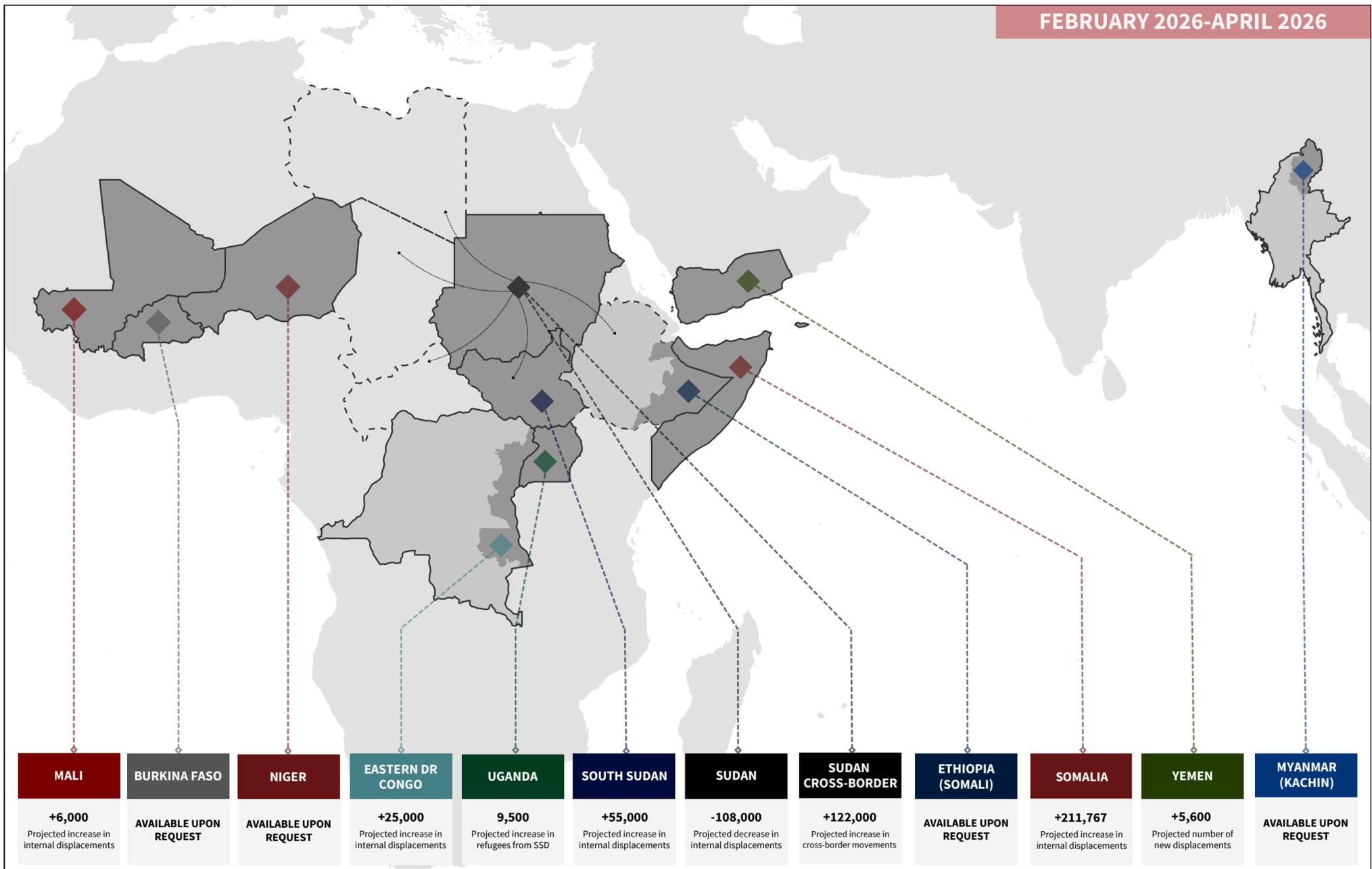


OVERVIEW

AHEAD's global snapshot #10 presents displacement forecasts for the period **February to April 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)**. 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 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 over 100,000, following earlier declines driven by increased return movements. Meanwhile, cross-border flows from Sudan, particularly into the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Chad, are projected to rise by over 120,000.

Internal displacement is anticipated to climb by roughly 55,000 in South Sudan, prompted by the escalation of violence in Jonglei. **In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects an increase of more than 9,500 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 25,000 by April 2026, following the recent escalation of violence in South Kivu and Djugu. **In Mali it is anticipated that the number of IDPs across the country will increase by 6,000 by the end of April.**

In Yemen, the number of new displacements in the coming quarter is expected to be above 5,000, with relatively large increases anticipated in both Ma'rib and Ma'rib City.

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.

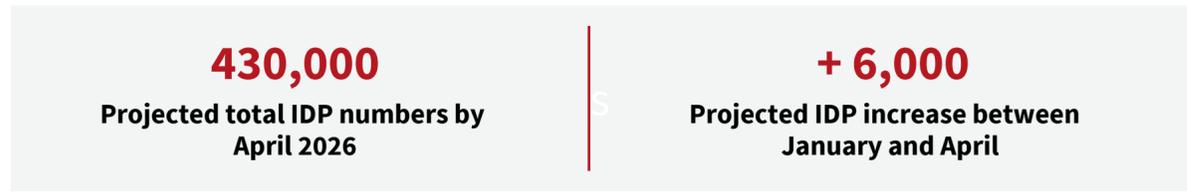
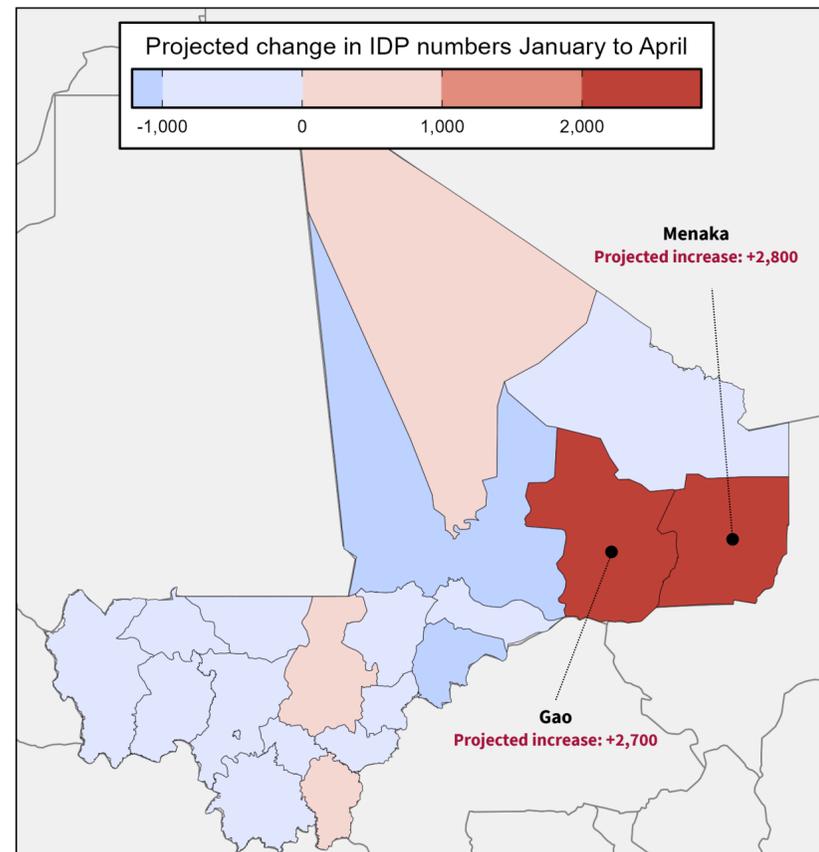
Internal displacement in Mali is almost entirely conflict-related. Displacement in Mali is driven by a protracted and complex conflict involving state forces, allied paramilitaries, and a patchwork of non-state armed groups, further exacerbated by intercommunal violence. The displacement is primarily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

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

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

Projections for February, March and April 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 approximately 2,800 by April, compared to estimates from January.**

In Gao, displacement is projected to increase by approximately 2,700 individuals. Smaller increases are anticipated in Ségou and Taoudenni. Although no major changes are projected for Tombouctou, November 2025 was the deadliest month in the region in two years. If this trend continues, displacement could exceed current projections.

