**FEATURE**

Syria

- **Affected Areas**: Aleppo, Hama, Idleb
- **Cause of Displacement**: Conflict
- **Figures**: As many as 303,000 new displacements between 15 December and 29 January

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**Context**

As many as 273,000 people newly displaced, half of whom are minors, were recorded between 15 December and 29 January in central and northern Idleb and northern Hama due to a government-led offensive in the governorates (OCHA, 7 Feb 2018; OCHA, 23 Jan 2018; Save the Children, 17 Jan 2018). Parts of the contested areas have reportedly been emptied of civilians (OCHA, 16 Jan 2018). Most of the population in the town of Saraqab, in Idleb province, has been displaced (OCHA, 7 Feb 2018).

Additionally, between 15,000 to 30,000 people were displaced in central Afrin, Aleppo governorate, as the Turkish military launched the ‘Olive Branch’ operation (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018; OCHA, 7 Feb 2018). Some IDPs are reportedly hiding in caves near the Turkish border (ECHO, 24 Jan 2018). Local authorities in Afrin district were reported to limit population movements by closing exit points, making it impossible for civilians to seek refuge outside the district (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018).

The situation of these IDPs is critical. Host communities as well as IDP camps are overburdened. Heavy rains have further exacerbated the situation when flood waters flooded tents, forcing IDP camps to close down (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018; MSF, 24 Jan 2018).

Save the Children warned that this was “one of the largest movements of population in the almost seven-year conflict, with more than 7,000 people on average being displaced every single day, and four times more people are being displaced than during the last phases of the Aleppo offensive” (Save the Children, 17 Jan 2018).
**EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC**

### Indonesia

**Affected Areas:** Banten, Bogor, Jakarta, Tangerang

**Cause of Displacement:** Disaster

**Figures:** Around 9,000 new displacements between 23 January and 7 February

**Context:**

About 1,100 people were displaced in Banten province between 23 and 26 January following a magnitude 6.1 earthquake on 23 January. A total of 2,760 houses were damaged, of which 291 were heavily damaged. By 26 January, 53 aftershocks were recorded. Seventy-three sub-districts in nine districts and cities in West Java, Banten and Jakarta provinces were affected (BNPB, 26 Jan 2018; OCHA, 29 Jan 2018).

As many as 7,900 people were displaced in Bogor, Jakarta and Tangerang between 4 and 7 February following heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides along the Ciliwung River watershed. Of those displaced, around 6,500 people were spread across 31 temporary shelters in South and East Jakarta. Although thousands of homes were flooded, many people were unwilling to evacuate and instead chose to remain in their homes (AHA Centre, 5 Feb 2018; BNPB, 6 Feb 2018).

### Malaysia

**Affected Areas:** Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor, Terengganu

**Cause of Displacement:** Disaster

**Figures:** As many as 9,200 new displacements between 11 January and 7 February

**Context:**

As many as 3,500 people were evacuated in the states of Pahang, Selangor, Johor, Terengganu, Perak, Melaka, and Negeri Sembilan of Peninsular Malaysia between 11 and 29 January following heavy rains and flooding (Astrowani, 12 Jan 2018; Astrowan, 13 Jan 2018; NADMA 11, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29 Jan 2018; AHA Centre, 11 Jan 2018).

As many as 5,700 people were evacuated in the states of Sabah and Sarawak of East Malaysia Peninsular between 11 January and 7 February following heavy rains and flooding (NADMA, 11 Jan 2018; NADMA, 13 Jan 2018; NADMA, 26 Jan 2018; The Star, 28 Jan 2018; NADMA, 7 Feb 2018; The Borneo Post, 5 Feb 2018). This includes as many as 5,400 people evacuated in Sarawak between 3 and 7 February. On 3 February, the Malaysian Meteorological Department issued a Yellow Level Weather Alert Warning for continuous heavy rain from 3 to 5 February in Kuching, Serian, Mukah, Bintulu and Miri divisions. Local authorities said this latest round of flooding in Sarawak was due to incessant heavy rain since 1 February coupled with high tides.

### Philippines

**Affected Areas:** Bicol (V), Caraga (XIII), Davao (XI), Eastern Visayas (VIII), Northern Mindanao (X), Soccsksargen (XII), Western Visayas (VI)

**Cause of Displacement:** Disaster and Conflict

**Figures:** More than 114,000 new displacements between 15 January and 8 February

**Context:**

More than 86,000 people have been displaced between 13 January and 7 February in Albay, Region V due to volcanic activity by Mount Mayon. On 13 January, the volcano generated a phreatic eruption that propelled a grayish steam and ash plume approximately 2.5km high. The volcano alert status was raised to level 4 (hazardous eruption imminent) on 22 January due to increased seismic activity, lava fountaining and summit explosion. As of 7 February, around 70,000 people were displaced, with 58,000 people taking temporary shelter in 52 evacuation centers and 12,000 people staying with relatives and friends (DROMIC, 7 Feb 2018).

