

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

AZERBAIJAN

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



AZERBAIJAN - Contextual update

Stock:	393,000
New displacements:	0
Returns:	0
Provisional solutions:	210

The presence of protracted IDPs in Azerbaijan is a consequence of the country's unresolved armed conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

In 2014, the relative stability in this conflict zone - which had been experienced for nearly two decades since the 1994 ceasefire - began to significantly deteriorate. Tensions in the region increased after Azerbaijan gained control of two strategically important pieces of land in Nagorno-Karabakh in a four-day escalation of conflict in April 2016.

Since then, the danger of large-scale confrontation has been constant. Ground fighting was confined to areas close to the Line of Contact, while artillery fire penetrated for more than 10 km into Nagorno-Karabakh and included the use of cluster munitions, which resulted in an estimated two squared kilometers of new cluster munition contamination in Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite a ceasefire had been agreed on 5 April 2016, tensions along the Line of Contact continued until May 2017. Negotiations aimed at de-escalating the conflict were then held in Geneva in October 2017.

AZERBAIJAN - Map of the displacement situation as of 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

AZERBAIJAN - Stock: 393,000 IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017



Sources and methodologies

The government of Azerbaijan holds an IDP registry with some 643,000 people recorded. The registry is maintained by the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, and an annual update on the numbers recorded was sent to us through the permanent mission in Geneva. In addition, information about resettlement programs targeting approximately 250,000 IDPs was provided to us by the Deputy-Chairman of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs Republic of Azerbaijan.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

Our figures are based only on government data, and could not be disaggregated at sub-national level. We also noticed a considerable increase between the 2016 and 2017 government figures, which cannot be fully explained by an increase in the natality rate.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

Based on several reports of resettlements by the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs, we understand that the total number of IDPs recorded in the IDP registry include about 250,000 beneficiaries of temporary resettlement projects. Therefore, we subtracted this number from the IDPs reported in the registry, the difference being 393,000 IDPs.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

The difference between the GRID 2017 and GRID 2018 figures is explained by a change in the methodology used to estimate the IDMC stock figure, rather than a change in the IDP register of the GoA. First, this year we decided to not subtract the historical caseload of 54,000 returnees from the figure provided by the GoA, due to a lack of sufficient written evidence in support of this calculation. Second, we did not have official information on resettlements before 2017.

AZERBAIJAN - New displacements: N/A

This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year



We did not identify or obtain any data for this category.

AZERBAIJAN - Returns: N/A

This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence



IDMC did not record any returns in 2017. Return movements were reported under the 'Provisional Solutions' category because they can not be considered to be durable yet.

AZERBAIJAN - Provisional solutions: 210

This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution



Challenges in accounting for returns

IDMC considers IDPs returning to Jojug Marjani as under provisional solutions because these returns were in contested territories and it was unclear whether durable solutions were available at the time of return. It should be noted that part of the same contested territories was recently retaken by Azerbaijani forces in 2016.

Due to the temporary status of the resettlement programs for IDPs, it is difficult to establish whether the displaced population overcame their displacement-related vulnerability and have reached a durable solution or not.