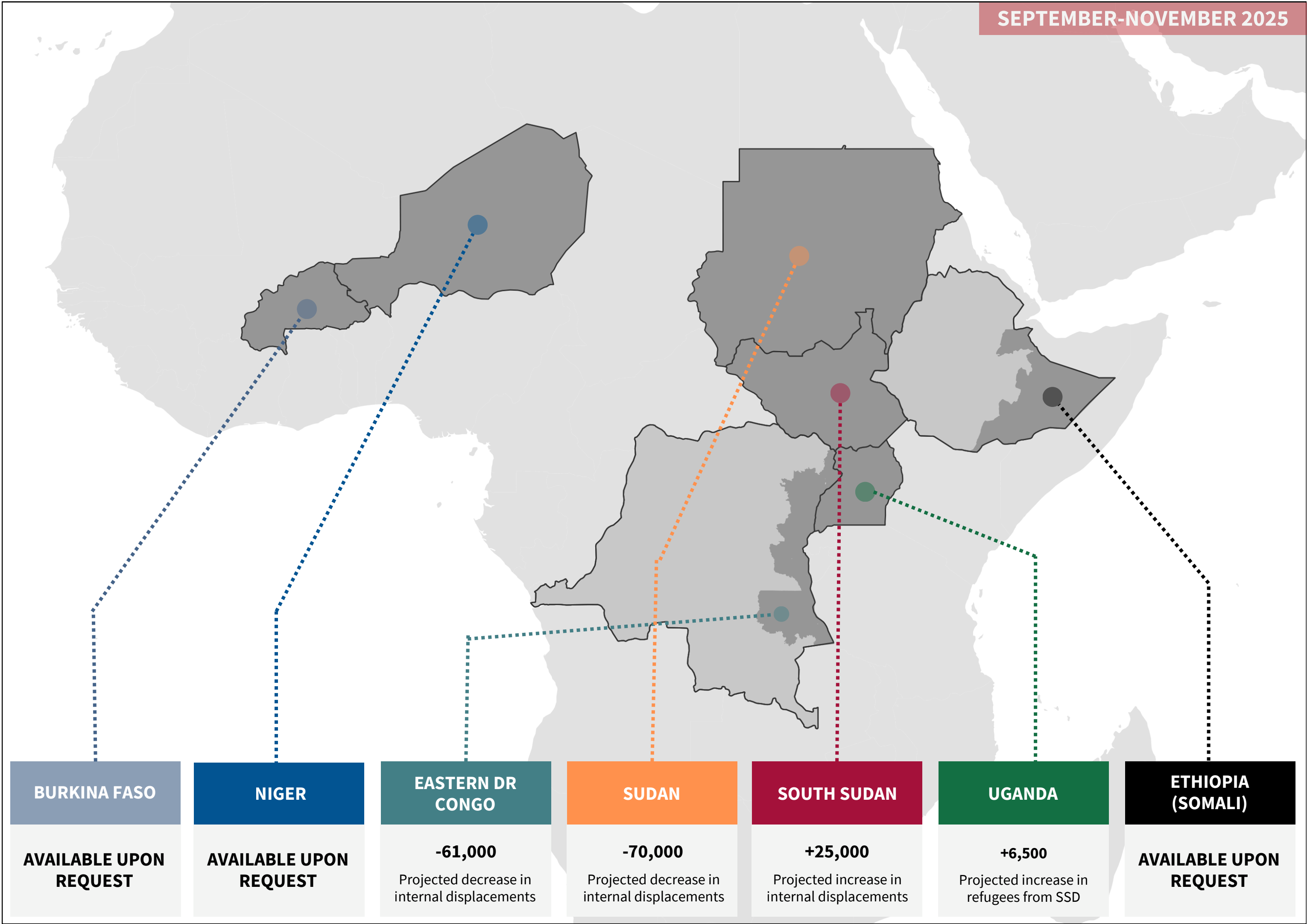


OVERVIEW

AHEAD’s global snapshot #5 presents displacement forecasts for the period **September to November 2025**, providing early warnings on where displacement figures may rise or fall. This edition covers seven countries: **Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as Ethiopia (Somali region), Niger and Burkina Faso (all three available upon request)**. **Forecasts for Somalia (Q4) will be included in the upcoming snapshot #6**. 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

Forecasts for eastern DR Congo indicate that the number of IDPs will decrease by roughly 61,000 by November 2025, consistent with recent months during which returns have been reported in several provinces. Nonetheless, increases are expected in Mahagi, and the likelihood of large rises in Djugu remains considerable.

In Sudan, the total number of IDPs is expected to decrease by 70,000, following earlier declines driven by increased return movements. West and North Kordofan are among the states expected to see the largest increases, with substantial rises also anticipated in Khartoum. Meanwhile, cross-border flows from Sudan, particularly into the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Chad, are projected to continue rising.

