

IMPACT on IDPs

Weekly Update • 25 June 2020

COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series

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Important: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe issues faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities to confirm political correctness while producing a weekly update. The update is **external** and the information contained in it is **sensitive**. Corrections are very welcomed and should be submitted to DTM COVID-19 dtmccovid19idps@iom.int for ensuring consistency of information in the database repository.

Weekly updates on "Impact on IDPs" are a collaboration between DTM and CCCM in drafting and reviewing; MHD, PRD and TRD in technical guidance and sharing of files. The objective of these reports is to gather better situational awareness of the spread and impact of COVID-19 among internally displaced populations globally, with a view to ensuring informed public health response and accountability for provision of care to vulnerable populations. The methodology includes integrating direct reporting from IOM Regional Offices and Country Missions, IOM sitreps, IOM files and media outlets, as well as public media outlets. Sources are weighed for relevance and accuracy, and then condensed into summaries by country. Instances of reported cases of IDPs with COVID-19 are checked for confirmation and monitored for continuing developments. Limitations include dependence on IDP cases being reported in public media. Cases emerging in countries without IOM presence and/or that go unreported in the media could be potential blind spots. For feedback, corrections, additions or removal from mailing list please get in touch with DTM COVID-19 dtmccovid19idps@iom.int.

■ Summary

People affected by humanitarian crises, particularly those displaced and living in communal settings, are often faced with challenges including vulnerabilities distinct from those of the general population. These vulnerabilities are further heightened by the disparate health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. As recently reported by IDMC, [global figures of internally displaced persons \(IDPs\)](#) reached an all-time high at the end of 2019. Conflict and disasters have triggered 33.4 million new internal displacements across 145 countries and territories in 2019. In particular, the number of new disaster related IDPs have increased to 24.9 million in 2019 (compared to 17.2 million in 2018). This is the highest figure recorded since 2012 and three times the number of new displacements caused by conflict and violence.



The movement restrictions and measures being imposed by countries, territories and areas as a response to the pandemic are directly impacting the daily lives and circumstances of IDPs and host communities. Livelihoods are being interrupted and access to healthcare, where it is available, remains limited. Many communities hosting internally displaced populations lack adequate investment into health, water and sanitation facilities, in addition to the issues of overcrowding, poor shelter, scarce resources and limited access to reliable information. The impact felt by these communities not only increases humanitarian need but also exasperates the existing and already complex barriers for IDPs to seek solutions..

■ Key Highlights

- **Reported Cases:** As of 18th June 2020, there are thirty confirmed COVID-19 cases reported among IDPs, with a total of 2 in Nigeria, 8 in Iraq, 3 in Somalia, 8 in Mali and 9 in South Sudan. It is most likely that number of COVID-19 cases amongst IDP populations are largely under-reported.

Reporting Period	Location	Cases Reported among IDPs	Source (Reported by)
30 April – 6 May 2020	Nigeria	1	IOM and Media outlet
30 April – 6 May 2020	Somalia	1	Confirmed by the Ministry of Health in Jubbaland
7- 14 May 2020	South Sudan	1	South Sudan's High-Level Task Force
22 – 28 May 2020	Iraq	1	Confirmed by WHO, OCHA, the Directorate of Health and the Ministry of Health
22-28 May 2020	Mali	3	Mopti (UN, confirmed by WHO)
29 May – 4 June	Mali	5	Mopti (UN, confirmed by WHO)
29 May – 4 June	South Sudan	7	Juba Camp Management Agency update
5 June – 11 June	South Sudan	1	In Bentiu PoC
5 June – 11 June	Somalia	1	In Baidoa (Camp Management Agency update)
5 June – 11 June	Nigeria	1	In Dalori 2 Camp (confirmed by WHO)
12 June – 18 June	Iraq	7	In Sulimaniya, Baghdad, and Kirkuk (confirmed by IOM Iraq)
12 June – 18 June	Somalia	1	In Baidoa (Camp Management Agency update)

Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 cases in IDP locations by date, location and source

