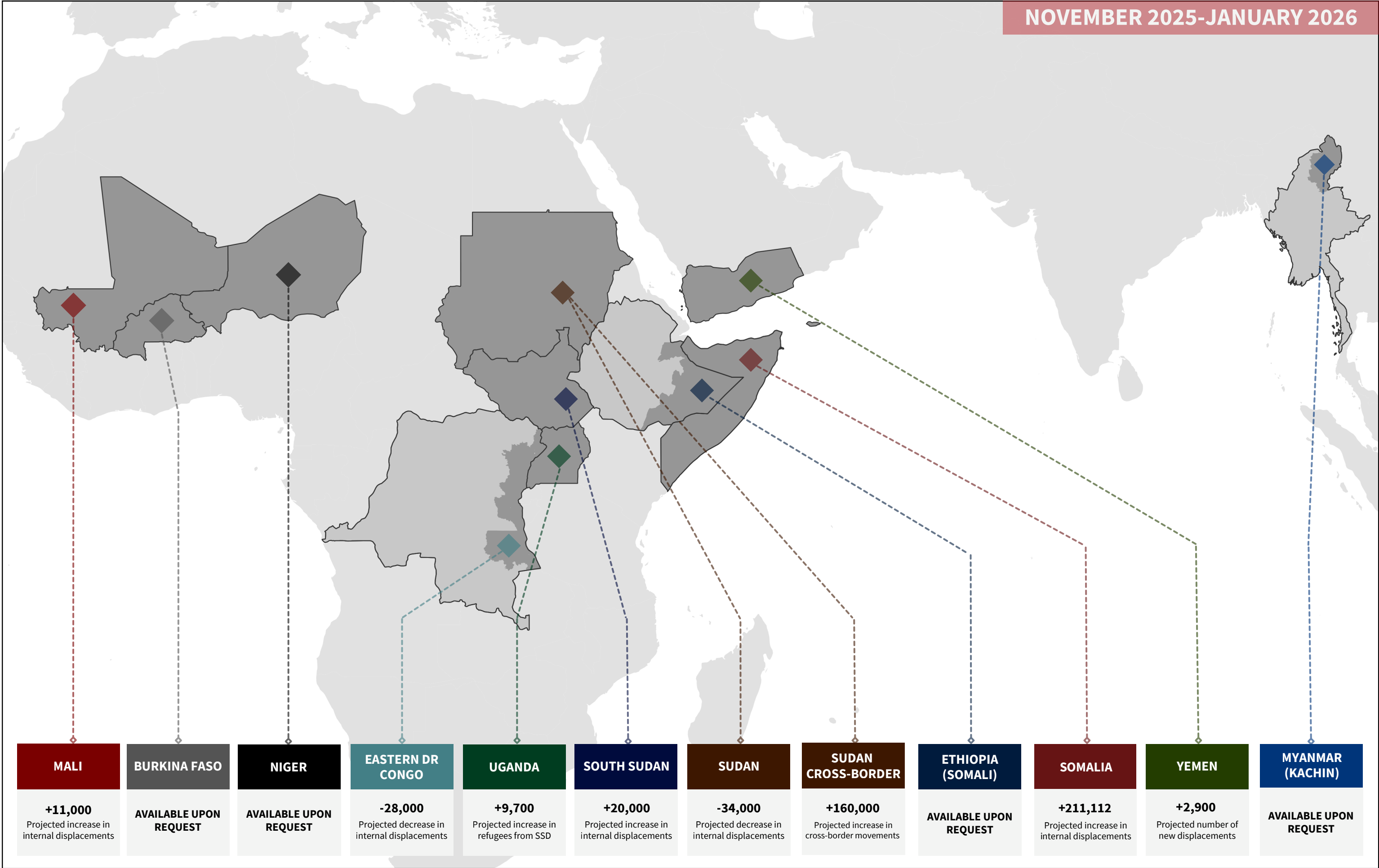


## OVERVIEW

AHEAD’s global snapshot #7 presents displacement forecasts for the period **November 2025 to January 2026**, providing early warnings on where displacement figures may rise or fall. This edition covers eleven countries: **Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Yemen, as well as Myanmar (Kachin state), Ethiopia (Somali region), Niger and Burkina Faso (all four available upon request)**. 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 200,000**, and particularly large increases in the coming months are expected in terms of the total number of drought-induced IDPs.

**In Sudan, the total number of IDPs is expected to decrease by 34,000, following earlier declines driven by increased return movements.** Meanwhile, cross-border flows from Sudan, particularly into the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Chad, are projected to continue rising.

**Internal displacement is anticipated to climb by roughly 20,000 in South Sudan**, with some of the largest increases expected in Rubkona. **In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects an increase of more than 9,700 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan across nine settlements.**

**Forecasts for eastern DR Congo indicate that the number of IDPs will decrease by roughly 28,000 by January 2026**, following recent fluctuations in displacement trends that have prompted a downward adjustment in projections. **In Mali, it is anticipated that the number of IDPs across the country will increase by 11,000 by the beginning of 2026**, whereas **in Yemen, the number of new displacements in the coming three months is expected to be above 2,900.**

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.

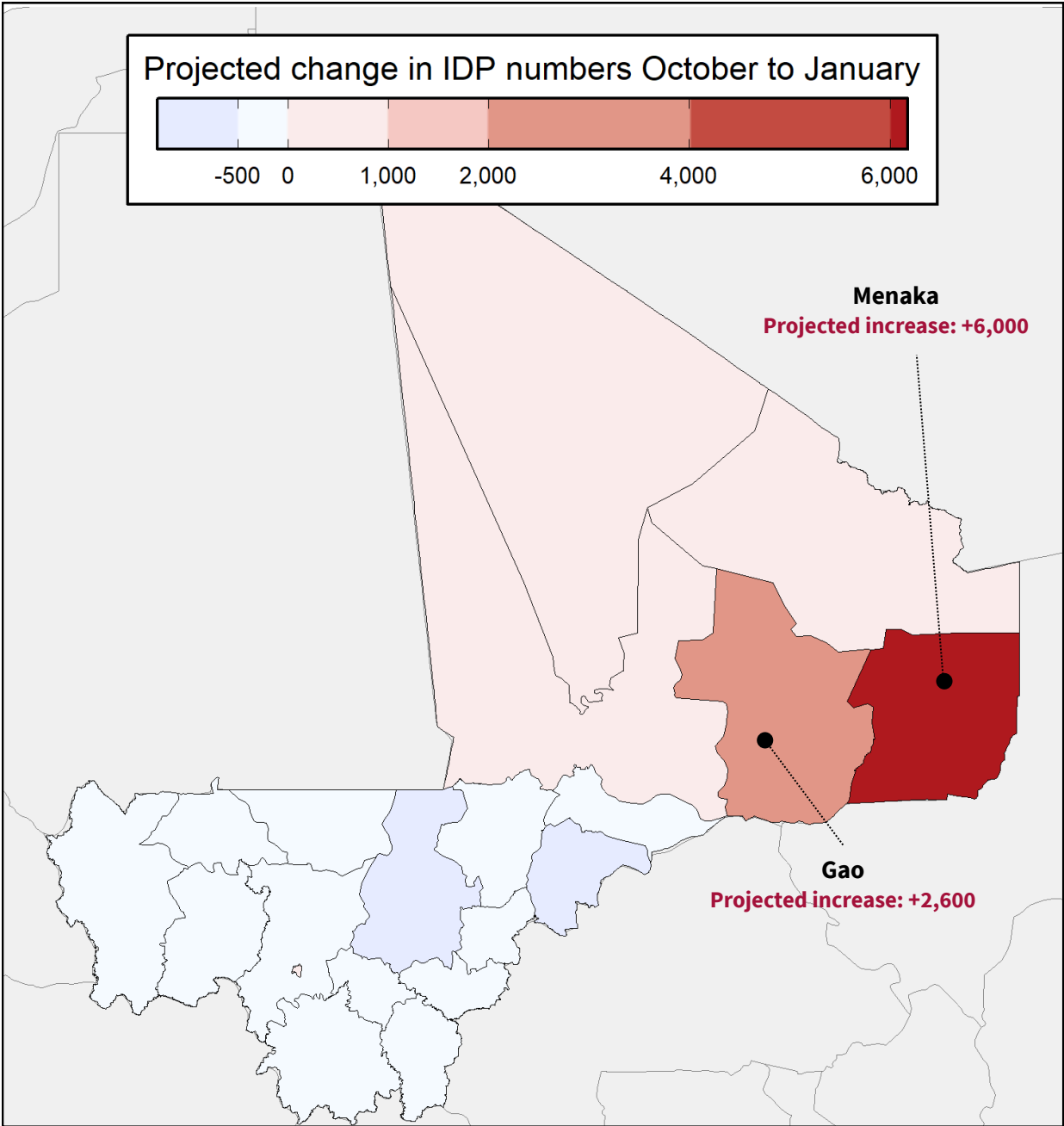
Internal displacement in Mali is almost entirely conflict-related. Displacement in Mali is driven by a protracted and complex conflict involving state forces, allied paramilitaries, and a patchwork of non-state armed groups, further exacerbated by intercommunal violence. The displacement is primarily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

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

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

**Projections for November and December indicate largest risks of high displacement in the eastern part of the country, in Menaka and Gao.**

Mali is also a host country, with recent influxes of over 23,000 refugees from Burkina Faso into the Bandiagara region since August 2025, straining already limited local resources and making the Danish Refugee Council declare a small emergency there.