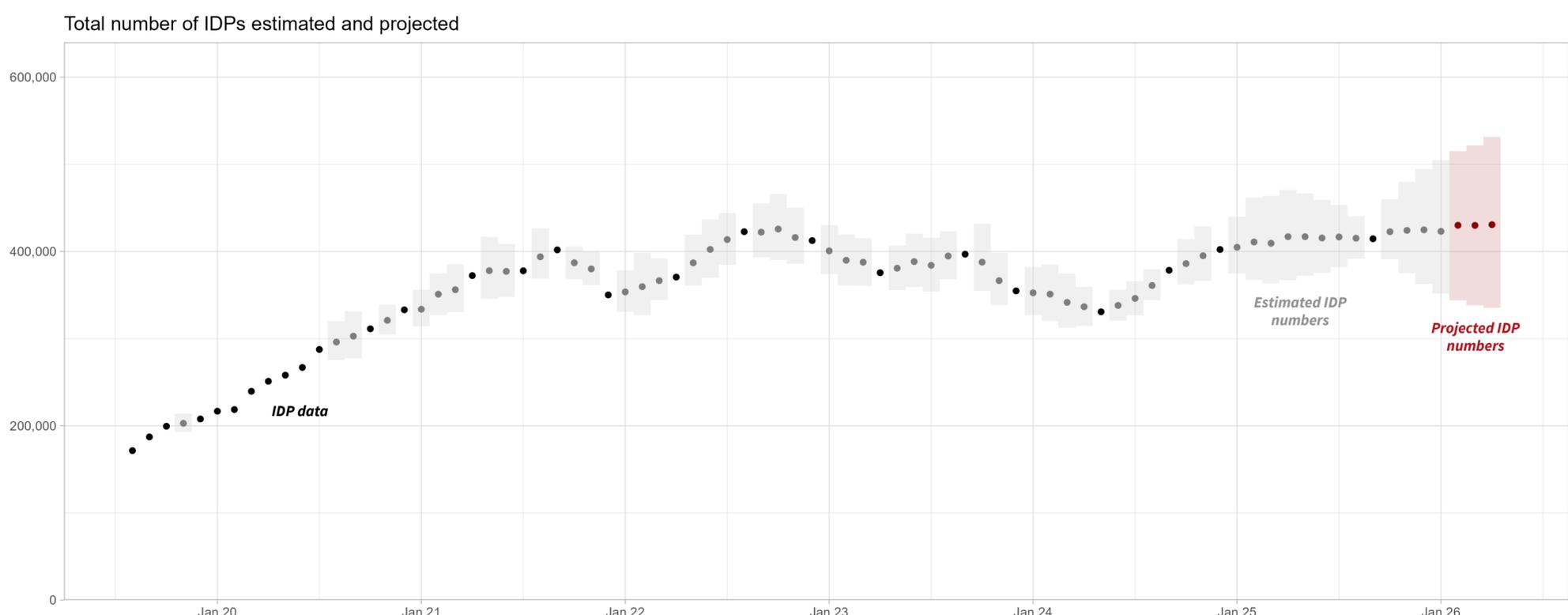


PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Following a brief lull in late 2024, the first half of 2025 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. In early 2026, most violent events were recorded in Ségou and Mopti. 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.

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. While sizeable increases are projected in the coming months, the trend is expected to flatten over the forecasted period.

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 162,000 Burkinabe and Nigeriens refugees.



EASTERN DR CONGO

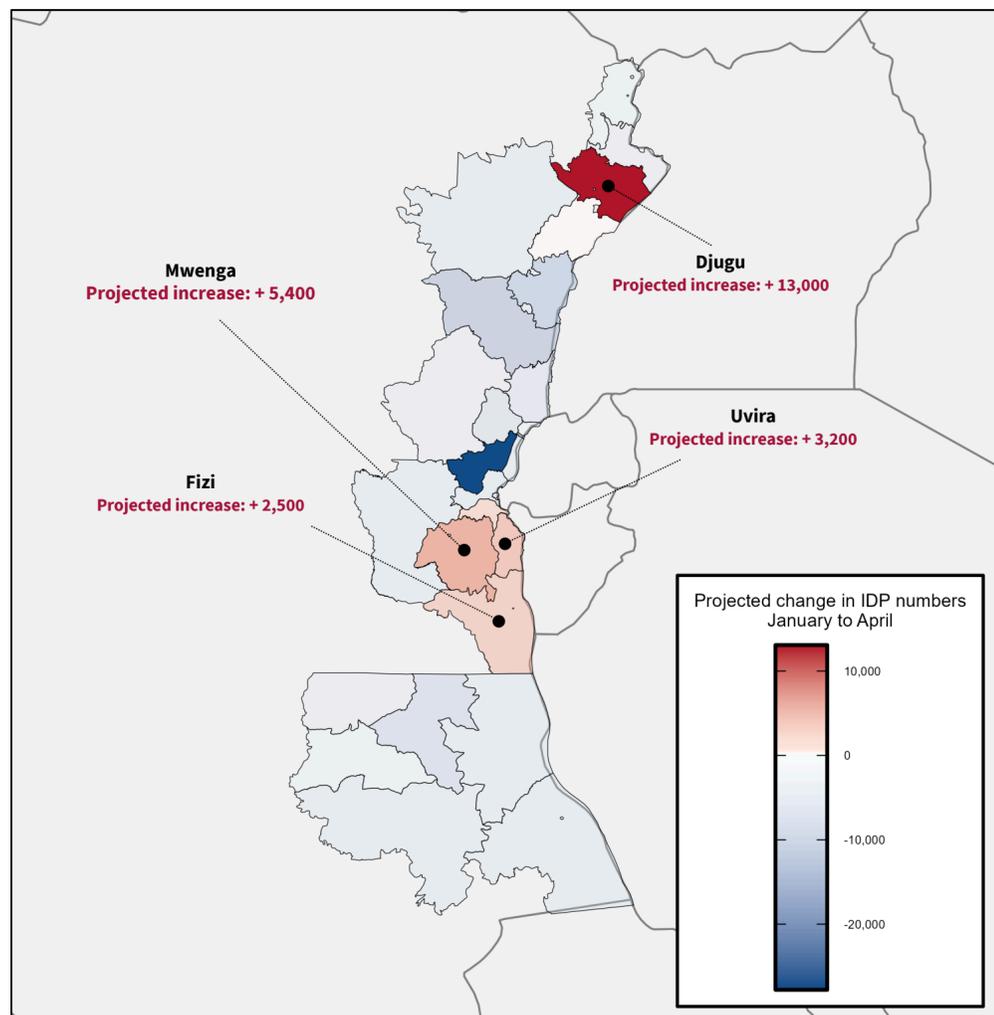
Since January 2025, renewed M23 offensives in eastern DR Congo have driven new displacements. Between 4th of January and 19th of March 2025, M23 fighters entered into Masisi, Sake, Goma, Bukavu and Walikale. These advances have led to hundreds of thousands of new displacements, while millions have also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

By April 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.

Displacement is expected to increase across several territories in South Kivu province. **In Fizi, the number of IDPs is projected to rise by more than 2,500 by April 2026; in Uvira, by roughly 3,200; and in Mwenga, by approximately 5,400.** Given the recent surge in violence in South Kivu, displacement across the region could exceed current projections and approach the upper bounds of these estimates.

Djugu territory is projected to record an increase of over 13,000 IDPs by April 2026. In December, more than 25 conflict incidents were reported. Clashes in early December displaced nearly 45,000 people across the health zones of Damas, Fataki, Mangala and Bambu.



3.76 MILLION
Projected total IDP numbers by
April 2026

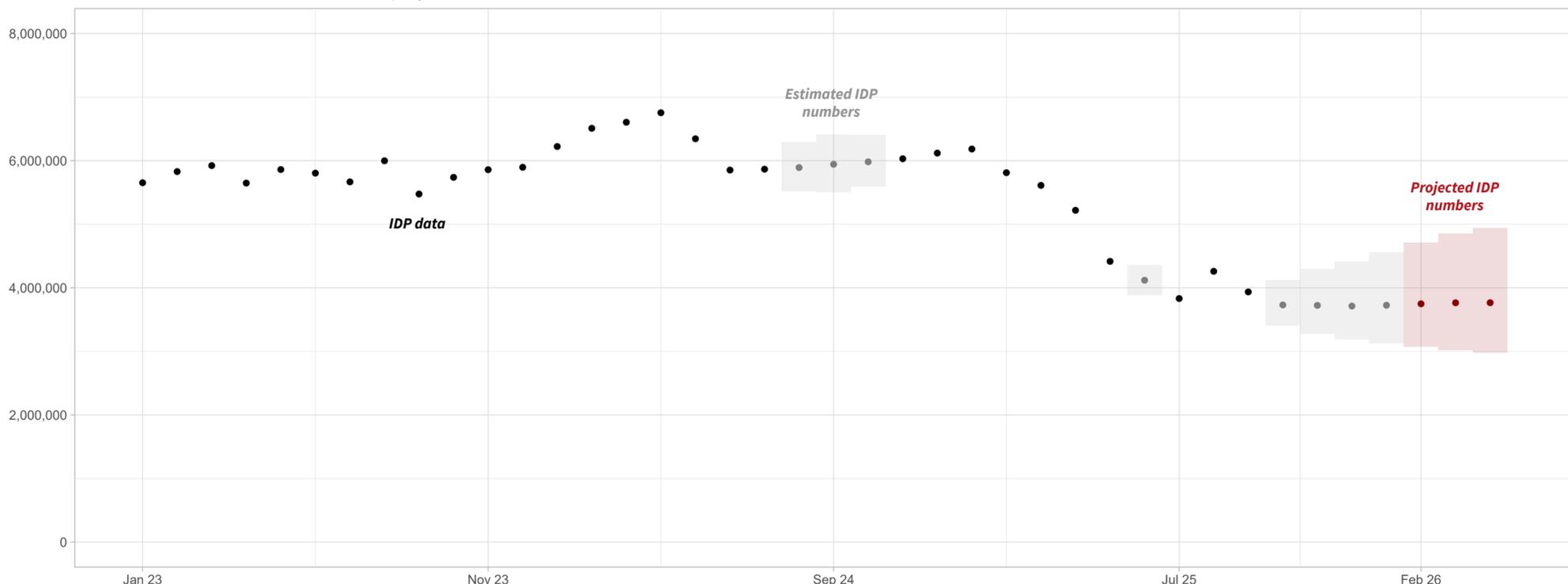
+25,000
Projected IDP increase
between January and April

PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

In eastern DR Congo, displacement figures are projected to increase by roughly 25,000 over the next three months, bringing the total to around 3.76 million IDPs across the four provinces by April 2026. Data from August 2025 showed a sharp increase compared to July, with IDP numbers exceeding 4.2 million. However, September figures reflected a significant decline, with approximately 3.84 million IDPs reported across the four provinces. Given the escalation of violence in South Kivu and Djugu, displacement is now expected to rise again through April 2026.

IOM's latest Mobility Tracking showed a small decrease in IDP numbers (-2%) alongside an increase in returnees (+4%). In Ituri, DTM reported a roughly 2% rise in the IDP caseload between mid-2025 and December 2025, with returns up 18%. Mahagi recorded the largest IDP increases, while Djugu fell from nearly 600,000 to around 357,000, though clashes in early December triggered new displacement and prompted the Danish Refugee Council to declare a small emergency in DR Congo. Escalating violence in South Kivu in early December reportedly displaced over 500,000 people in just over a week, and protection data recorded more than 2,900 incidents in December (over 50% higher than November). Together, these developments help explain the projected rise in the overall number of IDPs, even as returns remain high in many areas.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



SUDAN

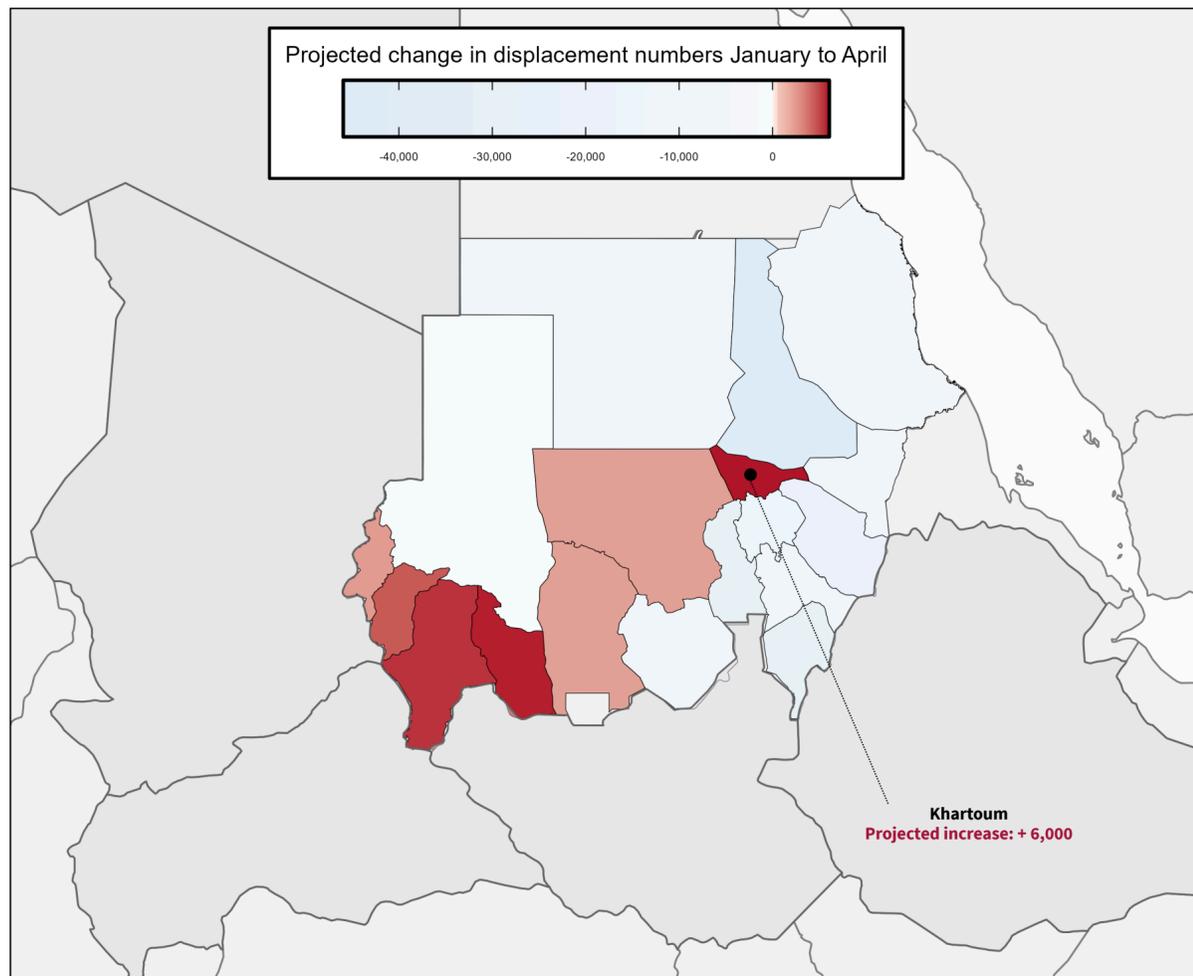
Since the conflict between SAF and RSF began, Sudan has seen a sharp rise in displacement, reaching nearly 11.6 million IDPs by January 2025. In recent months, figures have declined, largely due to increasing returns. The AHEAD model covers 18 states and includes cross-border flows into Ethiopia, South 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 6,000 people, largely driven by new arrivals from the Kordofan region. This aligns with DTM's December estimates, which already showed an increase of more than 9,000 IDPs in Khartoum compared with November.

Given the ongoing insecurity, the IDP caseload in South Kordofan is expected to decline as people move onward to other states, particularly other Kordofan states and Khartoum.

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 River Nile (around 45,000 fewer IDPs by April compared with January), followed by Blue Nile (around -27,000) and Gedaref (around -19,000).



