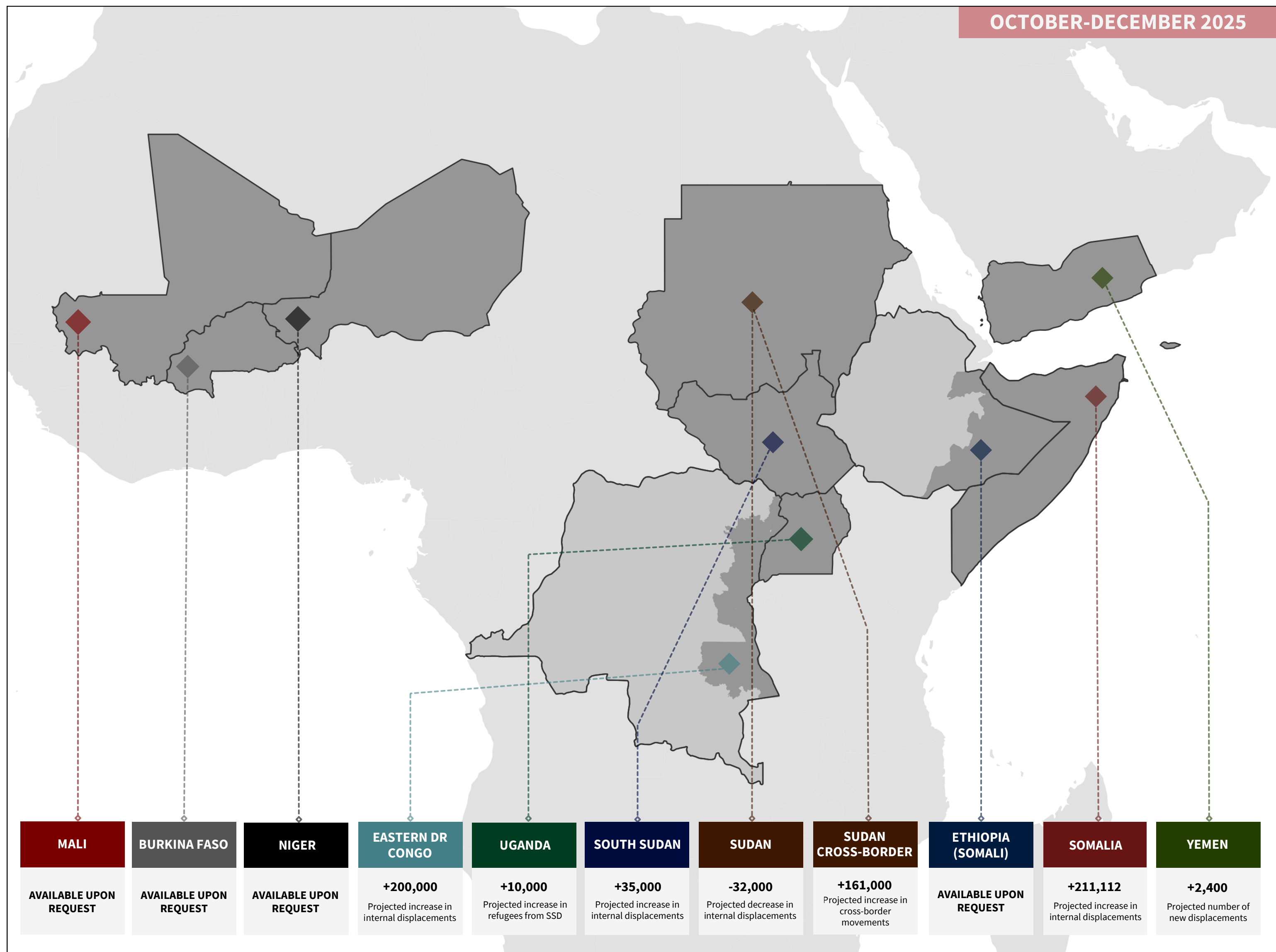


OVERVIEW

AHEAD's global snapshot #6 presents displacement forecasts for the period **October to December 2025**, 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 and Yemen, as well as Ethiopia (Somali region), Niger, Mali 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 32,000, 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 35,000 in South Sudan, with some of the largest increases expected in Fangak. **In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects an increase of more than 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan across nine settlements.**

Forecasts for eastern DR Congo indicate that the number of IDPs will increase by roughly 200,000 by December 2025, after displacements have reportedly started outpacing returns again. **In Yemen, the number of new displacements in the coming three months is expected to be above 2,000.**

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

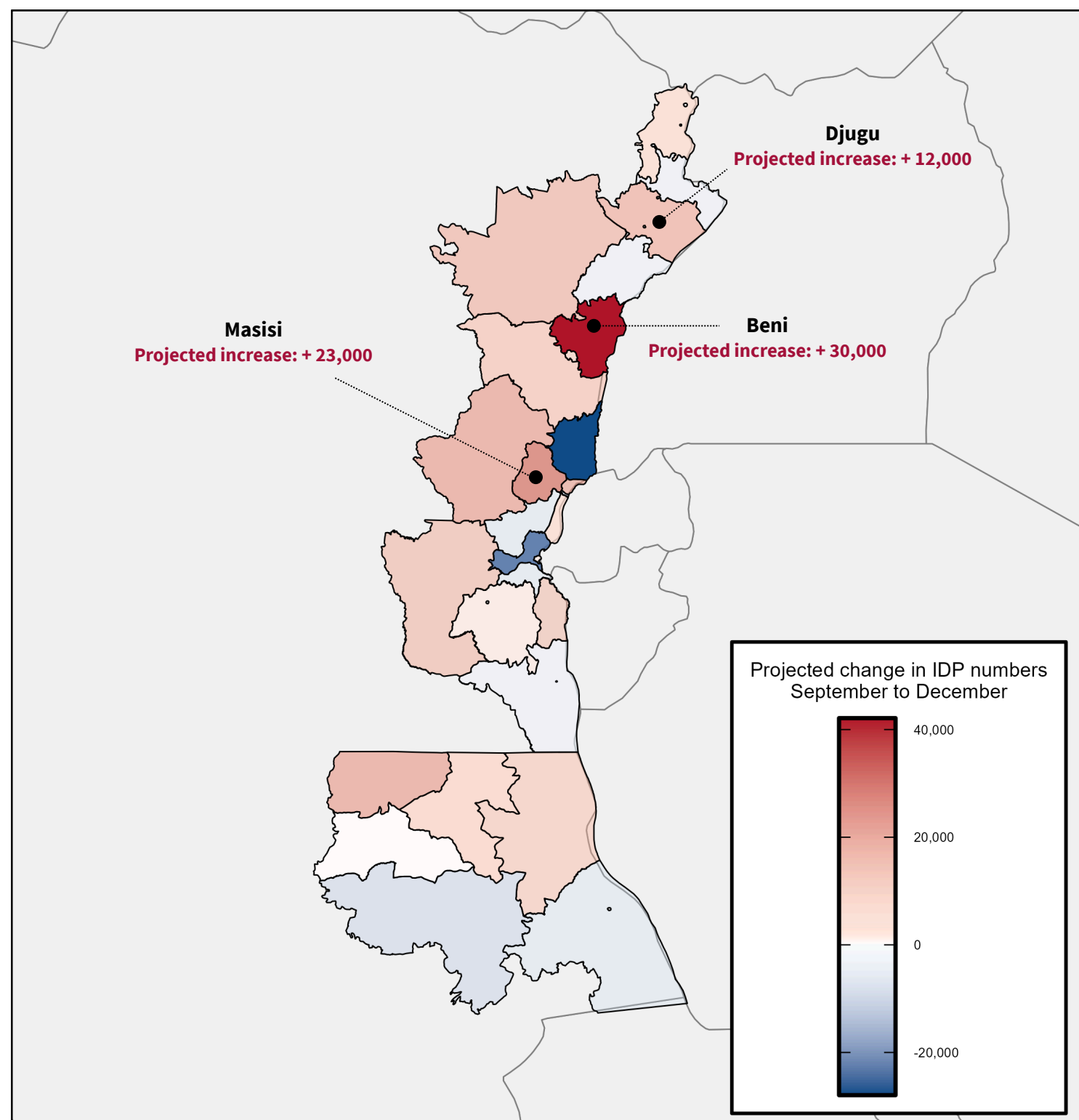
Since January 2025, renewed M23 offensives in eastern DR Congo have driven new displacements. Between 4th of January and 19th of March, M23 fighters entered into Masisi, Sake, Goma, Bukavu and Walikale. These advances have led to hundreds of thousands of new displacements, while millions have also been 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 December 2025, 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 23,000 individuals, following a significant rise of more than 60,000 people reported by OCHA in August compared to July. **In Djugu, displacement is projected to increase by over 12,000 individuals**, with a recent Mercy Corps analysis indicating that 21,663 households were newly displaced across the territory in August.