- Restrictions of Movement:** Restrictions of Movement: Measures implemented by governments to limit the spread of COVID-19 also directly impact the movement of IDPs in and out of sites. In some countries (e.g. Nigeria, Sudan, and Iraq) specific camp measures have been implemented affecting potential movement of returns, as well as livelihood activities. Certain countries (Nigeria) are slowly lifting mobility restrictions (lockdowns) which will likely impact service access in camps. In Iraq, service delivery to some formal IDP camps improved due to easing of movement restrictions but service delivery remains a challenge in nine camps out of 62 camps where humanitarian actors have recorded partial or no-access to the camps.
- Challenges on Access to Assistance and Services:** Lockdowns and restricted access to camps in places such as Iraq and Uganda have meant that provisions of goods and services to IDP populations have been reduced. For many countries, movement restriction also prohibits IDPs capacity to access livelihood opportunities, putting further pressures on their ability to supplement limited aid. Concerns that delayed preparedness and contingency actions for the coming monsoon seasons, considered non-essential, will increase the risk and vulnerabilities for IDPs in the coming months.
- Mitigation Measures:** IOM is working with partners and local authorities to put in place mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and improve health and hygiene conditions and access in displacement sites. Humanitarian partners have also put in place measures to ensure life-saving services can continue in sites despite movement restrictions for staff and continue to prepare for remote management scenarios in case some sites become inaccessible.

Regional Overview

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Philippines: As of 23rd June 2020, in the Philippines, IOM conducted a new round of displacement tracking to collect demographic information about IDPs across the Provinces of Cotabato and Davao del Sur. IOM Philippines finished construction of eight WASH facilities and two health facilities at four evacuation centers in Cotabato Province. Since the onset of COVID-19, 215 facilities (including 118 WASH facilities) have been constructed in 17 evacuation centers across Cotabato Province. IOM field teams have provided continuous camp coordination and camp management technical assistance to camp managers at all sites in Cotabato Province. IOM Philippines

supported 101 IDPs with additional income through IOM's Cash-for-Work initiative. A total of 353 IDPs have been supported through this programme since March 2020.

EAST AFRICA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

Burundi: As of 23rd June 2020, Burundi has reported a total of 144 COVID-19 cases with 93 recovered and 1 death. None of the cases were reported among the 135,058 IDPs or returnees. Burundi currently has no specific movement restrictions impacting IDPs, DTM assessments are being carried out through remote data collection, DTM has completed its remote Mobility Tracking round 53 data collection, leveraging the existing network of 4,000 key informants across the country. As for the Flow Monitoring, DTM continues to observe population movements at some unofficial border points with DRC (Cibitoke province) and Tanzania (Muyinga, Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces). Based on the request of partners, DTM has planned to conduct a return intention survey next week for the IDPs in Gatumba that have been displaced due to recent floods.

Ethiopia: As of 23rd of June 2020, a total of 4,848 COVID-19 cases with 1,412 recoveries and 75 deaths have been recorded in Ethiopia. The situation has not changed in the past two weeks, as none of these cases were reported amongst the 1.7M IDP nor the 1.4M returning IDP caseloads, though contact tracing is in place and has in some instances included individuals from these caseloads. While the mobility restrictions in country have led to alternate implementation modalities, there have not been any significant hinderances to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to date. Recent weeks have shown an increase in climate-related displacement incidents and there have also been reports of conflict-induced displacement, though the general trend reflects a decrease in conflict. DTM has resumed its mobility tracking assessments as of 1st June 2020 after a one-month delay and has adapted a protection plan to ensure safety of teams and respondents throughout this exercise. The event tracking tool has been amplified through the deployment of dedicated enumerators to optimize running information updates in between regular rounds of mobility tracking. Flow monitoring continues to be in place and has resumed its regular frequency (7 rather than 6 days a week) since 1st June 2020. DTM teams are supporting site management officials nationwide by disseminating COVID-19 awareness materials and are supporting quarantine facility assessments in coordination with the Migration Management Unit.

Somalia: As of 23rd of June 2020, 2,835 COVID-19 cases with 829 recovered and 90 deaths have been recorded in the country. There continue to be confirmed cases in districts of very high concentration of IDPs (Kismayo -only positive case of IDP- Banadir, Hargeisa, Baidoa, Burco, Hargeisa, and Gaalkayo).

