

UKRAINE

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

The conflict in Ukraine, which entered its fifth year in 2018, is often referred to as low-intensity.¹ Even so, fighting continued and was a harsh reality for people forced to flee their homes in 2018 and those who still live near the contact line in the eastern regions.

Displacement has become increasingly protracted in the last two years, while scores of elderly, less economically independent persons and other vulnerable people have been forced to return to insecure areas or stay behind in their original residences in the East, lacking safety and access to services, and surrounded by ongoing hostilities.²

Although the number of new displacements declined since 2017, they have still been reported in villages along the ‘contact line’ which separates government-controlled areas (GCAs) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs). Most of these displacements occurred when residents were evicted from their homes which were then occupied by the military. Along the contact line, displacements are also occurring as a more direct result of the fighting. Additionally, in October, several people were evacuated due to an attempt to sabotage an ammunition depot, north-east of the capital Kyiv.³

The imbalance of information coverage of NGCAs compared to GCAs, as well as the total lack of data regarding Crimea, present additional challenges to the compilation of a realistic picture of internal displacement in the country.

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
12,000	800,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	12,000 (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 is based on OCHA bulletins, Protection Cluster factsheets, as well as updates from the Ukrainian ministry of defence and other national authorities published by Thomson Reuters.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Neither OCHA nor the Protection Cluster reported the dates for each new incident of displacement they recorded. With regards to the displacements reported by Thomson Reuters, as a result of the explosion at the ammunition depot, the figure is based on how the number of people estimated to reside within a 30km radius of the site.

IDMC figure and rationale

The new displacement figure is the sum of four separate caseloads: the number of people who reportedly fled from Chyhari settlement to either Toretsk or Horlivka because of intense fighting; those who were evacuated from the 30km radius of the ammunition depot; and other movements from Hutir Vilnyi. When numbers were reported as numbers of households rather than individuals, we multiplied them by IDMC's estimated average household size for Ukraine (2.3 people per household) to estimate the number of IDPs.

Significant changes from last year

New displacements continued on a smaller scale along the contact line because of military operations, in comparison to 2017. However, this year IDMC also detected new displacements due to a unique incident (the explosion of an ammunition depot).

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 is based on data from four sources: the statistical population exercise led by the United Nations and other agencies ahead of the publication of the 2018 and 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overviews, OCHA bulletins, Protection Cluster monthly factsheets, and updates from the Ukrainian ministry of defence and other national authorities, as published by Thomson Reuters.

We understand that the data collected through local humanitarian organisations partnered with Protection Cluster and OCHA is gathered through interviews and published as the situation becomes known, but we were not able to obtain a detailed description of the data collection methodology when it estimated how many people were evacuated in relation to the explosion of the ammunition depot.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There was no comprehensive, accurate and systematic data on IDPs in Ukraine as at the end of 2018. IDMC's year-end estimate is conservative because it does not account for people displaced in NGCAs, or IDPs in Crimea. IDMC's estimate corresponds to the estimated 800,000 internally displaced people living more permanently in GCAs as projected by the humanitarian community and government authorities. This estimate however represents the best available statistics of people who were still living in displacement in the GCAs at the end of 2018.

The 1.5 million people registered in the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine's database is widely acknowledged by humanitarian organisations and the government to be an overestimate and not an accurate representation of displacement. Namely, the figure includes residents that are no longer living in displacement but need to keep their registration in the database in order to receive their social benefits (for example pensions or other welfare services).⁴

IDMC figure and rationale

Our estimate of the total number of IDPs corresponds to the sum between the population calculation of IDPs estimated to be living more permanently in GCAs, and the number of residents whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable after the explosion of the ammunition depot. This estimate is, as a result, conservative because it does not include any people who might still be living in displacement in NGCAs, or those who might be IDPs in Crimea.

Significant changes from last year

Our estimate is almost unchanged from last year: only new displacements for which we did not receive notification of return, and people whose houses were destroyed, have been added to the total number of IDPs based on the population calculation, as was done for the estimate for 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

The main sources for this estimate are the Ukrainian ministry of defence and other national authorities, as published by Thomson Reuters. Additional contextual information was then confirmed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). IDMC does not know the national authority's methodology of data collection, but the source and publisher are deemed to be reliable.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

We do not have the exact dates when people returned to their homes after being evacuated in occasion of the explosion of the ammunition depot, but we understand from the context that the evacuation was linked to the risk of inhalation of toxic gases from the explosion. The sources explain that the majority of residents could return two weeks after the emergency. As there are no official figures of people killed in the explosion, it is safe to conclude that the people who lived in the houses which were destroyed and rendered uninhabitable were among those who could not return home two weeks after the emergency.

IDMC figure and rationale

Our figure is an estimate of the total number of people who were able to return to their homes after being evacuated from the 30km radius of the ammunition depot. IDMC produced this estimate by subtracting the number of people whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the explosion, from the total number of people evacuated. Evacuees whose homes were not destroyed nor rendered uninhabitable were assumed to have returned.

Significant changes from last year

This is the first time we report on people having achieved partial solutions in Ukraine.

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	Media monitoring, other	Media monitoring, other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Yes	Partial
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

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

¹ Brookings Institute, [Ukraine four years after the Maidan](#), 22 February, 2018

² Human Rights Watch, [Ukraine: Barriers to Free Movement for Older People](#), 29 November 2018

³ Thomson Reuters Foundation, [Ukraine suspects sabotage after ammo depot explosions](#), 9 October 2018

⁴ Global Protection Cluster GPC, [Improving IDP Statistics in Ukraine](#), 8 March 2019