The largest projected increase in displacement is observed in Beni and surrounding areas. According to OCHA data, over 300,000 IDPs were recorded in the territory in August 2025, up from around 200,000 in July. The AHEAD model reflects this upward trend, estimating a **potential increase of more than 30,000 individuals over the next three months across Beni**.



4.5 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers
by December 2025

+200,000

Projected IDP increase
between September and December

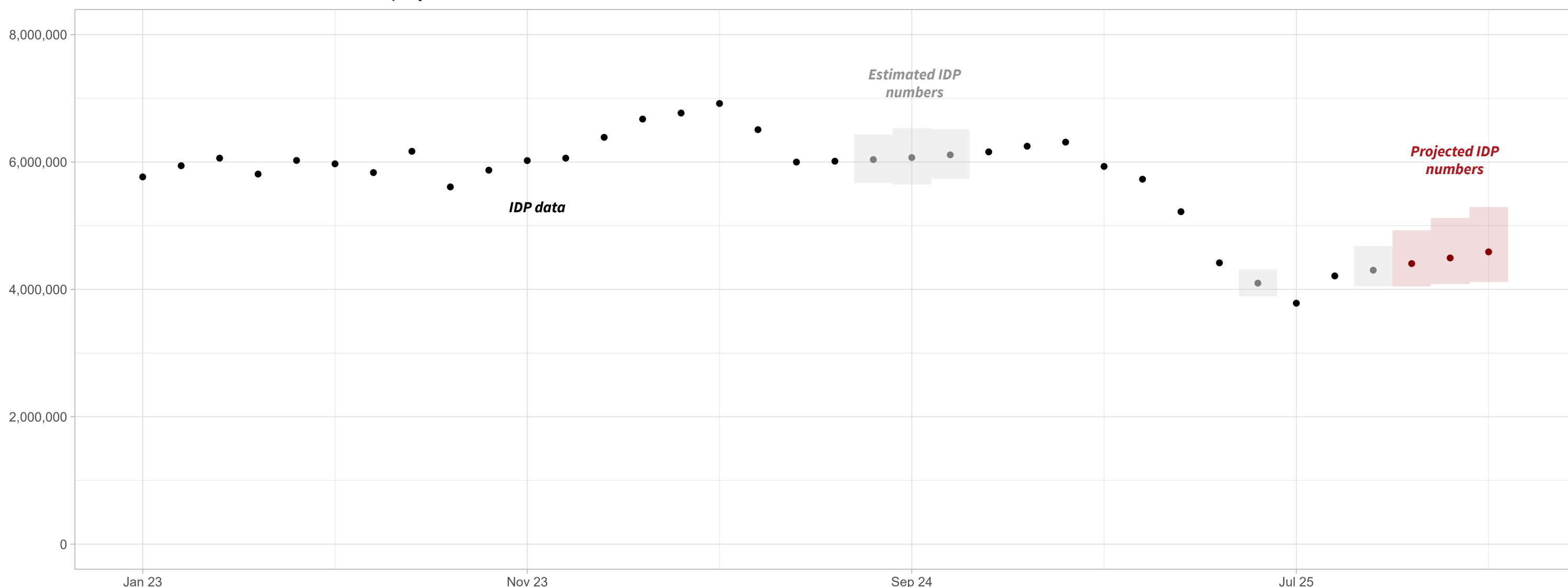
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

In eastern DR Congo, displacement figures are projected to increase by roughly 200,000 over the next three months, bringing the total to around 4.5 million IDPs across the four provinces by December 2025. Following months of decreases associated with return movements, OCHA data shows that the number of IDPs rose in August to around 4.2 million, up from 3.8 million in July. A continued rise is therefore anticipated in the months ahead.

The projected increases also align with recently reported trends. [IOM's latest Mobility Tracking Report for North Kivu](#) notes a 13% rise in IDP numbers during the August-September 2025 assessment compared to the previous one in April-May. At the same time, return movements appear to have slowed down. A recent [Monthly Displacement Report from Mercy Corps' Crisis Analysis](#) also indicates that over 90,000 households were newly displaced in August 2025, though this was lower than the number reported the previous month.

ACLED data show that ISCAP engaged in more direct armed clashes with state forces and other armed actors in September, marking the highest level since September 2024 and concentrated mainly in North Kivu. If violence and displacement continue at recent rates, figures could move toward the upper end of projections, while an increase in returns relative to new displacements would likely keep totals closer to the lower end.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



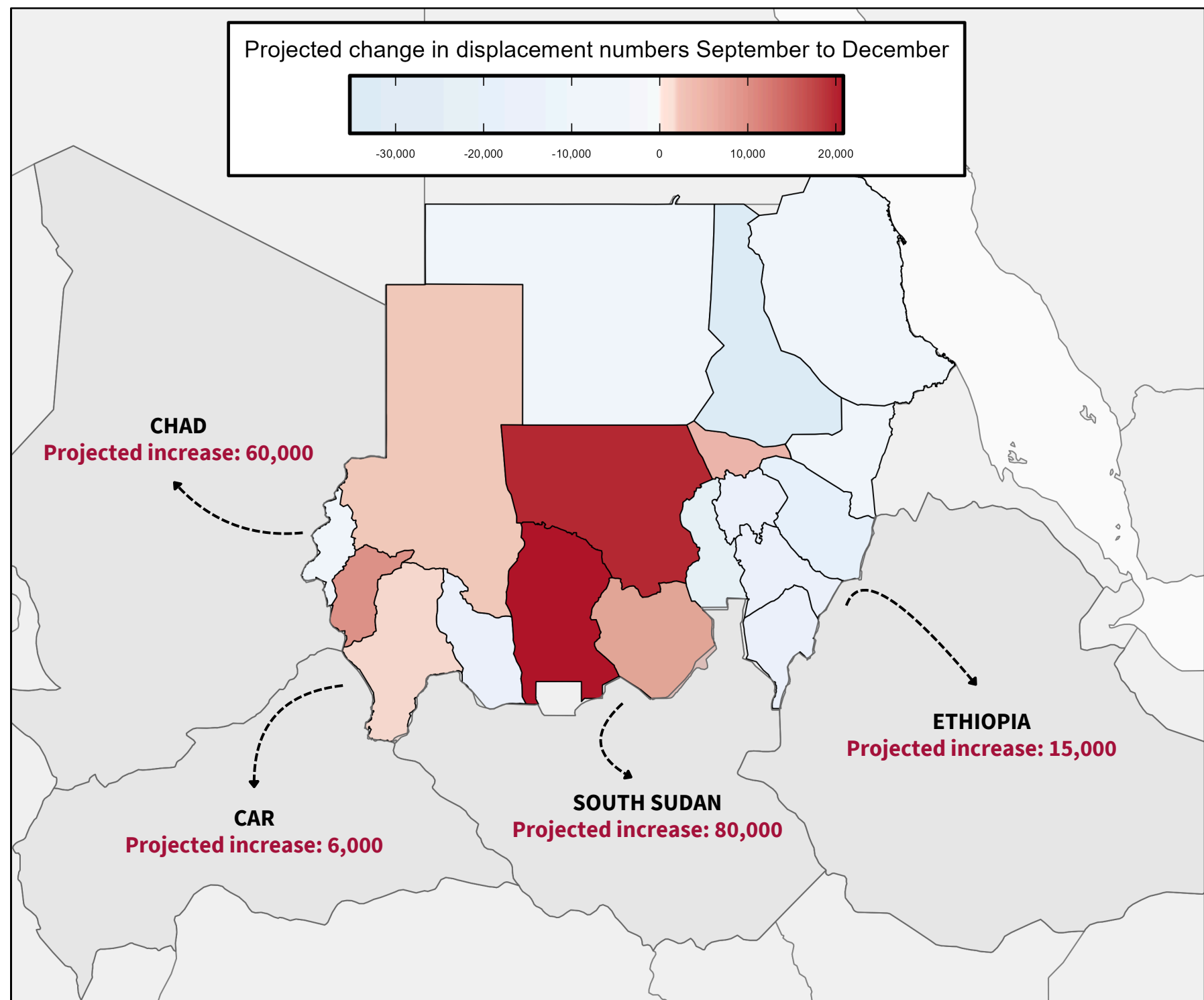
Since the conflict between SAF and RSF began, Sudan has seen a sharp rise in displacement, reaching nearly 11.6 million IDPs by January 2025. In recent months, figures have declined, largely due to increasing returns. The AHEAD model covers 18 states and includes cross-border flows into Ethiopia, South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