In South Sudan, internal displacement is anticipated to climb by roughly 25,000, with some of the largest increases expected in Fangak. However, flooding could drive the numbers significantly higher, as by early September it had already affected more than 270,000 people across four states, displacing over 100,000, including more than 80,000 in Panyijiar alone. **In Uganda, the AHEAD model projects an increase of more than 6,000 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan across nine settlements.**

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

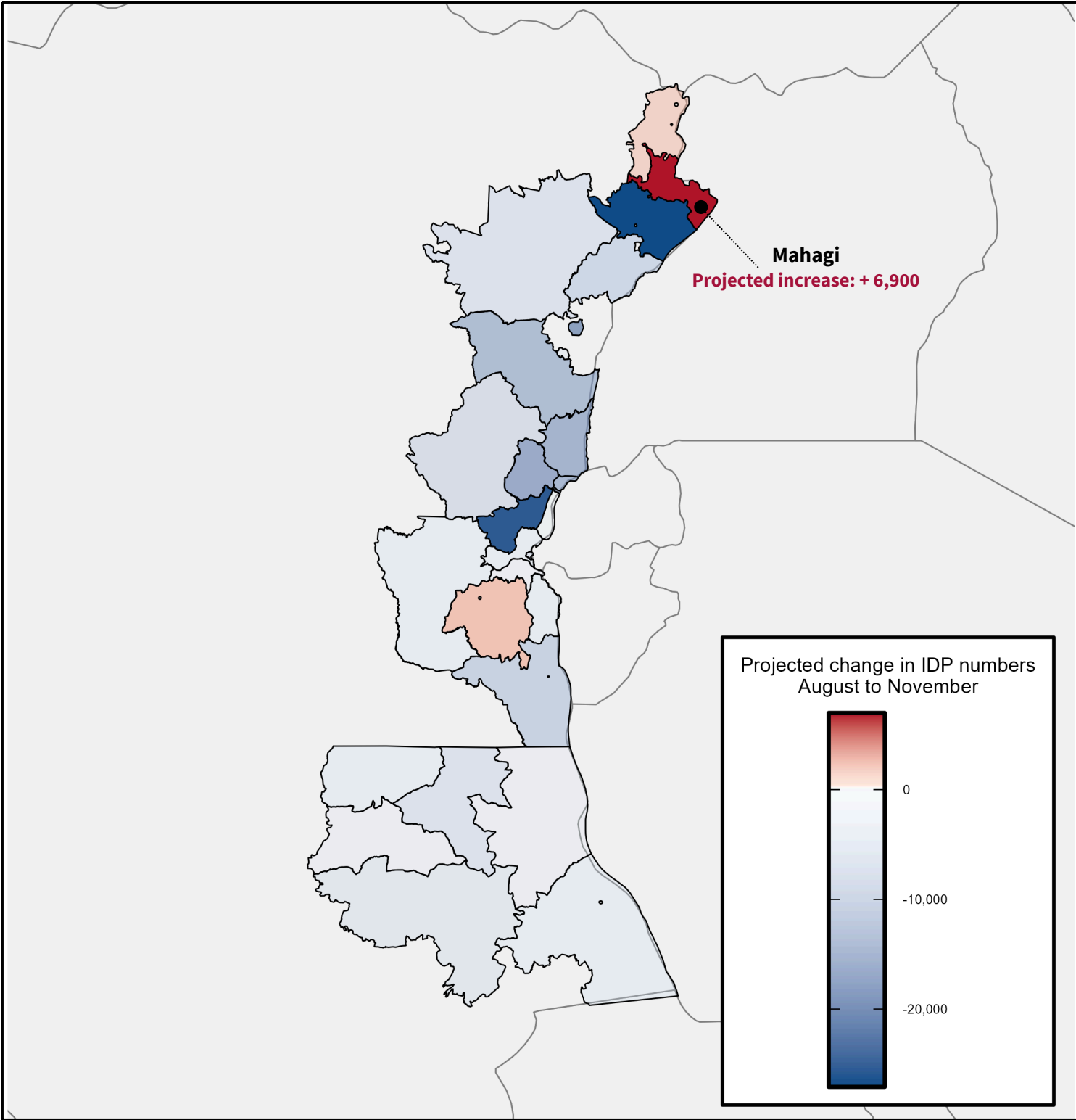
Since January 2025, renewed M23 offensives in eastern DR Congo have driven new displacements. Between 4th of January and 19th of March, M23 fighters entered into Masisi, Sake, Goma, Bukavu and Walikale. These advances have led to hundreds of thousands of new displacements, while millions have also been 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 November 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 Mahagi, displacement is projected to rise by around 7,000 individuals, following the smaller increases recorded by OCHA in July compared to April this year. Other territories also remain vulnerable to potential new waves of forced movement. AHEAD modelling for September-November indicates that **Djugu faces roughly a one-in-five chance of receiving more than 60,000 new arrivals during this period**. OCHA data shows that displacement there already increased by over 18,000 between May and July.

Cross-border flows also remain a significant factor. As of early September, about 140,000 people have fled the DR Congo to Burundi and Uganda since January.