8.97 MILLION

Projected total IDPs numbers by April 2026

-108,000

Projected IDP decrease between January and April

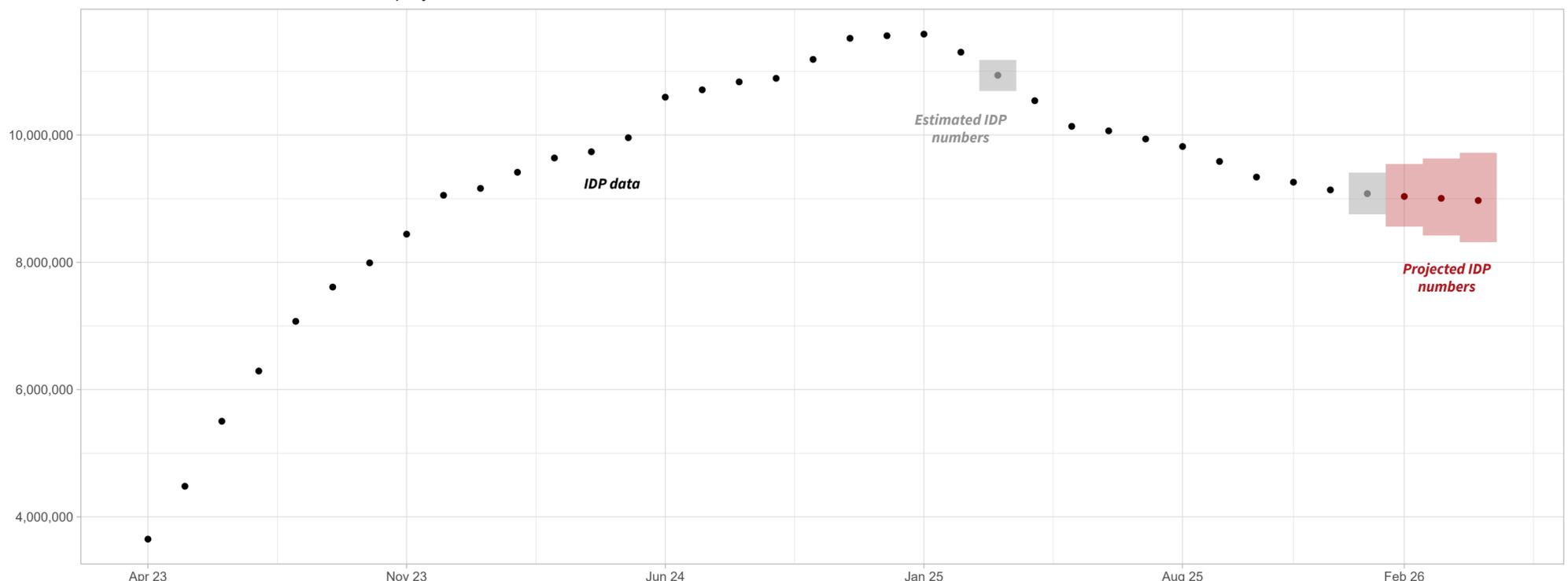
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model anticipates an overall decline in displacement in Sudan. By April 2026, the number of IDPs is projected at around 8.97 million, about 108,000 fewer than in January. This decline is consistent with recent DTM Sudan reporting. Mobility Update 22 (September 2025) estimated about 9.58 million IDPs nationwide, down by over 480,000 since late June and more than 2.0 million below the peak earlier in the year. Subsequent updates continued this downward trend, with the Displacement and Return Overview for October 2025 reporting around 9.34 million IDPs, followed by roughly 9.26 million in November and 9.14 million in December.

Since 25 October 2025, DTM estimates that around 115,223 people have been displaced from locations across the Kordofan region. Focused flash alerts also point to sustained displacement drivers, with 81 displacement-triggering incidents recorded across Kordofan between 25 October 2025 and 5 February 2026, including 61 in South Kordofan.

Furthermore, in South Kordofan, the SAF reportedly broke the siege of Dilling on 26 January and the siege of Kadugli on 3 February. Insecurity has remained high, and January saw continued reports of violence against civilians across parts of the region. If incident levels remain elevated in the coming months, displacement from Kordofan may continue to increase.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



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

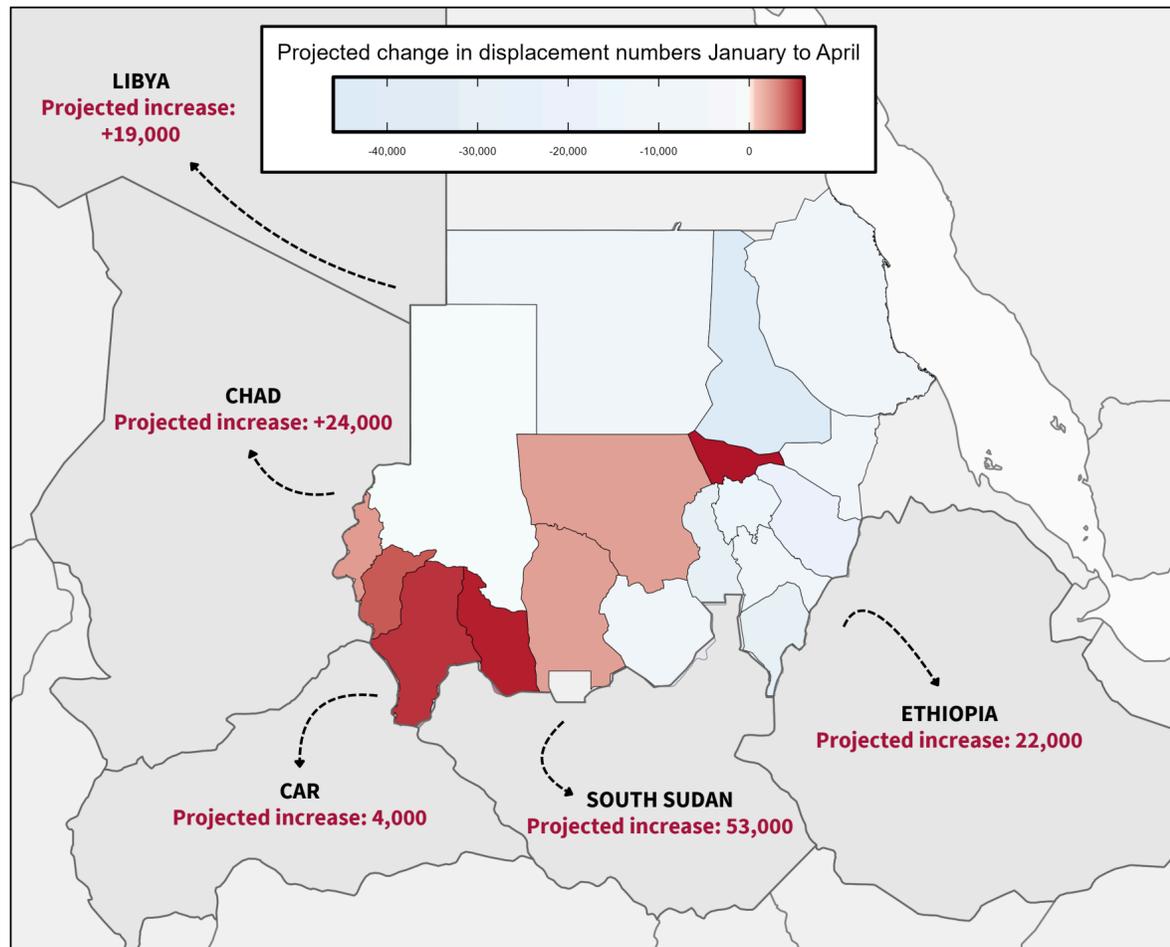
The largest projected increases in cross-border movements are expected into South Sudan. Over the next three months, the AHEAD model estimates **an additional 53,000 cross-border movements into South Sudan. Movements into Chad are also projected to rise, with an estimated increase of approximately 24,000** over the same period.

Cross-border movements into Ethiopia are expected to continue increasing, with an estimated rise of 22,000 by April compared to January estimates.

Movements into Libya are projected to rise by approximately 19,000. Smaller increases are projected for the Central African Republic. Cross-border movements into CAR are expected to increase by around 4,000.

+122,000

Projected increase in cross-border movements between January and April



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

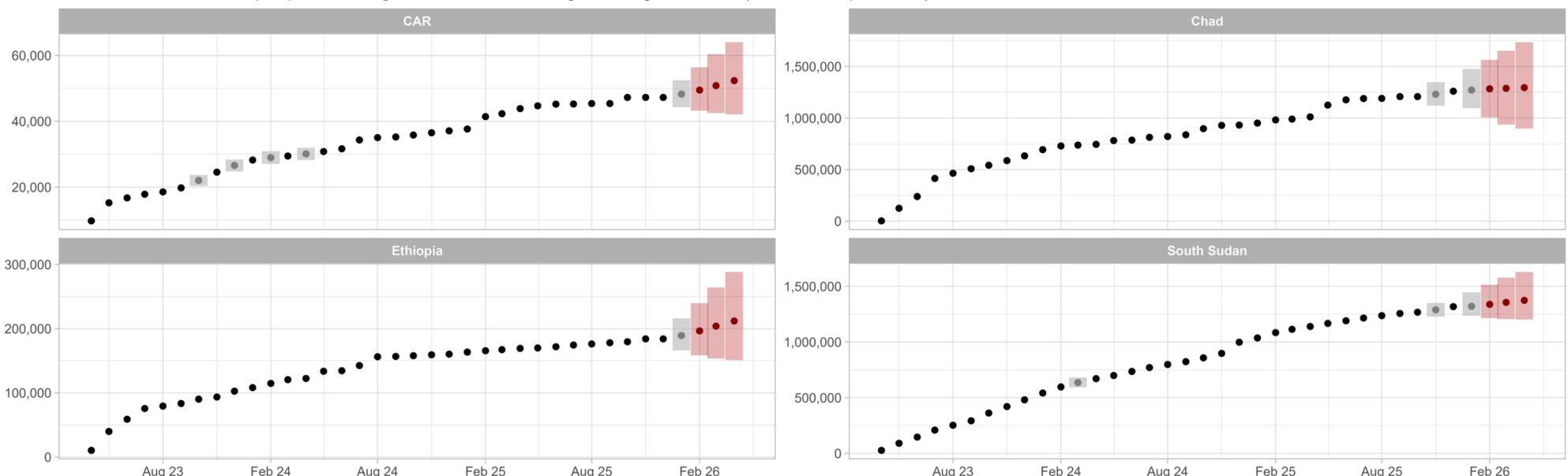
Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects a continued increase in cross-border displacement from Sudan into neighbouring countries. **By April 2026, total cross-border movements into Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya are expected to increase by more than 122,000 compared to January estimates.** In South Sudan, [DTM reported that approximately 1.3 million people had crossed from Sudan since April 2023 as of mid January 2026](#). Based on current projections, additional movements over the next three months are expected to increase the cumulative total to more than 1.37 million by April 2026.

