

# LIBYA

## Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

### CONTEXT

Conflict and displacement in Libya significantly worsened in 2018. Compared to 2017, the number of new displacements more than tripled in the country. The most significant event was the escalation of violence between several warring factions in Tripoli in late August and September, which drove more than 32,000 people from their homes. Numerous migrants in detention centres were also forced to flee the clashes.<sup>1</sup>

Another significant wave of violence occurred in Sebha in southern Libya when fighting between clans competing over smuggling activities and routes broke out in February, displacing nearly 6,000 people. More than 23,000 people were also displaced in Derna in May, when the Libyan army launched an offensive against armed groups who had seized control of the city. After several weeks of heavy fighting and years of siege, the city was retaken.

Other places affected by fighting and displacement were Sirte, Murqub, Sabrata, Al Jufra and large parts of southern Libya, where armed groups continue to establish protected operation centres, rendering the area around them unsafe.

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
70,000	221,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	107,000 (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**

IDMC's estimate of new displacements in Libya is based on the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) Event Tracker. IDMC also used information obtained from the Protection Cluster and ACLED to make up this estimate.

IOM's Event Tracker is a biweekly tool which collects and triangulates information about any incidents related to displacement throughout Libya. It is sourced by IOM DTM staff and partners and is triangulated with data from IOM DTM's flow monitoring and mobility tracking components. Data reported in the Event Tracker is validated in final reports published by the flow monitoring and mobility tracking team.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

IOM DTM assessments use households as their basic unit of data collection and then apply an average household size (5 people per household), based on the consensus among its humanitarian partners, to convert displaced households into displaced people. IDMC uses its own average household size (6.2), which has been scientifically calculated from census data and update demographic modelling. As a result, the number of individuals reported by IDMC and IOM may diverge.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

The new displacements figure is a sum of displacements recorded during 2018 and reported by the IOM DTM Event Tracker, Protection Cluster and ACLED.

### **Significant changes from last year**

The new displacements figure significantly increased compared to 2017, resulting from the escalation of fighting in Tripoli in August and September, and the final stages of the siege of Derna in May and June.

## 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 of the total number of IDPs is based on IOM DTM's mobility tracking data collection module. This gathers data through key informants on a four-week collection cycle through seven implementing partners, all local NGOs. IOM staff in Tripoli, Benghazi and Tunis triangulate and verify all data collected by key informants and implementing partners. IOM DTM also employs mixed data collection methods and approaches to ensure accurate contextualisation of displacement and mobility dynamics within the country. These include secondary data review, direct observations and focus group discussions. IOM DTM area and location assessments include several indicators that measure the credibility of collected data to ascertain the extent to which the information can be trusted.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

As mentioned above, IOM DTM and IDMC use different average household size estimates for converting displaced households into estimates of displaced individuals.

In addition, the 'reason for displacement' section of the IOM DTM dataset refers to the reason reported by the majority of the population in a given IDP site. It is applied to all IDPs at that location and not disaggregated by household or individual.

Most IDPs stay with families. Camps are almost non-existent in Libya, which makes assessments very challenging. Organisations undertaking the assessments are forced to use different monitoring techniques in different localities, which can lead to bias or inconsistencies in their reports.

Only IDP sites with more than five households are assessed. This means the displacement figure is likely an underestimate as sites with fewer than five households are not counted. IDPs staying in dispersed settings such as rented accommodation or host families are also not counted, which likely leads to further underestimation of the total number of IDPs.

#### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC used the last available figure for the total number of IDPs, to which it added the number of failed returns which took place in 2018.

IDMC used the number of people displaced as a result of the ‘deterioration of security situation’ as the proxy for displacement triggered by conflict. IDMC also calculated increases or decreases in numbers of returnees using information from the IOM DTM Rounds 18 to 23 about the types of shelter in which returnees live. IDMC included as ‘failed returns’ returnees moving to stay with host families, in informal settlements, collective shelters or in no shelter.

#### **Significant changes from last year**

The figure remained similar to that reported by IDMC in 2017.

## 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**

As is the case for the total number of IDPs, the data comes from the IOM DTM’s mobility tracking data collection module and its area and location assessments. The methodologies for these are detailed in the previous section.

#### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

Because of delays in assessing sites and then verifying figures, the displacement flows calculated per round do not necessarily correspond to the time when these returns occurred. For instance, 3,400 households who according to the Emergency Tracking returned to Derna in June, were only verified and included in the ‘returnees’ figures in October and December.

As detailed in the previous sections, the IOM DTM assessments use an average household size of 5. IDMC uses an average household size of 6.2 which can also lead to the diverging reported individuals displaced.

#### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC used information about returnees from the IOM DTM rounds 18 to 23 section detailing the shelter types to which people return. IDMC characterises as partial solutions those people who returning to a new or their previous home (74,251), a rented accommodation (29,177) or other type of shelter (3,720).

#### **Significant changes from last year**

The number of returnees who reached partial solutions in 2018 remained similar to 2017

## 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	People, households	People, households
Methodology	Key informants, other	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	Every month	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	No triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	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](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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

<sup>1</sup> VOA, [Armed Clashes in Tripoli Take Heavy Toll on Migrants, Refugees](#), 31 August 2018