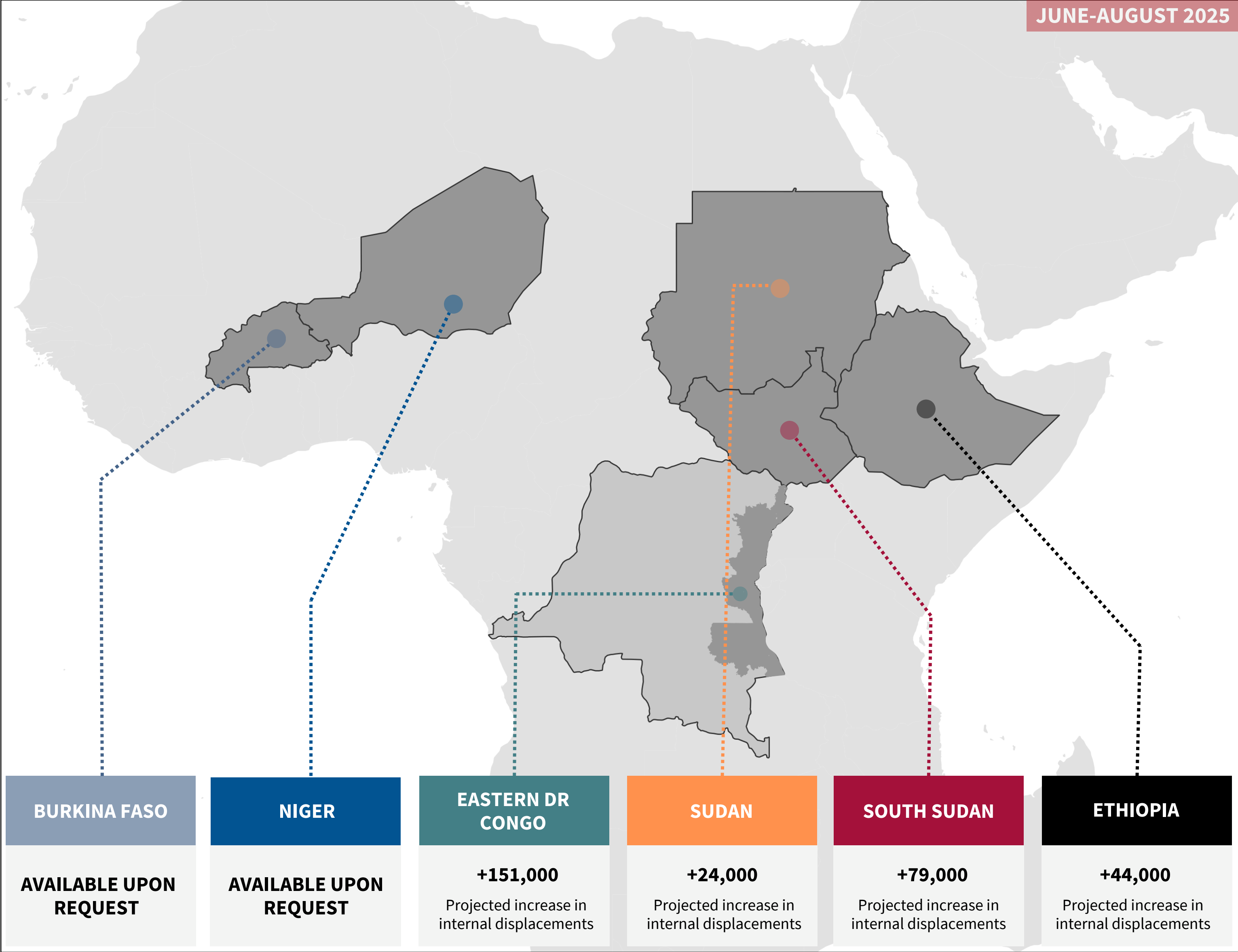


## OVERVIEW

AHEAD’s global snapshot #2 presents internal displacement forecasts for the period **June to August 2025**, providing early warnings on where displacement figures may rise or fall. This edition covers six countries: **Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as Burkina Faso and Niger (both 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. Separate projections for **Somalia** can also be accessed here: [Somalia multi-hazard displacement projections](#).



## GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Internal displacement is projected to rise through August 2025. The largest increases are anticipated in eastern DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and South Sudan. In **Ethiopia, an additional 44,000 people are forecasted to become displaced by August 2025** compared with May, largely driven by conflict in the Amhara region.

**In Sudan, total IDP numbers are expected to climb by 24,000, following relatively large declines driven by increased return movements.** Meanwhile, cross-border flows originating in Sudan, particularly into the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Chad, are projected to keep rising. **In South Sudan, it is anticipated that internal displacement will rise by roughly 79,000.**

**In eastern DR Congo, forecasts show an increase in IDP numbers.** The AHEAD model projects that roughly 7 million people will live in displacement across four provinces in eastern DR Congo by August 2025.

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.

