

GRID 2023

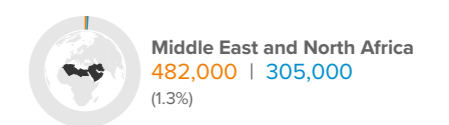
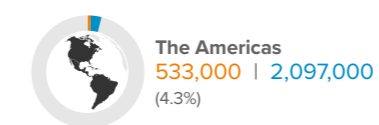
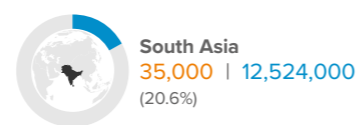
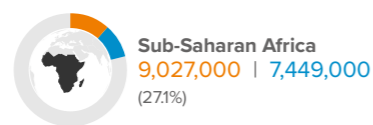
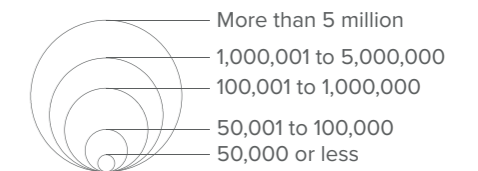
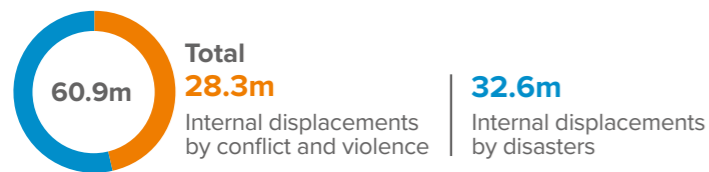
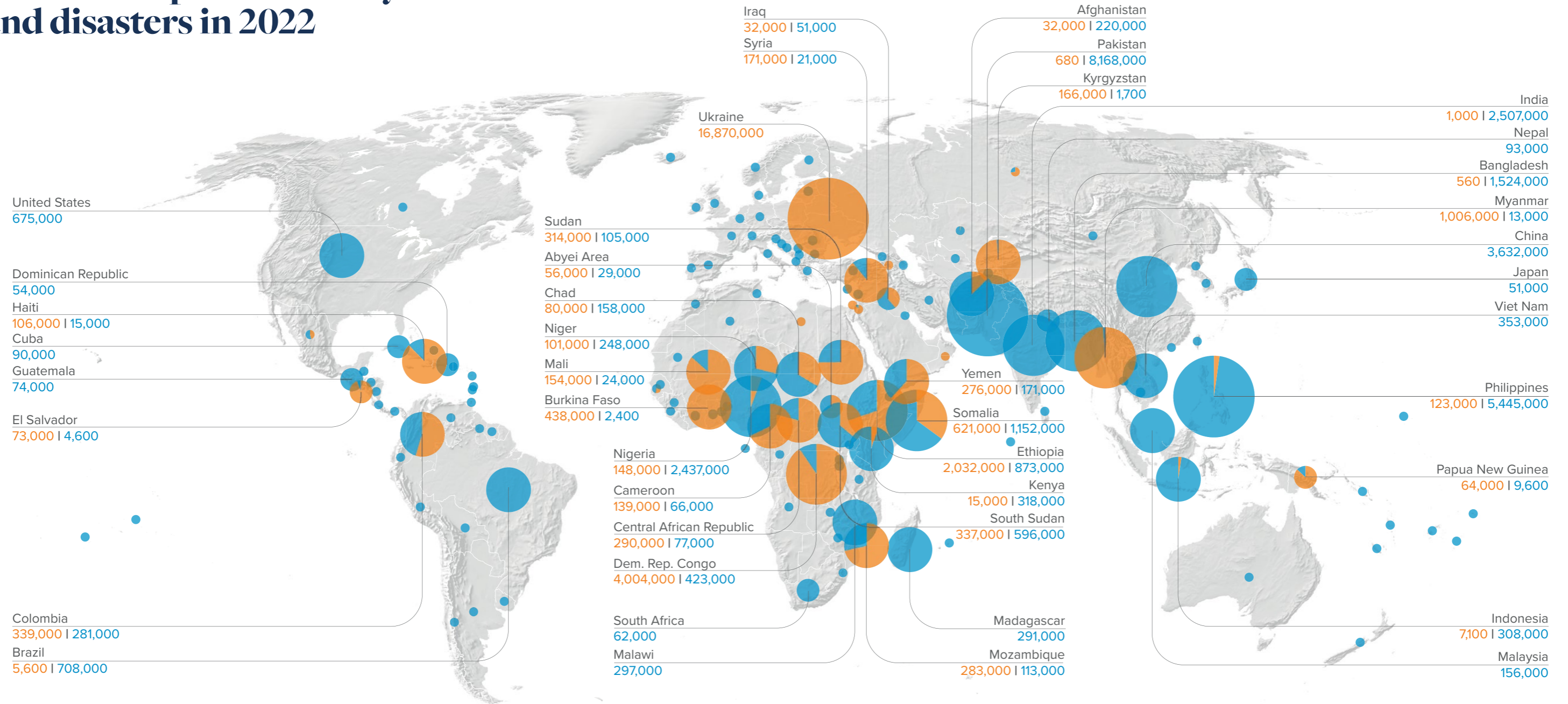
Internal displacement
and food security

iDMC internal
displacement
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Internal displacements by conflict and disasters in 2022



The country and territory names and figures are shown only when the total value exceeds 50,000. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

With Thanks



Lala displacement camp, Ituri province, DRC. Attacks increased in eastern provinces in 2022, triggering displacement.
© NRC/Hugh Kinsella Cunningham, May 2022

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Cover Photo:

Encouraging sustainable livelihoods and allocating the right resources to support IDPs in resolving their situation will help to prevent future displacement and food insecurity.
© Illustration by Matt Murphy/Handsome Frank, April 2023



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A man on a beach in southern Bangladesh after Cyclone Sitrang hit on 25 October.
© UNICEF/UN0724677/Abu Sufian Jewel, October 2022

Foreword



Fish pens in the Philippines. The country recorded the highest number of displacements in the East Asia and the Pacific region. © FAO/David Hogsholt, March 2022

Last year, conflict, disasters, and the continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic combined to aggravate people's pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. The war in Ukraine made everything even worse. And it all fuelled a global food security crisis that hit the poorest and most vulnerable, including internally displaced people (IDPs), hardest. This perfect storm has undermined years of progress made in reducing global hunger and malnutrition.

Three quarters of the countries experiencing food security crises had internally displaced populations. In this report IDMC documents that we have never before recorded internal displacement on this scale. Some 71.1 million people were living in internal displacement as of the end of 2022, a sharp increase compared with 2021, mostly the result of the conflict in Ukraine, but also because of entrenched conflicts and disasters that uproot millions of people every year. Many IDPs live in protracted displacement and extreme food insecurity. The lack of comprehensive data on these overlapping crises hampers efforts to establish a vital evidence base to inform policies to prevent, respond and achieve longer-term solutions to them.

The focus of this year's Global Report on Internal Displacement on food security is much needed. The report makes a major contribution to the discussion about the relationship between displacement and food insecurity, by providing

the most up-to-date data and analysis on their confluence, highlighting gaps in our knowledge and interventions, and exploring the potential to address them together rather than separately. I welcome IDMC's efforts in shedding light on this important topic, which deserves more attention and urgent action.

At the Norwegian Refugee Council, we believe that stronger partnerships, better data and coherent programming across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors will help us to combat global hunger and malnutrition at the same time as reducing the risk of new and protracted displacement. We also believe that the food and agriculture sector has a valuable contribution to make to the achievement of durable solutions to displacement. Working together, we can tackle the ongoing challenges and reduce the trends presented in this report, which should be seen as a wake-up call to enhance our collective drive for a more sustainable future.

Jan Egeland

Secretary-General of the
Norwegian Refugee Council

Key Findings

Internal displacement broke new records in 2022

- 71.1 million people were living in internal displacement worldwide at the end of 2022, a 20 per cent increase in a year and the highest number ever recorded.
- 60.9 million internal displacements, or movements, were recorded during the year, 60 per cent more than in 2021 and also the highest figure ever.
- The number of displacements associated with conflict and violence nearly doubled to 28.3 million. The war in Ukraine triggered 16.9 million, the highest figure ever recorded for any country.
- The La Niña weather phenomenon persisted for a third consecutive year, leading to record levels of flood displacement in countries including Pakistan, Nigeria and Brazil. It also fuelled the worst drought on record in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, triggering 2.1 million movements.

National and regional trends

- Conflict and violence left 62.5 million people living in displacement across 65 countries and territories at the end of 2022. Disasters accounted for a further 8.7 million across 88 countries and territories.
- Internal displacement is a global phenomenon, but nearly three-quarters of the world's internally displaced people (IDPs) live in just 10 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ukraine, Colombia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan. In many, disasters and conflict overlapped in 2022, prolonging IDPs' situation and displacing some for a second or third time.
- Mirroring the previous 10 years, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa had the highest numbers of IDPs. Figures increased across all regions except East Asia and the Pacific.
- In countries such as the Philippines, Madagascar and South Sudan, consecutive disasters forced people to flee repeatedly, undermining their recovery and prolonging their displacement.
- Nearly half of the year's disaster events triggered fewer than 100 movements, but taken together, their scale and local impacts were significant, as was the case in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam.

Internal displacement and food insecurity overlap

- Conflict, disasters and displacement have aggravated global food insecurity, which was already a concern as a result of the slow and uneven recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The data available on food security and internal displacement is far from comprehensive, but it reveals how the two phenomena overlap. Three-quarters of the countries where food security assessments were conducted had internally displaced populations.
- DRC, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen had the highest numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2022. They were also home to more than 26 million IDPs, over a third of the global total.
- Ukraine and Russia are among the world's largest producers of fertiliser and grain. The conflict between them has had cascading effects on global supply chains and food prices, heightening food insecurity in many countries where internal displacement is also an issue.

Pursuing solutions

- Unconditional cash assistance is a vital means of supporting the immediate needs of people affected by displacement and food insecurity. It is particularly useful for IDPs, given that their needs and priorities change as a result of leaving their homes and livelihoods behind.
- Developing IDPs' livelihoods and skills would help to facilitate durable solutions by increasing their food security and their communities' and countries' self-reliance at the same time.
- Beyond immediate humanitarian assistance, investments are needed in anticipatory action and risk reduction measures that strengthen displaced communities' resilience.
- Data gaps limit our understanding of how IDPs are affected by disruptions to food systems. Filling them would help to shine a light on the common drivers and impacts of displacement and food insecurity and provide evidence to inform solutions.

Displaced families stay on top of a river bank after floods hit villages in Sindh province, Pakistan. © Getty Images/Asim Hafeez/Bloomberg, August 2022

Part 1: The global picture



Ethiopian children running. The country is enduring its worst drought in four decades, that triggered 686,000 displacements in 2022. © Getty Images/Eduardo Soteras/ AFP, January 2023

Internally displaced people (IDPs) at the end of 2022

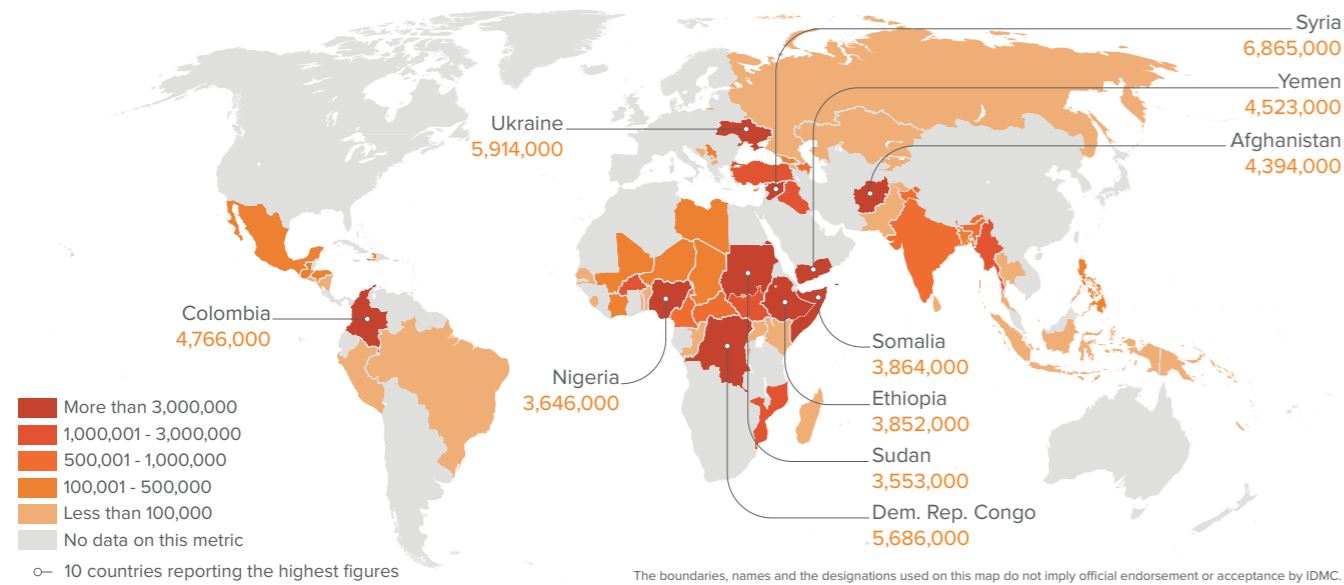
71.1m



What is the total number of IDPs?

The total number of IDPs is a snapshot of all the people living in internal displacement at the end of the year (see p. 135 for further information)

Displaced by conflict and violence



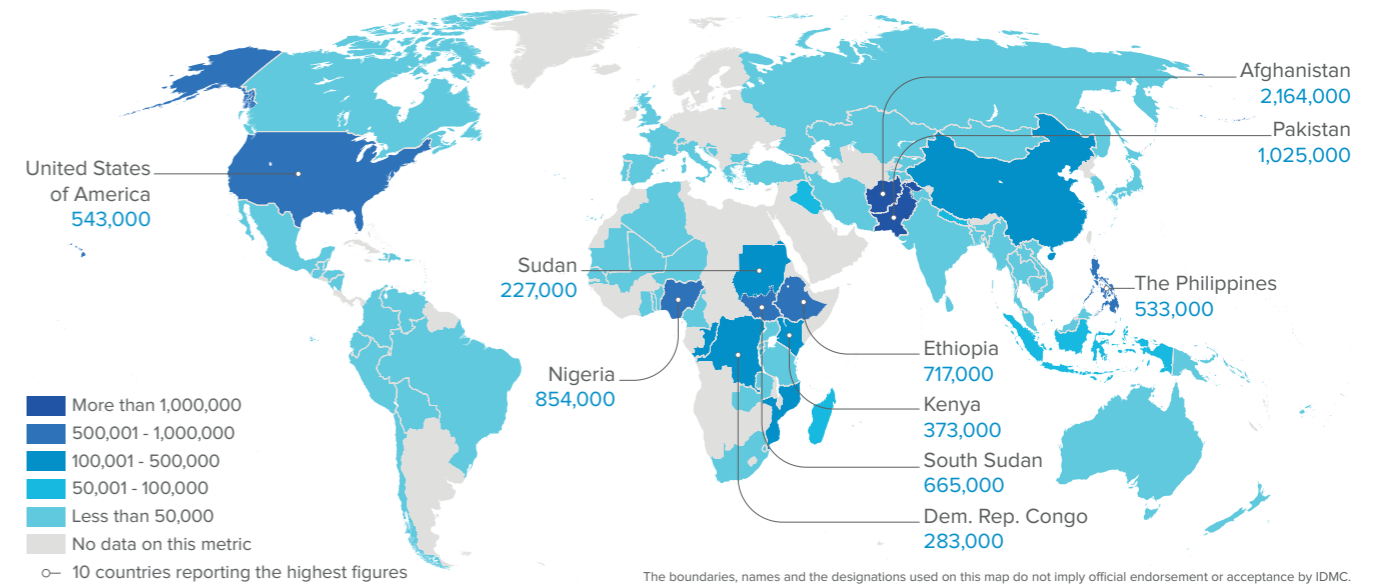
62.5 million

Internally displaced people as a result of conflict and violence in 65 countries and territories as of 31 December 2022

↑ 17%

Increase in the number of people internally displaced by conflict and violence since 2021

Displaced by disasters



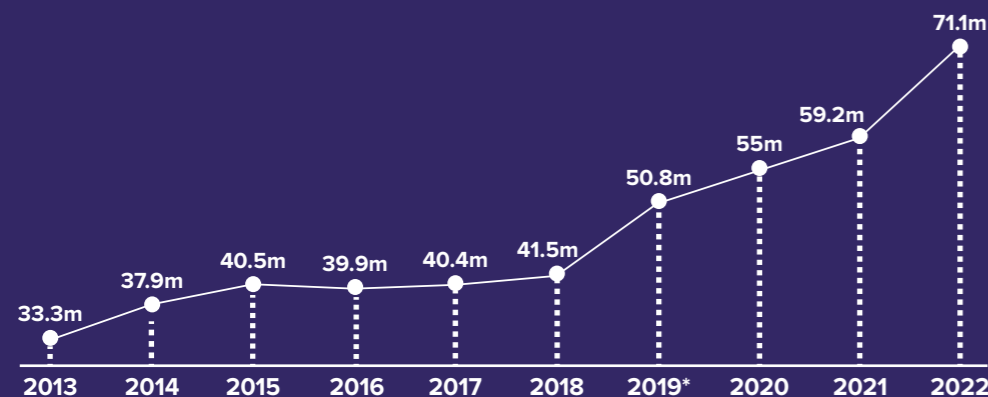
8.7 million

Internally displaced people as a result of disasters in 88 countries and territories as of 31 December 2022

↑ 45%

Increase in the number of people internally displaced by disasters since 2021

The number of IDPs continues to rise



The number of people living in internal displacement reached a record high of 71.1 million people across 110 countries and territories

Why does the number of IDPs keep increasing?

Rapidly escalating conflict and violence in countries such as Ukraine and DRC and significant disasters such as flooding in Pakistan forced millions of people to flee in 2022. They joined the tens of millions of people already living in prolonged displacement as a result of protracted conflict, repeated disasters and a lack of durable solutions.

What is needed to reduce the number of IDPs?

Supporting IDPs to return, integrate locally or resettle elsewhere in their countries is essential. Better data and evidence on solutions are key to informing tailored prevention and response that allow to effectively measure the end of displacement. Conflict resolution, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, food security and poverty reduction must all be strengthened.

Internal displacements in 2022

Disasters

32.6m

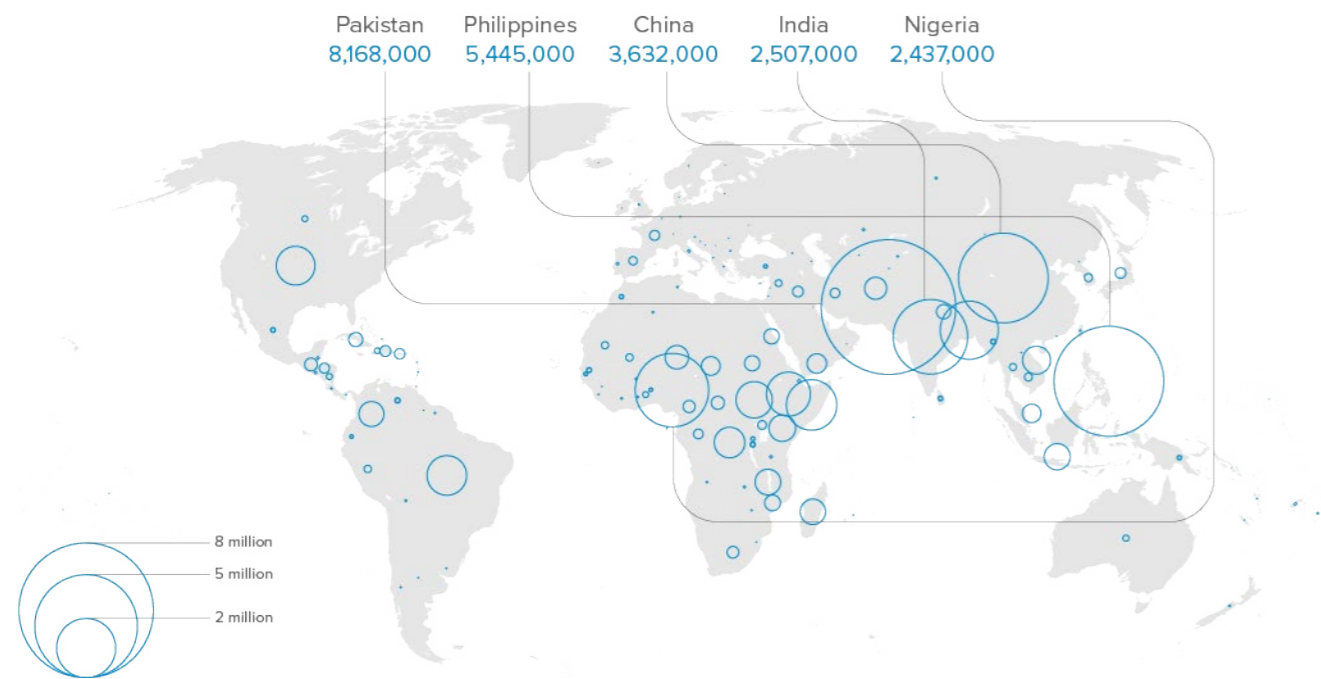


53%
Share of internal
displacements
triggered by disasters

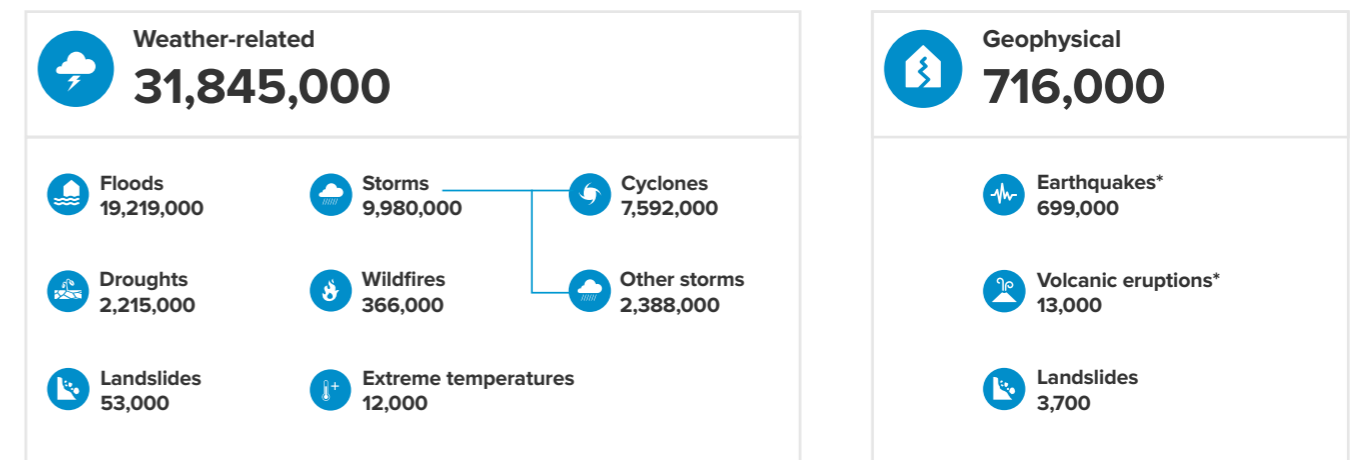
What are internal displacements?

The internal displacements figure refers to the number of forced movements of people within the borders of their country recorded during the year (see p. 135 for further information)

Five countries reporting the highest figures



Breakdown by hazard



6 out of 10 disaster displacements were triggered by floods, surpassing storms for the first time since 2016

98% of disaster displacements were triggered by weather-related hazards such as floods, storms and droughts

*May also include tsunamis.

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

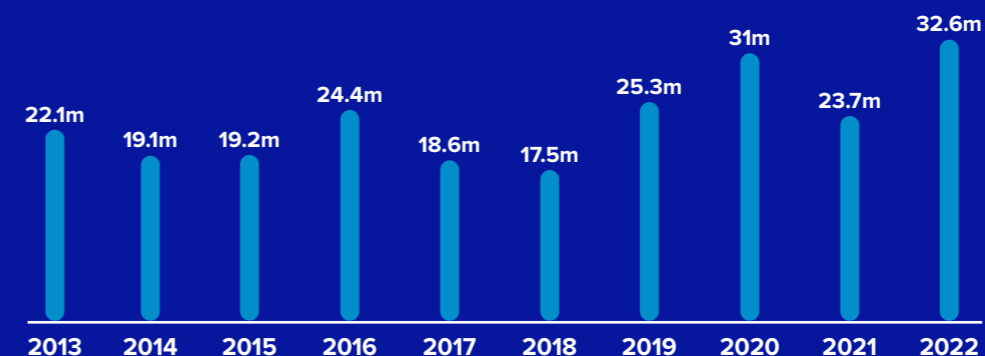
Key displacement situations

25% of global disaster displacements were triggered by monsoon flooding in Pakistan

1.1 million movements were recorded in Somalia as the country experienced its worst drought in 40 years

2% of Tonga's population was forced to relocate after an extremely rare volcanic eruption

Highest figure in a decade



Disaster displacements in 2022 were

41% higher than the annual average of the past 10 years

Internal displacements by disasters in millions

Internal displacements in 2022

Conflict and violence

28.3m

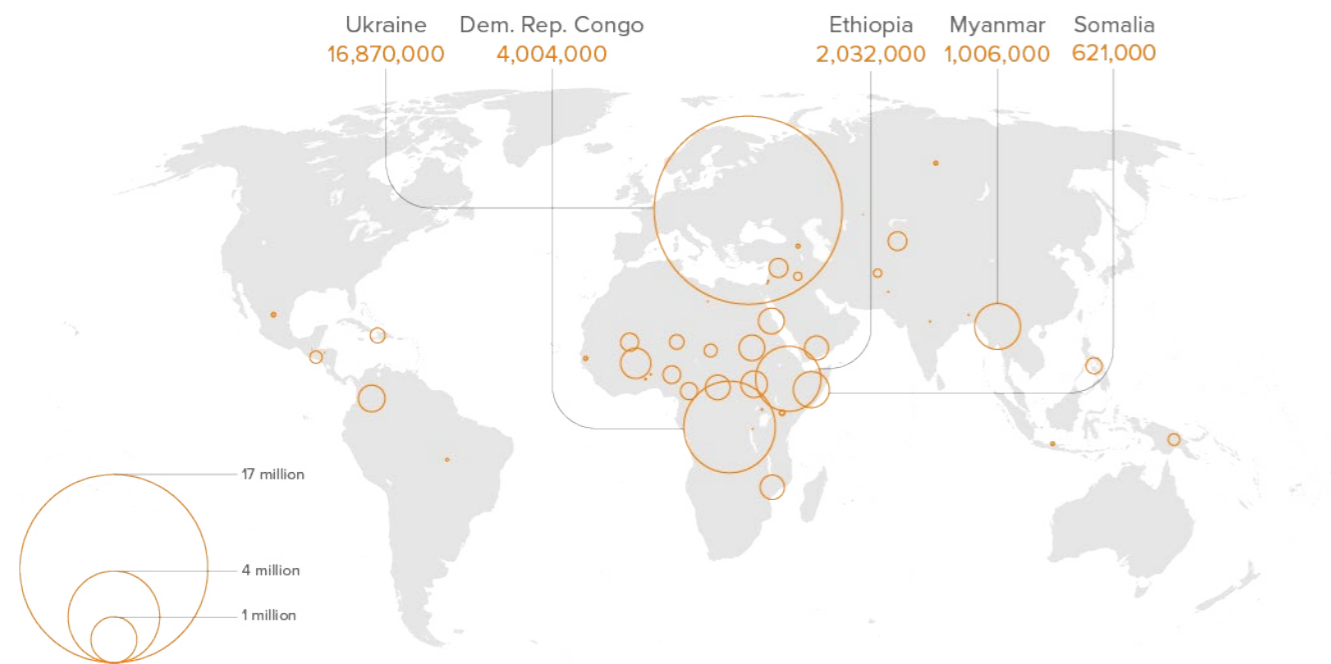


47%
Share of internal displacements triggered by conflict and violence

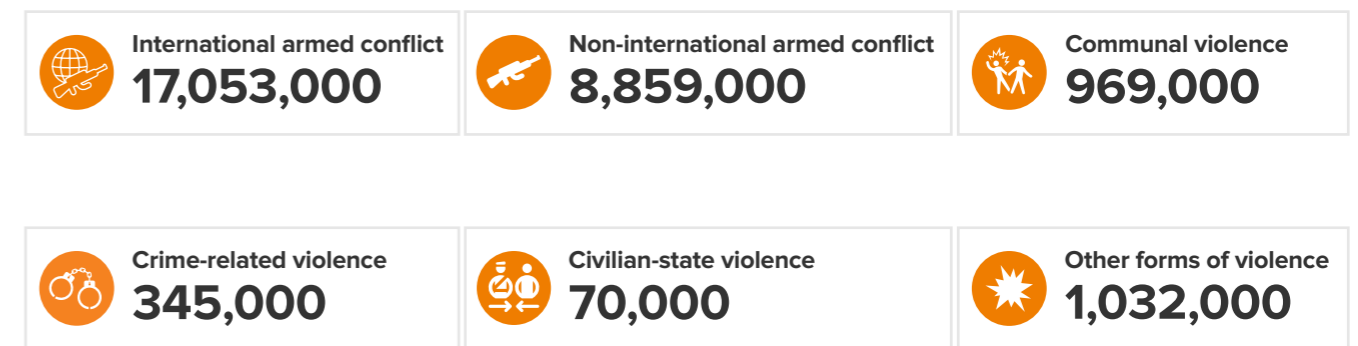
What are internal displacements?

