

LIBYA

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Libya experienced a sharp increase in violence and conflict in 2019, and displacement associated with those phenomena continued. Fighting between the Libyan National Army (LNA), aligned with the government in the east, and the opposing UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), based in Tripoli, the capital in the north-west, escalated in and around Tripoli on 4 April. That occurred after Khalifa Haftar, commander of the LNA, announced an offensive on Tripoli. The GNA responded with a counteroffensive supported by a range of militias based in the north-west. Libya's conflict entered a new phase with this intensification of fighting in Tripoli, [the most serious phase](#) of violence since the start of the civil war in 2014.

As many as 150,000 people were displaced by the offensive, which de-escalated towards the end of July. These internally displaced people (IDPs) fled to more secure neighbourhoods of the capital, the Nafusa mountains and various locations along the north-west coast. [Almost a half of those displaced](#) were under 18, and most sought shelter with host families.

Fighting between the two parties spread to the southern city of Murzuq in August. The clashes were marked by heavy aerial bombardment and numerous attacks on residential neighbourhoods. [The death toll](#) among the civilian population was one of the largest since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Murzuq has about 33,000 inhabitants. [Almost all of them](#) fled.

The year concluded with heavy fighting between the GNA and the LNA around Tripoli. An estimated 451,000 people were internally displaced as of 31 December.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	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 <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
215,000	451,000	14,000	514,000	-

*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

The figure is a sum of displacements recorded during 2019 and reported mostly by the Event Tracker of the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) as well as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). About three-quarters of the figure refers to the Tripoli offensive.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of new displacements in Libya is based on the IOM DTM Event Tracker. OCHA's updates on the escalation of hostilities in Libya was also used.

The Event Tracker is a biweekly tool which collects and triangulates information on any incidents related to displacement in Libya. It is sourced by IOM DTM staff and partners and is triangulated with data from IOM DTM's Flow Monitoring and Mobility Tracking components. Data reported in the Event Tracker is validated in final reports published by the Flow Monitoring and Mobility Tracking team.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IOM DTM assessments use households as their basic unit and apply an average household size of five people, based on the consensus among its humanitarian partners. IDMC uses its own average household size, 6.2, which has been calculated based on the UN population predictions. As a result, the number of individuals reported by IDMC and IOM diverge.

IOM DTM coverage was not continuous throughout the year. November and December were only partially covered.

Significant changes from last year

The figure tripled compared with the previous year, mostly as a result of the offensive on Tripoli which started in April and displaced about three-quarters of the total figure.

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 last available figure for the total number of IDPs and added the number of failed returns which took place in 2019.

IDMC used the number of people displaced as a result of the deterioration of the security situation as the proxy for displacement triggered by conflict. IDMC also added failed returns of IDPs based on the analysis of the IOM DTM return data. IDMC considers anyone returning to a collective shelter, a camp or a host family, as a failed return. The same applies to those who do not return to any accommodation.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs is based on IOM DTM's Mobility Tracking data collection module. Mobility Tracking gathers data through key informants on a four-week collection cycle through seven implementing partners, all of which are local NGOs. IOM staff in Tripoli, Benghazi and Tunis triangulate and verify all data collection activities. IOM DTM also employs mixed data collection methods and approaches to ensure accurate contextualisation of displacement and mobility dynamics within the country. The methods include secondary data review, direct observations and

focus group discussions. IOM DTM Area and Location assessments include several indicators to measure the credibility of collected data to ascertain the extent to which the information can be trusted.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is a difference between the number of individuals reported by IOM and IDMC as explained in the previous section on new displacements.

The "reason for displacement" section of the IOM DTM dataset refers to the displacement reason reported by the majority of the population at an IDP site. It is, however, not disaggregated by household or individual.

Most IDPs stay with families. Camps are almost non-existent in Libya, which makes assessments very challenging. Organisations undertaking the assessments are forced to use different monitoring techniques in different localities, and this can lead to bias or inconsistencies in their reports.

Only IDP sites with more than five households are assessed. This means the displacement figure is likely an underestimate as small sites are not accounted for. IDPs staying in dispersed settings such as rented accommodation or host families are also not counted, which likely leads to further underestimation of the total number of IDPs.

IOM DTM coverage was not continuous throughout the year as there were gaps between reporting rounds.

Significant changes from last year

The stock figure doubled compared to the previous year's level. This is mostly attributed to the large increase in new displacements caused by the offensive on Tripoli.

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

IDMC used information about returnees from IOM DTM rounds 24 to 28 in the section detailing the shelter types to which people return. The increases between each round have been summed up to calculate the total number of people who achieved partial solutions in 2019. IDMC considers every person who returned to their own house, rented accommodation or other shelter as someone who has achieved a partial solution to their displacement but likely still suffers from displacement-linked vulnerabilities and cannot be considered a returnee.

The total estimated number of people who have made partial progress towards a durable solution corresponds to the last available figure as of 31 December 2019 and reflects the number of reported returnees whom the evidence indicates still have displacement-related vulnerabilities.

Sources and methodologies

As is the case for the total number of IDPs, the data comes from the IOM DTM's Mobility Tracking data collection module and its area and location assessments. The methodologies are detailed in the previous section.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

As detailed in the previous sections, the IOM DTM assessments use an average household size of five. IDMC uses an average household size of 6.2 which can also lead to the divergence reported in individuals displaced.

IOM DTM coverage was not continuous thorough the year as there were gaps in reporting between rounds.

Significant changes from last year

The figure halved compared to 2018, which might be explained by increased insecurity in the country.

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	Households, People	People, Households
Methodology	Key informants	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Other	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	Partial	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 Libya please visit:

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