

LEBANON

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Conflicts in Lebanon, including its civil war which lasted from 1975 to 1990, have been characterised by the involvement of the region’s major powers, who have in effect fought proxy wars within the country.

Displacement driven by the civil war and later Israeli military operations in 2006, has reportedly ended. However, our research reveals that no actor has systematically tracked, or is now tracking, all of the historical caseloads in the country. Therefore, there is only limited evidence to support the claim that all people displaced by those conflicts and violence are no longer living in displacement.

The only IDP caseload officially recognised by authorities in Lebanon is that made up of people who fled during the War of the Mountain between September 1983 and February 1984, but even this group and its movements have not been comprehensively monitored throughout the years.

This lack of available historical data means that IDMC’s end-of-year estimate doesn’t include any IDP figure from the historical displacement of the civil war nor the 2006 Israeli occupation.

The displacement currently tracked is related to the Palestinian refugee populations, such as cases of clashes in refugee camps inhabited by Palestinians refugees and their descendants, who took their habitual residence in Lebanon's twelve refugee camps ever since 1948. IDMC additionally observed that Muslim Syrian refugees and Syrian nationals were evicted from their residences in the Bekaa Valley by the municipalities but haven’t included them in the estimates, as more in-depth research is required on the cause of these evictions.

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
No data available	11,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	280 (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.

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 on the total number of IDPs is based on *The National*, a news source, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). We regard both as reliable, although we do not have detailed information about their methods for collecting and verifying data.

We have collected additional information about monitoring challenges and contextual details of displacement in the country through Skype conversations and via personal correspondence with partners and academics in the country.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is limited primary data available on internal displacement in Lebanon. When reporting on displaced people, the media does not publish precise, verified figures nor information about when people were displaced. Likewise, no comprehensive information on returns or on the total number of people living in displacement is available.

Representatives of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Lebanon confirm that displacement sometimes occurs but could not provide specific data. No NGO in Lebanon focuses specifically on internal displacement, which means that most data on it is a by-product of research on other topics such as refugees, human rights or peacebuilding. Other challenges include the lack of an open discussion on internal displacement in the country, the lack of systematic tracking of IDPs, the fact that when research is carried out it is often kept in governmental archives which are difficult for even Lebanese researchers to access and that there are very few people who are willing to talk about displacement in Lebanon.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs is largely based on our estimate for 2017, from which we subtracted the number of families who were able to return to Nahr el-Bared refugee camp after having been previously displaced from it. IDMC does not have information regarding the return of 200 Palestinian refugees who fled the Ain Al Hilweh camp in 2017. For this reason, they remain part of our current year-end estimate.

Significant changes from last year

There are no significant methodological or contextual changes from last year.

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

IDMC's estimate on IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution is based on an article published by *The Daily Star*, which indicated that 61 families were able to return to Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp after UNRWA completed reconstruction work there.

It is unclear where *The Daily Star* got its information from, as the source for this figure is not mentioned. IDMC interprets that the information was shared either by authorities or UN representatives because the article focuses on UNRWA's help to the displaced families.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is in general insufficient coverage of internal displacement in Lebanon, which makes it difficult for IDMC to compile, triangulate and verify information. News sources mention displacement, but almost always without precise figures and dates. In addition, as noted above, there is no comprehensive information on people who were able to return to their homes.

In this case of returns to Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, there is no information about when these families were able to return home. However, we interpret it as likely to have happened close to the date of publication of the article in *The Daily Star* in mid-2018.

In addition, IDMC's estimate might not correspond exactly with the number of people able to make partial progress towards a durable solution because the estimated average household size for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (4.5 people per household) was last updated in 2010.

IDMC figure and rationale

We calculate the estimate on the number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution based on the number of families who were able to return to Nahr el-Bared refugee camp after UNRWA completed reconstruction work there. By using UNRWA's average household size figure for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, we estimate about 280 individuals were able to return.

IDMC includes Palestinians in the estimates because they have lived in Lebanon since 1948 and are de facto habitual residents. This decision does not extend to refugees of other nationalities, such as Syrians or Iraqis, because they have entered Lebanon much more recently, have lived there for a shorter time and may not consider Lebanon to be their place of habitual residence.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards durable solutions is lower than the estimate of returns from last year. This may be because the UNRWA data does not cover all of 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
Reporting units	Households, people
Methodology	Media monitoring, other, unknown
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No
Disaggregation on age	No
Data triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No
Data on returns	Yes
Data on local integration	No
Data on cross border movements	No
Data on deaths	No
Data on births	No

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

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