BANGLADESH

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Bangladesh continues to face unresolved internal displacement as a result of historical armed conflict, internal tensions and militarisation. IDMC monitors the situation of both those displaced by a separatist armed conflict between Buddhist tribes and the government in the Chittagong Hill Tracts from 1973 to 1997 and Biharis displaced following the 1971 Bangladesh war of independence. 46 and 22 years after the de-escalation of those conflicts, displaced Biharis still live in camps where they lack access to basic services, and the rehabilitation of internally displaced people (IDPs) agreed upon within the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord is incomplete.

New political and religious violence in 2019 also generated localised displacements in other parts of Bangladesh. This included an inter-communal attack on Ahmadi Muslims in Rangpur division in February and a clash over local control in a village in Khulna division in August. Violent clashes between host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in August led to the destruction of refugee shelters[5]. Violence between political supporters and violence directed against election officials following the December 2018 national elections and the March 2019 local elections was frequent and also generated some displacements when people's houses were destroyed.

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)*	Stock	Flows *(1 January – 31 December 2019)*
520	427,000	29	-	-

*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 of 520 new displacements associated with violence in 2019 includes displacement as a result of political violence and inter-communal violence. The figure was calculated based on housing destruction that was reported in connection with these events as well as media reports on the number of households forced to flee.

Sources and methodologies

As there is no central agency collecting comprehensive data on new internal displacement in Bangladesh, IDMC's estimate is based on media monitoring as well as housing destruction reported by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED).

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The figure may be an underestimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 because of a shortage of data on internal displacement in Bangladesh. The lack of sources other than media also accentuates reporting bias.

Significant changes from last year

Compared with 2018, IDMC's estimate for 2019 amounts to an increase of approximately 220 displacements. IDMC's figures for 2018 referred to one single, larger-scale event that generated the total number of displacements recorded that year. The increase in 2019 is a result of the displacement of about 420 people following a clash over political power in a village in Jhenaidah, Khulna division in August.

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 includes about 275,000 IDPs estimated as of 2007 to have been displaced in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as a result of the previous armed conflict, as well as more than 151,000 Biharis displaced, according to a 2006 report by a local NGO, since the 1971 war of independence. It also includes new displacements estimated to have taken place in 2018 and 2019, except in cases where there are indications that those displaced during these years were able to return, locally integrate, or resettle.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for the total number of IDPs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is based on decaying data published by the Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) in 2009. A HDRC survey found that 31 per cent of households there had been forced to leave their place of residence at least once between 1977 and 2007. Based on this figure and census data, IDMC obtained the estimate of about 275,000 IDPs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. IDMC's estimate for the Bihari IDPs is based on a 2006 profiling study by Al-Fafah, a local NGO. The study was commissioned by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC's data on internal displacement in Bangladesh is decaying. A 2018 article in the media indicated that all IDPs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts had been rehabilitated in 2009. IDMC has since attempted to contact local authorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for supporting evidence but has not received a response.

| Significant changes from last year

An increase of about 500 IDPs compared with 2018 is a result of new displacements in 2019.

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 rather than people.

| IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate refers to IDPs who were temporarily displaced from their village in Bandarban, Chittagong division, in November 2019, but returned a day after their displacement. These returns are categorised as partial progress towards durable solutions, since there is insufficient evidence that the IDPs in question have overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities. There are also indications that the IDPs suffered longer-term consequences as a result of their displacement, as one house in the village had been burned.

| Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution is based on media reports and was calculated using IDMC's average household estimate for Bangladesh.

| Main caveats and monitoring challenges

This estimation only covers one case of temporary displacement in Bangladesh in 2019. IDMC, however, recorded several other instances of displacement in 2019, which are likely to have been temporary and thus followed by returns. The figure is therefore likely to be an underestimation.

| Significant changes from last year

IDMC did not report any estimate of IDPs who made partial progress towards durable solutions in 2018.

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, households, percentage of population
Methodology	Media monitoring	Media monitoring, other
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	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
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 Bangladesh please visit:
https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/bangladesh