The internal displacements figure refers to the number of forced movements of people within the borders of their country recorded during the year (see p. 135 for further information)

Five countries reporting the highest figures



Breakdown by type of violence¹




 **6 out of 10** displacements were triggered by international armed conflicts

75% Increase in the number of displacements triggered by non-international armed conflicts in the last three years, largely the result of escalating violence in DRC, Ethiopia and Somalia

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

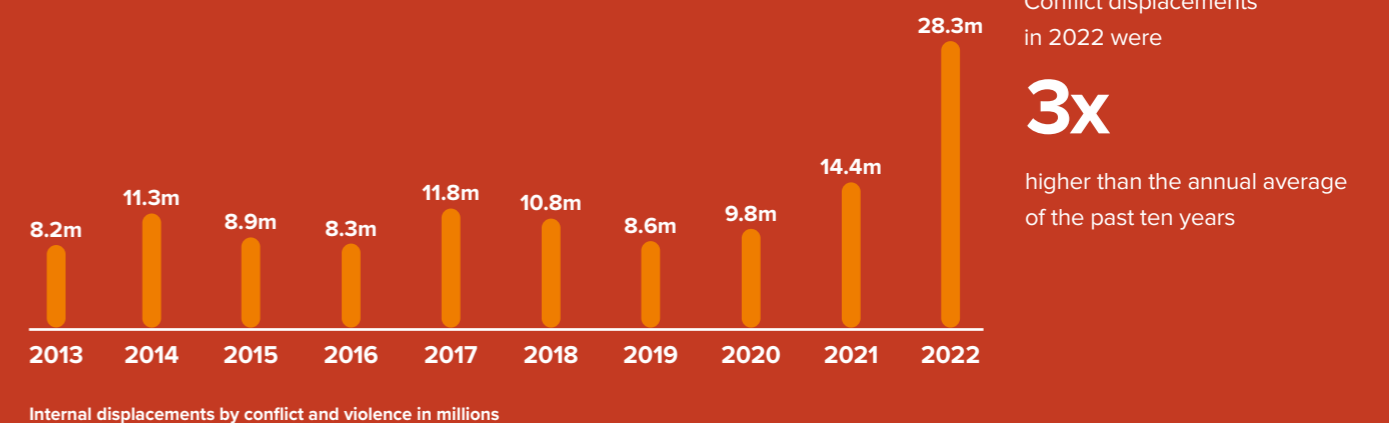
Key displacement situations

60% of global conflict displacements were recorded in Ukraine as people repeatedly fled from rapidly shifting frontlines

4 million conflict displacements took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1.5 times more than in 2021

106,000 internal displacements in Haiti, a five-fold increase compared to 2021 and the highest figure ever recorded for the country

Highest figure in a decade



Regional overviews



A family looks at their flooded home in South Sudan. Floods left two-thirds of the country under water and affected displaced communities living in camps. © Action Against Hunger/Peter Caton, 2022

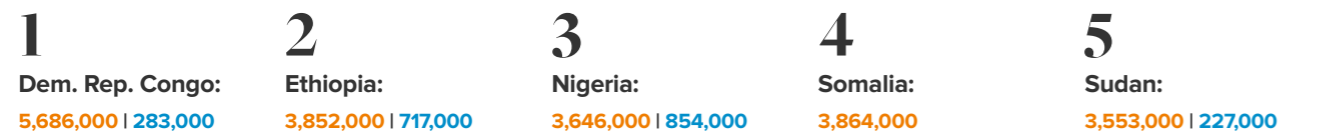


Children in the Lala displacement camp, Djugu Territory, Ituri Province, DRC. © NRC/Hugh Kihsella Cunningham, May 2022

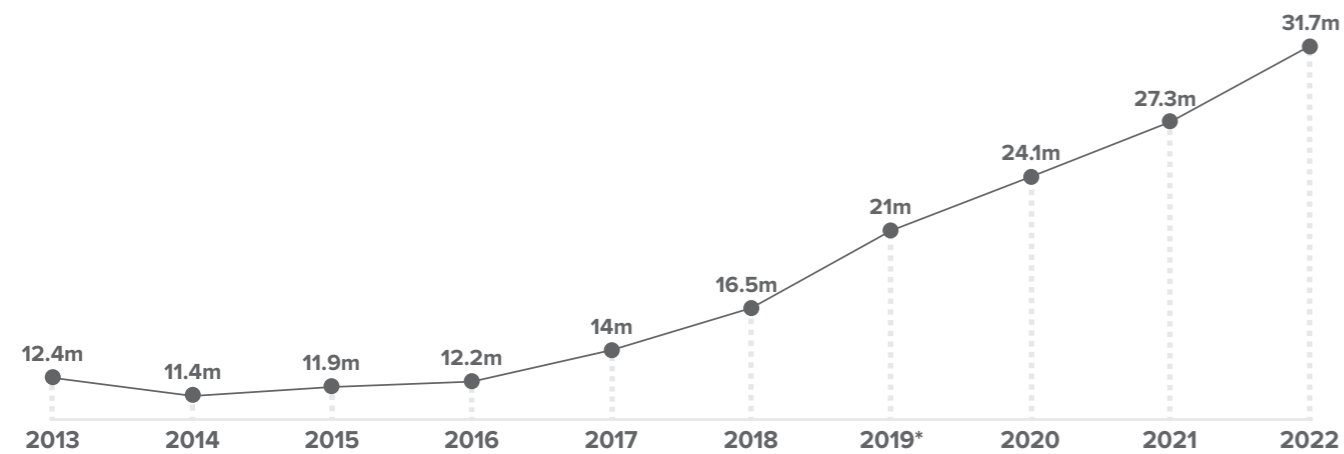
Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022



Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa as of end 2022



Total number of IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa at year end (2013-2022)



Total number of IDPs in millions
*First year disaster data is available

Internal displacements* in 2022

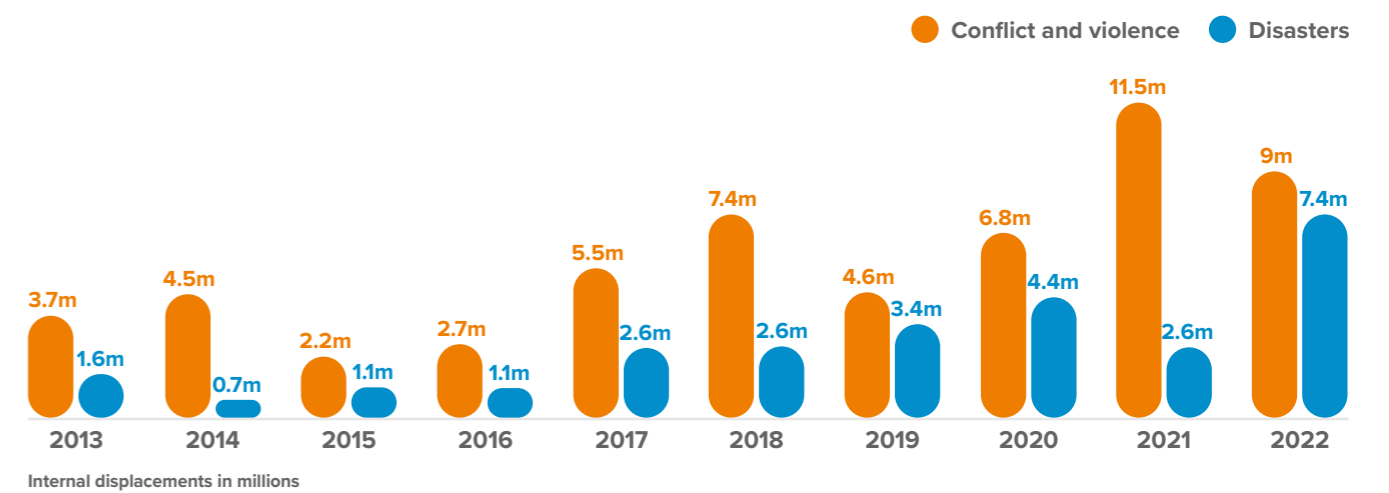
*movements



Five countries with most internal displacements in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022



Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in sub-Saharan Africa (2013-2022)



Internal displacements in millions

Around 16.5 million internal displacements were recorded in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022, an increase of 17 per cent compared with the previous year. This is explained by a near three-fold increase in the number of disaster displacements to 7.4 million, the highest figure ever reported for the region.

A prolonged La Niña, the large-scale cooling of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, fuelled widespread drought in the Horn of Africa and storms and floods elsewhere in the region. Crops and livestock were lost, undermining people's livelihoods and heightening food insecurity across the region. Around 165 million people in 38 countries and territories were acutely food insecure as the year concluded, a situation that was particularly severe in places already struggling with displacement crises (see box 1 in p. 95 for more information).²

Conflict and violence triggered nine million displacements as new waves of insecurity struck some countries. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) accounted for almost half of the total. There were 28 million people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence across the region at the end of the year, its highest ever figure and more than 40 per cent of the global total. Despite IDPs' growing needs, access constraints increasingly impeded the delivery of aid and aggravated the humanitarian situation.³

Drought, displacement and food insecurity

Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa have long evolved around livestock's grazing needs, but as seasonal variability turns into climate shocks, traditional coping mechanisms have been exhausted, forcing farmers to move and some pastoralists to become sedentary.⁴ The region faced its longest and most severe drought on record in 2022 after five consecutive below-

~x3
increase in the number of disaster displacements since 2021

44%
of the total movements triggered by conflict and violence occurred in the DRC

2.1m
displacements were recorded as the region faced its longest and most severe drought on record

average rainy seasons, triggering 2.1 million displacements across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.⁵ Somalia alone accounted for 1.1 million, the highest figure recorded globally since data on drought displacement became available in 2017 (see spotlight, p. 29).⁶

Neighbouring Ethiopia recorded around 686,000 drought displacements. The situation was particularly acute in the regions of Somali and Oromia, which were also affected by conflict and violence.⁷ Figures for Kenya were hard to come by, but data from the counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit and Turkana yielded a total of 316,000 movements.⁸ The drought affected 4.5 million people across the country as a whole.⁹

Its scale and severity led to a significant increase in humanitarian needs across the Horn of Africa, with potentially long-lasting impacts for IDPs. Displaced pastoralists tend to take at least five years to restore their herd after a drought, but the scale and impacts of this latest disaster are likely to leave many with no other choice but to find a different source of income.¹⁰

There is also growing concern about drought fuelling competition and violence over land, water and other ever scarcer natural resources. Localised conflicts, sometimes directly linked to cattle ownership, have further disrupted seasonal migration trends, triggering more displacement.¹¹

The African Development Bank co-hosted the Dakar2: Feed Africa summit in January 2023, bringing together governments, multilateral stakeholders, NGOs and the private sector to share promising practices to combat food insecurity, including increasing agricultural resilience to drought. The summit featured individual countries' strategies for agricultural development and successful examples of heat-tolerant and water-efficient crops.¹² These initiatives should be maintained, as they support strengthening countries' resilience to future climate shocks.



Women walk on dry land in Ethiopia where around 686,000 drought displacements were recorded. © UNICEF/UN0631304, February 2022



The town of Macuva in Zambezia, Mozambique. Tropical storm Ana made landfall on central and northern Mozambique on 24 January, causing housing destruction and displacement in five provinces. © UNICEF/UN0583834/ Bruno Pedro, January 2022

2.4m

disaster displacements in Nigeria, the highest figure in a decade

In countries such as Chad, South Africa and Mauritania, floods triggered the highest figures ever recorded

Above-average rainfall and floods

Elsewhere in the region, La Niña fuelled above-average rains that led to widespread floods across several countries, some of which recorded their highest ever levels of disaster displacement.¹³ Main river basins across West Africa burst their banks, and some areas flooded were also dealing with conflict displacement and food insecurity. As these situations overlapped, IDPs' humanitarian needs increased.¹⁴

Nigeria recorded 2.4 million disaster displacements, its highest in a decade and the highest in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022. The increase was mostly the result of severe floods between June and November. Half of the displacements were reported in the southern state of Bayelsa in the Niger river delta, but Anambra and Kogi states were also heavily affected.¹⁵ All states bordering Cameroon were moderately flooded, in part because of the release of excess water from a dam in the neighbouring country.¹⁶ Displacement camps in the north-eastern state of Borno were also flooded, forcing thousands of people already displaced by conflict to flee again.¹⁷

More than 676,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed, affecting essential crops such as rice. The reduction in supply and ensuing increased cost of staples heightened food insecurity to the extent that the National Emergency Management Authority requested UN assistance in October to respond to the disaster.¹⁸

The number of disaster displacements in Niger nearly doubled compared with 2021 to more than 248,000, while in Mali the figure was nearly four times higher. The latter increase is in part the result of better access to data. Floods struck the Malian region of Mopti in September and December, which resulted in the widespread destruction of homes in an area also widely affected by conflict.¹⁹

Chad recorded 158,000 disaster displacements, more than in the previous nine years combined. A state of emergency was declared in mid-October as the heaviest rainfall in 30 years broke dikes and led to extensive flooding.²⁰ The Chari and Logone rivers burst their banks, flooding a quarter of the country's capital, N'Djamena.²¹ Almost 57,000 houses were destroyed, and local authorities sheltered those displaced across 20 sites.²² Many were overcrowded, however, prompting the formation of informal settlements in flood-prone areas.²³

After two years of drought, Mauritania recorded above-average rains and floods at the end of July that triggered 23,000 movements, its highest ever disaster displacement figure. The central and southern regions of Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant were worst affected. More than 3,800 homes were destroyed, and infrastructure and farmland were damaged.²⁴ Neighbouring Senegal also recorded its highest flood displacement figure in years, with most movements taking place in urban areas such as Dakar, Thiès and Matam.²⁵

Above-average rainfall also brought severe floods to South Africa, where they triggered 62,000 movements, the country's highest disaster displacement figure since data became available in 2008. The government declared a national emergency in January as dams began to overflow, but the worst was yet to come.²⁶ KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces were hit by devastating floods between 11 and 13 April that triggered about 42,000 displacements.²⁷

The extent of the disaster led to the activation of the International Disaster Charter, which provides the release of satellite data to humanitarian organisations to assist their operations.²⁸ The government built temporary shelters for IDPs and worked towards issuing lost personal documents.²⁹

Consecutive storms

Three tropical cyclones and two tropical storms hit southern Africa in the first quarter of the year, killing more than 890 people and triggering 696,000 displacements.³⁰ Tropical storm Ana, which hit Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in January, led to the highest number.

Malawi was the most affected by the consecutive storms. Ana caused significant damage and destruction to homes and triggered more than 190,000 displacements across 16 districts in southern parts of the country.³¹ As of April 2022, most people had voluntarily left shelter camps, but 5,400 individuals were still awaiting relocation.³² The storms also increased the risk of waterborne diseases. A cholera outbreak in February 2023 had become what was considered the worst in 20 years.³³

Madagascar was the second most affected country, recording nearly 286,000 displacements. The storms followed a severe drought which started in 2021, decimating crops and increasing food insecurity (see spotlight, p. 31).

Tropical cyclone Gombe struck Malawi and to a lesser extent Mozambique in early March, triggering 131,000 displacements across the two countries. Gombe also undermined the recovery of people previously displaced, prolonging their plight. Around 127,000 people were living in displacement as a result of disasters in Mozambique at the end of the year, some of them since cyclones Idai in 2019 and Eloise in 2021.³⁴

Protracted conflicts

Despite efforts to improve security and promote peacebuilding, conflict displacement continued to increase in many sub-Saharan countries in 2022, giving the region the highest number of people living in displacement as result of conflict and violence worldwide. Ten countries dealing with protracted crises accounted for 95 per cent of the

297,000

disaster displacements were recorded in Malawi as back-to-back storms hit the country

95%

of conflict IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa live in just 10 countries



Young boy fishing in flood waters that engulfed Chikwawa district in Malawi, where tropical storm Ana triggered more than 190,000 displacements.
© GettyImages/Angela Jimu/Majority World/Universal Images Group, February 2022



A woman in South Sudan, a country with significant agricultural potential, but where only four per cent of land is consistently cultivated, in part due to protracted conflict and recurring floods. © Action Against Hunger/Peter Caton, August 2022

28m

people were displaced by conflict and violence at the end of 2022

621,000

internal displacements by conflict and violence in Somalia, a 13% increase from 2021

region's 28 million IDPs. Entrenched conflict and violence also triggered nine million new and repeated displacements during the year.

DRC alone recorded four million, its highest figure since data became available in 2008 and again the most affected country in the region. Escalating conflict in eastern provinces does much to explain such a high figure, but it was also the result of better access to data. The persistent conflict has left DRC with the largest number of acutely food insecure people worldwide and among the countries with most IDPs, which illustrates the overlapping nature of the two crises (see spotlight, p. 27).³⁵

Conflict and violence also triggered 621,000 movements in Somalia, the country's highest figure in more than a decade. Around 3.9 million people were living in displacement as of the end of the year, up from three million 12 months prior and the highest figure since data became available in 2009. The increase was also the result of wider coverage and better data collection, particularly in Mogadishu.³⁶

The government launched a large-scale military offensive against the al-Shabaab militant group in August, and the ensuing fighting led to more than 182,000 displacements in Hiraa region. Violence was also reported in Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle, and clashes continued until the end of the year.³⁷

In neighbouring Ethiopia, conflict and violence triggered two million movements in 2022, down from 5.1 million in 2021 when escalating conflict in northern regions, and particularly Tigray, pushed the figure to an all-time high.³⁸ The government announced a humanitarian truce in March and, despite a resumption of fighting in August, the parties signed a peace agreement in November, raising hopes for those displaced to find durable solutions.³⁹ Even if the peace agreement holds, however, it will take years to fully stabilise northern areas of the country.⁴⁰

There were nearly 3.9 million people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence across Ethiopia at the end of the year, the third highest figure in the region.

A number of West African countries were also hosting large numbers of IDPs as of the end of 2022. Nigeria had 3.6 million, of whom 1.9 million were living in protracted displacement in the north-eastern state of Borno. Around 148,000 movements were recorded during the year, fewer than in 2021, mostly in the states of Zamfara, Kaduna and Borno.

In the Central Sahel region, Burkina Faso was home to 1.9 million IDPs at the end of 2022, its highest figure on record. Non-state armed groups control large parts of the country's territory, which impeded the delivery of aid to those displaced.⁴¹ Areas under blockade were only able to receive shipments by air. These and other hard-to-reach areas experienced emergency levels of food insecurity or worse, and services were extremely limited for millions of people (see spotlight, p. 97).⁴²

In Niger, nearly 372,000 people were living in displacement as of the end of the year, up from 224,000 in 2021. The majority were in the Tillabéri and Diffa regions.⁴³ The south-west and south-east of the country continued to experience armed attacks that resulted in tens of thousands of displacements, although many were unaccounted for. Violence in Diffa, located in the Lake Chad basin, triggered more than 16,000 secondary movements from a displacement site in August.⁴⁴

Conflict also continued in Mali's central and northern regions, triggering 154,000 displacements countrywide. As in Burkina Faso, a significant deterioration in humanitarian access increased IDPs' needs in both Mali and Niger.⁴⁵

The same was true in Sudan, where intercommunal violence increased, particularly in West Darfur.⁴⁶ Around 15.8 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, including 2.5 million IDPs.⁴⁷ Around 3.6 million people were living in internal displacement across the country as a whole as of the end of the year, up from 3.2 million in 2021.

A revitalised peace agreement signed in 2018 brought hopes of an end to South Sudan's conflict, but disputes among its main signatories have gridlocked the process.⁴⁸ Repeated violations of the agreement were reported in 2022 as violence continued to escalate, triggering 337,000 displacements, most of them in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states.⁴⁹ Almost 1.5 million people were living in displacement at the end of the year, a figure that has been largely unchanged for the past four years. The country was also hit by severe floods that hampered the provision of humanitarian aid and increased food insecurity (see spotlight, p. 101).⁵⁰

The government of Mozambique asked the Southern African Development Community to support its fight against non-state armed groups in Cabo Delgado via a regional military coalition in 2021. Violence in Cabo Delgado and the neighbouring province of Nampula reignited, particularly in the second half of the year, triggering a total of 283,000 movements, 50 per cent more than in 2021.⁵¹ As the military coalition made gains, it begun a peacebuilding support programme intended to improve social protection, law and order and humanitarian assistance.⁵² As the year concluded, over a million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence in Mozambique.



A man collects firewood from the bushes in the north-eastern state of Borno, which hosts more than half of Nigeria's IDPs.
© NRC/Samuel Jegede, 2022

Spotlight – The Democratic Republic of the Congo: overlapping displacement and food insecurity in the east

The humanitarian situation in DRC deteriorated in 2022 as non-state armed groups (NSAGs) increased their attacks in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. Around 4 million internal displacements were reported across the country as a whole, a 48 per cent increase from 2021. Around 5.7 million people were living in displacement at the end of the year, the third highest figure in the world. DRC is also home to the largest number of acutely food insecure people worldwide, illustrating the overlapping nature of these crises.⁵³

The March 23 Movement (M23), one of more than 120 NSAGs operating in the east of the country, had curtailed most of its activities after a 2013 peace agreement, but it renewed its attacks in November 2021, primarily in North Kivu.⁵⁴ Its re-emergence is partly explained by disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration challenges as well as economic interests.⁵⁵ Violence escalated significantly in March 2022 and intensified further in June, October and November, triggering more than 520,000 displacements as the group extended its control, particularly in the territories of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo.⁵⁶

After joining the East African Community in March, DRC's government supported the launch of several regional initiatives intended to de-escalate tensions and bring lasting peace, notably the Nairobi and Luanda peace processes.⁵⁷ It also called for international support to respond to the rising violence in the eastern provinces, and a regional force with contingents from Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda was established in June.⁵⁸ Uganda has

separately deployed troops since the end of 2021 under a bilateral agreement with DRC to combat the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an NSAG which has continued to carry out indiscriminate attacks against civilians in both countries.⁵⁹

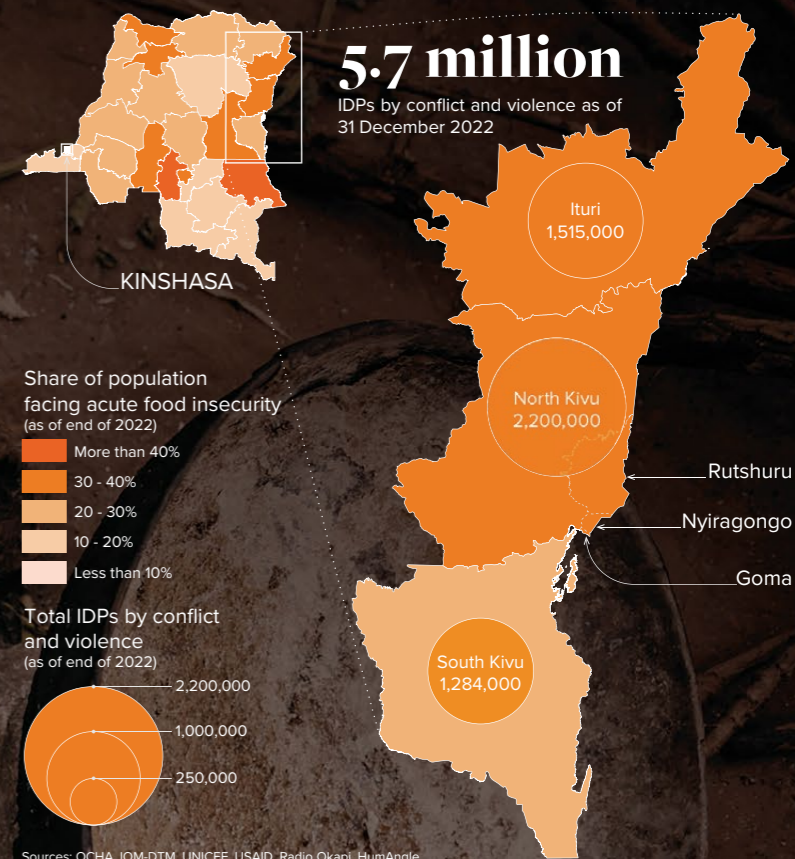
As government forces moved out of Ituri to deal with the security situation in North Kivu, the ADF and other NSAGs increased their attacks in parts of the province, triggering about 80,000 displacements.⁶⁰ The situation in Ituri illustrates the multifaceted crisis DRC faces as the armed forces struggle to contain an array of NSAGs and intercommunal violence that is forcing people from their homes across several provinces.

More than a quarter of the country's population, or 26.4 million people, were estimated to face acute food insecurity between July and December last year.⁶¹ Access constraints caused by M23 violence reduced the local movement of food into Goma, the capital of North Kivu, and increased residents' reliance on imports from neighbouring countries.⁶² NSAGs also targeted existing food stocks, further aggravating the prevailing food insecurity.⁶³

Data on food security in DRC is not disaggregated by displacement status, but anecdotal evidence suggests that IDPs are among the most vulnerable. Forced to leave their homes, lands and livelihoods behind when they flee, they become less able to produce food for themselves and their communities, rendering staple items increasingly rare and expensive.⁶⁴ The fact that 93 per cent of IDPs shelter with host fami-

lies also adds pressure on the latter, who themselves face growing food insecurity, increasing the needs of the population as a whole.⁶⁵

Despite the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the east in 2022, the response, which targeted 8.8 million people, was only 48 per cent funded.⁶⁶



IDPs cook in a displacement site in Ituri province, DRC. The country hosts the largest number of acutely food insecure people worldwide. © NRC/Hugh Kinsella Cunningham, April 2022

Spotlight – Somalia: worst drought in 40 years fuels food insecurity and displacement

Drought is a recurring phenomenon in Somalia and it has increased in scale and severity in the last decade. Almost 260,000 people died in the 2011 famine after two below-average rainy seasons.⁶⁷ Drought and famine were declared in 2017 and 892,000 associated displacements were recorded.⁶⁸ Authorities declared a state of emergency in November 2021 in response to a drought that intensified in 2022 to become the longest and most severe in 40 years with five consecutive failed rainy seasons.⁶⁹

The drought affected almost half of the population and triggered a record 1.1 million internal displacements in 2022, almost six times the figure for the previous year.⁷⁰ The situation was still ongoing at the start of 2023. As in previous years, these conditions combined with conflict to fuel food insecurity and force people from their homes. Competition and violence over reduced resources in rural areas also aggravate drought-related precarity.⁷¹

Most IDPs moved in their own region in the hope of accessing security, livelihood opportunities and aid.⁷² Findings from a study indicated that the long-running presence of humanitarian organisations has played a role in displacement dynamics, with the provision of food, cash and employment influencing IDPs' decisions about where they move to, for how long and which family member(s) do. Given that aid often targets vulnerable groups, women and children have tended to

move first while men attempt to salvage livelihoods at home, making family separation a coping mechanism.⁷³ This in part explains why two-thirds of those displaced since the start of the drought have been children.⁷⁴

Most IDPs are concentrated in urban areas, such as the country's capital of Mogadishu in the Banadir district and the city of Baidoa in Bay region.⁷⁵ The scale of the influxes into already overcrowded areas puts IDPs at risk of forced eviction and secondary urban displacement.⁷⁶ This dynamic has gained attention in recent years, leading to coordinated prevention efforts, a moratorium on evictions and the formalisation of lease agreements in displacement sites, all of which have contributed to a reduction in the number of evictions.⁷⁷ They still occur, however, especially following large inflows of new IDPs. Many of those evicted in Banadir in February 2022 had previously been displaced by drought.⁷⁸

Such high population density also increases humanitarian needs by aggravating disease outbreaks and fuelling food insecurity. The large influx of IDPs into Baidoa put added strain on already scarce resources, triggering an emergency response.⁷⁹ Many areas were classified as facing emergency, or IPC phase 4, levels of food insecurity and some even catastrophe, or IPC phase 5, levels.⁸⁰

With a sixth failed rainy season forecast from April to June 2023 and food prices at exceptionally high levels, a new

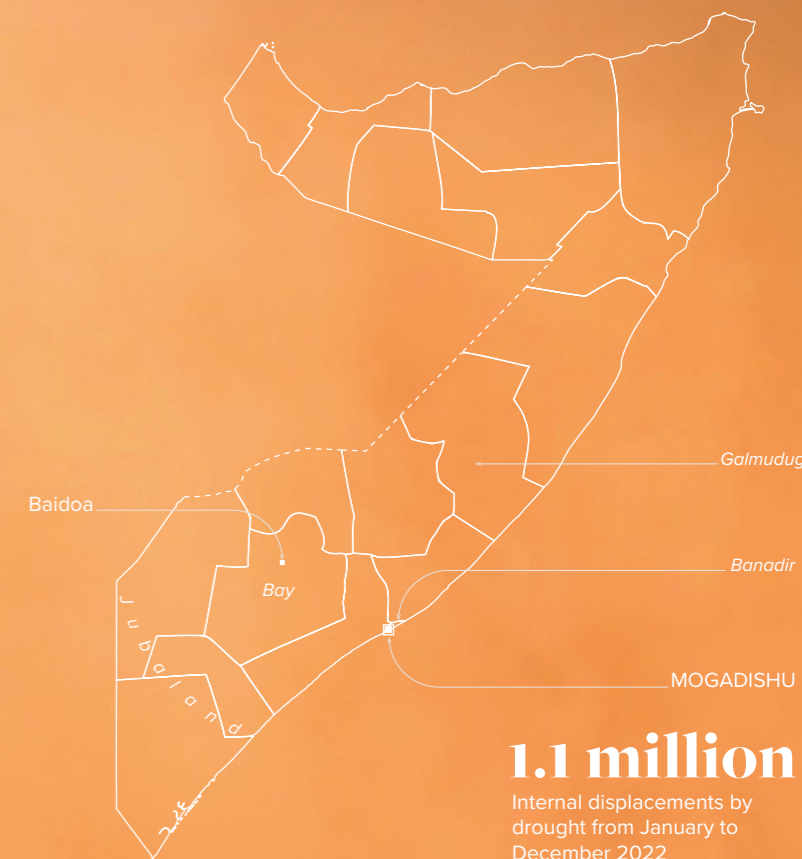
alert for looming famine was issued in September 2022.⁸¹ The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has repeatedly called for increased and sustained humanitarian assistance, warning the death toll could be as high as it was in 2011.⁸² As of the end of 2022, however, only 57 per cent of the required funding had been received.⁸³

More drought displacement is expected in 2023 as a result, with long-lasting impacts. More than 80 schools in Jubaland and Galmudug states had already been closed as of April 2022 from impacts of the drought. By the end of the year, 1.7 million children had had their education disrupted.⁸⁴ Pastoralists, who make up around half of the country's population, have also been left with few options. Most of their livestock has perished and their skills are not easily transferable to urban environments.⁸⁵

Given that agriculture and livestock rearing are the country's main economic activities, investing in adaptation strategies and diversifying livelihoods could counter the adverse effects of prolonged reliance on aid.⁸⁶ To this end, the Saameynta project, a new partnership between the federal government and the UN, is intended to promote durable solutions for more than 75,000 IDPs and their host communities by investing in rural development and urban integration.⁸⁷

Mechanisms such as the IDP Working Group, which includes stakeholders working on humanitarian and displacement issues, have also established a much more accurate evidence base on displacement dynamics.⁸⁸ Partners are producing and using disaggregated data in their programmes, which has helped them better target their prevention and response measures by taking the different patterns and impacts of displacement into account. Such data also contributes to emerging drought displacement modelling to inform preventive action.⁸⁹

Given the scale of the ongoing crisis, the humanitarian response is a priority, but it will not alone resolve the structural drivers and impacts of internal displacement. Climate variability and change are likely to continue to cause erratic rainfall that will affect rural communities, and subsequent displacement will add pressure to already stretched urban systems, meaning that development approaches to support prevention and durable solutions, particularly in cities, will be key.



