason this decrease, IDMC has placed this caseload in the Unverified solutions category.

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, households	Households, people
Methodology	Key informants	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	More than once a month	More than once a month
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	No 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	Partial	Partial
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 Burundi please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/burundi>

¹ OHCHR, [Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi](#), 8 August 2018

² Ibid.

³ UNHCR, [Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees](#), 31 December 2018