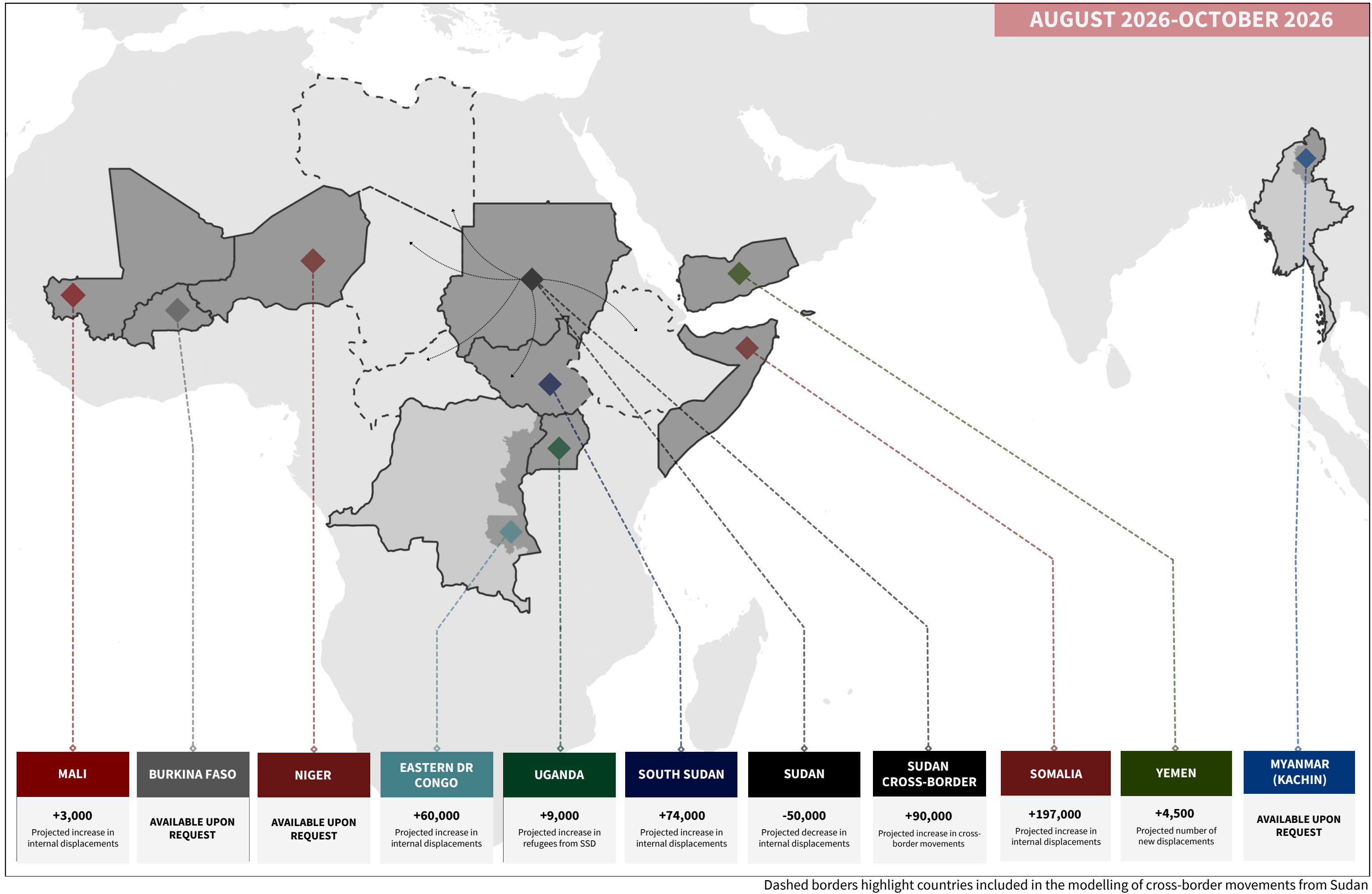


OVERVIEW

AHEAD’s global snapshot #16 presents displacement forecasts for the period **August to October 2026**, providing early warnings on where displacement figures may rise or fall. This edition covers ten countries: **Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Yemen, as well as Myanmar (Kachin state), Niger and Burkina Faso (all three available upon request).** In addition, the snapshot includes a dedicated analysis of cross-border displacement movements from Sudan into neighbouring countries. Forecasts draw on recent displacement trends, conflict dynamics, food insecurity and seasonal factors. As displacement data can be highly uncertain or missing, the AHEAD model attempts to impute missing values and estimate current displacement levels before projecting three months ahead.



GLOBAL OUTLOOK

In Somalia, displacement is anticipated to climb by over 190,000, and particularly large increases are expected in terms of the total number of flood-induced IDPs.

In Sudan, the total number of IDPs is expected to decrease by roughly 50,000, but relatively large rises are anticipated in Khartoum and West Kordofan. Meanwhile, **cross-border flows from Sudan, particularly into the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Chad, are projected to rise by almost 90,000.**

Internal displacement is anticipated to climb by roughly 74,000 in South Sudan. In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects an increase of more than 9,000 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan across nine settlements, including large rises in Imvepi and Rhino.

Forecasts for eastern DR Congo indicate that the number of IDPs will increase by roughly 60,000 by October 2026. In Mali it is anticipated that the number of IDPs across the country will rise by about 3,000.

In Yemen, the number of new displacements in the coming quarter is expected to be around 4,500, with increases anticipated in Hays as the security outlook has deteriorated since July.

For more information about AHEAD, please visit: <https://drc.ngo/what-we-do/innovation/anticipatory-action/ahead/>

Disclaimer: the maps shown here are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by DRC. The forecasts presented in this snapshot are based on available data from relevant sources at the time of analysis. Work on the forecasting model is ongoing, and updates are made regularly as new information becomes available.

EASTERN DR CONGO

Since January 2025, renewed M23 offensives in eastern DR Congo have driven new displacements. Between 4th of January and 19th of March 2025, M23 fighters entered into Masisi, Sake, Goma, Bukavu and Walikale. These advances have led to hundreds of thousands of new displacements, while millions have also been forced back toward their places of origin. In eastern DR Congo, AHEAD’s displacement forecasts cover 28 territories across North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

Displacement is expected to rise across several territories in South Kivu province. **Fizi is projected to record the largest increase, with around 19,000 additional IDPs by October 2026**, while Kalehe is projected to increase by more than 5,500. These trends are consistent with recent DTM rounds, which recorded large increases in both territories.

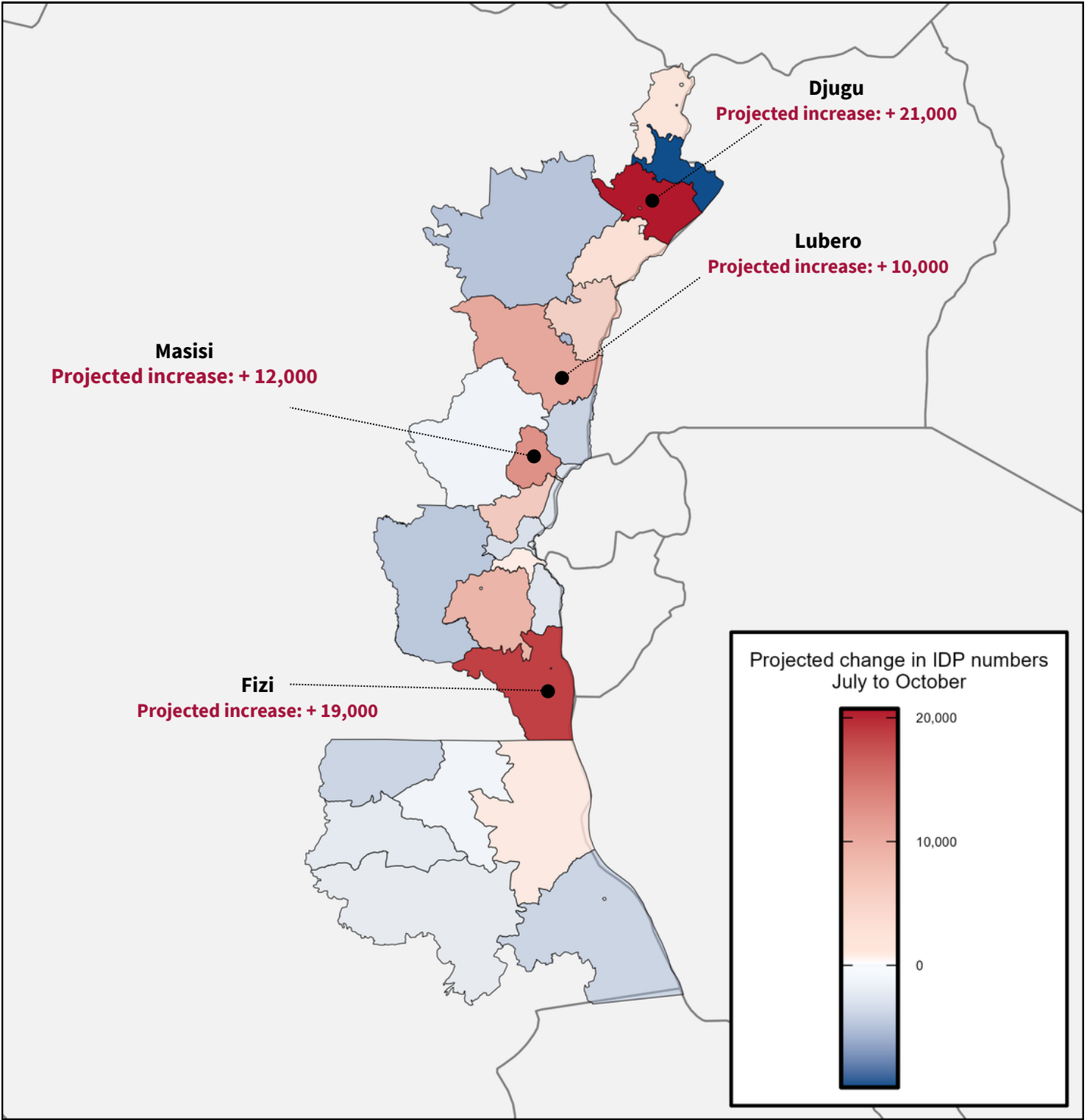
Projected rises in South Kivu are also expected to affect displacement dynamics in Tanganyika. Kalemie, which has continued to receive arrivals from Fizi and Uvira, is projected to keep seeing increases in the number of IDPs over the next three months.

In North Kivu, the number of IDPs in **Masisi** is projected to record the largest increase, **rising by more than 12,000** by October 2026. IDP numbers are also projected to increase by almost **10,000 in Lubero**, and 5,000 in Beni.

In Ituri, the number of **IDPs in Djugu is projected to increase by more than 20,000** between end-July and end-October. IDP numbers are also expected to rise in Aru and Irumu.

