

# IMPACT on IDPs

Weekly Update • 2<sup>nd</sup> July 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



COVID-19 mass awareness raising in Bukavu, South Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, June 2020 Copyrights IOM 2020

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 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, no new COVID-19 cases were reported amongst IDPs. As reported in SITREP 9, on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, there were thirty-one 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 is 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	Bentiu PoC (CCCM South Sudan)
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 PoCs (CCCM South Sudan)
5 June – 11 June	South Sudan	1	Malakal PoC (CCCM South Sudan)
5 June – 11 June	Somalia	1	Baidoa (Camp Management Agency update)
5 June – 11 June	Nigeria	1	Dalori 2 Camp (confirmed by WHO)
12 June – 18 June	Iraq	7	Sulimaniya, Baghdad, and Kirkuk (confirmed by IOM Iraq)
12 June – 18 June	Somalia	1	Baidoa (Camp Management Agency update)
19 June – 25 June	South Sudan	1	Juba PoCs (CCCM South Sudan)

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 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

**Afghanistan:** As of 28th June 2020, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reports that there are 30,967 active COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan. Of Afghanistan's 37.6 million population, 70,788 people have been tested for COVID-19, with a test-positivity-rate of 44 per cent. Of which, 12,588 people have recovered, and 737 people have died (18 of which are healthcare workers). Due to limited public health resources and testing capacity, the COVID-19 caseloads and deaths are presumably underreported in Afghanistan. DTM provides proxy data on COVID-19 related deaths, collected through settlement assessments, which show sharp spikes in deaths, starting in January through March with data collection ongoing. IDP populations are very likely among the severely affected, given cramped and challenging living conditions, inadequate nutrition and hygiene. Further still, the negative impact on livelihood opportunities as well as poor access to health services, drives IDPs to abandon quarantine risking chances of infection to seek livelihood opportunities. While DTM is conducting nationwide mobility (BMA) and needs assessments (CBNA) in over 11,670 settlements hosting returnees and IDPs, to allay fears and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, DTM in Afghanistan contributes to the COVID-19 response by mobilizing community leaders to raise COVID-19 risk awareness, demonstrate effective infection prevention and control measures, and dispel misinformation and the stigma surrounding COVID-19 in each assessed community.

### EAST AFRICA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

**Burundi:** As of 1st of July 2020, Burundi has reported a total of 170 COVID-19 cases with 115 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 points border 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 the recent floods.

**Ethiopia:** As of 1st July 2020, a total of 5,846 COVID-19 cases with 2,430 recoveries and 103 deaths have been recorded in Ethiopia. The situation has not changed in the past few 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 the country have led to alternate implementation modalities, there have not been any significant hinderances to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to date. 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 1st July 2020, 2,924 COVID-19 cases with 932 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:** According to available information from the Ministry of Health, 2,007 individuals tested positive, slightly less than a fifth of the 10,660 tests run as of 30th June 2020. Thirty-eight persons have died and 279 recovered from COVID-19. Whilst most cases have been confirmed in Juba, the outbreak has spread to all 10 states (15 counties) and Abyei Administrative Area. Four more cases have been confirmed in Bentiu PoC bringing the total of cases within largest displacement sites to 14 with already reported cases in Juba and Malakal PoCs. Sites altogether host close to 170,000 IDPs. Localised conflict remains a primary driver to displacement across the country, particularly in Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA). The capacity of the humanitarian response has

been hindered by COVID-19 restrictions, and further reduced due to insecurity which prompted UN and NGOs to evacuate their staff from the GPAA area.

**Uganda:** There are 821 COVID-19 with no deaths, and 717 recoveries as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Movement restrictions continue across all border points in the country and restrictions are also enforced within the country to and from border districts to minimize possible spread of COVID-19. Refugees intending to move out of Uganda can cross the border up on receiving a clearance letter from the Camp commandant representing the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Only cargo trucks can move across the borders up on testing negative for COVID-19 but limitations in testing capacity are causing long lines at points of entries. The Government continues to plan for the repatriation of Ugandans stranded in other countries and is planning to resume the distribution of food assistance to the populations in rural areas. The Government continues to restrict private institutions and individuals from providing assistance as distributions break 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 2nd July 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed 51,524 cases of COVID-19 in Iraq; 23,237 fatalities and 26,267 patients who have recovered from the virus. Governorates with the largest number of COVID-19 cases include Baghdad (19,243) and Basra (4,065). According to the latest DTM Master List Report<sup>1</sup> 116 (15 June), DTM Iraq identified 1,381,332 (230, 222 households) IDPs 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 1,380 in Erbil, 174 in Dahuk and 296 in Ninewa. Since the last update, there have been no new reported incidents amongst IDPs in camps. Information on informal settlements situation remains unknown. During the reporting period, IOM/CSU organized 37 awareness/sensitization sessions and activities on COVID-19, reaching over 488 individuals in camp and non-camp settings in Baghdad (Karada, al Shaab-Shula); Diyala (Baquba, Khanaqin, Shuhadda, Zayton), Dohuk (Bajid Kandala, Dawoodia, Kabarto, Qadia, Semel, Shekhan, and Sharya); Kerbala (Safiay and MOMD Camp); Kirkuk (al-Askary, Jama, Qadissya, Rahimawa, Shorjah, Tissin); Najaf (Askary, Haidariya, Missan, and Radawiya); Ninewa (Hamdaniya, Hassan Sham, Mosul, Sinjar City, and Tel Afar); and Qādisiyyah (Diwaniya center).

