Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

CYPRUS

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis
Displacement in Cyprus started in 1974, as groups backed by Greece’s military junta ousted the Cypriot leader, and Turkey sent troops to the island in response. As a result, Greek Cypriots fled to the south, while Turkish Cypriots fled to the north. In both cases, thousands of people were forced from their homes, suffered significant loss and needed large-scale assistance. Turkish Cypriots live in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which is recognized only by Turkey. In 1975, following the Vienna III Agreement, the TRNC declared that the internal displacement situation was over, and the residents were given the option to move into TRNC with assistance, or to remain where they were with protection guarantees. Since that time the TRNC has not granted displaced status or benefits to people displaced within its borders.
CYPRUS - Map of major displacement events in 2017
CYPRUS - Stock: 217,000 IDPs
This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017

Sources and methodologies
IDMC estimate comes from a U.S. Department of State report on human rights in Cyprus published in 2014 and includes individuals displaced due to the 1974 crisis and their descendants.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
The figure only includes Greek Cypriots identified as being currently displaced. The main challenge is obtaining updated information on the displacement situation in the country due to the political environment. Also, given that the initial displacement event took place in 1974, other challenges include identifying those who were originally displaced in relation to births and deaths since the conflict occurred.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
The stock figure is based only on Greek Cypriots displaced and aligns with the Government of Cyprus’ criteria of issuing identity cards for displaced people. The criteria are 1) those who lived in the northern part of the island, which later declared itself as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (TRNC); 2) had a permanent residence in areas under the control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus because of their profession but their house and/or their property was in areas controlled by TRNC; and 3) temporarily lived abroad due to professional obligations that arose while they resided in Cyprus.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
U.S. State Department report provides detailed contextual information on the stock figure.
IDMC did not record any new displacements in Cyprus in 2017.
CYPRUS - Returns: 0

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.
CYPRUS - Provisional Solutions: N/A

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

IDMC has not identified or obtained relevant data in relation to this category.