IMPACT on IDPs

Weekly Update • 4th June 2020

COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series https://displacement.iom.int ● dtmcovid19@iom.int



Important: 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 dtmcovid19idps@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 better 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 dtmcovid19idps@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: Reported Cases: As of 4th June 2020, there are nineteen confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in among IDP, one in Somalia (Sitrep #2), one in South Sudan (Sitrep #3), one in Iraq (Sitrep #5) three in Mali (Sitrep #5), five more in Mali (Sitrep #6) and seven more in South Sudan (Sitrep #6). 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

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

- 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 Myanmar 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

Afghanistan: As of 3rd June 2020, data from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) shows that 15,582 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan are now confirmed to have COVID-19. Cases are expected to continue to increase during the weeks ahead as community transmission escalates, additionally burdening Afghanistan's economy and people's well-being. Since 2016, IOM's DTM have assessed 4,350,900 IDPs in country, many of which have been displaced since 2012. Of all IDPs assessed, 1,208,083 (28%) IDPs live in locations without access to a health clinic within a 5-kilometre, 996,690 (23%) do not have access to markets within a 10-kilometre and 9% (386,406 individuals) lack access to potable water within 3 kilometers of their village.

Fiji: Fiji now has three active cases of COVID-19 as of 15th May 2020. The government has maintained social distancing and travel restrictions and imposed a curfew to mitigate and prevent the transmission of the virus. In total, Fiji has recorded eighteen cases of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), fifteen of whom have made a full recovery. Tropical Cyclone Harold make landfall in the Republic of Fiji on 8th April 2020 as a category 4 cyclone, and caused widespread damage and destruction, with the cyclone impacting approximately 200,000 people (23)

% of the total population). 6,240 people were forcibly displaced and took shelter in 197 evacuation centers across the island nation, and many others with host families. On 2nd June 2020, the Fiji National Disaster Management Office declared that all evacuation centres are now closed, and all evacuees have returned to their households.

Vanuatu: To date, no cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the country. In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Harold striking Vanuatu on 6th and 7th April 2020, Vanuatu is now facing dual challenge of responding to this Category 5 Cyclone and preventing and preparing for COVID-19. IOM and the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office are now concluding a DTM assessment to understand the locations, movements and needs of the those who have been displaced from this hurricane, as well as the identifying the locations of active evacuation centres. IOM is supporting dissemination of COVID-19 messaging to IDPs and those living in informal settlements (Santo, Ambae, Pentacost and other areas) in conjunction with the clusters and civil society organization (CSO) partners.

Myanmar: The security situation and the related restriction of staff movement is the biggest constrain in Rakhine. IDP camps in Minbya Township are facing food ration shortage and for the need of safe shelter support. Rural IDP camps of Minbya Township are facing drinking water and domestic water shortage as many ponds dried up during summertime. Most of the latrines and bathrooms in the camps are not functioning. Security situation in the areas are preventing IDPs wanting to return home from doing so as some villages do not allow the people to stay overnight.

Between 28th May and 4th June 2020, IOM conducted field site visit in 2 IDP site locations in Minbya Township. The total population in these two IDP sites are 433 and 129 HH. During this week IOM distributed 44 sets of NFI items to 44 HH, reaching 138 IDPs from 2 IDP camps in Minbya and Myebon Townships. IOM is also continuously providing health care services to 372 patients from 3 Muslim camps in Sittwe Townships.

Philippines: In the Philippines, IOM has been supporting areas affected by the 2019 Mindanao earthquake in North Cotabato. To support IDPs in displacement sites with mitigation and preparedness measures for COVID-19, IOM has constructed 22 communal facilities (e.g., cooking counters, charging areas, violence against women and children help-desk, WASH facilities), repaired 32 latrines and supported 52 workers through Cash-for-Work.

EAST AFRICA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

Burundi: As of 3rd June 2020, Burundi has reported a total of 63 COVID-19 cases with 34 recovered and 1 death. None of the cases were reported among the 117,239 IDPs or returnees. Burundi currently has no specific movement restrictions impacting IDPs, DTM assessments are being carried out through remote 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 points border with DRC (Cibitoke province) and Tanzania (Muyinga, Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces).

Ethiopia: As of 3rd June 2020, a total of 1,486 COVID-19 cases with 246 recoveries and 17 deaths have been recorded in Ethiopia. None of these cases were reported amongst the 1.7M IDPs nor the 1.4M returning IDPs, 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. 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. IOM is 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 the 3rd of June 2020, 2,089 COVID-19 cases with 380 recovered and 79 deaths have been recorded in the country. There continue to be confirmed cases in districts hosting IDPs: Kismayo, Banadir, Hargeisa, Baidao, Burco and Gaalkayo. An IDP in Kismayo was tested positive for COVID-19 while Banadir, which is home

to 497,000 IDPs, remains the epicentre of the epidemic. To minimise further spread of the virus, authorities have imposed a curfew, closed schools, and restricted large gatherings.

