

# PALESTINE

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

IDMC continued to register new displacements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza during 2019. Most of these new displacements were caused by housing demolitions. Continuous violence committed by Israeli settlers, Israeli military reprisals against Palestinians, confiscations of property and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes were also factors of displacement. Heightened conflict in early May and mid-November led to the destruction of many residences, leading to [hundreds of people being displaced](#).

Elections in Israel did not seem to lead to significant improvements in the displacement situation. On the contrary, [more Palestinian homes were demolished in 2019](#) in East Jerusalem than in any other year in the past 15. The unilateral decision by the US in November to no longer consider Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories illegal under international law could raise the number of [settlement projects](#). As per Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), the establishment of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a [flagrant violation of international law](#).

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**
		Flow <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
1,516	243,355	5,900	-	46,776

\*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's estimate includes new displacements in the West Bank in 2019 as reported by the demolition database maintained by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It includes people who were displaced as a result of complete and partial housing demolitions, evictions, the sealing off of homes and confiscations. People were displaced mainly by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for lacking permits. There is no information, however, as to what happened to them subsequently. The estimate also includes at least 125 Palestinians who were displaced by the IDF to create a set place for a training exercise, according to OCHA's reporting, and people displaced when their homes were destroyed during hostilities at the beginning of May and in mid-November in Gaza.

### **Sources and methodologies**

The figure comes from OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territories (OCHA oPt), which compiles data using housing damage assessment forms and stores it in its demolitions and displacement database. IDMC considers it the most reliable source of displacement data in this context. The new displacements that occurred in Gaza have been recorded by Shelter Cluster Protection.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The new displacements estimate is conservative, as more families may have been forced to flee as a result of harassment, loss of livelihood, or other causes which are not recorded systematically. These are pervasive triggers of displacement across the territory but are extremely difficult to monitor because of the perceived stigma associated with harassment and the loss of livelihood. Another factor is the lack of systematic monitoring on the whereabouts of IDPs.

### **Significant changes from last year**

The estimate represents three times the 490 new displacements recorded in 2018. This can be explained by different factors. The two escalations of violence in Gaza in May and November resulted in 462 new displacements. Also, according to [OCHA](#) and B'tselem (Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories) more houses were demolished in East Jerusalem in 2019 than on average.

## 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 of the total number of people still living in displacement at the end of 2019 consists of the sum of ten different caseloads calculated from three different sources: OCHA OPT; Shelter Cluster Palestine and the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights. It comprises people who were displaced from the 1967 war to the end of 2019, including those resulting from the escalations of violence in Gaza and the recent housing demolitions. People have been displaced for several decades and up-to-date information about them is lacking.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs in Palestine consists of data from OCHAoPt, Shelter Cluster Palestine and BADIL. OCHA oPt gathers data on demolitions and other activities leading to displacement. The Shelter Cluster's partners also collect data on people still living in displacement in

Gaza which we included in our estimate. The remaining caseloads were collected during research by BADIL for the Palestinian Population Survey (PPS) 2016-2018.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The tracking of displacement figures in Palestine is challenging because no consistent and comprehensive data collection has been realized during the past five decades. The geographical fragmentation and territorial changes over decades of conflict also make some level of overlapping and double-counting likely.

No organisation is retrieving historical data, accounting for caseloads of largely different volumes across time, harmonising different methodologies, applying population growth rates and compiling data into a comprehensive analysis. Each actor adopts and proceeds with different methodologies, without the means of putting in place a more systematic, comprehensive process.

The lack of reliable data on returns implies that the number of displaced people in the West Bank, as featured in OCHA's oPt data, might be an overestimate. Some people might have made some progress towards durable solutions but still be counted as IDPs. BADIL is aware of potential double counting and has taken measures to minimize it while conducting its research.

BADIL has stated that an unknown number of families left their residences in East Jerusalem and West Bank either because they were forcibly evicted or because of vulnerabilities. The challenge of correctly accounting for these families is related to the difficulty of linking their displacement to a specific trigger. These families might not consider themselves displaced, although their situation fits the definition of internal displacement. Families may also fear they may be discriminated against further, or face retaliation, if they make their case public.

### **Significant changes from last year**

The figure of 243,000 IDPs for 2019 compares with 238,000 IDPs for 2018. This change can be explained by various factors. The important decrease in IDPs in Gaza, our partners say, may be the result of housing reconstruction which allowed IDPs to return. BADIL also updated the number of Palestinians displaced as a result of the revocation of residency rights in Jerusalem from 18,800 to 14,600.

BADIL published an updated survey on displacement in Palestine, including revised growth trends up to 2018. This resulted in an increase in the overall number of people displaced. There also have been more houses demolished this year than during any other in East Jerusalem, pushing the number of displaced people higher.

## 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 that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs who have achieved partial progress towards a durable solution is based on people reported as returned to rebuilt houses in Gaza. We have no evidence, however, that this constitutes a durable solution as they may still have vulnerabilities linked to their displacement.

**Sources and methodologies**

The source is Shelter Cluster Palestine. It reports the number of houses originally damaged in the war of 2014, and the number of houses reconstructed, category by category, on a monthly basis. This work is supported by damage assessments performed by partners on the ground and is reliable.

**Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The estimate is a conservative one. More returns have likely taken place in the West Bank, but there is no reliable information with regard to numbers.

**Significant changes from last year**

IDMC reported on 15,000 people who achieved progress towards durable solutions in 2018. In 2019, only about a third of this number, or 5,900 people, achieved such progress. This can be explained in part by two escalations of violence in Gaza in 2019 that may have prevented housing reconstruction and subsequent returns, as well as by fewer donor-funded reconstructions.

## NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

*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*

**IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate of the number of unverified conditions is based on an analysis of the number of people who have been reported as returned after their houses were demolished from 1967 to the end of 2019, but for whom there is no further information available.

**Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for the number of people whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified is based on data from BADIL.

**Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

These are explained in the section on the total number of IDPs.

**Significant changes from last year**

This is the first time that IDMC reports on unverified conditions for Palestine.

## 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, Households	People, Households
Methodology	Key informants, Registration, Other, Media monitoring	Registration, Key informants, Media monitoring, Other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	More than once a month	Upon request
Frequency of reporting	Yes	Partial
Disaggregation by sex	Yes	Partial
Disaggregation by age	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data triangulation	Partial	Partial
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	Partial
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	Partial	Partial
Data on cross border movements	Partial	Partial
Data on deaths	Partial	Partial
Data on births	People, Households	People, Households

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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