

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

TURKEY

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



Turkey - Contextual update

Stock:	1,113,000
New displacements:	N/A
Returns:	N/A
Provisional solutions:	N/A

Lack of access to conflict-affected areas in Turkey make it difficult to paint a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of internal displacement in the country. Several thousands of people are estimated to be displaced in Turkey as result of armed conflict between the Government and Kurdish groups, in particular the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). In 2015, Ankara's crackdown against the Kurdish political movement intensified and clashes with Kurdish groups significantly increased. As part of their response to "terrorist activities" allegedly conducted by the PKK, the authorities reportedly initiated security operations in at least 30 urban and a number of rural locations throughout south-east Turkey, which eventually resulted in a number of persons being killed, displaced or disappeared, as well as in wide-scale destruction of housing and infrastructure. The authorities also reportedly imposed extended around-the-clock curfews on over 30 towns and neighbourhoods prohibiting any movement without permission for periods of time lasting up to several weeks, preventing evacuation of people ([OCHR, 2017](#)). A coup attempt in July 2016 against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan further negatively impacted on the country's political and security stability ([CFR, 2016](#)).

Large part of the displacement stock figure is a consequence of clashes between 1986-1990, 1991-1995 and 1996- 2005 between the government and Kurdish groups. The vast majority of the displacements were from rural to urban areas in the south-east of the country.

TURKEY - Map of the displacement situation as of 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

TURKEY - Stock: 1,113,000 IDPs

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



Sources and methodologies

Much of the stock figure is based on a survey carried out by the Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies between December 2004 and June 2006, under the coordination of the State Planning Organization, in order to estimate the size of the population displaced during the 1984 to 1999 conflict between the Turkish armed forces and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). A first survey was conducted in five provinces, and a second one was based on a random national sample of about 6,000 households. Individual interviews were conducted with IDPs as well as IDP returnees, who were selected using a random sampling method. The questionnaire was prepared using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Another significant part of the estimate covers Sur and Nusaybin provinces and is based on correspondence with the International Crisis Group (ICG). Our estimate for Cizre is based on figures reported by the Turkish NGO Mazlumder. For the fourth caseload, we used satellite imagery analysis of areas that reported battles or extended curfews, assessing the destruction or severe damage of housing structures. For this purpose we used data from ACLED, Google Earth, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, and Global Human Settlement Layer.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

The government did not grant full access to humanitarian agencies to conduct independent and impartial assessments of the humanitarian and protection needs of the displaced population in 2017. The analysis of Google Earth images carries certain weaknesses, in particular that the satellite images are not updated for some areas. We were able to assess only the damage visible in the roofs of buildings, other damage of the structures was not possible to estimate. We also did not receive any update on the largest caseload and therefore cannot assess the current situation of these IDPs.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

The IDMC estimate is a sum of the total number of IDPs reported by the above-mentioned sources.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

Our figure is higher compared to the last year's because we updated it for the regions of Idil, Sirnak and Yüsekova through satellite imagery analysis..

TURKEY - New displacements: N/A

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



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

TURKEY - Returns: N/A

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



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

TURKEY - 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.