1.1 million

Internal displacements by drought from January to December 2022



A sandstorm in Jubaland, southwest Somalia. Half of the country's population is affected by a severe drought which triggered a record 1.1 million displacements in 2022. © GettyImages/Sally Hayden/SOPA Images, April 2022

Spotlight – Madagascar: storms and drought trigger displacement and heighten food insecurity

A combination of poverty, vulnerability and exposure to a wide range of hazards make Madagascar one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries.⁹⁰ Severe storms last year came on top of an ongoing drought that reduced soil absorption capacity and increased the impacts of floods and other disasters, many of which struck informal urban settlements.⁹¹ The combined effects of slow and sudden-onset disasters aggravated food insecurity and led to 291,000 internal displacements, the highest figure ever recorded for the country.

Six tropical storms, including three cyclones, hit the country between January and April, triggering 286,000 movements. The most intense period was between mid-January and the end of February, when rains were almost uninterrupted. Put into perspective, the figure represents about 20 per cent of all disaster displacements recorded in Madagascar since data became available in 2008. Strong winds, heavy rains and floods destroyed more than 15,600 homes, prolonging the prospects of return for those displaced.⁹²

Tropical storm Ana, which hit on 17 January, was not the most severe in terms of hazard intensity, but its impacts in the capital area of Greater Antananarivo accounted for 40 per cent of the disaster displacements reported in 2022.⁹³ Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati, which struck in January and February, were stronger but between them triggered fewer displacements. The scale of displacement and extent

of the damage Ana wrought is partly explained by the rapid and informal urban expansion that has taken place in recent years.⁹⁴ Around 700,000 people live in the capital’s flood-prone informal settlements.⁹⁵

Rural to urban displacement is in part driven by the country’s cyclical climate variability and low rainfall periods to which Grand Sud region is particularly prone.⁹⁶ Consecutive failed rainy seasons since 2019 have plunged the region into its worst drought in 40 years.⁹⁷ As it can take farmers up to three years to fully recover from one year of drought, disasters and economic drivers combine to trigger migration and displacement.⁹⁸

The impacts of natural hazards are aggravated by human-made erosion brought on by unsustainable land management, including widespread deforestation and the repurposing of land for housing in contravention of regulations. As much as a third of the island’s land resources are now affected by erosion, with severe effects on livelihoods, agriculture and food security.⁹⁹

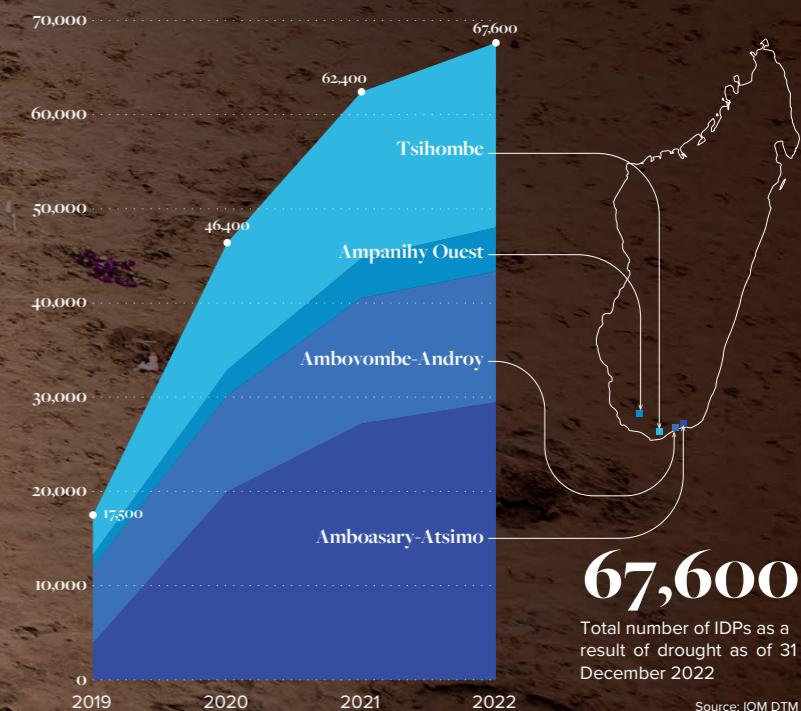
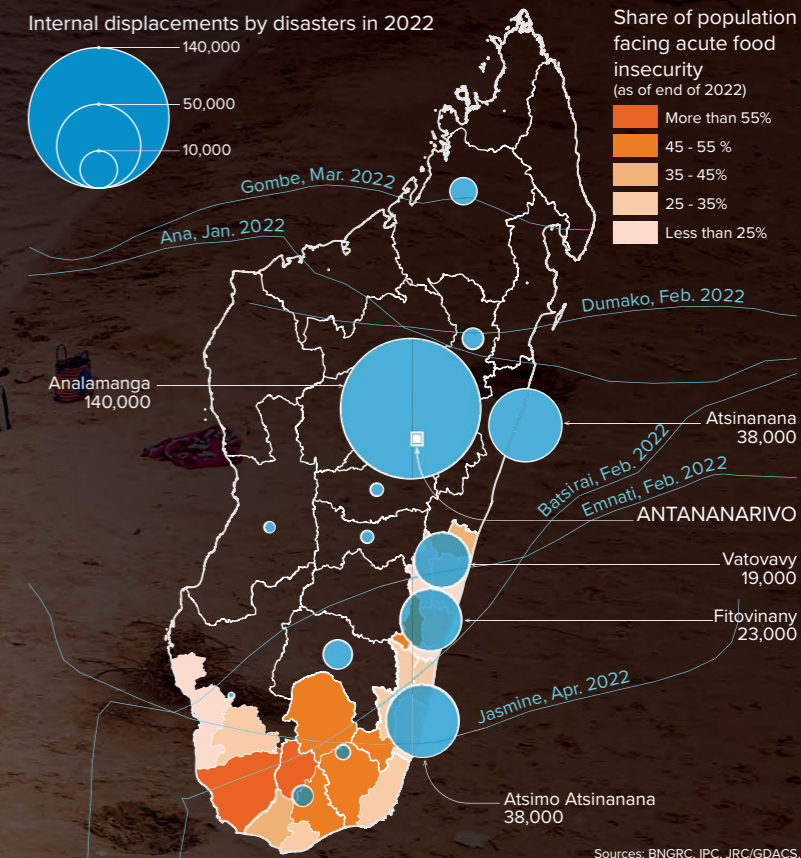
The consecutive storms of 2022 damaged cassava, maize and cash crops, further weakening the country’s already limited agricultural production. About 60,000 hectares of rice fields were also flooded twice, resulting in a below-average harvest.¹⁰⁰ The Grand Sud-Est region was pushed into crisis, or IPC phase 3, levels of food insecurity for the first time.¹⁰¹

Depleted of food provision, some people had no alternative but to rely on humanitarian aid. Madagascar had the fourth highest number of people in the world facing catastrophe, or IPC phase 5, levels of food insecurity in 2021, especially in Grand Sud.¹⁰² Humanitarian aid was scaled up in the first half of 2022 as a result, which helped to prevent famine, but conditions remained dire for many.¹⁰³ Among the 21 per cent of the population assessed, around 2.2 million people were still acutely food insecure at the end of the year.¹⁰⁴ Many household members moved in search of better job opportunities and few returned, heightening the vulnerability of the dependents left behind.¹⁰⁵

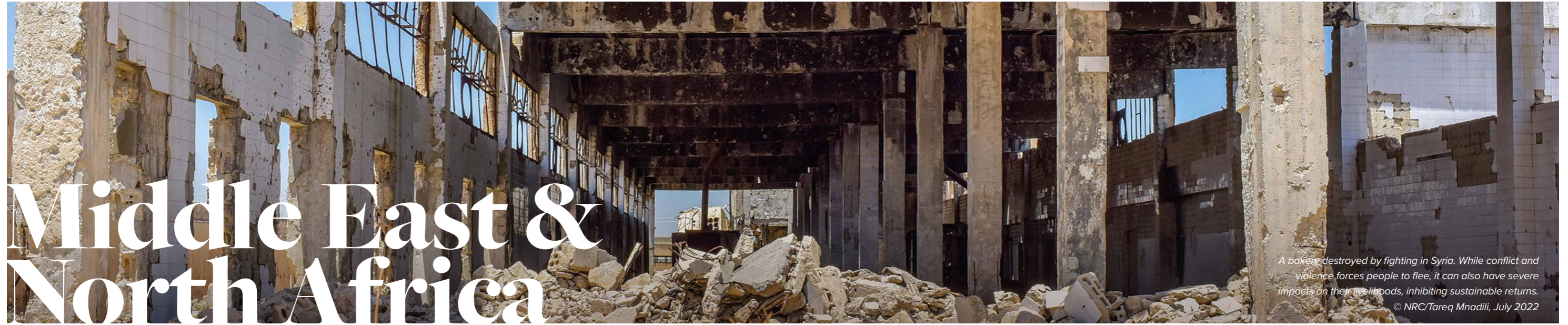
Even without the influence of climate change, low rainfall is part of the country’s cyclical climate variability and is bound to reoccur.¹⁰⁶ This means improved and coordinated climate-mitigation strategies and investments in drought-resistant crops are needed if sustainable solutions to internal displacement are to be achieved. Investment in the socioeconomic development of rural north-west regions such as Mahajanga, which has received an influx of people from other parts of the country, should also be encouraged.¹⁰⁷

Madagascar’s government has made significant efforts in recent years to understand risk and put policies in place to address the impacts of disasters and climate change. It introduced a national disaster loss database in 2015, an initiative that has improved baseline information, including on disaster displacement.¹⁰⁸ This was followed by a review of the country’s disaster risk management act and the introduction of a national strategy on the issue the following year.¹⁰⁹ A climate change adaptation plan was also adopted in December 2021, but displacement does not feature in these initiatives.¹¹⁰

These undertakings have been followed by projects to build resilience to disasters, including one supported by several international partners in Greater Antananarivo to develop risk-informed urban planning by improving drainage systems and using nature-based solutions to reduce risk.¹¹¹ Given that the country is bound to be affected by more seasonal weather events that trigger displacement, the inclusion of elements that specifically address the phenomenon in existing and future policies is paramount.



The Mandrare river, in Madagascar’s Grand Sud region, overflowed after consecutive storms hit the country in January 2022, worsening the impacts of the ongoing drought. © UNICEF/UN0673576/Safidy Andrianantenaina, June 2022



Middle East & North Africa

A bakery destroyed by fighting in Syria. While conflict and violence forces people to flee, it can also have severe impacts on their livelihoods, inhibiting sustainable returns. © NRC/Tareq Mnadili, July 2022

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022



Internal displacements* in 2022

*movements



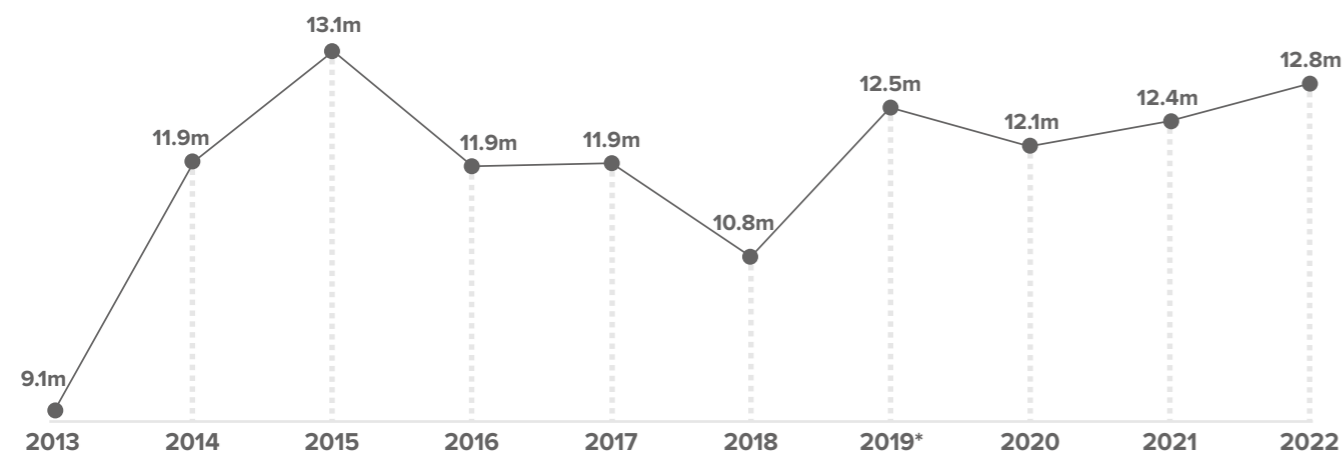
Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in the Middle East and North Africa as of end 2022



Five countries with most internal displacements in the Middle East and North Africa in 2022

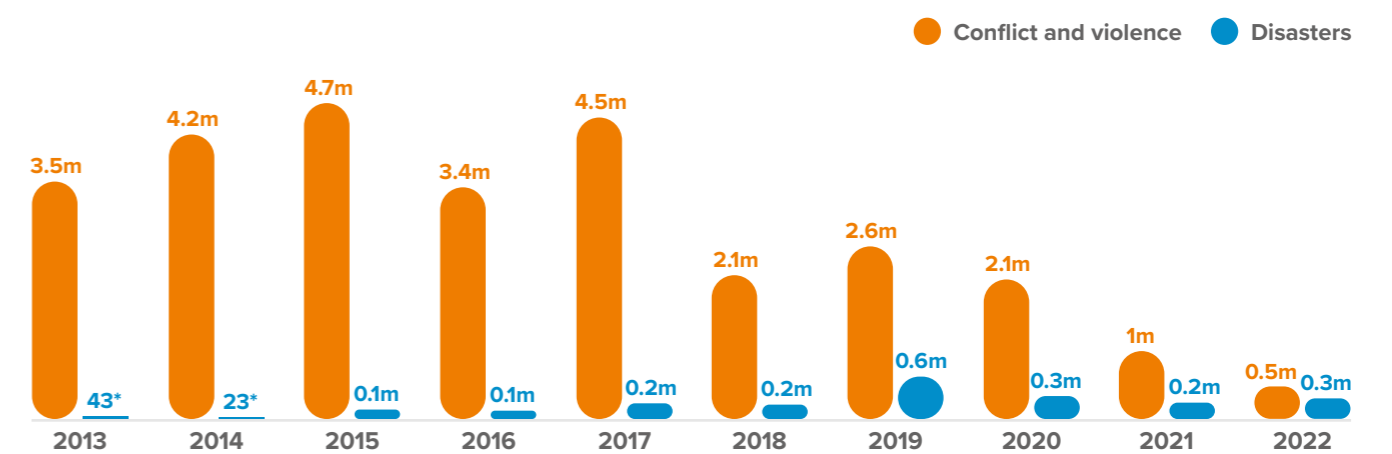


Total number of IDPs in the Middle East and North Africa at year end (2013-2022)



Total number of IDPs in millions
*First year disaster data is available

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in the Middle East and North Africa (2013-2022)



Internal displacements in millions
* in thousands

The number of internal displacements associated with conflict and violence decreased in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for the third year in a row in 2022. Around 482,000 were recorded, down from a million in 2021. Disasters, on the other hand, triggered 305,000 displacements, 25 per cent more than the previous year. Most were recorded in countries already affected by conflict, illustrating how drivers are converging in the region.

Around 12.8 million people were living in internal displacement across MENA as of the end of the year, 98 per cent of them as a result of conflict and violence in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. The trends show that, despite a significant reduction in conflict, protracted displacement is a major challenge to be addressed.

Protracted conflict displacement

Large-scale conflict and associated displacement have reduced significantly in MENA in the past few years, but durable solutions are still a distant prospect for many of the region's IDPs. Indeed, the number of IDPs increased by 3 per cent in 2022. These opposing trends show that a reduction in violence does not necessarily translate into fewer IDPs if people are still unable to return home, integrate locally or resettle elsewhere. Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya between them account for 20 per cent of all people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence worldwide.

Violence continued in Syria last year, particularly in the northern governorates of Idlib and Aleppo. The rise in global food prices and the devaluation of the country's currency pushed the country into its worst economic crisis since the war began, aggravating the humanitarian situation.¹¹² The humanitarian community has made progress in building dignified shelters for IDPs living in camps, but longer term investments to restore of housing, infrastructure and basic services if the country's 6.9 million IDPs are to achieve durable solutions.¹¹³

52%
decrease in conflict displacements
but many IDPs are still living in
protracted displacement

25%
increase in disaster
displacements in 2022



Internally displaced Yemenis saw their camp flooded by heavy rain in the outskirts of Taez, in September 2022.
© GettyImages/Ahmad Al-Basha/AFP, September 2022



Damaged buildings in the Old City in west Mosul, Iraq, which is still in reconstruction even as fighting has subsided in the last years. © NRC/Ahmed Kaka, June 2022

6.9m

IDPs in Syria as of the end of 2022. More investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services is needed to advance solutions

Despite a significant reduction in conflict and new displacement in Yemen after a truce in April, the country's humanitarian crisis has not eased and, by the end of the year, it was still home to 4.5 million IDPs. Some have attempted to return, but their prospects are limited by the constant threat of renewed violence and a lack of livelihood opportunities. More than half the population is thought to be acutely food insecure and humanitarian access is still heavily restricted (see spotlight, p. 43).¹¹⁴

Iraq and Libya have also faced protracted conflict and displacement crises, but both have recorded a significant drop in their number of IDPs in recent years. The decrease in Iraq has happened since the defeat of Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) in 2017. Challenges for solutions remain, however, including lack of tenure security and the prevalence of non-state armed groups. Latest figures showed that more than 592,000 returnees were living in conditions of poverty and vulnerability, exposed to protection risks including exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence and human trafficking.¹¹⁵

Pockets of violence triggered nearly 32,000 displacements in 2022. A third took place in northern Iraq in early May when the security forces clashed with non-state armed groups.¹¹⁶ Few have returned to their homes, in part given a lack of livelihood opportunities, delays in compensation for damaged housing and the trauma of repeated displacement and violence.¹¹⁷ Sustainable return continues to be hampered by a tenuous security situation and the prevalence of multiple armed groups, especially in governorates that witnessed fierce fighting between 2014 and 2017.

Unemployment rates among IDPs in Iraq are at least ten per cent higher than among their non-displaced counterparts, which in turn has heightened their food insecurity. This has pushed many into adopting negative coping strategies including taking their children out of school, selling productive assets, becoming involved in crime, and early marriage.¹¹⁸

In Libya, almost 674,000 IDPs have returned home since 2016.¹¹⁹ The number of people living in displacement at the end of 2022 was the lowest since 2013 at nearly 135,000. Almost half were in the west of the country, where damage to homes and infrastructure is severe and basic services are lacking in return areas.¹²⁰

IDPs face heightened protection and security risks, including the risk of eviction. Around 2,800 were given a day to vacate their settlement in May without any alternative accommodation being offered.¹²¹ The government and the UN launched a three-year sustainable development cooperation framework in December, which merged migration management with durable solutions strategies to improve coordination and increase the scope of programmes to strengthen social cohesion, an important step toward bringing displacement to a sustainable end.¹²²

The stability achieved since the October 2020 ceasefire was, however, threatened last year by delays in holding elections, which fuelled tensions between the rival administrations and raised fears of renewed fighting.¹²³ Clashes broke out in Tripoli on 27 and

28 August, leading to dozens of fatalities and 360 displacements in the most significant escalation of violence in more than two years.¹²⁴ Indiscriminate shelling of densely populated areas and the destruction of civilian property including vehicles, homes and medical facilities were reported.¹²⁵

Internal displacement in Palestine is among the most protracted in the world, and hostilities and housing demolitions force people from their homes every year.¹²⁶ Nearly 1,800 such displacements were recorded in 2022. The most significant event took place in the Gaza Strip in August, when Israeli airstrikes damaged more than 1,700 homes and triggered more than 640 displacements.¹²⁷ Around 1,000 were recorded in the West Bank during the year, mostly the result of the demolition of homes. There were around 12,000 people living in internal displacement across Palestine as of the end of the year.

While the number of IDPs in Libya has reduced significantly, homes and infrastructure have sustained significant damage and there is a lack of basic services in return areas

Internal displacement in Palestine is among the most protracted in the world

Floods and storms

Floods triggered 209,000 displacements across the region in 2022. Yemen recorded 170,000, or around 81 per cent of the total. Many were secondary movements of people who had already fled conflict and who were living in vulnerable conditions (see spotlight, p. 43).

The recurrence and severity of the floods, which also wreaked havoc in 2020 when they led to the highest disaster displacement figure ever recorded for the country, shows again the need for greater protection of IDPs, who are often more exposed to hazards. It also calls for more comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures in the informal urban settlements where most IDPs live and in displacement camps, which can get flooded, forcing people to move again.¹²⁸

Floods in Iran triggered at least 19,000 displacements in the very first days of 2022, the country's largest displacement event of the year.¹²⁹ Monsoon floods and landslides at the end of July also triggered another 11,200 displacements.¹³⁰

In Syria, high winds led to more than 13,000 displacements at the beginning of January, only a few weeks after floods in the same area had destroyed the tents of more than 5,000 people who had fled conflict.¹³¹ Snowstorms and severe winter conditions destroyed tents in January, triggering around 1,500 onward displacements.¹³² The conditions, combined with the destruction of infrastructure over a decade of conflict, slowed the provision of aid and health services to those in need.¹³³

The overlapping effects of conflict and disasters were also evident in 2022 in Palestine, where floods led to 220 temporary evacuations in the Gaza Strip.¹³⁴ The blockade of Gaza has heightened flood risk by hampering the development of resilient infrastructure and increasing the vulnerability of the territory's inhabitants.¹³⁵

Drought and wildfires

MENA is one of the most water scarce regions in the world. As such, it faces associated slow-onset hazards, including drought, and is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.¹³⁶ Our understanding of how these heighten the social and economic vulnerabilities that drive displacement is still limited, however, because data is only available for a handful of countries.

Drought and wildfires triggered 69,000 displacements in MENA in 2022, the highest figure since 2016. In Iraq, 51,000 movements were recorded, accounting for around a sixth of all disaster displacements across the region as a whole. Eight governorates were affected, in particular Thi-Qar where the Mesopotamian Marshes are located.¹³⁷ The wetlands are home to large communities of water buffalo herders whose livelihoods were severely affected by livestock deaths.¹³⁸

The drought also led to a drop in food production and a rise in prices that undermined the livelihoods of farmers and herders more broadly, particularly in the south.¹³⁹ Poor water management and the building of upstream dams served to aggravate the situation.¹⁴⁰ Nearly 69,000 people were living in internal displacement as a result of drought at the end of the year. They were spread across more than half of the country's governorates, with Missan hosting the largest number.¹⁴¹

Lack of rain also fuelled wildfires across the region, which triggered more displacements than in previous years. Countries along the Mediterranean basin, including Morocco and Algeria, were some of the most affected during a heatwave in July and August. Wildfires triggered 9,500 displacements from rural areas of northern Morocco in mid-July.¹⁴² Across the country, more land had been destroyed by wildfires by October 2022 than the previous nine years combined.¹⁴³

69,000
displacements triggered by drought and wildfires in MENA, the highest figure since 2016

Yemen, Syria and Iraq have been hard-hit by the combined impacts of disasters and conflict



People already displaced by conflict in north of Aleppo, Syria, had their tents damaged by snowstorms in January 2022.
© Gettyimages/Omar Albam/SOPA Images, January 2022

Wildfires also led to 2,000 displacements in north-eastern Algeria, where they destroyed 10 per cent of an important biodiversity reserve and its surroundings, killing dozens of people and many more head of livestock.¹⁴⁴ In Yemen they triggered close to 1,200 movements, mostly in the conflict-affected governorate of Hodeidah.¹⁴⁵

MENA is home to 12 of the world's 17 most water stressed countries, which has prompted governments to take more action to reduce drought risk and better manage water systems.¹⁴⁶ Those of Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco have entered into partnership with the International Water Management Institute for a project intended to anticipate, prepare for and mitigate drought impacts.¹⁴⁷ A similar initiative would also benefit countries such as Syria and Iraq, which face the overlapping effects of drought and conflict and where the former has already fuelled communal tensions, violence and displacement.¹⁴⁸

In Morocco, more land was destroyed by wildfires in 2022 than the previous 9 years combined

Initiatives that support countries to anticipate, prepare for and mitigate the impacts of disaster displacement in MENA should be scaled up

Spotlight – Yemen: crisis persists despite truce and drop in conflict displacement

The eighth year of Yemen's conflict was marked by a significant reduction in fighting, fatalities and associated displacement after a truce.¹⁴⁹ However, the overall number of new internal displacements by conflict and violence remained persistently high in 2022, at 276,000. Disasters also triggered a high number of movements, totalling 171,000. This is the second highest figure for the country since data became available in 2008. The majority were the result of flash floods during the rainy season.

Clashes between Ansar Allah and the Saudi-led coalition intensified at the end of 2021 and continued to trigger a high number of displacements in the first quarter of 2022. Almost 71,000 movements were recorded in January alone, and IDPs' humanitarian situation deteriorated. Attacks against humanitarian staff and administrative impediments hindered access to and delivery of life-saving assistance to 21.6 million Yemenis in need.¹⁵⁰ This was followed by a two-month truce that came into effect on 2 April after weeks of negotiations facilitated by the UN. It was extended twice until 2 October, contributing to a more than five-fold reduction in internal displacements from an average of 48,000 in the first quarter to an average of 9,100 in the last.¹⁵¹

Despite a significant lull in the conflict following the truce, some displacement continued to be recorded, particularly around densely populated areas and frontlines. Almost half of the associated movements occurred in Hodeidah and Marib, governorates where much of the fighting took place.¹⁵²

The two governorates, along with Hajjah, were also the most affected by disaster displacement, particularly during the June-to-August rainy season. The rains in 2022 were 300 per cent above the average annual intensity and swept across 80 per cent of the country, forcing many people already displaced by conflict to flee again.¹⁵³ As during the 2020 floods, water sources were contaminated, reducing access to safe drinking water and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.¹⁵⁴ The situation was particularly severe for IDPs living in camps, which tend to lack adequate water and waste management infrastructure.¹⁵⁵

The truce led to a 77 per cent increase in the number of returnees in the six months that followed its declaration compared with the six that preceded it, from 13,200 to 23,500. The situation varied greatly from one governorate to another. Returns to Hodeidah increased four-fold, while those to Marib decreased by half.¹⁵⁶ Lack of data made it unclear how safe and sustainable they were.

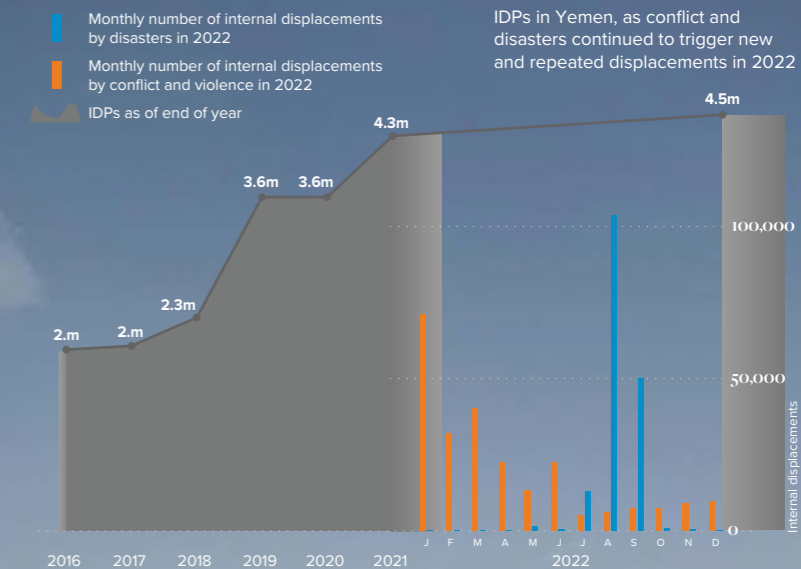
Returns to previously inaccessible areas near frontlines, for example, exposed IDPs to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Floods also shifted devices into new areas and destroyed warning signs. Around 343 civilians were injured or killed as a result in the six months after the truce, compared with 338 for the whole of 2021. A fifth of IDPs surveyed cited clearance of ERW as key to their return.¹⁵⁷

Reducing disaster risk and clearing ERW must be priorities if cyclical and protracted displacement are to be reduced and ultimately avoided. Persistently high levels of insecurity and the lack of livelihood opportunities in return areas also discourage many IDPs from returning, preferring instead to wait for clear signs of peacebuilding before they go back to their homes.¹⁵⁸

Local integration could be a potential solution for many IDPs, but it has been hindered by a significant increase in forced evictions, partly because IDPs are unable to afford rent in their host areas.¹⁵⁹ These factors combined mean that Yemen records persistently high levels of new and repeated movements, and an increasing number of people living in displacement at the end of each year. The figure for 2022 stood at 4.5 million, one of the highest in the world.