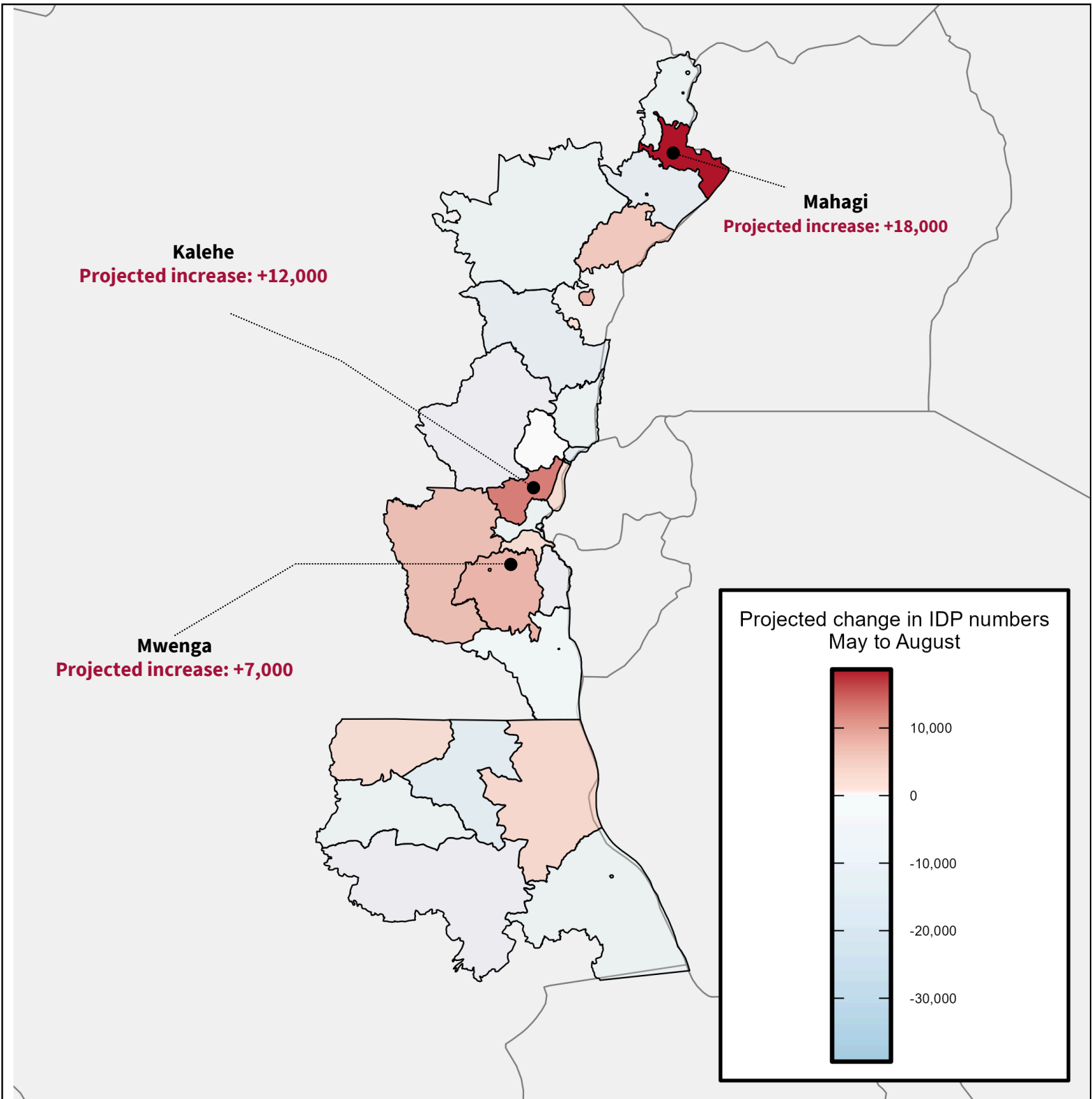
# EASTERN DR CONGO

Since January 2025, renewed M23 offensives in Eastern DR Congo have driven new displacements. Between 4th of January and 19<sup>th</sup> of March January, 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 August 2025, AHEAD projects the largest displaced population in Eastern DR Congo to be in **Kalehe, Djugu and Fizi, each topping half a million people**. Projections for June, July and August indicate potential **large increases in Mahagi (+18,000), Kalehe (+12,000), Beni and Mwenga (+7,000 each), and Shabunda (+6,000)**. These areas have already seen large increases from February to March, according to data from OCHA.

