

LEBANON

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

No new displacements were reported in the country in 2019. Internal displacement in Lebanon is typically a result of clashes in refugee camps occupied by Palestinian or Syrian refugees. Against a backdrop of renewed tensions involving Syrian refugees, there is some concern that Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers could be [expelled from their settlements](#). Protests beginning in mid- October in reaction to the announcement of a new tax on free, internet-based calls and broader political and socio-economic issues have not generated new displacement thus far, [but the situation could escalate](#).

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2018)</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>
-	7,000	2,400	22,000	-

*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).

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 for the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) corresponds to Palestinians displaced in 2007 from the Nahr al-Bared (NBC) refugee camp in northern Lebanon, which has since become their habitual place of residence. In May 2007, members of a jihadist group, Fatah al-Islam, hid in the camp. The Lebanese army then destroyed it, triggering some of the worst clashes in the country since the wars of 1975-1990 and 2006. NBC was almost completely destroyed, and 28,672 residents of the camp were displaced. These IDPs have not yet been able to return.

Lebanon has long been the site of proxy wars among the regional powers, a phenomenon which has led to surges of displacement throughout its history. Previous displacements were associated with the civil war, as well as Israeli military operations in 2006. There has reportedly been no such displacement recently, but our research shows that there is no systematic tracking of historic caseloads. Only the Mountain Wars caseload is officially recognized as an IDP caseload, but that has not been systematically recorded either. As such, these historic caseloads are not part of our year-end stock figure.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs is based on the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). We regard it as reliable, although we do not have detailed information about their methods for collecting and verifying data. We have compiled additional information about monitoring challenges and contextual details of displacement in the country via personal correspondence with partners and academics in the country.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

There is limited primary data available on internal displacement in Lebanon. When reporting on displaced people, the media does not publish precise, verified figures or information about when people were displaced. Likewise, no comprehensive information on returns or on the total number of people living in displacement is available.

Significant changes from last year

The number of people living in internal displacement for Lebanon went from 10,500 in 2018 to 6,991 in 2019. This is a result of different factors. UNRWA considered 2,328 people to be returned in 2019, decreasing the stock by the same amount. Methodological changes also have been made in the calculation of the stock, contributing to changes in the number.

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 people who made partial progress towards a durable solution as of 31 December 2019 is based on people who were displaced in May 2007 from NBC as a result of a military operation by the Lebanese army and who reportedly returned in 2019. IDMC estimate of partial solutions is based on 582 families that have had their houses reconstructed and returned to the camp, with access to services and livelihoods. UNRWA reports on these movements as durable solutions, but IDPs may still face vulnerabilities linked to their displacement and there is insufficient evidence to suggest these return movements are durable under the current IDMC categorization.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from UNRWA, which leads the NBC Reconstruction Project. The project has developed a dedicated database that records data on the families that are set to return to NBC. It also records returned families and families that do not want to go back to NBC. This information has been shared directly with IDMC by UNRWA. We lack some information on the methodology but consider the information to be reliable for reconstruction and humanitarian assistance purposes.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The reported returns only concern Palestinian refugees whose camp was destroyed in 2007. Significantly, some return movements may have occurred in 2019, linked to this specific caseload or others, and were not tracked because of a lack of systematic monitoring of such movements. The figure was reported by UNRWA as of January 2020. No return movements occurred between December and January.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC reported on 275 people who had made partial progress toward durable solutions in 2018. This year's estimate is an increase of nearly 2000 people. The previous estimate of partial solutions was derived from media monitoring. As such, the difference between the two years comes as a result of methodological changes, rather than context.

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 estimate of people who have achieved partial progress toward durable solution as of 31 Dec 2019 is based on people who were displaced in May 2007 from Nahr el-Bared camp. Based on the information provided by UNRWA, it is impossible to ascertain that these IDPs no longer face vulnerabilities linked to their displacement.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from UNRWA, which leads the NBC Reconstruction Project. The project has developed a dedicated database that records data on the families that are set to return to NBC. It also records returned families and families that do not want to go back to NBC. This information has been shared directly with IDMC by UNRWA. We lack some information on the methodology but consider the information to be reliable for reconstruction and humanitarian assistance purposes.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The figure was reported by UNRWA as of January 2020. No return movements occurred between December and January. In order to rebuild the camp in accordance to the needs of the IDPs, UNRWA collects precise information on the number of people displaced and set to return to NBC. In doing so, it decided to use its average household size (AHHS) of four rather than that of IDMC. As this caseload concerns Palestinian refugees, the AHHS in this case may be different than that used for the rest of Lebanon. No disaggregated figures were shared by UNRWA.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC did not reported on partial progress towards durable solutions in Lebanon 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	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People, Households
Methodology	Registration
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	Partial
Disaggregation by age	Partial
Data triangulation	Contradictory data
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial
Data on returns	Yes
Data on local integration	Partial
Data on cross border movements	Partial
Data on deaths	Partial
Data on births	Partial

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

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