3.91 MILLION
Projected total IDP numbers by
October 2026

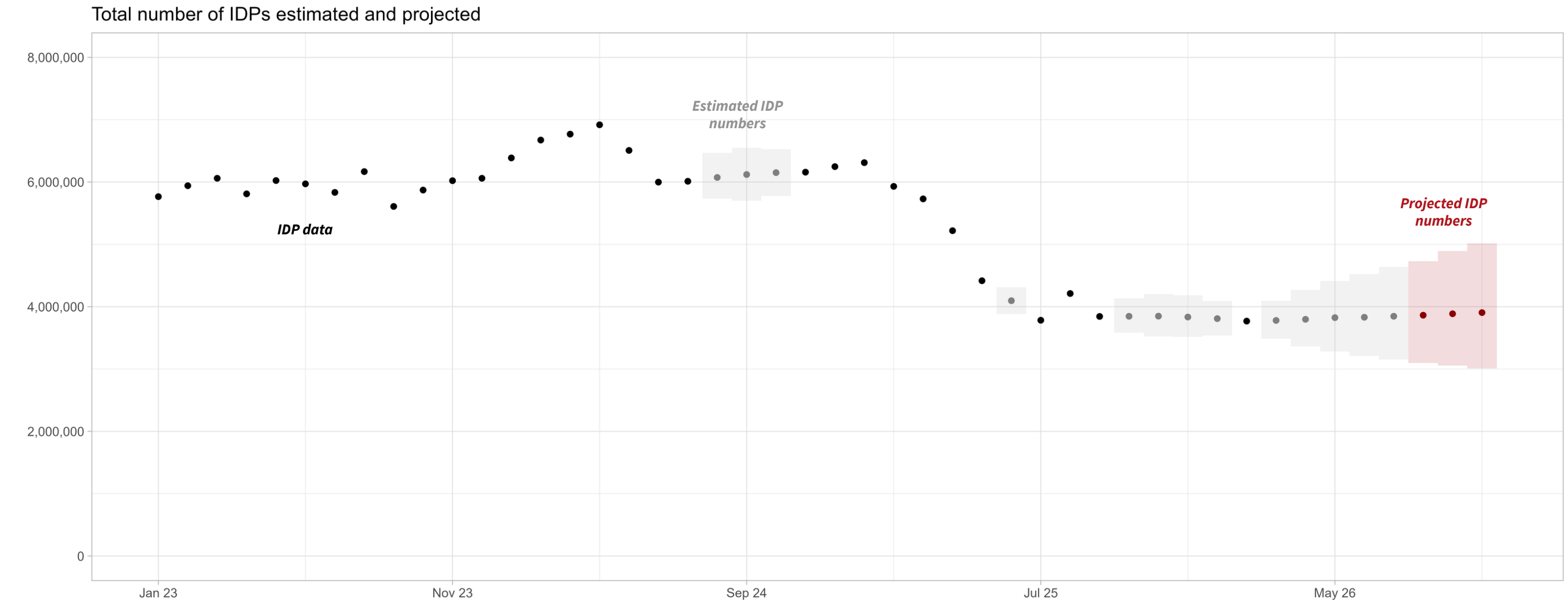
+60,000
Projected IDP increase between
July and October



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

In eastern DR Congo, the number of IDPs is projected to increase by around 60,000 over the next three months, reaching approximately 3.91 million across the four eastern provinces by October 2026. DTM data recorded increases in IDP numbers across all four provinces between the latest available data collection cycles, including South Kivu, North Kivu and Tanganyika. More recent DTM data for Ituri, collected through early July, also recorded an increase in IDPs, with Djugu hosting the largest displaced population in the province. Return movements meanwhile increased in all provinces except Tanganyika.

The projected increase should be read against continued insecurity and population movements reported in several parts of eastern DR Congo since the previous update. In South Kivu, July displacement monitoring recorded over 55,000 newly displaced households, while OCHA reported on 3 August that clashes in Uvira, Fizi and Mwenga had displaced more than 48,000 people since mid-July. Recent local reporting also indicates that heavy-weapon clashes were reported in several localities of Kalehe on 11 August, with some families reportedly moving to safer areas. In North Kivu, local sources reported new movements from the Kasake area of Masisi towards Ngungu and Kibabi following fighting in mid-July, while further clashes in Walikale in August reportedly led residents in some affected localities to leave their homes temporarily. In Ituri, OCHA reported in August that the Plaine Savo site in Djugu was hosting more than 76,000 displaced people; Further FARDC–CRP clashes were also reported in Djugu in August. New displacement towards Mambasa-centre, Teturi, Luemba and Biakato was also reported in August following attacks attributed to the ADF. Overall, these dynamics suggest that new and secondary displacement will continue in several areas over the projection period. However, returns, temporary movements and onward displacement may partly offset new arrivals, contributing to more moderate changes in territory-level IDP caseloads than the scale of reported displacement movements alone might suggest.



Note: Eastern DR Congo’s displacement data are sourced from OCHA.

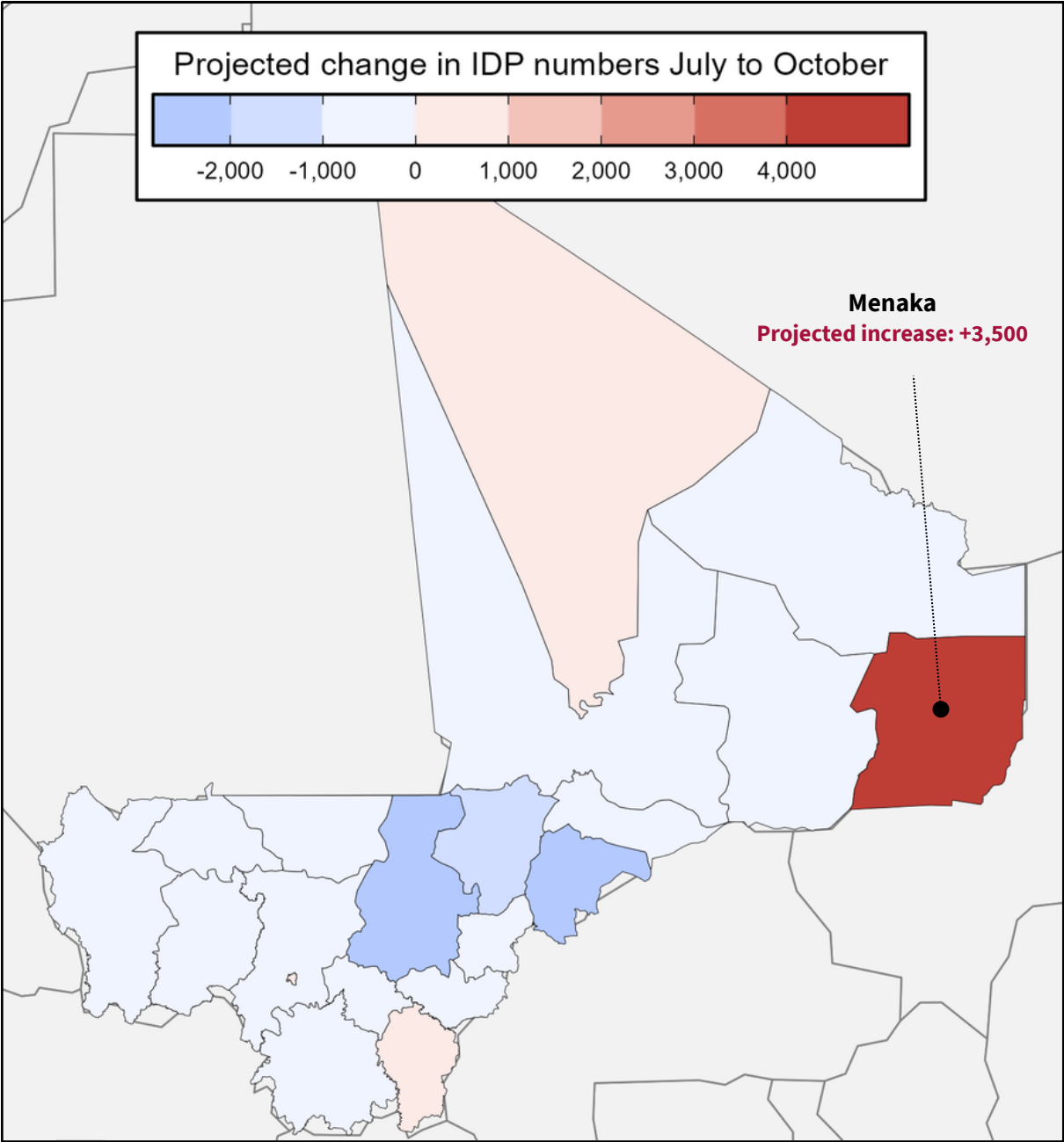
Internal displacement in Mali is almost entirely conflict-related. Displacement in Mali is driven by a protracted and complex conflict involving state forces, allied paramilitaries, and a patchwork of non-state armed groups, further exacerbated by intercommunal violence. The displacement is primarily concentrated in the central regions of Bandiagara, Mopti and Ségou, and the northern regions of Gao, Menaka and Tombouctou.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

By October 2026, AHEAD projects the largest displaced population in Mali to be in **Bandiagara, Gao, Menaka and Mopti**.

Projections for August, September and October indicate the highest risk of large scale displacement in the eastern part of the country. **In Menaka, the number of IDPs is expected to increase by over 3,500 by October, compared to estimates from July.**

Smaller increases are anticipated in Gao, Taoudenni and Nara. In most other areas, no significant changes are projected. Over 30 conflict incidents were recorded in the **Tombouctou region** in the past two months. If violence persists and escalates, this could push projections toward the upper end of the forecast range.



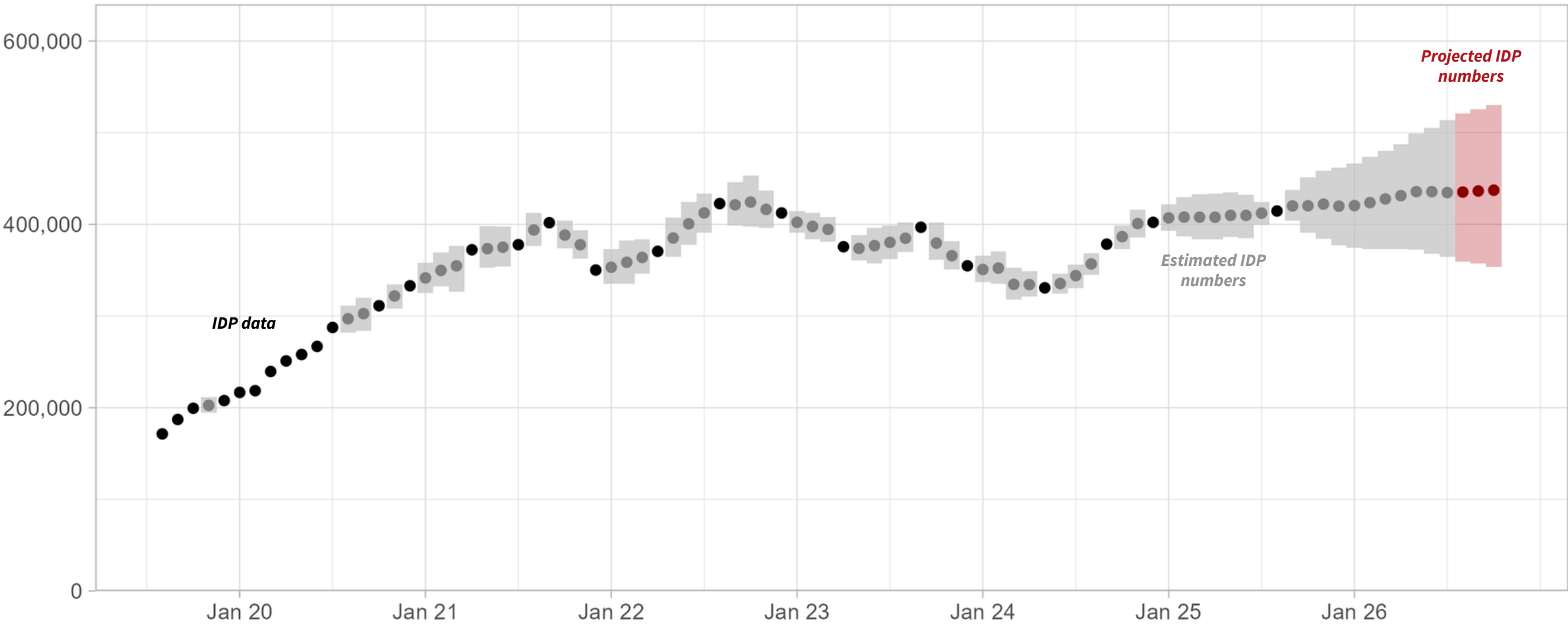
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Following a resurgence of violence throughout 2025, Mali entered a critical phase of insecurity in early 2026. The conflict dramatically escalated on April 25–26, 2026, when JNIM and the FLA launched an unprecedented, coordinated offensive targeting strategic urban centers, including Bamako, Kati, Gao, Mopti, and Kidal. This offensive altered the security landscape, with the FLA claiming to retake Kidal from state and allied forces. The attacks, which included a blockade of the capital, triggered widespread regional curfews and severe disruptions to humanitarian access. By May 2026, ACLED reporting pointed to continued deterioration as armed-group activity and violent events heavily impacted central regions like Ségou and Mopti, while the northern regions remain highly contested. July has seen another coordinate offensive across Mali.