In most other areas, displacement levels are expected to grow or decrease moderately. **Relatively small increases are projected for Butembo and Walungu (+1,500 each). In Walikale, the AHEAD model anticipates the IDP population to decrease by 3,700 between May and August.**

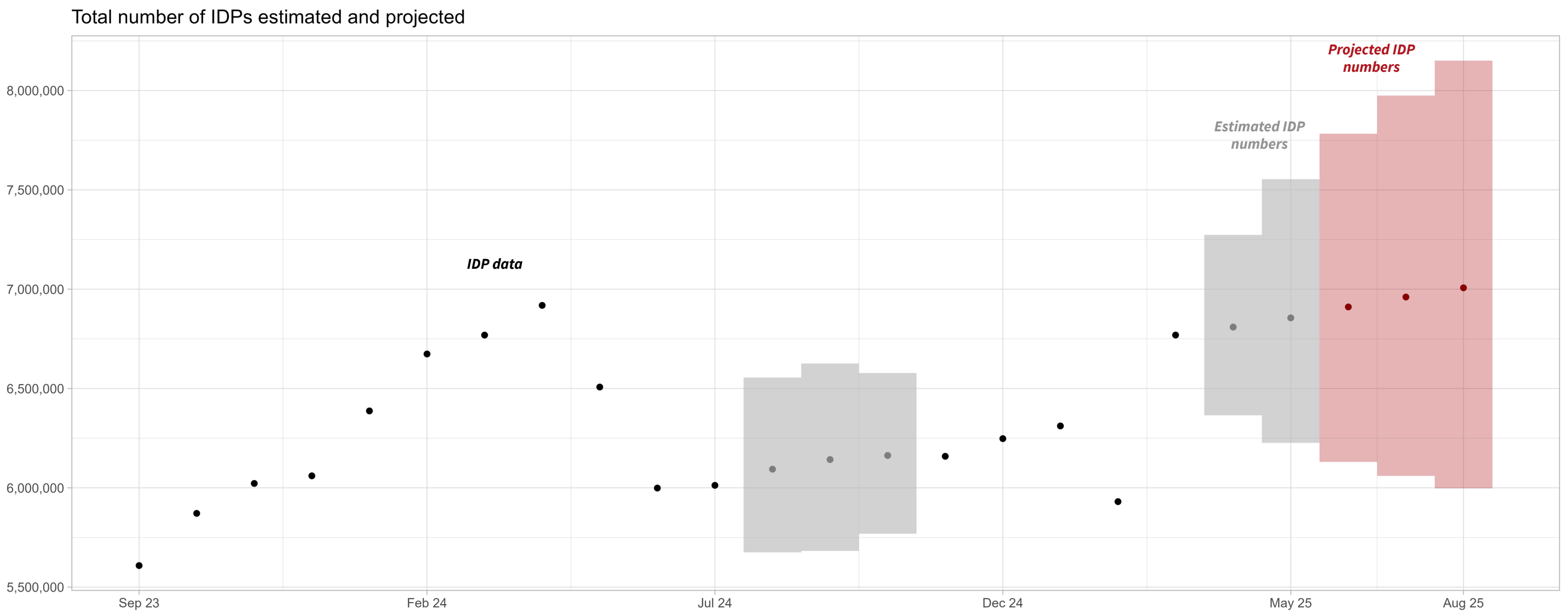


## PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Projections for eastern DR Congo over the next three months indicate a further increase in the number of IDPs. According to the latest OCHA data, more than 6.7 million IDPs were recorded as of March 2025 across North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces. This reflects a significant rise compared to February, when figures were likely lower as a result of forced returns following the advance of M23.

**By August 2025, the AHEAD model projects that the number of IDPs in eastern DR Congo will reach approximately 7 million, representing an increase of over 150,000 compared to May estimates.** The situation remains highly volatile nonetheless, and displacement trends could shift again depending on the balance between new displacement and returns.

The figures for eastern DR Congo come with some uncertainty, as both the May baseline and August projections are estimates.





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 increase by **80,000** over the next three months compared to May 2025, bringing the total to over 1.87 million IDPs by August 2025. Additional increases are also forecasted in **South Darfur (+29,000)**, **West Kordofan (+22,000)** and in **Khartoum, North Kordofan and Northern states (+10,000 each)**.

Several states are expected to see continued declines, including reductions of approximately **55,000 IDPs in Gedaref**, **49,000 in Aj Jazirah**, and **26,000 in Sennar**. All three have already experienced significant decreases between April and May 2025.

