Iraq: Figures analysis

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016: 3,035,000
New displacements associated with conflict in 2016: 659,000

Notes and caveats

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016

We estimate that there were 3,035,000 people displaced by conflict in Iraq as of the end of 2016. The figure is take from the last round of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) for the year.

Primary source: DTM round 61, published on 22 December 2016

Geographical and temporal coverage: IOM’s DTM generates bi-weekly reports that cover the whole country.

Description of source’s methodology: The DTM information management system has four components which collect information on the number, location and selected characteristics of IDPs and returnees.

The four components are:

- IDP and returnee master lists, which contain data on the number and location of displaced and returnee households collected via an ongoing system that identifies and routinely updates figures through contacts with key informants. Location is the unit of observation.

- Location assessments collect information on displaced and returnee families living in locations identified via the master lists. The unit of reference is again location, and aggregated information is collected on the majority of households in a given location rather than individual IDPs and returnees.

- Safety audits are site-level assessments that aim to identify the risks IDPs face in critical shelters.

- Emergency tracking is activated on an ad hoc basis. It provides early field reports at the beginning of complex crises such as Mosul, by gathering, consolidating and disseminating baseline information on displacement and return figures.
New displacements associated with conflict in 2016

We estimate that there were 659,000 new displacements associated with conflict in Iraq during the year. Our calculation is based on three periods of displacement IOM identified, post-April 2015, post-March 2016 and post-October 2016.

Post-April 2015: Given that our focus was displacement that took place in 2016, we calculated the positive difference between the first DTM round of the year on 7 January and the last one relevant to this wave on 12 May, because there were no figures relative to this wave before May 2016. We did not include any returnees because we cannot differentiate between people who returned in 2015 and 2016.

Post-March 2016: We took the DTM report from 16 March 2017 (Round 67), which includes the latest figures on this period of displacement and calculates the new displacements and returns recorded between March 2016 and October 2016.
Post-October 2016: We took DTM’s 5 January 2017 figures for new displacements and returns.

2. April 2016 to October 2016 (Figures from Wave 6 column)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of 16.03.2017*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>255,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returnees</td>
<td>166,764</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*latest round figures

Total = 421,920

3. October 2016 to December 2016 (Figures from Wave 7 column)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of 05.01.2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>195,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returnees</td>
<td>13,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 208,560

We included returnees because DTM captures people who flee and return within the same wave as returnees rather than IDPs.

Total: 28,134 + 421,920 + 208,560 = 658,614 new displacements (rounded to 659,000)
Displacement in 2016 was driven by joint military operation by Kurdish and Iraqi forces to retake cities and areas of Ninewa, Erbil, Salah al Din and Kirkuk governorates from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The operation to retake Mosul was launched on 17 October and caused a third of all the displacements recorded during the year.

*Primary source:* IOM’s DTM, and consultations with IOM

*Geographical and temporal coverage:* See above

*Description of source’s methodology:* See above