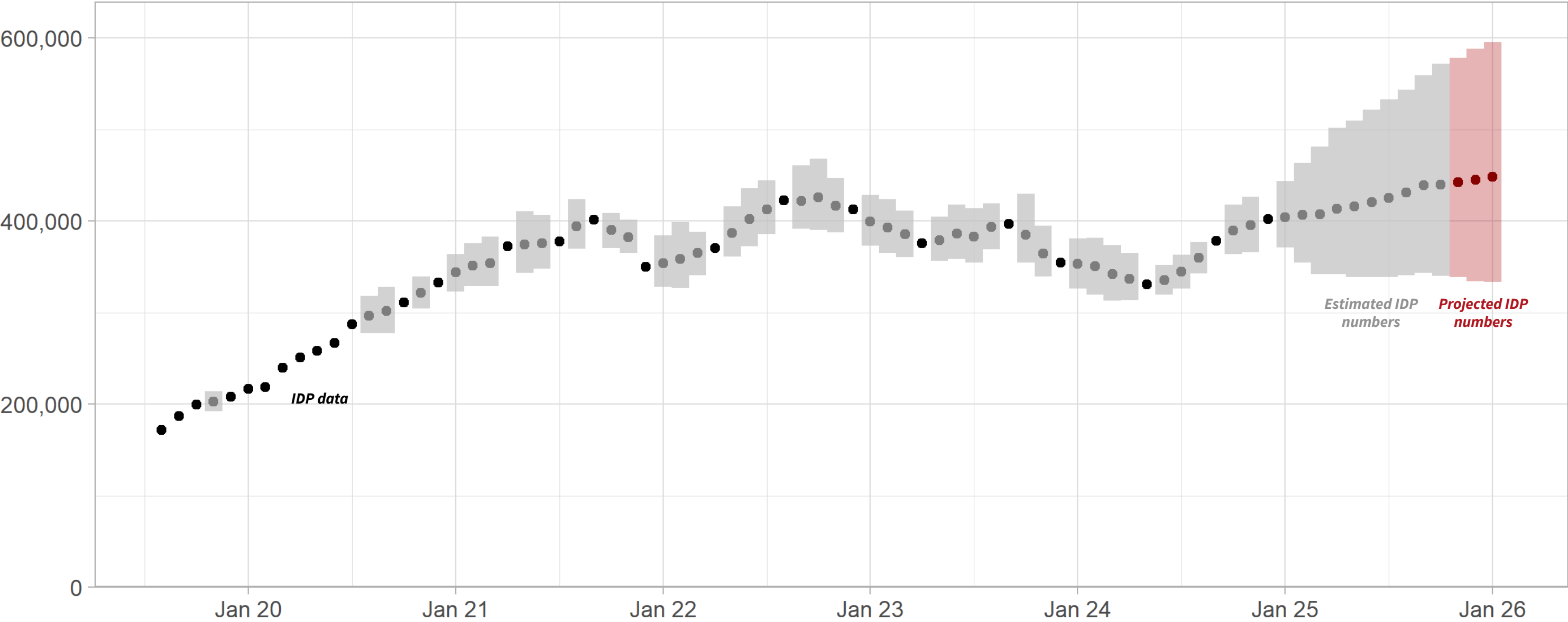


PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Following a brief lull in late 2024, the first half of 2025 has witnessed a resurgence in violence, particularly following the consolidation of state control over Kidal. According to ACLED, 512 violent events were recorded from January to June 2025, a 25% increase compared to the preceding six months. Associated fatalities have risen by over 40% in the same period, driven by clashes between the Malian army and allied forces against non-state armed groups, as well as an increase in attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs). In recent months, non-state actors have imposed blockades on cities in the west and have caused fuel shortages even in the capital of Bamako.

This intensification of conflict directly fuels new and secondary displacements. Military operations in the Menaka and Gao regions, in particular, have triggered population movements in the first and second quarters of 2025. But certain data on internal displacement in Mali in 2025 is limited.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected





# EASTERN DR CONGO

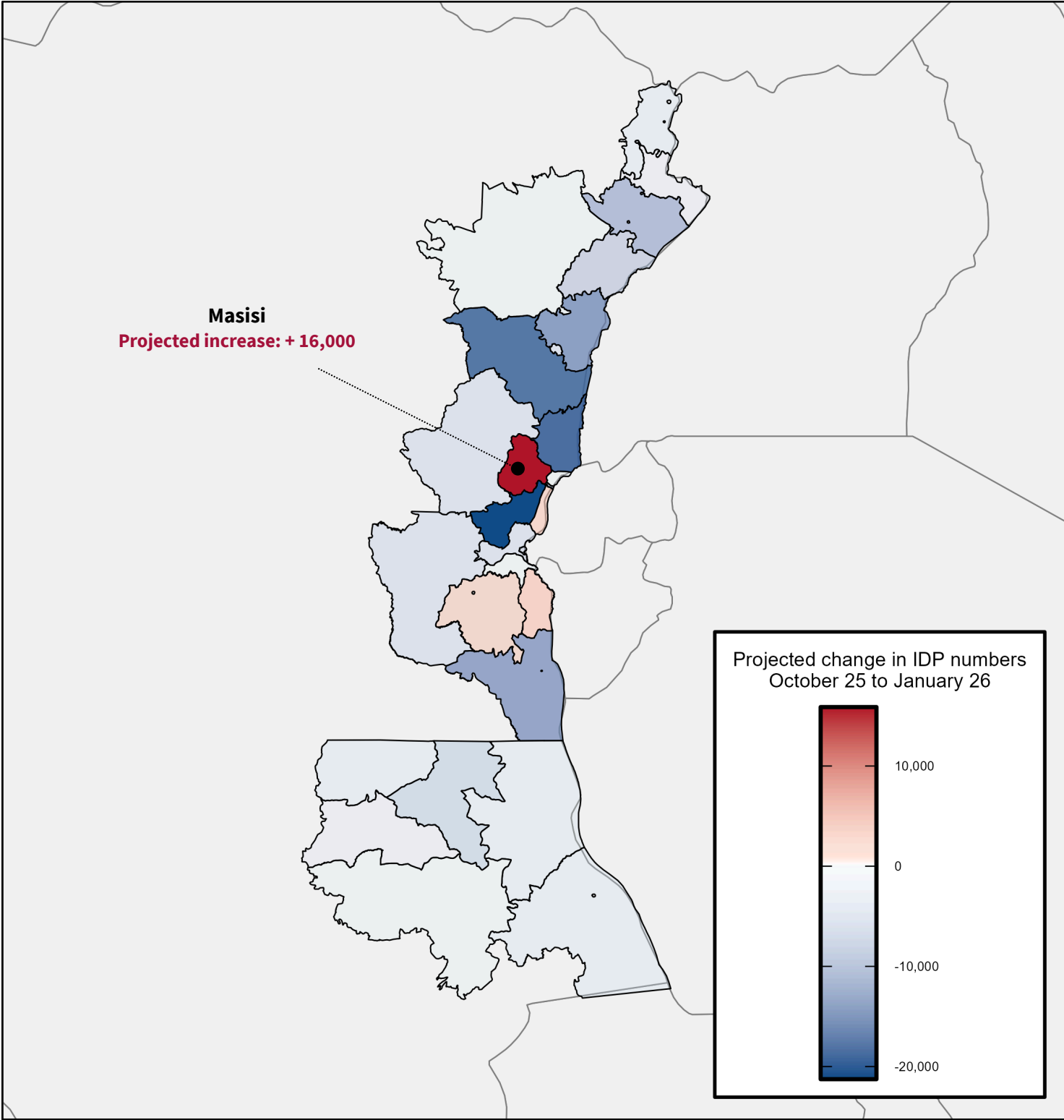
Since January 2025, renewed M23 offensives in eastern DR Congo have driven new displacements. Between 4th of January and 19<sup>th</sup> of March, M23 fighters entered into Masisi, Sake, Goma, Bukavu and Walikale. These advances have led to hundreds of thousands of new displacements, while millions have 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

By January 2026, AHEAD forecasts suggest that several territories across Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu will continue to host very large displaced populations, with Djugu, Kalehe and Masisi among those with the highest totals.

**In Masisi, displacement is expected to increase by around 16,000 individuals**, following a significant rise of more than 80,000 people reported by OCHA in September compared to August. **In Uvira, Mwenga and Idjwi, displacement is projected to increase by over 2,000 individuals over the next three months.**

Across many other territories, the number of IDPs is expected to decline in line with recent developments. In Fizi, September data indicates a drop of more than 160,000 IDPs compared with August. Shabunda has seen a decrease of roughly 100,000, while Beni has recorded a reduction of over 84,000. This downward pattern is anticipated to continue. In Beni specifically, projections suggest a further decrease of more than 13,000 IDPs by January 2026.