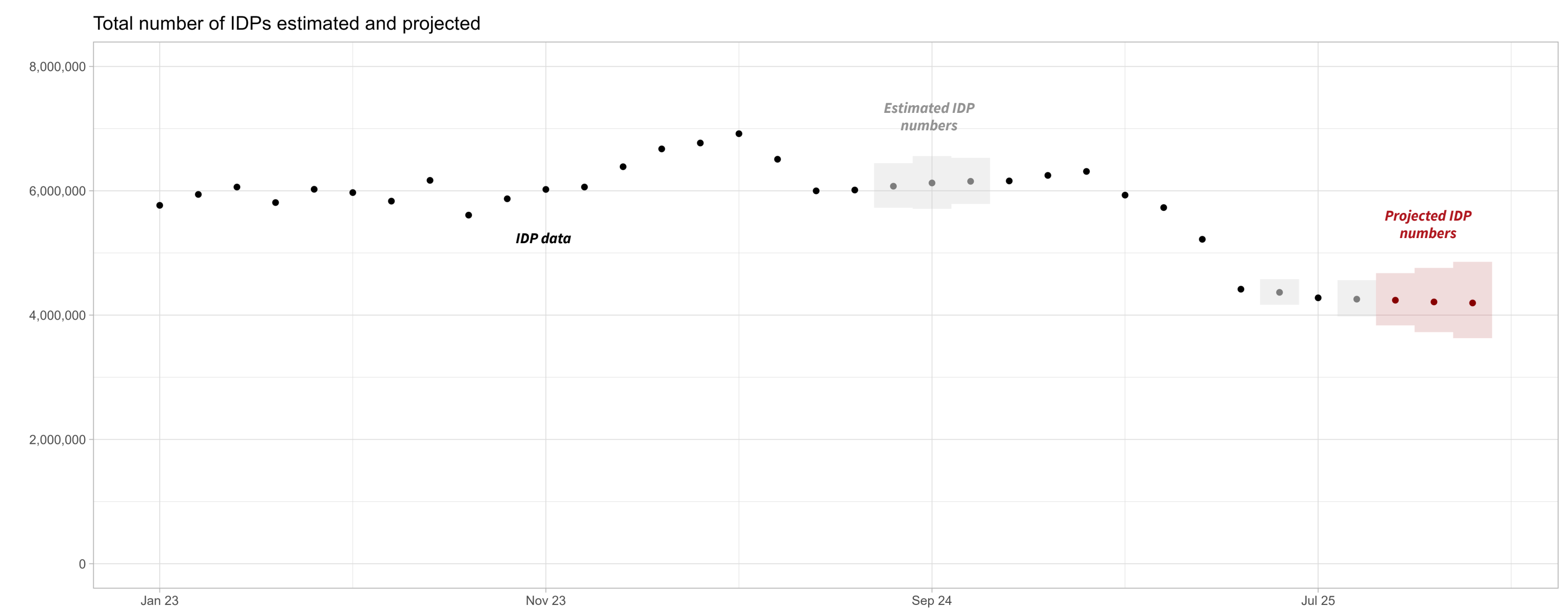


PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

In eastern DR Congo, displacement figures are projected to decline by more than 61,000 over the next three months, bringing the total to around 4.2 million IDPs across the four provinces by November 2025. This follows several months of decreases linked to return movements. At the start of 2025, over 6.3 million people were living in displacement, compared with slightly under 4.3 million as of July. Previous IOM data also suggested that the advance of M23 prompted more than 1.7 million IDPs to return to their places of origin in North and South Kivu, driving significant reductions in Goma, Masisi, Rutshuru and Nyiragongo.

Displacement could still climb towards the upper range of projections. A July rapid analysis by IOM showed new displacements in North and South Kivu outpacing returns, with sharp increases in Rutshuru, Lubero and Masisi. Mercy Corps’ Crisis Analysis also reported about 174,000 displaced households across eastern DRC in July (up 152% from June) with North Kivu most affected (105,000 households). The report noted particularly large rises in North Kivu (455%), South Kivu (76%), and Ituri (27%).

Despite ongoing peace processes, M23 also carried out attacks in North and South Kivu in August, including the killing of at least 41 civilians in Binza groupement. Combined with recent assessments, these dynamics suggest displacement could again trend upward.



Note: Eastern DR Congo’s displacement data are sourced from OCHA.

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 24,000 over the next three months compared to August 2025. North Kordofan is also expected to see an increase of over 15,000. Both states already registered notable rises between July and August.

Displacement is also projected to continue rising in Khartoum. Between July and August, the number of individuals living in displacement rose by about 14%, and a further increase of 17,000 is expected in the coming months.

