Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

PALESTINE

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis
Conflict-induced displacement in Palestine represents the oldest documented crisis of displacement in our records. 2017 has been a year marked by several crucial events: the 50th year of occupation of West Bank, including the Gaza strip and East Jerusalem (5 June 2017), and 100th year from Balfour declaration (2 November 2017) were the most important recurrences, matched with significant political actions. In January, Israel’s Knesset passed a “Regularisation Law”, further reaffirmed by the vote on a draft bill to de jure annex Jerusalem periphery settlements on 29 October 2017. On the Palestinian side, the reconciliation agreement between Hamas and Fatah signed in Cairo only a few days earlier (12 October 2017), represented a significant step toward an improved coordination between the authorities. However, the living conditions for the majority of Palestinians have not improved in the immediate term, with continuous denial of rights, cyclical demolitions in the West Bank- East Jerusalem, and, despite its decreasing caseload of IDPs, Gaza is still referred to as the largest open-air prison in the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock:</th>
<th>231,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New displacements:</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returns:</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisional solutions:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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At least 700 new displacements were recorded in West Bank and East Jerusalem in 2017. Source: OCHA
PALESTINE - Stock: 231,000 IDPs

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

**Sources and source methodology**
The sources for this figure are OCHA oPt, Shelter Cluster Palestine and BADIL. The methodologies include calculations of IDPs based on housing damages, demolitions, evictions, sealing off the houses, and primary data collection at household level.

**Caveats, limitations, specific monitoring challenges**
Notable caveats related to Palestine's stock figure include: challenging accounting of caseloads due to lack of comprehensive and systematic monitoring across five decades; some overlapping and double-counting due to geographical fragmentation and territorial changes over decades of conflict (those signalled by BADIL refer to demolitions of houses in Jerusalem and displacement linked to the Annexation Wall); some overcounting of stock displacements in the West Bank due to a lack of reliable data on returns (OCHA oPt data); the challenge of harmonizing different methodologies. We do not count the caseload identified as IDPs inside Israel. Following exchanges with our colleagues and other partners in the field, the caseload mostly represents descendants of the Palestinian families originally displaced in 1948.

**IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**
Our estimate is the sum of nine caseloads from the sources mentioned above. They include historical caseloads from the West Bank and east Jerusalem; Gaza’s declining stock and the overall new displacements recorded in 2017 in the absence of information regarding their corresponding returns.

**Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes**
We updated the historical caseloads and sources. Compared to 2016, this stock estimates shows a +20% increase due to updated historical caseloads which integrated Palestinian population growth.
Sources and source methodology
The new displacements’ estimate is drawn from a single source, OCHA occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), which keeps records of people newly displaced through direct Damage Assessment reports and the support of local partners (such as NRC).

Caveats, limitations, specific monitoring challenges
There are unknown numbers of families who have moved away from their residences in East Jerusalem and West Bank due to act of duress or unsustainable daily life. At the time of writing, we do not count the caseload identified as IDPs inside Israel.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
Our estimate represents the total of all people displaced between 01 January and 31 December 2017, as recorded by OCHA oPt in their database. The geographical areas covered include Area A-B-C, plus East Jerusalem. The figure is the sum of daily data provided by OCHA oPt through their database to which we have access. This data represents the number of people displaced by full and partial demolitions of their houses; confiscation; eviction; sealing off; demolition and confiscation.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
Upon consideration of the nature of the displacement and the availability as well as reliability of data, we decided to include in the calculation also those proxies that have not been previously included until now, that is: confiscation; sealing off; demolition and confiscation.
PALESTINE - Returns: 20,000

This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence

Sources and source methodology
The source is Shelter Cluster Palestine which reports the number of houses originally damaged in the war of 2014, and the progressive reconstruction on a monthly basis. The source is supported by Damage Assessments performed by partners on the ground.

Caveats, limitations, specific monitoring challenges
The estimate is a conservative one. The number of houses with minor damages is excluded on the basis that people were able to continue to live in the premises. Data from January 2017 is altogether excluded because not available in disaggregated format. More returns have likely taken place in the West Bank but there is no reliable information about the numbers.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale
This figure consists of the number of people who were in condition of returning home, calculated from a housing proxy. The calculation is based on the Repairs and Reconstruction data and the sum of all houses totally destroyed, severely damaged and with major damage recorded by Shelter Cluster between February and December 2017, multiplied by our 2017 AHHS for Palestine (5.1). The number of houses with minor damages is excluded on the basis that people were able to continue to live in the premises.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes
We haven't identified any significant change from last year.
PALESTINE - Provisional solutions: N/A

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

We did not identify or obtain any data for this category.