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

In West Kordofan, displacement is projected to rise by **21,000** over the next three months compared to September 2025. **North Kordofan is also expected to see an increase of over 19,000.** Both states already registered notable rises between July and August.

Displacement is also projected to continue rising in **Khartoum and Central Darfur (+6,000 each)**. Between July and August, the number of individuals living in displacement rose by about 14% in Khartoum. 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 60,000, and into South Sudan by over 80,000.** Flows to Ethiopia and CAR are also expected to grow, though at lower levels.



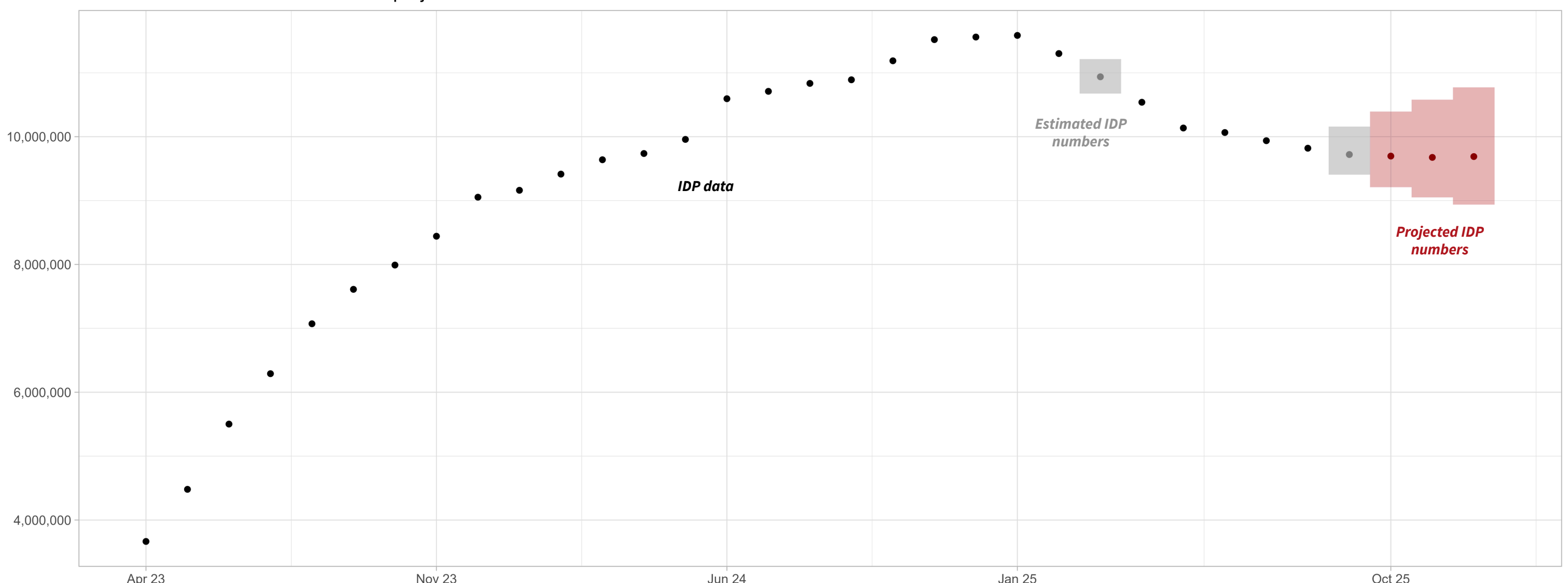
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model anticipates a slight overall decline in displacement in Sudan. **By December 2025, the number of IDPs is projected at around 9.70 million, about 32,000 fewer than in September.** This decrease follows recent trends captured by DTM Sudan: Mobility Update 21 (August 2025) reports about 9.82 million IDPs nationwide, down by over 300,000 since late May and more than 1.7 million below the peak recorded earlier in the year.

Projected decreases also reflect relatively limited increases in North and South Darfur in recent months. Still, several dynamics could push IDP figures toward the upper range of projections. Recent reports indicate intensified clashes between the SAF and RSF in contested areas of North Darfur and North Kordofan, with the RSF reportedly gaining ground around El Fasher. In North Kordofan, hostilities have also escalated following renewed SAF advances into the state. These developments could contribute to larger increases in displacement than those observed recently in some areas, particularly in North Darfur.

Cross-border movements are also projected to continue increasing. As of early September, approximately 1.19 million people had crossed from Sudan into Chad since the conflict began on 15 April 2023, representing an increase of more than 65,000 since early June. Over the same period, about 1.23 million individuals had crossed into South Sudan, an increase of roughly 70,000. Substantial additional inflows into both countries are anticipated over the next three months.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



