

Displacement is not one number

Official sources, transformations, and interpretation rules

Scope

This is a source-based synthesis of official 2025 global displacement statistics. It does not create a new total-displacement estimate, add refugee and internal-displacement figures, or rank countries by total displacement.

Minimum-source acquisition

Only the global, trend, definition, and regional values needed for the six charts were transcribed from official UNHCR and IDMC pages and the IDMC GRID 2026 summary. No country-level ranking dataset was acquired.

UNHCR sources

Global Trends 2025: end-2025 refugee categories, broad forced-displacement context, and official reporting period.

Figures at a Glance: the 1.5 million refugee-like subset and historical refugee, conflict-IDP, and asylum-seeker tables.

Refugee Data Finder methodology: definitions of refugees, people in refugee-like situations, other people in need of international protection, and IDPs.

The 41.6 million broad refugee headline is rounded. The component figures also use rounding and may not sum exactly.

UNHCR's public top line rounds conflict-related IDPs to 68.7 million, while the IDMC summary reports more than 68.6 million. The brief uses IDMC's 68.6 million display value for the internal-displacement stock charts and does not combine the two presentations into a new estimate.

IDMC sources

GRID 2026 summary: 82.2 million end-year IDP stock, 68.6/13.6 million cause split, 62.2 million movement total, 32.3/29.9 million movement split, 2019-2025 stock trend, and six regional movement totals.

IDMC distinguishes people living in displacement at year-end from movements during the year. Movement totals can include repeated displacement by the same person and temporary or pre-emptive evacuations.

Chart construction

Chart 1: separate information cards. No common quantitative axis is used.

Chart 2: rounded components of the 41.6 million refugee headline. The refugee-like population is annotated as a subset within the UNHCR-mandate segment.

Chart 3: IDMC total IDP stock trend from 2019, the first year disaster stock data are available in the published trend, plus the 2025 cause split.

Chart 4: 2025 movement totals by cause.

Chart 5: conceptual comparison of stock and flow; box sizes do not imply direct numerical comparability.

Chart 6: regional movements by conflict/violence and disasters. The six regional totals sum closely to the published global figures, with small rounding differences.

Interpretation limits

Refugee, IDP, and movement statistics have different legal and statistical definitions. Special overlaps exist. The same person may move repeatedly. Country and regional coverage is not identical across categories. Returns do not necessarily mean durable solutions. Data availability and source changes may affect trends.

Reproducibility package

The review package includes official-source extracts and metadata, six chart-data CSVs, twelve PNGs, twelve SVGs, three PDFs, a self-contained web story, source hashes, and QA records. The web story uses relative paths and can be opened directly on a Mac or served locally.

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