

BANGLADESH

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

IDMC reports on two main caseloads of IDPs due to conflict in Bangladesh: The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) IDPs, who were displaced by an armed conflict from 1973 to 1997 between Buddhist tribes seeking autonomy and the government; and the Urdu-speaking Bihari IDPs, also known as the ‘Stranded Pakistanis’, who were displaced by the 1971 Bangladesh war of independence.

Our data related to these caseloads is decaying, although smaller numbers of new displacements related to violence between political parties continued to be reported in the CHT area in 2018, indicating continued instability at the local level. About 300 new displacements were reported in Khagrachhari district, Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Political violence occurred in other parts of the country, with the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) reporting on political violence connected to communal disputes about land and resources, violence carried out by radical Islamist groups, state violence against protesters and civilians, and clashes between supporters of different political parties.ⁱ While these events may have caused displacement, there was no data available.

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
300	426,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	No data available
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.</i>

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.

Sources and methodologies

No national or local source systematically collects data on new internal displacement associated with conflict or violence. When data on new displacement is available, it is often quoted in the media or in research reports published by NGOs or other civil society actors.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Due to the lack of an official data source regarding new internal displacement in Bangladesh, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the scope of the displacement is difficult. Language barriers also contribute to challenges in identifying relevant data and reports.

IDMC figure and rationale

The new displacements were identified using media monitoring of displacement-generating events. About 300 displacements were thus recorded due to an incident of political violence in Khagrachhari district, Chittagong Hill Tracts, in early 2018.

Significant changes from last year

In both 2017 and 2018 we only identified one conflict event generating displacement, and in both cases, this event took place in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. However, the event in 2017 led to much higher displacement numbers (6,000 new displacements). No significant changes in the methodology were made.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.

Sources and methodologies

There is no official provider of data related to internal displacement triggered by conflict in Bangladesh, but ad-hoc surveys by NGOs and other stakeholders offer indications of the extent of displacement. In particular, the Human Development Research Centre and the NGO Al-Falah have produced studies that have been used as part of IDMC's analysis.

While the government Task Force on Rehabilitation of the Returnee Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons has historically provided data on IDPs, it has not made recent statistics publicly available.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Assessing the extent of current internal displacement associated with conflict in Bangladesh is challenging due to decaying data.

There is also a diverging understanding among different stakeholders about when and how IDPs cease to be considered as being displaced.

A media article published in 2018 quoted officials stating that the IDPs in Chittagong Hill Tracts have been "rehabilitated", but as we have been unable to access any supporting documentation validating this claim, we consider there is insufficient evidence to cease reporting on these IDPs.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's figure includes an estimated 275,000 IDPs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and about 151,000 Urdu-speaking Bihari displaced in camps.

The figure for CHT is based on a survey from 2009 by the Human Development Research Centre, a Bangladeshi NGO, which estimated that about 31 per cent of the households in rural Chittagong had been forced to leave their homes at least once between 1977 and 2007. Based on this figure and census data, we estimate the total number of IDPs in CHT to be 275,000.

Our estimate of about 151,000 displaced Biharis is based on a profiling study from 2006 by Al-Falah, quoted by UNHCR.

Significant changes from last year

There were no significant methodological changes and no significant contextual changes took place in 2018 to affect the figure.

CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People	People
Methodology	Media monitoring, other, unknown, key informants	Key informants, media monitoring, registration, unknown
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	Partial
Disaggregation on age	No	Partial
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	Partial
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	No	Partial
Data on cross border movements	Partial	Partial
Data on deaths	No	Partial
Data on births	No	Partial

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

For the full country profile on Bangladesh please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/bangladesh>

ⁱ ACLED, [The anatomy of violence in Bangladesh](#), 9 November 2018