Movements from Sudan into Chad, Libya, and Egypt have continued since the start of the conflict. [UNHCR reporting from late November 2025 indicates that more than 500,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya since April 2023, nearly 300,000 more than estimates published in early January 2025](#); however, the evolving context and data limitations make it difficult to determine a precise cumulative number of crossings. 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 403,305 individuals were reported to have returned from Egypt to Sudan between January 2024 and October 2025](#).

[Figures indicate that approximately 1,259,963 individuals, primarily Sudanese nationals, crossed from Sudan into Chad between April 2023 and early January 2026. During the period from August to October 2025, an estimated 33,436 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 April 2026.

The AHEAD model is being further developed to better reflect cross-border return movements. Projections of cross-border displacement are regularly updated as new data become available.

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



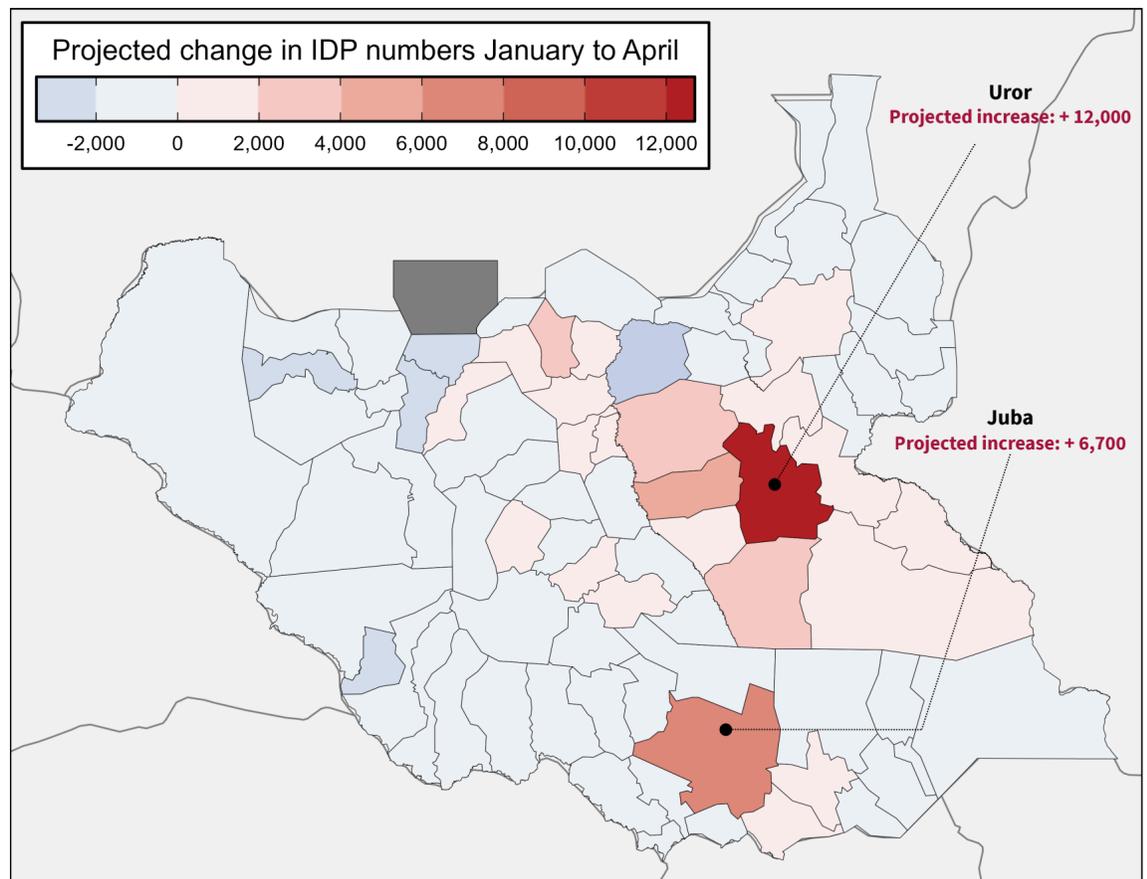
SOUTH SUDAN

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 and Jonglei. 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

Renewed fighting in Jonglei State has recently triggered new displacement. In this context, AHEAD projects large increases across several counties over the coming three months, including **over 12,000 in Uror, more than 4,000 in Duk, roughly 2,500 in Bor South and about 2,000 in Ayod**. Numbers in these counties, and across most of Jonglei, could end up closer to the upper end of the projected range, especially as Duk, Ayod and other counties continue to receive increasing numbers of displaced people from Uror.

Large increases are also projected in **Juba county**, where the number of IDPs is expected to **rise by over 6,700 during the coming three months**. In **Rubkona**, the number of IDPs is anticipated to **rise by approximately 4,600 individuals**.



2.84 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers by April 2026

+ 55,000

Projected IDP increase between January and April

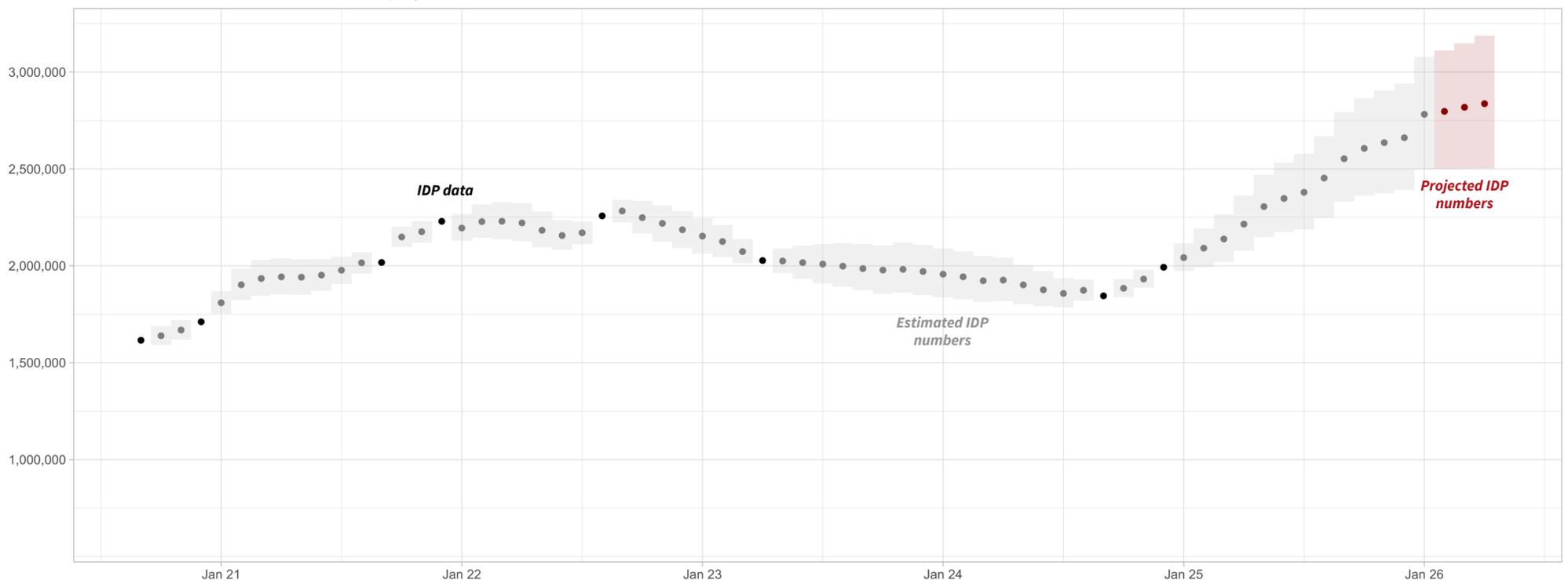
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects an overall increase in displacement in South Sudan. **By April, the number of individuals living in displacement is expected to rise by roughly 55,000 compared to estimates from January, bringing the total to around 2.84 million.**

Since late 2025, South Sudan's security situation has worsened markedly, with fighting reported in parts of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states, as well as in areas of the Equatoria region. Between 1 December and 23 January, reports indicate that at least 200 people were killed in Jonglei alone, including at least 40 civilians.