Updated DTM IDP estimates for Mali (September 2025) indicate that, across the last two reporting periods (December 2024 to September 2025), the national IDP caseload rose by around 12,000 people. The largest increase was in Tombouctou, from 24,867 IDPs in December 2024 to 42,521 in September 2025. **Over the next three months, the number of IDPs in Mali is projected to increase slightly.** However, conditions in some regions could lead to sharper increases. In Ségou, where over 65 conflict incidents were recorded in June and July, displacement may accelerate further.

Mali is also a host country, with recent influxes of over 23,000 refugees from Burkina Faso into the Bandiagara region, straining already limited local resources and making the Danish Refugee Council declare a small emergency there. Mali is further hosting more than 165,000 Burkinabe and Nigeriens refugees.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



SUDAN

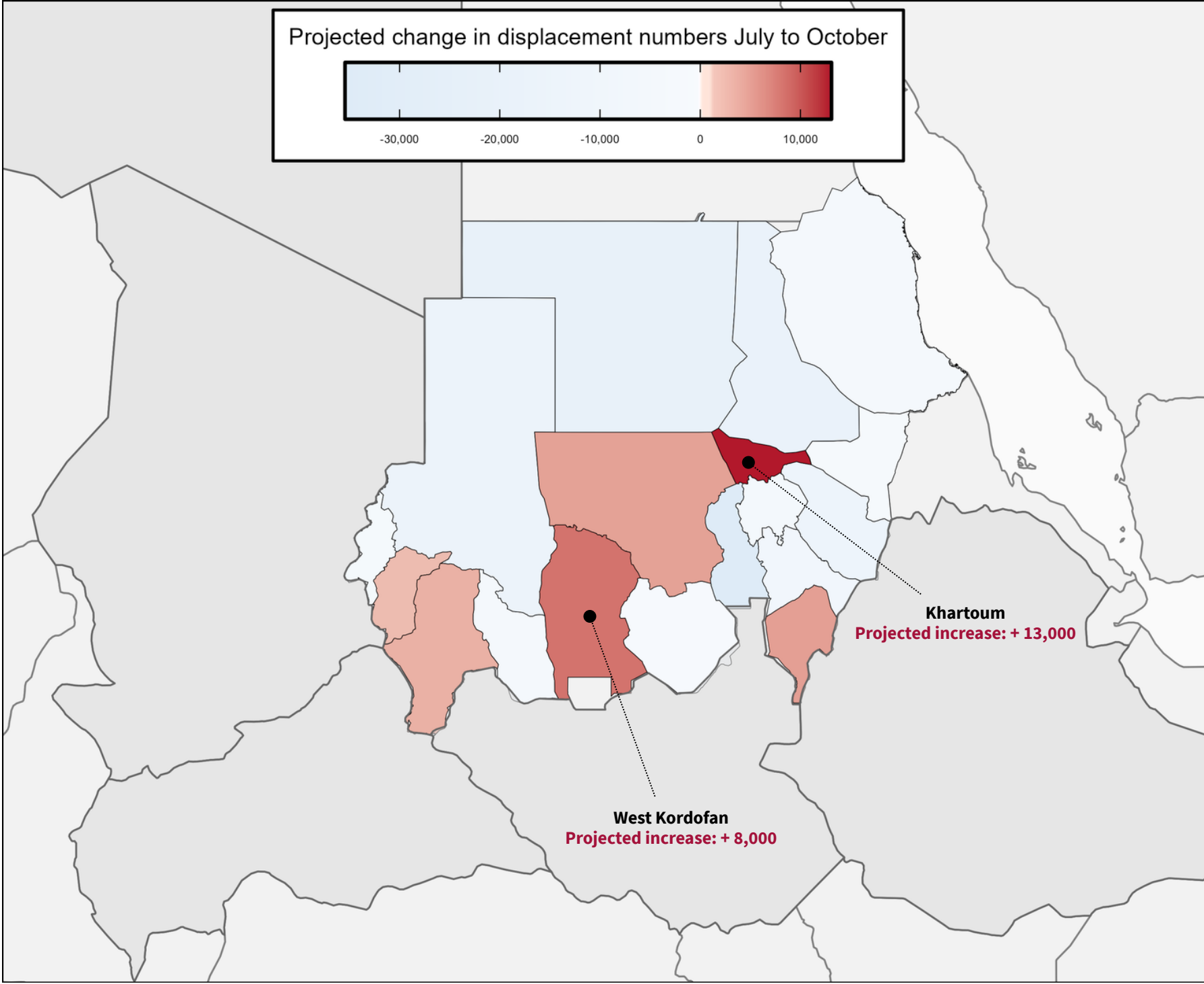
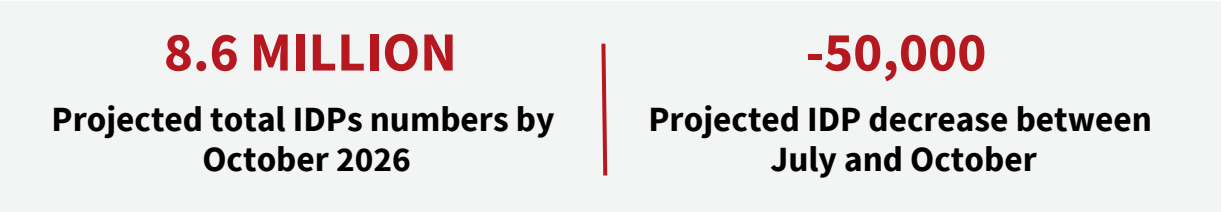
Since the conflict between SAF and RSF began, Sudan has seen a sharp rise in displacement, reaching nearly 11.6 million IDPs by January 2025. In recent months, figures have declined, partly due to increasing returns. The AHEAD model covers 18 states and includes cross-border flows into Ethiopia, South Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic and Libya.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

Over the coming three months, displacement in **Khartoum is projected to increase by around 13,000 people**, following large increases in recent months linked to both within-state movements and arrivals from the Kordofan region. **In Blue Nile, the number of IDPs is projected to rise again**, following a decline in June compared to May.

The IDP caseload in **West Kordofan is expected to increase by roughly 8,000 individuals** by October. In North Darfur, the model projects a significant decrease of almost 16,000 IDPs, as continued onward movement to other states is being recorded.

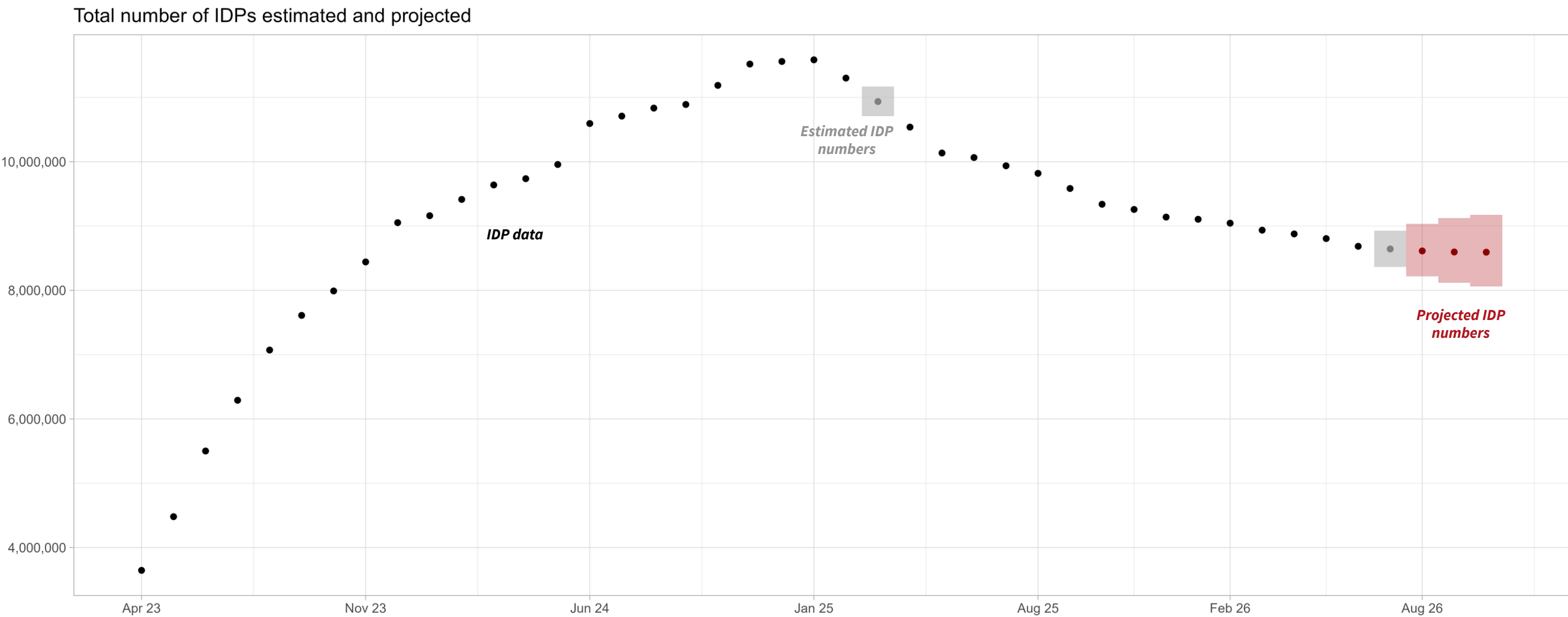
By contrast, return movements are expected to remain a key driver of declining IDP numbers in several other states. The largest reductions are projected in White Nile, Northern and River Nile.



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model anticipates a decline in the number of IDPs in Sudan. By October 2026, the total is projected at around 8.6 million, about 50,000 fewer than in July. This decline is consistent with recent DTM Sudan reporting. Mobility Update 22 (September 2025) estimated about 9.58 million IDPs nationwide, more than 2.0 million below the peak earlier in the year. Subsequent updates continued this downward trend, with the Displacement and Return Overview showing a continued decline in 2026, from around 9.1 million IDPs in January to 8.68 million in June. Reductions are partly driven by returns, with more than 3.8 million individuals estimated to have returned from internal displacement by June 2026. However, returns do not necessarily indicate reduced needs, as many households are returning to damaged homes, limited basic services and areas affected by unexploded ordnance, including in Khartoum.

