

# PAKISTAN

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

IDMC estimated 16,000 displacements associated with conflict and violence in Pakistan in 2019. As many as 15,000 of these were a result of an increase in cross-border shelling across the line of control dividing Indian- and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The displacements occurred following a suicide attack on Indian security personnel in the Indian-administered region by a Pakistan-based, non-state armed group in February 2019. Having been sheltered by host families and in camps, most of the displaced people returned to their habitual places of residence within a week. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJP) party revoked Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir province's special status in September. They also abolished Article 35a intended to prevent demographic transformation of the region. Families are still displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province as a result of past law enforcement operations against domestic armed groups at the border with Afghanistan. Repeated incidents of violence occurred in Ghotki and Karachi, both cities in Sindh province, against Hindu and Christian communities accused of blasphemy. [Hundreds of Christian families were displaced](#). Cross-border clashes between Afghan and Pakistani forces occurred in October 2019, potentially resulting in further displacement on Pakistan's side of the border. [This is already happening on the Afghan side](#). Throughout November, protests against Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan intensified and may have led to displacements. Hindu nationalism and Islamophobia, which have intensified with the December passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act in India, could escalate the growing conflict at India's border with Pakistan in 2020 and result in displacements on both sides.

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**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
16,000	106,000	36	-	45,000

\*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 2019 estimate is based mainly on figures reported in February 2019 by the State Disaster Management Authority of the Government of Azad Kashmir (AJK), which were shared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Other figures are based on reports published by media and civil society organisations tracked through event-based monitoring.

### **Sources and methodologies**

Out of the 16,000 new displacements detected by IDMC in 2019, 14,800 were reported by the AJK government. The figures are based on the recorded number of people staying in camps along the line of control. Other figures, verified by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), have been reported by the media.

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

Documentation of new displacement in 2019 used by IDMC, covers only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. For this reason, IDMC's figures are likely to be underestimates. IDMC has not received a government report on new displacement in Azad Jammu and Kashmir since May 2019, despite ongoing hostilities. This violence also may have led to an unknown number of additional displacements.

The limited availability of sources reflects underreporting of displacement in Pakistan. Small-scale displacements are likely to escape detection. The "media war" between Pakistan and India also may have significantly affected the number of displaced people reported.

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

IDMC's estimate of the number of new displacements in 2019 is considerably higher than the corresponding figure of more than 14,000 for 2018, but lower than 59,000 for 2017. This reflects the fact that large-scale displacement in Pakistan tends to be reported by the government primarily when evacuations take place as a result of cross-border shelling. No such large-scale evacuations were reported 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**

The GRID 2020 estimate of 106,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) includes IDPs living in protracted displacement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) as a result of military operations. Those IDPs are in Khyber District and North Waziristan. IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs also includes new displacements from 2018 and 2019, for which no return, resettlement or local integration has been reported.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs is based predominantly on data published by the Complex Emergencies Wing of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Disaster Management Authority (KPDMA). KPDMA's data collection process is mandated for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and former FATA areas. The latest stock date is from 31 December 2019 and was reported by IOM. During new displacement situations, embarkation points for IDP registration are established. During IDP registration, identity card numbers are collected so they can be sent to the National Database & Registration Authority

(NADRA). At the NADRA office, certain pieces of information, such as IDPs' addresses, as well as their national ID cards, are verified in the national database. Addresses are checked with local sources. Verified IDPs are then included on KPDMA's lists in order to receive support. The smaller share of total IDPs consisting of new displacements from 2018 and 2019 is based on reports published by media and civil society organisation, as well as ACLED.

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

KPDMA's data may exclude IDPs who do not possess national ID cards. This is because possessing such a card is required for IDP verification. Retrieving data on IDPs outside areas covered by the government's registration process, such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the former FATA, is also highly challenging, suggesting that the geographic coverage of our figure is limited.

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

The total number of families consisting of IDPs in 2019 increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa compared with 2018 (16,780 to 16,136). The main reason, according to KPDMA, is not an increase in the number of new displacements that we may not have recorded. Instead, some families have seen a resumption in their IDP status. A decrease in the total number of IDPs estimated to have been displaced as of 2019 compared with 2018 can still be observed, however, because we no longer count refugee returnees as displaced. New instructions call for us to only count refugee returnees as IDPs in if there is a new trigger leading to displacement following the cross-border return.

## 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 2019 estimate of 36 verified returns is based on reports by the Complex Emergencies Wing of the KPDMA.

#### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs who made partial progress towards a durable solution is based on KPDMA data, reported by IOM. It is based on the registration of IDPs once they return to de-notified areas (cleared for repatriation). It encompasses IDPs who have returned, but for whom there is insufficient data to assess if they have achieved durable solutions. IDMC's estimate was calculated by subtracting the number of verified returnee households as of December 2019 from the number of verified returnee households as of December 2018.

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

The estimate is likely an underestimate because of partial geographic coverage (it only covers North Waziristan and Khyber Agency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). It may also include some returns that took place in December 2018.

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

IDMC did not report any figure on the number of people who made partial progress towards a durable solution in GRID 2019.

## 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 estimates that there are 45,000 returns of unverified IDP households who returned to areas within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2019. The estimate includes about 15,000 reported returns that took place in early March, following the temporary displacement of communities that live close to the line of control separating Indian- and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir. These movements were included either because there is no concrete data providing evidence of the returns (in the case of Azad Jammu and Kashmir) or because the populations' IDP status is unverified (in the case of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate of the number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified is partially based on KPDMA data on the total number of unverified IDP households living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as of August 2019. IDMC obtained the precise estimate by subtracting the 221,182 unverified returnee households as of May 2019 from the 217,143 of unverified returnee households as of December 2018.

About 15,000 IDPs are also estimated to have made unverified progress towards durable solutions based on reports that all those displaced by shelling in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in February returned in early March. The reports were by IOM in Pakistan.

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

IDMC's figure is likely to be an underestimate because only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad and Kashmir provinces are covered. Some unverified IDP households that were counted also may have returned in December 2018.

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

IDMC's 2019 return figure for Pakistan shows an increase compared with 2018. Better reporting of the data is the only explanation, as our KPDMA contact informed us in October that the situation was not conducive to returns.

## 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, People
Methodology	Media monitoring, Registration	Registration, Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Admin2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Upon request	Upon request
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	Yes	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Yes	Yes
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 Pakistan please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/pakistan>