Since 29 December 2025, renewed fighting and reported airstrikes have displaced more than 230,000 people across Jonglei State, according to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). The largest movements have been recorded in Uror (105,400) and Nyirol (57,200), followed by Duk (27,000), Ayod (17,000), Akobo (11,000), Twic East (8,000) and Bor South (4,300). The scale of displacement has led the Danish Refugee Council to declare a small emergency in South Sudan. DTM also reports significant arrivals into Uror, with around 67,474 people reaching Pathaj, Motot, Karam, Tiam, Payai, Pieri and Puolchuol payams, alongside 23,180 arrivals in Ayod County; more than 21,000 people have additionally crossed into Awerial County. While the projected increases for the coming months are substantially higher than in previous forecasts, figures could end up closer to the upper bound of the projected range if the security situation continues to worsen.

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. As projections are made on a quarterly basis, the forecasts presented here are the same as in Snapshot #8 and #9. Figures for early 2026 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 48,698 people anticipated to be displaced, pushing the total to over 1.17 million by March 2026. 11% of those displaced are projected to move within Banadir and 89% arriving from other districts.

In Luuq, displacement is also projected to rise, with around 15,544 new displacements, mainly due to conflict. Of these, 58% are expected to remain within the district, while 42% are anticipated to come from other areas.

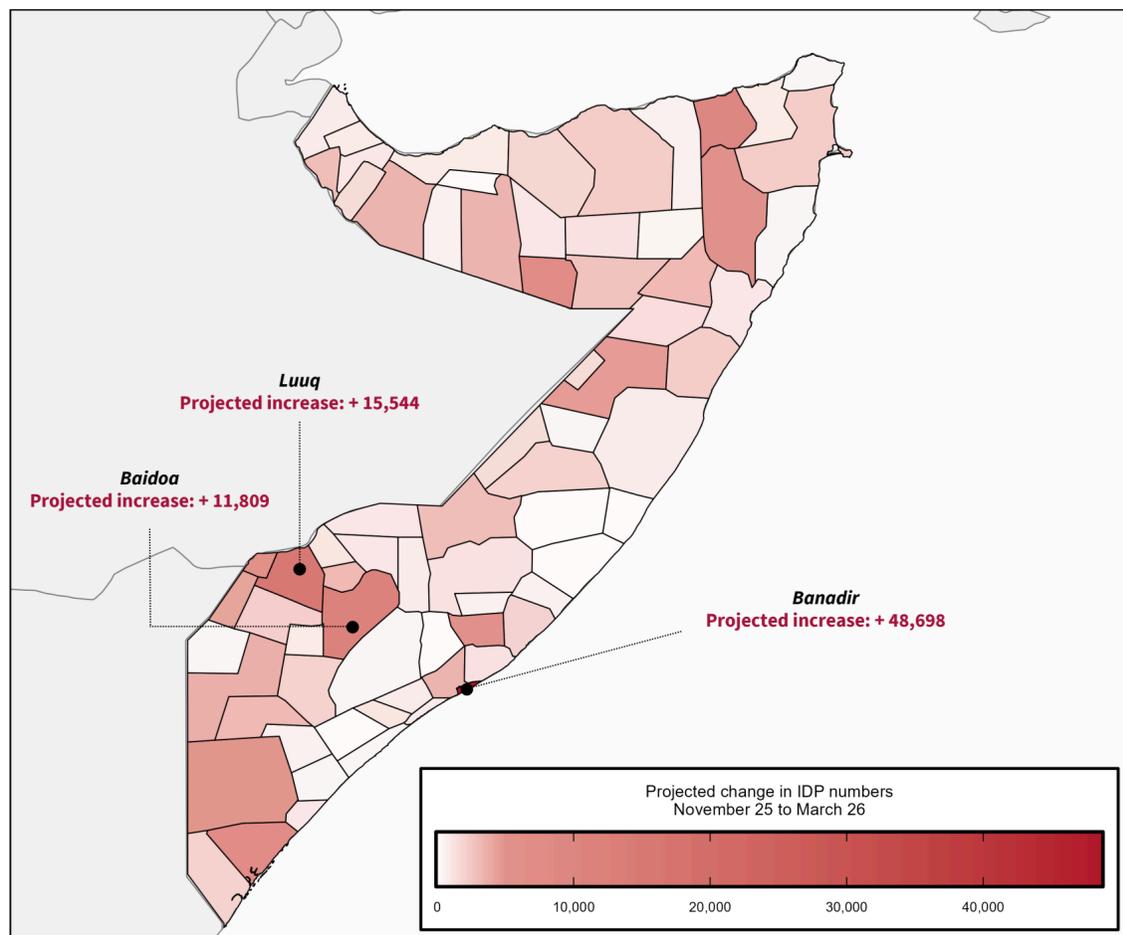
In the Lower Juba region, displacement is forecasted to increase by more than 15,000, with **notable rises in Kismaayo (+7,200)**. The Bay region is also projected to see a significant increase, with the **largest rise in Baidoa (+11,809)**.

3.69 MILLION

Projected total IDPs numbers by March 2026

+ 211,767

Projected IDP increase between November 2025 and March 2026



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the coming months, Somalia's displaced population is expected to increase by more than 211,000 people compared to November estimates, pushing the total number of people living in displacement to over 3.69 million by March 2026. Conflict remains a key driver of this increase, accounting for roughly 36% of the projected rise. Conflict is mainly anticipated in Middle Shabelle and Hiraa, with most displacements projected to occur to Banadir and Luuq. In Banadir and Luuq alone, the number of conflict-induced IDPs is expected to grow by almost 33,000 combined.

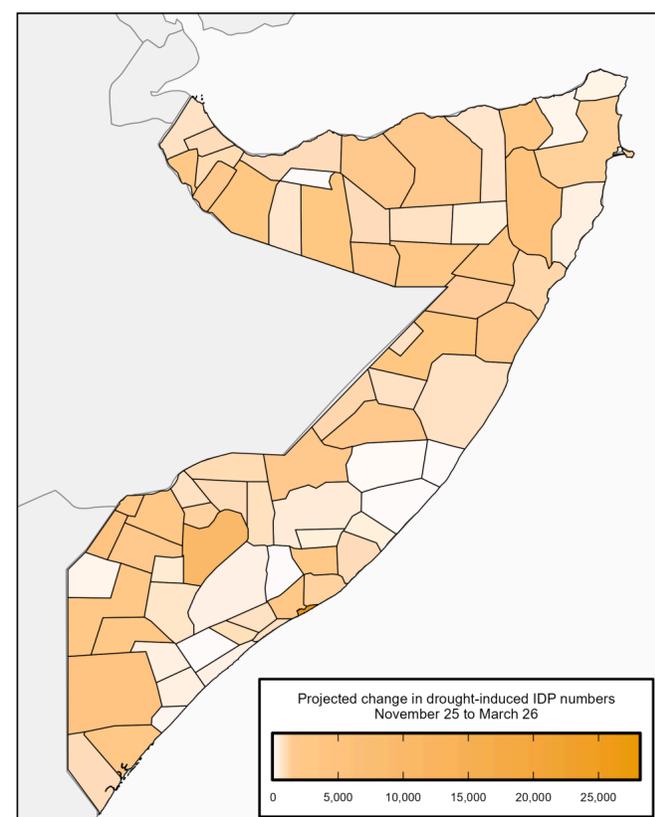
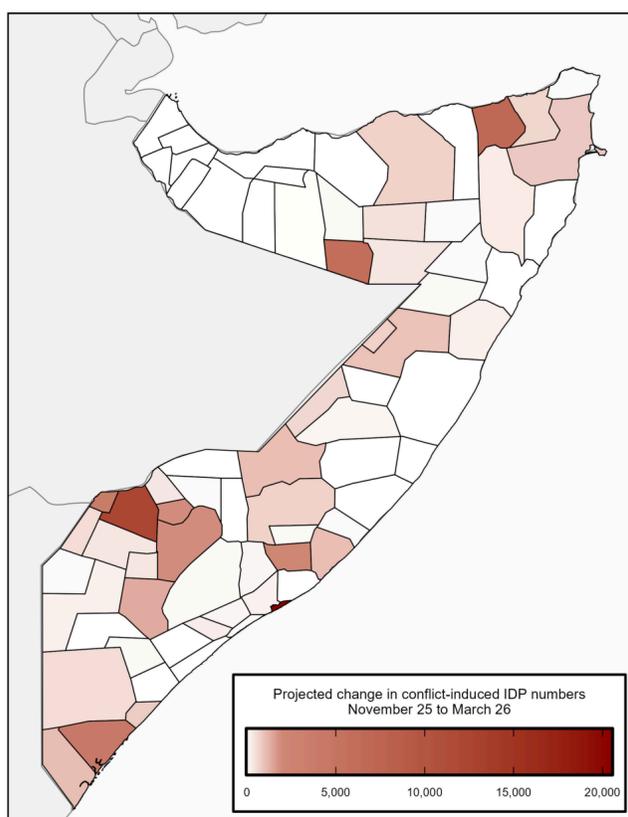
Rainfall during the 2025 Deyr season (October-December) remained below average, following similarly dry conditions during the preceding Hagga season (June-September) and ahead of the forecasted Jilaal dry season (mid-December to mid-March). Consecutive seasons of reduced rainfall have contributed to worsening drought conditions across the country and increasing displacement pressure.