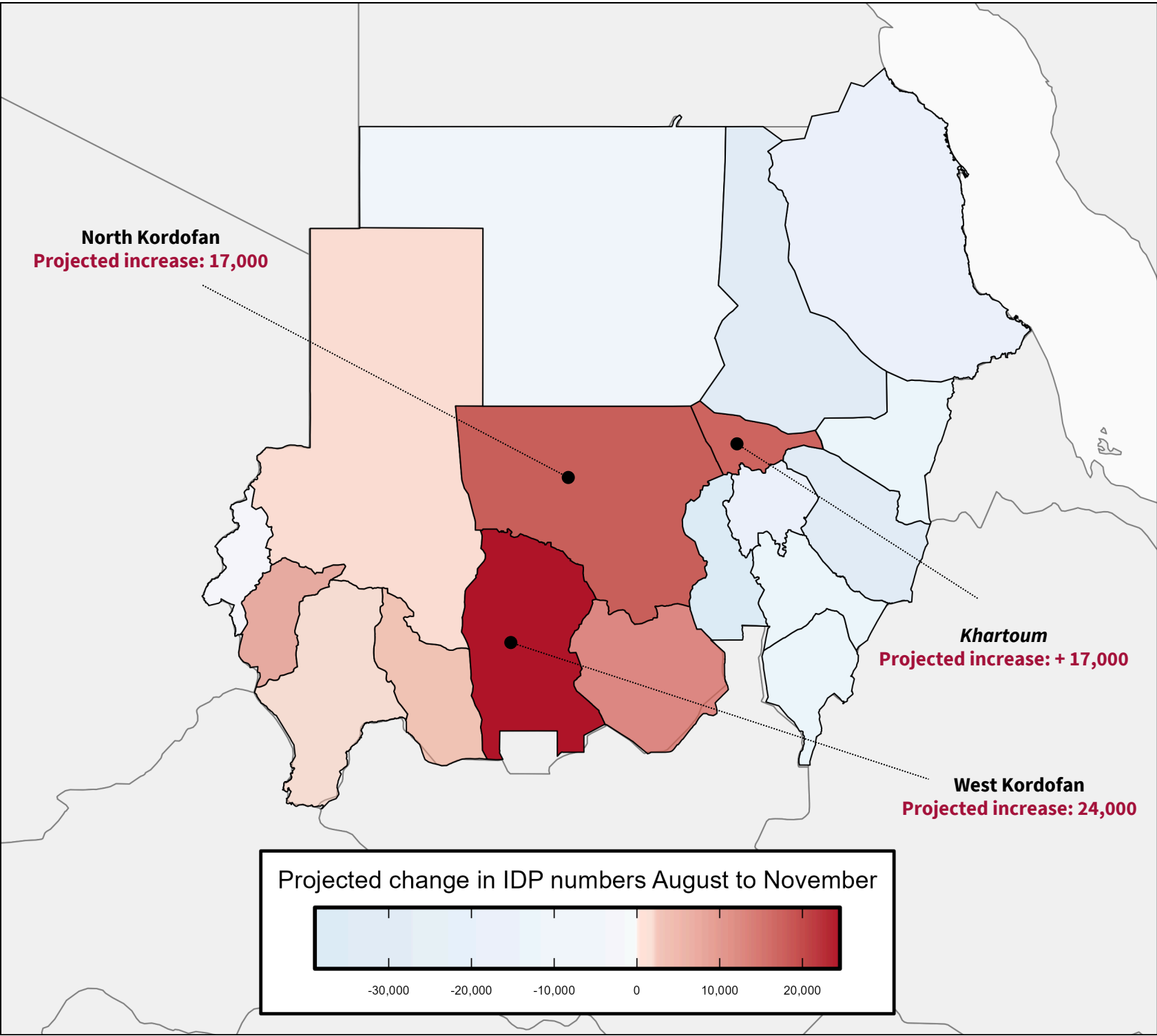
By contrast, several states are projected to see continued declines. The largest reductions are expected in Gedaref, River Nile and White Nile, all of which already registered decreases between July and August 2025.