3.8 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers by January 2026

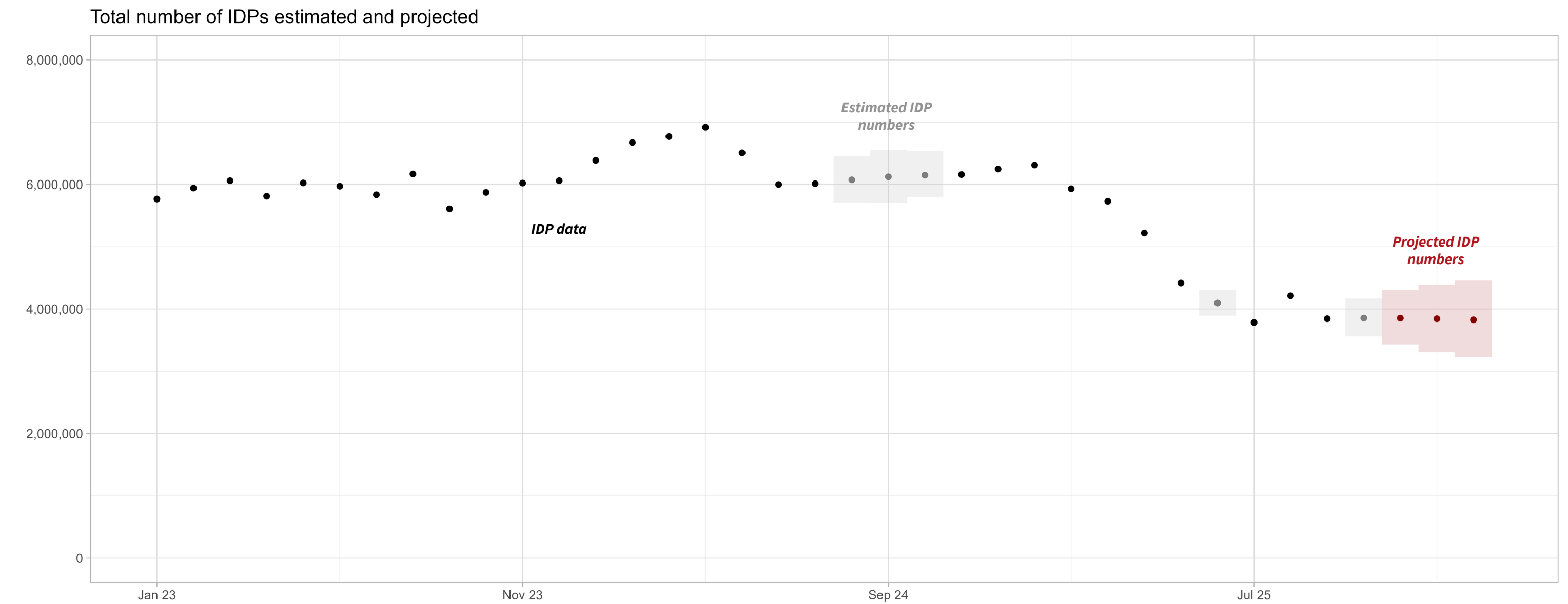
-28,000

Projected IDP decrease between October 25 and January 26

## PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

**In eastern DR Congo, displacement figures are projected to decrease by roughly 28,000 over the next three months, bringing the total to around 3.8 million IDPs across the four provinces by January 2026.** Data from August 2025 indicated a significant rise in the number of IDPs compared to July, reaching more than 4.2 million. However, figures reported for September reflected another major shift, showing around 3.84 million across the four provinces. These fluctuations affect the overall projections, and the current downward trend is expected to continue through January 2026.

These projected reductions are consistent with recent findings from IOM’s Mobility Tracking. The latest assessments show a small decrease in IDP figures (-2%) and an increase in returnees (+4%). This shift is closely linked to events in North Kivu, where the advance of M23 toward Goma earlier in 2025 drove both new and secondary displacements . In recent months, however, many of those who fled have started to return to their areas of origin in North Kivu. This rise in returns, especially in the east, has contributed to the overall drop in IDP numbers now reflected in the projections.



# SUDAN

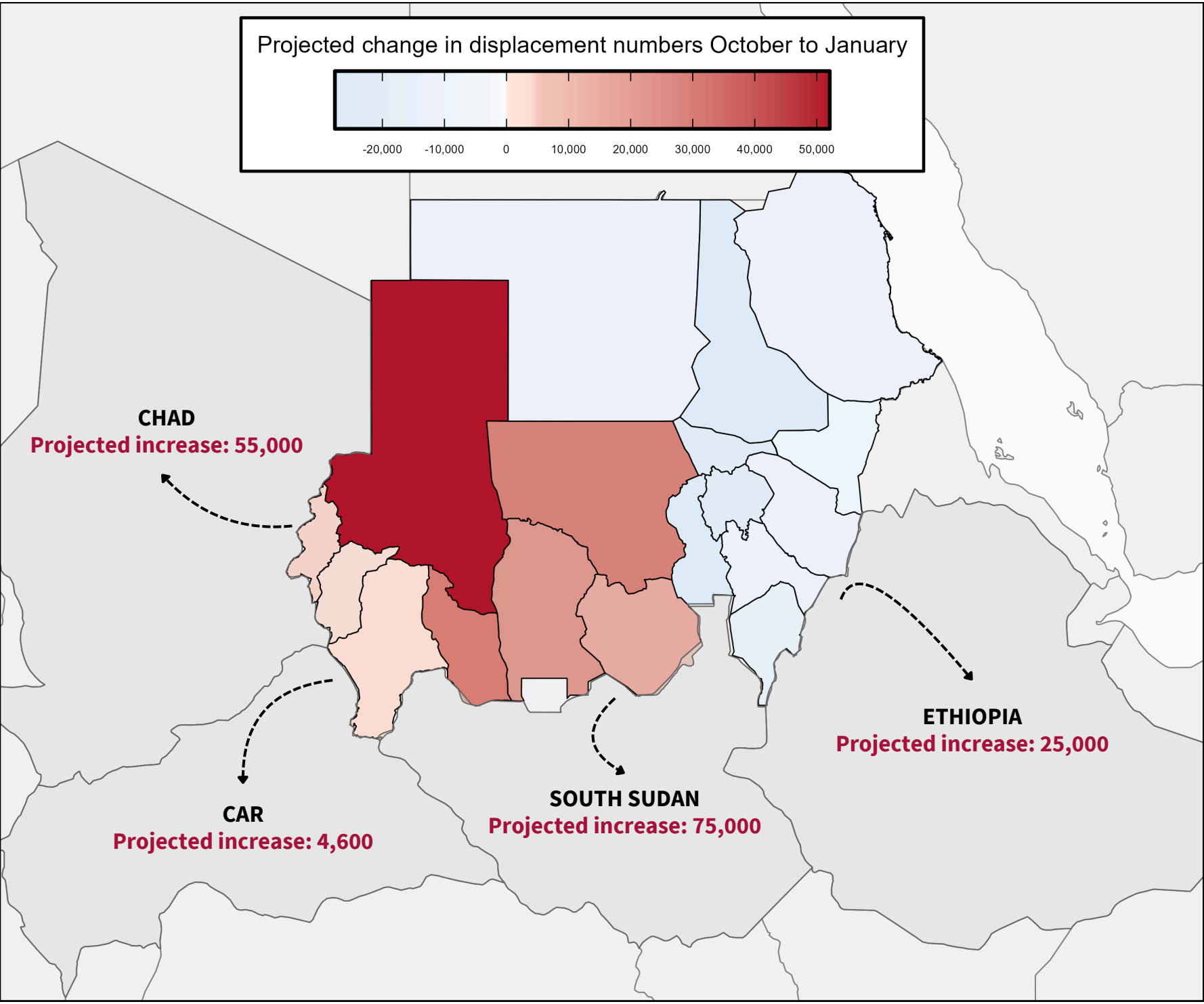
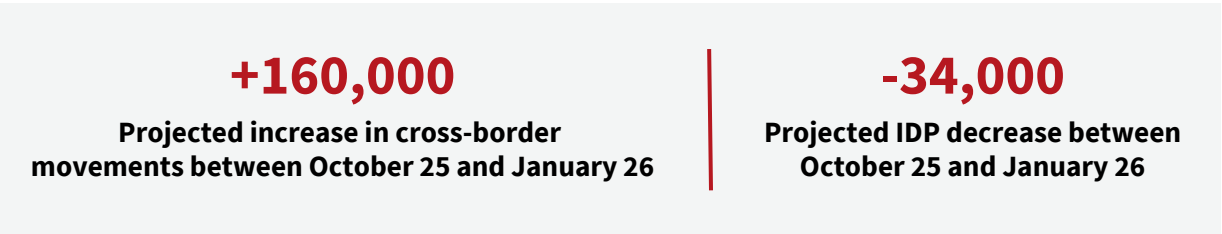
Since the conflict between SAF and RSF began, Sudan has seen a sharp rise in displacement, reaching nearly 11.6 million IDPs by January 2025. In recent months, figures have declined, largely due to increasing returns. The AHEAD model covers 18 states and includes cross-border flows into Ethiopia, South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

## HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

In North Darfur, displacement is projected to rise by 52,000 over the next three months compared to October 2025. North Kordofan is also expected to see an increase of over 28,000.

Displacement is also projected to rise in South Kordofan (+14,000) and West Kordofan (+22,000). Between August and September, the number of individuals living in displacement rose by about 1% in North Kordofan. In contrast, several states, including Kassala, Aj Jazirah and Gedaref, are projected to see continued declines.

Cross-border movements are projected to increase. Over the next three months, movements into Chad are expected to rise by approximately 55,000, and into South Sudan by over 75,000. Flows to Ethiopia and CAR are also expected to grow, though at lower levels.

