Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

SUDAN

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis

SUDAN - Contextual Update

Stock:	2,072,000
New Displacements:	17,000
Returns:	235,000
Provisional Solutions:	3,800

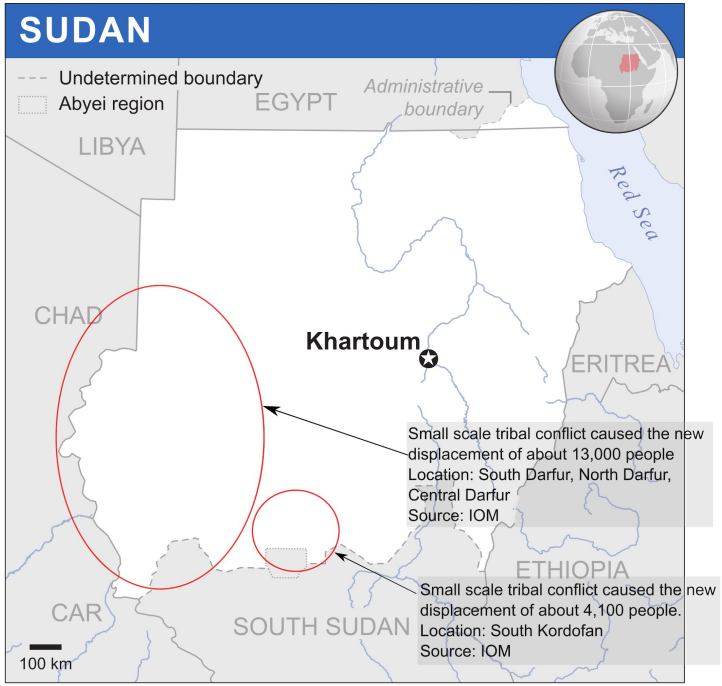
Confidence Assessment (from Helix)

In 2017, there were no major new offensives between the conflict parties, but the country still faced regular incidents of violence. There was a decrease in armed conflict in the first part of 2017 following the ceasefires that were declared by the government, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in October 2016.

In the Two Areas, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, peace negotiations between the SPLM-N and the government stalled, in part due to a split in the SPLM-N which occurred between May and July, which created a faction along ethnic lines and led to clashes between supporters of both sides.

Humanitarian actors had limited access to most conflict affected areas in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, although access to some previously inaccessible areas of the Jebel Marra in Central Darfur was granted this year. This new development was one of the factors that led the US to lift economic sanctions on Sudan in October.

SUDAN - Map of major displacement events in 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Jan 2012. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

SUDAN - Stock: 2,072,000 IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017

Sources and methodologies

Data on IDPs in Sudan comes from three main sources: IOM, OCHA and the Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). OCHA consolidates the information from various humanitarian partners, while IOM does IDP registration, and HAC draws on IOM figures.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

Data collection on internal displacement is a complex and political issue in Sudan, and there is a lack of access to certain areas. This figure of 2,072,000 IDPs is a low estimate, because apart from the Blue Nile caseloads, it is based only on registration information and not on data obtained through other methods (key informant information, beneficiary lists from humanitarian partners, etc). There are areas within Darfur, South Kordofan and West Kordofan that are not covered, also no organisations have information on IDPs living in or around Khartoum.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

IDMC's displacement estimates for Sudan are based on IOM's IDP registration data, covering the 5 states of Darfur and South and West Kordofan, as well as an estimate from the Humanitarian Aid Commission for Blue Nile state, which is not covered by other organisations. This data has been used as registrations provide a more accurate estimate of IDP populations (minimising the risk of double counting) and provide the most detail regarding the years, states and localities in which people were registered.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

There is a large difference with GRID 2017, when about 3.3 million IDPs were reported. This is because this year IDMC has used newly available registration data, in order to have a more conservative estimate which reflects the largely improved security situation in the country.

SUDAN - New Displacements: 17,000

This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year

Sources and methodologies

New displacement figures in Sudan come from either IOM and OCHA. As the leading organisation reporting on internal displacement, OCHA reports on new displacement via alerts on security incidents that it receives from its humanitarian network. IOM has registration information per year, including information on new arrivals in IDP sites.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, there is limited information on the specific conflict-related events that cause new displacements in Sudan. Also, due to problems of access, there is quite a large difference in scale between confirmed new displacements reported by OCHA and displacements that cannot be verified. This makes it difficult to gain a comprehensive picture of new displacements in 2017, and the figure reported is likely to be an underestimate.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

IDMC reports on registered new arrivals in IDP sites reported by IOM in 2017. This figure is slightly higher than the verified new displacements reported by OCHA (~14,000) in Darfur, South and West Kordofan but covers the same areas. However, as this is based on registration, it can be considered as a reliable figure, even if not all areas can be covered by the registration process.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

There is a large difference in new displacement figures compared with GRID 2017, when 97,000 new displacements were reported, linked to the Jebel Marra crisis. However in 2017 there was an improvement in the security situation, and no major outbreaks of conflict were reported. The new displacement in the GRID 2018 is linked to small scale tribal conflict in Darfur, South and West Kordofan.

SUDAN - Returns: 235,000

This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence

A total of about 235,000 people were registered as having returned to their areas of origin in 2017 in Darfur and South Kordofan by IOM. This is a conservative figure that takes into account full, voluntary returns. There have been reports on seasonal returns for agricultural/livelihood reasons, which are not included here.

SUDAN - Provisional Solutions: 3,800

This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution

A total of about 3,800 people were registered as having returned to their places of origin in Darfur in 2017 by IOM, for livelihood reasons, for example to tend to crops or for fishing. These cases do not count as full, durable returns, and are therefore placed in the provisional solutions category.