9.75 MILLION

Projected total IDP numbers by November 2025

-70,000

Projected IDP decrease between August and November

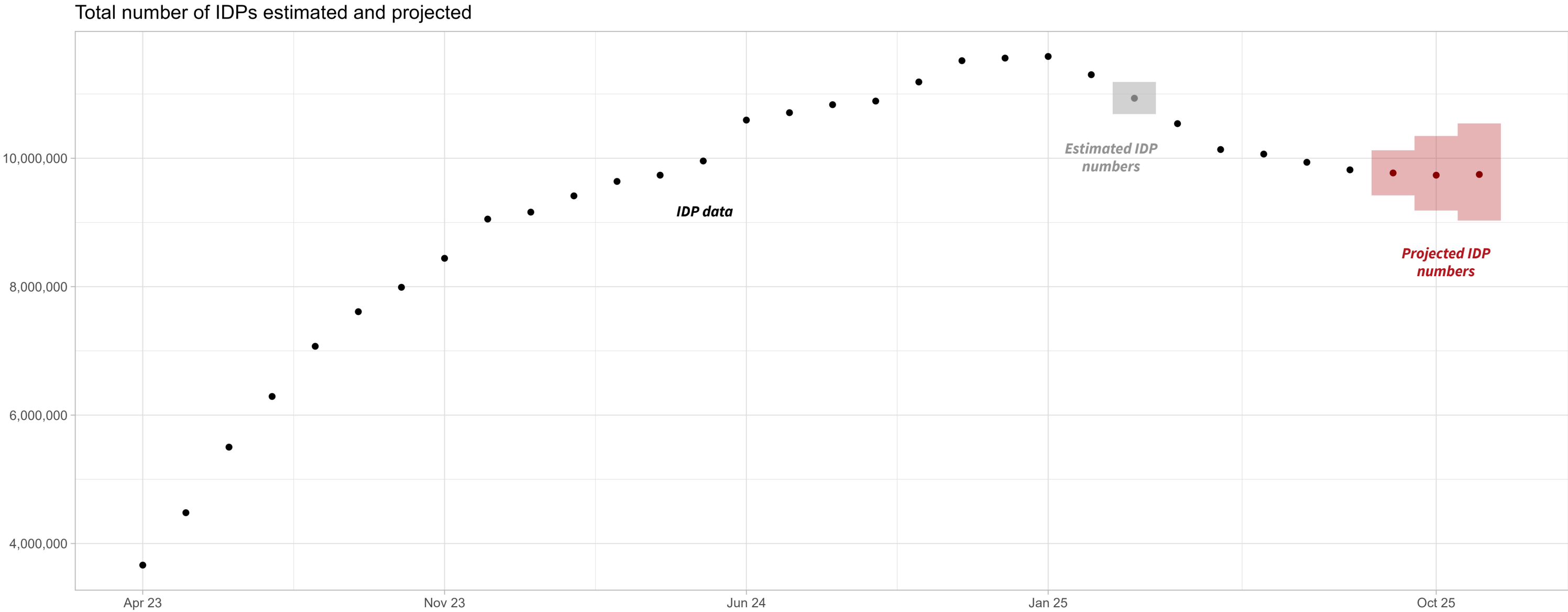


PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model anticipates a slight overall decline in displacement in Sudan. By November 2025, the number of IDPs is projected at around 9.75 million, about 70,000 fewer than in August. 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. In North Darfur, particularly around El Fasher, clashes and targeted violence led to a rise of more than 50% in civilian fatalities in August, with about 120 civilians among the 230 deaths recorded. Civilians were also targeted in Kordofan, where ACLED recorded at least 48 fatalities in West Kordofan during the same month. 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 rise. As of early September, about 1.19 million individuals had crossed from Sudan into Chad since the conflict began on 15 April 2023, an increase of more than 65,000 compared to early June. Over the next three months, movements into Chad are expected to grow by roughly 100,000, with a similar increase projected for movements into South Sudan. Flows to Ethiopia and CAR are likewise expected to increase, though at lower levels.



SOUTH SUDAN

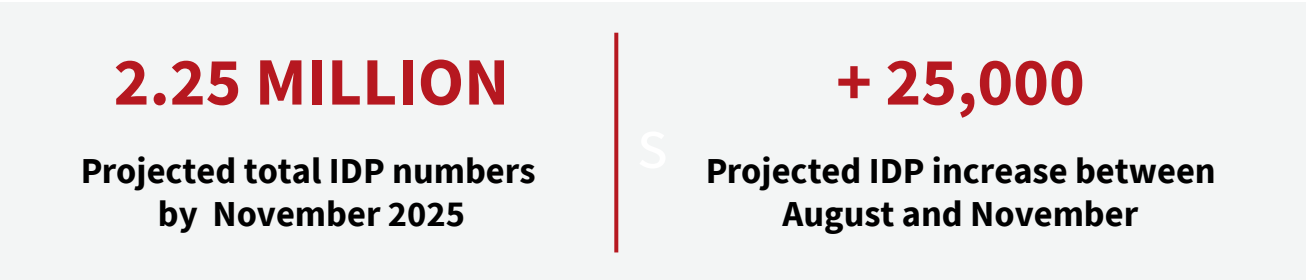
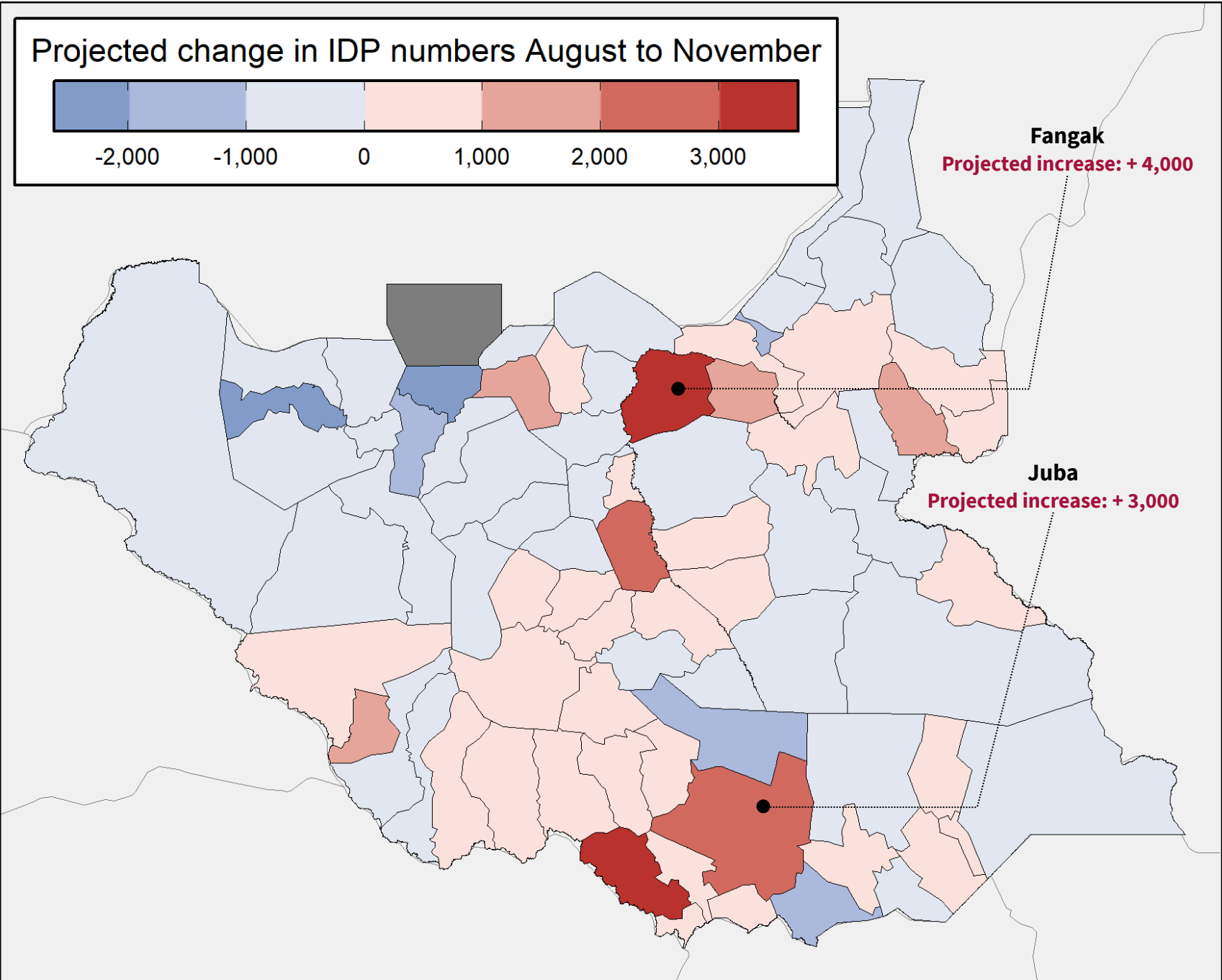
Internal displacements in South Sudan is caused by a wide range of factors, such as communal clashes, land disputes, violence, natural disasters and cross-border movements. In recent months conflict has escalated at a more broader level with especially high intensity in Upper Nile State. This comes on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