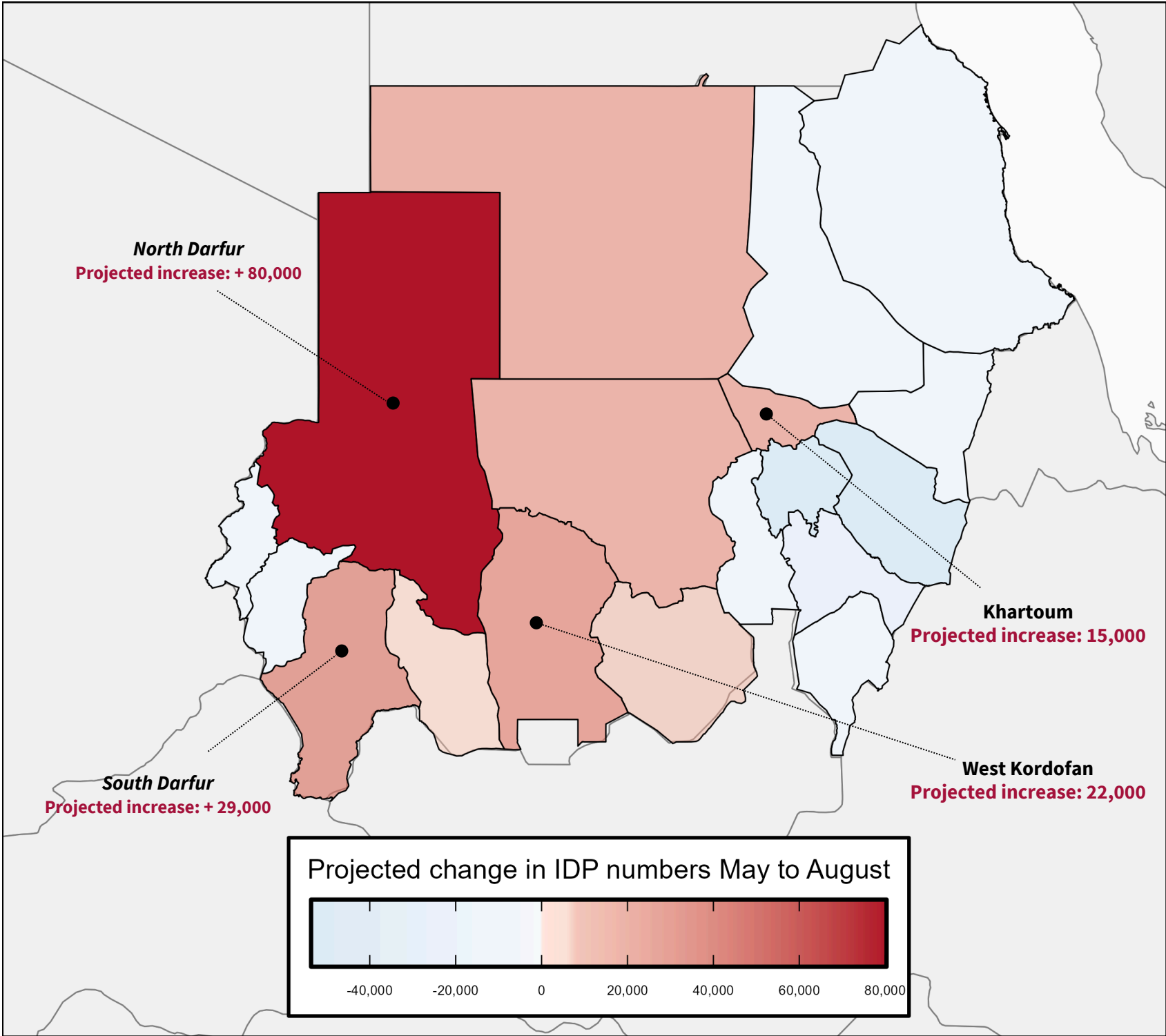
Cross-border movements are also projected to rise. **Flows to South Sudan and Chad are expected to increase by more than 80,000 each compared to May 2025**, while **movements to Ethiopia are anticipated to grow by over 16,000**.

