

COLOMBIA

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Dissidents from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (known by the Spanish acronym FARC), paramilitary groups and other organisations have been fighting over land and drug smuggling routes to fill the power vacuum created by the demobilisation of the FARC, the continent’s largest and oldest guerrilla group. After an increase in displacement in 2018, there was a slight reduction in displacement during 2019. In 2018, the number of mass displacement events nearly doubled to 112, with more than 33,000 individuals displaced. During 2019, the number of events decreased to 81 events, but the number of people affected by them increased to 35,000. This is the highest figure for new mass displacements recorded by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) since 2012.

The Pacific coast of Colombia, along with the departments of Norte de Santander, Cordoba and Antioquia continue to be the regions most affected by armed groups, such as the National Liberation Army (ELN), *Clan del Golfo* (Gulf Clan) and FARC dissidents. These have been fighting to control strategic drug trafficking routes and clashing with the Colombian Army. The Colombian government's Victims Registry (RUV) registered 74,000 victims of displacement as a result of armed conflict during 2019, but the number is potentially higher, as people may take as many as two years to report their displacement. The number of people registered as displaced in the RUV is expected to increase as they continue to get registered during the coming months.

There has also been an increase in the number of families and communities unable to leave their communities, either because of restrictions imposed by armed groups or as a self-protection measure by the affected communities themselves. Since the signing of the peace agreement, the number of people facing such confinement has increased from 2,100 during 2017 to more than 27,600 during 2019. The increase highlights changes that have followed the reorganization of the armed groups and the demobilization of the FARC and that result in different kinds of victimization of the population.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Partial and Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
139,000	5,576,000	-	2,164,000	-

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 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 having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

**This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 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.

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on a projection of new displacement by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA projects data from the RUV in order to overcome the registry's time lag in registering new displacements. The RUV figure refers to people who declared that they were displaced in 2019. Colombian law, however, holds that displaced people can declare themselves as such for up to two years after they became displaced. Due to this time lag and the administrative process for reviewing cases, the RUV figures do not come to represent the full picture of the phenomenon until two years later. This means that by the end of 2019 the RUV may contain only a partial figure of people who were displaced during that year. According to RUV data, 75,000 new displacements took place in 2019 as of 23 March 2019. This number is expected to increase in the following months.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from RUV. OCHA has developed a statistical methodology to project an annual consolidated figure of new displacements using RUV data from 2009 to 2017. It operates a Seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average Model (SARIMA). This estimates new displacements based on displacements which occurred during the same month of the previous year, those which occurred during the previous month, the average new displacements per month during the previous 12 months and recorded mass displacement events that occurred in the month being assessed.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The OCHA figure is based on a projection that combines historical and current data. For that reason, it is not entirely precise. It is a national projection that does not factor in potential or recorded regional differences in displacement trends.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC, using OCHA's projections, reported 145,000 new displacements in Colombia in 2018. OCHA has since updated the figure to 158,000 new displacements during 2018. At least 139,000 new displacements are estimated to have occurred during 2019. This means a decrease of 18,700 displacements compared with the previous year.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on the total number of people displaced since 1985, according to RUV. IDMC has partnered with RUV to calculate the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) by subtracting people who have died and people who have indicated that they have made progress towards a durable solution. To estimate the latter, IDMC takes the results of the RUV's vulnerability assessment into account as explained below.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs is based on data from RUV, which is maintained by the country's Victims' Unit (UARIV) and keeps a record of all victims of the civil war. Based on data from other government agencies and from surveys, the RUV evaluates the extent to which victims have

overcome their vulnerabilities. This assessment considers seven categories of vulnerability: housing, family reunification, identification, nutrition, health, education and income.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The estimate of the total number of IDPs may include people who have overcome vulnerabilities, but for whom there is insufficient information on their current situation. It may also include IDPs who have sought refuge outside Colombia and people who are reported as missing. The RUV continuously revises its databases, leading occasionally to revisions of figures used in IDMC's estimates.

Significant changes from last year

The number of IDPs in Colombia has decreased by 184,754 since the end of 2018. This is a result of a steep increase in the number of people identified as having overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities and a smaller increase in the number of people newly registered as displaced. The total number of people displaced, as counted in the RUV, grew by 131,175, from 7,836,789 in 2018 to 7,967,964 by the end of 2019. As of 2019, 1,621,186 people are estimated to have overcome all seven dimensions of displacement-related vulnerability. This is an increase of 531,833 people compared with 2018. A greater number of people, some 542,456, have also been identified as having achieved progress toward solutions. The number of displaced people who have died as of 2019 was 228,335. These people were removed from the total number of IDPs.

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 2019 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 having occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate is based on data from RUV. IDMC considers IDPs included in the RUV registry for whom there is enough information available to ascertain that they have overcome one or more forms of vulnerability. Those that have overcome all seven vulnerability criteria can be considered in a similar situation to people moving towards achieving or having achieved a durable solution. As a result, IDMC subtracted them from the RUV figure when estimating the total number of IDPs.

IDMC's partial solutions figure also contains a second caseload of 542,456 people who have overcome their housing vulnerability but are still vulnerable in one or more of the six other categories included in the SSV assessment. They cannot be considered as returns, relocations or local integrations, because there is insufficient information available on their geographical location. They are, however, considered to have overcome the vulnerability most characteristic of displacement – housing – and for that reason, can be considered a step closer to achieving a durable solution.

Sources and methodologies

As for the total number of IDPs and estimated new displacements, IDMC bases its partial solutions estimate on data obtained from RUV.

By law, RUV does not remove victims from its registry unless their inclusion is proven to be fraudulent. RUV runs programs to support IDPs attempting to return to their habitual place of residence or to relocate, and it keeps track of the participants in these initiatives. RUV does not, however, have information that allows it to concretely evaluate the success of IDPs' attempted returns. The best

proxies available are the government's socio-economic indicators. These allow RUV to carry out a vulnerability assessment considering the seven categories mentioned above: housing, income, family reunification, education, identification, health and nutrition. These categories differ from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) indicators on durable solutions, but they provide a significant amount of information on the situation and vulnerabilities faced by IDPs.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The estimate does not technically refer only to returnees because the geographical location of those assessed is unknown. For this reason, it may include IDPs who have settled elsewhere or integrated locally. IDMC records this progress as partial solutions because overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities is the best available proxy for estimating how far people have come in achieving a durable solution to their displacement. Some survivors of displacement may have overcome some vulnerabilities but are not included in this figure because there is insufficient information to precisely assess their vulnerabilities. It is, however, the most accurate and available estimate of the number of people who were displaced but are closer to achieving a durable solution.

Significant changes from last year

The increase is mainly due to a higher number of people being identified as having overcome all seven vulnerabilities (SSV).

GRID 2018 was the first time this figure was reported. At that point, the number of people estimated to have achieved partial solutions was 459,055. In the GRID 2019, IDMC estimated that 1,089,353 people had overcome all seven criteria of vulnerability (SSV) and 812,959 people had overcome their housing vulnerability but not all other indicators. Using data in UARIV, GRID 2020 reports that there are 1,621,186 victims of displacement on whom there is enough information to assert that they have overcome all seven vulnerabilities, as well as another 542,456 who have overcome their housing-related vulnerability.

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	People
Methodology	Registration, Other	Other, Registration
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0	Country/territory - admin 0
Frequency of reporting	Once a year	Once a year
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	Yes
Data on births	No	No

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

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