South Sudan: The Ministry of Health confirmed 1,930 COVID-19 positive cases among 10,165 samples collected between 5 April and 23 June (217 recovered, 36 deaths). The vast majority (90%) of cases were confirmed in Juba, however, the remaining positive samples are from 15 different counties spread out across all 10 states and Abyei Administrative Area. During this reporting period, one case has been confirmed within the largest displacement site (with addition of 1st case in Malakal PoC) reaching cumulative total of 10 cases within UNMISS protected sites in Juba (1 successfully recovery), Bentiu and Malakal, jointly hosting close to 170,000 IDPs. CCCM tabular overview of COVID-19 response activities for all four PoC sites is available [here](#).

National Steering Committee (NSC) endorsed COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH Technical Guidelines for Communities and camp-like settings in support of coherent and comprehensive country-wide response. Delays in release of test results is still one of the major challenges, creating mistrust in communities and resentment towards contact tracers and has resulted in protracted home isolation for asymptomatic case, impacting household livelihoods. Members of the NSC have flagged lack of funding available for prioritized front-line activities and chronic lack of PPE equipment for case management and triage points. UNMISS, UNPOL and humanitarian partners continued implementing policy of reduced footprint within PoCs.

Following the withdrawal of United Nations Police (UNPOL) from patrolling the security inside the PoCs, the safety and security environment in Bentiu, Juba and Wau PoCs has deteriorated. There are reports of increased robberies by armed youth groups. Tensions between the communities remains high. Humanitarian partners are continuing with reconciliation efforts. The Community Watch Groups (CWG) are carrying out some of UNPOL activities in the PoCs. However, this community-based group needs monitoring and capacity analysis by UNMISS/UNPOL on the challenges/gaps the group is facing. Moreover, the CWG requires support from UNPOL to be more responsive.

Also, to ensure that CWG themselves are not unduly put at risk and/or become protection threats to the wider IDP community. Localized conflict continued causing displacements in wider Jonglei area, Lakes state and Unity. With rainy season, Jonglei, parts of Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria state are likely to experience flooding due to increased rainfall and overflow of the River Nile. Livelihoods in Eastern Equatoria are further impacted by the ongoing locust swarm which might cause severe long-term consequences on household livelihoods.

In Bentiu and Wau PoC, awareness raising on COVID-19 continues through household and distribution sensitizations, mass messaging campaigns, radio shows, and IEC distributions. In Bentiu PoC, CM team facilitated four Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with youth, the Women's Forum, and male members of the Community Disabled Committee to understand their perceptions and concerns about COVID-19. In Hai Masna Collective Center, IOM CM supported national NGO Action for Development (AFOD) to conduct four FGDs with different groups segregated by age, gender, and disability on their knowledge and understanding of COVID-19. Additionally, two FGDs were conducted in Wau PoCAA with women and men from different age groups. Findings from these FGDs will inform the risk communication analysis at the national level. IOM Camp Management (CM) Care and Maintenance teams in Bentiu, Wau, and Malakal PoCs developed technical drawings of shading/waiting areas that will be constructed at PoC gates to facilitate screening and surveillance by health partners. In Bentiu and Wau PoCs, CM is reviewing PoC specific COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plans to ensure alignment with CCCM Cluster proposed scenarios as well as integrate key terminology based on a request from Humanitarian Country Team to have a uniform template of COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plans across all PoC sites.

Uganda: As of 23rd June 2020, a total of 805 COVID-19 cases with zero deaths, and 717 recoveries have been reported. The Government continues to restrict movements at all border points impacting possible arrival of asylum seekers. An unconfirmed number of migrants have been reported stranded at the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Western Uganda on both sides both the DRC and Uganda side, as the Ugandan immigration is not clearing movements following the presidential directives on closure of all borders. To-date, only cargo trucks can move across Ugandan borders upon testing negative for COVID-19. At Elegu (Uganda-South Sudan border), South Sudan nationals on Uganda side willing to return home are being cleared to cross.