SOUTH SUDAN

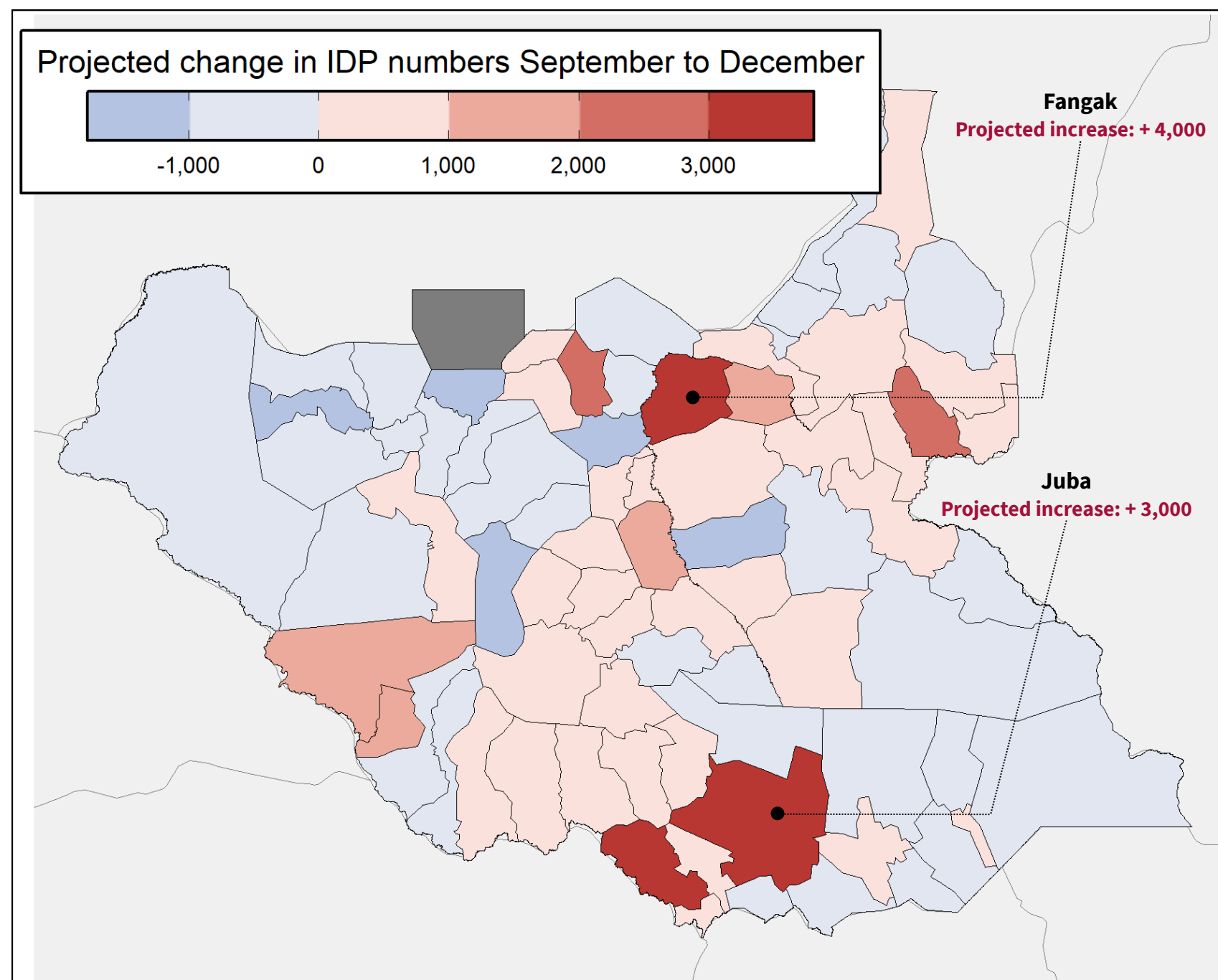
Internal displacements in South Sudan is caused by a wide range of factors, such as communal clashes, land disputes, violence, natural disasters and cross-border movements. In recent months conflict has escalated at a more broader level with especially high intensity in Upper Nile State. This comes on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

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

In Jonglei State, **large increases are projected in Fangak county, where the number of IDPs is expected to rise by over 4,000 during the coming three months.**

Central Equatoria is projected to see **large increases in Yei and Juba, each with more than 3,000 additional IDPs expected.**

The exact counties to see displacement are, however, very dependent on the spatial distribution of the conflict in the coming months and most counties in Upper Nile State and closeby are at risk of large increases.



2.33 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers by December 2025

+ 35,000

Projected IDP increase between September and December

PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

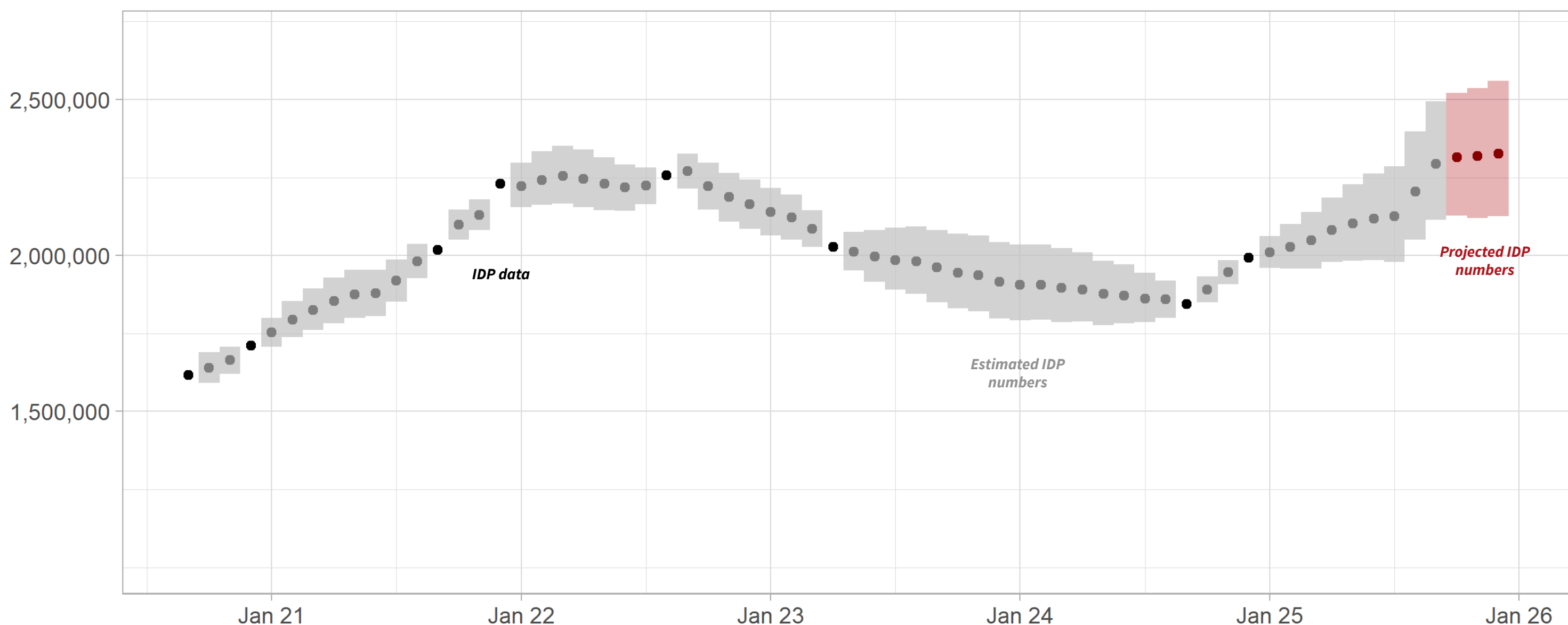
Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects an overall increase in displacement in South Sudan. **By December, the number of individuals living in displacement is expected to rise by more than 35,000 compared to estimates from September, bringing the total to around 2.33 million.**

There was a decrease in reported conflict events in July-September 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 October, flooding had affected more than 870,000 people across four states, with over 270,000 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



