

TURKEY

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

The majority of IDPs in Turkey originally became displaced due to the Turkish-Kurdish war in the 1990s. From 1986 to 2005, between 954,000 and 1.2 million people were internally displaced, according to a 2006 study conducted by Hacettepe University, commissioned by the Government of Turkey. Since then, further displacement was triggered by security operations in 2015 and during the state of emergency which was declared following the attempted coup of 15 July 2016 and which lasted until July 2018.¹

During curfews established as part of the state of emergency, security operations were conducted by the army in several Kurdish-majority cities in the south-east of Turkey. As a result, several neighborhoods were reported to be severely damaged or completely destroyed in cities such as Suriçi, Nusaybin (Mardin), Cirze, Sur, Idil, Yuksekova, Derik, Dargeçit and Şırnak.² Curfews also limited access to areas where hundreds of thousands of people were internally displaced.³ Information could only be found about estimated housing destruction, which was used as proxy to estimate forced displacement. There is very little contextual information available, including on living conditions in these areas. In addition, no information has been provided on housing destruction or displacement after 2015.

According to the Ministry of Housing Development Administration (TOKI), destroyed houses are being rebuilt in the cities of Silopi and Şırnak, as well as, Mandarin, Idil and Cizre.⁴ However, independent observers do not have access to the areas and in the absence of baseline assessments, it is difficult to estimate the current scale of displacement, return attempts as well as the needs of IDPs.

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
No data available	1,097,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	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>

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 compiled from two major caseloads. The first estimate is based on the Hacettepe University study, which concluded that between 954,000 and 1.2 million people were internally displaced from 1986 to 2005 in the context of the Turkish-Kurdish war in the 1990s. The second is based on the numbers related to housing destruction as a consequence of security operations. It is based on a transcript of the session of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey which stated that around 25,000 structures were reported as heavily damaged during the security operations in south-eastern Anatolia, in Diyarbakir Sur, Şırnak centre, Cizre, Silopi, Idil, Mardin Nusaybin, Hakkâri and Yüksekova. Similar figures were also used in public statements by the Prime Ministry Housing Development Administration (TOKI) and the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning.^{5 6}

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Access to information is severely limited. The government has reportedly not granted full access to humanitarian agencies to conduct independent and impartial assessment of the needs of IDP. The assistance and basic social services that the government has been providing to the affected population has reportedly been insufficient and inadequate. The lack of information makes it very difficult to properly assess the situation.

Security operations in the south-east of Turkey have continued since 2016. However, no further information about new displacements which took place after 2016, the magnitude of internal displacement, the needs of the population, or the number of beneficiaries of reconstruction programmes and cash assistance from the government has been forthcoming. Information about possible returns is also unavailable.

According to media reports about damage to housing, about 25,000 of 70,000 damaged houses were reported as being inhabitable. Using this figure to calculate the number of people displaced triggered by the security operations in 2015 results in a possible underestimate for several reasons. In particular, there is a lack of information about the affected buildings and their exact condition, including whether the structure is commercial or residential, the number of floors in the structure, or how many families live in the houses. The figure is also likely an underestimate because it does not include other triggers of displacement, such as insecurity, expropriations, demolitions of damaged houses, or loss of livelihood. It also does not include any estimate of displacement linked to the security operations that occurred since 2015.

IDMC figure and rationale

Turkey's Migration and Internally Displaced Population Survey (TMIDPS), published in 2006, was commissioned by the Turkish government and carried out by Hacettepe University's Institute of Population Studies between December 2004 and June 2006, to estimate the size of the displaced population from east and south-east Anatolia during the previous two decades. It remains the most authoritative measurement of the displacement triggered by the Turkish-Kurdish conflict in the 1990s. IDMC has not obtained or found any evidence that this population has achieved durable solutions.

IDMC cannot discount the possibility that some among this population were displaced multiple times as a result of the latest wave of violence in Turkey's south east.

The report determined that between 954,000 and 1,201,000 million people were forced to flee their homes between 1986 and 2005. As per our decision rules, we used the lower figure, in order to avoid prevent overestimating the phenomenon.

The second caseload consists of 25,000 houses destroyed, or an estimated 144,000 people made homeless, during the security operations between 2015 and 2016. This number came from a statement made in 2018 by a Turkish parliamentary committee. To get the estimate of 144,000 people, IDMC multiplied the number of destroyed houses by the average household size (AHHS) of 5.7525, the Turkish Statistical Institute's figure for the areas of Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Mardin and Şırnak.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC used the official figures from the government rather than previous estimates from the Turkish NGO Mazlumder, the International Crisis Group (ICG) and satellite imagery analysis carried out by IDMC in 2017. Therefore, the changes have more to do with methodological considerations rather than contextual ones.

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	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	Households, people
Methodology	Key informants, other
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	No update
Disaggregation on sex	No
Disaggregation on age	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No
Data on returns	No
Data on local integration	No
Data on cross border movements	No
Data on deaths	No
Data on births	No

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

For the full country profile on Turkey please visit:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/turkey>

¹ European Commission, [Turkey 2018 Report](#), 17 April 2018

² OHCHR, [Report on the human rights situation in South-East Turkey](#), February 2017

³ Foundation of Human Rights, [Curfews in Turkey within the last 2 years since 16 August 2015](#)

⁴ Memurlar.net, [Minister Özhaseki: The house will be delivered to the destroyed citizen before the 2018 arrives \(translated\)](#), 5 January 2017

⁵ Reuters, [In Turkey's razed and redevelopment of battle-scarred Kurdish district, progress but also pain](#), 7 May 2018

⁶ Amnesty International, [Displaced and dispossessed: Sur residents' right to return home](#), 2016