![iDMC internal displacement monitoring centre]

EGYPT

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

The destruction of homes, commercial buildings, and farms in the North Sinai governorate continued in 2018, as part of the Egyptian army's campaign against a group named Sinai Province, which declared its allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014.

Estimates suggest that nearly 15,000 people were displaced in 2018. This is very likely to be a significant underestimate, because the area is inaccessible and, as a result, no organisation has been able to carry out any data collection or analysis on displacement. The estimates rely on satellite images, showing housing destruction, as well as the accounts of displaced people.

The destruction extended well beyond the two government-designated security buffer zones in the cities of al Arish and Rafah. The army also demolished several homes, in what appears to have been retaliation against not only terrorism suspects, but also political dissidents and the relatives of both groups.

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
15,000	97,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	No data available
This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.	*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.*	*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.*	*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.*

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

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

| **Sources and methodologies**

The source for IDMC's estimate is a report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) published in May 2018. HRW's main tool is the analysis of satellite images of destroyed buildings. HRW complemented this with interviews with affected populations.

| **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

North Sinai has been a military zone for the past five years, and therefore made inaccessible. Organisations can only operate there under army supervision. The government does not release any official displacement figures and, as a result, it is very difficult to estimate the scale of displacement. The government issued its last update in 2016, when it reported that 25,000 people were displaced from Rafah.

The HRW reports might include commercial buildings as well as homes that were destroyed. The number of people displaced as a result of the destruction was obtained through extrapolation and might therefore be an overestimate. It is important to note, however, that people in Sinai reportedly live in extended family groups and one building can host a large number of families. Therefore, as our analysis is based on our estimated Average Household Size measure (AHHS), applied to the number of destroyed housing, there is an additional margin of potential error in our estimate.

Due to the lack of systematic monitoring of displacement across Egypt, IDMC assumes that its figure is only partial and other underreported displacement events have likely occurred.

| **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's figure is based on the estimate of buildings destroyed, which was multiplied by the average household size. This estimate was produced through the analysis of satellite imagery done by HRW.

IDMC's figure includes people evicted from their homes in Northern Sinai 2018 due to military operations against ISIS and several other groups. Most of the displaced people come from Rafah city, which is now reportedly almost entirely empty.

| **Significant changes from last year**

The figure is five times larger than that of last year, due to the significant increase in the number of evictions in North Sinai in early 2018.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

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

| **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs is based on two Human Rights Watch reports from 2015 and 2018, which in turn are based on interviews with affected families as well as analysis of satellite images of destroyed buildings. Additional information was sourced from the local media.

| **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The same caveats as in the previous section apply.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC based its estimate on its 2017 figure and added the new displacements reported in 2018. IDMC's figure includes people who left their homes in North Sinai between 2013 and 2018 due to military operations against ISIS and several other groups. The cities of Rafah and Arish were particularly affected, but people have also left many small villages.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC's figure increased slightly compared to 2017, because of the escalation of evictions in North Sinai in early 2018.

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	Households	Households, people
Methodology	Satellite imagery, media monitoring	Media monitoring, other, satellite imagery
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0	Country/territory - admin 0
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	No triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

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

For the full country profile on Egypt please visit:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/egypt