SOMALIA

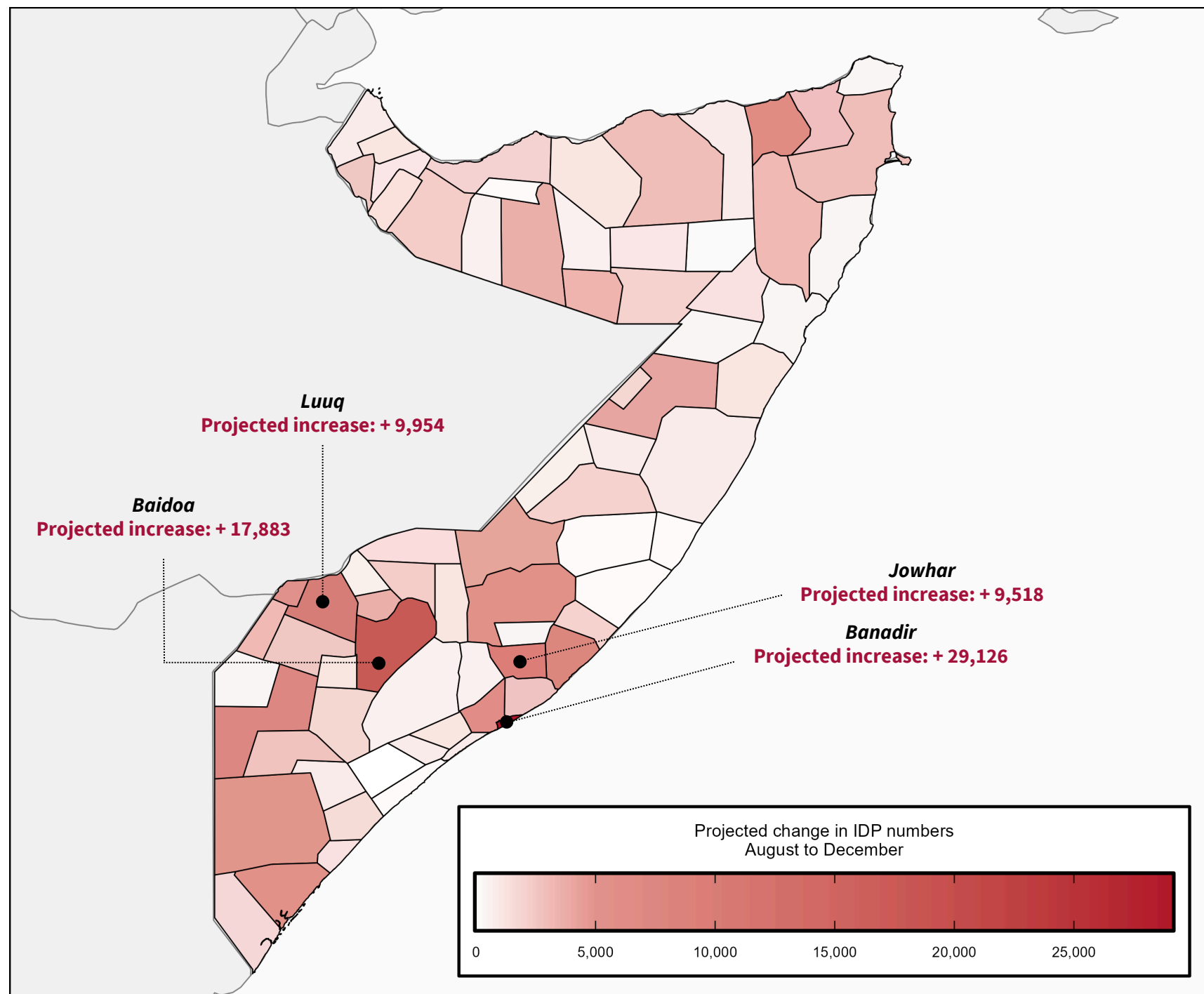
Conflict and climate-related hazards continue to drive widespread internal displacement in Somalia. Drought, floods and insecurity have left millions displaced, with 3.8 million people recorded at the end of 2022. IOM and DRC developed a multi-hazard model to produce quarterly forecasts estimating the number of people displaced by conflict, drought and floods. 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

