Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

PAKISTAN

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis
Internal displacement in 2017 continued to take place mainly in the north-western parts of the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). While people in KP and FATA remain displaced due to conflict, sectarian violence and human rights abuses since 2004, UNHCR and its partners continue to facilitate the return process. However, IDMC’s figures are likely to underestimate the true scale of displacement because primary data sources, such as UNHCR, exclude unregistered IDPs living in KP and the FATA and those living elsewhere in the country.
PAKISTAN - Map of major displacement events in 2017

About 15,000 people displaced due to tensions over territory between Afghanistan and Pakistan which included indiscriminate firing and shelling by Afghan forces.
Location: Chaman, a disputed area which straddles the Afghanistan and Pakistan border
Date: 7 May 2017
Source: Local authorities/officials quoted in media reports

About 53,000 people forced to flee due to cross-border firing with India.
Location: Abbaspur and Sialkot sectors
Dates: July - September 2017
Source: Local authorities/officials quoted in media reports

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.
PAKISTAN - Stock: 249,000 IDPs
This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017

Sources and methodologies
The IDMC estimate is based on the KP and FATA stock figure provided by UNHCR’s end-of-year report of IDPs in the region, adding new displacement caused by border skirmishes with Afghanistan and India in 2017 reported by the media where there is little evidence that people have returned home. KP and FATA information comes from the government, including the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Unit (RRU), and Citizen Losses Compensation Programme (CLCP), as well as information from UNHCR, WFP, and OCHA Pakistan. UNHCR only considers people registered and verified by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) as IDPs.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
The stock figure is likely to underestimate the true scale of displacement as it excludes unregistered IDPs living in KP and FATA, and those living elsewhere in the country, whose situation has not been highlighted in the media. Other challenges include the shifting conflict along the border and Line of Control, the fluid nature of returns, and the limited systematic monitoring of displacement outside of KP and FATA.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
IDMC included KP and FATA figures updated by UNHCR at the end of the year, as well as media reports of displacement that have occurred outside of this area in 2017 to provide an overall estimate of conflict-induced displacement in the country.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
The decrease in the stock compared to last year’s figure (464,000) is due to continuing returns of IDPs in KP and FATA (as opposed to returns from new displacements in 2017).
PAKISTAN - New Displacements: 75,000
This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year

Sources and methodologies
Sources for new displacement comes primarily from government and local authorities quoted in media reports. New displacement in 2017 is from border skirmishes with Afghanistan, and continuing cross-firing and shelling along the Line of Control (LOC) of Jammu and Kashmir and India.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
There is a lack of systematic monitoring of new displacements from conflict and IDPs outside of KP and FATA.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
IDMC’s new displacement figure was calculated by aggregating reported displacement of conflict events.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
In 2016, UNHCR fact sheets were only used to identify new displacements in KP and FATA. This year, media reports were included in assessing new displacement in the country. Also increased firing and shelling with India in 2017 has led to more displacements. Pakistan claims that there have been more than 1,300 ceasefire violations in 2017 by India. Based on the combination of figures in UNHCR factsheets and media reports, there has been an increase in this year’s new displacement estimate compared to last year.
Sources and methodologies
IDMC’s estimate is based on the KP and FATA returns figure provided in UNHCR’s end-of-year report of IDPs in the region. The information on KP and FATA comes from the government, including the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Unit (RRU), and Citizen Losses Compensation Programme (CLCP), as well as information from UNHCR, WFP, and OCHA Pakistan. UNHCR only considers people registered and verified by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) as IDPs.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
The return figure is likely to underestimate the true scale of the situation because it excludes unregistered IDPs living in KP and FATA. Other challenges include the shifting conflict along the border and Line of Control, the fluid nature of returns, and the limited systematic monitoring of displacement outside of KP and FATA.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
IDMC used the KP and FATA return figures provided by UNHCR at the end of the year.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
Reported returns is based on the difference between the IDPs reported at the end of 2016 and those reported at the end of 2017 in KP and FATA.
PAKISTAN - 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.