Despite the overall decline in IDP numbers recorded in recent months, localized new and secondary displacement could persist, particularly across Kordofan and parts of Darfur. On 17 July, WFP reported that displacement towards El Obeid was increasing, with displacement sites in the city beyond capacity and new families continuing to arrive from across the Kordofan states and Darfur. Conflict dynamics also remained fluid. On 27 July, ACLED reported that the SAF had taken Bara, Um Sayala and Gebrat al-Sheikh north of El Obeid, strengthening a key supply corridor. At the same time, displacement pressures were also reported further west. ACLED reported attacks on around 10 villages and towns in Tina, Karnoi and Um Baru localities in North Darfur since June, several of which were burned and triggered civilian displacement. By early August, OCHA reported that continued fighting in North Kordofan was driving displacement towards El Obeid and Khartoum, with UN reporting on 6 August that more than 107,000 displaced people were living in Sheikan locality, including over 83,000 in El Obeid town.



Note: Sudan’s displacement data are sourced from IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix. Cross-border movements data are sourced from IOM and UNHCR Operational Data Portal.

SUDAN CROSS-BORDER

Since the start of the conflict between the SAF and the RSF in April 2023, Sudan has experienced large-scale cross-border displacement. IOM DTM estimates indicate that more than 4.4 million people had crossed borders as of the latest reporting period. Approximately 69% of those displaced were Sudanese nationals, while 31% were non-Sudanese nationals. DTM tracks cumulative cross-border movements from Sudan since 15 April 2023, and the AHEAD model builds on this data to project future movements into Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya.

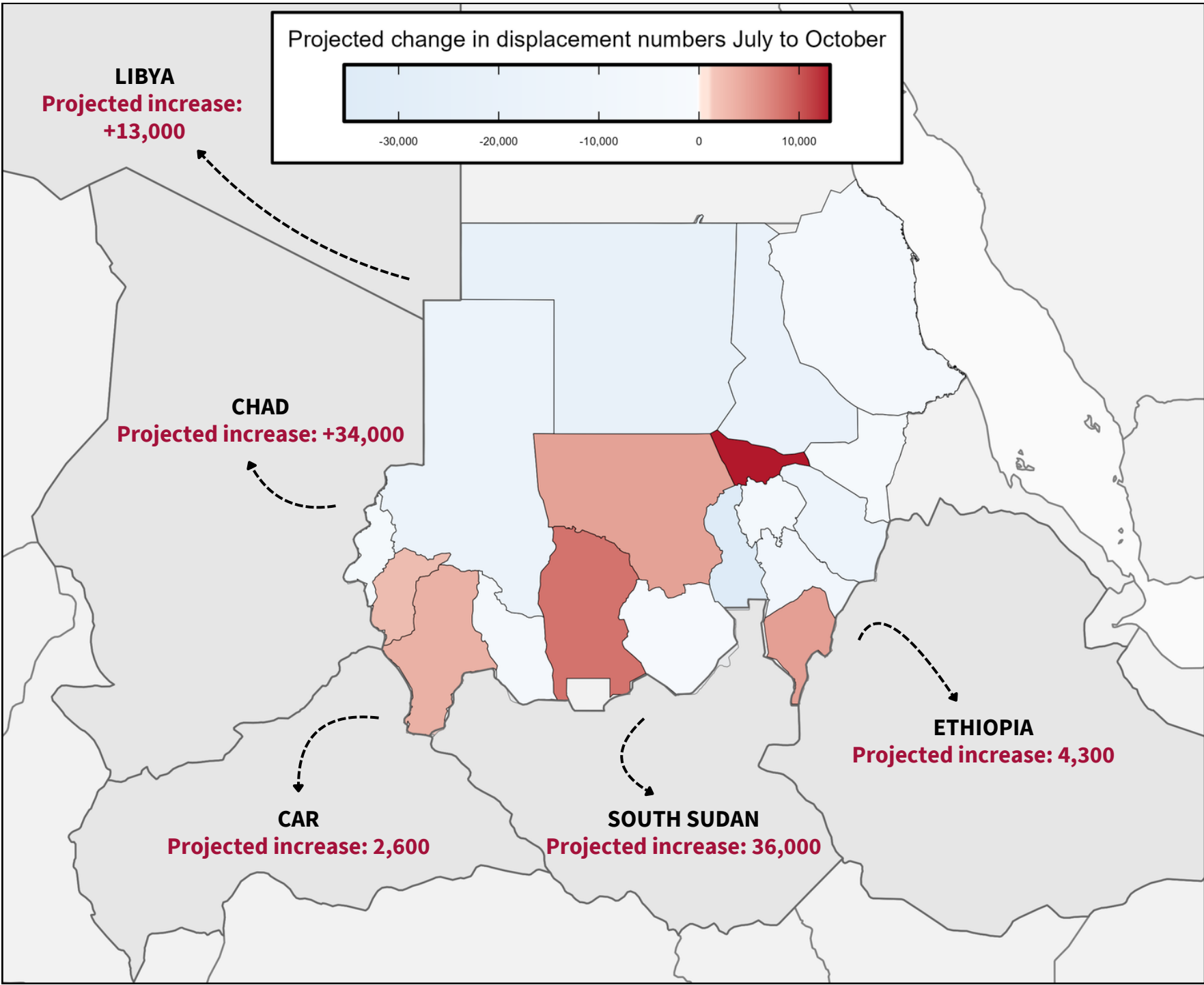
HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

The largest projected increases in cross-border movements are expected towards South Sudan. Over the next three months, the **AHEAD model estimates an additional 36,000 movements into South Sudan. Movements into Chad are also projected to increase by approximately 34,000 over the same period.** More than 90,000 movements were already registered towards both countries since February 2026.

Cross-border movements into Ethiopia are expected to continue increasing, with an estimated rise of 4,300 by October compared to July estimates.

Movements into Libya are projected to rise by approximately 13,000. Smaller increases are projected for the Central African Republic. Cross-border movements into CAR are expected to increase by around 3,000.

+90,000
Projected increase in cross-border movements between July and October



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

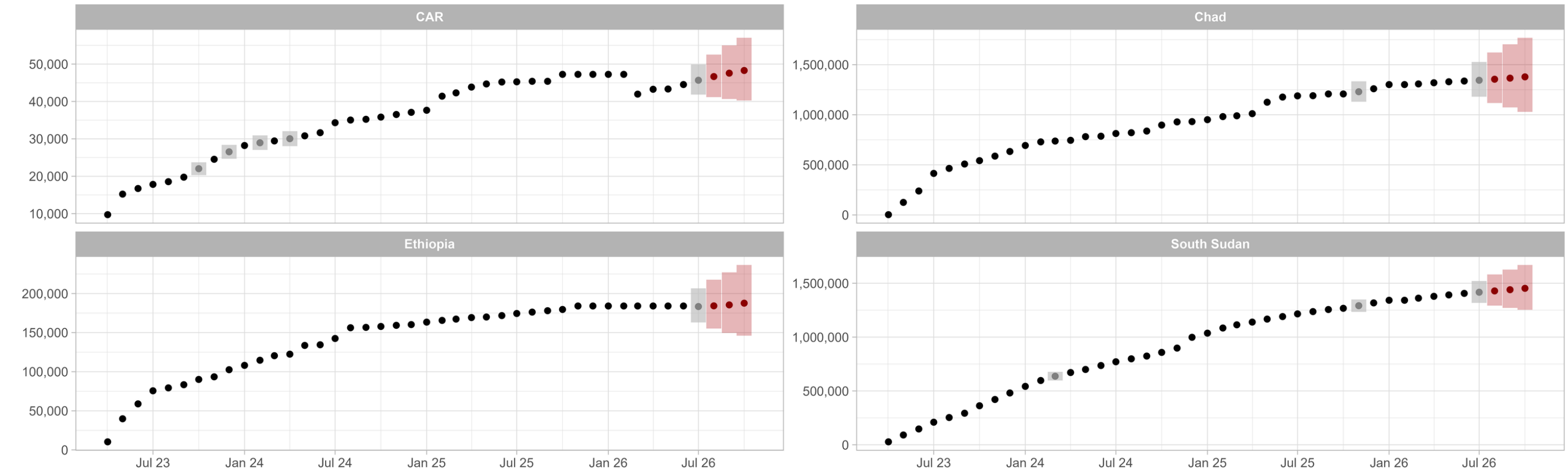
Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects a continued increase in cross-border displacement from Sudan into neighbouring countries. **By October 2026, total cross-border movements into Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya are expected to increase by almost 90,000 compared to July estimates.** In South Sudan, DTM reported that approximately 1.4 million people had crossed from Sudan since April 2023 as of mid July 2026. Based on current projections, additional movements over the next three months are expected to increase the cumulative total to over 1.45 million by October 2026.

Movements from Sudan into Chad, Libya, and Egypt have continued since the start of the conflict. UNHCR reporting indicates that more than 566,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya since April 2023. For Egypt, which is not currently covered by the AHEAD model, available estimates published by DTM suggest that approximately 1,514,827 individuals crossed from Sudan into Egypt between April 2023 and October 2025, while an estimated 769,602 individuals were reported to have returned from Egypt to Sudan between January 2024 and June 2026.

Figures indicate that approximately 1.34 million individuals, primarily Sudanese nationals, crossed from Sudan into Chad between April 2023 and early July 2026. During the period from August 2025 to June 2026, an estimated 181,038 individuals were reported to have moved from Chad back into Sudan. AHEAD projections suggest that cross-border movements into Chad may continue to increase through October2026. At the same time, the number of people entering Sudan from neighbouring countries has reportedly increased since January 2026. IOM DTM recorded more than 400,000 arrivals during the first six months of the year, including over 90,000 in June alone.

Projected increases into Ethiopia are more moderate, but insecurity in Blue Nile may sustain cross-border pressure. In early February, around 3,250 people were reportedly displaced from Al Kurmuk locality, with most moving toward Doula in Ethiopia.

Cumulative number of people crossing from Sudan into neighbouring countries (since mid April 2023)



Note: Sudan’s displacement data are sourced from IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix. Cross-border movements data are sourced from IOM and UNHCR Operational Data Portal.

SOUTH SUDAN

Internal displacements in South Sudan is caused by a wide range of factors, including armed conflict, communal clashes, land disputes, violence, natural disasters and cross-border movements. In the past few months conflict has escalated at a more broader level with especially high intensity in Upper Nile, Jonglei and parts of Unity state. This comes on top of major displacement caused by flooding in 2025 and a high number of returnees of South Sudanese fleeing the conflict in Sudan.