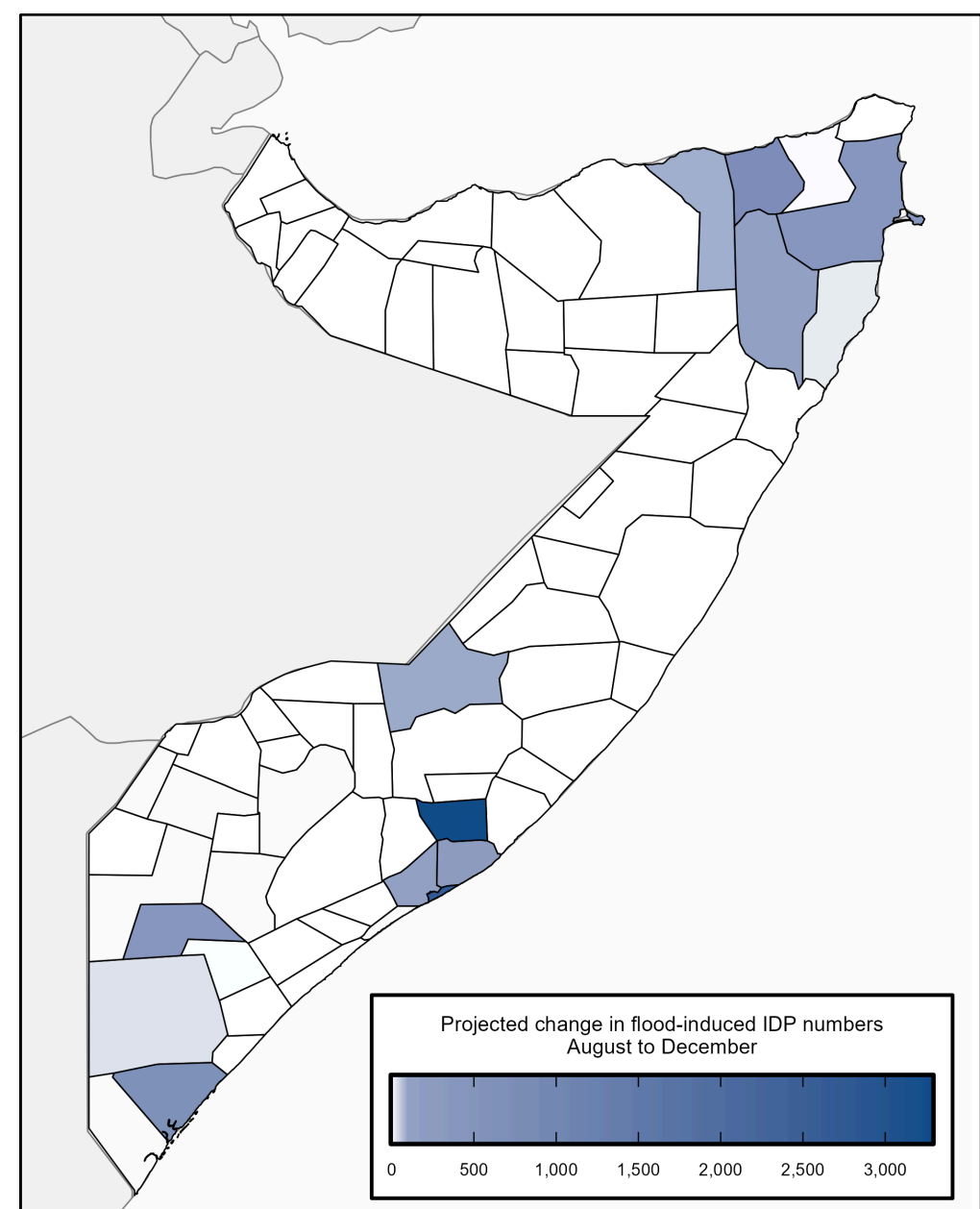
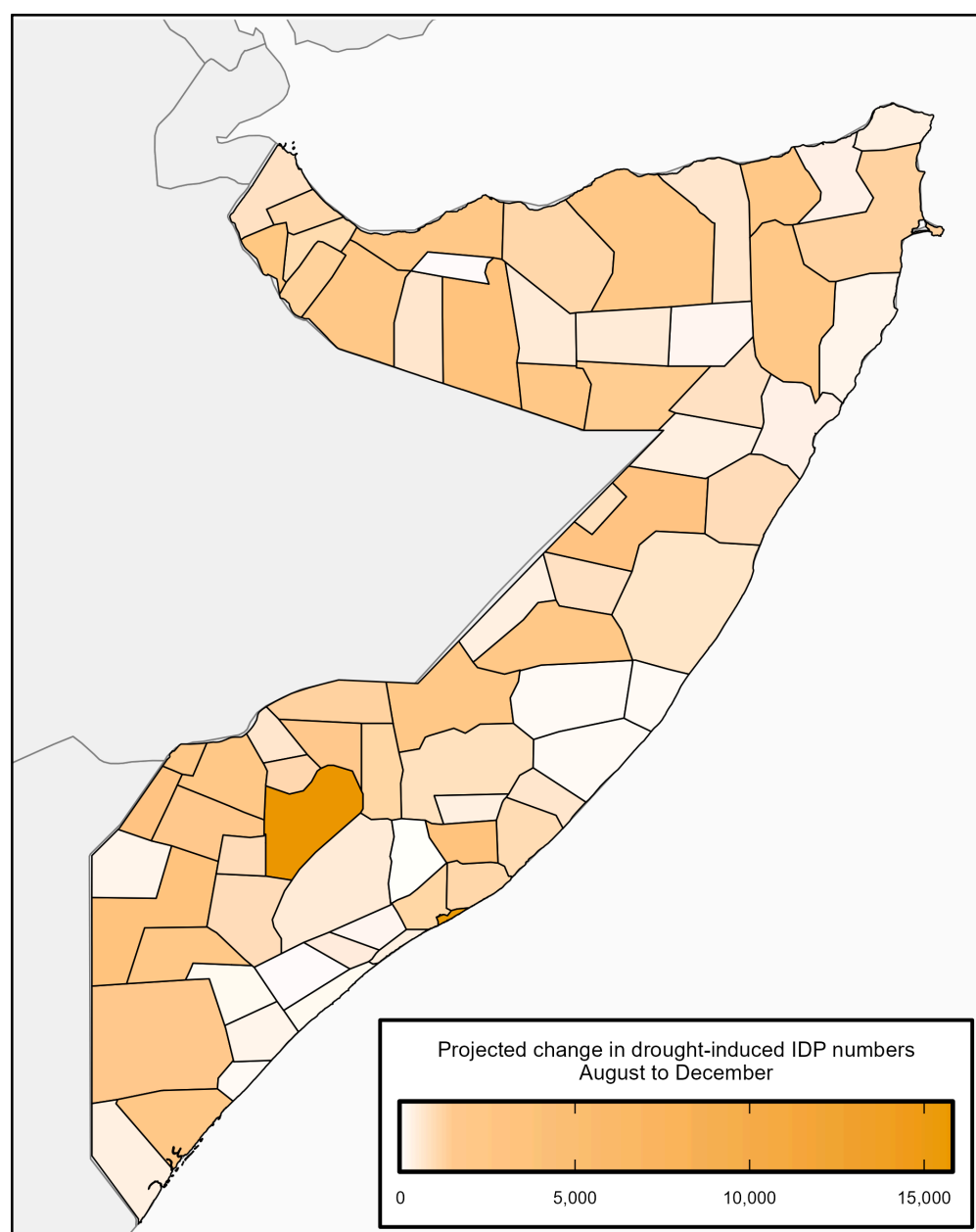
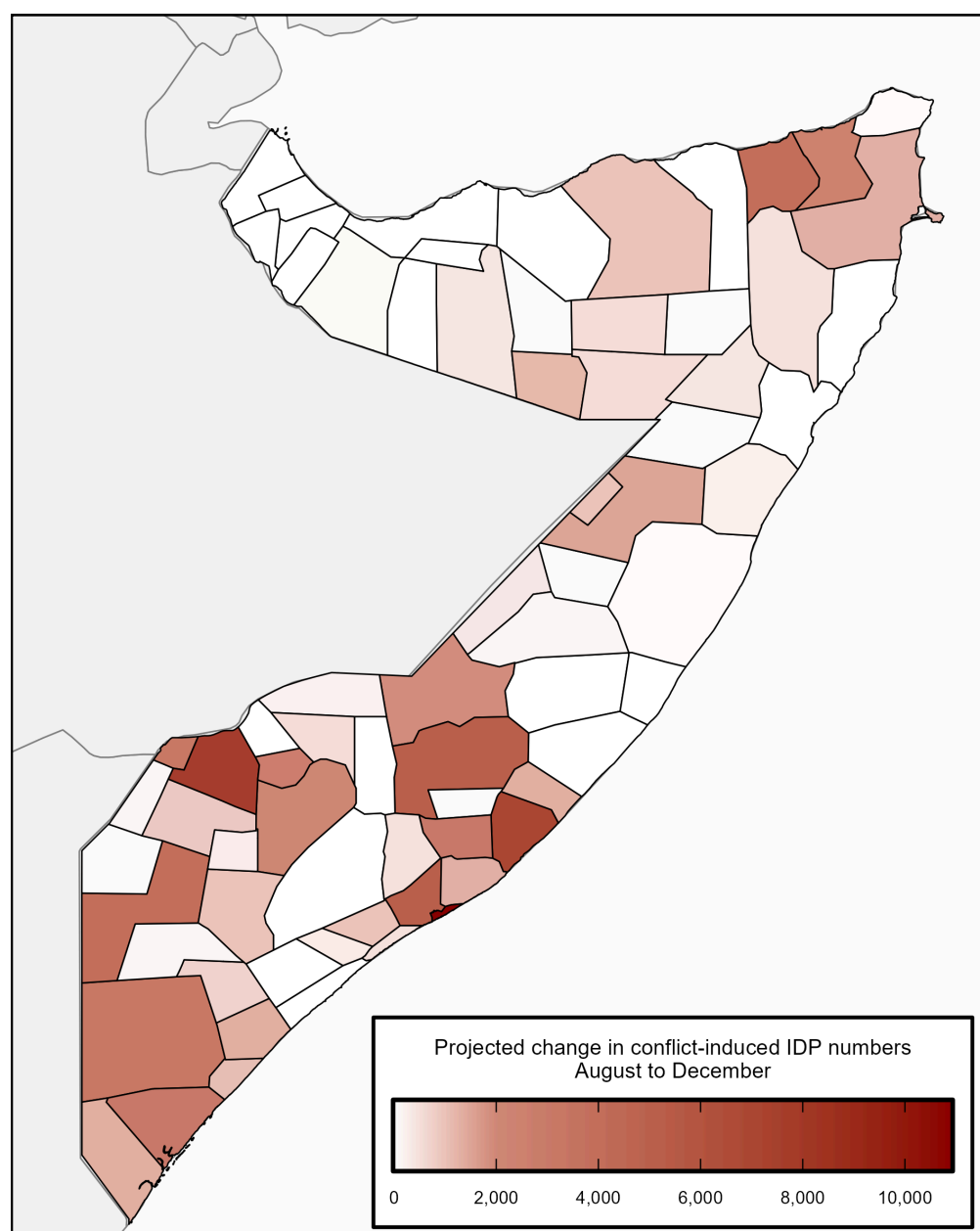
Projected IDP increase between August and December

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 Hiraaan, 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 1,500 over the next three months. In **Adjumani**, where recent growth has been moderate, the AHEAD model forecasts an increase of more than 1,200 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 more than 400 by December 2025**.