As a result, drought is expected to be the primary driver of displacement during the current quarter. **The number of people displaced by drought is projected to increase by more than 135,000, accounting for approximately 64% of the total projected rise in displacement.** Significant increases in drought-related displacement are anticipated in Banadir (+28,163) and Baidoa (+9,919), with additional increases of over 4,000 individuals projected in Qardho and Afmadow.

Current conditions indicate that drought-related displacement may trend toward the higher end of projected ranges. On 10 November, the Federal Government of Somalia declared a national drought emergency.

In Puntland, water sources have become increasingly scarce and vegetation conditions have deteriorated. These developments are occurring in the context of severe humanitarian needs. An estimated 4.4 million people were projected to experience acute food insecurity through December, and approximately 1.85 million children under five are expected to face acute malnutrition through mid-2026.

Flood-induced displacement is not projected to change over the coming months. By March 2026, it is expected that the total number of flood-induced IDPs will remain at roughly 325,000.



UGANDA

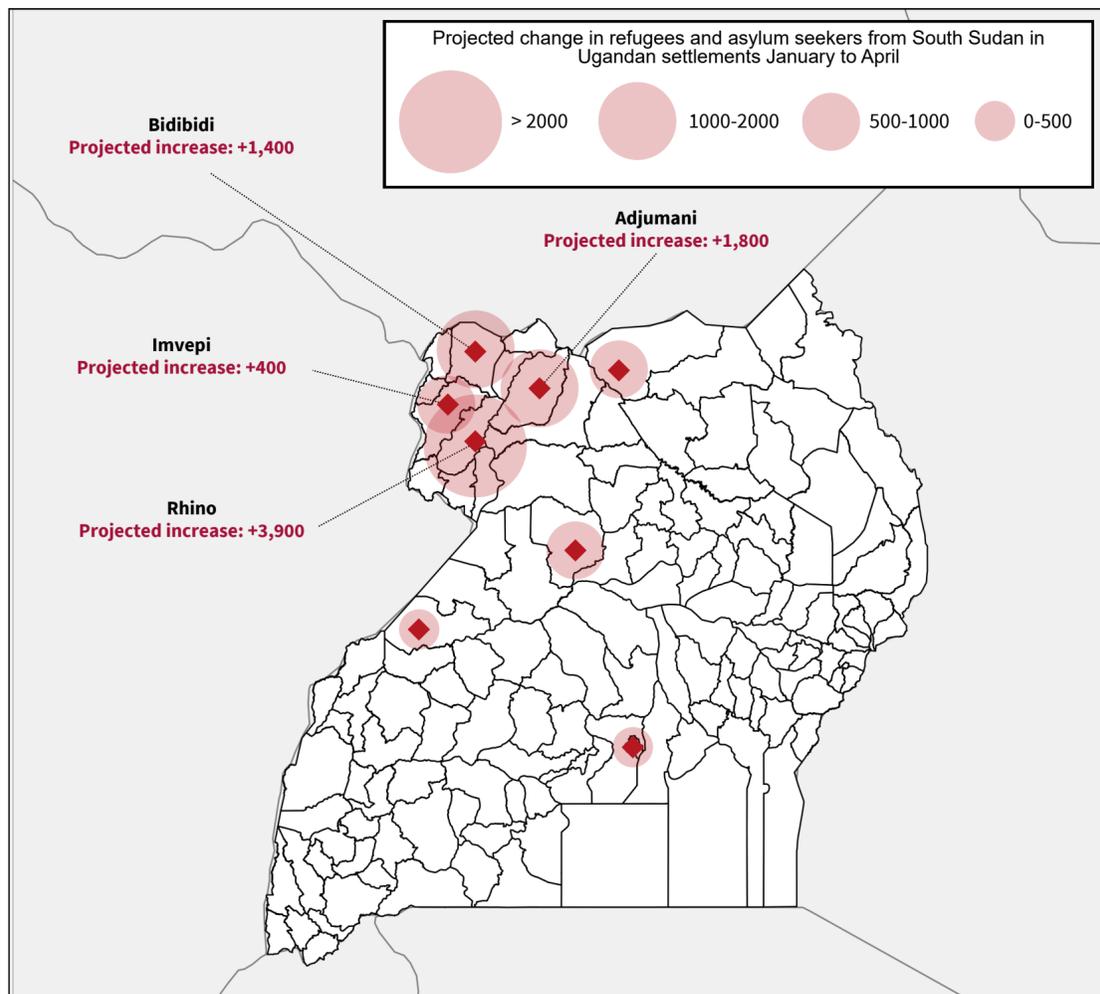
By the end of January 2026, Uganda hosted more than 1.97 million refugees and asylum seekers across various settlements. Over half originated from South Sudan, while roughly one-third came from DR Congo. Nakivale hosted the largest share, followed by Adjumani, Bidibidi and Rhino. In Uganda, the AHEAD 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 1,400 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 1100 between October 2025 and January 2026, and the population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is now projected to grow by roughly 400 by April 2026.

The largest projected increase is in Rhino settlement, with an expected rise of over 3,900 individuals. Between October 2025 and January, the population increased by more than 1,800.



1.04 MILLION

Projected South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers by April 2026

+ 9,500

Projected increase in South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers between January and April

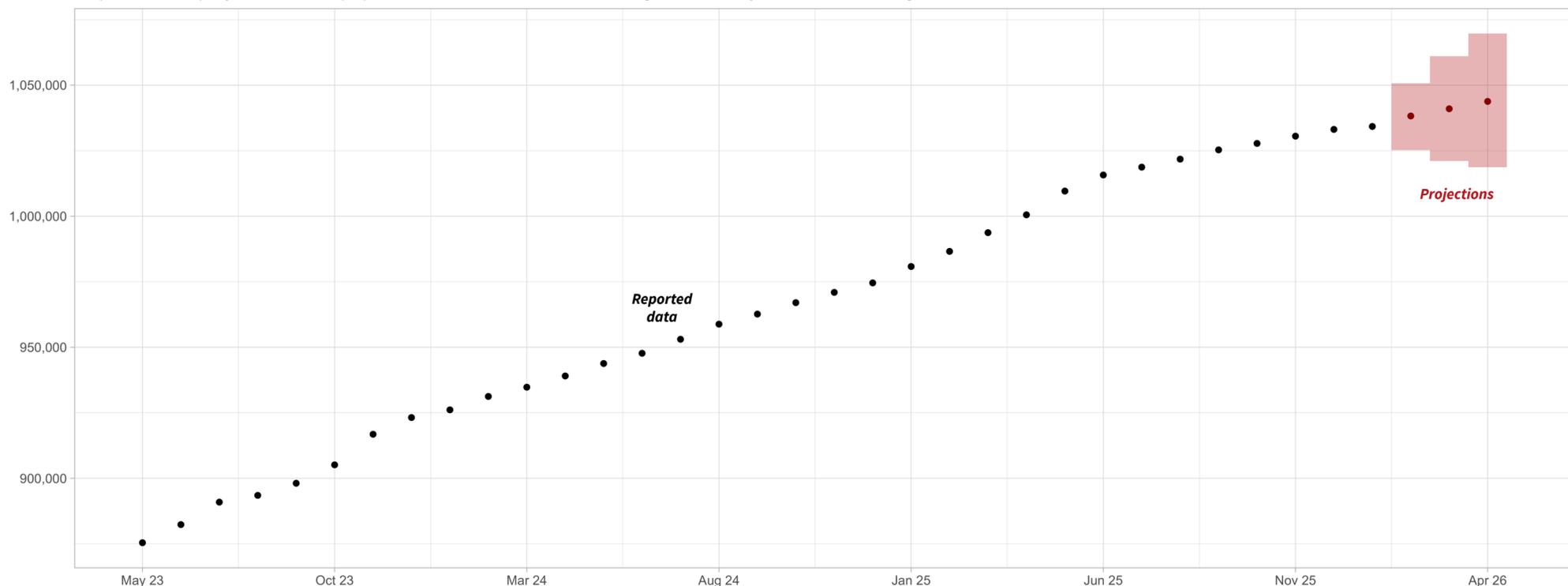
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

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 April 2026, the population is expected to rise by more than 9,500, reaching more than 1.04 million.**

Between October and January, the number of South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers across the nine settlements covered by the AHEAD model increased by more than 6,400. Growth in recent months, especially in Rhino, appears to have eased compared with earlier in 2025. From December to January alone, the population across the nine settlements rose by just over 1,100, and since January 2026 Uganda has also received around 2,400 asylum applications from South Sudan. Even with this recent slowdown, the escalation of violence in South Sudan could contribute to higher arrivals in the coming months, especially into Rhino, which recorded the largest increase in South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in 2025.