Around 26,500 people have been displaced between 15 and 21 January in Regions VI, VIII, X, XI due to the tail-end of a cold front that brought about moderate to heavy rains in parts of Visayas and Mindanao, which resulted in flooding.
As of 21 January, around 54 people were displaced, with 45 people in an evacuation shelter and 9 people staying with relatives (DROMIC, 21 Jan 2018).

Around 260 people were displaced between 3 and 5 February in South Cotabato, Region XII due to a flash flood caused by heavy rainfall (DROMIC, 5 Feb 2018).

Around 170 people were displaced on 15 January in Capiz, Region VI due to a landslide. While people were initially transferred to an evacuation centre, the centre was also at risk of potential ground movement and, as a result, evacuees stayed with family or friends (DROMIC, 16 Jan 2018).

More than 1,000 people were displaced between 9 and 15 January in Agusan del Norte of the CARAGA region in Mindanao when, on 9 January, a group of armed men advised residents to leave their houses so as not to be caught in crossfire (DROMIC, 15 Jan 2018). Additionally, around 206 people were displaced between 5 and 8 February in Agusan del Norte of the CARAGA region in Mindanao following armed conflict between an armed group and military forces on 5 February (DROMIC, 8 Feb 2018).

**NORTH AMERICA**

**United States**

- **Affected Areas**: California (Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Counties)
- **Cause of Displacement**: Disaster
- **Figures**: As many as 20,200 new displacements between 8 and 9 January

More than 20,200 people were under mandatory evacuations as of 9 January, in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties in California, because of heavy rainfall causing flash floods and mudslides (FEMA, 9 Jan 2018; Floodlist, 11 Jan 2018). Rain from the storm fell on the hillsides and mountains that had been stripped of trees and vegetation by the wildfires that swept through parts of California in October last year (Floodlist, 11 Jan 2018).

**LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

**Paraguay**

- **Affected Areas**: Boquerón, Misiones, Ñeembucú, Presidente Hayes
- **Cause of Displacement**: Disaster
- **Figures**: Over 21,000 new displacements between 16 January and 5 February

Over 21,000 people have been displaced between 16 January and 5 February due to floods in the states of Boquerón, Presidente Hayes, Misiones and Ñeembucú (ECHO, 5 Feb 2018). The Paraguay River flooded around Asunción and led to about 18,000 evacuations between 16 and 24 January (Floodlist, 24 Jan 2018). The Pilcomayo River’s level around Boquerón also increased on 7 February leading to the evacuation of about 90 people (SEN, 7 Feb 2018). In addition, Paraná River also flooded around Ayolas, leading to the evacuation of about 120 people.

**South Asia**

**India**

- **Affected Areas**: Jammu (Line of Control)
- **Cause of Displacement**: Conflict
- **Figures**: As many as 40,000 new displacements between 17 and 22 January

As many as 40,000 people were displaced between 17 and 22 January along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts. Mortar explosions and machine gun firing have intensified along the border with Pakistan since January 17, forcing people to flee their homes and take shelter in rehabilitation camps or with their relatives. While most of those displaced are living with their relatives, over 1,000 are being housed in boarding and lodging places set-up by the government in schools. According to authorities, around 400 schools where 50,000 children were previously studying, have been shut (Hindustan Times, 19 Jan 2018; NDTV, 21 Jan 2018; Times of India, 22 Jan 2018; First Post, 24 Jan 2018).
Democratic Republic of the Congo

**AFFEC TED AREAS** | Haut-Katanga, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu
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**CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT** | Conflict

**FIGURES** | About 46,000 new displacements between 14 January and 1 February; about 14,000 returns between 30 January and 6 February

**CONTEXT**

In South Kivu, about 2,300 people from Changaliro, Makama and Nenba, in Fizi territory fled their homes and headed towards Ubwari and Sebele on 14 January, due to clashes between Mayi-Mayi militias and the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) (OCHA, 15 Jan 2018). These ongoing clashes have also led to the displacement of about 13,500 people, the entire population of the villages of Kikonde and Nenba, between 21 and 23 January (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018). Of these people, at least 5,000 fled towards Burundi and 1,400 arrived in Uvira (OCHA, 30 Jan 2018). Between 29 January and 6 February, about 80 per cent of the population of both Kikonde and Nenba had returned, along with 20 per cent of the population of Kazimia, accounting for a total of 14,000 returns during that period (OCHA, 6 Feb 2018). In addition, over 2,000 people were forced to flee between 14 and 15 January due to attacks by armed groups in Shabunda territory, Baliga village group (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018).