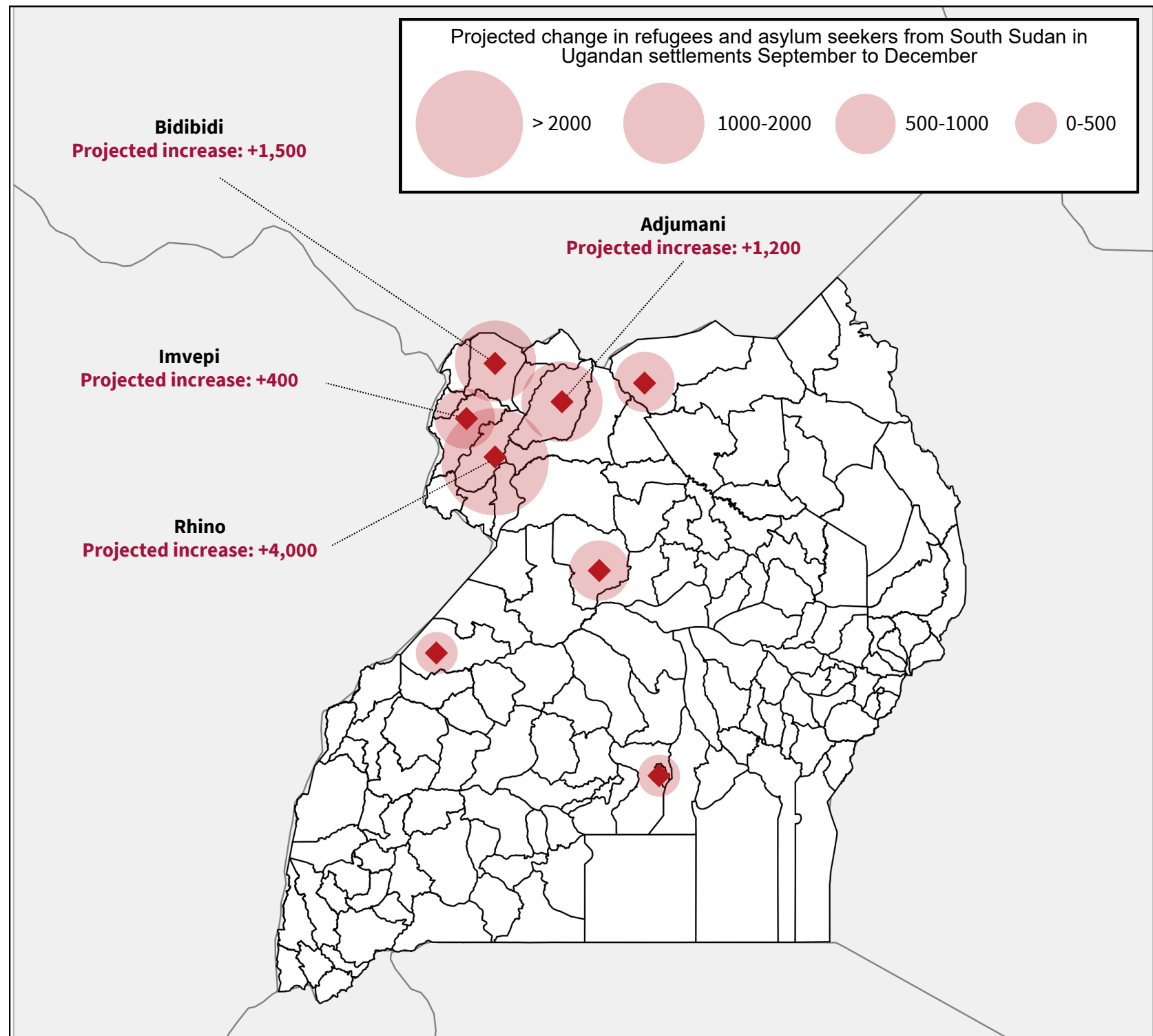
The largest projected increase is in Rhino settlement, with an expected rise of over 4,000 individuals. Between June and September, the population increased by more than 5,000, with over 2,000 of that growth occurring between August and September alone.

1.03 MILLION

Projected South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers by December 2025

+ 10,000

Projected increase in South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers between September and December



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

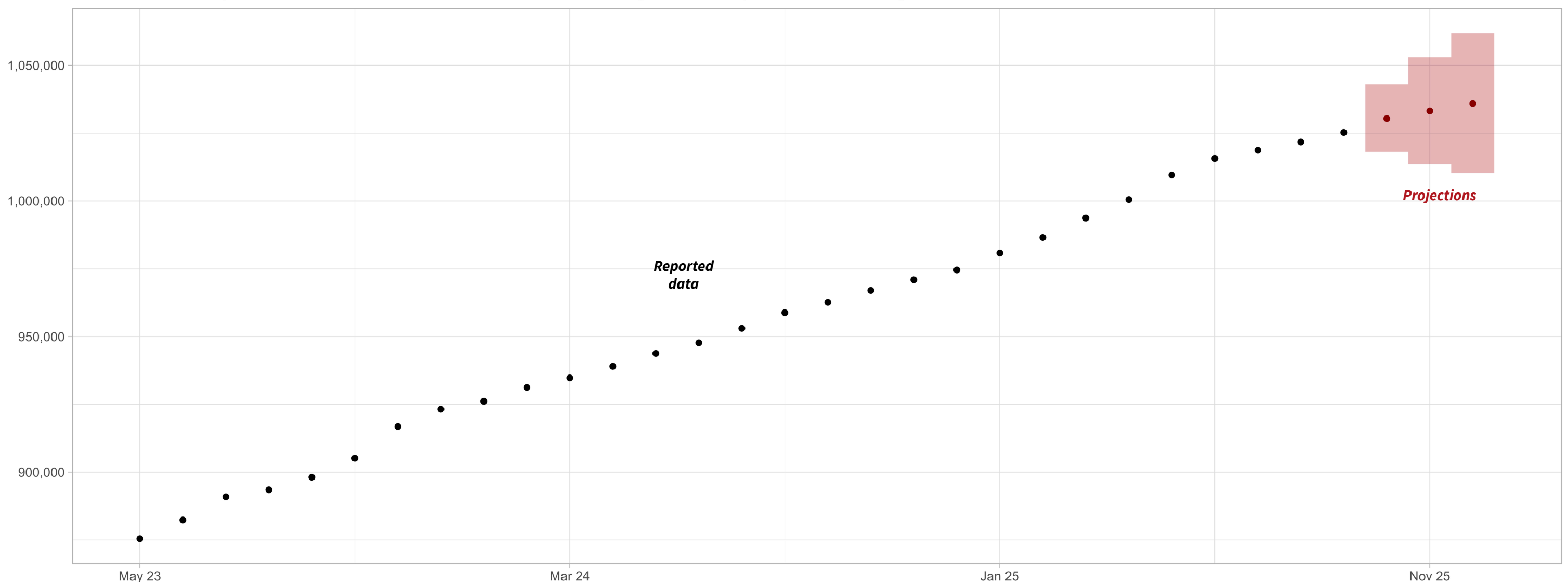
Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects an increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan across nine settlements in Uganda. **By December 2025, the population is expected to rise by more than 10,000, surpassing 1.03 million.**

Between June and September, the South Sudanese refugee and asylum seeker population across the nine settlements covered by the AHEAD model grew by more than 9,500, with the largest increases recorded in Rhino settlement, which now hosts almost 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 August 2025 to more than 40,000.

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.

Reported and projected active population of South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in Ugandan settlements



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.

