MEXICO

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Clashes between armed and security forces and organised crime groups, as well as disappearances, kidnappings, forced recruitment, assaults, extortion, threats, arbitrary evictions and serious human rights violations have contributed to forced internal displacement in the country in 2018.

According to the Mexican Commission of Defence and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH), 338,000 people have been forced to move within Mexico due to gang violence, as well as religious or political clashes between January 2009 and January 2018. The indigenous population of the country was the target of at least seven episodes of forced internal displacement in 2018 and was consequently the most affected throughout the year.

The biggest displacement event of 2018 took place in the southern state of Chiapas, when 2,036 members of the Tzotzil indigenous population were displaced. Episodes of forced displacement were also reported in Guerrero, Michoacán, Oxaca and Sinaloa.

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
11,000	338,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	72 (1 January – 31 December 2018)	1,800 (1 January – 31 December 2018)
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

The main source for IDMC's new estimate of the number of new displacements is the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Protection of Human Rights (CMDPDH). The CMDPDH systematically collects information on incidents of internal displacement identified through event-based media monitoring and verified of these reports using its network of local partners.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The main caveat is the challenges and difficulties that the CMDPDH faces identifying all displacement events and then verifying them. This is due to the fact that many displacements are never recorded and then reported on in the media. Even when these incidents are covered security constraints inhibit partners' ability to verify the figures given that many displaced people prefer to remain invisible.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's new displacements estimate is based on the figure provided by the CMDPDH. It accounts for displacements across 25 municipalities in five states, including Guerrero and Sinaloa, which experienced the most displacement events. Displacement in these states was linked to violence generated by organised crime and drug trafficking.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC reports no significant changes from last year's methodology and context.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

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

Sources and methodologies

As with the number of new displacements, the main source for IDMC's total number of IDPs figure is the CMDPDH. This national NGO gathers data on internal displacement primarily through media monitoring of displacement events and conducts field visits to verify certain cases. Displacement figures are triangulated using at least three sources. Information disaggregated by gender and age is also recorded, as well as characteristics about the location, such as whether it is rural or urban.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Reporting gaps, and security and financial constraints prevent the CMDPDH from verifying many displacement movements. It is also worth noting that the government of Mexico does not have a specific legislative framework for the phenomenon of internal displacement, so it has historically been difficult to estimate levels of population movements due, in part, to a lack of action from the government in tackling the issue.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC's estimated total number of IDPs has been calculated based on data obtained from the CMDPDH covering all of 2018. We accounted for those newly displaced in 2018 in our year-end figure and subtracted IDPs who reportedly found partial or unverified solutions.

Significant changes from last year

There are no significant changes from last year.

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
As with the figures for new displacements and total number of IDPs, the main source for IDMC's estimate is the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Protection of Human Rights (CMDPDH). Its methodology is detailed in sections above.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges
The same caveats and challenges apply to this estimate as to the total number of IDPs and the number of new displacements.

IDMC figure and rationale
IDMC's estimate is based on information reported by the media and analysed by the CMDPDH. It is estimated that about 72 people who had been forcibly displaced in 2018 returned to their homes by January 2019. However, given the level of insecurity these people face, their reported return is not considered to constitute a durable solution.

Significant changes from last year
This is the first time IDMC has reported on this metric for Mexico.

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 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.

Sources and methodologies
As in each of the previous estimates, the main source for IDMC's figure is the CMDPDH, whose sources and methodology are detailed in the sections above.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges
The same caveats and challenges apply to IDMC's estimate of the number of people whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified as to each of the other estimates in this report, as detailed in previous sections.

IDMC figure and rationale
The CMDPDH identified 1,800 returns, and IDMC has listed these as "number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified" as there is a lack of information about any improvement to the security conditions, and more broadly no available evidence corroborating progress toward durable solutions. Upon return, these people were still experiencing difficulties linked to their displacement and cannot therefore be considered to have reached a durable solution.

Significant changes from last year
This is the first time IDMC has reported on this metric for Mexico.

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
Methodology	Media monitoring	Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	All relevant areas covered	All relevant areas covered
Frequency of reporting	Once a year	Once a year
Disaggregation on sex	Partial	No
Disaggregation on age	Partial	No
Data triangulation	Good triangulation	Good triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	No
Data on returns	Partial	Yes
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	Partial	No
Data on births	No	No

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

For the full country profile on Mexico please visit:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/mexico