10.16 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers by August 2025

+ 24,000

Projected IDP increase between May and August

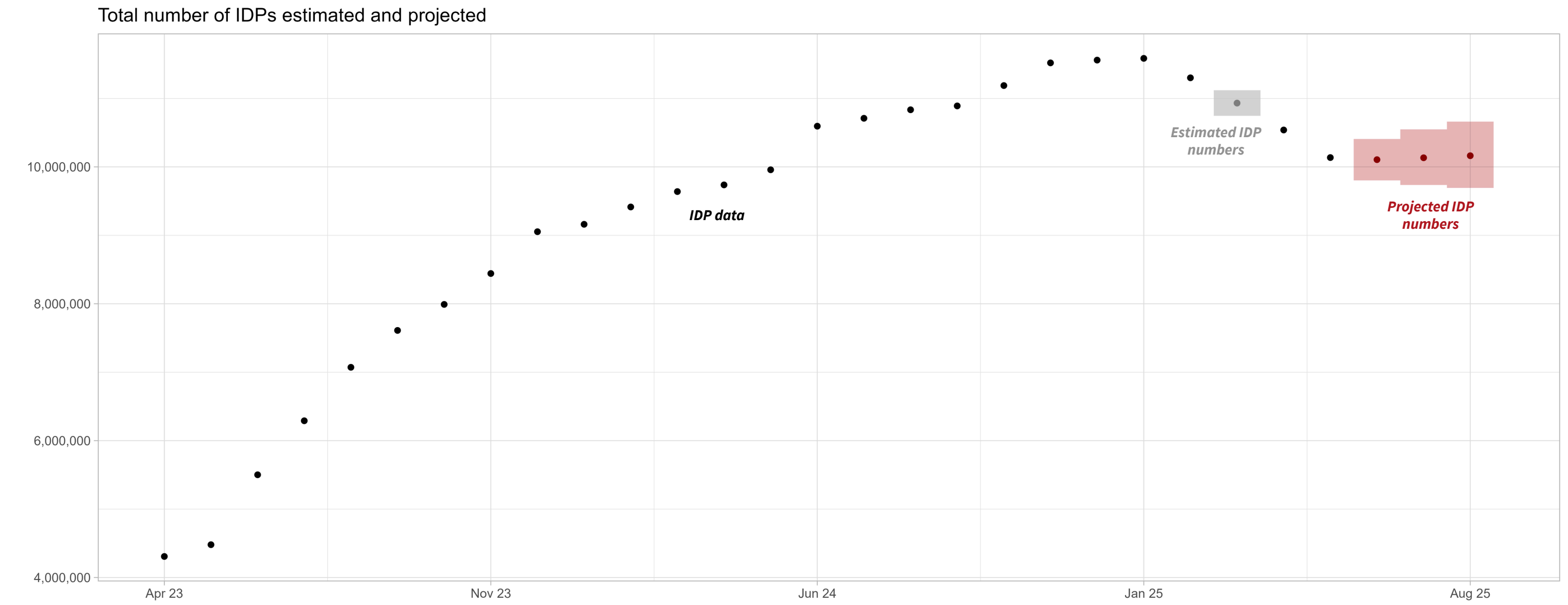


PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the **AHEAD model anticipates a slight increase in the number of people living in displacement in Sudan**. According to [IOM’s Mobility Update \(18\)](#), the number of IDPs decreased by 4% in May 2025 compared to April, largely due to increased return movements. Between mid-December 2024 and late May 2025, [DTM recorded around 1.2 million returnees across 20 localities, most of them returning to Aj Jazirah and Sennar](#).

**While internal displacement is projected to decrease further through June, rises are expected in July and August, with the model forecasting approximately 10.16 million IDPs by August 2025**, representing an increase of about 24,000 compared to May levels. Displacement is still expected to decline across most states where DTM recorded decreases between April and May, although increases in North Darfur and South Darfur partly offset these declines. If the return movements observed in recent months continue to outpace new displacements, overall figures may shift towards the lower end of the projected range.

However, other factors could push displacement towards the upper end of the projected range. Heightened conflict would likely drive numbers higher. [The RSF has announced the capture of the Libya–Egypt border triangle](#), which could trigger both internal displacements and cross-border movements. Climate-related risks also remain, as above-normal rainfall is expected for central and southern Sudan in the coming months. [During the 2024 rainy season, between June and October, heavy rains and flooding triggered an estimated 186,000 displacements across the country](#).



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 displacement caused by flooding in late 2024 and a high number of returns of South Sudanese fleeing the conflict in Sudan.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

Increases in displacement are concentrated in the counties of Upper Nile State and closeby, as well as close to the capitol, Juba.

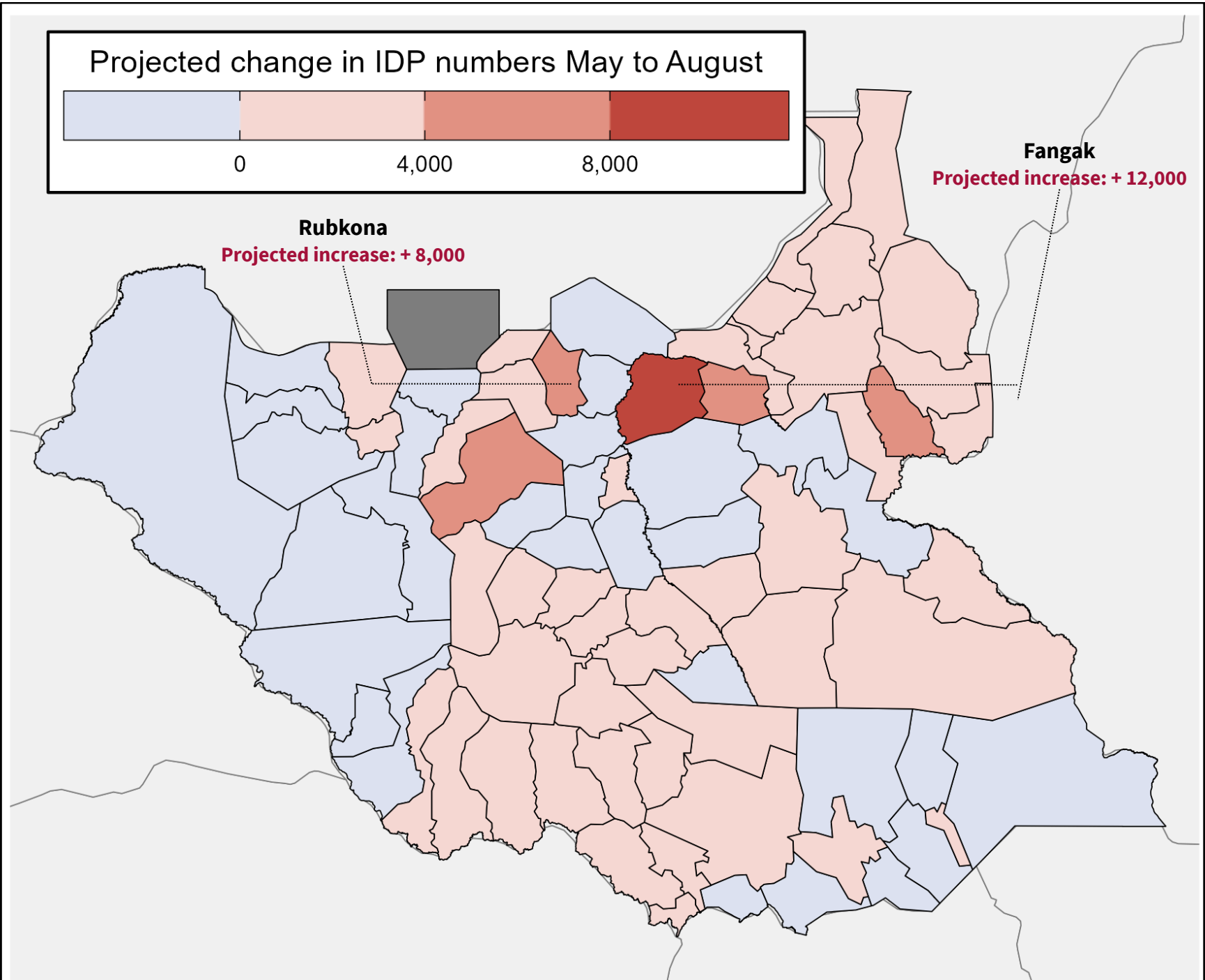
The counties of **Fangak** (+12,000), and **Rubkona** (+8,000) are the largest increases projected, but the exact counties to see displacement are very dependent on the spatial distribution of the conflict in the coming months and most counties in Upper Nile State and closeby are at risk of large increases.