The Government has started repatriation of Ugandans stranded in other countries, and within this reporting period, some individuals arrived in the country. The Government continues to restrict movement of people to and from camps which are in border districts to minimize possible spread of COVID-19. The National Task Force for COVID-19 has ended the provision of food assistance to the people in the central region. Plans are underway to continue providing food assistance to the populations in up country districts. The Government continues to restrict private institutions and individuals from providing assistance as distributions defy the ban on gatherings. All assistance is channeled through the office of the Prime Minister and Resident District Commissioners at the district level. District authorities in Kasese district in Western region, continue to ban well-wishers meeting flood victims in a bid to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Iraq: As of 25th June 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed 36,702 (+ 14,000 cases since last week) cases of COVID-19 in Iraq; 1330 fatalities and 16,814 patients who have recovered from the virus. Governorates with the largest amounts of cases include Baghdad (10,899) and Basra (1,7700). According to the latest DTM Master List Report 115 (29 April), DTM Iraq identified 1,389,540 IDPs (231,590 households) dispersed across 18 governorates and 104 districts. The top three governorates of displacement are Ninewa, Dahuk and Erbil. According to WHO, the number of confirmed cases in these governorates are 688 in Erbil, 135 in Dahuk and 99 in Ninewa.

The total number of cases amongst IDPs in formal camps since the beginning of the pandemic: 7. Number of formal camps with COVID-19 confirmed cases: 5 (1 case Hansan Sham U3, Erbil; 1 case each Asthi & Tazade, Sulimaniya, 3 cases Zayona, Baghdad and 1 case in Laylan, Kirkuk). Since the last update, there have been no new reported incidents amongst IDPs in camps. Information on informal settlements situation remains unknown. Positive cases have been confirmed within the host community in Anbar governorate informal settlements, no reports on the IDPs. However, due to cases in Anbar and lockdown humanitarian actors are facing access issues to the area. In Iraq, health awareness and hygiene promotion were conducted in informal sites and camps, while

surveillance of suspected cases in Al Ahel camp, Baghdad took place through isolation measures and coordination of provision of services for the camp. IOM has also expanded its Primary Health Care Centres in AAF camps with the provision of tents and support to help identify and coordinate the future set up of isolation/quarantine areas.

Syrian Arab Republic: The total number of IDPs in the Syrian Arab Republic stands at 6,621,706. Additionally, 45 per cent of the IDPs are hosted in the north-western governorates of Idlib and Aleppo. The most impacted sub-district is Dana, Idlib, which hosts 898,067 IDPs – almost 6 times the number of residents. Massive overcrowding in Dana sub-district, which was caused partly by the large-scale displacement caused by a government offensive into north-west Syria, has led to a recent trend of IDPs fleeing Dana towards neighbouring sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo.

Throughout the country, COVID-19 mitigation measures are continuing to be relaxed. In the north-west of the country (in areas under de-facto control of non-state armed groups and Turkish-backed armed forces), schools are open or partially open in 86 per cent of sub-districts. There have been no changes in the status of transit points since 15th June 2020.

Yemen: In Yemen, in IOM-supported IDP sites, CCCM, Shelter/NFI, WASH and cash teams are working together to providing a basic shielding kit to families with members at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. The kits are composed of IPC materials, supplementary hand washing and latrine facilities, and extra shelter materials as needed. The shielding pilot will target six IDP sites in Yemen. CCCM, Protection and WASH are also working with the camp women's committees to distribute or produce facemasks for camp residents. COVID-19 awareness sessions are also being regularly carried out in IOM-supported IDP sites through CCCM field teams as well as CCCM and health implementing partners.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mozambique: In Sofala province, IOM is continuing its support to the District Health Services to deliver outreach services to resettlement sites with particular attention to people living with chronic conditions such as TB, HIV, hypertension and other co-morbidities; in the past week, in three resettlement sites in Sofala province, 137 patients benefited from medical consultations, including 25 patients with chronic conditions (mainly hypertension and HIV) who benefited from a health check and received either medication or counselling according to their health status.

Zimbabwe: Due to the winter season IDPs are struggling with the cold and the living conditions in the camps are exposing them to health risks. Clothes distribution was conducted in all the four camps to all IDPs (224 Households) but IDPs are still in need of Food and NFI support such as blankets and more winter clothing. Camp coordination remains a challenge as no partner or government stakeholders are facilitating the process, IOM was providing technical capacity to the Government, and will dedicated a staff to support the relocation process and assist with Camp coordination and Camp Management, ensuring IDPs have access to basic services. IOM is planning a Baseline assessment continuing a remote methodology to avoid staff is expose to health risk, but to maintain a monitoring of the needs and vulnerabilities of the displaced population (IDPs), who are the most vulnerable and exposed.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Cameroon: As of 24th June 2020, data from the Ministry of Health show that there are now more than 12,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout the country. Whilst the Centre and Littoral regions (hosting the biggest cities of Yaoundé and Douala) are the most affected, in the Far-North region, where more than 300,000 individuals are currently displaced due to the on-going Boko-Haram insurgency, a total of 89 COVID-19 cases have been registered. None of the COVID-19 cases were reported among the displaced populations, however, four localities hosting IDPs within this region have registered cases. The latest mobility tracking assessment conducted throughout the Far-North region during the first half of the month highlighted that in more than 70 per cent of the assessed localities hosting displaced populations, sensitizations on COVID-19 and preventive measures have been conducted mainly by the local authorities. Additional hand-washing stations have been installed in approximately 45 per cent of the assessed localities hosting displaced populations but in almost 20 per cent of these localities, IDPs do not