4.5 million

IDPs in Yemen, as conflict and disasters continued to trigger new and repeated displacements in 2022



Sources: IOM-DTM, UNFPA's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).

80 per cent of Yemen was hit by above-average rainfall in August 2022, triggering floods and displacing people already fleeing conflict. © GettyImages/Mohammed Hamoud/Anadolu Agency, August 2022



East Asia & the Pacific

Lake Sentani in the Jayapura district of Papua, Indonesia. Both geophysical and weather-related disasters trigger hundreds of thousands of displacements every year across the country. © UNICEF/UN0711549/Clark, July 2022

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

2.6m

4%
Share of the global total

1.8m
IDPs by conflict and violence

819,000
IDPs by disasters

Internal displacements* in 2022

*movements

11.3m

19%
Share of the global total

1.2m
Internal displacements by conflict and violence

10.1m
Internal displacements by disasters

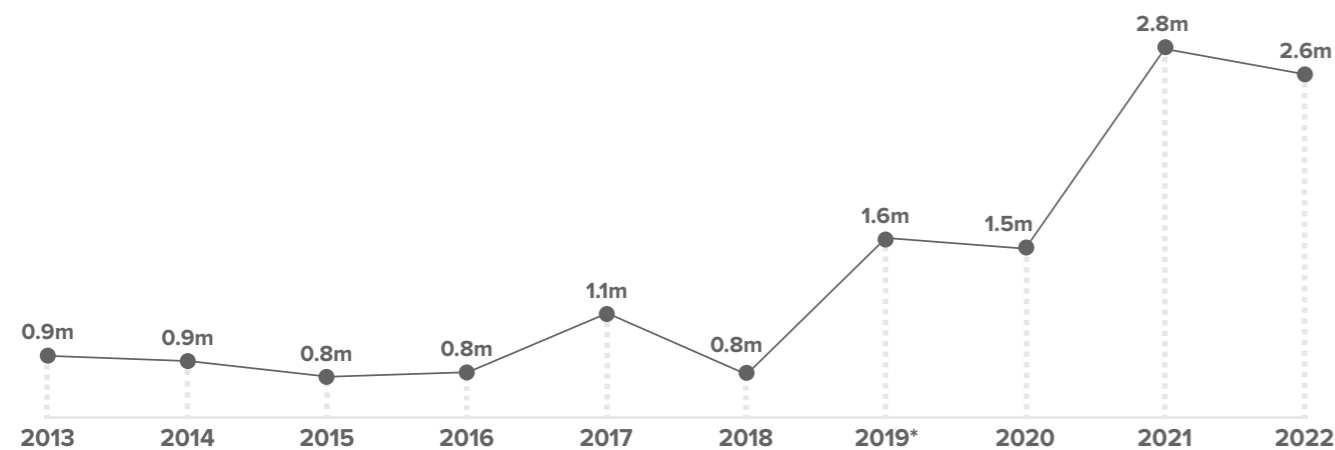
Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in East Asia and Pacific as of end 2022

1 Myanmar: 1,498,000 3,000	2 Philippines: 102,000 533,000	3 China: 146,000	4 Indonesia: 72,000 68,000	5 Papua New Guinea: 91,000 190
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Five countries with most internal displacements in East Asia and Pacific in 2022

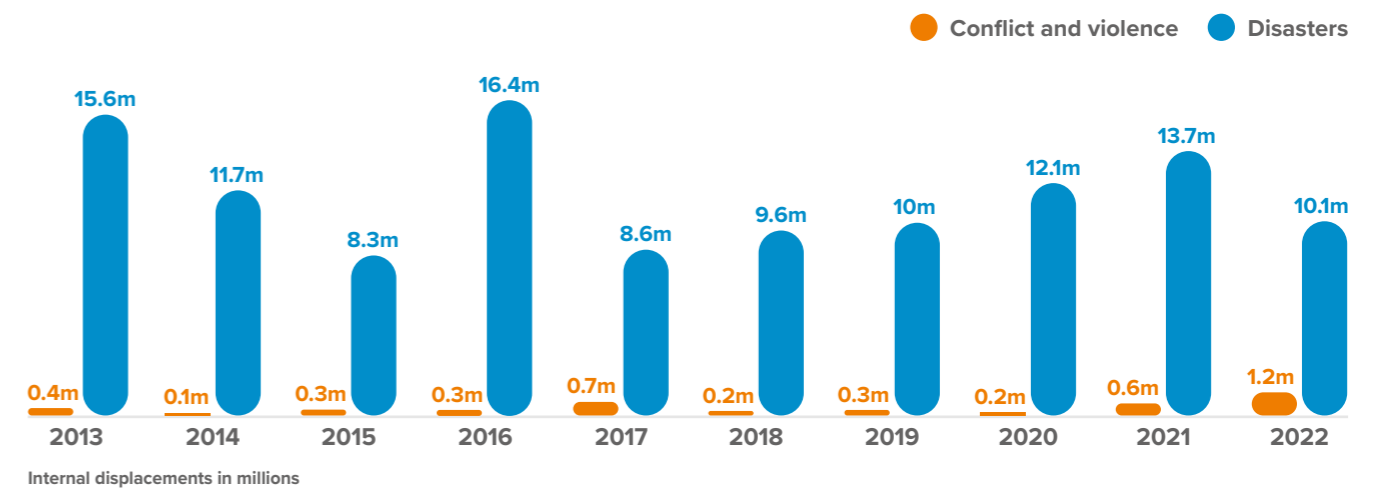
1 Philippines: 123,000 5,445,000	2 China: 3,632,000	3 Myanmar: 1,006,000 13,000	4 Viet Nam: 353,000	5 Indonesia: 7,100 308,000
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Total number of IDPs in East Asia and Pacific at year end (2013-2022)



Total number of IDPs in millions
*First year disaster data is available

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in East Asia and Pacific (2013-2022)



Internal displacements in millions

Disasters were the main trigger of internal displacement in East Asia and the Pacific in 2022. Around 10.1 million movements were recorded, down from 13.7 million in 2021 and below the annual average of 11.6 million over the last decade. In a rare occurrence, the La Niña phenomenon continued for a third consecutive year, shifting weather patterns significantly. Most parts of East and Southeast Asia experienced less intense rainy and cyclone seasons, and recorded fewer associated displacements.¹⁶⁰ However, nearly a third of the region's countries reported an increase in disaster displacement, many of them in Southeast Asia.

The number of displacements associated with conflict and violence rose by 92 per cent compared with 2021 to reach 1.2 million, the highest figure recorded since data became available. Escalating conflict and violence in Myanmar accounted for around a million, the highest figure ever reported for the country (see spotlight, p. 53). Conflict displacements also increased in Papua New Guinea to more than 64,000, an almost seven-fold increase on the 9,500 recorded in 2021.

Around 2.6 million people were living in internal displacement across the region as of the end of the year, 1.8 million of them as a result of conflict and violence and the vast majority in Myanmar. Figures for people living in displacement as a result of disasters are hard to come by, because most countries' assessments end soon after the main impacts of disasters recede, leaving many IDPs unaccounted for.

Storms

Storms were less severe than in previous years, but they still triggered more displacements than any other hazard. Around 6.8 million were recorded, down from eight million in 2021. Philippines and China, which are both highly exposed to hazards, again reported the highest figures. Both countries were hit by tropical storm Nalgae, typhoon

~x2
increase in the number of people displaced by conflict and violence in the region since 2021

27%
decrease in the number of disasters-related movements in the region since 2021, due to a weaker cyclone season



A flooded village in Shangrao, Jiangxi Province of China. More than 3.6 million displacements were triggered by disasters in the country.
© Getty Images/VCG, June 2022

Muifa and tropical storm Megi, which between them accounted for more than three-quarters of the region's storm displacements.

Nalgae, known locally as Paeng, cut across ten provinces of the Philippines between 26 and 30 October, triggering around three million displacements, the highest figure for a single event in the region last year. Most were pre-emptive evacuations led by the government, which set up nearly 10,700 evacuation centres to host those displaced.¹⁶¹ Around 55,000 people were still displaced as a result of Nalgae at the end of the year.¹⁶²

Megi struck the country in April, hitting the same areas affected four months earlier by typhoon Rai, which had been the most severe storm of 2021. When Megi hit, people still displaced by Rai were forced to flee again. The situation shed further light on the repeated nature of displacement for many people exposed to severe storms in the Philippines (see spotlight, p. 55).

51%
of all disaster displacements in the region were triggered by 3 storms: Nalgae, Muifa and Megi

Many of the storms that hit the Philippines moved north towards coastal China, where they triggered around 1.8 million displacements, mostly in Zhejiang, Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. Typhoon Muifa triggered 1.3 million movements in Zhejiang, all of which were pre-emptive evacuations as the storm approached.¹⁶³ Pre-emptive evacuations accounted for 72 per cent of all disaster displacements in China last year.¹⁶⁴ As in the Philippines, the country's high exposure to major storms has prompted authorities to set up early warning systems and evacuation protocols that have successfully reduced the number of people injured and killed by disasters.

Similar protocols have been put in place in other highly exposed countries including Viet Nam and Japan. Around 96 per cent of all disaster displacements recorded in Viet Nam last year were pre-emptive evacuations ahead of typhoon Noru.¹⁶⁵ In Japan, evacuations are not mandatory. The government issued evacuation alerts to nearly two million people as typhoon Nanmadol approached, but by the time the storm made landfall on 18 September only 30,000 displacements had taken place.¹⁶⁶

Floods

Floods triggered 2.7 million internal displacements across the region, significantly fewer than the 5.3 million recorded in 2021. Flooding in China during East Asia's monsoon season between May and September accounted for almost two-thirds of the total. Rainy season floods also triggered 20,000 displacements in Indonesia, a significant reduction from the 411,000 reported in 2021.¹⁶⁷

By contrast, flood displacements in the Pacific saw a significant increase. Australia was particularly affected. The eastern states of New South Wales and Queensland experienced floods from late February to early April and again in July, triggering nearly 16,000 movements, some involving people

displaced more than once. The scale of the flooding led authorities to declare a national emergency. It was the first such declaration since congress reviewed the law after the deadly 2019/20 bush-fire season.¹⁶⁸

Further rains and floods hit the country's south-east in October, triggering 1,000 displacements across the states of Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales, where soils were already saturated and dams full after previous heavy rains.¹⁶⁹ The overall displacement figures are conservative given the lack of systematic monitoring and reporting in the country. The New South Wales floods were considered Australia's costliest disaster on record.¹⁷⁰

Floods were also reported in other parts of the Pacific, including Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and New Caledonia.¹⁷¹ New Zealand reported heavy downpours in the Northern and Central regions, particularly in August, causing floods that triggered almost 2,600 displacements.

Geophysical hazards

Given their location on the Pacific Ring of Fire, several countries in East Asia and the Pacific are vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity. Such hazards triggered 518,000 displacements in 2022, 98 per cent of them in the Philippines, Indonesia and China.

Two powerful earthquakes hit Abra province in the Philippines within a period of three months. The first, of magnitude 7.0, occurred on 27 July and the second, of magnitude 6.4, on 25 October. Between them they triggered around 205,000 displacements, and left 50,000 people still living in displacement at the end of the year.

In Indonesia, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck near the town of Cianjur in West Java on 21 November, triggering at least 115,000 displacements. More than 300 people were killed, about a third of whom were children.¹⁷² Landslides

50%
decrease in flood-related
movements compared to 2021

72%
of all disaster displacements
in China were pre-emptive
evacuations



Destroyed housing caused by the 5.6-magnitude earthquake which hit Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia, on 21 November 2022. It triggered at least 115,000 displacements. © GettyImages/Aditya Irawan /NurPhoto, November 2022

cut off many communities, leaving them without access to essential services. Aftershocks and seasonal rains further hampered rescue and relief efforts.¹⁷³

In Japan, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the coast of Fukushima, triggering 1,700 displacements.¹⁷⁴ The quake occurred near the area affected by the 2011 East Japan earthquake and tsunami, which prompted disaster management authorities to keep a close watch on the situation.¹⁷⁵ Around 45,000 people were living in displacement as result of disasters nationwide at the end of the year, of whom 31,000 were displaced by the 2011 disaster.

The eruption of Tonga's underwater volcano of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai in January also led to significant damage and displacement relative to the country's size and population. It caused a tsunami that hit several islands across the archipelago, triggering around 2,400 movements. The tsunami also disrupted the country's electric grid, which slowed response efforts (see spotlight, p. 57).¹⁷⁶

Conflict and violence

Conflict and violence triggered 1.2 million displacements across East Asia and the Pacific in 2022, the highest figure for the region since data became available in 2008. They took place in Myanmar, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, with the figure for Myanmar representing 84 per cent of the total as the security situation in the country continued to deteriorate (see spotlight, p. 53).

In the Philippines, conflict and violence triggered around 123,000 displacements, 91 per cent of which took place in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The number of people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence countrywide fell from 445,300 in 2017 to 102,000 at the end of last year. The reduction is explained by the return of most of the people who had fled the 2017

conflict in Marawi city, but the event still accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the country's remaining conflict IDPs as of the end of 2022.¹⁷⁷

Conflict displacement has increased in Papua New Guinea in recent years. National elections in July 2022 fuelled tensions, and the ensuing violence triggered 64,000 displacements. Ongoing insecurity in the Highlands region hampered needs assessments, making displacement estimates conservative. Disruption to children's education was reported, along with an increase in gender-based violence and shortfalls in healthcare provision as medical staff were displaced, supplies disrupted and facilities damaged.¹⁷⁸ Around 91,000 people were living in displacement as result of conflict and violence nationwide at the end of the year, of whom 13,000 had been doing so for more than five years.

Localised violence in Indonesia triggered 7,100 displacements, four times fewer than in 2021. The country's parliament approved legislation in July to form three new autonomous areas of Papua province - South Papua, Central Papua and Highlands Papua.¹⁷⁹ The move was met with resistance in Papua and West Papua, leading to protests and violence.¹⁸⁰ Around 72,000 people were living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence nationwide at the end of the year, many of them for protracted periods.



*Destruction following a 7.3 magnitude earthquake in Shiroishi, Japan, on 17 March 2022. Around 1,700 displacements were recorded as a result of this event.
© GettyImages/Charly Triballeau/AFP, March 2022*

Spotlight – Myanmar: escalating conflict leads to unprecedented displacement

In February 2021, a military takeover sparked protests that were violently suppressed. The demonstrations, however, quickly evolved into an armed resistance movement that spread across the country: the People's Defence Force (PDF).¹⁸¹ They continued to grow in 2022, adding a layer of complexity to long-running conflicts between the military and a number of ethnic non-state armed groups.

Fighting escalated nationwide, with large-scale offensives and indiscriminate attacks triggering around a million internal displacements across eleven of Myanmar's 14 states and regions, the highest annual figure recorded for the country. By the end of the year, 1.5 million people were living in displacement as a result of new and protracted conflict, a two-fold increase compared with figures before the military takeover.¹⁸²

Nearly 67 per cent of the new movements took place in the north-western regions of Sagaing and Magway, where 568,000 and 104,000 respectively were recorded.¹⁸³ Both areas had been relatively unaffected by violence before 2021, but they quickly became resistance hotspots.¹⁸⁴ Military raids and arson attacks forced whole villages to flee and destroyed nearly 36,000 homes in Sagaing in 2022.¹⁸⁵

Conflict also forced thousands of people from their homes in the south-east of the country. Armed clashes and airstrikes also increased significantly in Bago region in July, leading to significant displacement.¹⁸⁶ Around 56,000 people were living in displacement in

Bago as of 31 December, 91 times more than at the beginning of the year.¹⁸⁷

On top of the conflict sparked by the military takeover, tensions between the Arakan Army and the armed forces reignited in Rakhine and Chin states in June, bringing an informal ceasefire that had lasted almost two years to an end.¹⁸⁸ Armed clashes and fear of violence triggered 17,000 displacements in August and September, adding to the 77,000 IDPs displaced by the conflict in the two states since 2018.¹⁸⁹ Another informal ceasefire was announced on 26 November, but the situation remained fragile and displacement continued to be reported in December.¹⁹⁰

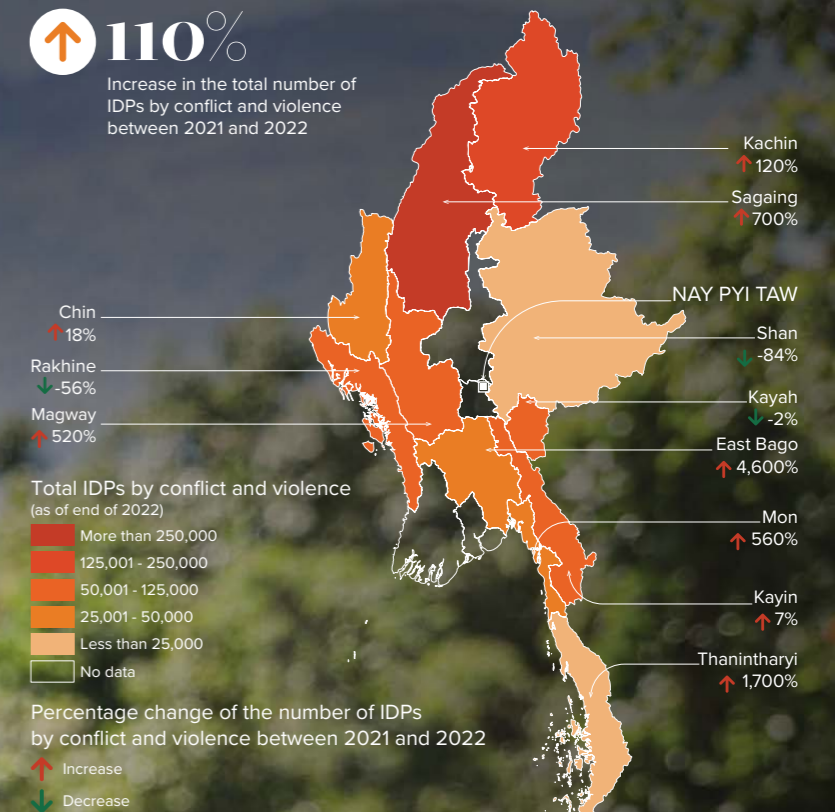
Humanitarian needs have increased significantly across the country. Around 17.6 million people are expected to need assistance in 2023, up from 14.4 million in 2022.¹⁹¹ IDPs live in particularly dire conditions given their high exposure to violence and the challenges they face in accessing support. Most live in informal sites such as monasteries, churches or the forest around their villages. A surge in the use of landmines is also a serious concern.¹⁹² IDPs across the country have reported deaths and injuries while searching for safety, food and basic supplies, and they say landmines are an obstacle to return.¹⁹³

Myanmar's health system was crippled after the military takeover and has become increasingly intertwined in the conflict. At least 286 incidents of violence against healthcare facilities and workers were reported during the year.¹⁹⁴ These, in combination with

blockades on supplies to displacement camps, left many IDPs without access to healthcare.¹⁹⁵

Around 15.2 million people were facing food insecurity as of October, with needs highest in the north-west and south-east.¹⁹⁶ IDPs in these areas are more likely to have their access to income, crops and markets disrupted. Insecurity and movement restrictions in Rakhine state led to the suspension of food and humanitarian programming in eight townships from September.¹⁹⁷ Freedom of movement was restored in some areas by December, but challenges persisted and needs remained high.¹⁹⁸ Humanitarian partners in Shan state also said that food programmes to support IDPs threatened by camp closures needed to be scaled up.¹⁹⁹

Given the intensity of the conflict and the widespread destruction of homes, the prospect for returns is limited. In Kayah state, for example, only ten per cent of those displaced since February 2021 had gone back to their homes as of October 2022.²⁰⁰ Partners have scaled up their programming nationwide, but the Humanitarian Response Plan was only 41.7 per cent funded despite the deteriorating conditions.²⁰¹ Without a de-escalation of the conflict and better humanitarian access across the country, people's needs and the risk of further and protracted displacement are likely to increase.



Spotlight – The Philippines: overlapping disaster impacts and the importance of monitoring displacement

Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire and in East Asia’s typhoon belt, the Philippines is one of the countries most affected by disaster displacement globally.²⁰² Storms tend to account for the majority of the movements, and 2022 – when they triggered 4.6 million – was no exception. The figure represents 85 per cent of the disaster displacements recorded for the country during the year. Many were repeated movements of people who had fled previous disasters.

The recurrence of storms and other weather-related hazards has prompted authorities to strengthen their monitoring systems to produce more actionable data that has been used to inform policy and operations for disaster risk reduction and durable solutions to internal displacement.

The efforts of the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Centre (DROMIC) serve as a good example of how such data is produced and how it enables more comprehensive understanding of displacement trends. Its monitoring after two disasters, typhoon Rai and tropical storm Megi, which hit the same areas four months apart, is a case in point.

Typhoon Rai, known locally as Odette, triggered around 3.9 million displacements in December 2021, the highest figure of the year for a single event globally. Sustained winds of 195 km/h left around 1.7 million homes damaged and around 590,000 people displaced as of the end of the year.²⁰³ Half of them were still unable to return to their homes in the early months of 2022.²⁰⁴

Thanks to DROMIC’s thorough monitoring, it was possible to understand the pace of returns in Rai’s aftermath.²⁰⁵ Most displacements took place between 16 and 21 December 2021, and some people began to return within days.

In Western Visayas, where most displacements were reported, the pace of returns was much faster. Nearly 95 per cent of IDPs had returned to their homes in three weeks.²⁰⁶ A specific rehabilitation and recovery plan was implemented for the region given the scale of displacement and it was instrumental in ensuring swift response to the disaster.²⁰⁷ Only 1,200 people were still displaced as of mid-October 2022 because their homes had been severely damaged or destroyed.²⁰⁸ This was the last data point available for the year.

Tropical storm Megi, known locally as Agaton, began to develop on 4 April.²⁰⁹ It intensified into a tropical storm six days later, triggering more than 871,000 displacements.²¹⁰ Megi hit the same regions as Rai, namely Caraga, Western Visayas and Central Visayas, which accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the movements between them.²¹¹ Western Visayas was again the most affected. Around 40 per cent of the region’s returnees after Rai were forced to flee again, and people still living in displacement sites had their plight prolonged.²¹²

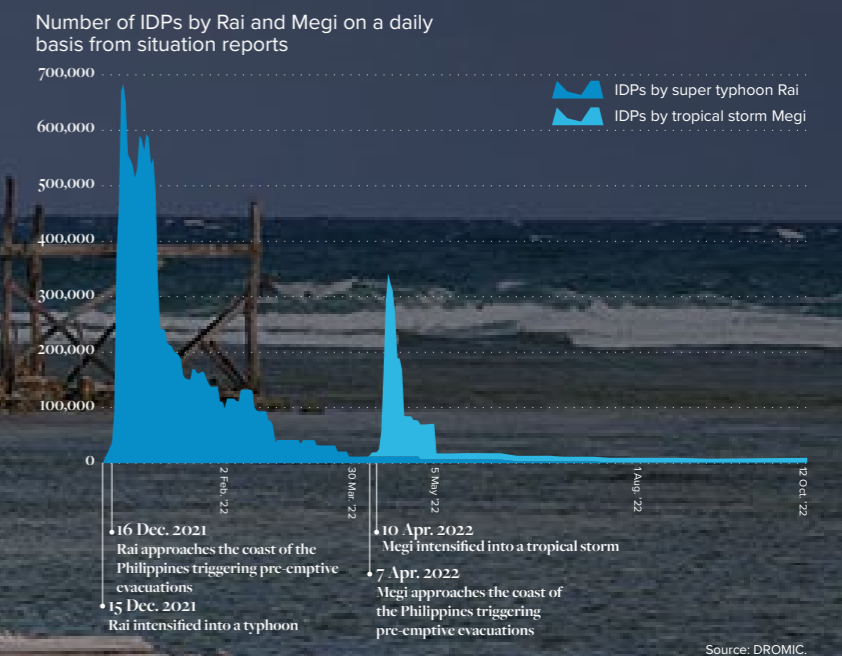
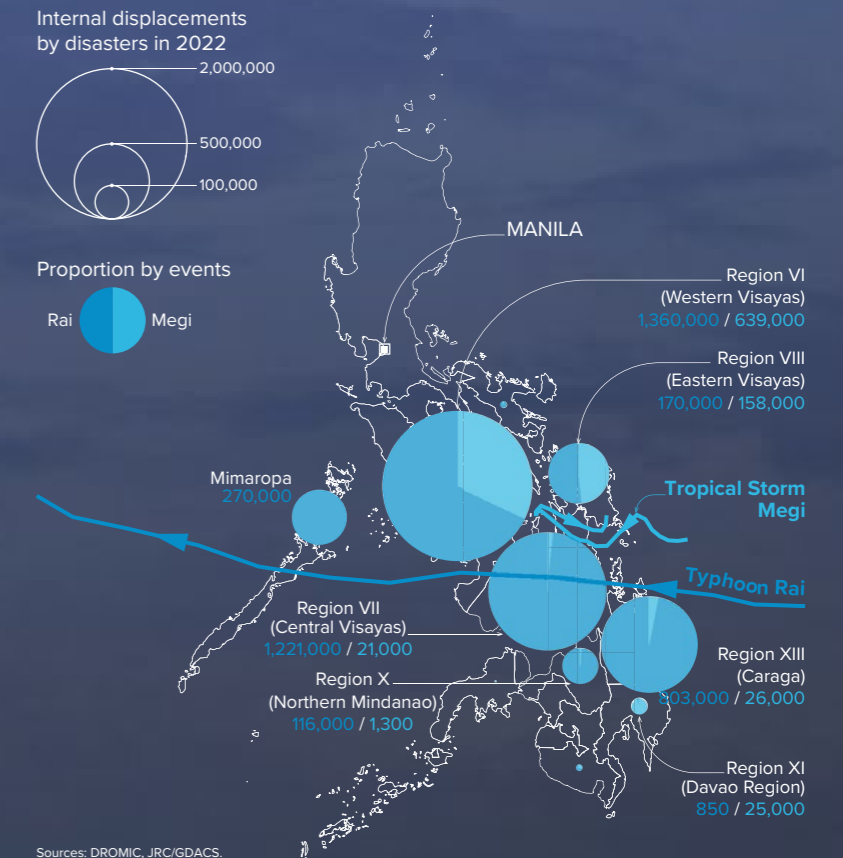
The scale and impacts of the displacement the two storms triggered were significant, but they also tell a story of resilience. Rai was similar in intensity to typhoon Haiyan which struck in 2013 and was considered the most destructive

storm to ever hit the Philippines.²¹³ Rai’s death toll, however, was 15 times lower, thanks in great part to the investments made since Haiyan in disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures.²¹⁴

The production of more timely and relevant data to support local early warning and early action has been key to mitigating disaster impacts and speeding up recovery and the achievement of durable solutions. It took more than a year for many IDPs to return to their homes after Haiyan, but the pace of returns after Rai was much faster. Around 95 per cent had returned within three weeks.²¹⁵

DROMIC’s data can be used to run time-series analyses and understand displacement and return trends over time. When plotted on maps, it unveils the geographical footprint of disaster displacement and identifies hotspots. This information is useful in organising timely humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of a disaster and informing future decisions on resource mobilisation and preparations for similar events.²¹⁶

Disaggregating data further by sex, age and disability status would help authorities to better understand IDPs’ social and economic vulnerabilities. This is still a work in progress, but DROMIC’s efforts to monitor disaster displacement systematically over space and time are significant, particularly as they are strongly aligned with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. They represent a model that could be replicated and adapted by countries that face similar levels of disaster displacement risk.²¹⁷



Typhoon Rai destroyed this boardwalk in Siargao, Mindanao in the Philippines. A few months later, many of the country’s regions were hit again by tropical storm Megi. © Gettyimages/Rio Deluvia /Anadolu Agency, January 2022

Spotlight – Tonga: volcanic eruption and tsunami reinforce need to build resilience

After weeks of activity, Tonga's Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano produced the world's largest eruption in more than a century on 15 January 2022.²¹⁸ The event set off tsunami waves of up to 15 metres, causing significant damage to homes in coastal areas and covering the country's islands in a thick layer of ash.²¹⁹ It also triggered almost 2,400 displacements on the Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua island groups. A third of those displaced were under the age of 16.²²⁰

The impacts of the disaster, which took place while the country was still dealing with the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, were significant. The tsunami waves destroyed all homes on Mango Island, one of the closest to the undersea volcano.²²¹ 53 per cent of people surveyed on the Ha'apai island group said their homes had been severely damaged and 17 per cent reported moderate damage.²²²

The eruption also severed underground internet cables, causing distress to separated families by cutting their communication channels and compromising needs assessments.²²³ Given that almost 40 per cent of the country's GDP is based on remittances, most of which are processed electronically, the outage had significant consequences.²²⁴ Women in particular rely on these sources of income and they are less able to cope with financial shocks, especially after the pandemic suspended the tourism industry.²²⁵

The disaster also heightened the risk of domestic violence among displaced women. Displacement reduces shelter

options and community support, while increasing the stressors that households face.²²⁶ This was particularly concerning during Tonga's emergency, given that eight out of ten women had already experienced violence before the onset of the pandemic.²²⁷

The environmental impacts of the disaster, most notably toxic ash, aggravated pre-existing vulnerabilities with significant and lasting consequences for communities' food security.²²⁸ Around 86 per cent of Tongans depend on agriculture and fishing for their livelihoods, and the combined effects of tropical cyclones Gita in 2018 and Harold in 2020 and the pandemic had already left nearly a quarter of the population food insecure.²²⁹ On top of these impacts, up to 70 per cent of livestock-rearing households lost animals, suffered damage to their grazing land or had their water supplies contaminated as a result of the eruption.²³⁰

Despite the disruption to communications, which hampered the response in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the government and its international partners brought in scientists to produce data on the impacts of the eruption and tsunami, and increased their efforts to conduct disaster risk assessments. These initiatives generated information to inform recovery and reconstruction.²³¹

Efforts have been made to support IDPs in achieving durable solutions. The Paletu'a project intends to build a new village on Matatoa Island to resettle hundreds of people.²³² Other people from 'Atata Island have been relocated to new homes in

Masilamea village on Tongatapu island.²³³ Residents from Mango island were relocated to a new resettlement area in 'Eua in early 2023.²³⁴

The government also launched a Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai recovery and resilience building plan, which focuses mainly on the repair and reconstruction of key infrastructure.²³⁵ This is an important initiative, but further measures are needed to support IDPs in achieving solutions and restoring social safety nets that support their self-reliance. Supporting the recovery of the agriculture and fishing sectors will be key to achieving this objective.²³⁶

Tonga will continue to face disaster displacement in the years to come, particularly given its exposure to climate change impacts, and the issue has received increasing attention in the country's disaster risk reduction and climate change agendas.²³⁷ The government launched its first strategic roadmap for emergency and disaster risk management in 2021 and established a cluster to manage disaster displacement. An emergency management bill is also under discussion and is likely to include measures to reduce and address the phenomenon.²³⁸ Taken together, these initiatives hold the promise of a more resilient country.