South Sudan: Number of positive COVID-19 cases in South Sudan stands at 1,180 (14 deaths, 6 recovered) according to the information available as of 3rd June 2020. Samples that tested positive were collected across 10 different counties (Juba, Yei, Torit, Wau, Aweil Centre, Rubkona, Rumbek Centre, Fangak, Nyrol, Malakal) in 8 (out of 10) states and Abyei Administrative Area (the majority of cases are confirmed in the capital Juba). So far, eight cases have been confirmed in large displacement sites protected by UNMISS (7 in Juba, 1 in Bentiu). Intercommunal clashes and flooding are causing new displacements across Jonglei State. The recent inter-agency assessment reported more than 30,000 displaced individuals due to communal clashes, and media reported on 8,000 individuals who got displaced within Bor Town area due to flooding. In addition, DTM tracked some 6,363 IDPs dispersed across Mayom, Rubkona and Mayendit counties in Unity State, who fled due to clashes between cattle-keeping communities in the area. The policy put in place on 27 May for reduction of UNMISS and UNPOL footprint within the PoC and other humanitarian staff within the Malakal Humanitarian Hub, is still observed.

Uganda: As of 3rd of June 2020, Uganda has 507 COVID-19 positive cases with no reported deaths, 82 recoveries and 304 active cases across the country. Currently only cargo trucks can move in and out of the country up on tested negative for COVID-19. No Ugandan citizens or foreigners can enter or leave the country. There are restrictions at camps; people are not allowed to move from one camp to another. In some camps, water continues to be trucked by humanitarian agencies to households in the camps in a bid to enhance social distancing. Provision of assistance continues through the national COVID-19 taskforce, and at the district level by the district task forces. The national taskforce continues to provide food relief to households in the central region. Delivery of assistance and emergency response interventions is done through approvals from the Office of the Prime Minister – National level, Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) at the respective beneficiary district, Office of the President at respective districts (Resident District Commissioner) who represents the President at the district level, District Health Office and Chairperson Local Council 5. At camp level, reduction in food ratio assistance continues to remain a challenge, posing a big risk as some people try to escape from one camp to another to find supplementary food increasing the risk of spread of COVID.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Irag: As of 2nd June 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed 7,387 cases of COVID-19 in Iraq; 235 fatalities and 3,508 patients who have recovered from the virus. According to the latest DTM Master List Report 115, 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 282 in Erbil, 52 in Ninewa and 39 in Dahuk. Going beyond the top three governorates of displacement, Baghdad Governorate has recorded the highest number of CVODI-19 cases in Iraq, with a total of 4, 047 cases (as of 2 June 2020). On 30th May 2020, the Iraqi health authorities declared a total curfew in Federal Iraq for a week starting from 31st May 2020 in response to a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases, with 416 new cases confirmed on 29th May 2020. On 27th May 2020, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) announced the extension of the movement ban between the governorates of the Kurdistan Region until 15th June 2020, except for those who obtain permission through an electronic system administered by the KRG, which was reactivated on 28th May 2020. Movements between Federal Iraq and the KRI remain banned from both sides. Movement is permitted for UN agencies, international organizations, coalition forces, and diplomatic missions across the Kurdistan Region. The situation of IDPs in camps and informal sites remains static compared to the previous reporting period. It is suspected that the new movement restrictions will have an impact on IDPs, their movements, and their access to services and assistance that will be seen in the next reporting period.

The situation for communities in areas of high return is equally complex, with restricted access to livelihoods and income. According to the latest DTM Master List Report 115, DTM Iraq identified 4,795,182 returnees dispersed across 8 governorates and 38 districts. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) surveyed by IOM Iraq since the

COVID-19 crisis said they expected to lose around 20% of their annual income if restrictions are maintained until June. By early May, an average of 3 employees have lost their jobs for each SME.

