

IRAQ

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

The total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) decreased in 2019. More than half of the IDPs have been displaced for more than three years and are at risk of long-term displacement. The pace of returns has slowed over the past year. Avoiding long-term displacement is one of the main challenges in the country.

New and secondary displacements, meanwhile, were still reported. They were about 104,000 new or secondary displacements recorded in 2019, compared with 150,000 in 2018. People are either pushed into secondary displacement because living is unaffordable in their current location, because of insecurity, or because they try to return, find their place of origin unsuitable, and get displaced again in search of an alternative.

Amid continuing post-conflict recovery efforts, militias of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) continue with insurgency operations, including shootings and bombings. This occurs mostly in the northern and western governorates. Large areas of productive wheat and barley fields in 11 governorates were [destroyed by fires](#) in May 2019, which are believed to be intentionally lit by ISIL in order to deter IDPs from returning. The government also continues with [counter-insurgency operations](#) against ISIL remnants. Low intensity [sectarian violence](#) between militias is ongoing. In October, [country-wide protests against corruption](#), unemployment and poor public services led to displacement as many people left their homes to hide and avoid arrest.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (Year figure was last updated: 2019)	Partial Solutions 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 (1 January – 31 December 2019)	Stocks (Year figure was last updated: 2019)	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019)
104,000	1,555,000	456,000	4,852,000	-

*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 having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

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

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC used the figure published by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM). It includes nearly 16,000 IDPs who were displaced for the first time in 2019, as well as 79,000 IDPs who were displaced between locations, such as from camp to non-camp settings, and nearly 9,000 who attempted to return to their location of origin but were displaced again upon return.

Sources and methodologies

The source for IDMC's figure is the IOM DTM, which assessed new displacements in Iraq in 2019. The data is collected through key informant interviews. IOM DTM added a question to its DTM questionnaires asking whether any IDPs had arrived in a given location since the beginning of 2019 and if so, how many.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

We do not know which governorates were affected by new displacement as IOM DTM did not share the geographical distribution of the movements.

Significant changes from last year

The number of new displacements decreased compared with last year. This is a result of the official end of hostilities declared at the end of 2017.

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 used the total number of IDPs reported by the IOM DTM as of 31 December 2019 and added nearly 9,000 people, who tried, but were unable to return home. These are people who were forced to go back to host families, informal settlements and collective shelters. IDMC regards these people as internally displaced because they are not yet on their way towards achieving durable solutions.

IDMC's figure also includes IDPs who returned voluntarily or under pressure to their area of origin but were unable to achieve durable solutions and were re-displaced to their first, or a new, place of displacement. These IDPs were automatically included in the total figure calculated by IOM DTM.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC used IOM DTM data to produce its estimate. DTM collects data through a network of key informants and regular field visits carried out by rapid assessment and response teams. The system aims to identify and verify numbers of IDPs, their locations and other characteristics.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IOM calculates the number of IDPs in each area where it operates using an average household size of six. This is based on figures used by its humanitarian partners. IDMC uses its own household size which was calculated based on UN population projections. This leads to differences between IOM and IDMC's estimates of the numbers of IDPs.

Significant changes from last year

The figure decreased as a result of the high number of people registered as having achieved partial solutions in 2019. The total estimate of IDPs was 1.9 million as of 31 December 2018.

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 taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

IDMC figure and rationale

Movements of IDPs making progress towards Durable Solutions during 2019:

IDMC used the IOM DTM return index from March to December 2019 and complemented it with the regular IOM DTM reporting on returnees from January to February 2019. IDMC considered all returns reported in the return index as a partial solution, and those who returned to former houses, rented accommodation and other shelters as partial solutions based on the IOM DTM's monitoring of returnees in January and February.

Total number of IDPs who have progress towards Durable Solutions as of 31 December 2019:

IDMC used the IOM DTM return index and summed up the estimates of the number of households living in locations graded low, medium and high severity as of 31 December 2019. IDMC considered all returns recorded in the return index as a partial solution because even low severity does not indicate that durable solutions were achieved.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC uses IOM DTM data to produce the estimate. DTM collects data through a network of key informants and regular field visits carried out by rapid assessment and response teams. The return index correlates data available on the returnee population with 16 indicators, grouped in two scales that measure living conditions in areas of return: 1) livelihoods and basic services, and 2) social cohesion and safety perceptions. The index uses a logistic regression model to assess the impact of each of the indicators on the likelihood of returns, testing how likely a location is to have full returns if a certain condition applies.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IOM's average household size estimate of six differs from IDMC's one. This leads to differences between IOM and IDMC's estimates of the numbers of internally displaced individuals.

Significant changes from last year

The figure increased compared with the previous year because reported returns rose during 2019.

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, Households
Methodology	Key informants	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Upon request	Other
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	No
Data on births	No	No

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

For the full country profile on Iraq please visit:

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