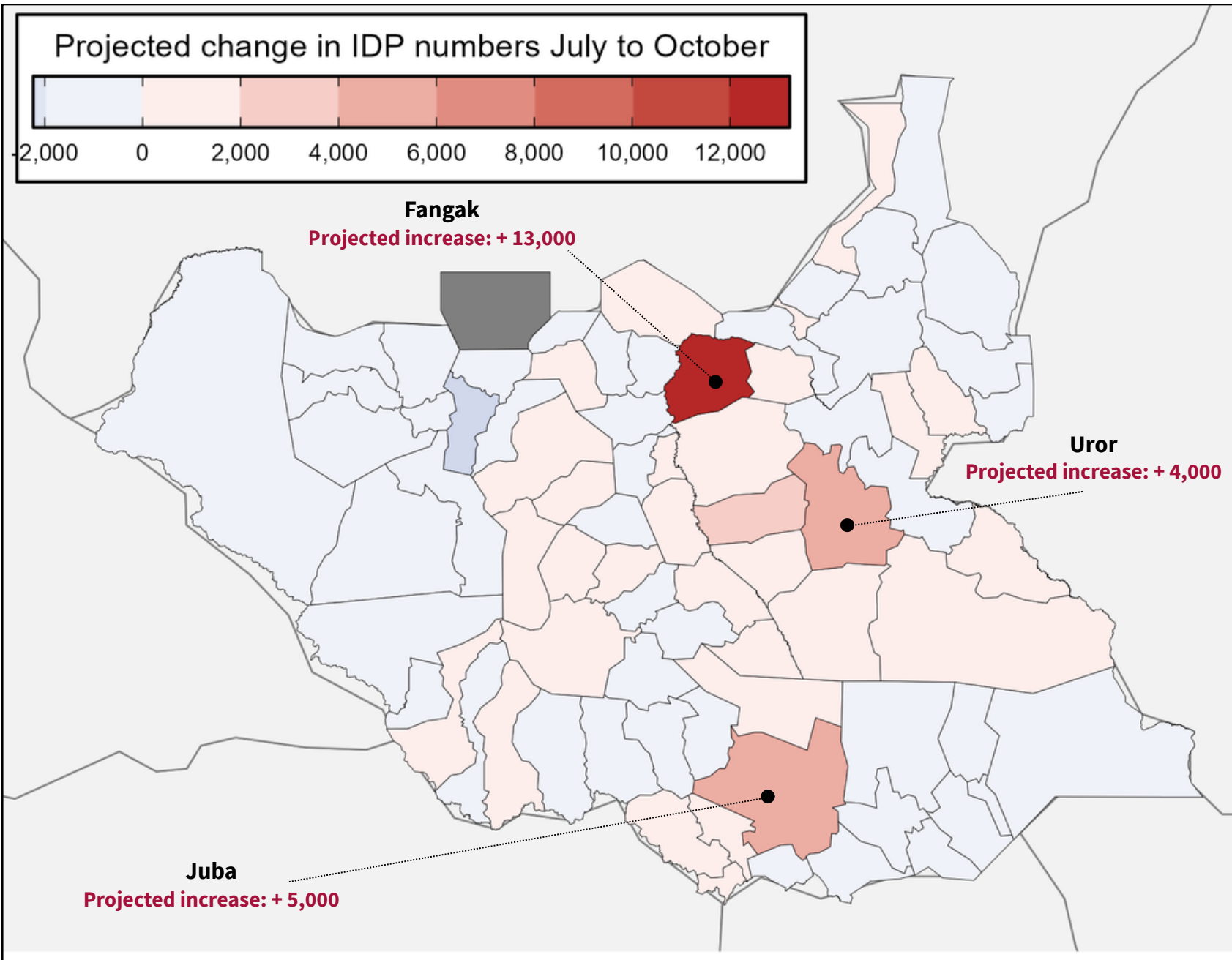
HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

Over the coming three months, the AHEAD model projects further increases in IDP numbers across several counties in South Sudan. **The largest rises are anticipated in Fangak (+13,000), Uror (+4,000) and Juba (+5,000)** by October compared with July levels.

In Jonglei, these projections follow substantial displacement earlier in the year. As of July, IOM DTM estimated that around 357,500 people had been displaced by the crisis since January, with the largest concentrations recorded in Uror, Nyirol and Akobo. Most movements were reportedly reactive and linked to broader conflict dynamics.

The AHEAD model anticipates continued displacement pressure in parts of Jonglei and neighbouring areas. Beyond Fangak and Uror, further increases in hosted IDP numbers are projected in Canal/Pigi, Duk and Malakal, with smaller rises anticipated in Pibor and Ayod.

+ 74,000
Projected IDP increase between July and October



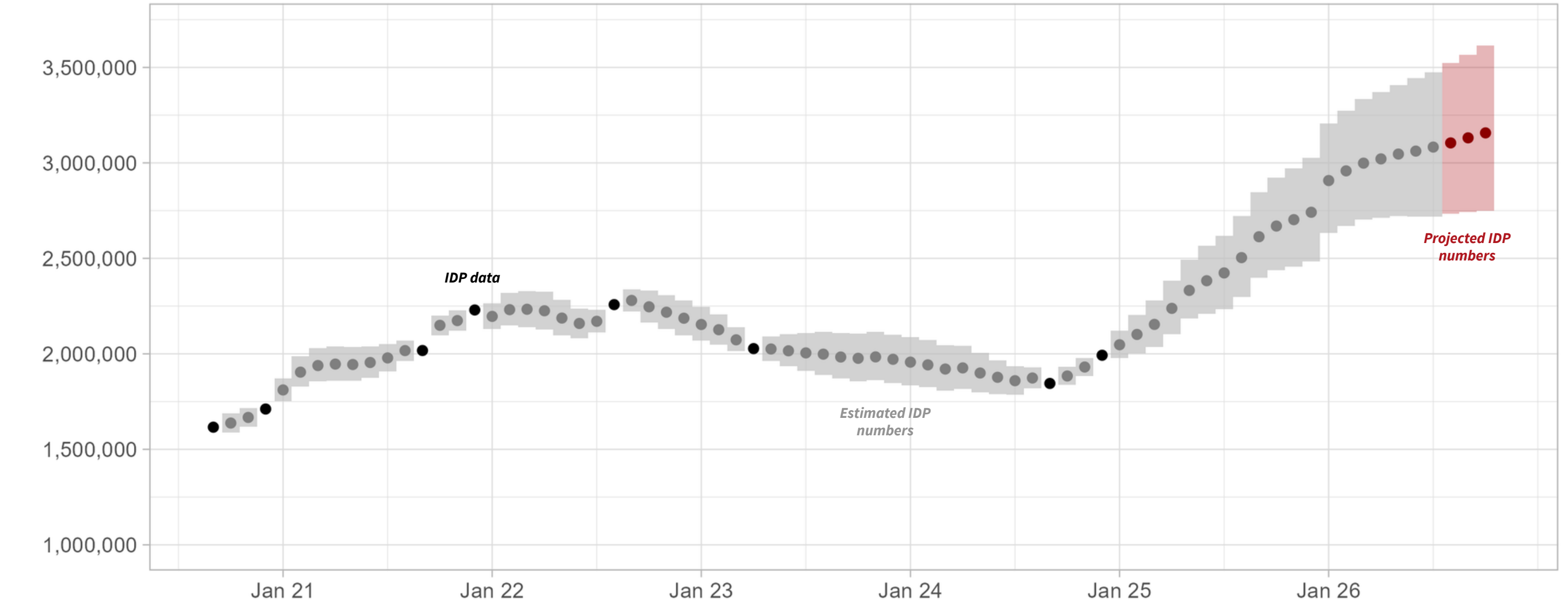
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects a rise in displacement in South Sudan, with 74,000 additional displacements forecast by October 2026 compared with July. The largest projected increases remain concentrated in Jonglei and neighbouring areas. While the intensity of large-scale military operations declined following the acute displacement surge earlier in the year, renewed fighting in July highlights the continued volatility of the situation. Clashes between government and opposition forces were reported in Walgak in Akobo County and neighbouring Panyikang on 5 July, and around Waat in Uror and Lankien in Nyirol on 13 July. As of 1 July, IOM DTM had identified more than 323,000 people displaced by the Jonglei crisis since January. Recent displacement has also extended beyond the Greater Upper Nile area. By end-July, fighting along the South Sudan–Uganda border had displaced an estimated 9,100 people in Kajo-Keji County, Central Equatoria

At the same time, some of the movements from earlier this year have partially reversed. As of 1 July, DTM had recorded around 113,000 returnees across Jonglei and Upper Nile, including more than 70,000 people returning from Ethiopia's Gambella region. Most returns were to Jonglei, particularly Akobo and Uror. However, these movements may not represent stable or permanent returns. Continued daily movements between Akobo and Tiergol in Ethiopia further highlight the fluidity of these population movements.

Projected displacement figures across South Sudan therefore reflect a highly dynamic situation in which new displacement, return and re-displacement are occurring simultaneously. The rainy season is likely to constrain movement and humanitarian access in some areas. Flooding can also trigger new movements in flood-prone areas, while drought and water stress are also emerging concerns in parts of the country. A substantial share of the projected increase may involve populations already displaced one or more times during the Jonglei escalation and earlier crises.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



Note: South Sudan's displacement data are sourced from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix. Additionally their Displacement Event dataset is used to estimate changes from month to month.

SOMALIA

Conflict and climate-related hazards continue to drive widespread internal displacement in Somalia. Drought, floods and insecurity have left millions displaced, with over 3.4 million people recorded by September 2025. IOM and DRC developed a multi-hazard model to produce quarterly forecasts estimating the number of people displaced by conflict, drought and floods. As projections are made on a quarterly basis, the forecasts presented here are the same as in Snapshot #15. Figures are also available here: [Somalia Movement Projections Dashboard](#).

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

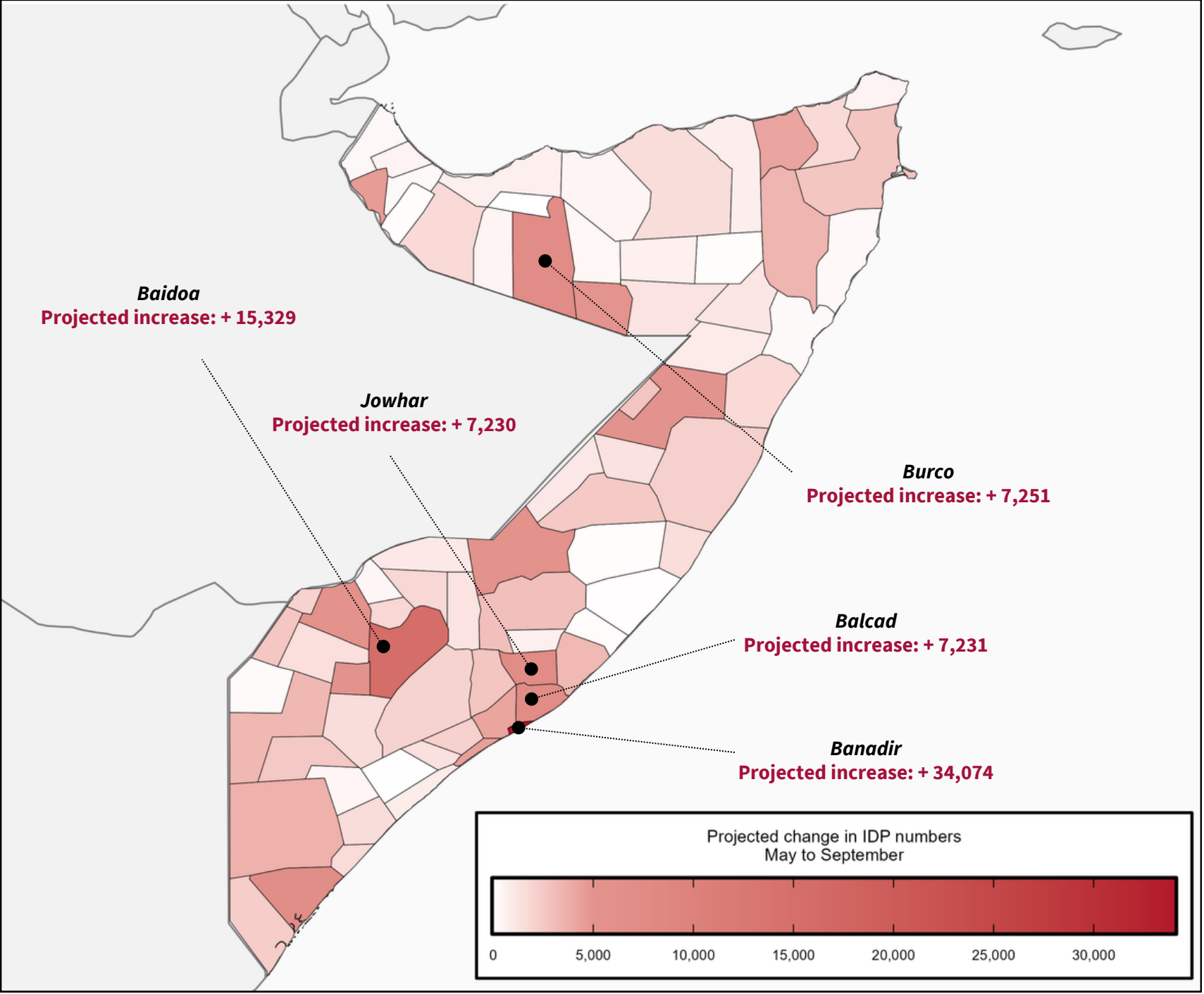
Banadir is expected to see the highest increase in displacement in the coming months, with an additional 34,074 people anticipated to be displaced, pushing the total to over 1.19 million by September 2026. 16% of those displaced are projected to move within Banadir and 84% arriving from other districts.