2.2 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers by August 2025

+ 79,000

Projected IDP increase between May and August



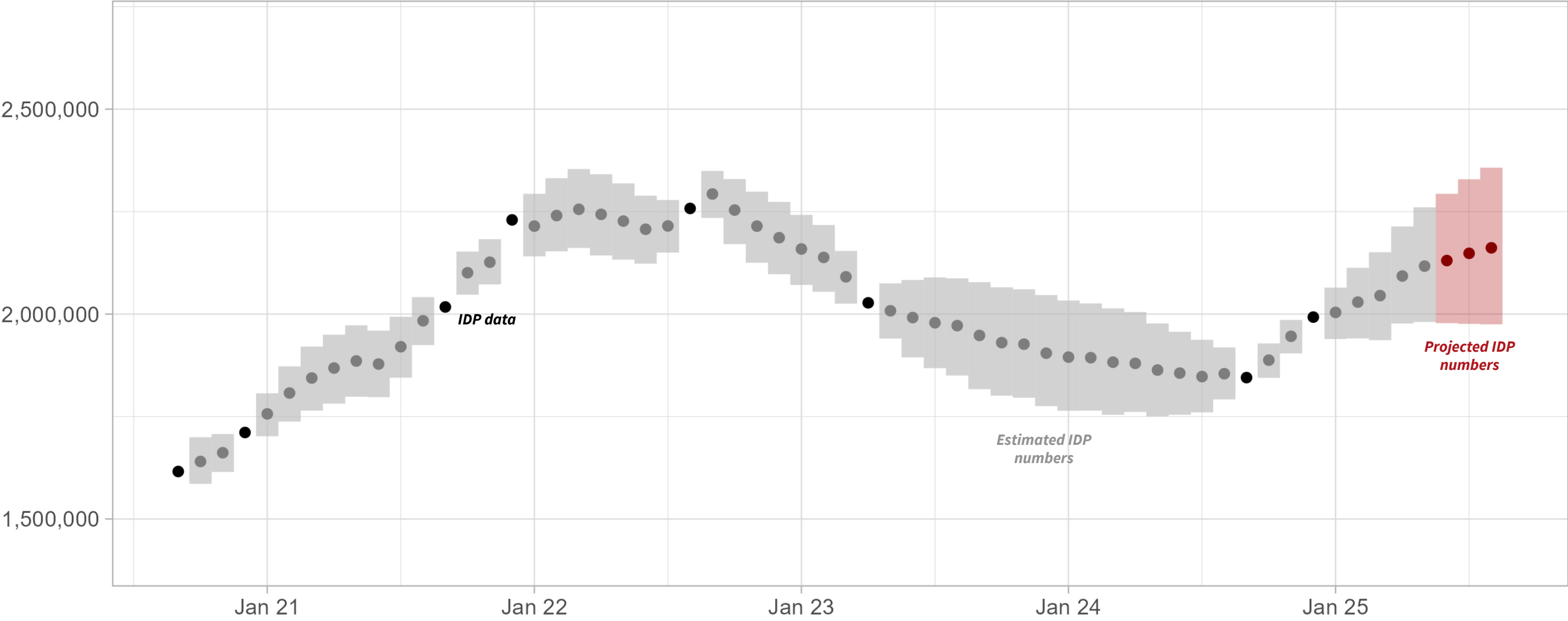
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

The AHEAD model projects an increase of **79,000** in internally displaced persons in South Sudan over the coming three months. Displacement increases are most likely in Upper Nile State and Jonglei.