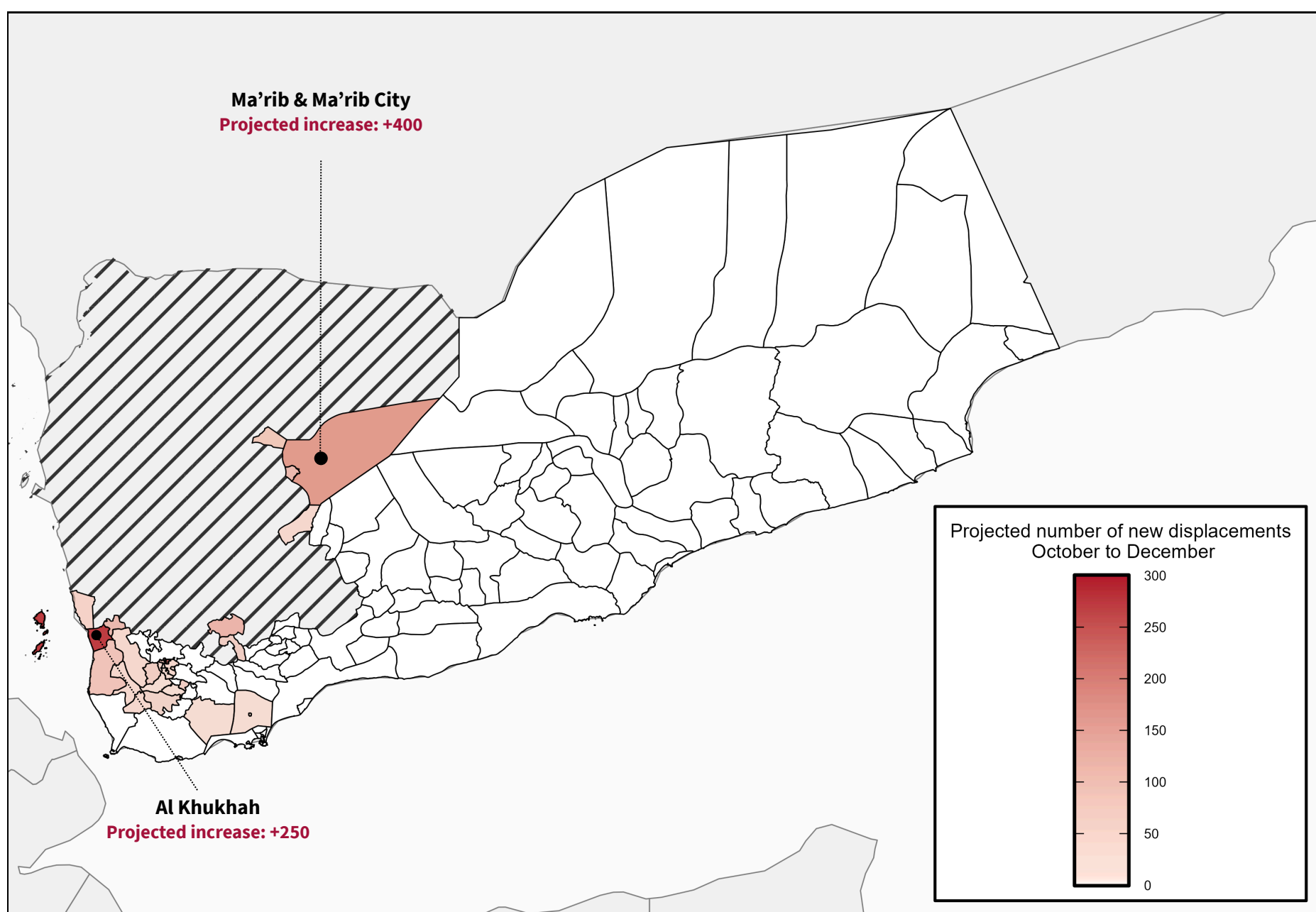
Internal displacement has been ongoing across Yemen since the outbreak of conflict in 2015. In July 2015, IOM recorded 1.27 million IDPs across multiple districts. The latest IOM figures on the total number of IDPs indicate over 3 million people in accessible areas within 13 assessed governorates. Through 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 250 individuals may be displaced into or within the district over the next three months, potentially rising to around 2,000. DTM recorded 59 households (354 individuals) between July and September.

In Ma'rib and Ma'rib City, projections indicate over 400 new displacements, fewer than the 700+ recorded between July and September, though figures could reach about 1,300.

Over 100 new displacements are anticipated in Hays, while in Mawza and Tuban, where recent movements have been limited, a slight increase of around 15 individuals is projected in each district.



+ 2,400

Projected new displacements between October and December

PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

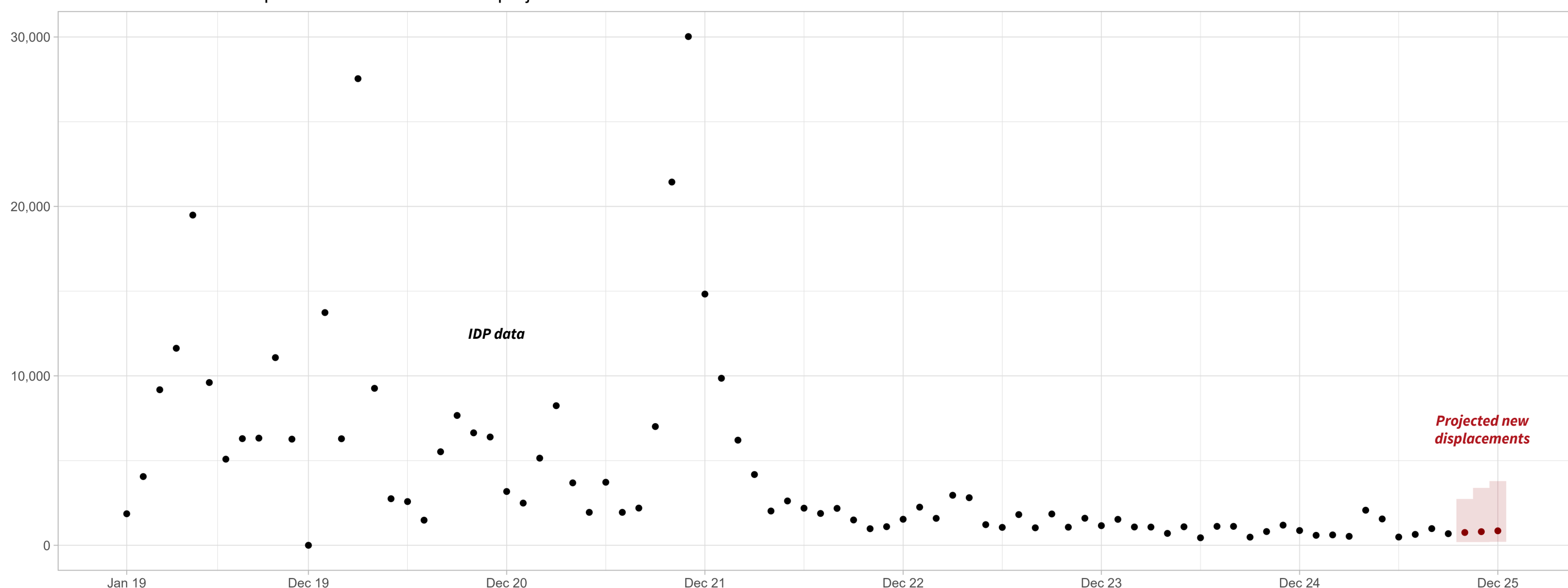
Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects more than 2,400 new displacements due to conflict across 27 districts in five governorates, with approximately 36% expected to occur in December. These moderate increases are broadly consistent with recent trends observed in RDT data. Between 1 January and 4 October 2025, IOM Yemen DTM recorded 2,382 households (14,292 individuals) displaced at least once as a result of conflict, health, economic or natural disaster factors, of which over 57% were conflict-related. In the third quarter of 2025, RDT data indicated slightly more than 2,300 new displacements, while AHEAD projections for the upcoming period suggest slightly higher figures.

Most of the anticipated increases are linked to ongoing conflict dynamics. Between late August and late September, ACLED recorded over 1,000 conflict events across Yemen, resulting in more than 200 fatalities. Around 80 events occurred in Ma'rib and more than 35 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.

Total number of new displacements estimated and projected





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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