Volcanic ashes' impact on landcover

- High (50 to 100km)
- Medium (100 to 150km)
- Low (150 to 250km)



2,400

Displacements by the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami

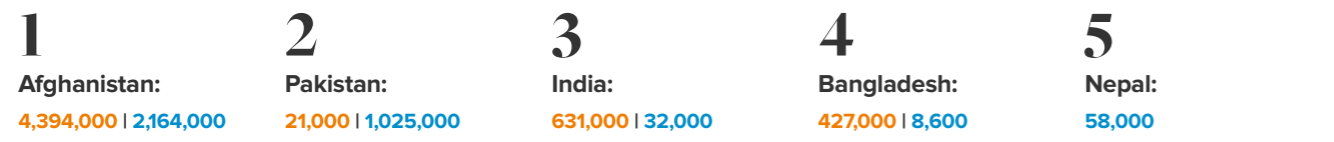
The island of Nomuka, Tonga, covered in ashes following the 17 January volcanic eruption. The environmental impacts of the disaster will have lasting consequences on food security. © GettyImages/New Zealand Defense force, January 2022



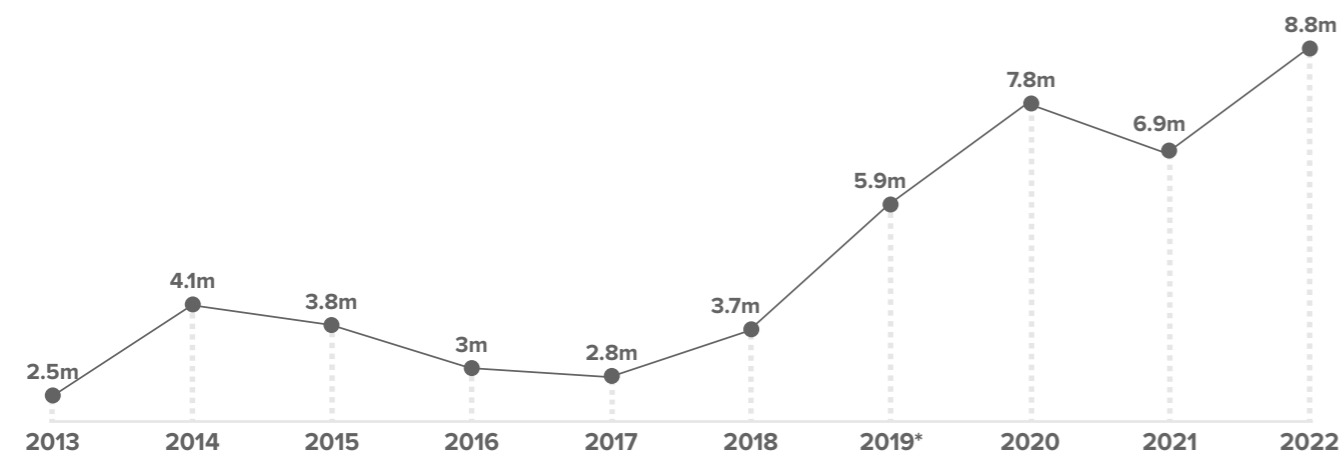
Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022



Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in South Asia as of end 2022



Total number of IDPs in South Asia at year end (2013-2022)



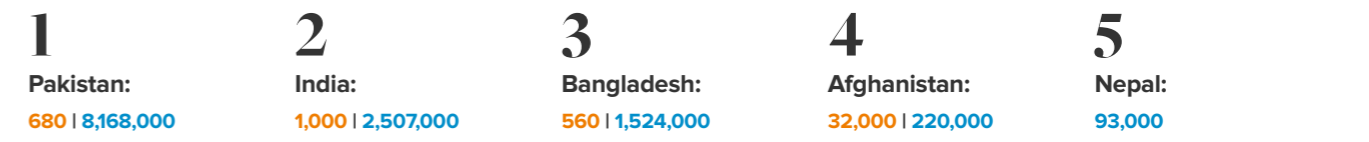
Total number of IDPs in millions
*First year disaster data is available

Internal displacements* in 2022

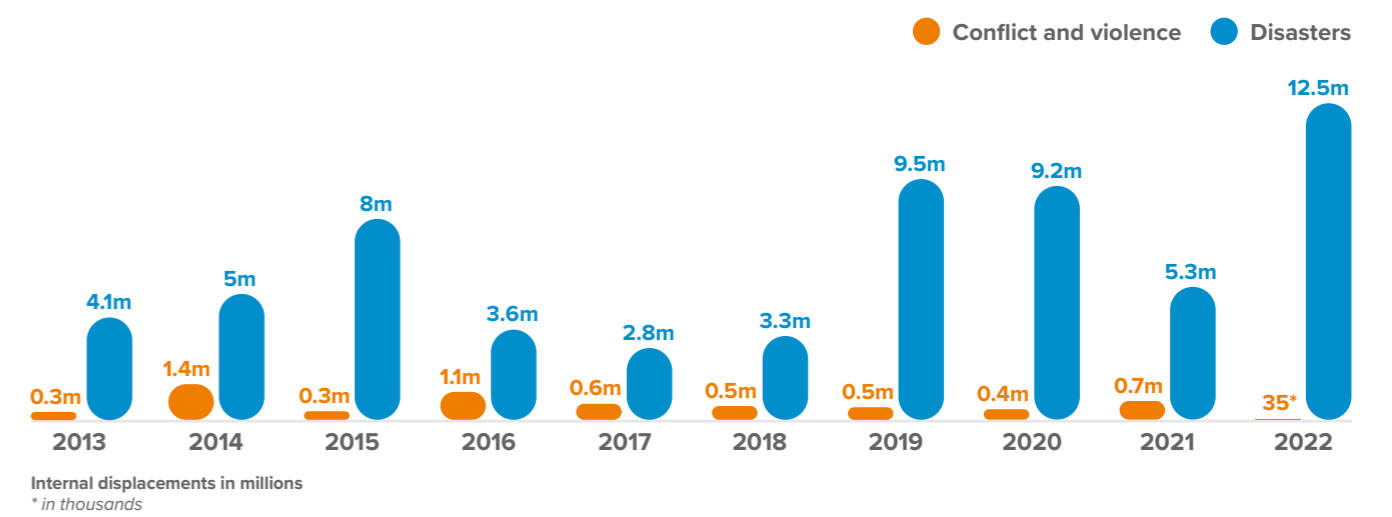
*movements



Five countries with most internal displacements in South Asia in 2022



Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in South Asia (2013-2022)



Internal displacements in millions
* in thousands

Disasters trigger the vast majority of internal displacements in South Asia each year, and 2022 was no exception. Around 12.5 million such displacements were recorded, double the annual average of 6.3 million over the past decade. The increase was mostly the result of the severe and widespread flooding that occurred in Pakistan during the monsoon season.

Conflict and violence triggered 35,000 displacements, a 95 per cent decrease from 2021. This was primarily the result of a lull in conflict in Afghanistan, which had historically accounted for most of the region's conflict displacement. Around 8.8 million people were living in internal displacement across South Asia as of the end of year, 5.5 million as a result of conflict and violence and 3.3 million as a result of disasters.

A changing monsoon season

Floods triggered 90 per cent of the region's disaster displacements in 2022. All countries recorded flood displacement, but Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh were the most affected. Monsoon rains were normal or below average for most countries, with most movements occurring during the south-west monsoon between June and September.

Pakistan, however, was a notable exception. Record-breaking rainfall and flash flooding from July to September left ten per cent of the country underwater and led to its highest levels of displacement in a decade.²³⁹ The floods were the disaster event triggering most displacements globally in 2022, with 8.2 million movements, almost two-thirds of the region's total disaster displacements.²⁴⁰

Such an exceptional event had severe immediate and long-term impacts. It led to increased rates of disease among IDPs by October, and damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods

90%
of the region's disaster
displacements were triggered
by floods in 2022

25%
of global disaster displacements
were triggered by monsoon
flooding in Pakistan



The coast of the Bay of Bengal in southern Bangladesh after Cyclone Sitrang hit on 25 October 2022, triggering around a million evacuations and causing widespread housing destruction.
© UNICEF/UN0724676/Abu Sufian Jewel, October 2022

was predicted to heighten food insecurity and poverty for millions of people, prolonging the displacement for many IDPs (see spotlight, p. 69).²⁴¹

India and Bangladesh started to experience flooding even before the official start of the monsoon season, which normally runs between mid-July and September.²⁴² India's north-eastern state of Assam was affected by early floods in May and the same areas were once again flooded in June. Nearly five million people were affected across the state. People fled in makeshift boats as their homes were destroyed, many of them to camps where water and sanitation conditions were poor.²⁴³ In Nagaon district, the Kopili river rose to a record height more than a metre above danger level.²⁴⁴ An estimated 742,000 flood displacements were recorded during the pre-monsoon season between mid-May and mid-July.²⁴⁵ Torrential rains that affected India in May also caused rivers to overflow in neighbouring Bangladesh, triggering nearly 5,500 displacements in Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts.²⁴⁶

Rainfall and flooding were normal or below average for the rest of the monsoon season in both countries. Some parts of India reported their lowest July rainfall in 122 years.²⁴⁷ By the end of the monsoon, 2.1 million displacements had been recorded across India, a significant decrease from the five million that occurred during the 2021 season. Monsoon floods in Bangladesh triggered at least 482,000 displacements. Damage to roads and a shortage of boats hampered the delivery of aid to evacuation centres and temporary shelters.²⁴⁸



Submerged houses in Colombo, Sri Lanka. After a relatively calm monsoon season, heavy rainfall in mid-October caused widespread flooding. © GettyImages/Thilina Kaluthotage/NurPhoto, October 2022

In Nepal, the monsoon season was offset from its usual period. The rains arrived in May, around a week earlier than usual, leading to predictions of above-average rainfall that prompted farmers to plant accordingly and authorities to initiate disaster management protocols.²⁴⁹ The expected rains, however, did not come. This may have been in part because the forecasting models were not specific to Nepal, but weather patterns have also become more erratic.²⁵⁰

Instead, many districts faced dry spells and drought-like conditions in August, which reduced crop yields and farmers' resilience.²⁵¹ The full impact of the monsoon did not occur until October, about a week later than usual.²⁵² Unseasonal rainfall caused floods and landslides that were aggravated by dry soil conditions in several provinces.²⁵³ Nearly 89,000 displacements were recorded during the monsoon across the country, more than half of them in October.²⁵⁴ Similar post-monsoon events had also occurred in 2021.²⁵⁵

Sri Lanka had a relatively quiet monsoon between May and August, when only 4,300 movements were recorded, 96 per cent fewer than in the same period of 2021. Toward the end of the season, however, the rains intensified, triggering significant displacement between 14 and 20 October, particularly in the country's most populated districts of Colombo and Gampaha.²⁵⁶ Floods and landslides triggered 5,600 displacements in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central and North-Western provinces, accounting for half of the country's annual displacement figure.

Changing weather patterns in South Asia are clearly making the monsoon more unpredictable, not only in terms of when it begins and ends but also how the season develops. This has potentially significant implications for efforts to reduce disaster and displacement risk. It calls for more accurate forecasting and early warning systems and more flexible response planning. Relying on the patterns of previous monsoons is unlikely to be sufficient in the coming years.

Fewer and less severe storms

Storms triggered around 1.1 million internal displacements across South Asia in 2022. The Bay of Bengal in particular is one of the areas most affected by tropical cyclones.²⁵⁷ They occur throughout the monsoon but tend to peak at the beginning and end of the season.

Cyclone Sitrang formed in the Bay of Bengal on 20 October and made landfall in Bangladesh five days later with maximum wind speed of 83 km/h.²⁵⁸ It affected more than 1.5 million people across six districts and triggered around a million evacuations, the highest figure for a storm in the region in 2022. Its impacts were less severe than expected and all of those displaced returned home within days.²⁵⁹ Sitrang also triggered 66,000 displacements in India, bringing rainfall and strong winds to the states of Odisha and West Bengal before weakening into a depression.²⁶⁰

Two other cyclones formed in South Asia during the year, both of them affecting India. Cyclone Asani triggered 1,500 displacements to relief camps in Andhra Pradesh between 5 and 12 May, and cyclone Mandous 9,500 in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry in December.²⁶¹ Neither storm caused

severe damage to homes, and in both cases those displaced returned in a matter of days.

Geophysical hazards

Earthquakes triggered 151,000 displacements across the region in 2022, more than in the last six years combined. Ninety-seven per cent took place in Afghanistan and the remainder in Nepal and Pakistan.

The Afghan province of Badghis was hit by a 5.3 magnitude earthquake on 17 January.²⁶² It damaged or destroyed almost one thousand homes and triggered more than 21,000 displacements.²⁶³ Heavy rainfall had weakened mud-brick houses in the preceding days, making them more susceptible to collapse. The earthquake also struck in the middle of winter, exposing those displaced to snow and extreme cold and heightening their needs.²⁶⁴

A second earthquake struck the country on 22 June. Considered the deadliest in 20 years, the shallow 5.9 magnitude event and its aftershocks triggered around 118,000 displacements across the eastern provinces of Khost, Paktika and Paktia.²⁶⁵ Around 1,000 people were killed, and 70 per cent of homes were damaged or destroyed in some areas. Continuous rainfall in the days after the earthquake increased the risk of landslides and flooding and slowed the humanitarian response.²⁶⁶

Badghis is one of Afghanistan's most impoverished provinces, having been affected by drought in recent years and a surge in conflict in 2021.²⁶⁷ Communities affected by the earthquake in Khost and Paktika already had high humanitarian needs as a result of the country's economic crisis, and many people expressed concern about not being able to afford to rebuild.²⁶⁸

147,000
displacements were triggered by earthquakes in Afghanistan in areas already affected by drought and conflict

A reduction in conflict and violence

Conflict and violence triggered 35,000 displacements in South Asia in 2022, the lowest figures in more than a decade. The decrease was largely the result of a major shift in dynamics in Afghanistan, which had previously accounted for most of the conflict displacement in the region.

As the Taliban took control of the country on 15 August 2021 and foreign forces withdrew, large-scale conflict and the number of associated displacements reduced, from the 723,000 in 2021 to 32,000 in 2022.²⁶⁹ The reduction in violence has also led to a significant increase in returns. More than 4.6 million people went back home between January 2021 and April 2022, nearly half the figure recorded since 2012.²⁷⁰

IDPs, however, along with the rest of the Afghan population, still face one of the world's most acute humanitarian crises, fuelled by steep rises in unemployment, poverty and food insecurity.²⁷¹ These overlapping crises are not only drivers of new and repeated displacement. They also serve to prolong it. More than 6.6 million people were living in internal displacement in Afghanistan as of December 2022, two-thirds of them as a result of conflict and violence and a third as a result of disasters. The country has the largest population of IDPs in South Asia, and the second largest worldwide after Syria.

Localised conflict and violence also occurred during the year in India and Pakistan, leading to small-scale displacements.²⁷² Around 631,000 people in India were still living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year.

In Pakistan, an increase in insecurity in Pakhtunkhwa province triggered hundreds of displacements in the Tirah Valley in September.²⁷³ The situation also prolonged the plight of more than 21,000 people displaced by conflict and violence

between 2007 and 2014. Initiatives to facilitate their return began in June but were suspended within two months.²⁷⁴

More than 5.5 million people are living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence across South Asia, many of whom have been doing so for decades. Their number decreased in Pakistan compared with 2021, but across much of the region the figures remain unchanged. Little information is available on IDPs' living conditions or the extent to which they may have been able to achieve durable solutions to their displacement.

6.6m
IDPs in Afghanistan, the second highest figure globally following Syria

Progress and challenges in monitoring

Despite being highly prone to disasters, most countries in South Asia still lack comprehensive data on the displacement they trigger. Disaster reports in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan tend only to be produced for medium to large-scale events, meaning that small-scale disasters which together could lead to significantly higher displacement figures are not included.

Assessments also tend to focus on disaster damage and loss, but not on displacement, so figures have to be extrapolated from housing destruction data by applying average household size calculations. When displacement is specifically reported, data only captures people in relief camps or evacuated by authorities, not those who seek shelter with host families or in informal sites, which leads to underestimates.

The lack of comprehensive coverage and time-series data also means that estimates have to be produced by triangulating and aggregating government and media reports, which have varying levels of reliability. Nor is displacement associated with slow-onset hazards such as drought, riverbank and coastal erosion and glacier melt often reported.

Afghanistan was the only country where drought displacement data was available for 2022, when 17,000 movements were recorded.²⁷⁵ Pakistan and India were also confronted with a severe heatwave that triggered drought, but no displacement figures were available. More efforts need to be put into monitoring slow-onset disaster displacement, considering the region's vulnerability to climate change.²⁷⁶

Despite such challenges, positive steps were taken toward better understanding displacement in South Asia in 2022. India's National Emergency Response Centre (NERC) published daily reports of damage caused by floods and rainfall, including housing destruction and the number of evacuations and people

sheltering in relief centres.²⁷⁷ NERC also produced a cumulative estimate of the number of people displaced during the monsoon, standardising the data available across all states and union territories and improving the reliability of our estimates.

Reporting on monsoon displacement also improved in other countries. The Nepal Red Cross Society conducted emergency assessments, and Pakistan's provincial disaster management authorities and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) carried out assessments of IDPs affected by floods. Both sources provided information on initial movements and people who were still displaced months later, giving a more comprehensive account of the geographic and temporal impacts of the monsoon season.²⁷⁸

These efforts are helpful in revealing the true scale of disaster displacement in the region. Having a more accurate baseline on the duration of both disaster and conflict displacement would also help to understand the extent to which programmes to support durable solutions are succeeding in putting an end to the displacement of millions of people across the region.



Women and children collect water in Garhwa village, India. A severe heatwave caused drought-like conditions in India's agricultural heartlands, but no drought-related displacements figures were available. © GettyImages/Ritesh Shukla, May 2022

Spotlight – Pakistan: floods trigger the world's largest disaster displacement event in a decade

The 2022 monsoon season brought record-breaking rainfall that affected 33 million people across Pakistan.²⁷⁹ Floods triggered 8.2 million internal displacements, making it the world's largest disaster displacement event in the last ten years.²⁸⁰ At the peak of the monsoon in August, around 85,000 km² of land, the equivalent of ten per cent of the country, was flooded.²⁸¹ The water took months to recede and caused direct damage and economic losses put at around \$30 billion, ushering in the country's worst humanitarian crisis in decades.²⁸²

A series of other disasters aggravated the impact of the 2022 monsoon and reduced the resilience of affected communities. Several provinces faced severe drought in 2021 that damaged crops and hit rural communities hard, and by March 2022, soaring temperatures and a 62 per cent rainfall deficit had affected millions and worsened pre-existing conditions across the country.²⁸³ The heatwave also prompted rapid snowmelt and glacial lake outburst floods in May.²⁸⁴

The monsoon arrived in June and increased significantly in intensity in August, which was considered the wettest ever in some provinces. Sindh recorded a 730 per cent rise in rainfall compared with the historical monthly average, and the figure for Balochistan was 590 per cent higher.²⁸⁵ Heavy rainfall and glacial runoff also triggered flash floods and landslides, leaving 20.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by October.²⁸⁶

With more than 2.3 million homes damaged or destroyed and roads flooded, the monsoon stretched the response capacity of the government and humanitarian agencies.²⁸⁷ Around 70 per cent of IDPs were without adequate shelter weeks after the emergency was declared.²⁸⁸ Access to those in need was complicated by the fact that fewer than eight per cent of IDPs were sheltering in relief camps.²⁸⁹ Millions sought refuge at roadsides, on embankments or with relatives, out of reach of assistance.²⁹⁰ In Sindh and Balochistan, which hosted 90 per cent of those displaced by the floods, shelter was still IDPs' primary need in October.²⁹¹

Drought had already reduced the summer mango harvest in Sindh by 60 per cent and the subsequent flooding of 3.1 million acres of crops is expected to increase the number of food insecure people in Pakistan to 14.6 million in 2023, twice as many as before the floods.²⁹² In Balochistan, at least 435,000 head of livestock perished, depriving people of a key source of income in a province where drought had already killed animals in 2021.²⁹³ Some IDPs avoided relief camps because of restrictions on sheltering animals.²⁹⁴

Water contamination and damage to sanitation facilities also led to disease outbreaks, particularly among IDPs.²⁹⁵ Diarrhoea cases increased five-fold in Sindh and Balochistan.²⁹⁶ Water shortages had already led to a cholera outbreak in some areas earlier in the year.²⁹⁷ Districts designated as calamity-hit already suffered from high poverty and limited access to services before

the floods, which are expected to push 12.1 million people in these areas into poverty.²⁹⁸

Major disasters are not a new phenomenon in Pakistan. In 2010, floods triggered 11 million displacements, prompting the government to establish the National Disaster Management Authority.²⁹⁹ Significant progress has been made since in terms of risk reduction and response, but disasters have continued to trigger significant displacement. Around 16.4 million movements were reported over the last decade.³⁰⁰ Put in perspective, the 2022 floods triggered nearly half of that figure in a matter of weeks. This outlier event has led experts to suggest that climate change played a role in its scale and severity.³⁰¹

More than 1 million people remained displaced as of December, demonstrating the challenges that IDPs still face in finding solutions following a disaster of this magnitude.³⁰² The government recognises the importance of improving its responses and rebuilding communities that are more resilient to future shocks.³⁰³ This will be much needed given that Pakistan is highly vulnerable to climate change. Scientists suggest that the probability of floods and heatwaves continuing to occur is high, and that they are likely to increase in intensity and frequency.³⁰⁴

Reconstruction and community recovery after the 2022 floods should take place alongside efforts to reduce poverty as a driver of disaster risk, given that the communities repeatedly affected by disasters are often the poorest and most vulnerable.³⁰⁵ To succeed in this endeavour, understanding disaster displacement and mainstreaming measures to prevent and address it in policies and legal frameworks on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience will be key.





The Americas

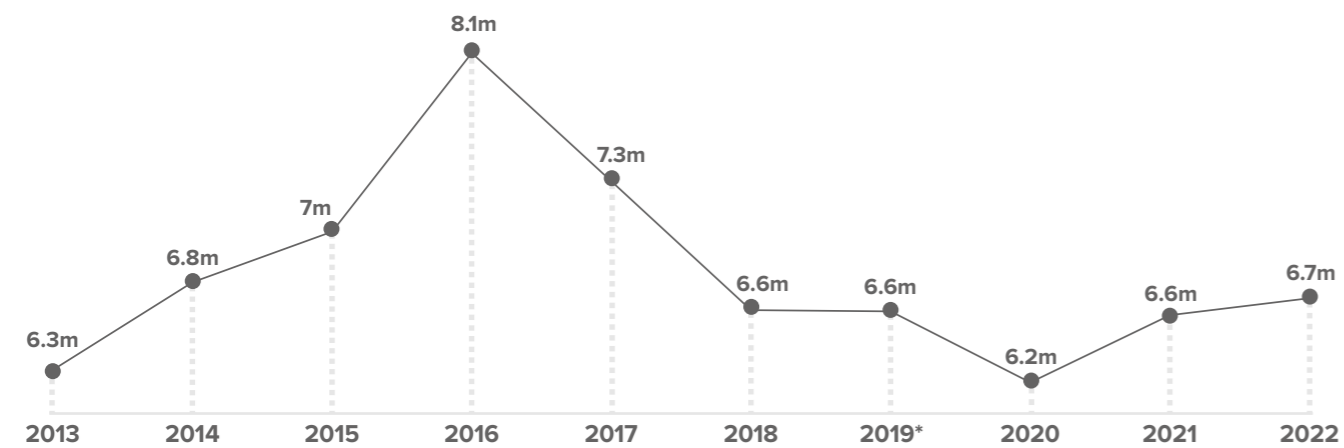
Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022



Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in the Americas as of end 2022



Total number of IDPs in the Americas at year end (2013-2022)



Total number of IDPs in millions
*First year disaster data is available

Internal displacements* in 2022

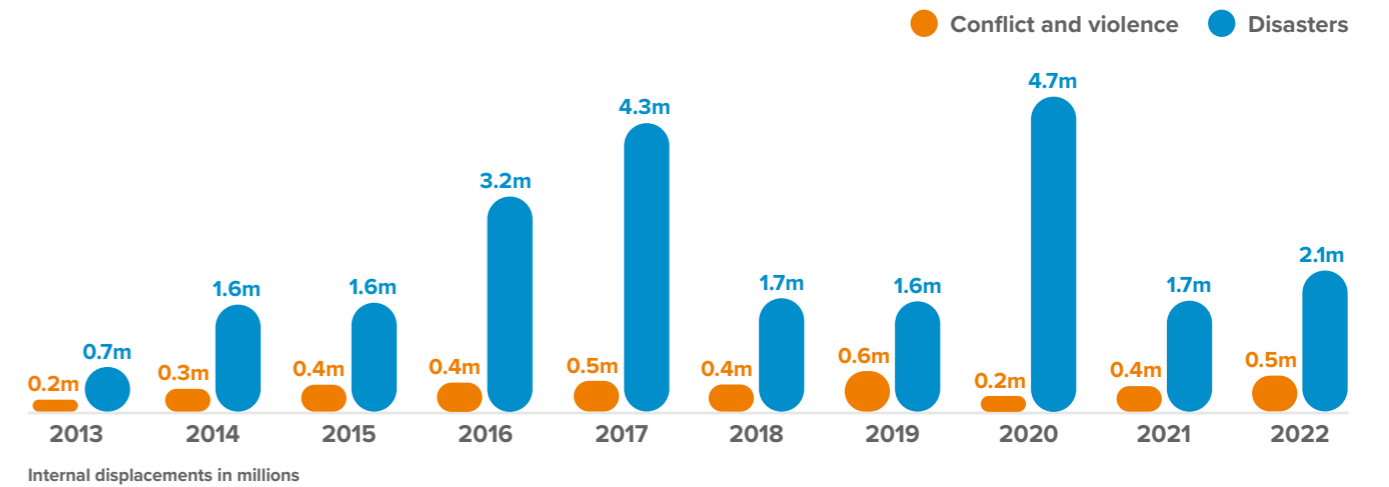
*movements



Five countries with most internal displacements in the Americas in 2022



Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in the Americas (2013-2022)



Internal displacements in millions

The Americas recorded 2.6 million internal displacements in 2022, up from two million in 2021. Nearly 80 per cent were triggered by disasters. Brazil and the US, which have large populations and are prone to hazards, each accounted for a third of the total. Around 720,000 people were living in displacement as result of disasters across the region at the end of the year. The US accounted for three-quarters of that total, but this is in part because most countries in the region do not monitor disaster displacement beyond the initial crisis phase and lack data on protracted displacement as a result.

Conflict and violence triggered around 533,000 displacements, a conservative estimate but still an increase on the figure for 2021. Colombia accounted for most of the total, but crime-related violence in Haiti and Mexico also contributed to it. Around 5.9 million people were living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence across the region at the end of the year, 4.8 million of them in Colombia. This figure is influenced by the greater availability of data compared with other countries.

Storms and floods

Storms triggered nearly 1.2 million displacements across the region, and floods nearly half that figure. Most storm displacements happened during the Atlantic hurricane season in the Caribbean basin, while flood displacements took place throughout the year, mostly in Brazil and Colombia.