If the conflict in Upper Nile State spreads and/or intensifies even further, the current projections are likely an underestimation. The AHEAD model projects forward based on current conditions and outlook, and also considers the likelihood of de-escalation and returns, which is why the model projections can be conservative. Flood displacements in the coming months could also increase displacement even further.

Factoring into the number of internally displaced persons in South Sudan is also the varying amounts of returns of South Sudanese from Sudan, as well as high numbers of displacement in other areas from flooding in late 2024, which means that there is likely a gradual return of those. IOM has so far reported **317,000** displacements in the first five months of 2025 in their Event Tracking Tool. This is higher than the increase seen in our model, which factors returns into account as well.

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.



Millions remain displaced across Ethiopia as a result of overlapping conflict, climate shocks and food insecurity. IOM estimated around 4.39 million IDPs by mid-2023, though access restrictions, particularly in Amhara, have limited the scope of more recent assessments. The AHEAD model seeks to address these coverage gaps and projects displacement across 93 zones through August 2025.

HOTSPOTS & KEY FIGURES

Over the next three months, displacement is projected to remain most acute in the Somali, Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray regions. The largest projected increases are concentrated in Amhara, with **notable rises expected in West and North Gojam (over 20,000 combined), North Shewa AM (+5,000), East Gojam (+3,400) and South Gondar and North Wollo (+1,900 each).**

In Oromia, displacement is also expected to increase in several areas, particularly in **North Shewa OR (+3,700), Horo Gudru (+2,300), and East and West Shewa (1,500 each).**

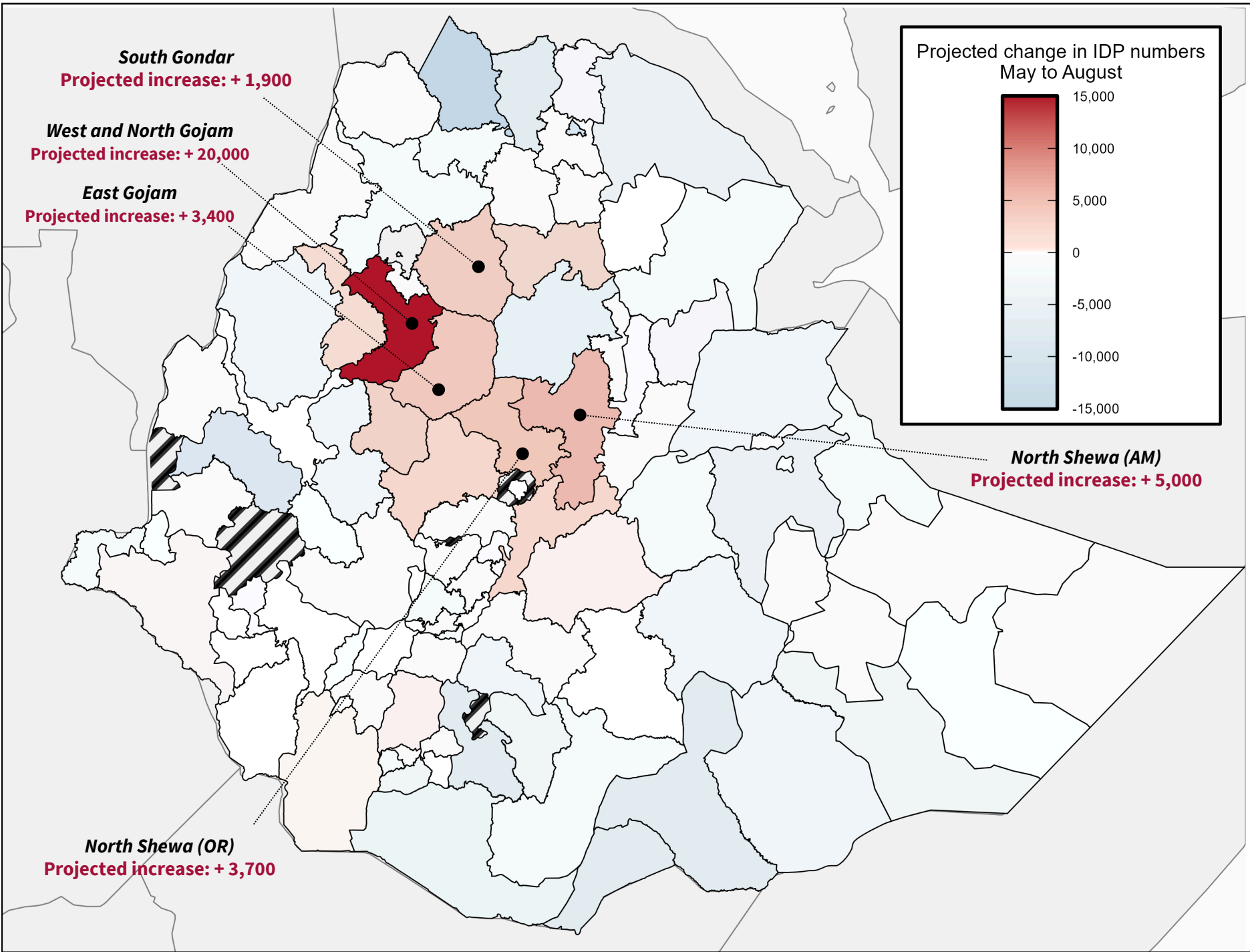
Slight increases are additionally projected in South Ethiopia, particularly in the Gamo zone, likely linked to renewed violence in the Zeyise community.

