

PALESTINE

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Palestine is affected by one of the world’s longest ongoing conflicts, and continues to experience new displacements, mostly in the West Bank.

Demolitions, evictions, confiscations and sealed off properties, are the main causes of displacement recorded by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt) in the West Bank, followed closely by loss of livelihood in East Jerusalem, and other West Bank areas.

Loss of livelihood is considered pervasive, especially in East Jerusalem, but the number of internal displacements associated with it is difficult to determine, because these usually occur over a long period of time and in a less visible manner, rather than more spontaneously, as is the case following attacks or clashes. Losses of jobs or other sources of income, revocations of residence permits and harassments are typical push-factors leading Palestinians to move away from their homes. The perceived social stigma associated with these movements adds to their complexity by forcing the affected people into silence, further hiding the actual magnitude of the phenomenon and its impact on the people.¹

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
490	238,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	15,000 (1 January – 31 December 2018)	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

The figure is collected by OCHA oPt, which collects data using housing damage assessment forms. The information is stored in their demolitions and displacement database. IDMC considers it the most reliable source with regards to displacement data in this context.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The GRID 2019 new displacements estimate is conservative, as more families may have also left as a result of harassment, loss of livelihood, or other causes. These are pervasive reasons across the territory but are extremely difficult to monitor because of the perceived stigma linked to loss of livelihood and harassment. People often try to avoid detailing why they have moved from one location to another. In addition, no actor is systematically monitoring the movements of people who have been displaced. Therefore, IDMC cannot assess where people move to. Data on this remains sporadic, anecdotal and unpublished.

IDMC figure and rationale

The GRID 2019 new displacements estimate is the sum of the people who became newly displaced between 1 January and 31 December 2018. It includes people whose displacement is associated with full and partial house demolitions, evictions, the sealing off of residential areas or properties by the authorities, which then prevented people from entering them, and confiscations.

Significant changes from last year

There are no significant changes in the estimated number of new displacements since GRID 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 for the total number of IDPs in Palestine consists of data from OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt), Shelter Cluster Palestine and BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights. OCHA oPt gathers data on demolitions and other activities leading to displacement. The information is then stored in the demolitions and displacement database maintained by OCHA oPt.

The Shelter Cluster's partners also collect data on people still living in displacement in Gaza, which we included in our estimate. The remaining caseloads were collected during research by BADIL, for the Palestinian Population Survey 2013-2015 (PPS). This survey has not been updated since, because of restricted funding and limited resources, meaning that the figures provided by this source are more outdated than those provided by OCHA oPt and Shelter Cluster Palestine.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The tracking of displacement figures in Palestine is challenging, because no actors have carried out consistent and comprehensive data collection throughout the last five decades, but also due to the significant geographical and political changes in the territory.

No organisation is retrieving historical data, accounting for caseloads of largely different volumes across decades, harmonising different methodologies, applying population growth rates and compiling

data into a comprehensive analysis. Each actor adopts and proceeds with different methodologies, without the means of putting in place a more systematic, comprehensive process.

The geographical fragmentation and territorial changes over decades of conflict make some level of overlapping and double-counting likely. BADIL is aware of potential double counting and has taken measures to minimise it at the time of their research. Our partners have informed us that cases connected to house demolitions in Jerusalem and displacement associated with the building of the Annexation Wall are particularly likely to include some double counting.

The lack of reliable data on returns implies that the number of displaced people in the West Bank, as featured in OCHA's oPt data, might be an overestimate, as some people might have made some progress towards durable solutions but still be counted as IDPs.

Moreover, BADIL stated that unknown numbers of families have left their residences in East Jerusalem and West Bank either because they were forcibly evicted, or because of specific vulnerabilities causing them to leave. These families do not consider themselves displaced, although they fit the criteria (forced displacement from a place of habitual residence remaining within internationally recognised borders). The challenge of correctly accounting for these families is related to the difficulty of linking their displacement to a specific trigger. Another challenge is that the families fear they may be discriminated against further, or face retaliation, if they make their case public.

The Shelter Cluster issued no factsheets for either September or December, meaning that our updates on the decreasing Gaza caseload stop at 30 November 2018.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate of people still living in displacement at the end of 2018 is the sum of ten different caseloads calculated from the three different sources, OCHA oPt, Shelter Cluster Palestine, and BADIL, as previously mentioned.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC's estimate shows an increase in the number of IDPs compared to last year, mostly because the figure has been updated with a historical caseload of IDPs whose displacement was associated with harassment in Hebron, which was not included in the previous year, and the historical Average Household Size for one historical caseload has been corrected. These are therefore methodological changes and do not reflect a new increase in the number of internally displaced people.

The reality on the ground shows that the caseload of internally displaced people in Gaza is progressively decreasing due to reconstruction efforts that might slow temporarily, but never completely stop.

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 source and publisher of our data is Shelter Cluster Palestine. They report on a monthly basis the number of houses damaged in the conflict of 2014, and how many houses were reconstructed. The source is supported by damage assessments performed by partners on the ground and is deemed reliable.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The GRID2019 estimate of people having reached partial solutions is conservative. It is likely that more returns have taken place in the West Bank, but there is no reliable information about the precise numbers. As noted, Shelter Cluster did not issue its scheduled December Fact Sheet, meaning that our estimate of people having made partial progress towards durable solutions stops in November 2018. The Cluster also did not issue a September bulletin, which means that the numbers are reported as 'September-October' data in our calculation.

IDMC figure and rationale

The Gaza caseload began in the 2014 conflict and is decreasing. The only factors affecting the speed of reconstruction in Gaza are the availability of funds and construction materials. As a result of shortages of both, people's displacement here has become protracted, although it is slowly decreasing month by month. We therefore consider that people are achieving partial solutions in Gaza.

However, this estimate only calculates Gaza's caseload. Our figure is the number of people who were returning home, calculated from the progress of house repairs. Our calculation uses the Repairs and Reconstruction information and the total number of houses totally destroyed, severely damaged and with major damage that the Shelter Cluster recorded as having been repaired between January and November 2018. This is then multiplied by IDMC's 2018 Average Household Size figure for Palestine. Houses with minor damage are excluded from the calculation on the basis that people were able to continue to live in them and so were not displaced.

This estimate must be considered conservative for two reasons: it is the sum of returns calculated for the period January-November 2018, rather than January-December 2018, and it does not include any potential number of people having achieved partial solutions in the West Bank during the same period.

Significant changes from last year

There are no changes from GRID 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, people	Households, people
Methodology	Other	Other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	Yes	Partial
Disaggregation on age	Yes	Partial
Data triangulation	No triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	Yes
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 Palestine please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/palestine>

¹ IDMC, [Identifying IDPs in Palestine](#), September 2015