

China

Displacement associated with Disasters

Figures Analysis – 2020

	Figure	Highlight	Methodology and Sources	Caveats and Challenges
New Displacement	5,074,000	This figure refers mostly to displacement triggered by flood and storm-related events, particularly during an intense flood and typhoon period between May and October. The remaining new displacements were due to wildfires and earthquakes primarily in the southern provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan.	This figure was obtained from the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) with additional information from other national, provincial and municipal level authorities. It is based on situation reports published on MEM's website or through its China Emergency Information portal that includes the number of people evacuated, relocated or supported by emergency relief efforts by authorities. When no other data is available, the source is IDMC, based on triangulated media reports, and may use housing destruction to estimate the figure. Main media sources include: Associated Press and Xinhua.	We have medium confidence in this figure. One main challenge in monitoring disaster displacement continues to be that of access to information about how evacuations and relocations are assessed, as well as the method with which these responses are conducted. While disasters occur frequently in the country, there is limited information on the evolution of evacuations, relocations, or housing destruction over a given time period, which would provide better insight into the scale of displacement, as well as the time frame for returns.
Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2020 <i>Pending further information and evidence, those who are in a situation of displacement, but progressing towards a durable solution have not been included.</i>	158,000	Our year-end estimate is based on time series data and housing destruction data for specific disaster events, as well as aggregated figures on the number of people displaced by disasters recorded by governments and other stakeholders. In addition to the people displaced by disasters in 2020, this figure includes cases from previous years where there was information on the number of people still displaced. We used an algorithm that reduces tens of thousands of data points entered into IDMC's database into a final IDP stock estimate per country. The script also filters the data into a variety of pre-defined scenarios and to ensure that no overestimation can occur. The code was written by the Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, and funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Impact Acceleration Account grant. Our methodology remains a work in progress.		Providers of disaster displacement data tend not to include information about when, how and for how long people were displaced. One of the main gaps and challenges in accurately estimating the number of IDPs is the lack of measurement of return flows. Data tends not to be collected on people who have achieved durable solutions either by local integration or resettlement elsewhere in the country. Our headcount does not include people displaced from hundreds of events for which we recorded only one data point (i.e., one figure provided at only one moment in time). These figures often reflect the maximum number of people displaced, commonly during an evacuation, and including these figures would have led to an overestimate.

For the full country profile please visit: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/china>
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