**Syrian Arab Republic:** Given the protracted nature of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, multiple displacements are unfortunately extremely commonplace. Overall, 73 per cent of IDPs displaced in May had been displaced previous four or more times, while less than 1 per cent were suffering their first displacement. Such high rates of multiple displacement pose a great threat to any sense of personal/family stability, as well as to long-term stability within communities. Following on from trends observed over the previous weeks, COVID-19 mitigation measures are relaxing across the country. According to HNAP data collected over 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020, schools in all sub-districts under Government of Syria control have partially re-opened. Schools are reportedly open or partially open in 93 per cent of sub-districts under de-facto control of non-state armed groups and Turkish-backed armed forces, however schools remain closed in a significant 56 per cent of sub-districts under de-facto control of Syrian Democratic Forces, in the north-east of the country. Markets and bakeries are open in all sub-districts across the country, but one, which is in the north-west. There are no changes in the status of internal or international transit point since 15th June 2020. Of note, temperature screening procedures are active in only 7 of the 23 open or partially open international transit points, which predominantly allow for the passage of commerce and humanitarian operations.

**Yemen:** As of 27th June 2020, the number of reported confirmed COVID-19 cases in Yemen had reached 1,107 with 297 associated deaths and 419 recoveries. The highest number of cases were reported in Hadramaut (310 cases), followed by Aden (259 cases). Through IOM Yemen's DTM, between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 303 new displaced households were recorded in areas where IOM has access. The highest number of displacements were seen in Lahj (Al Maqatirah district), Marib (Al Abdiyah district) and Taizz, with household's originating from Al Bayda and Al Hudaydah. Additionally, 112 HHs were displaced from Aden in relation to COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> The DTM Master List for round 116 is available to download: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>

Across governorates where IOM supports IDP populations, formal movement restrictions continue to vary, with restrictions on new arrivals and visitors to IDP camps in the north, while sites in the south remain open with limited restrictions on both visitors and humanitarian staff entering those sites with formal security presence. Markets remain open in mainly areas, though curfews are widely present nationwide. Restrictions on access to medical facilities and employment opportunities in relation to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions remain a key concern for IDP populations. In IOM-supported IDP sites, CCCM, SNFI, WASH, Protection, and Health teams are working directly or through implementing partners to provide COVID-19 awareness sessions and coordinate the ongoing distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to field staff. This past week 2,718 IDP HHs in Marib were reached with COVID-19 awareness sessions through household visits in 9 IDP sites via IOM's implementing partner, direct implementation and through community mobilizers. In Ibb, the IOM CCCM team provided COVID-19 awareness sessions to 21 site committee members and IDPs. Additionally, as a COVID-19 emergency response measure, the IOM WASH team established 65 handwashing stations (300L water tanks) in 6 IOM supported IDP sites in Taiz, benefiting 716 IDP HHs. In Marib governorate, healthcare services continue to be provided to IDPs via IOM's static clinic in Al Jufainah IDP Camp, four mobile medical teams, and an isolation/treatment centre for COVID-19 (established in May). IOM is also planning two quarantine centres in Al Jufainah IDP camp to allow effective distancing of people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 as home isolation is not necessarily feasible within the congested living conditions.

## **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Mozambique:** As of 2nd July 2020, In three districts of Sofala province, Dondo, Nhamatanda and Buzi, IOM supported dissemination of COVID-19 prevention messages to more than 4,526 people both in resettlement sites and host communities, through moto-taxi/ megaphones, and health education sessions. Material for a total of 343 new handwashing stations was provided in 24 resettlement sites in Dombe district, Manica province; IOM staff worked with community leaders in each site to guide the set-up of 10 handwashing stations to promote community ownership. Since March 2020, IOM Mozambique has provided materials for the set-up of more than 600 hand washing stations in resettlement sites in central Mozambique to support communities displaced in 2019 by Cyclone Idai.

**Zimbabwe:** As of 2nd July 2020, the situation of IDPs remains of concern. Due to the winter season IDPs are struggling with the cold and the living conditions in the camps are exposing them to health risks. NGOs have distributed secondhand clothes in all the four camps to all IDPs (224 Households) but IDPs are still in need of Food and NFI support such as blankets, more winter clothing, soap etc. since there have been no food distributions since the last distributions by World Vision in April 2020. The temporary nature of the IDP accommodation is unsuitable for the winter months and yet plans to relocate them remain uncertain. The Government is speeding up the preparation of land in Bumba and servicing of stands in the new relocation site, and planning the relocation strategy, to move IDPs in the coming month. 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. There is need for increase COVID-19 awareness campaigns in the camps and ensure communities are educated on health and preventive measures, since particularly surrounding communities are receiving migrants' returnees.

## **WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

**Mali:** As of 1st July 2020, Mali has 2,181 COVID-19 cases, including 8 IDPs who have recovered in the Mopti region. Despite the high vulnerability of IDPs to COVID-19 and the efforts made by humanitarian actors, host communities and displaced are still lacking in COVID-19 awareness, information and understanding of mitigation measures. IOM conducted a Shelter and NFI assessment for IDPs and distributed 110 tents. These activities were carried out in compliance with health prevention measures (distancing, wearing a mask and using hydroalcoholic gel). COVID-19 has reduced the intervention capacity of humanitarian teams and their movements are restricted. In addition, the application of mitigation measures limits the number of people targeted by the response (reduction in the number of participants in interviews). Difficulty in complying with mitigation measures is an issue amongst

the IDP community, due to overcrowded sites and tight living spaces, as well as difficult access to hygiene and water.

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## ■ 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 \(15 - 21 June 2020\)](#)
- [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 \(14-20 June 2020\)](#)
- [Ethiopia — Flow Monitoring Dashboard 9 \(May 2020\)](#)
- [South Sudan | CCCM Cluster PoC Sites Covid-19 Update #2](#)