Syrian Arab Republic: Over the month of May 2020, 34,211 new displacements were reported throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. This marks the lowest monthly displacements reported over the previous 12 months; and, for only the second time in the past 12 months, Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) has monitored higher levels of return than displacement. This trend reflects post-conflict mobility within the context of the current ceasefire agreement. Most displacements in May occurred in the north-west of the country (96 percent) - in either Idleb or Aleppo governorate. The primary driving forces for displacement over the month of May were observed to be economic or livelihood decisions, which marks a stark change from a country where reasons for displacement are usually exclusively based around escaping deteriorating security situations. Further data collected by HNAP on 30th and 31st May 2020 shows that COVID-19 mitigation measures are decreasing across the country. Total community lockdowns were almost non-existent, partial curfews had decreased massively, and awareness campaigns had also reduced. HNAP is also monitoring the status of internal and international transit points across the country. As of 2nd June 2020, two internal transit points between Government of Syria controlled areas and Syrian Democratic Forces controlled areas had recently re-opened, while the Pheskabur border crossing between Syria and Iraq had closed. Transit restrictions, while an essential COVID-19 mitigation measures, have the negative impact of hindering the supply and increasing the price of essential items that are in need especially in the north-west of the country, where there are clusters of highly vulnerable IDPs. Recent domestic re-openings are being conducted on a trial basis and might pave the way for further movement liberalization.

Both IDPs and returnees cite livelihood opportunities as their highest priority need. On-going movement restrictions and curfews in relation to COVID-19 strongly impact households, limiting their ability to secure employment and meet basic needs. Restricted access to livelihood opportunities in an already fragile state runs the risk of prematurely encouraging many to re-enter the work force, undermining social distancing efforts and increase pandemic potential for already vulnerable populations.

Yemen: Since the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Yemen on 10 April, there have been 331 additional cases reported in 10 governorates (as of 03 June). Yemen's pre-existing vulnerabilities, brought on by five years of active conflict, has put the country in a particularly challenging position in responding to the outbreak. In this context, the case fatality rate from COVID-19 across Yemen is exceptionally high, at close to 25 per cent – significantly above the global average of seven per cent. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams have monitored several country wide movement restrictions, as authorities in Yemen implement COVID-19 mitigation measures.

IOM Yemen, along with the humanitarian community, is responding on the basis of widespread community transmission across Yemen and concerns that the virus will overwhelm Yemen's weakened health care system, exacerbating endemic vulnerabilities. Since March, IOM has quickly scaled up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities to meet the needs of mobile populations, namely displaced persons and migrants. A COVID-19 case-management facility in Marib city is operational and providing support in the governorate and two isolation centres are also being established in two IDP hosting sites in Marib governorate. Additional assessments of three health facilities are ongoing in Marib, to ascertain the possibility of providing additional COVID-19 treatment capacity. Additionally, to ensure that affected communities have access to adequate WASH services during this critical period, IOM is providing daily drinking water and water for household use in nine sites in Taizz and 53 sites in Hudaydah in addition to regular hygiene promotion and awareness sessions across 10 governorates. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures are being applied in all IOM managed IDP sites, to ensure that all site activities and distributions are carried out in line with COVID-19 prevention guidelines and mitigate against the spread of the virus.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mozambique: As of 1st June 2020, 254 cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Mozambique; this includes 145 cases in the northern province of Cabo Delgado where thousands of families remain displaced more than a year after Cyclone and Kenneth. Recent COVID-19 Preparedness Assessments in Resettlement Sites for central and northern Mozambique by IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) indicate that actions for COVID-19 prevention have been conducted, including installation of hand washing stations and sensitization of residents.

Nonetheless, there remain limited access to health facilities and personal protective equipment as well as a lack of isolation spaces.

In Cabo Delgado and Nampula, nearly 6,500 residents are sheltered at five resettlement sites established following Cyclone Kenneth. Site assessments indicate that actions for COVID-19 prevention have been conducted, hand washing stations have been installed and information and education of residents on prevention measures conducted. However, none of the sites have easy access to a health centre or isolation space. Only one site reported having access to personal protection supplies such as face masks.

In the 72 resettlement sites in the central region, Sofala, Manica, Zambezia and Tete, where over 95,000 individuals reside, action has been taken for prevention and information sharing at 90% or more of sites, with support from Government of Mozambique and Health Department. A reported 47% of sites have new hand washing stations, and 17% have personal protection supplies, but there are no isolation spaces yet. This builds on an earlier COVID-19 assessment report in May, and demonstrates preparation steps taken.

Zimbabwe: IOM has started a shelter intervention to cover shelter gaps remaining from Cyclone Idai emergency, to assist vulnerable communities no fall further into the crisis and addresses the drivers of social stability. This support will assist 624 Households of IDPs in unbearable living conditions, just in time to face the winter season with adequate shelter support.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Chad: As of June 2nd 2020, 820 COVID-19 cases (164 cases under treatment) have been confirmed in Chad; 66 deaths and 590 recovered persons have been reported. In Lac Province (which hosts 232,426 IDPs) no active case is currently reported and 85 individuals are in quarantine. To this day, no case has been identified among IDPs. IOM donated tents (which will be used as quarantine and isolation locations as required) and hygiene kits to health authorities in Lac Province.

