

# TURKEY

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

There have been three different waves of displacement in Turkey. [Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced](#) from Turkey’s south-eastern provinces as a result of fighting from 1984 to 1999 between the Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) and Turkish military and security forces. Most affected areas were [rural villages with a majority Kurdish population](#). Kurdish armed groups declared a unilateral cessation of armed activities in June 1999.

The return of people displaced by that conflict was facilitated by the "Return to Village and Rehabilitation Project (RVRP)". The [RVRP program](#) was implemented in 1994 and ended in 2005. In order to identify the needs of IDPs for the program, the Institute of Population Studies (IPS) of [Hacettepe University conducted a survey](#) entitled “Migration and Internally Displaced Population Study in Turkey (MIDPST)”, which it completed in December 2006.

The second wave of displacement was triggered by security operations between 2015 and 2016. The government imposed a state of emergency and curfews in several Kurdish-majority cities in the south-east. Security forces used heavy weaponry. [Several neighbourhoods were severely damaged or completely destroyed](#) in cities such as Suriçi, Nusaybin (Mardin), Cirze, Sur, Idil, Yuksekova, Derik, Dargeçit and Şirnak. Most of the damage was attributed to the [use of the heavy weaponry](#).

The third wave of displacement was the result of cross-border shelling that displaced thousands of people in a Turkish town close to the border with Syria. The events occurred during the Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria in October 2019. Two thousand new displacements were reported.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 20XX)</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	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
2,000	1,099,000	-	-	-

\*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's estimate was extracted from a UN press release about the Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria in October 2019. A spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said that thousands of civilians had fled "a major Turkish town" as a result of attacks directed against Turkish towns from across the Syrian border. Applying IDMC monitoring guidelines, we report that at least 2000 people were displaced.

### **Sources and methodologies**

A spokesperson for [OHCHR provided the figures](#). The methodology or local source for the figure was not mentioned. IDMC triangulated this information using a geographic information system (GIS) analysis of data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and media monitoring. As a result of this analysis, IDMC corroborated that [cross-border fire attacks resulted in the damage of infrastructure and new displacements](#) in Turkey.

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

Information about the exact location of the displacements was not reported.

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

IDMC did not report new displacements in Turkey in 2018.

## 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 composed of caseloads from three different waves of displacement. The first estimate was published by the Institute of Population Studies (IPS) of Hacettepe University based on the MIDPST survey completed in December 2006.

The second caseload reports the number of people displaced by the government's security operations between 2015 and 2016 in the south-east of Turkey.

The third caseload was the consequence of cross-border shelling that displaced thousands of people in a Turkish town close to the border with Syria. The events occurred during the Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria in October 2019.

### **Sources and methodologies**

The MIDPST survey was carried out between December 2004 and February 2006. According to the survey, between 953,680 and 1,201,200 people were displaced as a result of the conflict between 1986 and 2005. IDMC uses the conservative estimate of 953,680 people displaced. The [survey](#) covered the provinces of destination and origin of the internally displaced people (IDPs), including Adiyaman, Ağrı, Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Elazığ, Hakkari, Mardin, Muş, Siirt, Sirnak, Tunceli and Van. It used household and individual interviews and employed probabilistic sampling methods. Given insufficient evidence that these people have achieved a durable solution to their displacement, IDMC continues reporting on this caseload.

The second caseload used reports on the number of people displaced during security operations in Turkey between 2015 and 2016. The source of the figure is a transcript of a session from the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. During that session, a member of the government said that about 5,000

structures had been heavily damaged during security operations in the south-eastern Anatolia region. This information was triangulated with OHCHR reports.

The third caseload is the result of cross-border shelling in areas bordering Syria. The source is a transcript of a UN press release quoting a spokesperson from OHCHR. The spokesperson said that thousands of people in a Turkish town close to the border with Syria fled because of cross-border attacks. That information was triangulated using ACLED data, which confirmed attacks by Kurdish militants of the Popular Protection Units (YPG) from Syria on bordering towns in Turkey.

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

Access to information regarding the conditions of IDPs in Turkey is severely limited.

Because of the lack of updates regarding the conditions of IDPs reported by the MIDPST in 2006, IDMC continues using this protracted displacement caseload. IDMC has not encountered any evidence that these people have reached a durable solution to their displacement.

Information on the number of people displaced by the security operations between 2015 and 2016 in south-eastern Turkey is very limited. The [media reported](#) that the security operations left about 25,000 houses destroyed or uninhabitable. Using this figure to calculate the number of people displaced during that time period leads to a possible underestimate. There is insufficient information on the number of structures affected and their exact condition, on whether the structure was commercial or residential, the number of floors in the structure, and how many families used to live in destroyed houses. The figure is also likely an underestimate because it is based in the number of structures destroyed and does not include other triggers of displacement, such as insecurity, expropriations, demolitions of damaged houses, or the loss of livelihood. It also does not include any estimate of displacement linked to the security operations that occurred since 2016.

[According to the government](#), areas damaged during the security operations were or are [in the process of being reconstructed](#). IDMC has not obtained any evidence, however, that people displaced by the security operations were returned or had achieved a durable solution.

Finally, IDMC does not have access to the methodology or the source used by OHCHR with regard to the new displacements reported in 2019. IDMC triangulated the information with ACLED data and media monitoring. We assumed that at least 2,000 people were displaced in Turkey in October 2019. Given the lack of information about possible returns, we also assumed that they remained displaced as of December 2019.

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

IDMC included in the estimate 2,000 new displacements resulting from cross-border clashes during the Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria in October 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	Media monitoring, Other	Media monitoring, Other
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1	Subnational - admin 1
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	No update	No update
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
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](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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