**4.1 MILLION**

Projected total IDPs numbers by August 2025

**+ 44,000**

Projected IDP increase between May and August



PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

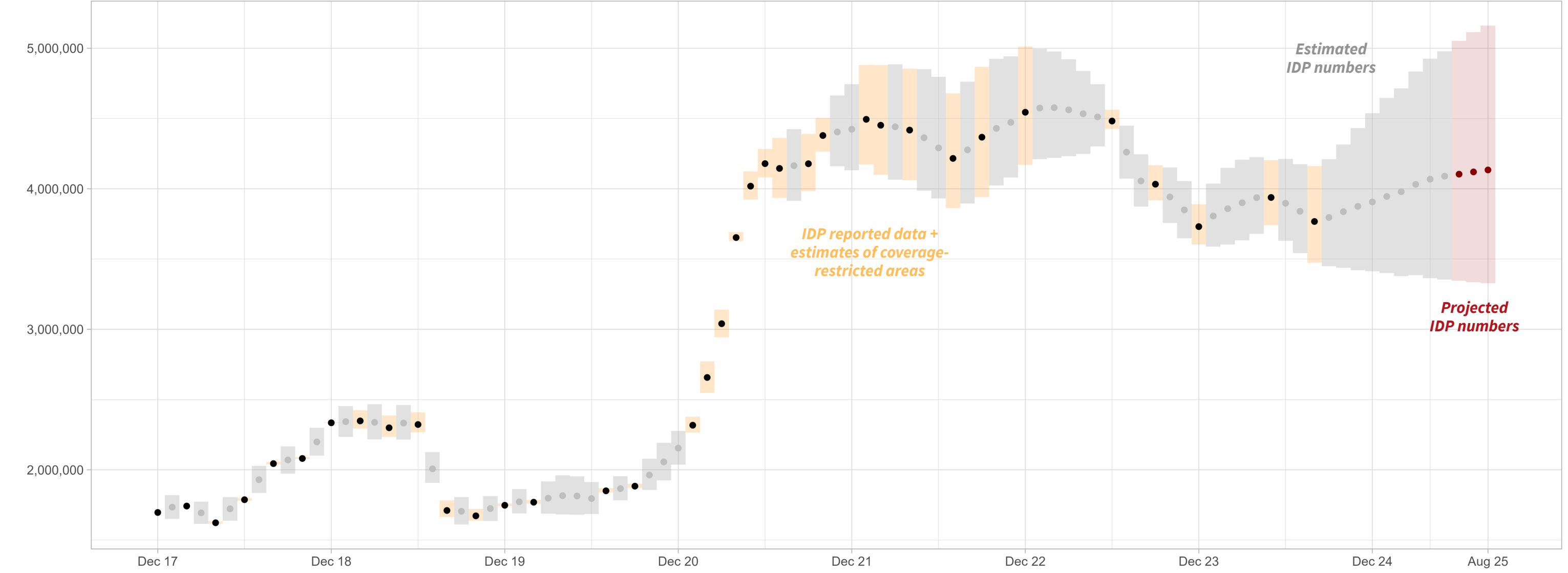
**Over the next three months (June–August 2025), the AHEAD model projects Ethiopia’s displaced population to increase by approximately 44,000 individuals compared to May estimates.** By August 2025, the number of people living in displacement across the 93 zones covered by the model is forecasted to reach 4.1 million. Much of this increase is linked to developments in Amhara, where conflict between government forces and Fano militias has continued. Although fighting has persisted, overall confrontation levels have declined since early April. This recent decrease in hostilities may help explain the relatively moderate projected increases in displacement compared to previous months.

At the same time, some recent displacement incidents may not yet be fully reflected in the model estimates, suggesting that displacement figures could be underestimated in certain areas. In Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz border areas, OCHA reported over 11,000 people displaced in June as a result of armed clashes. In Gambella, the Protection Cluster recorded the displacement of 2,234 individuals in May, while inter-communal violence in Doolo zone (Somali region) led to 6,960 new displacements in April.

ICPAC seasonal forecasts also assign a 55% probability of above-normal June–September rainfall over northern and south-western Ethiopia, and below-average rains in the south-east. This could increase flood risks in some areas while prolonging drought conditions in pastoral zones of the Somali Region, potentially driving further climate-induced displacement.

The absence of updated IDP figures since August 2024 adds uncertainty to the projections, as both the baseline for May and end result in August are estimates. Work is underway to turn the Ethiopia model into a multi-hazard one and better estimate the number of conflict- and drought-induced IDPs in each administrative area.

Total number of IDPs estimated and projected



Note: Ethiopia's displacement data are sourced from IOM' Displacement Tracking Matrix. To account for changes in administrative boundaries over time and restricted data collection, adjustments have been made to the data.





## **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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