Bringing the farthest behind forward: shining a light on displaced populations

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Average of 21.5M displacements/year of people by impact of weather-related hazards

Disasters triggered by weather-related hazards caused seven of the ten largest events, both in absolute terms and relative to the populations of the countries in question. The main exception was Nepal, where the April and May earthquakes together caused the largest displacement of the year associated with a disaster (see figure 1.11).

Within the category of weather-related hazards, floods and storms led to the vast majority of displacements. Disasters brought on by floods forced 8.3 million people to flee their homes, and storms 6.3 million. Around 87,000 people were displaced by wildfires (see figure 1.12).

Exposure to weather extremes

Disasters triggered by weather-related hazards tend to displace far more people than those brought on by geophysical hazards. They accounted for almost three times as much displacement in 2015, forcing 14.7 million people to flee their homes compared with 4.5 million for geophysical disasters (see figure 1.10).

There were no mega-scale weather-related events, defined here as those which cause more than three million displacements, but flooding in the southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh caused 1.8 million displacements.

Cyclone Komen and monsoon floods triggered disasters in both Myanmar and India, causing 1.6 million and 1.2 million displacements.

Displacement associated with weather hazards was lower in 2015 than the annual average level of 21.5 million people for the period since 2008, despite the onset of the natural global weather phenomenon known as El Niño (see spotlight). During the short rainy season in equatorial east Africa from October to December, local weather systems and sea surface temperature patterns in the Indian Ocean also played an important role in 2015. Most of Kenya received higher than average rains, which caused localised flooding and mud and landslides. More than 240,000 people were affected, infrastructure was damaged, livestock lost and cholera spread across at least 21 countries. Around 103,500 people were displaced, according to the Kenya Red Cross Society. That said, the scale of displacement was significantly lower than expected and the rains benefited arid and semi-arid parts of the country, helping crops development, livestock productivity, the replenishment of water sources and the recovery of rangeland in pastoral areas. Some of the strongest El Niño effects are on rainfall deficit and agricultural drought, whose indirect impact on displacement is not captured in our global statistics (see part 3 of this report).
New displacements associated with conflict and disasters in 2015

- Conflict and violence (Total: 8.6 million)
- Disasters (Total: 19.2 million)

**Note:** For both types of displacement, the number is shown only when it exceeds 20,000. The size of the pie charts is fixed for estimates of 5,000 or less. In a few cases, the same person may be displaced more than once.
Over a million people displaced in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Many people fleeing criminal violence fall through the cracks and do not receive adequate protection.

DISPLACEMENT BY DROUGHT-RELATED DISASTERS: MORE THAN 280,000 PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN ETHIOPIA BETWEEN AUG ’15 AND FEB ’16. COMPLEX, MULTI-CAUSAL AND DELAYED IMPACTS.
Understanding patterns & trends: Cumulative impacts of chronic displacement

Displacement events by type of hazard in the top 4 most frequently-hit provinces

- Yunnan: 38% Earthquakes, 44% Storms, 18% Floods
- Guizhou: 63% Storms, 31% Floods, 5% Earthquakes
- Guangxi: 56% Storms, 25% Floods, 19% Earthquakes
- Guangdong: 49% Storms, 57% Floods, 4% Earthquakes

Number of times affected by events*
- 0
- 1 - 3
- 4 - 6
- 8 - 9

* Events that displaced >50,000 people

Top 3 largest events in China
- Typhoon Rammasun, July: 628,000 IDPs
- Inland storm, May: 447,000 IDPs
- Monsoon floods, July: 403,000 IDPs

Number of IDPs

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.
Understanding patterns & trends: Prolonged & protracted displacement

- United States: Superstorm Sandy, 2012 - 53,500
- Haiti: Earthquake, 2010 - 64,700
- Colombia: Gramalote landslide, 2010 - 2,900
- Italy: L’Aquila earthquake, 2009 - 16,000
- Armenia: Earthquake, 1988 - 13,100
- Pakistan: Attabad landslide and flood, 2010 - 2,900, Monsoon floods, 2012 - 31,000
- Bangladesh: Cyclone Aila, 2009 - 13,100
- Japan: Tōhoku earthquake/tsunami and nuclear accident, 2011 - 230,000
- Philippines: Typhoon Bopha/Pablo, 2012 - At least 140,000, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, 2013 - 13,300
- Papua New Guinea: Manam volcano eruption, 2004 - 15,000

Location of protracted situations recorded as ongoing in 2014/2015
- Floods
- Earthquake
- Landslide
- Wet mass movement
- Volcanic eruption
- Storm

Sources: See annex C for listing of all events shown.
Note: Events with at least 9,500 people still displaced and/or further discussed in case studies are labeled.
All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
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