In Baidoa, displacement is also projected to rise, with around 15,329 new displacements mainly due to floods and droughts. Of these, 78% are expected to remain within the district, while 22% are anticipated to come from other areas.

In the Gedo region, displacement is forecasted to increase by more than 15,000, with **notable rises in Luuq (+5,617)**. The Lower Juba region is also projected to see a large increase, with the **largest rise in Kismaayo (+6,561) and Afmadow (+3,640)**.

+ 197,560

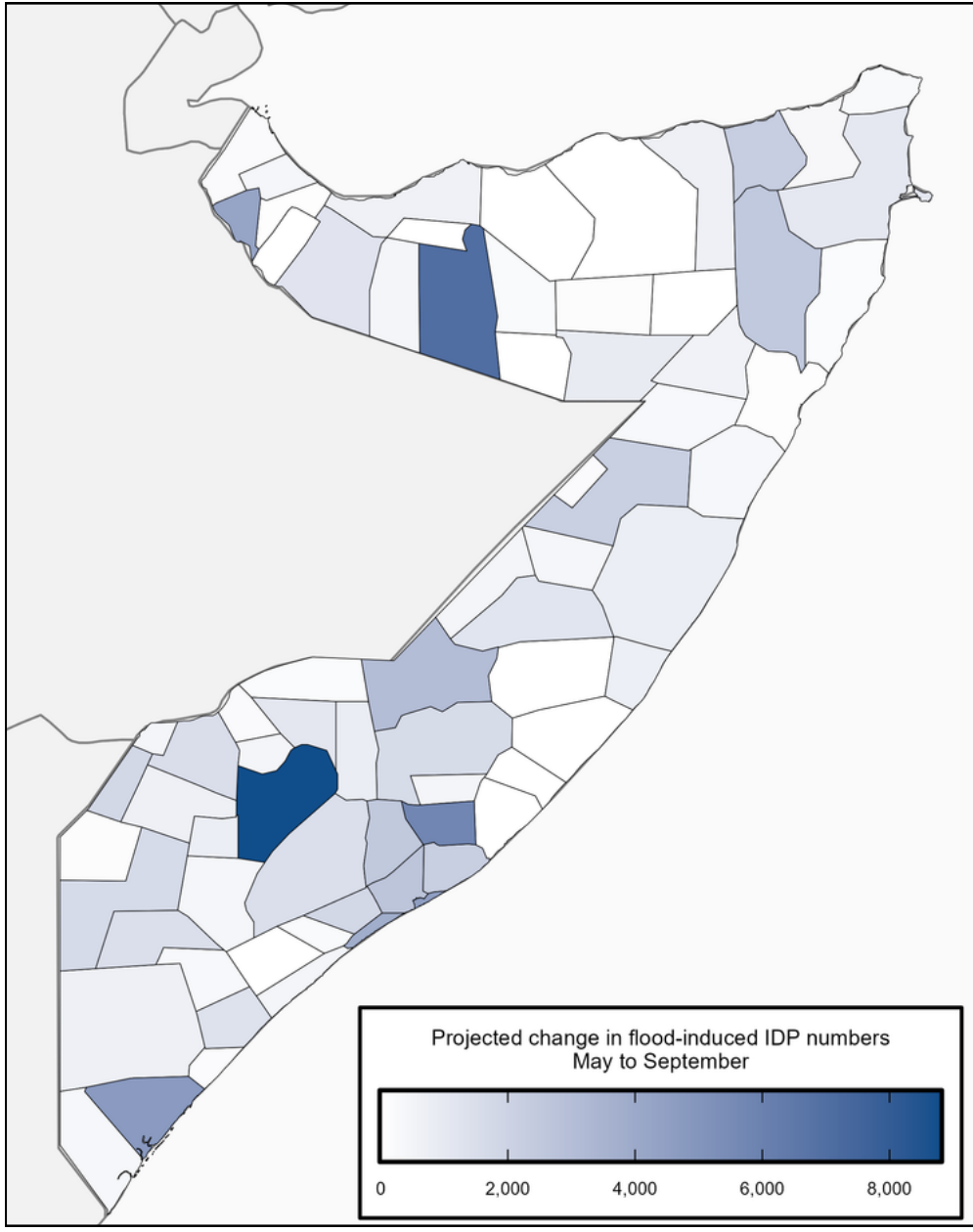
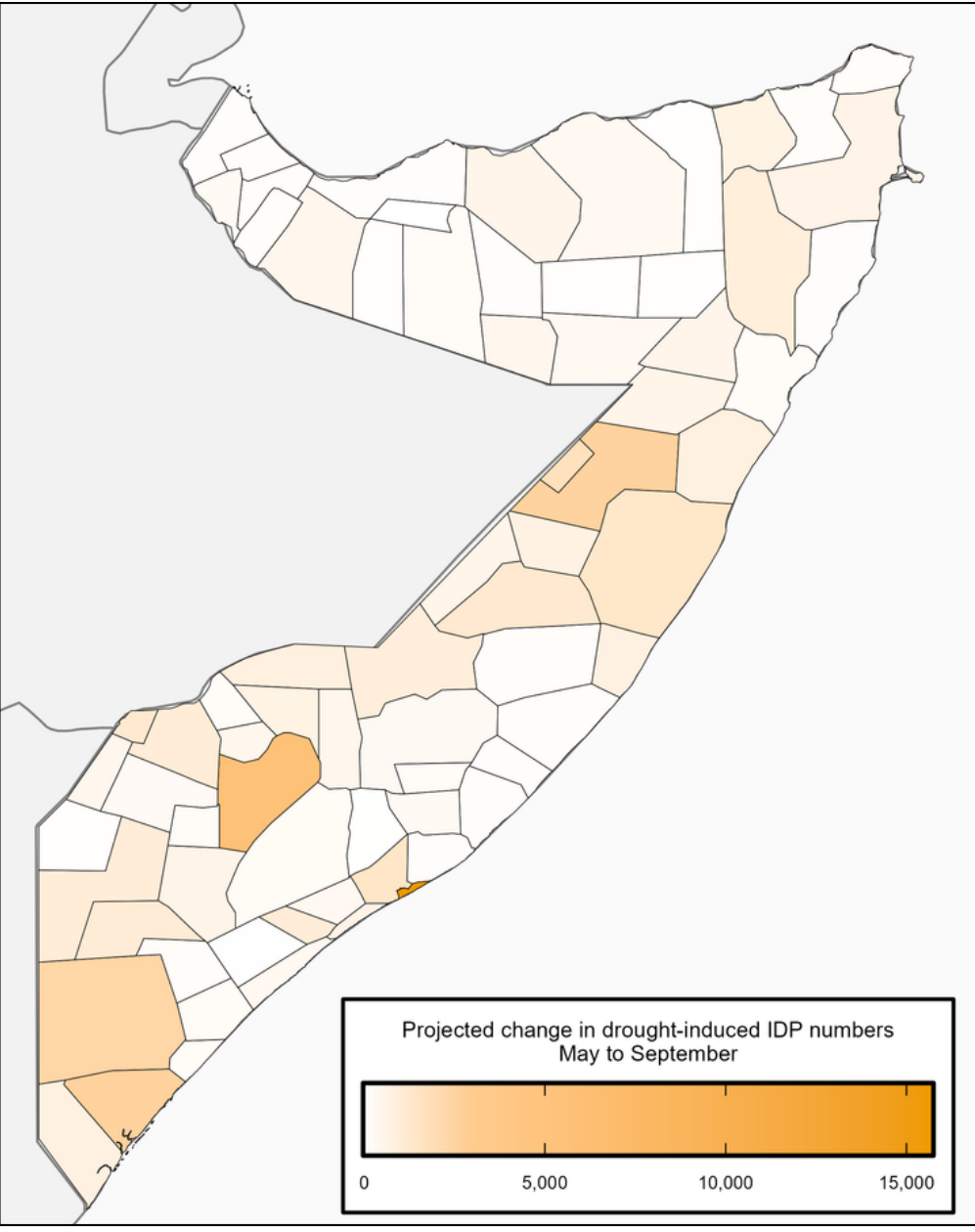
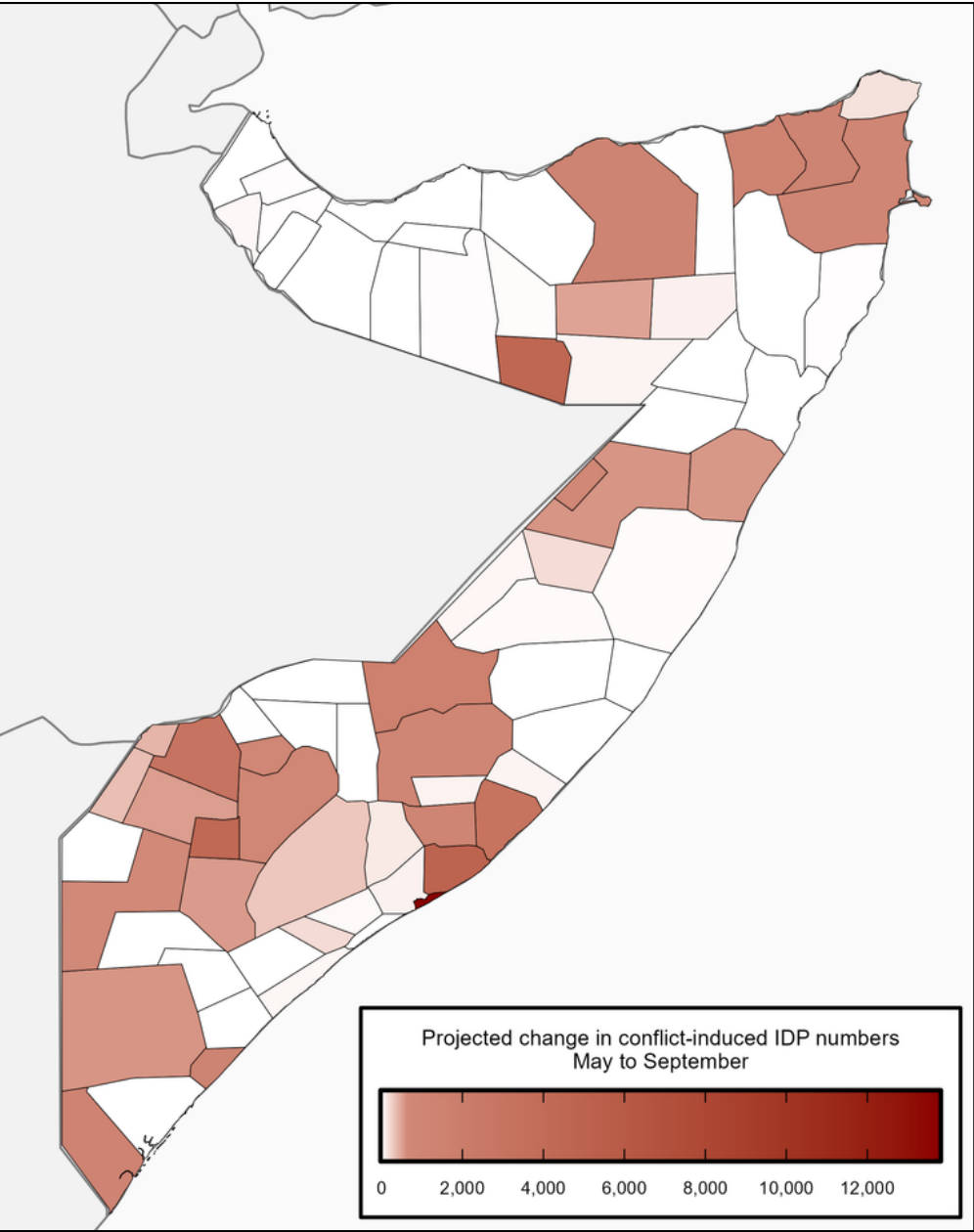
Projected IDP increase between May and September