Mali: The overall number of cases detected in the Timbuktu, Gao and Mopti regions continues to increase. As of June 2nd, 292 cases have been confirmed to COVID-19. These three regions alone represent 196,595 IDPs, or 78% of the national caseload. On 2 June, 8 COVID-19 cases were reported among IDPs by the COVID-19 working group in Mopti. No mobility restrictions between the different administrative regions of Mali have been implemented. Internal displacement is not specifically impacted by the restrictive measures put in place by the government.

Urgent identified challenges include low detection in communities, reinforcement of public awareness following the lifting of the curfew, the need for training in the psychosocial care of nursing staff, needs of protective materials and equipment, needs for sample transport equipment (triple packaging), and insufficient personal protective equipment for nursing staff.

Access to healthcare among IDPs is another challenge. The latest DTM figures show that more than half (68%) of the available health support structures are located outside of IDP sites (outside of 62% of these structures are more than 30 minutes away).

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

Colombia: Since May 9, more than 200 people from indigenous communities in Bojaya, department of Choco have been displaced due to confrontations among Organized Armed Groups (AOG). Likewise, on May 16 the internal displacement of 470 people from the afro-Colombian community of Roberto Payan in the Department of Nariño was registered. Access for the provision of humanitarian assistance is restricted since confrontations persist and there are several measures taken at the local level to prevent the spread of the pandemic. However, the Roberto Payan municipality is providing food and health support to the displaced people.

Several ethnic communities working with IOM have alerted of their limited access to food supplies, since they have lost their income sources due to the economic crises triggered by COVID-19 context. In some municipalities of the Cauca department, such as Guapi and Timbiqui, with OAG presence, first cases of COVID-19 have been reported.

Consequently, preventive obligatory quarantine for the population were declared by the local governments for a period of 14 days. OAG actions to control the territory are expected, as well as more displacement events.

El Salvador: On May 31st Tropical Storm Amanda made landfall impacting over 29,000 families who have been seeking shelters in 201 emergency shelters as well as host families. Assessments are currently on-going to provide better understanding of the situation, needs as well as capacities to response, including mitigation and prevention measures for emergency shelters in relation to COVID-19.

Key Resources

Global:

- DTM Portals (migration.iom.int and displacement.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
- Global Impact On Points Of Entry And Other Key Locations Of Internal Mobility Weekly Analysis 3 June 2020
- Global DTM-Covid19 Travel Restrictions Output 1 June 2020

Regional:

- Middle East And North Africa Tracking Mobility Impact: Point Of Entry Analysis (29 May 2020)
- South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia COVID-19 Points of Entry Analysis 30 April SEECA Region
- West And Central Africa Monthly Regional Update (April 2020)

Country:

- Burundi Flow Monitoring Dashboard (April 2020)
- Burundi Internal Displacement Dashboard (April 2020)
- Burundi Flow Monitoring Dashboard Ebola Virus Disease (April 2020)
- Chad COVID-19 Event Tracking Tool Report 6 (04 June 2020)
- Libya Mobility Restriction Dashboard 4 (07 31 May 2020)
- Libya Migrant Emergency Food Security Report (May 2020)
- Mali COVID 19 Point Of Entry Dashboard (June 2020)
- <u>Mozambique</u> Resettlement Sites in Need of Further Preparedness as COVID-19 Cases Increase in <u>Mozambique</u>
- Mozambique COVID-19 Preparedness Assessment In The Resettlement Sites In Sofala, Manica, Zambezia And Tete - Report 3 (May 2020)
- Nigeria COVID-19 Point of Entry Dashboard (23 29 May 2020)
- Panama- Emergency Tracking: Migratory Receiving Stations And COVID-19 Pandemic (15-21 May, 2020)
- Somalia Border Point Flow Monitoring (24-30 May 2020)
- South Sudan COVID-19 Mobility Update Week 8 (11-17 May 2020)
- Thailand COVID-19 Related Vulnerabilities and Perceptions in Mueang Ranong District, Ranong Province (May 2020)
- Thailand COVID-19 Related Vulnerabilities and Perceptions in Suk Samran District, Ranong Province (May 2020)
- Sudan Mobility Restriction Dashboard 6 (3 June 2020)
- <u>Thailand COVID-19 Related Vulnerabilities and Perceptions in Mae Sot District, Tak Province (May 2020)</u>
- Turkey COVID-19 Infosheet (28 May 2020)