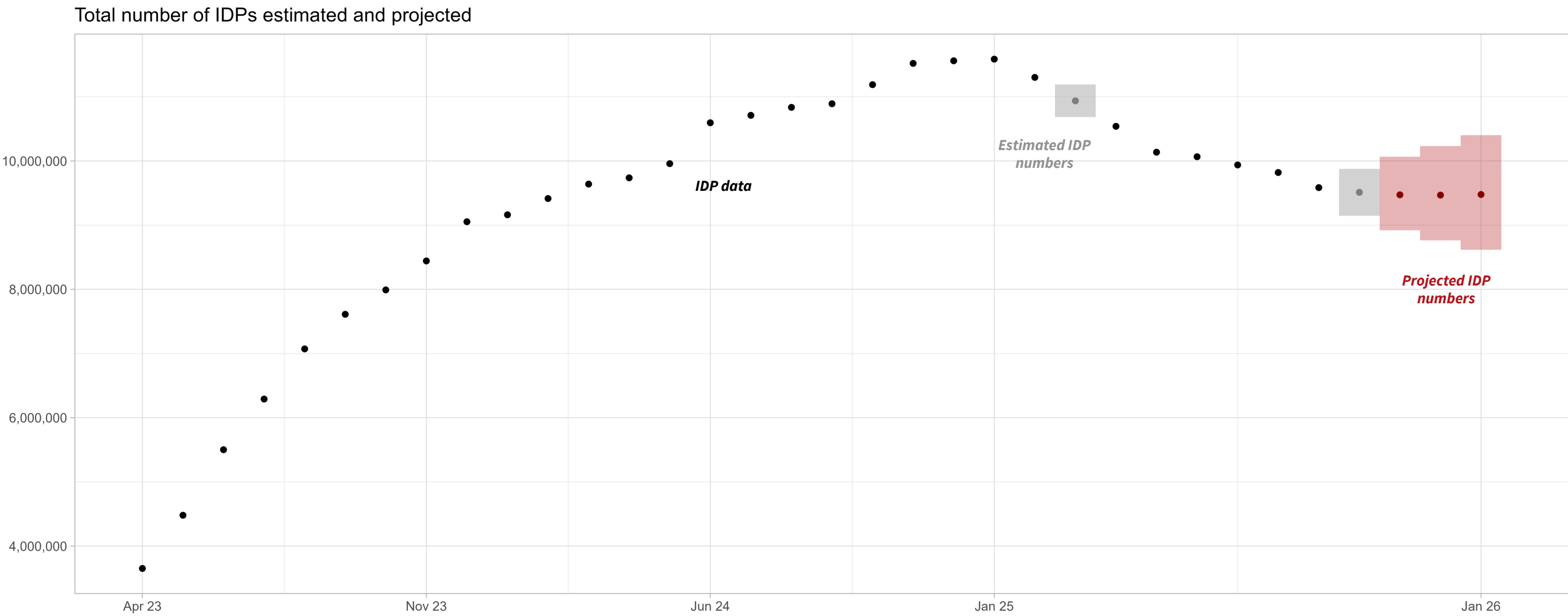


## PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model anticipates a slight overall decline in displacement in Sudan. By January 2026, the number of IDPs is projected at around 9.47 million, about 34,000 fewer than in October. This decrease follows recent trends captured by DTM Sudan: Mobility Update 22 (September 2025) reports about 9.58 million IDPs nationwide, down by over 480,000 since late June and more than 2.0 million below the peak recorded earlier in the year.

Recent developments are adding pressure to existing displacement trends and may influence how figures evolve in the coming months. Following the escalation on 26 October, when the RSF took control of the SAF 6th Infantry Division headquarters in Al Fasher, IOM DTM recorded significant new movements. Between 26 October and 9 November 2025, an estimated 88,892 people fled Al Fasher town and nearby villages. Most of these individuals remained within Al Fasher locality. Three-quarters of those displaced were already living in displacement prior to this latest surge. With projections for North Darfur already indicating increases of more than 50,000 in the coming months, these developments suggest displacement figures could edge closer to the upper end of the forecast range.

Cross-border movements are also projected to continue increasing. As of early September, approximately 1.2 million people had crossed from Sudan into Chad since the conflict began on 15 April 2023, representing an increase of more than 30,000 since June. Over the same period, about 1.25 million individuals had crossed into South Sudan, an increase of roughly 60,000. Substantial additional inflows into both countries are anticipated over the next three months.



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

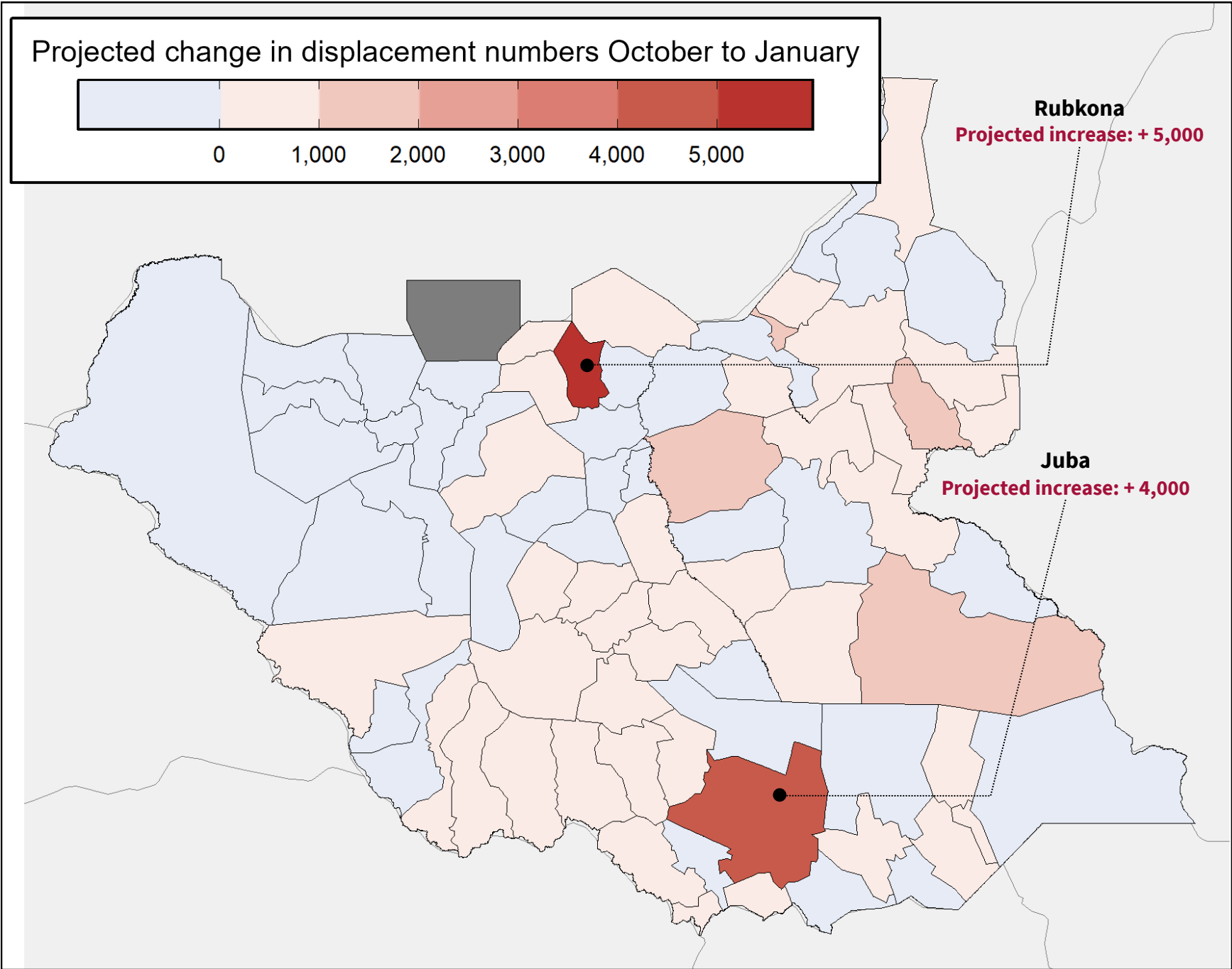
Internal displacements in South Sudan is caused by a wide range of factors, such as communal clashes, land disputes, violence, natural disasters and cross-border movements. In recent months conflict has escalated at a more broader level with especially high intensity in Upper Nile State. This comes on top of major displacement caused by flooding in 2025 and a high number of returns of South Sudanese fleeing the conflict in Sudan.

## HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

Large increases are projected in Rubkona county, where the number of IDPs is expected to rise by over 5,000 during the coming three months.

Central Equatoria is projected to see large increases in Juba, with more than 4,000 additional IDPs expected.

The exact counties to see displacement are, however, very dependent on the spatial distribution of the conflict and floods in the coming months.