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next quarter, Somalia’s displaced population is expected to increase by more than 197,000 people compared to May estimates. Conflict may account for around 27% of this increase. Recent displacement trends and conflict risk analysis point to a continued risk of new conflict-induced displacement during the quarter, mainly anticipated in Galmudug, Lower & Middle Juba, Middle & Lower Shabelle, Bari, Bakool and Sanaag regions. In Banadir and Balcad, the number of hosted conflict-displaced people could increase by almost 20,000 combined. High levels of violence persist, and ACLED reported armed clashes in Mogadishu on 3–4 June between federal security forces and opposition-aligned militias amid heightened political tensions. Should conflict intensify beyond current expectations, conflict-related displacement could rise above projected levels.

The evolving climate conditions for 2026 show strong similarities to the major El Niño years of 1997 and 2023, during which below normal rainfall was observed during the “Hagga” (July–September), indicative of drier than usual conditions across parts of the country, followed by increased rainfall transitioning to the onset of the “Deyr” (October–December) season. This will be further enhanced by anticipated development of El Niño. Under this scenario, the number of people displaced by drought is projected to increase by more than 55,000 overall. Flooding is also expected to be a major driver of displacement over the quarter, with the number of flood-displaced individuals projected to rise by around 89,000, including notable increases in Baidoa and Burco. Beyond the current forecast horizon, flood risks are likely to become more widespread during the October–December Deyr season. Current regional guidance points to wetter-than-normal conditions across equatorial and southern parts of the Greater Horn, with the start of the Deyr season being the main period of potential El Niño-related flood concern in Somalia.



Note: Somalia's displacement data are sourced from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix and UNHCR-led Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN).

UGANDA

By the end of July 2026, Uganda hosted over two million refugees and asylum seekers across various settlements. Over half originated from South Sudan, while roughly one-third came from DR Congo. Nakivale hosted the largest share, followed by Adjumani, Bidibidi and Rhino. In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects how the population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan may evolve across nine settlements.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

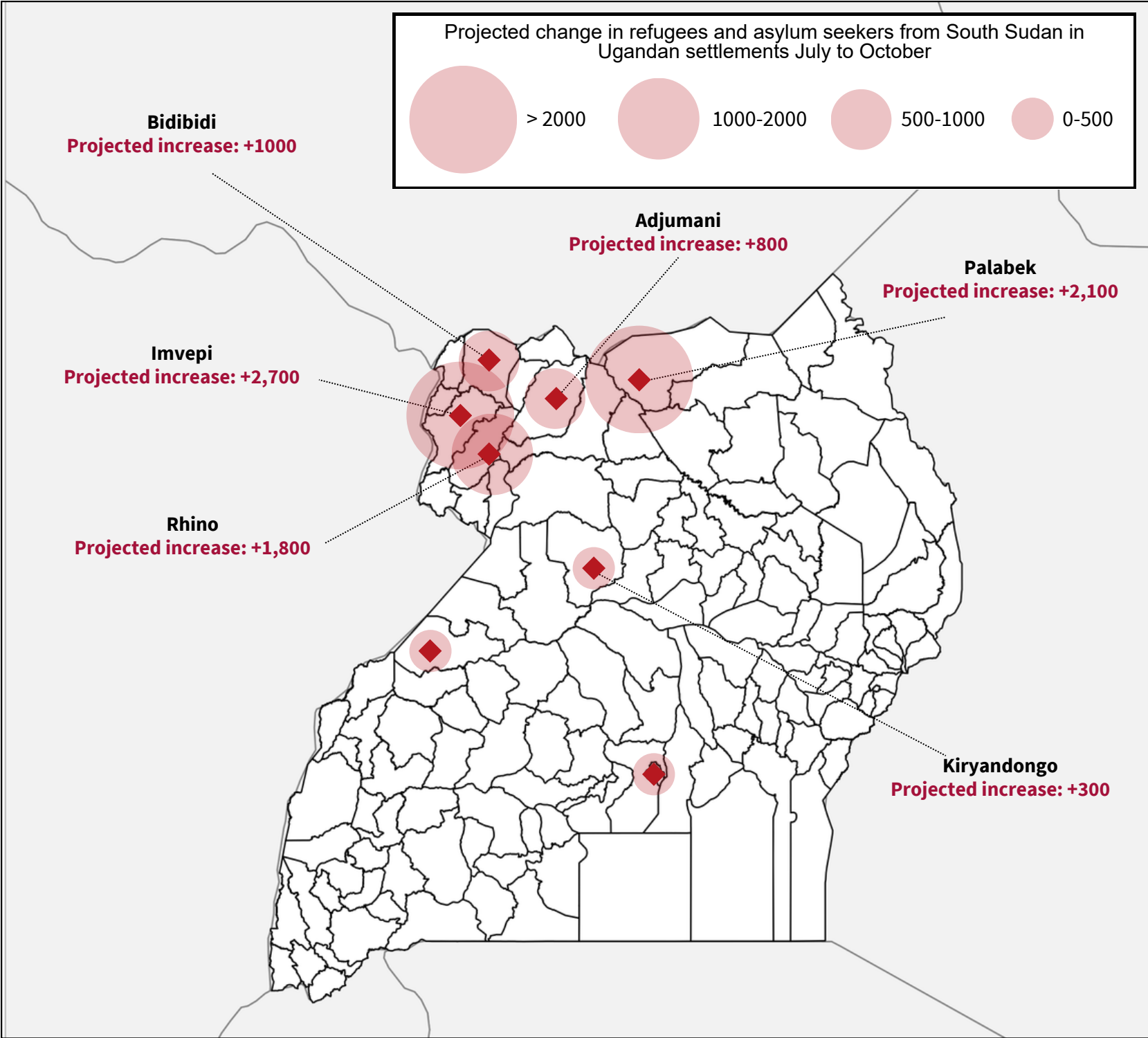
In Imvepi, the active population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is projected to increase by approximately 2,700 over the next three months. Almost 4,800 arrivals were registered in the April-June period.

Figures in Palabek have risen in recent months. The refugee and asylum-seeker population from South Sudan in Palabek is now projected to grow by roughly 2,100 by October 2026. **Relatively large increases are also projected in Rhino settlement, with an expected rise of around 1,800 individuals.** Between April and June, there were roughly 2,200 registered arrivals.

Current forecasts are however conditional on the progressive easing of temporary asylum-admission restrictions and a gradual return of reception and registration dynamics towards patterns observed before the June disruption.

1.07 MILLION
Projected South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers by October 2026

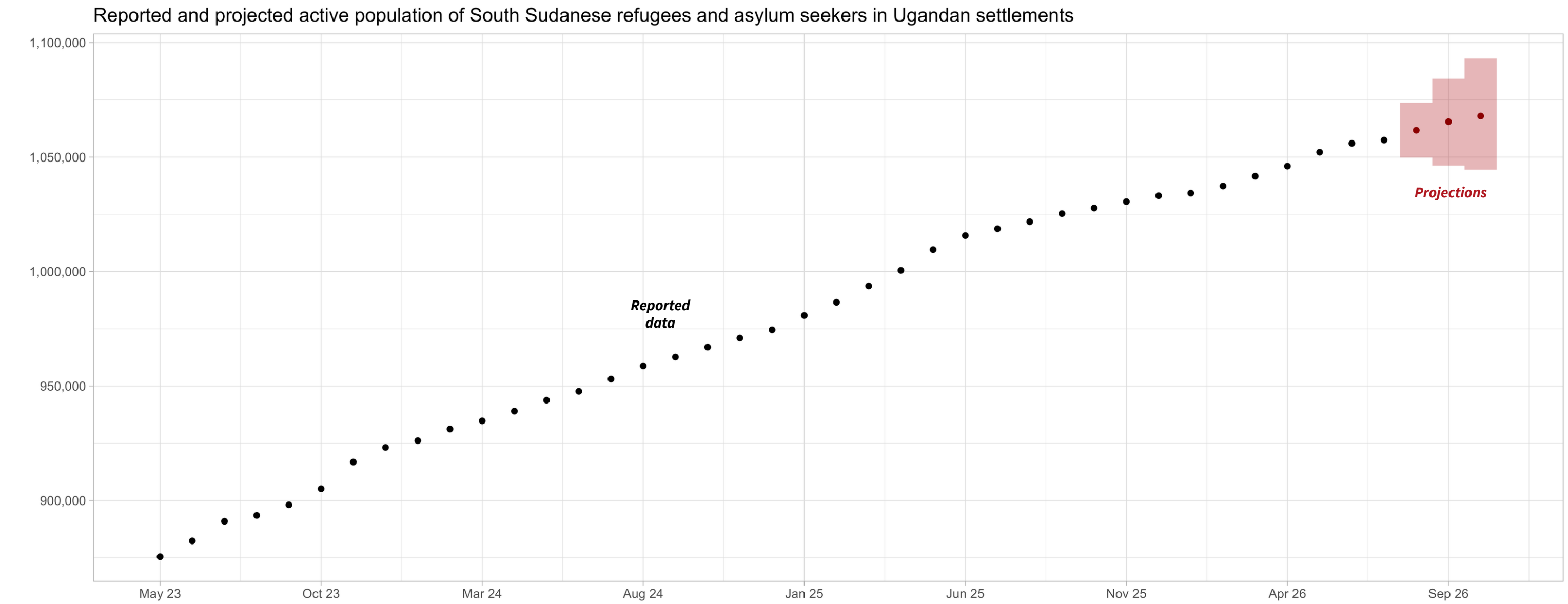
+ 9,000
Projected increase in South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers between July and October



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects an increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan across nine settlements in Uganda. **By October 2026, the population is expected to rise by more than 9,000, reaching over 1.07 million.** This projected increase follows a period of renewed upward movement between end-February and end-May, when the South Sudanese refugee and asylum-seeker population across the modelled settlements increased by almost 15,000. Recent registration data point to a marked acceleration in May, with more than 6,500 new arrivals from South Sudan recorded during the month, compared with roughly 3,400 in April and 2,500 in March. Registered arrivals fell considerably in June; however, this decline coincided with temporary Ebola-related restrictions on the admission of new asylum seekers through high-risk border districts, including at Elegu from mid-June, and should therefore be interpreted cautiously.