More than 6,000 people fled clashes between armed groups and the FARDC between 22 December and 18 January in Kabambare territory, on the border between the provinces of South Kivu and Maniema, in the Kalonda Kibuyu-Quatre Coins area (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018). About 100 people who had regained their homes in the Kalonda Kibuyu-Quatre Coins area were forced to flee again on 23 January after about 20 houses were set ablaze by armed groups (OCHA, 30 Jan 2018). Clashes between armed groups and the FARDC has also led to the displacement of about 10,000 people from the Lulimba-Lwiko-Penemende area, between 24 and 26 January (OCHA, 30 Jan 2018).

In North Kivu, Rutshuru territory, about 2,600 people were forced to leave their homes in Butare locality between 23 and 29 January to find refuge in the neighbouring localities of Marangara and Rushege (OCHA, 29 Jan 2018).

Meanwhile, in Pweto territory, Haut-Kantanga, almost 10,000 people from Kabulembe, Kanzunzi, Lwantete and other neighbouring villages were displaced between 14 January and 1 February due to an outbreak of intercommunal violence (OCHA, 1 Feb 2018).

Mauritius

**AFFEC TED AREAS** | Rodrigues Island
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**CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT** | Disaster

**FIGURES** | At least 3,600 new displacements between 15 and 19 January

**CONTEXT**

At least 3,600 people were evacuated between 15 and 19 January on Rodrigues Island and were housed in 57 of 171 evacuation centres set up by the government in anticipation for Cyclone Berguitta to make landfall (OCHA, 16 Jan 2018; IFRC, 24 Jan 2018). The cyclone was projected to make landfall on Mauritius on 19 January, however, it reduced its intensity and passed near Mauritius as a Severe Tropical Storm.

Mozambique

**AFFEC TED AREAS** | Cabo Delgado, Nampula
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**CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT** | Disaster

**FIGURES** | Around 29,000 new displacements between 16 and 21 January

**CONTEXT**

Around 29,000 people were displaced by a tropical depression in the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula between 16 and 21 January, after a low-pressure system formed in the Mozambique channel. In Nampula province, heavy rains affected more than 73,200 people and caused ten deaths. Over 14,400 houses were damaged, including about 8,800 partially destroyed and 5,600 completely destroyed. Among the most affected districts were Monapo, Meconta, Mossuril, Mozambique Island and Nacarao (OCHA, 23 Jan 2018). In Cabo Delgado province, 1,100 families were displaced when heavy rains partially or completely destroyed their homes. The rains also destroyed about 1,500 hectares of farm plots and seven national and regional roads (Club of Mozambique, 24 Jan 2018).
Nigeria

**AFECTED AREAS**
Adamawa State, Borno State

**CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT**
Conflict

**FIGURES**
More than 84,000 new displacements between 1 and 29 January

**CONTEXT**

More than 80,000 people were displaced between 1 and 29 January by clashes between farmers and herders, with renewed fighting on 21 January in Adamawa State. Fighting between these two groups has increased since 1 January, starting in Benue State and spreading to other regions (OCHA, 29 Jan 2018, OCHA 15 Jan 2018).

About 4,000 people were displaced between 8 and 29 January in Borno State due to attacks and military operations. More than 1,900 people were displaced between 9 and 15 January (IOM ETT, 15 Jan 2018). Nearly 500 people were displaced from Kingarwa ward between 16 and 22 January due to recent attacks in the area (IOM ETT, 22 Jan 2018). More than 1,600 people were displaced in Borno State between 23 and 29 January, including more than 1,100 who fled from Gasarwa village and surrounding locations, and more than 550 who arrived in Moguno (IOM ETT, 29 Jan 2018).

IDP camps remain a target of attacks. Two suicide bombers suspected to be part of Boko Haram attacked the Dalori 1 IDP camp near Maiduguri on 31 January, with multiple casualties (Vanguard, 1 Feb 2018).

**DISCLAIMER**

The terminology, names and designations used in this update and the material in links do not imply any opinion on the part of IDMC. Displacement figures reported here are indicative only and have been rounded to the nearest 10 (if the total is less than 999), 100 (if the total is less than 10,000) or 1,000 (if the figure is 10,000 or larger).

The IDU gives priority to displacement flows that occurred or were reported in stated period. However, due to reliance on third party sources, certain entries may include information that refers to an earlier reporting period. For IDMC-validated and peer-reviewed figures, read our Global Report on Internal Displacement.