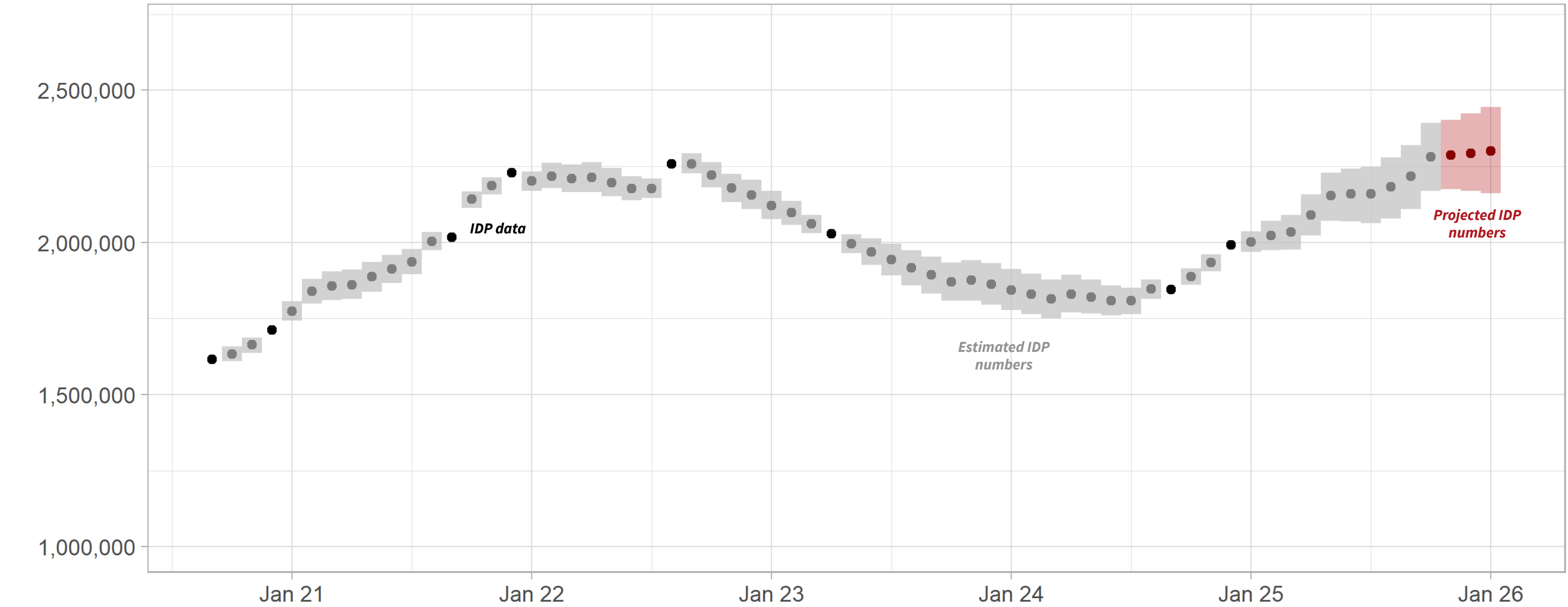
## PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects an overall increase in displacement in South Sudan. **By January, the number of individuals living in displacement is expected to rise by more than 20,000 compared to estimates from October, bringing the total to around 2.3 million.**

There was a decrease in reported conflict events in August-October compared to the previous months. IOM recorded 16,000 new conflict displacements in those months, significantly less conflict displacement than in spring.

As of early **November**, flooding had affected more than a million people across four states, with over 355,000 reportedly displaced. Above-average rainfall is expected across most of South Sudan (September to December) heightening flood risks in already vulnerable areas according to IGAD weather prediction. The current AHEAD model for South Sudan does not have a flood-component for the future outlook, but any additional severe flooding will likely push the displacement to the upper end of the projections.

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 3.8 million people recorded at the end of 2022. 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 #6. Figures for the fourth quarter 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 29,126 people anticipated to be displaced**, pushing the total to over 1.2 million by December 2025. 14% of those displaced are projected to move within Banadir and 86% arriving from other districts.

**In Luuq, displacement is also projected to rise, with around 9,954 new displacements mainly due to conflict.** Of these, 56% are expected to remain within the district, while 44% are anticipated to come from other areas.

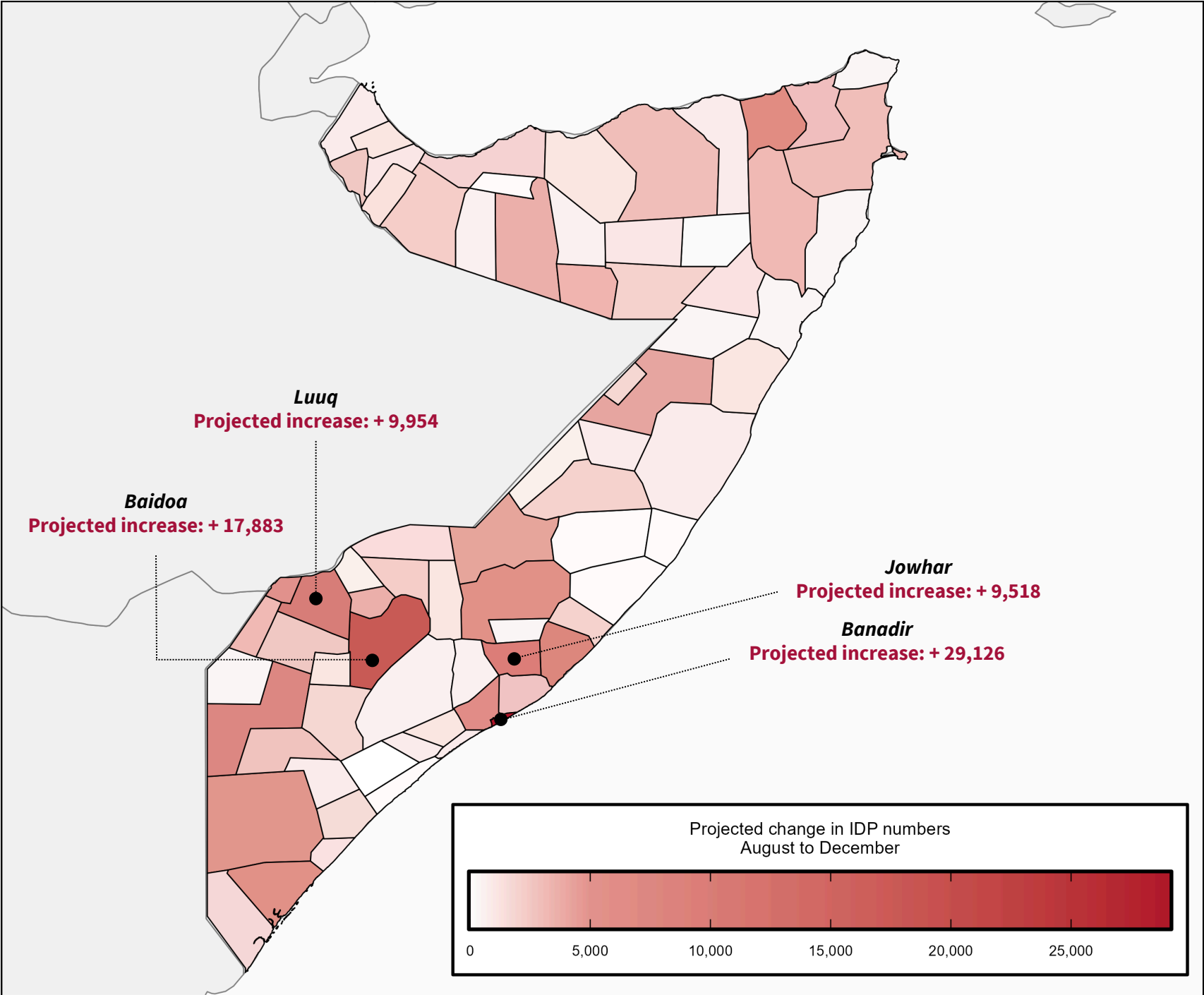
In the Lower Juba region, displacement is forecasted to increase by more than 13,000, with **notable rises in Kismaayo (+5,575)**. The Bay region is also projected to see a large increase, with the **largest rise in Baidoa (+17,883)**.