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. Panyijiar in Unity State is also projected to see a large increase of roughly 3,000 individuals** by November 2025.

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.



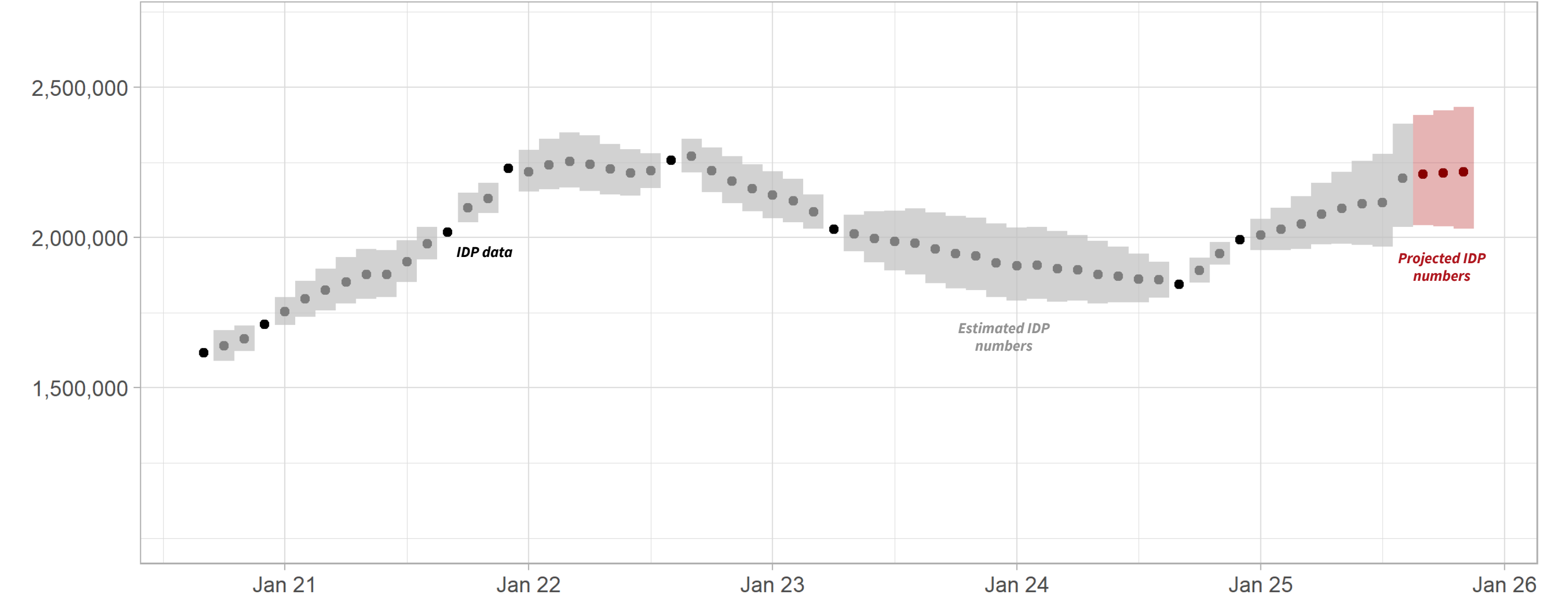
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

Over the next three months, the AHEAD model projects an overall increase in displacement in South Sudan. **By November, the number of individuals living in displacement is expected to rise by more than 25,000 compared to estimates from August, bringing the total to around 2.25 million.**

There was a slight decrease in reported conflict events in June and July compared to the previous months. IOM recorded 40,000 new displacements in those two months, which was also lower than each of the previous months of April (128,000) and May (85,000). Floods are not yet reflected in the projections, but they could push figures toward the upper range. As of early September, flooding had affected more than 270,000 people across four states, with over 100,000 reportedly displaced, including more than 80,000 in Panyijiar alone.

