

IRAQ

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

There was less internal displacement reported in Iraq in 2018, which is thought to be linked to the official end of the conflict, as announced by the Iraqi government on 9 December 2017.¹ There were approximately 150,000 new or secondary displacements recorded in 2018, far less than the 1,379,000 reported in 2017.

More than a million people reportedly returned from displacement to their places of habitual residence, but those returns are not yet considered to be sustainable. Thousands of people who attempted to return home were prevented from doing so and had to relocate to other communities or return to IDP camps. Even when people were able to reach their homes, many faced a lack of services and livelihood opportunities.²

The living conditions of many displaced people also remained difficult. Many were living in shelters that did not protect them from the heat or the cold. Service provision was insufficient in many camps, and IDPs struggled to obtain even the most basic items. This is a concern because the rate of attempted returns is falling and many IDPs are choosing to remain in displacement camps until the conditions in return areas improve.³

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
150,000	1,962,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	1,085,000 (1 January – 31 December 2018)	No data available
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

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

Sources and methodologies

The source for IDMC's figure is the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM), which assessed new displacements in Iraq in 2018. IOM DTM added a question to its DTM questionnaires, asking whether any IDPs had arrived in a given location since the beginning of 2018 and, if so, how many. The data was collected across thousands of sites across the country via IOM DTM's network of key informants (KIs).

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster (CCCM) usually provides more precise data on displacement flows into and out of camps, which IDMC would have used to complement the IOM DTM data. However, CCCM did not publish any cumulative figures in 2018, meaning we had to rely only on IOM DTM data from KIs, which are likely to be less precise than detailed profiling data collected in camps.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC used the figure published by IOM DTM. It includes 28,000 IDPs who were displaced for the first time in 2018, as well as 122,000 IDPs who were either displaced between specific locations or had attempted to return to their place of habitual residence but were displaced again upon their return.

Significant changes from last year

The number of new displacements decreased significantly due to the end of hostilities in Iraq, as declared at the end of 2017. This led to an important reduction in the number of displacement-inducing events compared to previous years.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

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

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate of the total number of IDPs is based on an analysis of IOM DTM data. IOM DTM collects data through a network of key informants and regular field visits carried out by rapid assessment and response teams. The system aims to identify and verify numbers of IDPs, their locations and other characteristics.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IOM DTM collects information on the number of households of IDPs in each location and then converts this figure into IDPs by multiplying it by the average size of a household (6 people per household). This is based on the figures used by its humanitarian partners. However, IDMC uses a different average household size (6.5) which is between the IOM figure and the UN estimate (7.7).⁴ The use of different household size estimates leads to differences between IOM's and IDMC's estimates of the numbers of internally displaced individuals at the end of the year.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC used the total number of IDPs as reported by IOM DTM as of 31 December and added 9,000 people who reportedly attempted to return home but were unable to do so. The latter were instead reportedly staying with host families, or in informal settlements or collective shelters. IDMC regards these people as being internally displaced.

IDMC's figure also includes IDPs who returned voluntarily or under duress to their areas of origin but were unable to achieve durable solutions and were consequently re-displaced to their first, or a

new, place of displacement. These IDPs were therefore included in the total figure calculated by IOM DTM.

Significant changes from last year

The figure decreased because of a high number of people recorded as having achieved partial solutions in 2018.

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 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.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC uses IOM DTM data to produce the estimated number of people making partial progress towards durable solutions. As noted in the previous section, IOM DTM collects data through a network of key informants and regular field visits carried out by rapid assessment and response teams.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

As noted above, the average household size estimate used by IOM (6) differs from IDMC's (6.5), resulting in differences between IOM and IDMC's nationally aggregated estimates.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC used information about reported returnees from DTM rounds 87-107 and calculated the increases in returnee populations from round to round, considering the type of shelter in which returnees were living. IDMC considered people who returned to temporary accommodations such as rented houses or hotels, and those who returned to their homes but experienced vulnerability to renewed displacement as having only found partial solutions to their displacement.

Significant changes from last year

The number of partial solutions is similar to the estimate from 2017 and reflect the large number of returns attempted each year.

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	Households, people
Methodology	Registration, key informants	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	Upon request	Other
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on 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	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 Iraq please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/iraq>

¹ BBC, [Iraq declares war with Islamic State is over](#), 9 December 2017

² IDMC, [Nowhere to return to : Iraqis' search for durable solutions continues](#), November 2018

³ IOM, [Returns Continue While Obstacles to Return Remain in Iraq: IOM](#), 26 June 2018

⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, [Household Size and Composition 2018](#), accessed 22 March 2019.