Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

KOSOVO

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis
The Kosovo war started in February 1998 and lasted until June 1999. It was fought by the forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which controlled Kosovo prior to the war, and the Kosovo Albanian rebel group known as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), with air support from NATO and the Albanian army. In 1998, KLA attacks targeting Yugoslav authorities in Kosovo resulted in an increased presence of Serb paramilitaries and regular forces who subsequently began pursuing KLA sympathisers and political opponents, killing many. After attempts at a diplomatic solution failed, NATO intervened. The war ended with the Kumanovo Treaty, with Yugoslav and Serb forces agreeing to withdraw from Kosovo to make way for an international presence. The war caused displacement of between 1.2 million to 1.45 million Kosovo Albanians. After the war, around 200,000 Serbs, Romani and other non-Albanians fled Kosovo.

Kosovo declared independence in 2008 despite Serbian opposition. The declaration created tensions which were eased by the deployment of NATO’s KFOR forces but continue to remain high. Kosovo has been recognised by 115 states until today.
**KOSOVO - Stock: 16,000 IDPs**

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017*

**Sources and methodologies**

The figure is an estimate, based on a systematic survey conducted by UNHCR. The figure is disaggregated by admin 1, ethnicity and shelter type. Decreases in the stock figure reflect registered returns. With the support of UNHCR and other partners, the Ministry for Community and Return maintains a national IDP database which in turn is based on assistance provided to displaced families. In 2015, this approach was supplemented with a nationwide survey, the results of which were also incorporated into the government’s database.

**IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

We used the total reported stock figure as of 31 December.
KOSOVO - New displacements: 0

This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year.

We did not record any new displacements in Kosovo in 2017.
We did not record any returns in Kosovo in 2017. The return movements that have been taking place are considered to have led to 'provisional' rather than 'durable' solutions, and are thus reported under the 'provisional solutions' category.
KOSOVO - Provisional solutions: 5,800

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

Challenges in accounting for returns

UNHCR registers all returnees displaced within the country returning to Kosovo voluntarily. This includes individuals who come back within Kosovo with no prior announcement and without the guarantee of receiving humanitarian and housing assistance (spontaneous) as well as individuals or families who have expressed their interest to return when in displacement and have been assisted by UNHCR, the Ministry for Communities and Returns or other agencies to return to Kosovo. The assistance is provided before, during and after the return, usually via respective municipalities, UNHCR or NGOs within already established programs.

However, according to the government of the Republic of Serbia, most of the returns are not durable and IDPs suffer from displacement-related vulnerabilities upon their return.

Because of the conflicting information and insufficient proofs that these people achieved durable solutions, we include 87 people who returned during 2017 and 5,800 people who returned between 2000 and 2017 in the ‘provisional solutions’ category.