

# PAKISTAN

## Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

### CONTEXT

Displacement associated with conflict and violence in Pakistan is linked to multiple triggers. The main caseload of protracted IDPs (about 98,000 IDPs) are displaced in North Waziristan Agency and Khyber Agency in the former Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA). They were initially displaced by armed conflict and military operations in the FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), which have been ongoing since 2004. A smaller share of IDPs (about 17,000) are former refugee returnees who were displaced to Khost province in Afghanistan but now stay in camps on the Pakistani side of the border.

The majority of new displacements in 2018 were generated by inter-religious violence in Lahore. Smaller number of displacements occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province due to inter-communal land conflict, while in Balochistan, households were evicted by military forces from their homes in Awaran district.<sup>1, 2</sup>

It is likely that frequent cross-border shelling and other military activities in Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir are generating displacements, although numbers are rarely reported. In addition, it is probable that a significant number of people remain displaced from Balochistan province since military operations occurred in 2005 and 2006. While there is a lack of data on these IDPs, their situation has been recognised, with appeals for economic support to fund their return.<sup>3</sup>

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
1,800	119,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	83,000 (1 January- 31 December 2018)	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**

Our new displacement estimate is derived from event-based monitoring and analysis of reports published by media and civil society organisations.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

No source collects comprehensive data on new displacement in Pakistan. The limited availability of sources reflects underreporting of displacement, and small-scale displacements are likely to not be detected or reported on at all.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's new displacement figure includes the estimated displacements associated with seven different events that took place in 2018. About 1,700 displacements were triggered by intercommunal violence, whereas some 110 displacements concerned people fleeing shelling along the Line of Control in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and military operations in Balochistan province.

### **Significant changes from last year**

Many more people (75,000) were displaced in 2017 than in 2018. This is mainly because there were cross-border skirmishes between Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2017, which displaced significant numbers of people. By contrast, only one such skirmish was reported in 2018, and no displacement was recorded related to this event.

## 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 (119,000) is based overwhelmingly on data published by the FATA Disaster Management Agency (FDMA), which is responsible for data management on internal displacement in former FATA and KP.

The FDMA's data is based on the registration and verification of IDPs and refugee returnees. New displacements that took place in 2018 and are included in the end-of-year figure are based figures reported by the media.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

Retrieving contemporary data on IDPs outside areas covered by the government's registration process, such as KP and the former FATA, is highly challenging, and obtaining this information for other parts of the country is even more difficult. This suggests that the geographic coverage of our figure is limited and does not reflect the full scale of internal displacement within the country. There is also an insufficient understanding of the extent to which IDP returnees have successfully achieved durable solutions to their displacement.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

The IDMC figure adds the total estimate of protracted IDPs in Khyber Agency and North Waziristan Agency (about 98,000 IDPs) to refugee returnees staying in camps along the border to Afghanistan (about 17,000 de-facto IDPs). Also included are an estimated 2,000 or more people who are internally displaced from Balochistan in Sindh and Punjab according to conservative estimations and the total number of new displacements in 2018 deemed not to be temporary.

**Significant changes from last year**

This year's estimate is lower than last year's estimate of more than 249,000 IDPs. This is because of a decrease in the number of IDPs reported to be displaced in FATA and KP.

## NUMBER OF IDPS WHO HAVE MADE PARTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A DURABLE SOLUTION

*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.*

**Sources and methodologies**

The FATA Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) collects data on both verified and unverified IDPs who have returned to their former homes. Verified IDPs who return to their previous residence are given assistance. IDPs who never were verified during their displacement are recorded when they return, but do not have the right to the same level of support as registered IDPs.

**Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

Neither UNHCR nor FDMA has published an estimate of the number of unverified IDPs who returned in former FATA and KP in 2018, although FDMA has published the cumulative number of unverified IDPs who have returned since 2010. Equally, the geographic coverage of our data is limited to KP and the former FATA.

**IDMC figure and rationale**

Our figure corresponds to the yearly new displacement flow figure published by UNHCR based on FDMA's data – this includes 83,000 verified IDPs who returned in 2018. This figure includes only verified returns because of a lack of data on returns of unverified IDPs. IDMC considers these 83,000 IDPs to have made partial progress towards a durable solution. Although people have returned to their homes, living conditions remain difficult, particularly regarding to access to livelihoods and the continued presence of the military in many areas.

**Significant changes from last year**

UNHCR reported 282,000 returns in 2017, movements that IDMC classified as partial solutions. This year's figure is also taken from UNHCR data and we have no reason to believe their methodology has changed. The decrease in the number of partial solutions is therefore likely to reflect a slowdown in the pace of returns and resettlements.

## 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, households	Households, people
Methodology	Media monitoring	Registration, media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	Partial
Data on returns	No	Partial
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Partial	Partial
Data on deaths	Partial	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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

<sup>1</sup> Dawn, [Torghar tribes torch each other's houses over land dispute](#), 23 September 2018

<sup>2</sup> Baloch Human Rights Organisation, [July 2018: General elections, other side of democracy in Balochistan](#), 15 August 2018

<sup>3</sup> The Express Tribune, [JWP seeks government help for IDPs' return](#), 4 September 2018