The 2022 hurricane season had fewer named storms than the year before, but it was the third costliest on record.³⁰⁶ The season started later than usual, the first major storm being Fiona in mid-September, which triggered 94,000 displacements. Most took place in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, where the storm caused widespread flooding and landslides that obstructed the delivery of human-

2/3
of all disaster displacements in the region occurred in just 2 countries:
Brazil and the US

x10
increase in the number of conflict
IDPs in Haiti since 2021



Coast of Nagua, Dominican Republic, during the passage of hurricane Fiona, which hit communities still recovering from hurricane Maria in 2017. © Gettyimages/Erika Santelices/AFP, September 2022

itarian aid and prevented people from accessing essential services. Some of those affected by Fiona were still recovering from hurricane Maria in 2017.³⁰⁷

Hurricane Ian, the most devastating storm of the season, made landfall in Cuba as a category 3 storm at the end of September. It triggered 80,000 displacements, most of which were pre-emptive evacuations.³⁰⁸ It then tracked toward the US, where it made landfall as a category 4 hurricane and prompted 301,000 displacements, most of them in the state of Florida.³⁰⁹ As many as 2.5 million people were ordered to evacuate ahead of the storm, but factors such as disability, language barriers and lack of transport or money prevented many from doing so.³¹⁰ The government's emergency management agency was still providing shelter assistance to 4,000 people at the end of the year.³¹¹

Tropical storm Julia increased in intensity as it cut across several countries in the Caribbean basin in October, becoming a hurricane before making landfall on the east coast of Central America.³¹² It triggered 72,000 displacements across eight countries, with Guatemala accounting for 56 per cent of them. Many of the parts of Central America that Julia affected were still recovering from hurricanes Eta and Iota, which together had triggered 1.9 million displacements in 2020.³¹³

Other storms triggered significant displacement in Brazil. Heavy rains hit the north-eastern state of Pernambuco between 24 and 30 May, triggering more than 131,000 internal displacements, the second largest event in the region after hurricane Ian.³¹⁴ The rains also triggered landslides and led to the declaration of a state of emergency in a dozen municipalities.³¹⁵ The event was considered the worst disaster to hit the state in half a century, its intensity attributed to La Niña and a local meteorological phenomenon.³¹⁶ The municipality of Jaboatão dos Guararapes was the hardest hit with 100,000 displacements.³¹⁷ Heavy rains at the end of 2021 also continued to affect the state of Minas Gerais in January 2022, triggering 107,000 displacements in the first two weeks of the month.

The two events together triggered almost a third of the disaster displacements recorded in Brazil in 2022. The country also experienced 1,300 smaller disasters, 800 of which triggered fewer than 100 displacements each, but by the end of the year 708,000 displacements had been recorded, the highest figure in over a decade.

Disaster displacement figures were also the highest in more than a decade in Colombia, where floods caused by heavy rains led to almost all of the 281,000 movements recorded. Increased availability of data also contributed to such a high figure. The largest numbers of displacements took place in the northern departments of Sucre and Bolívar. More than half of those recorded in Sucre occurred in May, when the rainy season tends to peak.

The two departments, which form part of the broader sub-region known as La Mojana, are highly prone to floods because they are traversed by major rivers including the Cauca and the Magdalena. La Mojana's geography usually acts as a buffer to flooding, but a third year of La Niña, climate change and inadequate land management have reduced soil absorption and gradually increased flood risk. The 2022 floods not only damaged homes and led to displacement. They also made roads impassable, which impeded the delivery of aid to communities in need.³¹⁸

Around 41,000 people were living in displacement as a result of disasters in Colombia at the end of the year, of whom 39,000 had fled floods and storms, most of them in the low-lying departments that make up the broader Caribbean region and which bore the brunt of La Niña's impacts.

708,000
disaster displacements recorded
in Brazil, the highest figure in
over a decade

66%
of the displacements triggered by
wildfires globally were recorded
in the Americas region

Wildfires

Wildfires triggered more displacements in the Americas than in any other region in 2022, mirroring the trend of previous years. Around 241,000, or 66 per cent of the global total, were recorded. The US accounted for 228,000 as increasingly hot and dry conditions led to 66,000 fires, the highest number in a decade.³¹⁹ Nearly three-quarters of the displacements were reported in California, Tennessee and New Mexico. Even in states where fires are prevalent, they started earlier than usual and remained a threat throughout the year. Climate change and variability are shifting and prolonging the wildfire season.³²⁰

Western states have suffered their worst drought in 1,200 years over the past two decades.³²¹ California has been most affected, and it experienced its hottest and longest heatwave on record in 2022, which fuelled wildfires that triggered 111,000 displacements.³²² The most significant event was the Fairview fire in early September, which led to 67,000.³²³ Tennessee was significantly affected by the Hatcher Mountain fire, which started in Sevier County on 30 March.³²⁴ After severe wildfires in 2016, the local population took evacuation warnings seriously and 27,000 were recorded in a single day.³²⁵

The south-west of the country is often affected by wildfires, but the Hermit's Peak fire, which began on 6 April in New Mexico's Santa Fe national forest began the season earlier than usual and became one of its main events.³²⁶ The blaze merged with the Calf's Canyon fire on 24 April to become the state's largest wildfire in recent history, destroying 430 homes and triggering 28,000 displacements.³²⁷



Smoke in California, US, which recorded 111,000 displacements from wildfires in 2022. © Getty Images/Eric Thayer/Bloomberg, August 2022

Wildfire activity in Canada was lower than in 2021, largely the result of the lingering La Niña, which contributed to prolonging spring snow cover.³²⁸ When conditions became warmer and drier by the end of June, fires triggered 5,500 displacements across the country, significantly fewer than the 41,000 recorded the previous year.

Cuba suffered its worst ever wildfire in August when lightning struck the country's main fuel storage facility in the Matanzas industrial zone. The ensuing fire caused widespread blackouts and triggered 4,700 displacements.³²⁹

Conflict and violence

Conflict displacement was concentrated in a few countries in 2022, particularly in Colombia and Haiti, which recorded 339,000 and 106,000 movements respectively. Smaller figures were reported in Mexico, Central America and Brazil.

The figure for Colombia was the highest in more than a decade. It was partly the result of a rise in the number of displacements resulting from attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) against civilians, other NSAGs and the military, but a change in the methodology to estimate displacement also played a role.³³⁰ South-western departments including Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Putumayo and Nariño were among the most affected, along with Antioquia, Chocó and Córdoba in the north-west. Displacement was also reported in Caquetá, Cesar and Magdalena. Most incidents took place in the first half of the year.³³¹

NSAGs particularly targeted and intimidated social and community leaders and environmental and human rights defenders, forcing them to flee.³³² Some rural communities were also dispossessed of their land.³³³

The increase in displacement and cases of forced confinement heightened humanitarian needs across the country,



Embera Katío indigenous community in the rural Pacific Coast of Colombia. In 2022, the community was going through situations of confinement and displacement due to persisting armed conflict.
© NRC/Elegante Lab

40%
increase in conflict displacement in the Americas, being driven solely by an increase in Colombia and Haiti

while access deteriorated during the year.³³⁴ Ninety-seven per cent of IDPs did not have their needs met in at least one sector of humanitarian assistance, compared with 67 per cent of host communities.³³⁵

Colombia has one of the most advanced registries on internal displacement in the world, but it relies on voluntary registration. Lack of IDP registration was highlighted as a concern last year, which points to some estimates being conservative.³³⁶ One survey suggested that 51 per cent of IDPs had not registered, whether because of fear for their safety, not knowing how to do so or the belief that it would not bring them any benefits.³³⁷

There were 4.8 million people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of the year, down from 5.2 million in 2021. This does not correspond with the historical figure from the government's Victim's Unit, which is cumulative, because IDPs who have died, disappeared or overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities are subtracted by IDMC to arrive at an end-of-year estimate. Around 200,000 IDPs were identified as having overcome such vulnerabilities in 2022.³³⁸

Crime-related violence triggered 106,000 displacements in Haiti, where the phenomenon has been on the increase in recent years and particularly since the assassination of the country's president in July 2021.³³⁹ Incidents of violence nearly doubled in 2022 compared to the previous year, as gangs gained control of 60 per cent of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince.³⁴⁰ The overall displacement figure should be considered an underestimate given that data collection was limited and impeded by insecurity.³⁴¹

The increase in violence in Port-au-Prince also triggered 9,000 displacements to the southern departments of Grand'Anse and Sud, where insecurity and road closures restricted IDPs' access to humanitarian aid. Around 11,000 IDPs

were identified elsewhere in the country, particularly in the northern departments of Artibonite and Centre, which were also affected by localised violence.³⁴²

There were around 171,000 people living in displacement due to conflict and violence at the end of the year, a ten-fold increase on the figure for 2021. Around 88 per cent were concentrated in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, and some had been displaced for more than a year. Nearly three-quarters were living with host communities rather than in displacement sites, and many were confined to their neighbourhoods with only limited access to goods and services.³⁴³ Gender-based violence continues to be a major concern in Haiti. Cases are significantly underreported, but the problem has extended to camps, which may lead some IDPs to avoid formal sites.³⁴⁴

Violence triggered 9,200 displacements in Mexico in 2022, a significant decrease from the 29,000 recorded in 2021 but in line with the figures for 2019 and 2020.³⁴⁵ Most of the municipalities where displacements took place in 2022 had already recorded movements in previous years.

Almost all of the displacements recorded were triggered by criminal violence, nearly 90 per cent of which occurred in the states of Chiapas, Michoacán and Zacatecas. Violence in Chiapas led to around 4,300 movements from the municipalities of La Trinitaria and Frontera Comalapa in July, accounting for almost half of the country's overall figure.³⁴⁶

The Jalisco New Generation drug cartel was responsible for at least 2,700 displacements in Michoacán and Zacatecas. About 2,100 occurred on 29 September when cartel members entered the municipality of Chinicuila in Michoacán less than two weeks after a 7.7 earthquake had struck.³⁴⁷ They had reportedly already forced more than half of the town's population to flee by the end of 2021.³⁴⁸ Clashes between

rival criminal groups over territory in Zacatecas triggered 600 displacements in May, particularly in the rural community of El Mirador. Many of the families returned, but continuing insecurity heightens the risk of repeated displacement.³⁴⁹

There were 386,000 people living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence in Mexico at the end of the year, a figure that has been rising consistently over the last decade.

Obtaining data on displacement associated with conflict and violence in northern Central America continues to be a major challenge. The only country where survey data allows an annual picture to be painted is El Salvador, where around 52,000 people were living in displacement at the end of 2022. As some had been forced to flee various times, the number of displacements during the year was put at 73,000.³⁵⁰

Data for Honduras dates back to 2018, when 247,000 people were estimated to be internally displaced.³⁵¹ The lack of information since hampers an analysis of trends in recent years. Data on Guatemala is even older, with the last data point dating back to 1997, when 242,000 people were displaced as a result of the country's internal conflict.³⁵² Few displacements could be confirmed in either country last year, but this may not capture the full scale of the phenomenon, which highlights the need to fill data gaps.³⁵³

IDMC obtained data on displacement by conflict and violence in Brazil for the first time in 2021, and the latest figures suggest that land disputes triggered 5,600 movements last year, mostly in rural areas. More than 20 per cent were reported in the state of Goiás. Displacements associated with other forms of violence, including urban criminal violence, are not accounted for, making overall figures conservative.



The Chamelecón river in Honduras seen from the house of a family displaced by floods and storms including hurricanes Eta and Iota which hit in 2020. © OCHA/Vincent Tremou, August 2022



Europe & Central Asia

Walls destroyed by shelling reveal the interiors of apartments in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The area received evacuation calls in the summer to protect civilians and to anticipate winter conditions. © GettyImages/Serhii Mykhalchuk/Global Images Ukraine, June 2022

Total number of IDPs as of end of 2022

8.6m

12%
Share of the global total

8.5m
IDPs by conflict and violence

32,000
IDPs by disasters

Internal displacements* in 2022

*movements

17.2m

28%
Share of the global total

17.1m
Internal displacements by conflict and violence

107,000
Internal displacements by disasters

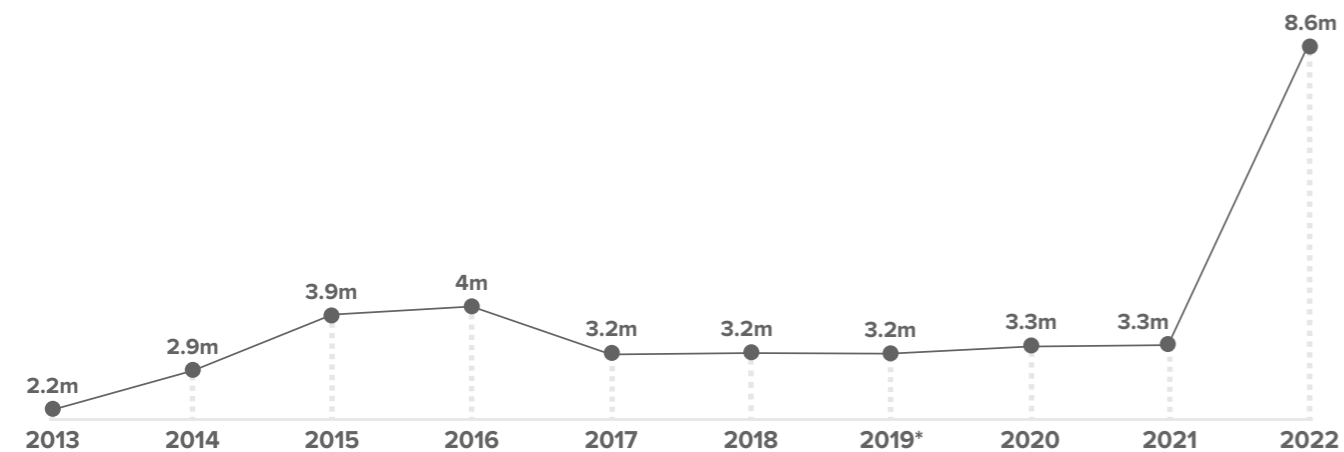
Five countries with the highest number of IDPs in Europe and Central Asia as of end 2022

- 1** Ukraine: 5,914,000
- 2** Türkiye: 1,099,000
- 3** Azerbaijan: 659,000
- 4** Georgia: 308,000 | 31,000
- 5** Cyprus: 246,000

Five countries with most internal displacements in Europe and Central Asia in 2022

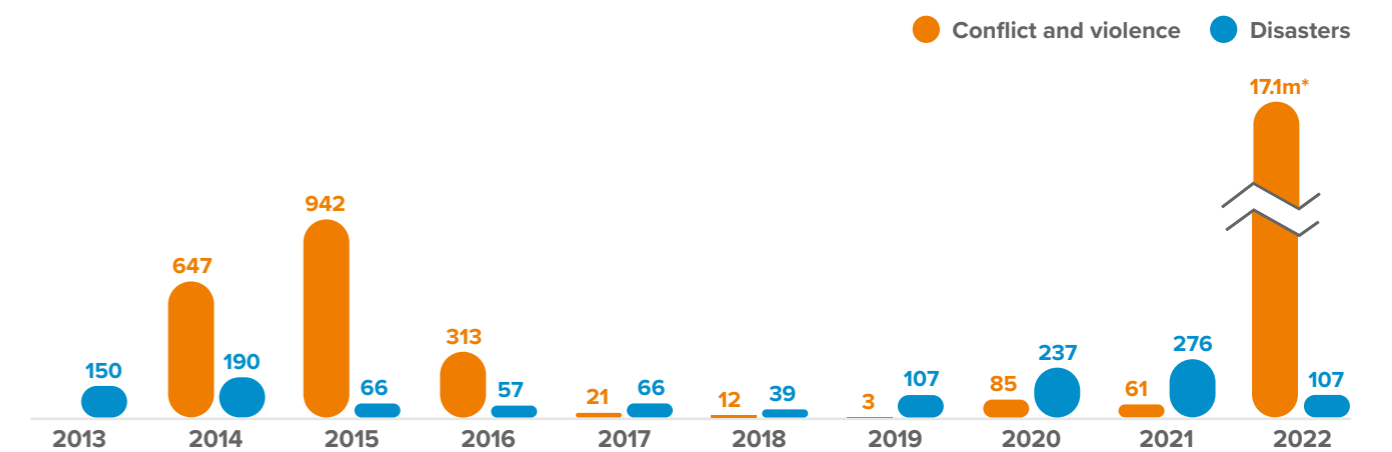
- 1** Ukraine: 16,870,000
- 2** Kyrgyzstan: 166,000 | 1,700
- 3** France: 45,000
- 4** Spain: 31,000
- 5** Russia: 7,100 | 2,700

Total number of IDPs in Europe and Central Asia at year end (2013-2022)



Total number of IDPs in millions
*First year disaster data is available

Internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in Europe and Central Asia (2013-2022)



Internal displacements in thousands
*in millions

Europe and Central Asia experienced a significant shift in internal displacement trends in 2022, mainly as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. This crisis alone triggered around 16.9 million movements and left 5.9 million people living in internal displacement at the end of the year, making Ukraine the fastest growing conflict displacement situation in the world (see spotlight, p. 87).³⁵⁴

16.9m
displacements by conflict in
Ukraine, the highest figure ever
recorded for any country

Other countries including Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Russia and Kazakhstan also experienced internal displacement associated with conflict and violence, albeit on a much smaller scale. Across the whole region 17 million such movements took place, the highest in more than a decade.

61%
decrease in disaster displacements
in the region compared to 2021

The number of disaster displacements fell in 2022 to 107,000, compared with more than 276,000 in 2021. Most were triggered by wildfires in the Mediterranean basin, particularly in France and Spain. Floods also forced people from their homes across the region.

Conflict and violence

Russia reported a relatively small number of internal displacements associated with the conflict in Ukraine. The governor of Belgorod cited security reasons for 7,000 such movements having taken place between February and November.³⁵⁵

Border clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were reported throughout the year, triggering more than 166,000 displacements on the Kyrgyz side, over three times as many as in 2021. Clashes took place in January and mid-April, triggering 11,000 and 19,000 respectively.³⁵⁶ The most significant event, however, was in September, when guards clashed along a disputed section of the border, prompting the Kyrgyz government to declare a state of emergency. Nearly 137,000 evacuations took place in the Batken region.³⁵⁷

Almost 93,000 people had gone back to their homes by the end of the month after relative stability returned, but some IDPs did not feel safe to do so having been displaced by clashes in the two



A burnt forest in Spain following a wildfire on 17 July. France and Spain accounted for 85 per cent of wildfire displacements in Europe. © GettyImages/Paco Freire/SOPA Images, July 2022

previous years.³⁵⁸ Around 4,000 people were still displaced at the end of the year as a result of the conflict.³⁵⁹ No figures were available for Tajikistan.

In the South Caucasus, tensions escalated between Armenia and Azerbaijan and led to fighting along the border between the two countries in September. Armenian authorities reported 7,600 displacements from Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces, a much higher figure than the 800 reported in 2020. An agreement was reached at the end of the year to allow external monitoring of the situation to prevent future violence and displacement.³⁶⁰

Extreme heat and wildfires

The world has experienced its warmest years on record since 2014, pointing to the normalisation of record-breaking temperatures. This is particularly felt in Europe, where temperatures have increased twice as fast as the global average in the last 30 years.³⁶¹ Last year was the second warmest on record in the region, which also experienced its hottest summer ever and its worst drought in 500 years.³⁶² Scientists have warned that a pattern of water deficit has been worsening and could become the new normal.³⁶³

The dry conditions fuelled an intense wildfire season, both in terms of the frequency of fires and the size of the areas burnt. Almost 6,900 fires burnt more than 1.4 million hectares of land in 2022.³⁶⁴ They also triggered 88,000 internal displacements, the second-highest figure ever for this hazard in the region after the 2021 summer wildfires. France and Spain accounted for 85 per cent of the total, with 45,000 and 31,000 respectively, most of them during the summer months.

88,000
displacements by wildfires,
the second-highest figure
in the region after the
2021 summer wildfires

11,000
displacements by floods and
storms, a near ten-fold
decrease from 2021

The figures for France were the highest ever recorded. The vast majority of the displacements took place in the south-western department of Gironde, half of which is forested.³⁶⁵ Two fires that broke out in July burned almost twice as much land in a week as the national annual average and triggered 30,000 evacuations.³⁶⁶ One of the fires reignited in August, prompting another 8,000 evacuations.³⁶⁷

The number of fires in Spain and the extent of the area burnt were four times higher than the average for the period 2006-2021.³⁶⁸ Most broke out in July, including the event that led to most displacement. A fire that burned in the western province of Zamora between 15 and 21 July triggered 5,800 movements from at least 30 villages.³⁶⁹

Evacuations helped to mitigate the potential death toll from wildfires in both countries, illustrating how displacement can be a life-saving measure. France's mechanisms to prevent and fight wildfires have proven effective in the past, but the changing nature and intensity of these fires fuelled by rising temperatures and a changing climate has led to a proposed new legislation and more funding, equipment and staff to reduce the impacts of future fires.³⁷⁰

EU member states strengthened their preventative measures after the 2021 wildfires under the coordination of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre.³⁷¹ The European Forest Fire Information System monitors the number of fires and areas burnt, but does not record associated displacements, evacuations and returns.³⁷² Producing such data could help to monitor the effectiveness of responses and adapt strategies to identify displacement risks and avoid repeated movements.

Italy, Portugal, Kazakhstan and Russia also recorded 9,000 wildfire displacements between them. Türkiye and Greece recorded 1,500 and 700 respectively, a significant decrease from 81,000 and 58,000 in 2021. Türkiye has increased its firefighting capacity since the devastating fires of 2021, and it also benefitted from weather conditions less conducive to wildfires in 2022.³⁷³ As a result, the area burnt last year fell by 90 per cent to nearly 16,000 hectares. In Greece, the figure was 83 per cent lower.³⁷⁴

Floods and storms

Floods and storms triggered 11,000 displacements across the region, a near ten-fold decrease from 2021 when 100,000 were recorded, mainly the result of the exceptional July floods in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.³⁷⁵

Türkiye was the country most affected, accounting for more than a quarter of the 2022 figure. The Western Black Sea Region was hit by floods at the end of June that triggered almost 2,800 displacements.³⁷⁶ Snowmelt in Kazakhstan led to floods in April which prompted 1,600 evacuations in Aktobe, Karaganda, Pavlodar and West Kazakhstan regions. Almost all evacuees were able to return home soon after.³⁷⁷

The region's most significant storm displacement event was Franklin, which triggered 1,200 displacements in the United Kingdom in mid-February.³⁷⁸ It was the third named storm to hit the country within a week after Dudley and Eunice.³⁷⁹ Eunice had the strongest winds, but Franklin brought heavy rainfall and led to more than 100 flood warnings in England alone.³⁸⁰

Spotlight – Ukraine: war triggers 60 per cent of global conflict displacement

Eastern Ukraine has experienced conflict and displacement since 2014, when Russia annexed the autonomous region of Crimea and non-state armed groups seized parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Ukraine's military response and the ensuing fighting triggered 1.7 million internal displacements between 2014 and 2021.³⁸¹

The conflict took on new dimensions when Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Shelling and airstrikes hit major towns and cities, including the capital, Kyiv. Civilians sought safety underground and cars jammed highways and border crossings while trains evacuated hundreds of thousands of people from affected areas.³⁸²

Internal displacement was a constant necessity throughout the year as a result of attacks, damage to critical infrastructure and lack of access to basic services.³⁸³ The situation escalated quickly, triggering 16.9 million movements. Many were repeated displacements of people unable to earn an income or find accommodation, or those seeking safety and access to services.³⁸⁴ The figure represents 59.6 per cent of all internal displacements associated with conflict and violence recorded globally last year.

Displacement and return patterns shifted with the ebb and flow of the violence. Some people sought protection from airstrikes and shelling, while others moved away from the rapidly shifting frontlines across the north, east and south of the country. At the end of July, the government called for

the mandatory evacuation of civilians in the Donetsk region to prevent further casualties.³⁸⁵

Evacuation calls were soon extended to other frontline areas such as Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv and Zaporizhzhia.³⁸⁶ They were scaled up at the end of the summer in part in preparation for winter because people were at risk of being left with no heating or basic services to survive the cold. Authorities had organised the evacuation of more than 350,000 civilians from dangerous areas by the end of November.³⁸⁷ Many others, unaccounted for, risked evacuation by their own means.

As of December, 74 per cent of IDPs thought that return to their places of origin would offer the best prospect of a long-term solution to their displacement. Such intentions were unfeasible for many, however, as a result of insecurity, the presence of explosive remnants of war, absence of services and livelihood opportunities or the belief that their homes had been destroyed or were under the control of Russian forces.³⁸⁸

Around 5.9 million people were thought to be living in internal displacement across Ukraine as of 5 December.³⁸⁹ Many others crossed the border, bringing the number of refugees to eight million.³⁹⁰ The rapidly changing situation has made data collection difficult, and information from occupied areas including Crimea and parts of the east is hard to come by, meaning that internal displacement figures should be considered conservative.³⁹¹



Displacement impacts

Housing became a major issue in host areas in the months after the invasion as it became clear the conflict would become prolonged. In cities such as Lviv, where more than 200,000 people sought shelter in the first two weeks of the conflict, housing prices soared, putting pressure on local communities and markets.³⁹² The cost of food, medicine and fuel also increased across the country as a whole.³⁹³

IDPs tended to face more challenges than non-displaced people, including loss of income and lack of access to food, education and clean water. Their needs varied across regions. In Luhansk, 25 per cent said they had struggled to get enough food, while in Kharkiv, 44 per cent reported economic difficulties.³⁹⁴ IDPs' overall needs increased during the year, with financial support being the most pressing.³⁹⁵

In part as a result of men's conscription, the vast majority of those displaced were women, children and elderly people, each with specific needs and vulnerabilities.³⁹⁶ Women reported greater needs across nearly all indicators, including financial support, clothes, hygiene products and other non-food items. Seventeen per cent of households said their children were unable to go to school and many minors were sent away unaccompanied.³⁹⁷

Older people and those with disabilities struggled to obtain information and humanitarian assistance.³⁹⁸ A quarter of Ukraine's population is over 60, and some said they did not have full access to their medication or support network as a result of their displacement.³⁹⁹ People with limited mobility faced challenges on their journeys to safety because evacuation transport, bomb shelters and transit sites were not always safely accessible, forcing some to remain in their homes despite facing imminent threats.⁴⁰⁰ Shelters and displacement sites may hold a higher proportion of vulnerable people who were unable to stay with host families or who require specific assistance.⁴⁰¹

Responding to the crisis

The scale, intensity and unpredictability of the conflict hampered the mobilisation of human and financial resources. Local aid workers and volunteers were among those displaced, which slowed the humanitarian response. Civil servants were also forced to flee, impeding the work of local and national government institutions.⁴⁰²

That said, humanitarian funding increased significantly during the year.⁴⁰³ The government also had a solid legal basis for its response, thanks to the 2014 law on internal displacement, the establishment of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories in

A teenage girl sits in her destroyed school in Zhytomyr, Ukraine. Conflict-related displacement is pushing millions of children out of school each year, jeopardizing their stability and their future development.
© UNICEF/UN0718987/Ibarra Sánchez, September 2022

2016 and the cabinet's approval of a strategy on IDPs' integration and medium-term solutions to displacement in 2021.⁴⁰⁴ The government has since allocated funds to address displacement and border crossing, expanded IDPs' access to social services and pension payments and amended legislation to compensate for housing destruction.⁴⁰⁵

One of the Ministry of Social Policy's first actions after the invasion was to improve IDPs' ability to register in their new places of residence.⁴⁰⁶ In collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the UN, it expanded the Diia mobile app to facilitate their registration and applications for pensions, state subsidies and services.⁴⁰⁷

National and international organisations collaborated to put policies and protocols in place to support IDPs and accelerate the production of timely data to inform the response to the crisis. Surveys were conducted to assess needs, which helped to build evidence for the design of cash and housing assistance.⁴⁰⁸ More than 1.4 million people applied for the latter through digital services.⁴⁰⁹

IDPs and their hosts also played a remarkable role in responding to the crisis. Networks of volunteers proliferated, and community-based initiatives were scaled up across the country. These were useful in delivering more timely aid to those in need, particularly in areas most affected by conflict and inaccessible to humanitarian organisations. Free of larger organisations' bureaucratic procedures, they expedited the supply of medicines, food and other items.⁴¹⁰

Ukrainians' previous experience of displacement was useful in swiftly adapting responses. The Charity Foundation Stabilisation Support Services, for example, set up IDP councils in 2019 to increase the participation and protect the rights of those who had fled the conflict in the east since 2014. Made up of IDPs and affiliated to local governmental entities, the councils monitor community concerns, build coordination mechanisms and advocate for durable solutions for IDPs through local socio-economic integration, with a focus on vulnerable groups.⁴¹¹

The first three councils were affiliated with local authorities in the city of Kramatorsk and regional administrations of Kharkiv and Luhansk, all in the east of the country.⁴¹² More have been set up since the start of Russia's invasion to cover more than 440,000 IDPs and the foundation has shifted its focus to humanitarian work, including the coordination of aid and emergency housing.⁴¹³ Further councils were being established as of the end of the year, including one in Kyiv's Obolon district.⁴¹⁴

Taken together, government, international and community-led initiatives have shown the value of combining top-down and bottom-up approaches to make the response more flexible in highly volatile situations. Scaled-up international humanitarian aid, pre-existing legal, policy and institutional arrangements on internal displacement and a vibrant civil society have been key to enabling Ukrainians to adapt quickly.



A teenage girl stands in her school in Irpin, Ukraine, which was heavily damaged during fighting. Across the country, two-thirds of the children have been forced to flee their home in 2022. © UNICEF/UN0718997/Ibarrá Sánchez, September 2022

Part 2: Internal displacement and food security



A woman cooks cassava in Ituri province, DRC, where increased food prices are worsening food insecurity. © NRC/Hugh Kinsella Cunningham, April 2022

Overlapping crises

As shown in Part 1 of this report, the number of internally displaced people kept increasing in 2022 and reached an all-time high of 71.1 million. The war in Ukraine not only contributed to such an increase, but had significant socio-economic implications far beyond its borders. Russia and Ukraine are some of the main producers of fertiliser and grain, including maize and wheat, and the conflict has disrupted food systems and led to sharp rises in global oil, fertiliser and food prices.⁴¹⁵

The La Niña phenomenon, the large-scale cooling of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, was unusually long once again, bringing higher rainfall to parts of Asia and the Pacific while driving severe drought and extreme temperatures in the Horn of Africa and parts of the Americas and Europe.⁴¹⁶ Disasters were recorded around the globe, triggering significant displacement and destroying homes, crops and agricultural livelihoods with potentially long-lasting impacts.

