

RUSSIA

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Protracted displacement in the Russian Federation is a legacy of the regional conflicts of the 1990s. IDPs in Russia are listed as “forced migrants”.¹ These are Russian citizens who either returned to Russia from neighbouring countries, or moved within the borders of the Federation, and found themselves in various conditions of vulnerability. The number of people registered as “forced migrants” has decreased over time, in part because of government policies including housing programmes. IDMC reduced its estimate drastically this year, because of better understanding and clarity of the original data. Information obtained on official governmental websites provided greater disaggregation of the numbers and helped IDMC ensure its figures include only those forced migrants who moved within the Russian Federation.

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
No data available	2,300	No data available	No data available
(Year figure was last updated: 2018)			
<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>

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPs

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

Sources and methodologies

The source for this estimate is the Federal Service of State Statistics of the government of the Russian Federation. Forced migrant numbers are issued based on registration data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, which set up its registration system in 1992. The figures are as recorded on 1 January of each year. IDMC does not have further information about the official registration process. The figure comes with several caveats related to the methodology used for registration, the composition of the caseloads and the geographical coverage of the data.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC's estimate only includes Russian citizens who were displaced within the territory of the Russian Federation and whose status of forcefully displaced/forced migrants was officially recorded by the authorities on 1 January 2018. It doesn't represent the number of Russian citizens displaced from other countries to the Russian Federation, nor the number of other people who lost their official status or did not renew it. Moreover, according to the 1993 Law, this estimate includes people who were forcefully displaced because of "violence or harassment in other forms against his or his family members or because of a real danger of being persecuted on the basis of racial or national origin, religion, language, or group or political beliefs that have led to hostile campaigns against a particular person or group of people s public order". The estimate also excludes people who "committed a crime against peace, humanity, or other serious crime, recognized as such by the legislation of the Russian Federation; have not applied without valid excuse [for the status of] forced migrant within twelve months from the day he left home; left the place of residence for economic reasons or as a result of famine, epidemics or emergency situations of natural and man-made nature."

It is, as a result, very conservative and should be considered an underestimate. Unofficial estimates released by local activists include people living in IDP-like conditions in the Russian Federation, but who do not have an official status recognised by the authorities. The lack of monitoring makes it impossible to triangulate the data received.

IDMC figure and rationale

The official figure is the number of citizens of the Russian Federation who received the official status of "forced migrants" from the territorial bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

Significant changes from last year

This estimate is significantly lower than the 2017 one because new information became available and official documentation was accessed during the research in collaboration with a team of United Nations Volunteers (UNVs). The decrease from 19,000 to 2,300 persons reflects the impact of the new information. Last year, IDMC had no access to the original disaggregated dataset, so it applied the total aggregated number received from the UN's Permanent Mission to the Russian Federation. Compared to last year's estimate, this year's estimate is an underestimate.

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
Reporting units	People
Methodology	Registration
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Once a year
Disaggregation on sex	No
Disaggregation on age	No
Data triangulation	No triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No
Data on returns	No
Data on local integration	No
Data on cross border movements	No
Data on deaths	No
Data on births	No

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

For the full country profile on Russia please visit:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/russian-federation>

¹ Federal Service of State Statistics of the Government of Russia, [The number of internally displaced persons, refugees and persons granted temporary asylum](#), 19 April 2019