4.22 MILLION

Projected total IDPs numbers by December 2025

+ 211,112

Projected IDP increase between August and December

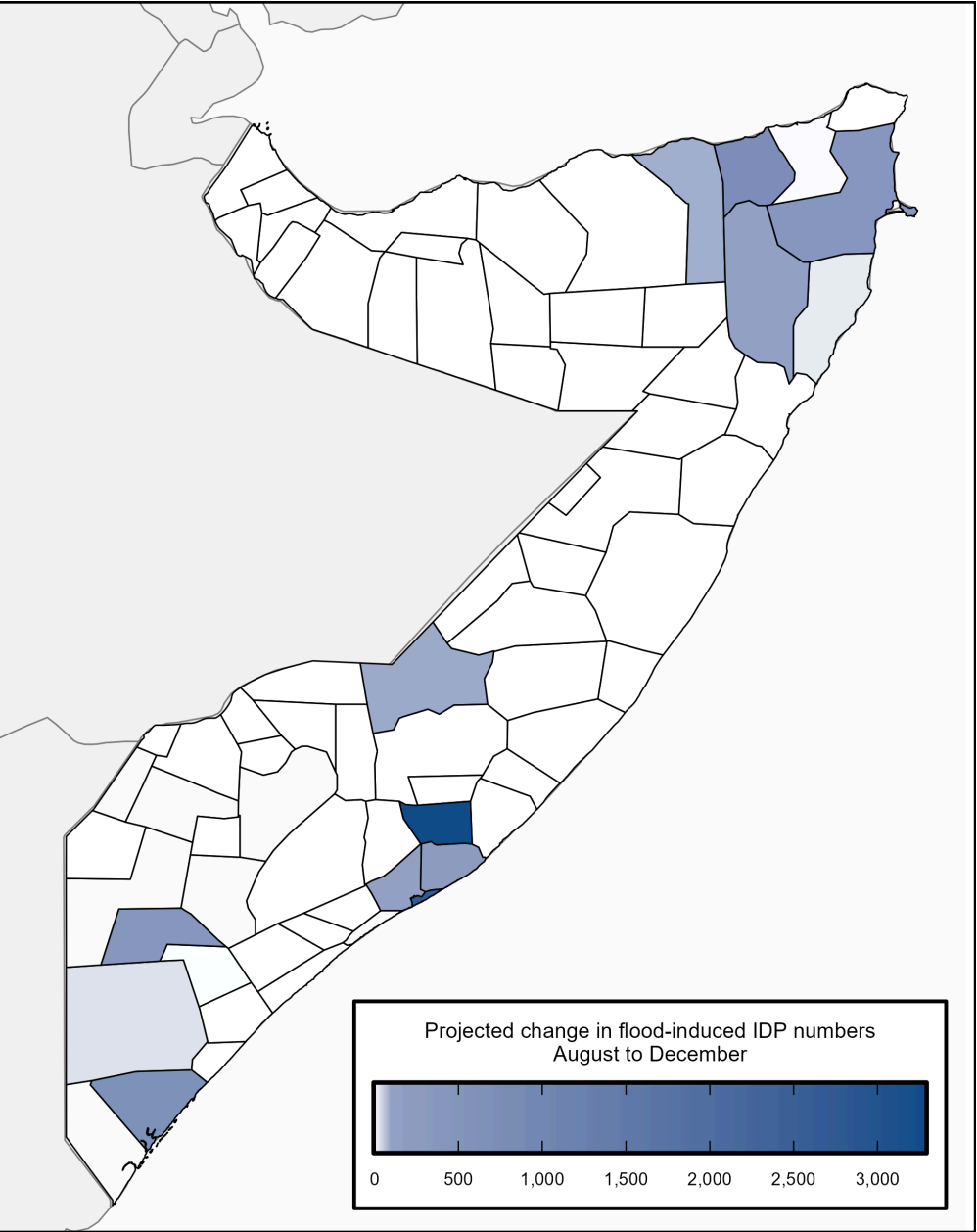
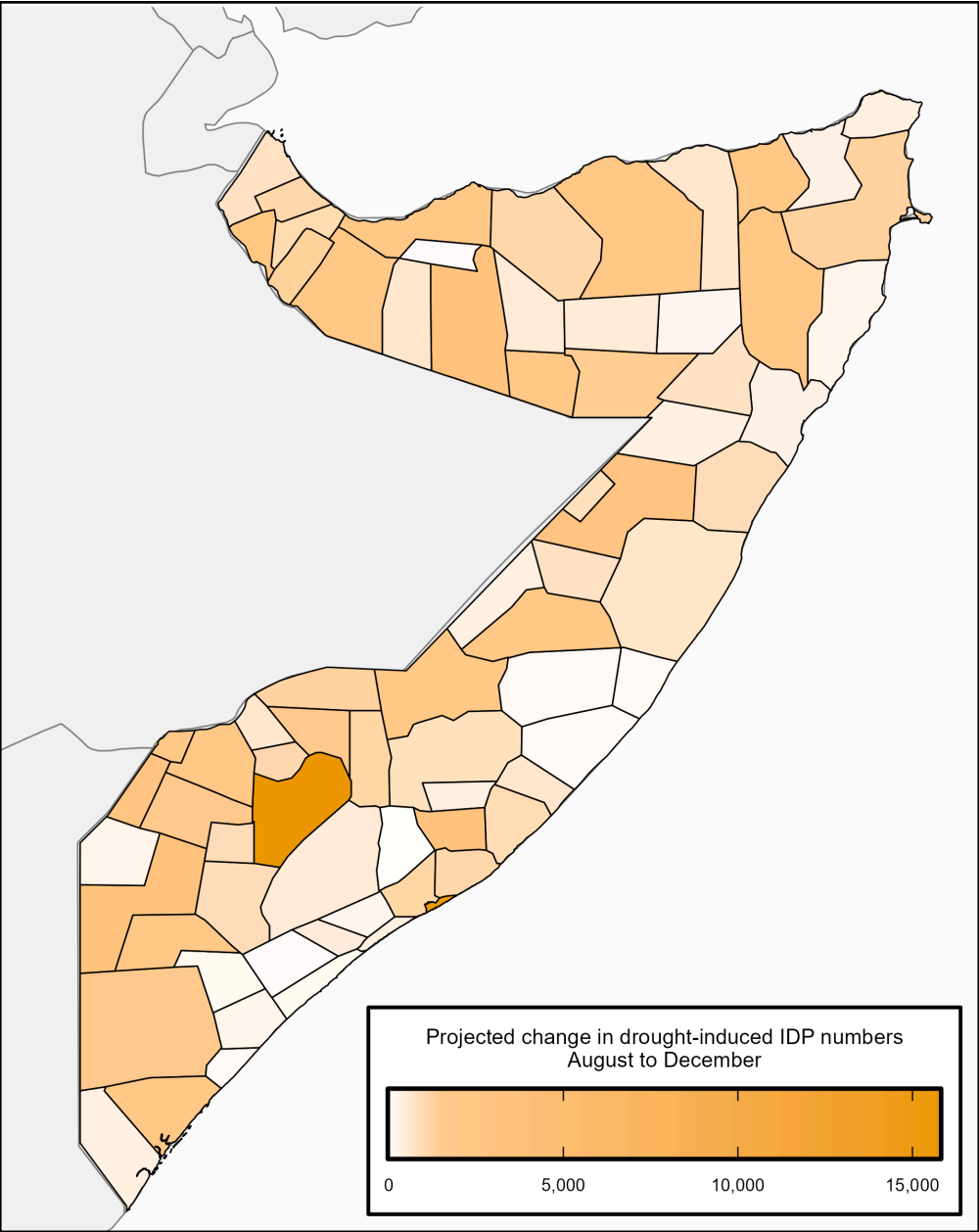
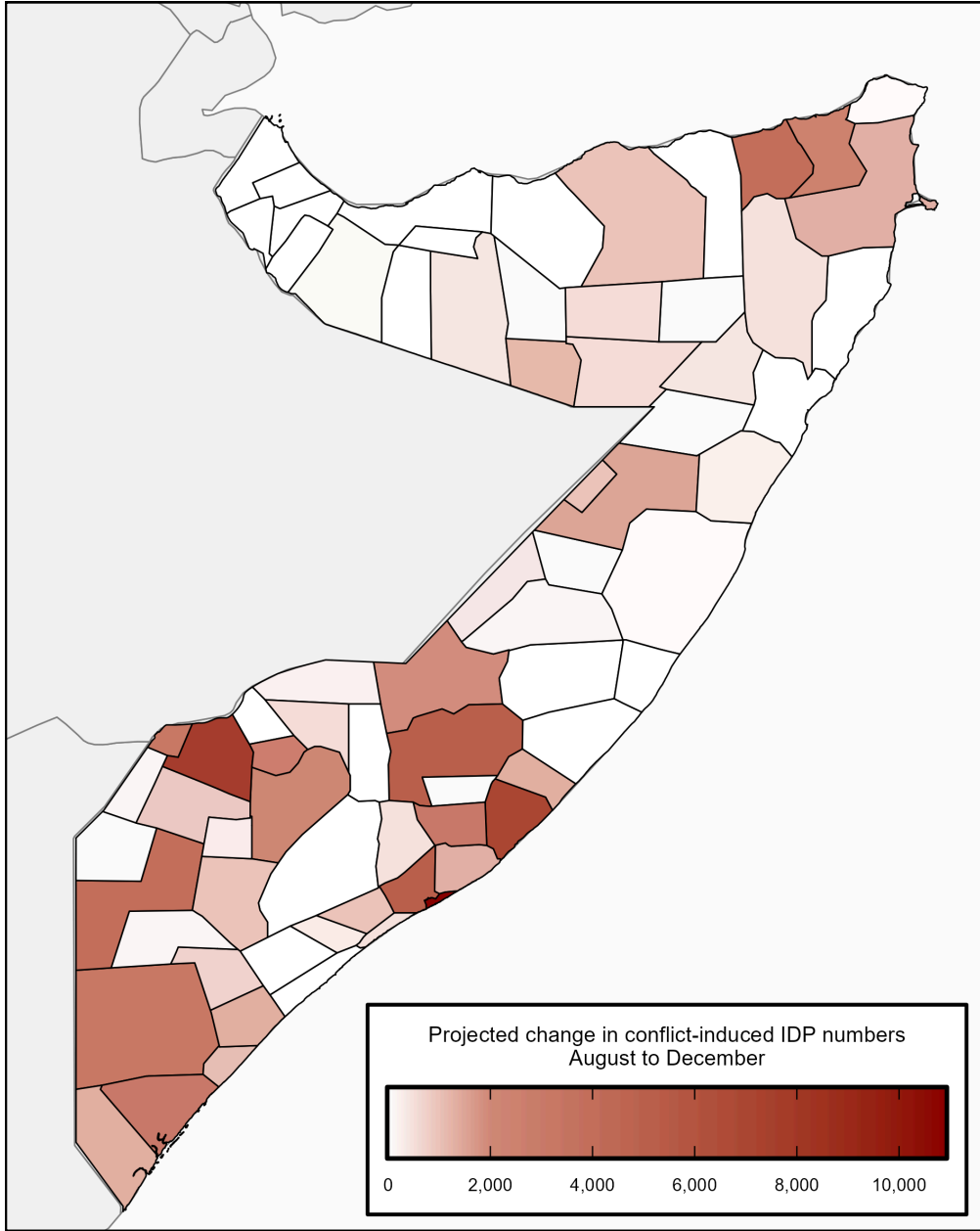


## PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

**Over the next quarter, Somalia’s displaced population is expected to increase by more than 211,000 people compared to August estimates, pushing the total number of people living in displacement to over 4.22 million by December 2025.** Conflict remains a key driver of this increase, accounting for roughly 44% of the projected rise. Conflict is mainly anticipated in Middle Shabelle and Hiraan, with most displacements projected to occur to Banadir, Luuq and Cadale. In Banadir and Luuq alone, the number of conflict-induced IDPs is expected to grow by nearly 18,500 combined.

Normally a wet period, the October-December “Deyr” season is forecasted to bring below-normal rainfall across Somalia, extending the dry conditions from the June-September “Hagga” season. As a result, drought is anticipated to be the main driver of displacement this quarter. **The total drought-displaced population is forecasted to grow by more than 109,000.** Notable rises in drought-induced IDP numbers are anticipated in areas such as Banadir (+15,515) and Baidoa (+15,795). Relatively large increases of over 3,000 individuals are also anticipated in Baardheere, Jowhar and Burco.

