INDIA

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

A combination of armed conflict, separatist insurgencies, riots and often localised violence linked to politics, caste, ethnicity or religion caused significant numbers of new displacements in India in the first half of 2018. Whereas 78,000 new conflict-induced displacements within India were recorded in 2017, more than 169,000 new displacements were recorded between January and December 2018.

The vast majority of the new displacements in 2018 were linked to a series of incidents of cross-border shelling by Pakistan across the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir State, which forced more than 160,000 people to leave their homes. More than 100,000 were displaced during a single episode in May. The increased intensity of the shelling has reportedly forced civilians to adopt new coping strategies and evacuate for longer periods, which has had an impact on their livelihoods.[1]

In addition, more than 7,000 people were displaced by political violence associated with local elections in Tripura State. Repeated clashes between supporters of the two main parties led to homes being destroyed. There were also more than 1,900 new displacements associated with localised conflicts and intercommunal violence linked to caste and religious lines in Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and West Bengal States.

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
169,000	479,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	No data available	No data available
This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.	*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.*	*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 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.*	*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.*

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.

Sources and methodologies

As in the case of our estimate of the total number of IDPs, there is no unique source that provides a reliable nationwide estimate of new displacements in India. As a result, IDMC's estimate is based exclusively on figures reported in the media.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

In general, IDMC considers its estimates of new internal displacement figures for India to have a low level of reliability because numbers reported in the media are challenging to independently verify. While we attempt to triangulate all of these figures using multiple sources, this is not always possible and some figures may be overestimates. By contrast, small scale incidents of displacement associated with local violence and displacements that occur in remote areas are likely to be underreported, given the lack of visibility of the phenomenon.

IDMC figure and rationale

Our figure is made of estimates for 14 separate events identified during the year. Due to the challenge independently verifying figures published by the media, IDMC's figure is based on the most reliable sources and conservative estimates for each of these events.

Significant changes from last year

Compared to 78,000 new displacements 2017, the larger number of reported new displacements in 2018 (169,000) is largely connected to increased cross-border shelling in Jammu and Kashmir.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.

Sources and methodologies

No unique source provides nationwide displacement data for India and as a result our estimate 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 caused by 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, due in part to the use of media reports as source.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC'S year-end estimate accounts for people displaced in the states of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkand, West Bengal, and Maharastra. It is based on 15 different sub-estimates, reflecting the 479,000 people who remained in displacement in December 2018.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC made particular efforts to identify more up-to-date data for some states for which displacement data were decaying, which led us to lower some estimates compared to those reported last year. In

particular, the estimate for Chattisgarh was reduced as IDMC considered the previous estimate for this state to be decaying and unreliable.

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, other	Media monitoring, other
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Geographical coverage	Unknown	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Contradictory data	Contradictory data
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	Partial
Data on returns	Partial	Partial
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	Partial	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

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[1] Concerned Citizens' Group, Report of the Fourth Visit, 1 March 2018