Taken together, entrenched conflict, disasters and displacement aggravated global food insecurity, which was already a concern as a result of the slow and uneven recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁷ Low-income countries, many of which are dealing with internal displacement, were most affected, in part given their reliance on food and fertiliser imports and international humanitarian aid.⁴¹⁸

Over 182 million people faced crisis-level food insecurity or worse as of the end of 2022.⁴¹⁹ Efforts have been made

to provide more humanitarian aid, but the scale and severity of the situation have outstripped the allocation of funds to fight it.⁴²⁰ These factors have created a perfect storm that is hitting the most vulnerable, including IDPs, hardest.

The fact that deepening internal displacement and food insecurity overlap in some parts of the world has significant humanitarian and development implications in both the short and long term. This makes it all the more relevant to better understand their common drivers and impacts, and produce more evidence and analysis to inform policies and interventions that lead to lasting solutions. This chapter looks at these issues in depth and suggests ways forward for addressing the challenges.

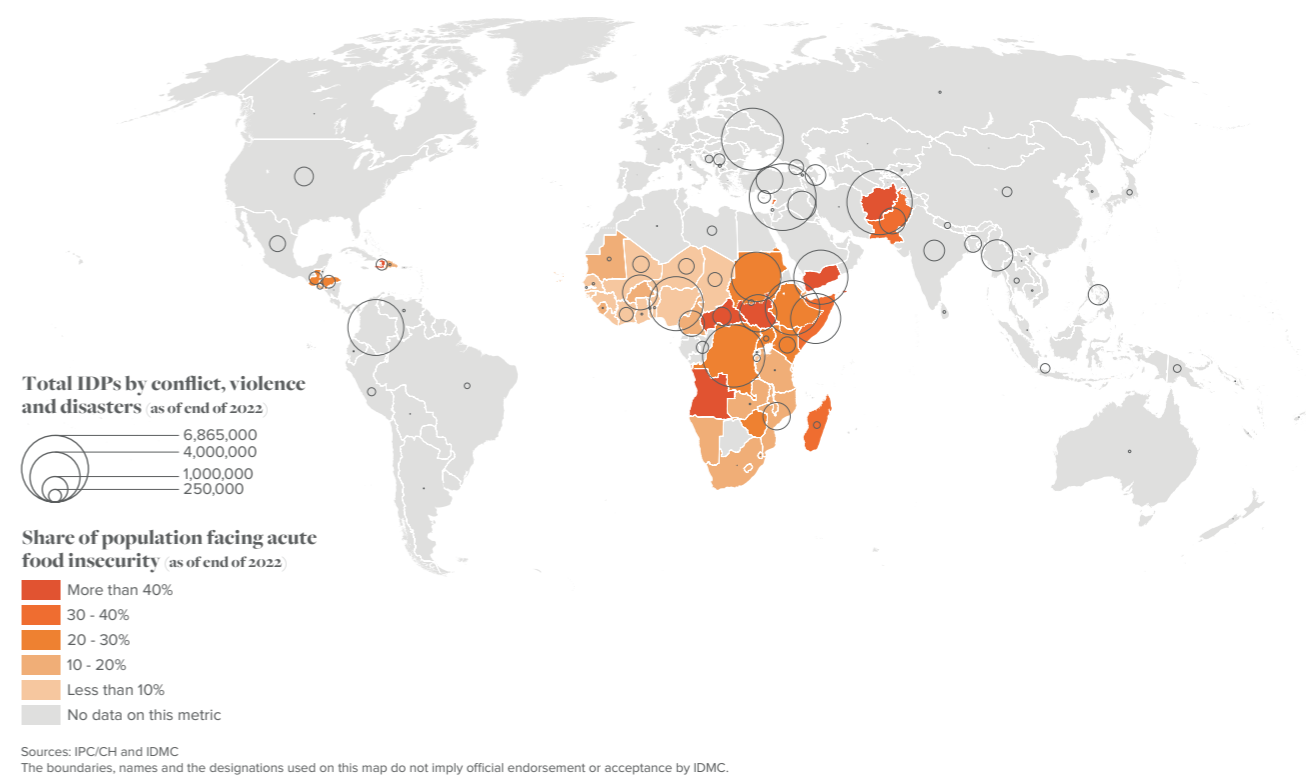
What the data reveals

The data available on food security and internal displacement is far from comprehensive, but it reveals how the two phenomena overlap. Many of the countries with the largest numbers of IDPs also face crisis levels of food insecurity or higher. This is also known as acute food insecurity, or phase 3+ of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) (see box 1 for more information, p. 95).⁴²¹ There were only 49 countries where IPC/CH data was available, and 37 – three-quarters – had internally displaced populations.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen had the largest numbers of people experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3+) in 2022, accounting for 53 per cent of all acutely food insecure people across

75%
of the countries assessed as facing crisis levels of food insecurity have IDPs

5
countries experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity were home to 26 million IDPs



Comparison between food insecurity and the number of IDPs at the global level

the 49 countries covered by IPC. Taken together, these five countries were home to over 26 million IDPs in 2022, nearly 37 per cent of the global total IDPs.

No IPC data is available for some countries with large internally displaced populations, including Colombia, Myanmar and Syria. It is essential such gaps are filled, because it is likely that many IDPs are experiencing food insecurity but their needs are not identified.

Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Somalia were the only countries for which IPC data was disaggregated by displacement status. Around 2.7 million IDPs were acutely food insecure across the three countries. The information, which is disaggregated at the sub-national level, also reveals to which extent IDPs were significantly more food insecure than non-displaced populations. In Burkina Faso, for instance, both food security and

internal displacement have increased since 2018, and recent data shows how the two phenomena overlap in several regions (see spotlight, p. 97).⁴²²

Somalia is the only country where all the population was assessed by IPC, including IDPs. Findings show that more than 10 per cent of the country's population were acutely food insecure and internally displaced. Over one third of them live in the region of Banadir, where the capital Mogadishu is located. Some areas of Banadir were classified as experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC phase 4). Ongoing conflict, coupled with severe drought, explain such high figures. Internal displacement is likely contributing to worsening the overall situation (see spotlight, p. 29).⁴²³

BOX 1:

Definition of food security and food systems used in this report

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) considers people to be food insecure “when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This may be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resources to obtain food”.⁴²⁴

There are different measurements of food insecurity. The humanitarian community tends to use the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and the linked Cadre

Harmonisé (IPC/CH).⁴²⁵ IPC has three scales: acute food insecurity, chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition. The data discussed in this report uses the first, which “classifies food insecurity found at a specific point in time and of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration”.⁴²⁶ This differs from chronic food insecurity, which is “when people are unable to consume enough food over an extended period to maintain a normal, active lifestyle over time mainly due to structural causes, including intra-annual seasonal food insecurity”.⁴²⁷

IPC’s acute food insecurity scale has five phases, which are summarised below.

This report uses data for countries with crisis level or higher, which is often referred to as acute food insecurity, or IPC phase 3+. People in IPC phase 3 and above are considered to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Food security should be understood as the broader functioning of a food system, defined by FAO as one that “gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the output of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes”.⁴²⁸

Phase name and description	Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe / Famine
	Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: • Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or • Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.	Households either: • Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or • Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, an area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)
Priority response objectives	Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction	Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods	Urgent action required to: Protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps Save lives and livelihoods Revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods		



An Afghan farmer in Balkh district harvests wheat grown from certified seeds provided by FAO in response to growing food insecurity in the country.
© FAO/Hashim Azizi, May 2022

Spotlight – Burkina Faso: disaggregated data reveals links between displacement and food insecurity

Violence, internal displacement and food insecurity have increased significantly since the start of the conflict in Burkina Faso. The number of violent incidents rose seven-fold between 2018 and 2022, the number of food-insecure people nine-fold and the number of IDPs 30-fold. At the end of the year, around 1.9 million people were living in internal displacement and 2.6 million were experiencing acute food insecurity.⁴²⁹ Both figures are among the highest recorded for the country.

The number of areas with severe access constraints also increased in the second half of the year. Non-state armed groups destroyed transport infrastructure and attacked relief convoys to loot them or deter others from being sent.⁴³⁰ They also prevented water trucks from reaching people in need, contaminated wells, destroyed water facilities and sabotaged water generators during the dry season, affecting almost 840,000 people.⁴³¹ As a result, less food and other aid were delivered, sanitation conditions deteriorated and agricultural production dropped.⁴³² A quarter of the country's population, or around 5.7 million people, were in need of humanitarian aid as of August, an increase of 40 per cent in six months.⁴³³

The areas most affected by food insecurity also had the largest internally displaced populations. The Sahel and Centre-Nord regions accounted for more than half of the country's IDPs and more than a third of those facing crisis levels of food insecurity or worse, or IPC phase 3+. The province of Sanmatenga in the Centre-Nord region had both the

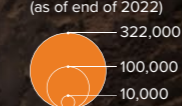
highest number of IDPs and the highest number of acutely food insecure people in the country. The province of Soum in the Sahel region had the second highest number of IDPs and was the only province where people faced catastrophe/famine, or IPC phase 5, levels of food insecurity.⁴³⁴

In six out of the 12 provinces that make up the Centre-Nord, Sahel and Est regions, food security data was disaggregated by displacement status, revealing differing impacts on displaced and host communities. An average of 45 per cent of IDPs experienced acute food insecurity compared with 28 per cent of host community members.⁴³⁵ The gap differed significantly between provinces, however, reflecting the distinct nature of each situation and highlighting the fact that such disaggregation is essential to better understand and address food insecurity.

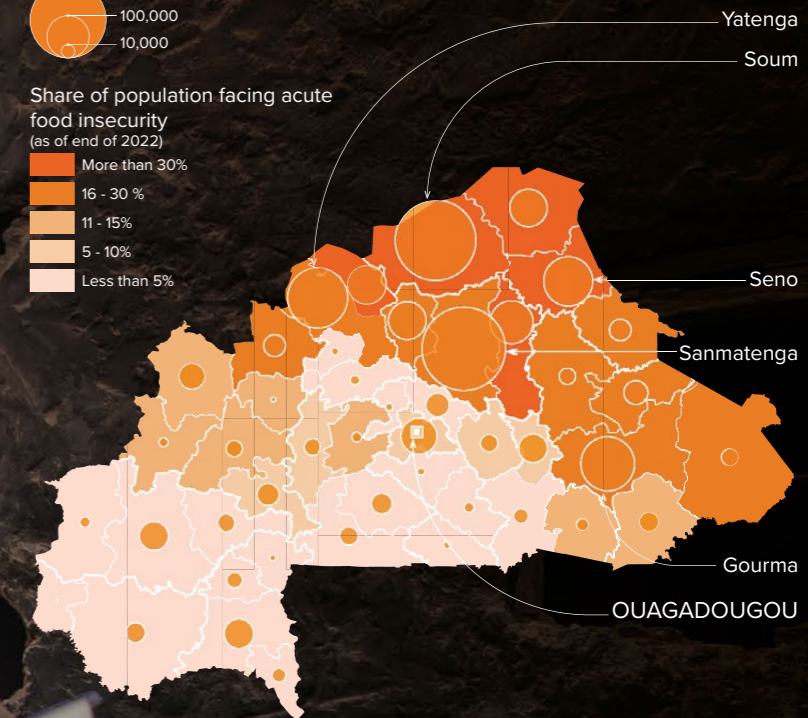
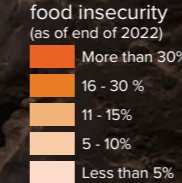
IDPs in Sanmatenga, for example, were almost three times more likely to be acutely food insecure than host community members, pointing to their heightened vulnerability. The figures for Soum, by contrast, were almost the same for IDPs and host community members, indicating generalised levels of need.⁴³⁶ This was partly the result of a blockade of the provincial capital of Djibo in place since February 2022, which has severely interrupted supply lines, impeded humanitarian access and increased food insecurity for all inhabitants. Djibo has received more than 250,000 IDPs since 2019, making up more than three-quarters of the city's population.⁴³⁷

Burkina Faso is one of the few countries where data on internal displacement and food insecurity as per IPC measurements is disaggregated at the sub-national level and by displacement status, making it possible to unveil the true scale of these overlapping crises and to unpack their temporal and spatial footprints.⁴³⁸ This provides useful information for the design of humanitarian programming.

Total IDPs by conflict and violence (as of end of 2022)



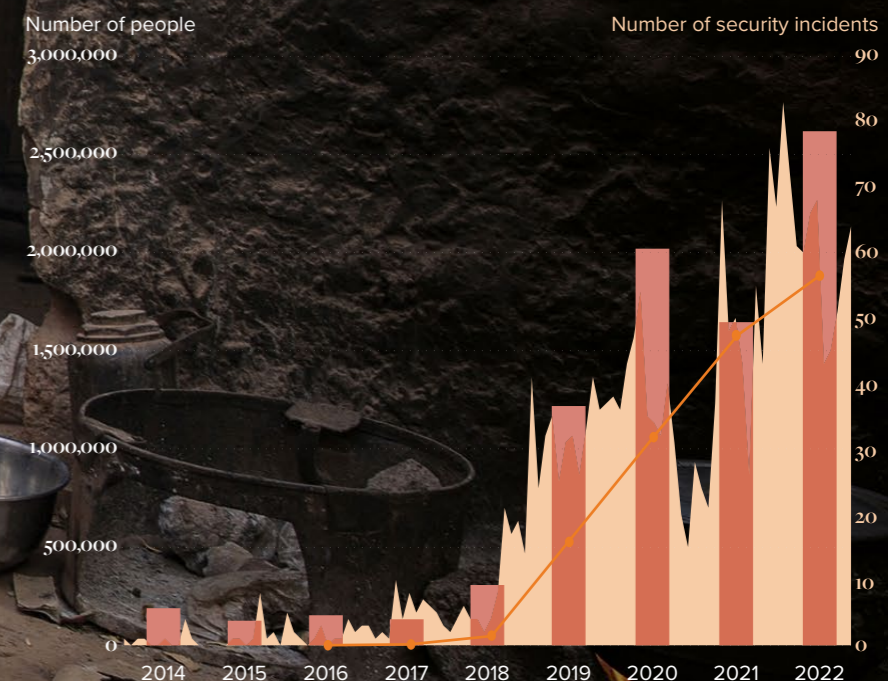
Share of population facing acute food insecurity (as of end of 2022)



Number of people
3,000,000
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0

Number of security incidents
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

Legend:
■ Total IDPs by conflict and violence (as of end of 2022)
■ Number of people facing acute food insecurity (as of end of 2022)
▲ Number of security incidents (involving at least one fatality)



Sources: CONASUR, Cadre Harmonisé, ACLED.

A woman cooks outside in Burkina Faso, where internal displacement and food insecurity are overlapping. © NRC/ Ingebjørg Kårstad, 2021

When conflict breaks out or a disaster strikes, they may damage or destroy assets, resources and non-food items (NFIs) needed to make food systems work. People who produce food or work in the supply chain may be injured, killed, forced to move or simply unable to fulfil their usual roles. Food markets will then be disrupted, leading to shortages and market volatility, which in turn undermines communities' or even a country's food security.⁴³⁹ Many factors play a role in fuelling conflict, disasters and food insecurity, and depending on how they combine they may force people into displacement.

Conflict and violence

Conflict and violence are major triggers of internal displacement, and also some of the main causes of acute food insecurity globally, including through the disruption of the production and distribution of food.⁴⁴⁰ In Syria, urban sieges and transport blockades have been common since the start of the conflict and have played a significant role in increasing food insecurity.⁴⁴¹ Having faced acute levels, some trapped populations fled en masse when sieges were lifted.⁴⁴²

The conflict has led to a slowdown in agricultural production over the years, a situation aggravated by an economic crisis and sanctions that have made it difficult for farmers to buy the machinery, fertiliser and other non-food items they need to produce food.⁴⁴³ Syria's food security has deteriorated significantly as a result, and its reliance on imports and humanitarian aid has increased, leading to a steep rise in the cost of the basic food basket.⁴⁴⁴ IDPs who initially fled conflict increasingly cite food insecurity as the main reason for their onward movement.⁴⁴⁵

Elsewhere, parties to conflict and violence may deliberately target food systems and stocks and deny populations access to essential commodities and humanitarian assistance.⁴⁴⁶ Non-state armed groups looted food stocks last year in the DRC, where escalating clashes between the armed forces and the M23 movement in

particular also disrupted the production and distribution of food and the provision of aid in eastern provinces.⁴⁴⁷ Several towns where IDPs were sheltering were inaccessible for days, leaving them and their hosts to face food shortages (see spotlight, p. 27).⁴⁴⁸

Conflict, displacement and food insecurity have also overlapped in Yemen. The country's main port of Hodeidah, which is vital for the import of food, medicines and fuel, became the scene of intense urban conflict in 2018. The fighting hampered the delivery of life-saving assistance to more than 20 million people.⁴⁴⁹ A food silo used by the UN and a food delivery truck were also attacked.⁴⁵⁰ Many people were forced to flee Hodeidah and the surrounding area in search of safety, services and humanitarian aid, including food, moving to other cities including Sana'a, Aden and Taiz.⁴⁵¹ Hodeidah was still affected by conflict and internal displacement in 2022, and remains a vital port for importing food aid.

Lack of opportunities, prevalent humanitarian needs and food insecurity make IDPs vulnerable to exploitation and recruitment by non-state armed groups. They may be more susceptible to join their ranks as a negative coping mechanism, which fuels further conflict and instability.⁴⁵² In Nigeria, for instance, Boko Haram has exploited food insecurity and lack of livelihoods to recruit fighters. This, in turn, is fuelling further conflict, displacement and food insecurity.⁴⁵³

6m
people faced acute food insecurity in Pakistan as the worst floods in a decade hit the country

Disasters

Sudden-onset hazards, such as torrential rains, floods, cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, trigger mass displacement every year. They also damage or destroy crops and food stocks, warehouses and other assets needed to produce, deliver and sell food.⁴⁵⁴ Slow-onset hazards, such as drought, erosion and salinisation, may render entire areas unsuitable for agriculture and force communities to move. When both types of disaster combine, their impacts can be devastating and displacement may become prolonged.

Pakistan's southern province of Sindh is a case in point. The province, which is key to the country's agricultural production, suffered severe drought in 2021 and early 2022. The situation prompted the government to issue alerts as water scarcity became a major threat to the production of crops such as cotton and wheat, undermining the livelihoods of millions of farmers.⁴⁵⁵

The monsoon floods of August 2022 left 18 per cent of the province under water, triggering mass displacement and severely damaging crops (see spotlight, p. 69).⁴⁵⁶ National losses to the agricultural sector amounted to \$9.2 billion, 72 per cent of which were recorded in Sindh.⁴⁵⁷

Many warned that the floods could trigger a food crisis, which turned out to be an accurate prediction.⁴⁵⁸ Almost six million people faced IPC 3+ levels of food insecurity across Pakistan at the height of the monsoon in July and

August. More than half of them were in Sindh, which together with Balochistan were the provinces where most flood displacement was recorded.⁴⁵⁹

Displacement and agricultural losses have also been significant in Honduras after back-to-back disasters. Hurricanes Eta and Iota triggered 918,000 internal displacements in two weeks in November 2020. Many farmers were affected, with widespread implications for the agricultural sector across 16 departments. Crops such as coffee and bananas, which account for a significant proportion of the country's exports and GDP, were damaged.⁴⁶⁰

Honduras sits in Central America's dry corridor and drought has also played a role in recent years in reducing harvests and undermining farmers' resilience. The combined effects of drought and the 2020 storms halved agricultural production and heightened food insecurity, forcing many to flee internally and across borders.⁴⁶¹ To tackle the situation, the government and its partners see revamping agricultural production as one of the main priorities in the coming years and the most sustainable way of addressing both food insecurity and displacement.⁴⁶²

In Afghanistan, drought and floods have combined with conflict to aggravate displacement and food insecurity.⁴⁶³ Similar situations arise in other countries too, South Sudan being a case in point (see spotlight, p. 101).⁴⁶⁴

Spotlight – South Sudan: floods, violence and food insecurity fuel ongoing crisis

A combination of floods, conflict and food insecurity triggered 933,000 internal displacements in South Sudan in 2022, the second highest on record for the country. Conflict and violence accounted for 337,000 and floods 596,000. The country experienced above-average rainfall for a fourth consecutive year. The floods, which affected 36 counties, 31 of which reported displacement, also caused widespread agricultural damage.⁴⁶⁵ Nearly 54 per cent of the population, or around 6.6 million people, were classified as facing acute, or IPC phase 3+, levels of food insecurity by the end of November as a result.⁴⁶⁶

Rains and floods were prevalent throughout the year and by October two-thirds of the country were under water. The floods affected displaced communities living in camps and some built dikes to prevent further displacement. Impassable roads impeded the provision of food and other aid to more than 460,000 IDPs in Bentiu, the capital of Unity state.⁴⁶⁷

Humanitarian organisations had to adopt other means of delivery, including by air and boat.⁴⁶⁸ Between July and October, however, non-state armed groups increased the number of checkpoints along White Nile river. They looted convoys and extorted organisations for money and supplies.⁴⁶⁹ The disruption of humanitarian supply lines reduced stocks, hampered the functioning of food markets and increased prices, aggravating food insecurity.⁴⁷⁰

Some analyses have suggested a correlation between climate anomalies, localised violence and increased displacement risk in South Sudan.⁴⁷¹ On top of heightened climate variability, cattle raids, revenge attacks and violence against civilians by armed cattle keepers further disturbed pastoralists' habitual mobility patterns and triggered at least 257,000 displacements.⁴⁷² These dynamics, which often have an ethnic dimension, represent a challenge to the implementation of the revitalised peace agreement signed in 2018.⁴⁷³

Development and governance interventions will be key to breaking this vicious cycle. South Sudan's government launched a four-year project in May with support from the International Organization for Migration and the Dutch government to reduce flood risk by developing local early warning systems, water management and flood resilient infrastructure.⁴⁷⁴ The Food and Agriculture Organization also launched a multi-year strategy to support agricultural development. South Sudan has significant potential to produce food, but only four per cent of prime agricultural land is consistently cultivated.⁴⁷⁵ Combined with renewed efforts to implement the peace agreement, these initiatives could help tackle the country's ongoing displacement and food security crises.⁴⁷⁶



A woman carries her child through waters in South Sudan where flooding triggered 596,000 internal displacements in 2022 and led to widespread destruction of crops and heightened food insecurity. © Action Against Hunger/Peter Caton, 2022

Social and economic impacts

Internal displacement has significant impacts on food security for both displaced and non-displaced populations. Evidence suggests conditions are often worse for IDPs, who tend to lower their food intake as a result of their displacement, regardless of its trigger. Their food insecurity also tends to get worse the more often they are displaced. Understanding how these characteristics manifest in different situations is key to the design of policies and interventions to reduce food insecurity for all populations affected by displacement.

A survey conducted by IDMC in several countries shed light on the impacts of displacement on IDPs' food security. In Cameroon, 87 per cent of survey respondents displaced by conflict and violence reported difficulties accessing food, an increase of 66 percentage points on the figure before their displacement. Only about 20 per cent of non-displaced respondents in the same areas faced similar difficulties. In Mali, 61 per cent of IDPs reported difficulties accessing food, three times more than before their displacement and significantly more than their non-displaced counterparts.⁴⁷⁷ Figures for both countries show that those forced to move repeatedly face higher levels of food insecurity. In Mali, for example, 85 per cent of respondents who had been displaced twice reported difficulties accessing food, compared with 57 per cent of those who had been displaced once.

In Niger's Diffa region, 42 per cent of respondents displaced by floods faced difficulties accessing food, compared with 16 per cent before their displacement and again a higher figure than among non-displaced people in the same area.⁴⁷⁸ More than two-thirds said they had reduced the quantity of the

food they consumed, and a third had borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives to eat. Eight per cent reported having had to send their children to stay with relatives because of the difficulties they faced in accessing food. These negative coping strategies were more frequent among people who had been displaced more than once.

Multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) conducted by IMPACT Initiatives in several more countries in 2022 also found that IDPs had to adopt coping strategies to secure enough food.⁴⁷⁹ More than half of those surveyed in Colombia said they had reduced the quality or quantity of food they ate, skipped meals or borrowed food or money.⁴⁸⁰ Another assessment made by WFP revealed that 30 per cent of IDPs surveyed in Iraq also said they had resorted to food-based coping strategies to survive. They cited high food prices, loss of livelihoods and insecurity as their main concerns.⁴⁸¹

Rural communities, indigenous people, farmers and pastoralists usually rely on natural resources as a source of food and income, but when forced to move they leave those resources behind. Many are unable to find alternative income-generating activities in their host areas, which increases their food insecurity.⁴⁸² This is particularly true for those who move to urban settings. Drought near the Ethiopian city of Gode not only led to urban displacement, but also to the death of IDPs' cattle, further undermining their livelihoods and food security.⁴⁸³ People displaced by violence to the Nigerian city of Jos also said they had struggled to sustain themselves after leaving their farms behind and being unable to establish alternative livelihoods.⁴⁸⁴

Internal displacement may also affect non-displaced communities' food security, but more data is needed to fully understand how. One study conducted in northern Nigeria shows that the arrival of IDPs increased demand for food, stretching the capacity of local markets and increasing difficulties for all in the area, including host communities.⁴⁸⁵ More in-depth assessments of this kind would help to fully unpack these implications and understand how food availability and price variations shape food security outcomes for all populations affected by conflict and disasters. They would also help to better direct often limited humanitarian resources to where they are most needed.

Access constraints take many forms and can represent a major barrier to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including food, in many displacement situations. They may be physical, when floods make roads impassable or natural hazards otherwise cut off beneficiaries, or they may be the result of conflict, insecurity or violence against humanitarians. Authorities or non-state armed groups may prevent needs assessments or the delivery of aid, or IDPs may not be captured in assessments because of other constraints. Some may not be able to receive aid without presenting identity documents, which many IDPs lose during their flight.⁴⁸⁶ The issue of access needs careful attention, given its potential to increase or reduce food insecurity.

Intersecting vulnerabilities

Internal displacement aggravates people's pre-existing vulnerabilities. Surveys conducted in Cameroon, Kenya, Mali and Niger in early 2023 show that IDPs from lower income groups, ethnolinguistic, religious or cultural minorities, or those living with long-term illnesses or disabilities are at higher risk of falling into extreme poverty and isolation, with repercussions for various aspects of their

lives, including their food security.⁴⁸⁷ Displaced households that include at least one person with a disability also consistently reported more difficulties accessing food than households without one, regardless of the events that triggered their displacement.⁴⁸⁸

Food security and nutrition assessments reveal higher levels of malnutrition among internally displaced children than their non-displaced peers, which can be due to their families' loss of livelihoods, but also poor water, hygiene and sanitation conditions in displacement sites.⁴⁸⁹ Undernourished children may have impaired physical and cognitive development, and they are more likely to be forced into child labour or early marriage.⁴⁹⁰ In South Sudan, for instance, an assessment conducted in 2022 found that the food insecurity situation was increasing the risk of early and forced marriage among girls.⁴⁹¹ Our understanding of such issues is far from complete, because most of the information available on food insecurity, malnutrition and internal displacement is captured at the household level and is not disaggregated by age.⁴⁹²

When such data is available, it reveals how impacts are differentiated across different age groups. Findings from the surveys conducted by IDMC show that IDPs aged 60 and over report more difficulties accessing food.⁴⁹³ Older IDPs may also be left out of nutritional support and food distribution programmes, or their specific needs may not be recognised. Displacement also tends to isolate them from their social networks.⁴⁹⁴ They can have difficulties in registering for rations, attending food distributions or carrying food and water to their shelter.⁴⁹⁵

Gender norms play a role in women's access to food and livelihoods before and during displacement.⁴⁹⁶ Female IDPs tend to be more food insecure than their male counterparts. In the East and West Hararghe zones of Ethiopia, displaced female heads of household were less involved in



People displaced during tropical cyclone Eloise of 2021 queue for food at Tica Relocation Center in Mozambique. © UNICEF/UN0407060/Ricardo Franco, January 2021

income-generating activities than male heads of households, and were more prone to food shortages.⁴⁹⁷ Female heads of household in displacement camps in north-east Nigeria said they had difficulty accessing food and non-food items because of their marital status.⁴⁹⁸ In some areas of Pakistan, only men were given permission to go to relief distribution points to receive aid and supplies after the 2022 monsoon floods.⁴⁹⁹ Without adequate food and nutrition, displaced pregnant and lactating women are particularly at risk of immediate and longer-term health consequences.⁵⁰⁰

The differentiated impacts of internal displacement are often the result of overlapping factors of marginalisation and discrimination, multi-dimensional poverty, insecurity and increased protection risks. Understanding the specific vulnerabilities different groups of IDPs face by collecting inclusive and disaggregated data and using it to inform tailored programming, is key to preventing and responding to food insecurity in displacement situations effectively. This should be complemented by assessments of the economic impacts of IDPs' food insecurity (see box 2 p. 106).