**Floods are expected to contribute to about 4% of the total increase in the displaced population, with the number of flood-induced IDPs likely to rise by approximately 8,900 during the quarter.** Only Banadir and Jowhar are projected to see flood-related increases of more than 2,000 people each.





# UGANDA

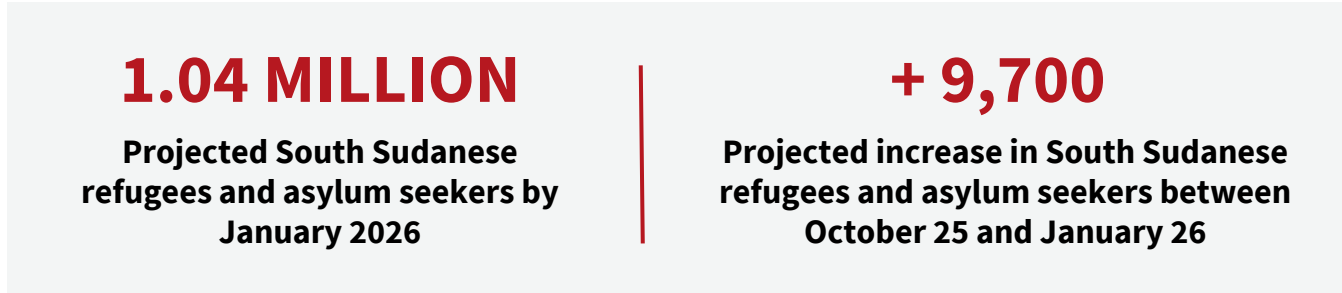
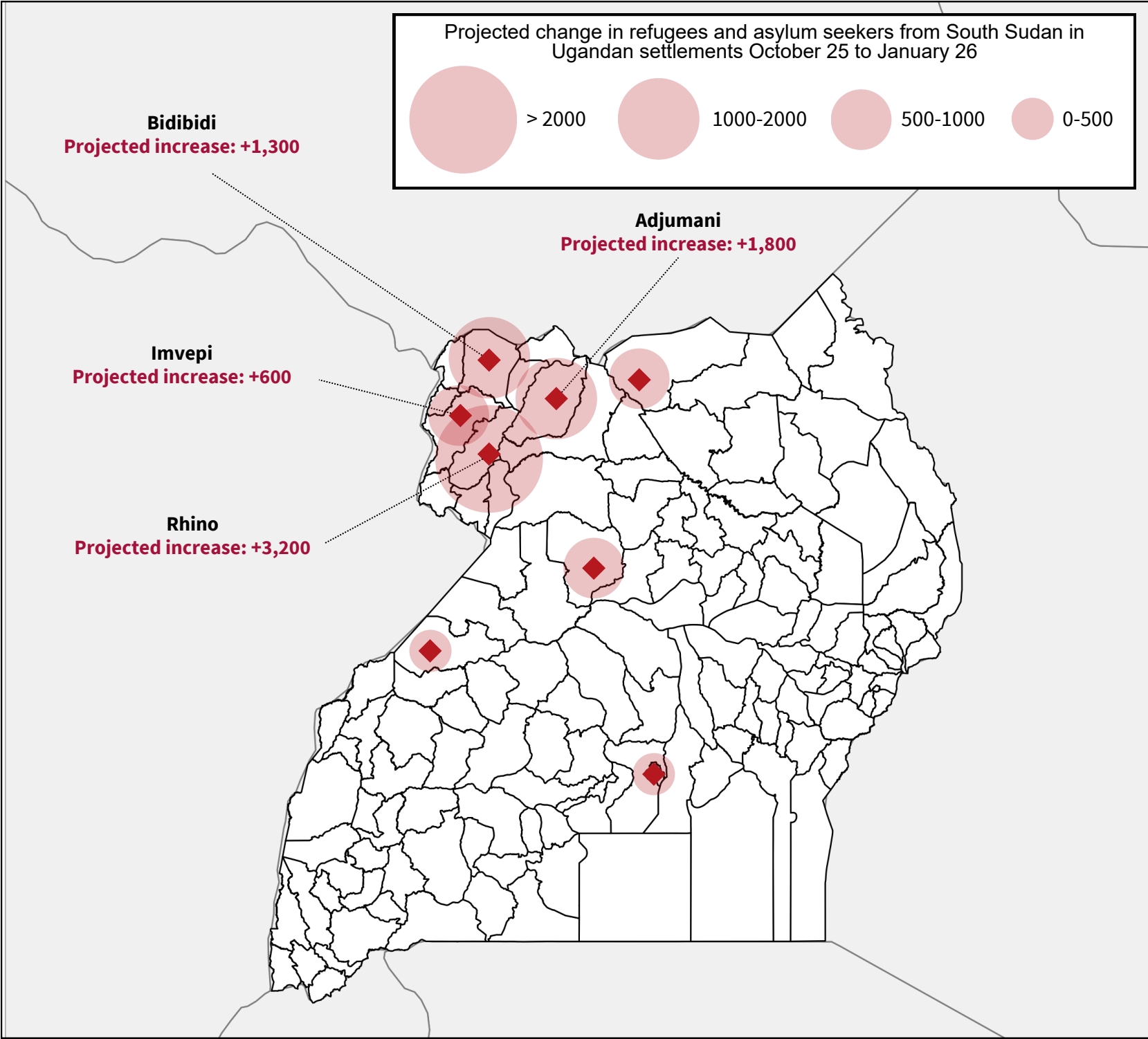
By the end of September 2025, Uganda hosted more than 1.9 million refugees and asylum seekers across various settlements. Over half originated from South Sudan, while roughly one-third came from DR Congo. Nakivale hosted the largest share, followed by Adjumani, Bidibidi and Rhino. In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects how the population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan may evolve across nine settlements.

## HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

In **Bidibidi settlement**, the active population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is projected to increase by approximately 1,300 over the next three months. In **Adjumani**, where recent growth has been moderate, the AHEAD model forecasts an increase of more than 1,800 individuals.

Figures in **Imvepi** rose by roughly 800 between June and September, and the population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is now **projected to grow by almost 600 by January 2026**.

**The largest projected increase is in Rhino settlement, with an expected rise of over 3,200 individuals.** Between June and September, the population increased by more than 5,000, with over 2,000 of that growth occurring between August and September alone.



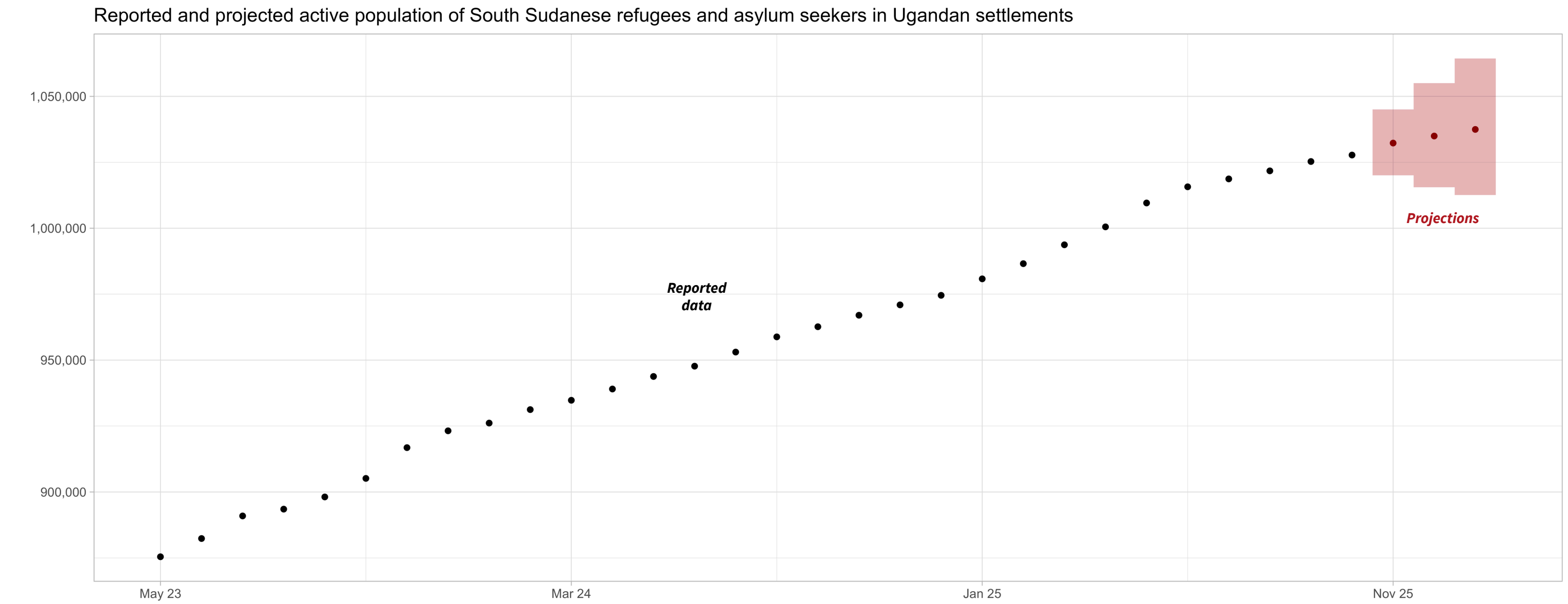
## PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

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 January 2026, the population is expected to rise by more than 9,700, nearly reaching 1.04 million.**

Between July and October, the South Sudanese refugee and asylum seeker population across the nine settlements covered by the AHEAD model grew by more than 9,000, with the largest increases recorded in Rhino settlement, which now hosts over 185,000 South Sudanese. Should the upward pressure in Rhino continue, figures could trend toward the higher end of model projections.

