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KIN ATLAS · 03

Internal Displacement in Asia-Pacific: One Region, Many Different Roads

This edition follows published 2025 evidence across South Asia and East Asia & Pacific — and keeps the limits of comparison visible.

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1 Reading the data

Every number has a face. Every number also has a date, a definition, a source and a limit.

This paper distinguishes People still internally displaced (People still displaced) from Movements registered during the year (New displacements). It also makes the Limit of the available evidence (Coverage limit) visible before figures are compared or cited.

2 Suggested citation

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2.1 A region too large for one number

Asia-Pacific cannot be read as one displacement story. A flood in the Philippines, violence in Myanmar, an earthquake in Afghanistan and cross-border tensions in mainland Southeast Asia produce different kinds of movement, different durations of displacement and different systems of measurement.

This Atlas follows 13 countries in two IDMC routes: South Asia and East Asia & Pacific. Across that selection, the GIDD recorded 24.475 million internal displacements during 2025: 2.660 million associated with conflict and violence and 21.815 million with disasters [1]. That is not an Asia-Pacific total and it is not a count of distinct people. It is a selection of reported movements from one calendar year and one dataset.

> *Every number has a face. In Asia-Pacific, every number also has a route, a cause, a year and a limit.*

2.2 Two routes, not a continental average

The South Asia route covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It recorded 5.188 million displacements in 2025 across the selected countries, including 4.641 million associated with disasters. The East Asia & Pacific route covers Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. It recorded 19.287 million displacements, including 17.174 million associated with disasters [1].

These route totals describe movements. They must not be confused with the number of people still displaced at year end. Nor should conflict- and disaster-related year-end stocks be added together: they are separate estimates and can overlap. The Atlas therefore shows each cause in its own column and leaves unavailable data as unavailable [1] [2].

2.3 Myanmar: a loop with five layers

Myanmar makes visible something a standard table can miss. In 2025, conflict, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake, monsoon flooding, economic disruption and acute hunger formed overlapping pressures. They do not add up to one statistic, and not every family experiences every layer. But for many communities, shocks overlap and displacement can repeat.

The GIDD recorded 572,538 conflict-related displacements and 405,608 disaster-related displacements in Myanmar during 2025. At year end it recorded 3.639 million people displaced by conflict and 281,037 by

disasters [1]. OCHA reported that close to 3.6 million people were internally displaced in August 2025, while heavy rains caused flooding and landslides across several states and regions [4]. UNICEF described the March earthquake as compounding years of conflict, poverty and displacement; WFP documented how conflict and rising food costs undermined the capacity to recover [5] [9].

> *A loop is not a sum. It is the risk that one shock arrives before a family has recovered from the last.*

2.4 Women and children: visibility without invented comparability

The evidence does not support a single Asia-Pacific percentage for women or children in internal displacement, and this Atlas will not manufacture one. Bangladesh's national IOM assessment estimated 4.956 million people internally displaced by disasters in September–October 2025, but the published summary examined here does not provide a sex-and-age table for that total [7]. In Sri Lanka, IOM DTM monitored 205,238 people displaced after Cyclone Ditwah in December 2025; the public Round 4 material consulted confirms the total but not a demographic breakdown.

This is not a reason to make women and children disappear. It is a reason to show the measurement gap honestly. Country or study-specific evidence will appear only when its population, denominator and year are stated. Otherwise the Atlas will say what remains unknown rather than convert absence into zero or create a regional average from incompatible studies.

> *When women and children are counted in different universes, the responsible choice is not to average them. It is to keep the universes visible.*

2.5 Three places to read beyond the table

Country notes are not a decorative edge of the data. They explain what a recorded movement can and cannot tell us.

Myanmar — one story, protected by a changed name

[A UNICEF-published account follows a 16-year-old who fled violence with her family, moved more than once and reached a displacement camp in northern Myanmar. UNICEF changed her name and location for protection. Her account is not a statistic; it shows how repeated displacement can interrupt privacy, school, friendship and sleep without fear [6].]

Bangladesh — when displacement becomes a question of staying

[IOM's 2025 national assessment found that 63% of the 4.956 million people it estimated as disaster-displaced had been displaced before April 2020 [7]. In separate consultations across five districts, displaced people spoke of a wish to settle safely with shelter, water, education and a way to earn a living. The consultations are from 2020 and are not a sample of the 2025 estimate; they make visible the question that a total cannot answer: what makes displacement last? [8]]

Philippines — movement is not a population census

[The GIDD recorded 10.743 million disaster displacements in the Philippines during 2025 and 366,351 people still displaced by disasters at year end [1]. These are not competing numbers. The first counts movements during the year; the second estimates people still living in displacement at one point in time.]

3 References

1. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Global Internal Displacement Database (GIDD), 2025 annual displacement export for the Atlas 03 country selection.
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3. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026 (GRID 2026).
4. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 48, 14 August 2025.
5. UNICEF Myanmar. Myanmar Earthquake: 100 days on, 2025.
6. UNICEF Myanmar. The Devastating Toll of Conflict on Children in Myanmar, 3 October 2025.
7. International Organization for Migration (IOM), DTM Bangladesh. Estimate of Internally Displaced Persons due to Disasters, Round 1 (September–October 2025).
8. International Organization for Migration (IOM) and ACT Alliance. Voices of IDPs in Bangladesh: Consultation Report from Five Districts, 2021.
9. World Food Programme (WFP). Myanmar on the brink as conflict fuels hunger, 29 January 2025.

4 Key terms

Coverage limit – **Limit of the available evidence**: A geographic, temporal or methodological boundary on what a figure can establish.

New displacements – **Movements registered during the year**: Movements or episodes registered during a year; the same person may appear more than once.

People still displaced – **People still internally displaced**: People who remained internally displaced at the end of the reference period.