have access to soap or disinfectant gel. In addition, access to drinking water remains the top priority need for displaced populations in most of the assessed localities.

The North-West and South-West regions which is affected by on-going hostilities between armed forces and NSAG, respectively registered 272 and 469 COVID-19 cases as of 24th June 2020. Insecurity and restricted access to localities within these regions greatly impacts on humanitarian actors' capacity to effectively assess and understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on displaced populations. Since March 2020, IOM's network of key informants who are covering both regions have, however, registered the return of more than 12,000 individuals to the North-West and South-West regions from locations in the West, Center and Littoral regions (including from Yaoundé and Douala) as the highest number of cases have been registered in these regions and following the implementation of government restrictions.

Mali: As of 24th June 2020, 2,001 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Mali, among them 690 cases in Mopti and Gao, the two regions hosting the highest number of displaced persons. The number of positive cases among IDPs remains the same as last week (8 cases). Through sensitization sessions, 4,139 IDPs have been reached in sites in the Mopti and Gao regions. More than 500 awareness-raising posters have been distributed in IDP sites and to local authorities and non-state actors throughout the country. More than 2,000 reusable masks were produced by IOM beneficiaries of return and reintegration programmes and later sent to IDPs. A rapid assessment of IDP protection needs in the city of Sévaré in response to COVID-19 is ongoing.

■ Key Resources

Global:

- [DTM Portals \(migration.iom.int and displacement.iom.int\)](https://migration.iom.int)
- [IOM COVID-19 Camp Management Operational Guidance Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Global figures of internally displaced persons \(IDMC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization Situation Reports](#)
- [IOM COVID-19 Impact On Points Of Entry Weekly Analysis 24 June 2020](#)
- [IOM COVID-19 Impact On Key Locations Of Internal Mobility Weekly Analysis 24 June 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Points of Entry Analysis – 28 May – EEA](#)
- [IOM COVID 19 Response - Situation Report 20 \(19 June 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Output — 22 June 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 — Impact on IDPs #4](#)

Regional:

- [West and Central Africa — COVID-19 — Regional Mobility Context Monitoring \(May 2020\)](#)
- [West and Central Africa — Monthly Regional Update \(May 2020\)](#)
- [Middle East And North Africa — Tracking Mobility Impact: Point Of Entry Analysis \(18 June 2020\)](#)
- [East and Horn of Africa — COVID-19 Regional Overview On Mobility Restrictions as of 11 June 2020](#)

Country:

- [Libya — COVID-19 MOBILITY TRACKING 2 \(25 June 2020\)](#)
- [Nigeria — Emergency Tracking Tool Report 176 \(15 - 21 June 2020\)](#)
- [Nigeria — COVID-19 Point of Entry Dashboard \(13 - 19 June 2020\)](#)
- [Djibouti — Flow Monitoring Dashboard \(May 2020\)](#)
- [Djibouti — Stranded Migrants \(21 June 2020\)](#)
- [Yemen — Rapid Displacement Tracking Update \(14 - 20 June 2020\)](#)
- [South Sudan — COVID-19 Mobility Update Week 10 \(25 - 31 May 2020\)](#)
- [Somalia — Border Point Flow Monitoring \(14-20 June 2020\)](#)
- [Somalia — Migration Route and COVID-19 \(08 June 2020\)](#)
- [Nigeria — Emergency Tracking Tool Report 175 \(8 - 14 June 2020\)](#)

- [Ethiopia — Flow Monitoring Dashboard 9 \(May 2020\)](#)
- [South Sudan | CCCM Cluster PoC Sites Covid-19 Update #2](#)