INDIA

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Between 1 January and 31 December, about 19,000 displacements associated with conflict and violence were recorded in India. More than 7,600 of these were generated by political and electoral violence, primarily in Tripura and West Bengal before and after the national election in May. Another 2,600 displacements are estimated to have occurred in the aftermath of a suicide attack on Indian security personnel in Kashmir's Pulwama district by a Pakistan-based, non-state armed group in February. These displacements were partly the result of cross-border shelling, and partly the result of inter-communal tensions generated by the attack. In August 2019, the Indian government revoked the special status accorded to Indian-administered Kashmir and imposed a curfew on the region. This led to protests throughout Kashmir that were met with force. A shutdown of telecommunications and internet severed access to information on the situation in Kashmir. Cross-border shelling along the line of control separating Indian- and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir continued to be recorded throughout the fall of 2019, leading to more than 5,300 new displacement movements. In December, the Parliament passed an act, the Citizenship Amendment Act, which offers amnesty and a path to citizenship to religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan residing in India. The Act and its amnesty notably exclude Muslims, which sparked clashes and protests that led to as many as 1,700 displacements in Tripura and Assam.

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	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019
19,000	470,000	760	-	8,500

*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 that took place in India in 2019 as a result of political violence, tensions related to the Jammu and Kashmir conflict, shelling across the line of control separating Indian- and Pakistan-administered parts of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as inter-communal and land-related conflicts.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is founded on data collected through events-based monitoring. Based on triangulation of different estimates identified for specific events, IDMC includes the best available estimate for each violence-related incident in its estimate.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is a lack of primary sources with comprehensive coverage of new displacements in India. This entails that IDMC's new displacement estimate, which is based mostly on media reports, is affected by reporting bias.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC's estimate of the number of displacements that occurred as a result of collective violence in 2019 is significantly lower than the estimate of 169,313 displacements for 2018. The reason for this decrease relates mainly to the kind of violence that triggered displacement in each respective year. In 2018, shelling across the line of control separating Indian- and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir led to significant numbers of displacement. In 2019, by contrast, the number of displacement movements triggered by shelling were relatively small. Meanwhile, the main causes of violence-related displacement in 2019 - political and inter-communal violence - tend to generate smaller numbers of displacements.

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 year-end estimate includes people estimated to have been internally displaced as a result of current and historical conflict and violence in Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tripura and West Bengal, whose return or rehabilitation has not been reported.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs is based on a variety of sources and documents. These include academics, journalists, government agencies and testimonies from affected residents.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

No unique source provides updated nationwide displacement data, and no institution systematically collects and publishes time series data on internal displacement associated with conflict and violence in India. As a result, IDMC faces complicated decisions concerning whether and how to continue reporting when data is outdated, or when there is no tangible evidence indicating that people remain displaced. Geographic coverage is uneven, and displacement may be overestimated in some states and underestimated in others, in part because of the use of media reports as a source.

Significant changes from last year

The estimated total number of internally displace people (IDPs) as of December 2018 was 479,446. That means that this year's figure implies a decrease of 10,049 IDPs. This decrease is mostly a result of the fact that IDMC lowered its IDP estimates for Chhattisgarh because it identified more conservative estimates for the state. Absent the decrease for Chhattisgarh, there would have been a net increase between 2018 and 2019 as a result of low return rates and new displacements.

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 IDPs who made partial progress towards durable solutions in 2019 includes about 600 Bru IDPs who returned to Mizoram between August and November, 113 IDPs (24 households) who reportedly returned to Chhattisgarh in April, and some 42 IDPs (nine households) who returned after having been temporarily displaced as a result of shelling in Kashmir in December. All these return movements have been counted as "partial progress towards durable solutions" since there is a lack of data showing that the IDPs achieved durable solutions following their return.

Sources and methodologies

The estimate is based on events-monitoring using media sources.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

A lack of comprehensive data sources on IDP returns in India entails that IDMC's data likely underestimates the total number of IDPs who made some progress towards durable solutions in 2019.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC did not report on IDPs who made partial progress towards durable solutions in 2018.

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 that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimate includes all returns and resettlements that were reported in India in 2019 for which IDMC did not obtain any verification beyond statements that returns, or resettlements had taken place. It also includes temporary new displacements where IDMC did not retrieve any evidence on the IDPs' situation after their displacement.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs who made unverified progress towards durable solutions in 2019 is based on multiple sources including journalists, researchers, national authorities and eye-witness accounts.

| **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**
There is a lack of comprehensive and verified data on returns and resettlements of IDPs in India. As a consequence, a dependence on media reports may increase reporting bias in IDMC's estimate.

| **Significant changes from last year**
IDMC did not report on IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions could not be verified 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	People, Households	People, Households
Methodology	Media monitoring	Media monitoring, registration, 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	Contradictory data
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	Partial
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	Partial	Partial
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 India please visit:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/india