

Turkmenistan

Quick facts

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|---|-------------------------|
| Number of IDPs | Undetermined |
| Start of current displacement situation | 2002 |
| Peak number of IDPs (and year) | Undetermined |
| New displacement in 2008 | Undetermined |
| Returns in 2008 | 0 |
| Causes of displacement | Human rights violations |
| Human development index | 109 |

The situation of IDPs in Turkmenistan can only be reported with minimal confidence due to government control of IDPs, the lack of access of humanitarian organisations and the extremely limited freedom of information in the country. The government does not release statistics on the number resettled and does not allow humanitarian organisations to conduct surveys. Information on the extent of internal displacement is also limited by total state control on media, curtailed freedom of speech and the near absence of civil society. As a result, the numbers of IDPs are unknown and the little information that exists is published by civil society outside of Turkmenistan.

The former President Saparmurat Niyazov used forced resettlement as a means of oppressing people viewed as disloyal to his regime and to force ethnic minorities to integrate into Turk-

men life. People were also forcibly resettled to make way for urban development projects and to develop land elsewhere. These relocations were achieved through presidential decrees issued in November 2002 and January 2003, and in 2008 displacement continued as part of the redevelopment of the capital Ashgabat.

While it is not known if IDPs in rural resettlement villages have adequate housing, food, water and sanitation, it is clear that many have not received compensation for property confiscated by the government and are worse off than their non-displaced neighbours. In some cases this is because they have not had formal documentation since Turkmen independence from the USSR. IDPs' letters to government on these issues have gone unanswered.

The current government has not acknowledged any responsibility for the situation of IDPs, supported solutions such as local integration or offered compensation for lost property in line with international standards. International humanitarian organisations face limited access and bureaucratic obstacles which limit their ability to confront the government on its treatment of IDPs and other vulnerable groups.



Uzbekistan

Quick facts

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|---|-------------------------|
| Number of IDPs | 3,400 |
| Start of current displacement situation | 2000 |
| New displacement in 2008 | 0 |
| Returns in 2008 | 0 |
| Causes of displacement | Human rights violations |
| Human development index | 119 |

The situation of people internally displaced in Uzbekistan cannot be reported with any confidence. Because of the government's strict control over its population and the activities of humanitarian organisations in the country, and the lack of public acknowledgement of the internal displacement situation, most information is anecdotal.

Uzbekistan's IDPs were forcibly and, in some cases, violently relocated by the army in 2000 and 2001 on the basis of insecurity in their place of origin, following government-reported incidences of armed incursions of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) from Tajikistan. While IDPs admit that people travelled through their villages and that they sold them food, they insist there were no IMU incursions.

The mainly ethnic Tajik population of nine villages in mountainous regions of Sukhandaria Province was moved over 200

kilometres to resettlement sites in the desert of Kashkadarya Province. Problems such as limited access to water, not being able to bring their tools and animals with them and the lack of knowledge to cultivate the new land have stopped them developing livelihoods. Their harvest is usually poor and as a result they are in debt to neighbouring villagers from whom they must buy food. They have no hope of compensation although the government denies their right to return to their villages of origin.

IDPs need official approval to leave their current residence and resettle in a third location. They receive no government help to integrate locally, and in general the state accepts no responsibility for addressing their needs. There are no specific government bodies, laws or policies to uphold their rights.

The international community has provided very limited assistance to assist Uzbekistan's IDPs with integration. With limited access and information, international agencies have not recently challenged the government on its treatment of IDPs.