According to a recent [UNHCR external update](#), Uganda has also received around 26,000 South Sudanese refugees since the escalation of violence in South Sudan in late February, mainly from Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states. This brings total new arrivals of South Sudanese between January and late September to more than 42,000.

Efforts are ongoing to add new indicators for predicting cross-border movements into Uganda and to improve how areas of origin are represented in the model.



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 25 districts in the governorates of Ad Dali’, Al Hodeidah, Lahj, Ma’rib and Ta’iz, assuming an average household size of six individuals, in line with IOM DTM approach.

### HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

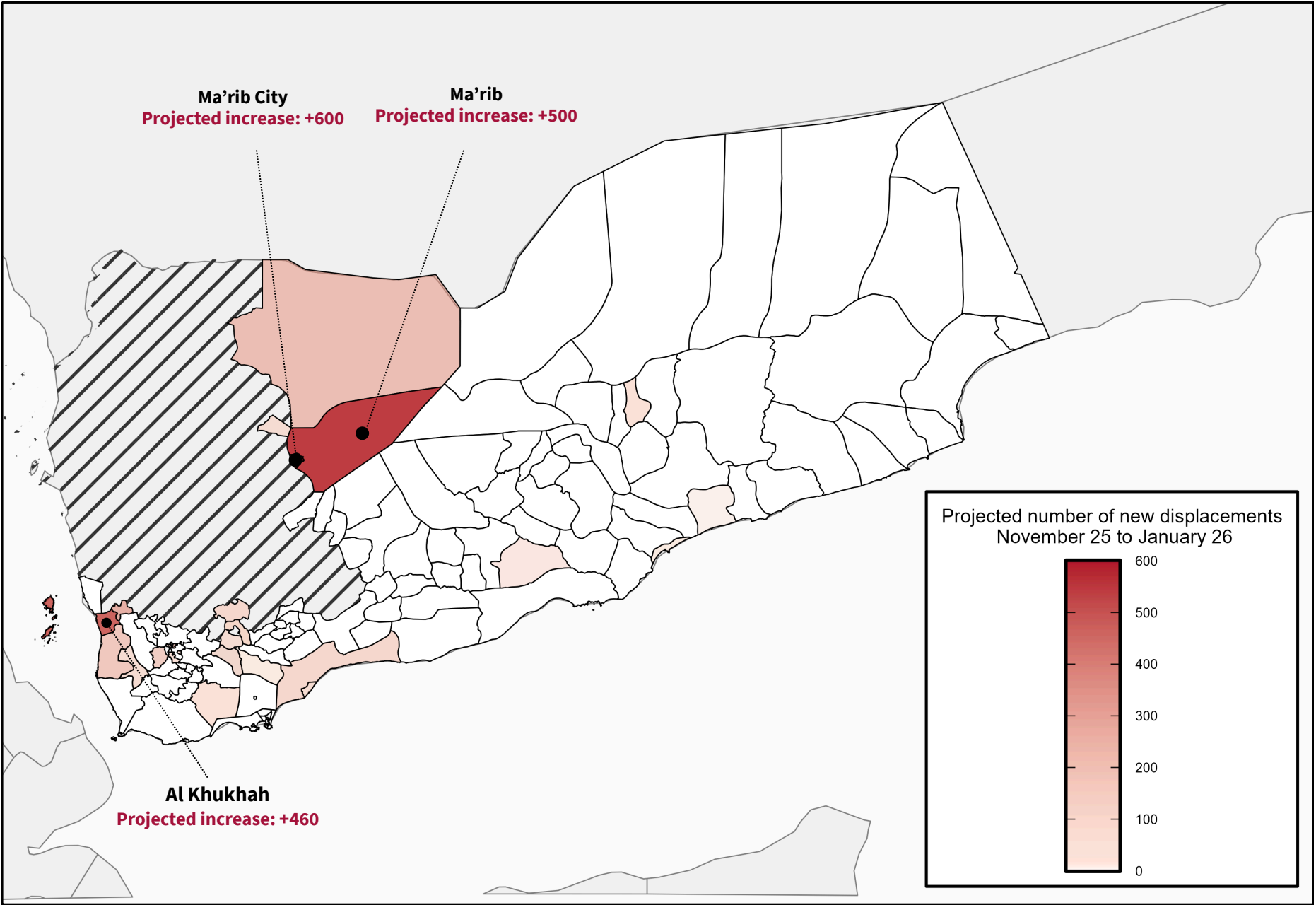
**In Al Khukhah, the AHEAD model projects over 450 individuals may be displaced into or within the district over the next three months**, potentially rising to around 1,300. DTM recorded 73 households (438 individuals) between August and October.

**Ma’rib District is projected to receive over 500 new arrivals, while Ma’rib City is expected to receive more than 600.** Both districts saw over 300 displacements during August–October.

Over 200 new displacements are anticipated In Hays, while in Mawza, where recent movements have been limited, a slight increase of around 30 individuals is projected.

+ 2,900

Projected new displacements between November 25 and January 26



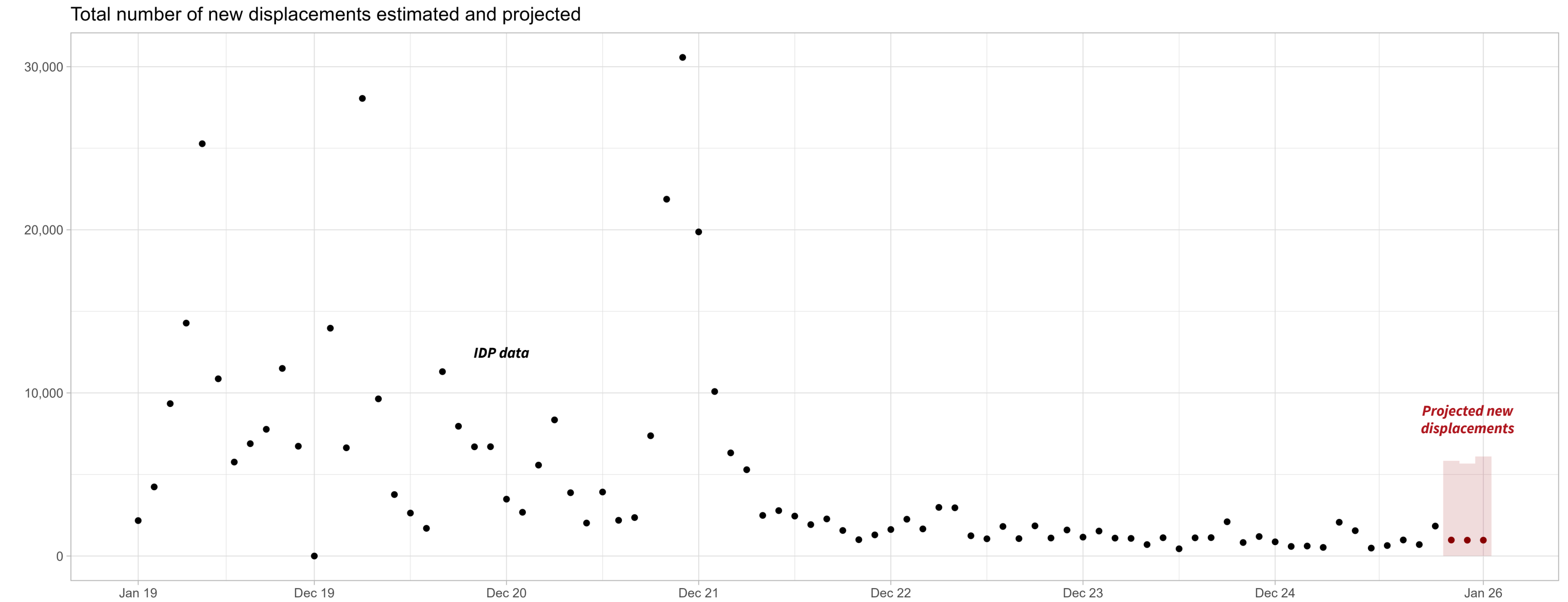
### PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

**Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects more than 2,900 new displacements due to conflict across 39 districts**, with approximately one-third expected to occur in January. These moderate increases are broadly consistent with recent trends observed in RDT data. Between 1 January and 8 November 2025, IOM Yemen DTM recorded 2,918 households (17,508 individuals) displaced at least once as a result of conflict, health, economic or natural disaster factors, of which over 50% were conflict-related. In the August-October period, RDT data indicated slightly more than 3,500 new displacements, while AHEAD projections for the upcoming period suggest slightly lower figures.

Most of the anticipated increases are linked to ongoing conflict dynamics. Between early October and early November, ACLED recorded over 700 conflict events across Yemen, resulting in more than 100 fatalities. Around 45 events occurred in Ma’rib and more than 25 in each of Ad Dali’, Al Hodeidah and Ta’iz, including over 20 incidents of political violence in Ad Dali’. If conflict activity in the coming months intensify beyond recent levels, new displacement figures could approach the upper range of AHEAD projections.

Beyond conflict, flooding and food insecurity continue to influence displacement and strain conditions for IDPs. As of 17 September, UN OCHA reported 82 deaths, 100 injuries and about 386,000 people affected by heavy rains and floods across 125 districts in 19 governorates, including several IDP sites. At the same time, roughly 18.1 million people face acute food insecurity, with nearly 70% of displaced families reporting in June that they could not meet basic food needs.

The Yemen predictive model is being expanded to include new predictors and to provide estimates of displacement occurring within districts and from other districts.







## **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 2026.*

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