According to a recent [UNHCR external update](#), Uganda has also received around 30,000 South Sudanese refugees since the escalation of violence in South Sudan in late February 2025, mainly from Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states.

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



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 40 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

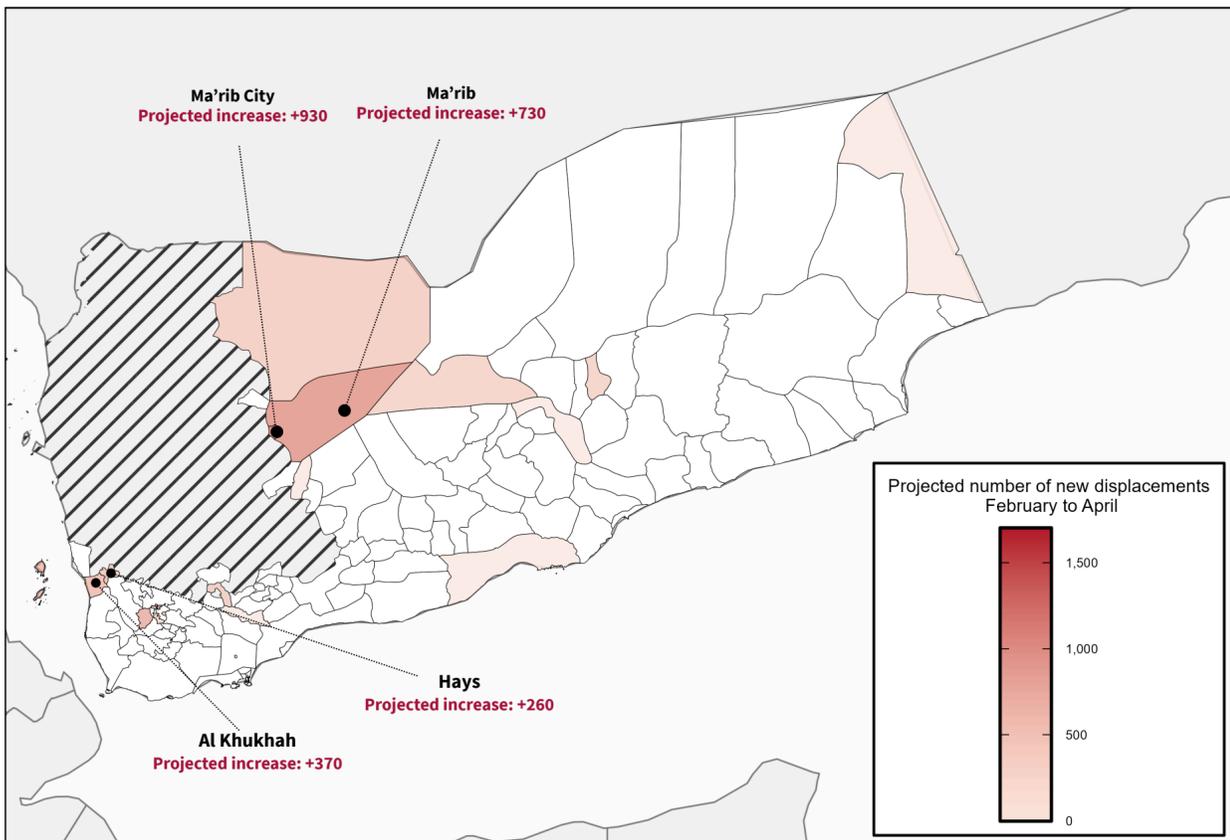
In Al Khukhah, the AHEAD model projects over 370 individuals may be displaced into or within the district over the next three months, potentially rising to around 800. DTM recorded 43 households (258 individuals) between November and January.

Large numbers of arrivals are projected in both Ma'rib (+730) and Ma'rib City (+930). The Ma'rib governorate recorded over 1,100 arriving households during the November-January period (approximately 6,900 individuals).

Around 260 new displacements are anticipated in Hays, while in Mawza, where recent movements have been limited, no significant changes are being projected for the coming months.

+ 5,600

Projected new displacements between February and April



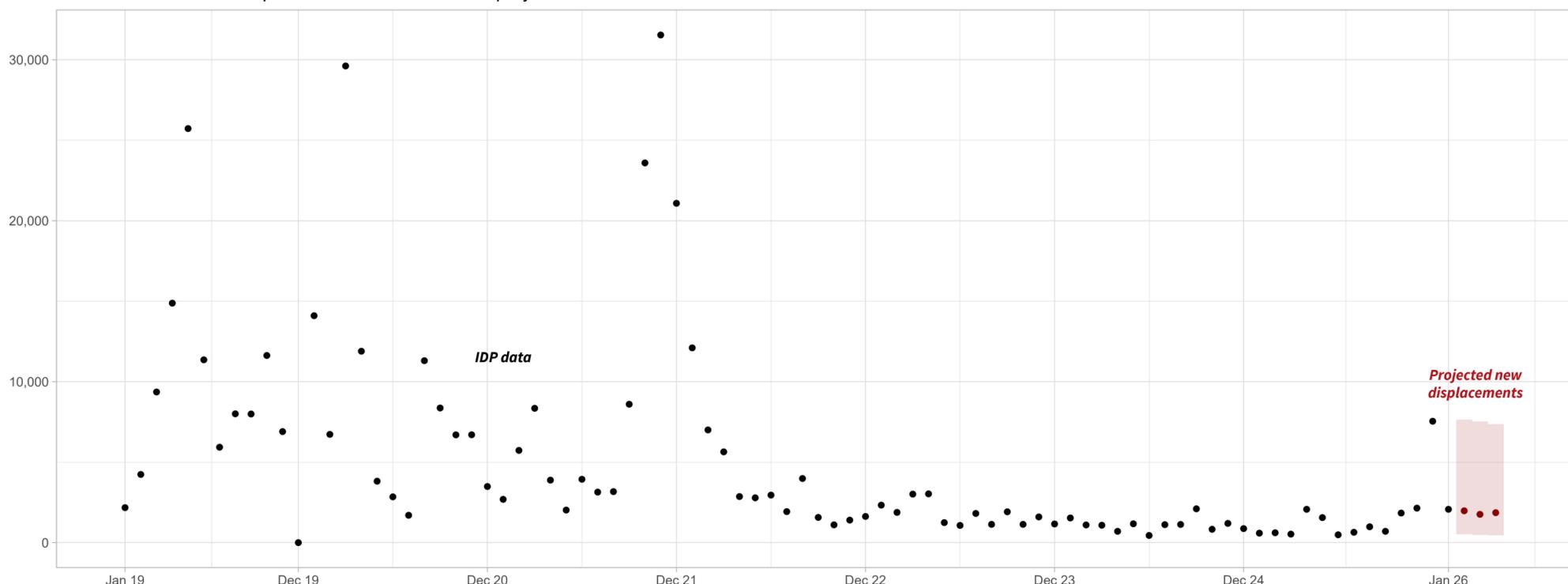
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects more than 5,000 new displacements due to conflict across 49 districts. Throughout 2025, most increases in the number of new displacements were relatively moderate. Between 1 January and 6 December 2025, IOM Yemen DTM recorded 3,578 households (21,468 individuals) displaced at least once as a result of conflict, health, economic or natural disaster factors, of which over 50% were conflict-related. The situation changed in December as security tensions escalated in parts of Hadramawt, triggering new displacement from Hadramawt to Ma'rib. In December alone, over 900 households arrived in Ma'rib and Ma'rib City, from Hadramawt. Between 28 December and 3 January, a further 93 newly displaced households were identified in the governorate. Even so, conflict-induced new displacements were much lower in January than in December (around 344 households versus roughly 1,250), as the number of conflict events and battles recorded in Hadramawt declined.

Anticipated increases are linked to ongoing conflict dynamics. Several conflict events were recorded across Yemen in recent months. In Ta'iz, around 30 violent incidents were registered in January, including 20 battles, while Ad Dali' recorded roughly 14 battles. In Al Hodeidah, incident levels in January were more than 50% lower than in December. If conflict activity rises above recent levels in the coming months, including in Hadramawt, new displacement figures could move closer to the upper end of AHEAD projections.

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.

DRC DANISH
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• We are there