UNHCR/OPM data indicate that more than 16,000 asylum seekers from South Sudan had arrived in Uganda since January, with Amuru remaining the main district of entry overall. The main upside risk to the forecast remains a further deterioration in security conditions in South Sudan, particularly in areas with relatively direct access to Uganda. In July, fighting along the South Sudan-Uganda border in Central Equatoria displaced an estimated 9,100 people. Border and admission arrangements however remain an important source of forecast uncertainty. If restrictions persist or are reintroduced, registered arrivals could remain below the modelled trajectory even if displacement pressure remains elevated, while normalization of admissions could result in some delayed or catch-up registration. Any additional arrivals would also take place against a backdrop of increasing pressure on Uganda’s refugee response. WFP reported in March that funding shortfalls had reduced food assistance coverage from around 1.6 million refugees in early 2025 to about 663,000, contributing to worsening food insecurity and malnutrition.



Note: Data on refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda are sourced from UNHCR. Settlement positions in the map are indicative and may not reflect precise coordinates.

Internal displacement has been ongoing across Yemen since the outbreak of conflict in 2015. In July 2015, IOM recorded 1.27 million IDPs across multiple districts. The latest IOM figures on the total number of IDPs indicate over 3 million people in accessible areas within 13 assessed governorates. Through its Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) tool, DTM monitors the estimated number of households forced to flee their locations of origin or displacement on a daily basis. The AHEAD model builds on these data to generate forecasts of new displacement across more than 50 districts in the governorates of Abyan, Ad Dali’, Al Hodeidah, Al Jawf, Hadramawt, Lahj, Ma’rib, Shabwah and Ta’iz, assuming an average household size of six individuals, in line with IOM DTM approach.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

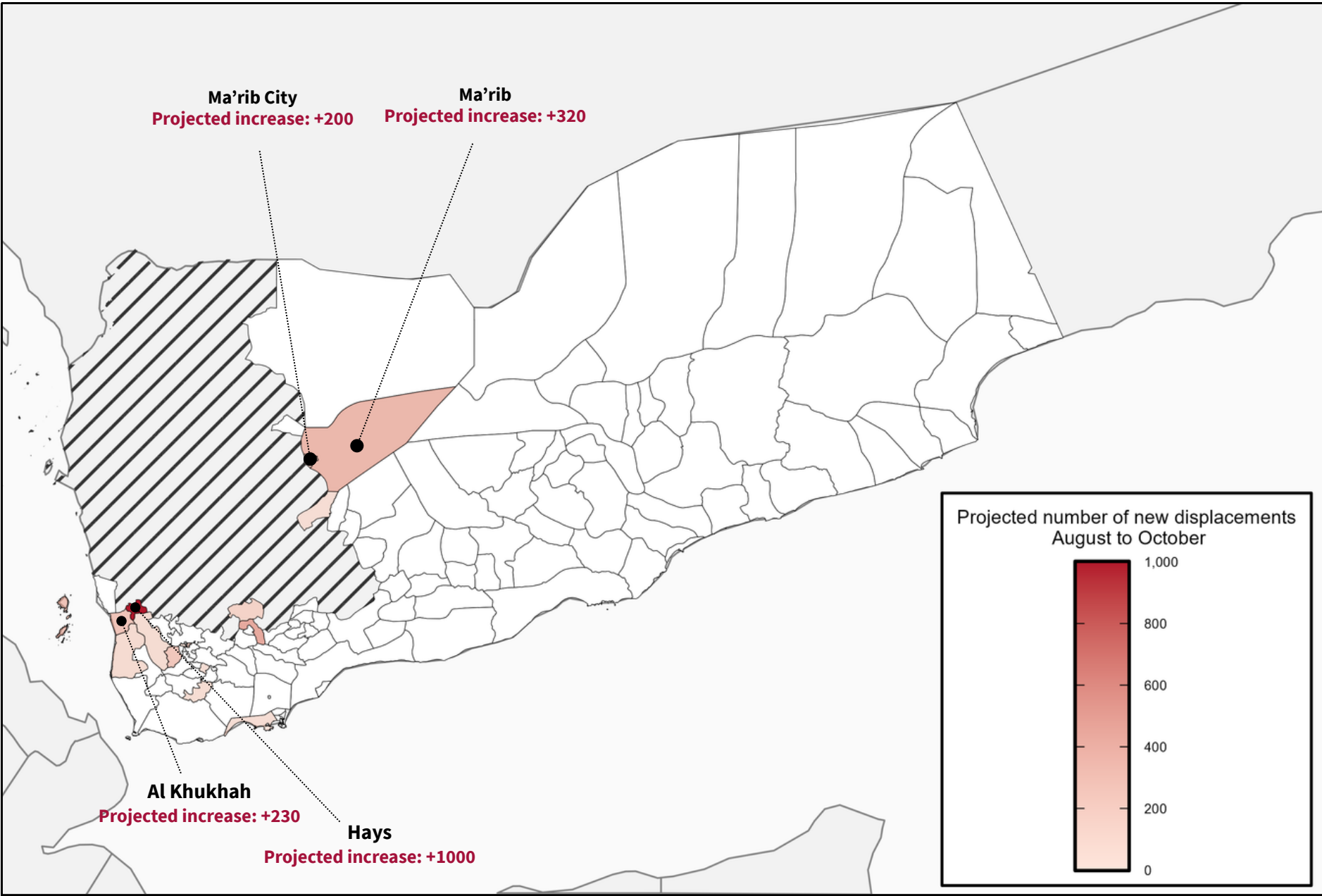
In Al Khukhah, the AHEAD model projects roughly 230 individuals may be displaced into or within the district over the next three months, potentially rising to above 1200. DTM recorded 10 households between May and July.

Roughly 200 arrivals are projected in Ma’rib City and around 320 in Ma’rib district. The Ma’rib governorate recorded over 15 newly arriving household in the last days of June and beginning of July, following higher numbers of arrivals registered in both December 2025 and January 2026.

Around 1000 new displacements are anticipated In Hays, and about 160 in Salah, while in most other districts no significant changes are projected.

+ 4,500

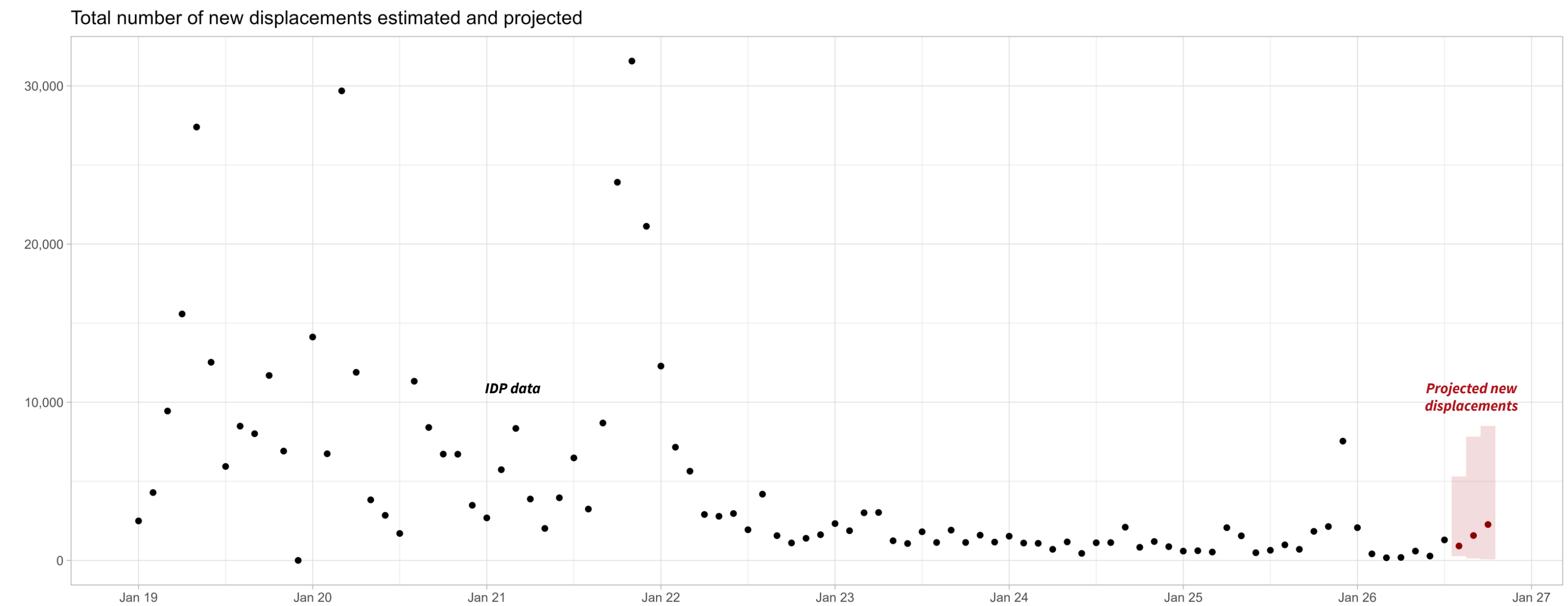
Projected new displacements between August and October



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects about 4,500 new displacements due to conflict across more than 50 districts. Observed new displacement has remained relatively low nationally during much of 2026, although with some localized spikes. IOM Yemen DTM recorded 1,742 households (10,452 individuals) displaced at least once between 1 January and 8 August 2026, across all reported displacement drivers and in areas where tracking is operational. Between 2 and 8 August, 50 newly displaced households (300 individuals) were identified. Recent movements in Al Hodeidah have been uneven but included a notable increase in Hays in July: 28 households were recorded as moving into or within Hays between 5 and 11 July, followed by 25 households between 12 and 18 July. Recorded movements subsequently fell back.

The security outlook has deteriorated since July, increasing the risk of further displacement during the forecast period. Hays was the site of heavy fighting in early July, followed later in the month by renewed military escalation in Al Hodeidah and reports that opposing forces were mobilizing along frontlines. On 9 August, missile and drone attacks struck Mocha on the western coast, killing both civilians and military personnel and damaging civilian and port infrastructure. Against this backdrop, the UN Special Envoy warned in August that Yemen faces a greater risk of renewed large-scale conflict than at any point since the 2022 truce, and has since reported intensified military activity along several frontlines, including around Mocha. The AHEAD projection should therefore be understood in the context of a more volatile conflict environment. A broad increase in displacement is not yet evident in the latest records, but sustained or repeated fighting, particularly along the western coast, could result in displacement rising well above currently observed levels. Humanitarian conditions remain extremely fragile, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is currently only around 20% funded, while the UN reported in August that more than half of Yemen's population is facing acute food insecurity.





The AHEAD Program: Scaling Conflict-Induced Displacement Anticipation to Diverse Settings

The Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD) project, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is dedicated to advancing anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement. Across Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Yemen, and Myanmar, AHEAD focuses on developing national conflict-relevant anticipatory action frameworks, ensuring they are inclusive and shaped by multiple stakeholders, alongside in-country pilots. A strong monitoring, evaluation and learning approach supports the project by generating evidence from in-country pilots to inform advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels.

The project uses a statistical model developed by DRC to predict displacement 3-4 months in advance and helps inform more cost effective and smart humanitarian responses. Ultimately, AHEAD seeks to elevate the role of anticipatory action connected to conflict-induced displacement, positioning it as a key strategy for humanitarian action. Thanks to collaborations with WFP and IOM, the model is also used to forecast displacement in Sudan and Somalia. The AHEAD model is being scaled to 19 countries by the end of 2027.

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