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 **355,000** displacements between January and July 2025 in their Event Tracking Tool. This is slightly 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.

UGANDA

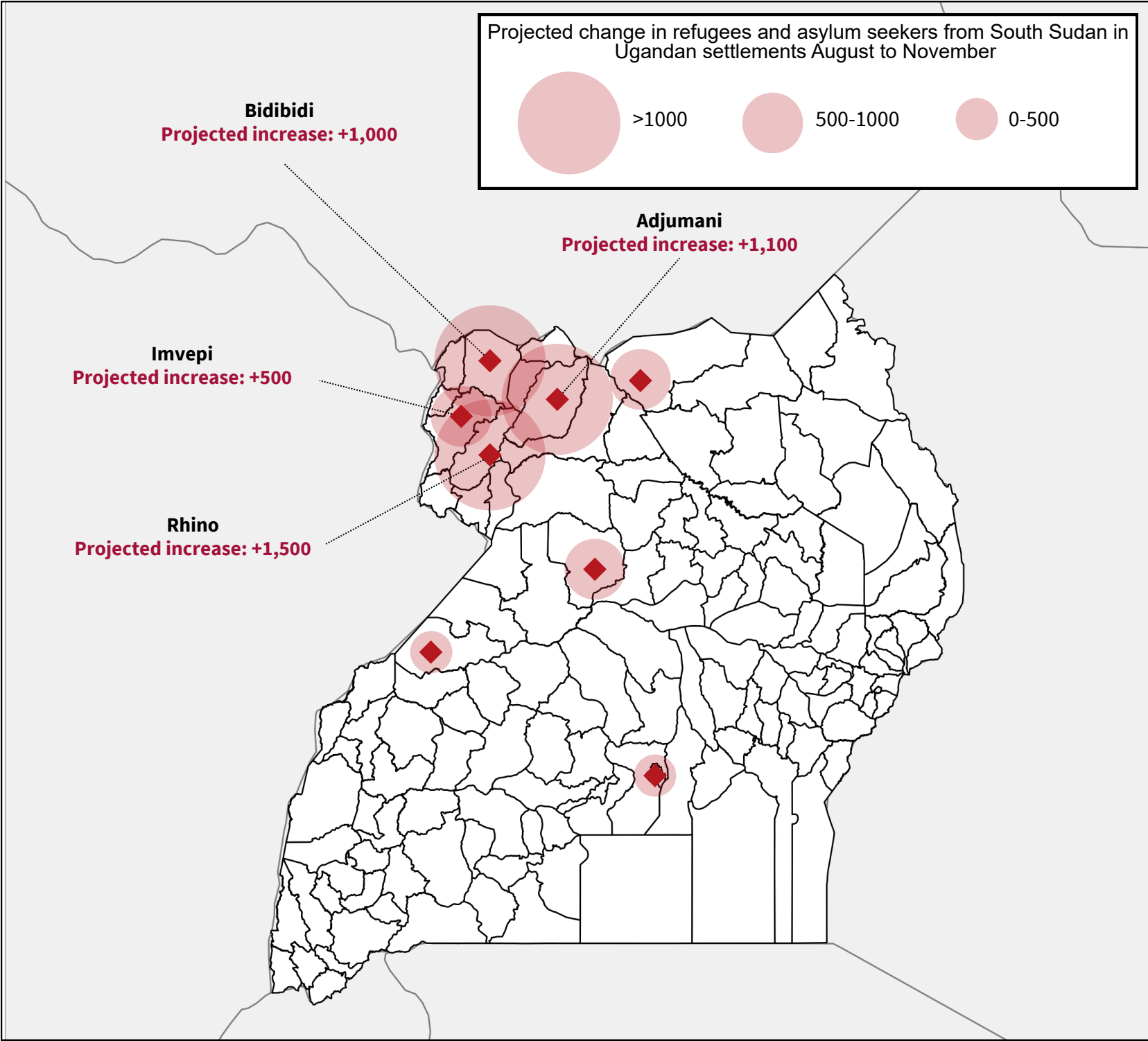
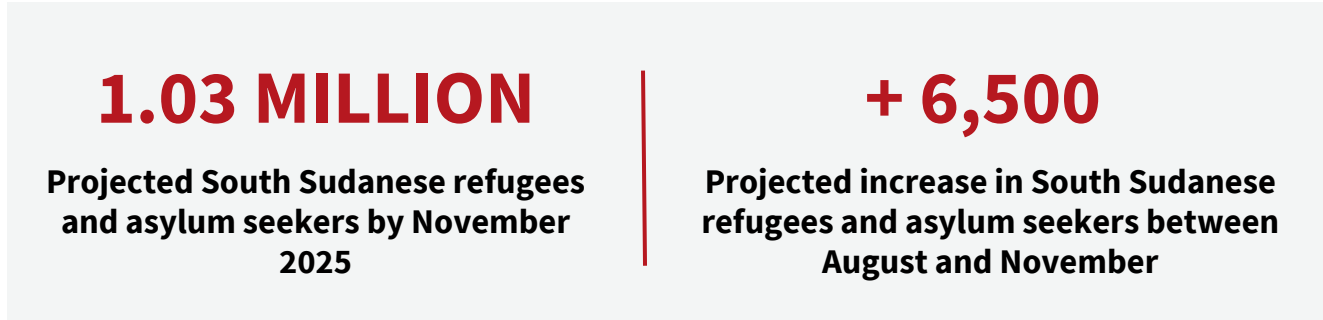
By the end of August 2025, Uganda hosted more than 1.9 million refugees and asylum seekers across various settlements. Over half originated from South Sudan, while roughly one-third came from DR Congo. Nakivale hosted the largest share, followed by Adjumani, Bidibidi and Rhino. In Uganda, the AHEAD model 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 rise by more than 1,000 over the next three months**.