Children, elderly people, people with disabilities and pregnant and lactating women living in internal displacement have all been shown to be at heightened risk of malnutrition and food insecurity

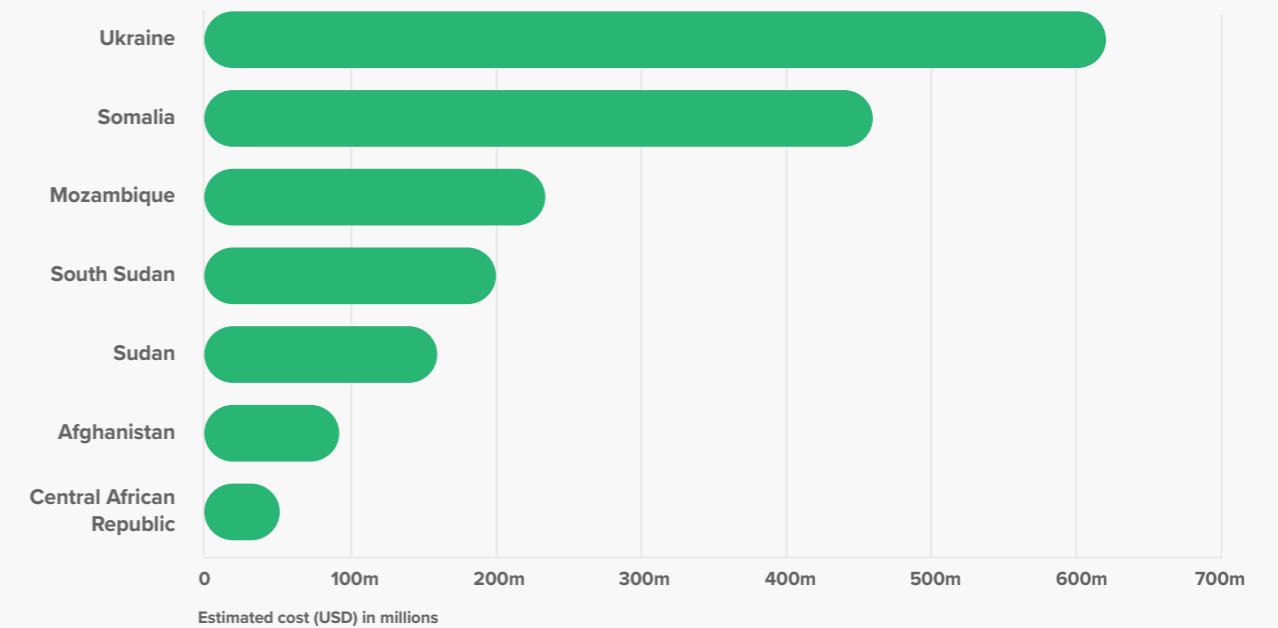
BOX 2:

Economic impacts of IDPs' food insecurity

Internal displacement has significant financial consequences at the individual, national and global level.⁵⁰¹ Based on an analysis of information published on 18 countries in OCHA's humanitarian response plans (HRPs), its humanitarian needs overviews (HNOs) and other sources, IDMC estimated that the economic cost of addressing IDPs' basic needs for one year of displacement was about \$21.5 billion globally in 2021. The cost of addressing their food needs accounted for a quarter of the total.⁵⁰²

Based on data from HNOs and HRPs published in 2023 for seven countries, the average cost of providing each IDP with food security assistance for a year was estimated at \$131, ranging from \$53 in Sudan to \$224 in Mozambique. This includes the provision of food, and in some cases seed, livestock and agricultural tools, cash-for-work programmes and cash grants to build productive assets and create income-generating activities.⁵⁰³ Additional resources are dedicated to preventing malnutrition among displaced children under five and pregnant and lactating women. The estimated average cost of this for the seven countries was \$84 per person, ranging from \$38 in CAR to \$144 in South Sudan.

The cost of providing food security assistance to all IDPs in need in Ukraine for one year would be over \$621 million, the highest for all of the countries assessed.⁵⁰⁴ The total cost of providing food security and nutrition assistance to IDPs across the seven countries would be more than \$1.8 billion. The cost of providing humanitarian assistance in different countries depends on the severity of the crisis, market fluctuations, the type of interventions planned, the cost of supplies and logistics support and other factors. Fully unpacking these costs can inform actions and investments to respond to food security and internal displacement.



Estimated cost of providing food security and nutrition to all IDPs in need in 2023 via humanitarian response plans ⁵⁰⁵

Longer-term repercussions

When displacement is large-scale and becomes protracted, repercussions can extend to societies as a whole and affect food systems in the long term.⁵⁰⁶ In Colombia, many farmers have moved permanently to urban areas as a result of the country's protracted conflict.⁵⁰⁷ Non-state armed groups have also imposed movement restrictions, which has further hampered the production and transport of food. This amounts to a double-edged sword in that displaced communities who rely on agricultural production and trade to sustain their livelihoods are unable to produce and sell food, while movement restrictions and other impacts of the conflict have further heightened their food insecurity. The local and regional impacts of this have been significant, particularly for displaced smallholders.⁵⁰⁸

In northern Ethiopia, 80 per cent of the population relied on agriculture as their main source of income and food before conflict erupted in November 2020. As the conflict unfolded, crops were burned and pillaged, forcing farmers to abandon their land. Agricultural tools and livestock were destroyed, access to fields was restricted and the transport of food was blocked. These factors increased food insecurity across the region.⁵⁰⁹

Some displaced farmers were able to return after a truce in March 2022, but damage to their land and equipment continued to hinder food production. Most of the planting season had already passed by the time they returned, and this, combined with extended drought, prevented farmers from beginning a new production cycle that might have improved the food security of displaced and non-displaced populations alike.⁵¹⁰ Ethiopia is also highly dependent on imports of fuel, wheat and fertilisers, and rising commodity prices as a result of the war in Ukraine have added another layer of hardship to the situation.⁵¹¹

Reliance on food assistance was high in all areas affected by the conflict in 2022 as a result, but numerous challenges, including blockades and looting, impeded the provision of aid.⁵¹² In an effort to address the situation, the UN provided farmers in Tigray with a \$10 million loan in August to increase the supply of fertilisers and boost agricultural production.⁵¹³ This was followed by a ceasefire agreement, which allowed the establishment of four humanitarian aid corridors into Tigray from neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions. Thousands of trucks delivered aid, mostly food, preventing the food security situation from deteriorating further.⁵¹⁴

Longer-term investments are needed to strengthen the resilience of communities affected by and at risk of displacement and to increase opportunities for IDPs to return to their homes or integrate into their host communities, access land and re-establish their livelihoods. Doing so would not only benefit their welfare and well-being and reduce the need for humanitarian assistance. It would also strengthen food systems and improve stability and socioeconomic development of all.



A teenage girl fetches water from a well before school starts in Ethiopia. Gender norms play a role in women's access to food and livelihoods before, during and after displacement. © UNICEF/UN0694032/ Demissew Bizuwerk, August 2022

Food security and durable solutions

Increasing levels of internal displacement and worsening food insecurity globally call for concerted efforts to address the two issues together. This section discusses actions that could be taken to do so by designing and implementing evidence-based policies and programmes for durable solutions. It also discusses some of the main data gaps that need to be filled.

Support IDPs via cash assistance and social protection

The traditional provision of food aid still forms part of responses in the immediate aftermath of shocks, but there has been a shift in the last decade in the way humanitarian organisations support people in need. Stakeholders working on food security have increasingly taken anticipatory action, successfully shifting the paradigm from emergency aid to providing other forms of assistance, including cash, to build resilience.⁵¹⁵

WFP launched its anticipatory action agenda in 2015 to support governments and communities in better preparing for and recovering from climate shocks through financing and early warning. It has since been implemented in 21 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, covering about two million people in 2022.⁵¹⁶

The 2020 floods in Bangladesh were some of the most devastating in the country's history. They triggered 1.9 million internal displacements, but successful anticipatory action reduced their long-term impacts on IDPs.⁵¹⁷ To support communities at risk, WFP collaborated with the government, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre to distribute unconditional

cash transfers to households along the Jamuna river up to four days before the waters reached their highest levels. This helped them buy food and move their assets to safer areas.⁵¹⁸ An independent evaluation showed that most people used the money to buy food and water, which increased their food security during and after the floods.⁵¹⁹

Unconditional cash assistance is a viable and flexible option to address the immediate needs of people affected by crises, giving them choices in how to manage their own expenses. This is particularly relevant for IDPs, whose priorities and needs change as a result of leaving their homes and livelihoods behind. Food may become one of their most pressing needs, and having the means to buy it may reduce their risk of becoming food insecure and help them to recover from their plight.⁵²⁰

In countries vulnerable to drought, destocking livestock helps to minimise herders' losses and works well when there is an imminent risk of an economic downturn. Before the Horn of Africa drought in 2017, FAO bought animals from pastoralists in Ethiopia's Somali region who were at high risk of hunger, poverty and displacement. By buying sheep and goats that were already weak at fair prices, the scheme created a market where it had collapsed, and provided the pastoralists with much needed financial support to cope with the situation.⁵²¹ Humanitarian organisations have started to implement similar initiatives in Niger.⁵²²

Such short-term measures help to avert major losses, but they do not address longer-term challenges, particularly in countries where drought, conflict and displacement become protracted. They tend to be bound to specific

Anticipatory action, including cash assistance, can reduce the impacts of food insecurity linked with displacement

Social protection systems offer another form of solution, particularly when tailored to address the specific vulnerabilities of groups like IDPs

projects' budgets and timeframes, and humanitarian agencies do not have the financial resources to ensure their continuity and bridge them with social protection schemes led by governments and their development partners. More flexible and longer-term funding is key to preventing and responding to food security and internal displacement crises in a sustainable way.⁵²³

Both FAO and WFP have supported governments in developing and maintaining social protection systems for food security and nutrition.⁵²⁴ Some of these initiatives have had positive outcomes for IDPs and their hosts, but internal displacement has not always been explicitly included in them, making it difficult to identify good practices. Such information would be valuable in developing policies and interventions to tackle the overlapping effects of displacement and food insecurity.

One recent study sheds light on the nascent field of social protection for IDPs and the importance of safety nets to respond to internal displacement. It highlights a significant disconnect between data systems for displaced and non-displaced people. Very few countries operate systems that cover both populations but differentiate between them, which makes IDPs' specific needs and the challenges they face in accessing social protection services invisible.⁵²⁵ It is essential that priority be given to filling this gap, particularly because stakeholders that provide social protection for food insecure people may not always be aligned with those providing similar services

for IDPs, which leads to uncoordinated efforts, unnecessary overlaps and financial inconsistencies.

Colombia is a good example of a country that links humanitarian assistance to IDPs' social protection. It has several social protection schemes, the main one being the System of Identification of Potential Beneficiaries of Social Programmes, or SISBEN by its Spanish acronym. SISBEN provides a score which is calculated based on a series of indicators that measure vulnerability, including food insecurity. This allows the government to tailor social protection for different population groups. IDPs and other victims of the country's conflict who are registered in its victims' registry are integrated in the SISBEN database, which allows government agencies and other partners to support them via cash transfers and other forms of social protection.⁵²⁶ WFP, for example, has aligned its food assistance interventions with the national system.⁵²⁷

Another recent study shows how Colombia's social protection scheme has been successful in supporting IDPs as well as vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and concludes that it is a good example of a government-led initiative able to adapt quickly to the fast-changing needs of beneficiaries. The study acknowledges the value that international agencies bring in responding to displacement, but it underscores the importance of aligning their interventions with government priorities and social protection structures.⁵²⁸

Support livelihoods and skills development for IDPs' self-reliance

It is clear that IDPs should be central to their own solutions, but their role in humanitarian responses is not always considered, making them passive recipients of aid. Both donors and humanitarian organisations have acknowledged this major gap in recent years, and have called for a substantial review of the way assistance is provided to put people's agency at the heart of responses. Focusing only on their needs tends to eclipse their capacity to overcome them, diminishing their role in achieving durable solutions and longer-term development.⁵²⁹

Shifting such an approach is all the more relevant in countries affected by the overlapping impacts of displacement and food insecurity. Long-term solutions to either or both phenomena cannot rely on the humanitarian response alone, but must make use of IDPs' knowledge and capacities to establish or rebuild their chosen livelihoods. Beyond providing cash assistance and social protection, supporting their livelihoods is key to their self-reliance and sustainable recovery. It is important to leverage the role they have as farmers, labourers, vendors, consumers and entrepreneurs, and their potential to contribute to rebuilding and maintaining food systems and positively shape food security outcomes.⁵³⁰

Sudan provides an example of such good practice, considering the ongoing situation that is taking place in the country. Strengthening Livelihoods Security for Peace and Recovery in Darfur, a project led by the UN Development Programme, focuses on expanding livelihoods and improving economic development as a means of supporting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among communities affected by conflict. It seeks to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups, including IDPs, returnees and host communities, through greater access to productive assets and markets, helping to reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid.⁵³¹



An indigenous man farms on terraces in Chocó, Colombia. After being displaced by the armed conflict, his community has been living in a situation of forced confinement.

© NRC, October 2022

The project has also addressed access to natural resources and strengthened the capacity of national authorities to lead and sustain recovery. The interventions have reached around 12,000 households across 15 localities and have gradually expanded from one state to the next, providing productive infrastructure such as warehouses, livelihood hubs and dams, establishing or reactivating producer associations and developing groundnut and Arabic gum value chains.⁵³²

Another key element of the project is to link producer groups with private sector entities that can connect them to markets and provide financing and access to new technologies for more productive farming. It has also helped to restore interdependence between livelihood groups, namely sedentary farmers and nomadic herders, which broke down after the escalation of conflict about two decades ago.⁵³³

The former depend on the nomads for milk and meat, while the latter depend on farmers for fodder, deterring further conflict and motivating the parties

to engage in mediation. The project established peace and development committees with farmers and nomads to provide an avenue for conflict resolution, which has helped to increase trust and reduce friction. It shows the importance of involving host communities and other stakeholders in creating shared benefits.⁵³⁴

Similar initiatives could be extended to other countries affected by the overlapping effects of internal displacement and food insecurity, but they would need to be adapted to local realities. In camp-like settings, for example, IDPs' integration into food systems may be challenging, because camps may be located away from local markets and the availability of agricultural land may be limited.

Leveraging IDPs' existing skillsets in support of livelihoods is key to building self-reliance and enabling sustainable recovery

That said, it is not impossible. Humanitarian partners in Cameroon worked hand-in-hand with people displaced by violence in the Far North region to support their livelihoods via agriculture. Coming from different backgrounds and with different skills, IDPs living in the Ardjaniré camp found themselves jobless and dependent on aid. The project provided them with plots of land and a communal garden where they could plant crops, and supported them with training to acquire skills that would be useful to them in both the short and long term. The project allowed IDPs to meet their own dietary needs and send their children to school.⁵³⁵

This example also shows that IDPs who have never farmed can still engage in agriculture, and that skills development is essential in supporting their livelihoods and self-reliance.⁵³⁶ This is equally if not more important in rural-to-urban displacement situations, where agricultural activities are unlikely to be an option for displaced farmers and pastoralists as their skills may not be easily transferable. Beyond food production, it is important to underscore that the food and agriculture sector can create jobs across the food value chain, which displaced communities can benefit from and contribute to.

Regardless of the specific characteristics of each crisis, acting from the early stages of the humanitarian response cycle and giving flexible support tailored to IDPs' needs will be key. Such support should be accompanied by at-scale investments in areas crucial to successful livelihoods such as access to land and water, markets, agri-business capacity building and climate change adaptation.⁵³⁷ Harnessing the role of the food and agriculture sector in displacement situations has the potential to support durable solutions by increasing food security and communities' and countries' self-reliance at the same time.

Fill the data gaps

Partners leading global efforts to monitor food insecurity have made important contributions to our understanding of the phenomenon by collecting data, producing analysis and communicating its status across some of the world's most acute humanitarian crises to a wide range of stakeholders.⁵³⁸ Many assessments, however, do not disaggregate data by displacement status, limiting our understanding of how IDPs may be unevenly affected by food insecurity.

Nor are many datasets disaggregated in other ways, including by gender, which hampers the production of more in-depth analyses of the differentiated impacts of displacement and food insecurity on vulnerable groups.⁵³⁹ The lack of disaggregated and longitudinal data also limits our understanding of how displacement affects broader food systems.⁵⁴⁰

Filling this gap is complex, and requires stakeholders working on food security and displacement to collaborate and consider the relationship between the two phenomena as an integral part of their data collection efforts. There may be significant financial, logistical and methodological obstacles, but ensuring the inclusion of millions of IDPs who may be suffering disproportionately from food insecurity should be considered a priority.⁵⁴¹

Some food security assessments take IDPs into consideration, but their methodologies, indicators, geographical coverage and reporting timeframes often differ. This means much of the data is not interoperable, which constitutes a barrier to the provision of a comparable, up-to-date global baseline of food security among IDPs.

More data is needed to inform action aimed at resolving food insecurity and advancing solutions for IDPs



Boys sit beside a pond of contaminated flood water near Zangi Brohi Village in Sindh, Pakistan. Along with Balochistan, the provinces hosted 90 per cent of those displaced by the floods. © UNICEF/UN0761217/Arsalan Butt, January 2023

This also applies at the sub-national level. In countries that report significant numbers of internal displacements every year, such as Kenya, Madagascar and Pakistan, food security assessments only cover certain geographical areas. Accurate assessment is even more difficult given the dynamic nature of displacement, which may mean IDPs move in or out of areas covered by food security assessments.

There are also gaps in internal displacement data itself. The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics have been essential in aligning stakeholders to produce more interoperable data, but fully implementing the recommendations across all countries for both conflict and disaster displacement is still a challenge.⁵⁴² Nor does food security tend to be included when displacement data is collected, though doing so could be highly beneficial in complementing assessments such as IPC/CH, capturing information they do not, and providing greater insight into how the two phenomena overlap.⁵⁴³

Good practices exist. IOM's displacement tracking matrix (DTM) has worked with the global food security cluster to incorporate food security indicators into its custom-built data dictionary, a repository of all expert-informed survey indicators and questions for its survey tools.⁵⁴⁴ DTM's multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) are conducted at location level through regular key informant interviews, and include indicators on the availability of food and cooking fuel, and barriers to accessing food and food distribution services. Food security stakeholders can ask DTM to collect this data.⁵⁴⁵

DTM has also included household-level food security indicators in its data dictionary, including questions to calculate food consumption scores, dietary diversity scores and the reduced coping strategy index. These indicators are aligned globally and DTM can be asked to include them in household surveys it administers, including as part of MSNAs.⁵⁴⁶

IMPACT Initiatives' REACH has been conducting MSNAs since 2016 using semi-standardised data collection and analysis tools. A key objective is to understand how needs vary between different groups, particularly IDPs, returnees and non-displaced populations. They inform humanitarian stakeholders of the most pressing needs households report and facilitate inter-sectoral analysis by identifying the concurrence of needs across territories and population groups. MSNAs cover food security and livelihoods, which helps to understand and compare the needs of displaced and non-displaced populations. MSNAs were conducted in 20 countries last year, providing greater insight into how IDPs specifically experience food insecurity.⁵⁴⁷

There are many other measurements and tools which, while they may have a range of methods and objectives, could be used in one way or another to understand how agricultural production, food markets and supply chains play a role in food insecurity and displacement dynamics.⁵⁴⁸ Tools and systems will need to be designed to monitor and analyse vulnerabilities and identify how and to what extent food market shocks have ripple effects on displaced and non-displaced people's food insecurity.

Most data collection and analysis takes place in the early stages of crises, but it tends to stop soon after the most acute phase is over. This approach serves short-term planning and response purposes, but it does not measure or help to understand the chronic dimensions of food insecurity in protracted displacement situations. The widespread use of short-term, project-based funding plays a role in these practices. More flexible multi-year funding is needed to support the gathering of information on chronic hunger and malnutrition over time.

The production and analysis of time-series data would help partners to understand food security dynamics before situations reach crisis levels, and to tackle the structural factors that drive the risk of

repeated and protracted displacement. Understanding how food prices and communities' resilience to shocks vary over time and in periods outside crises would help to identify which sectors and population groups require the most pressing interventions to reduce the risk of both displacement and food insecurity.

All of this said, quantitative data collection and analysis will not suffice to unpack the different aspects and cross-cutting factors that influence such a complex dynamic. To do so calls for mixed-method approaches that combine quantitative and qualitative assessments to inform tailored and actionable policies on food security and durable solutions.

Producing more joint analyses would also help to shed light on the common drivers and impacts of displacement and food insecurity. Initiatives such as the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), a technical platform that brings together key stakeholders from the sector and agencies working on displacement, including IOM and UNHCR, should be strengthened. FSIN has helped to elevate the issue of food insecurity among displaced populations by running analyses and reporting on some of the key situations, including in its Global Report on Food Crises.⁵⁴⁹

Implementing the suggestions and overcoming the challenges discussed here will only be possible if stakeholders collaborate and share data. Strengthening current partnerships and establishing new ones would also benefit our common understanding of what drives displacement and food insecurity and our ability to identify good practices from around the world.



A potato farmer in Colombia. Many farmers have moved permanently to urban areas as a result of the country's protracted conflict.
© Getty Images/Daniel Munoz/AFP, February 2022

Conclusion

This year's GRID coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. We have made significant progress since their publication in better monitoring and reporting on the trends, patterns and impacts of the phenomenon. We have also made our data and analyses available to decision makers and practitioners to guide the development of policies and programmes to support those displaced by conflict, violence, disasters and climate change effects. This had led to increased awareness of the need to invest in durable solutions and prevention at the global level.

The number of people living in displacement worldwide continues to rise, however, as do the number of new movements recorded each year. Conflict displacement continues to be a major concern from sub-Saharan Africa to Ukraine, but disaster displacement had a much larger geographical footprint last year. The phenomenon was recorded in 148 countries and territories, and at a scale previously unseen in many. We are, however, still missing a significant part of the picture, given that displacement triggered by slow-onset hazards linked to climate change is still largely unaccounted for.

The fact that these displacement trends are set against the backdrop of food insecurity that is aggravating many of the world's most acute humanitarian crises is also alarming, and calls for renewed efforts to tackle their common drivers and impacts. The complex links between the two phenomena have yet to be fully unpacked, but the evidence presented in this report shows that they are often intertwined and reinforce each other to create lasting vulnerabilities and numerous challenges for IDPs, their host communities and the governments

and aid providers supporting them. Without comprehensive information and analysis on how they overlap, we will not be able to provide meaningful, long-term solutions to what is a growing challenge.

For this to succeed, creating partnerships and collaborating to tackle their common drivers will be key. Beyond providing IDPs with assistance to meet their immediate humanitarian needs, we should continue to invest in and improve initiatives that support their resilience to shocks via anticipatory action and risk reduction measures. Doing so through a development lens would help to tackle the underlying drivers of displacement including poverty, inequality and climate change.

Examples of good practice from around the world already exist, and they bring hope that such solutions are achievable. Encouraging sustainable livelihoods and allocating the right resources to support IDPs in resolving their plight would also help to prevent future displacement and food insecurity crises, with significant long-term development gains.

We also need to establish comprehensive ways of considering the internal displacement's broader repercussions on communities and societies, including food security, health, education, labour and security. Producing and using more and better data to guide these efforts will be paramount. After 25 years of progress in this direction, we need to continue improving the coverage, granularity, timeliness and disaggregation of internal displacement data, and to complement it with other information needed to understand and address current crises and reduce the risk of them occurring in the future.



A fishing boat returns at sunset after putting out nets for the night in Mangily, Madagascar. © FAO/Alexander Joe, June 2022

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How to read our data

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS

Internal displacements (“flows”)

An “internal displacement” refers to each new forced movement of person within the borders of their country recorded during the year.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPs

Total number of IDPs (“stocks”)

The “total number of IDPs” is a snapshot of all the people living in internal displacement at the end of the year.

What is repeated displacement?

Repeated displacement is when someone is forced to move more than once. Some people become displaced a number of times before finding a solution to their displacement.

🚶 x1	🚶 x2	🚶 x3
100 people were displaced for the first time	100 people displaced twice is counted as 200	100 people displaced three times is counted as 300

A mother and daughter are forced to flee their city in country X when fighting between rival gangs breaks out, resulting in two internal displacements



There were already eight people living in internal displacement as a result of previous conflicts. Two more are added to the total number of IDPs.



Heightened insecurity in the host community sheltering the mother and daughter forces them to flee to a displacement camp.



This counts as a further two internal displacements, but the number of people living in internal displacement stays the same.



An attack on the camp forces the mother and daughter and two other IDPs to flee again in search of safety, in other words triggering four more internal displacements.



Meanwhile two of the 10 people living in internal displacement are able to return home.



We count eight internal displacements triggered by conflict in country X at the end of the year.



$$2+2+4=8$$

We count a total of eight people as living in internal displacement at the end of the year.



$$8+2-2=8$$

Why is the total number of IDPs sometimes higher than the number of internal displacements?

Because the total number of IDPs includes people displaced in previous years and still living in internal displacement.

Previous years	+	Current year	=	Total number of IDPs
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Summary of key figures

Country	Internal displacements in 2022 (disasters)	Internal displacements in 2022 (conflict and violence)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (conflict and violence)
Abyei Area	29,000	56,000		56,000
Afghanistan	220,000	32,000	2,164,000	4,394,000
Albania	320			
Algeria	2,000		1,500	
American Samoa	59		26	
Angola	1,800			
Argentina	730			
Armenia		7,600		8,400
Australia	17,000		9,900	
Azerbaijan	190			659,000
Bangladesh	1,524,000	560	8,600	427,000
Belgium	100			
Belize	5,100		820	
Benin	6,900	1,200	6,900	1,200
Bolivia	3,000		650	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	78		58	91,000
Brazil	708,000	5,600	44,000	5,600
Bulgaria	900		14	
Burkina Faso	2,400	438,000		1,882,000
Burundi	13,000	600	67,000	8,500
Cambodia	28,000		3,900	
Cameroon	66,000	139,000	23,000	987,000
Canada	15,000		280	
Central African Republic	77,000	290,000		516,000
Chad	158,000	80,000		300,000
Chile	1,500		1,500	
China	3,632,000		146,000	
Colombia	281,000	339,000	41,000	4,766,000
Congo	42,000		201,000	27,000
Cook Islands	7			
Costa Rica	1,600			
Côte d'Ivoire	2,500			302,000
Croatia	100		38	
Cuba	90,000			
Cyprus	54			246,000
Dem. People's Rep. Korea	200			
Dem. Rep. Congo	423,000	4,004,000	283,000	5,686,000
Denmark	20			
Djibouti	6,100			
Dominican Republic	54,000		7,900	
Ecuador	6,400		2,200	
El Salvador	4,600	73,000		52,000
Eswatini	360		360	
Ethiopia	873,000	2,032,000	717,000	3,852,000
Fiji	4,800		400	

Country	Internal displacements in 2022 (disasters)	Internal displacements in 2022 (conflict and violence)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (conflict and violence)
Finland	8			
France	45,000		44	
French Polynesia	17			
Gambia	7,000	7,800		5,600
Georgia	430		31,000	308,000
Germany	630			
Ghana	2,700		5,900	
Greece	710		60	
Guadeloupe	150			
Guatemala	74,000	5	7,900	242,000
Guinea	340			
Guyana	120			
Haiti	15,000	106,000	24,000	171,000
Honduras	46,000	260	3,900	247,000
Hong Kong, China	330			
Iceland	56			
India	2,507,000	1,000	32,000	631,000
Indonesia	308,000	7,100	68,000	72,000
Iran	42,000		390	
Iraq	51,000	32,000	69,000	1,169,000
Ireland	26			
Israel		1,100		
Italy	4,100		300	
Japan	51,000		45,000	
Kazakhstan	4,000	120	14	120
Kenya	318,000	15,000	373,000	30,000
Korea	30,000		5,100	
Kosovo	120			16,000
Kuwait	14			
Kyrgyzstan	1,700	166,000	4	4,000
Lao PDR	560		560	
Latvia	27			
Lebanon	35			
Libya		360		135,000
Madagascar	291,000		68,000	2,800
Malawi	297,000			
Malaysia	156,000		680	
Maldives	370			
Mali	24,000	154,000	32,000	380,000
Marshall Islands	28		28	
Mauritania	23,000		23,000	
Mauritius	140			
Mayotte				8
Mexico	11,000	9,200	3,600	386,000

Country	Internal displacements in 2022 (disasters)	Internal displacements in 2022 (conflict and violence)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (conflict and violence)
Mongolia	75		75	
Morocco	9,500			
Mozambique	113,000	283,000	127,000	1,030,000
Myanmar	13,000	1,006,000	3,000	1,498,000
Nepal	93,000		58,000	
New Caledonia	170			150
New Zealand	2,800		150	
Nicaragua	16,000		11	77
Niger	248,000	101,000	5,100	372,000
Nigeria	2,437,000	148,000	854,000	3,646,000
North Macedonia				110
Norway	170			
Oman	45			
Pakistan	8,168,000	680	1,025,000	21,000
Palestine	250	1,800		12,000
Panama	460			
Papua New Guinea	9,600	64,000	190	91,000
Peru	24,000		29,000	73,000
Philippines	5,445,000	123,000	533,000	102,000
Portugal	4,500		3	
Puerto Rico	49,000		58	
Romania	160			
Russia	2,700	7,100	28	7,500
Rwanda	7,800		3,600	
Samoa	14			
São Tomé and Príncipe	240			
Senegal	12,000		460	8,400
Serbia	1			195,000
Sierra Leone	800			3,000
Slovenia	500			
Solomon Islands	11		11	1,000
Somalia	1,152,000	621,000		3,864,000
South Africa	62,000		220	
South Sudan	596,000	337,000	665,000	1,475,000
Spain	31,000		10	
Sri Lanka	11,000		23	12,000
St. Lucia	560			
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3		3	
Sudan	105,000	314,000	227,000	3,553,000
Suriname	1,500			
Switzerland	66		4	
Syria	21,000	171,000		6,865,000
Taiwan, China	1,700			

Country	Internal displacements in 2022 (disasters)	Internal displacements in 2022 (conflict and violence)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (disasters)	Total number of IDPs at the end of 2022 (conflict and violence)
Tajikistan	260		18	
Tanzania	4,200		2,200	
Thailand	22,000		680	41,000
Togo	16,000	2,300	4,700	2,300
Tonga	2,400		260	
Trinidad and Tobago	40		7	
Tunisia	2,000			
Türkiye	6,900		52	1,099,000
Turks and Caicos Islands	170			
Uganda	34,000	2,000	38,000	4,800
Ukraine	1	16,870,000		5,914,000
United Kingdom	1,900		80	
United States	675,000		543,000	
Uruguay	800			
Uzbekistan	170			
Vanuatu	390			
Venezuela	13,000		9,900	
Viet Nam	353,000		2,200	
Yemen	171,000	276,000		4,523,000
Zambia	3,600		3,600	
Zimbabwe	1,300			

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Every day, people flee conflict and disasters and become displaced inside their own countries. IDMC provides data and analysis and supports partners to identify and implement solutions to internal displacement.

Join us as we work to make real and lasting change for internally displaced people in the decade ahead.



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