Figures in **Imvepi** rose by roughly 900 between May and August, and the population of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is now **projected to grow by more than 500 by November 2025**.

The largest projected increase is in Rhino settlement, with an expected rise of over 1,500 individuals. Between May and August, the population there grew by more than 6,000. Projections for the next three months are more moderate, though AHEAD’s probabilistic modelling indicates roughly a one-in-four chance of increases exceeding 6,000 individuals.



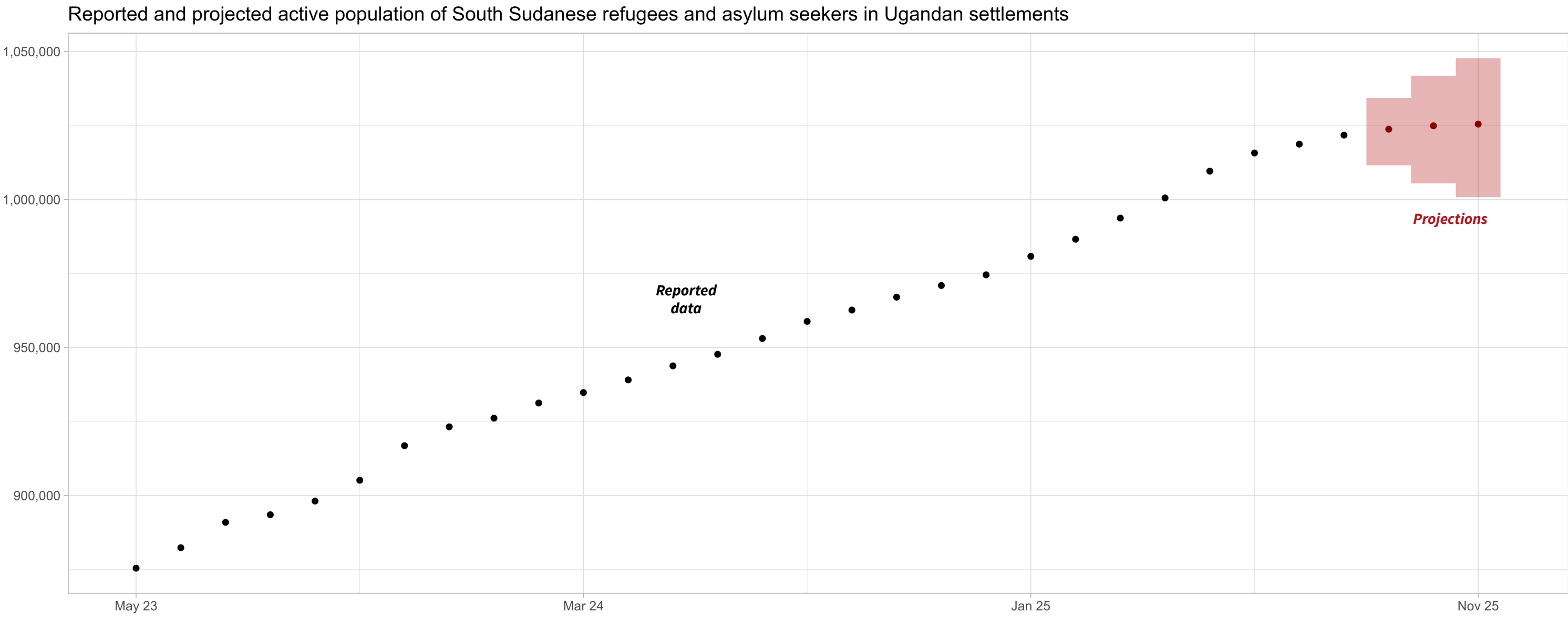
PROJECTED TRENDS & DRIVERS

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 November 2025, the population is expected to rise by more than 6,500, reaching almost 1.03 million.**

Between May and August, the South Sudanese refugee and asylum seeker population across the nine settlements covered by the AHEAD model grew by more than 10,000, with the largest increases recorded in Rhino settlement, which now hosts over 180,000 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 24,000 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 July 2025 to more than 37,000.

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.



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.



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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