

# THAILAND

## Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

### CONTEXT

Displacement triggered by conflict in Thailand has occurred primarily in the country’s ‘Deep South’, where there has been a resurgence of violence in the provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat since 2004. IDP figures refer to Buddhists who have fled the region, but IDMC has low confidence in these figures since no systematic mechanism exists to identify and provide basic assistance to displaced people.

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	<b>41,000</b> (Year figure was last updated: 2007)	No data available	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>

### 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 is based on a 2010 Harvard University study that published survey results by Prince Songkhla University (PSU) to evaluate the conflict-triggered movement of Buddhists who fled the ethnic and religious separatist insurgency in the South. The PSU report identified people who moved out of Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat provinces between January 2004 and June 2007 through a quantitative and qualitative analysis, including interviewing 160 village heads and focus group discussions with citizens in nine districts.

#### Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has low confidence in the estimate, due to the age of the data, the political challenges and lack of a systematic mechanism to identify victims and to provide basic assistance to displaced individuals and affected communities.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC estimates that the total number of people displaced whose displacements are associated with conflict in Thailand is approximately 40,000 people.

The Thai government has no records of the number of Buddhists fleeing the southern region of the country, but available estimates range from 35,000 to more than 100,000, according to an International Crisis Group (ICG) report in 2007.<sup>1</sup>

Based on a Harvard study from 2010, “Ethnic Armed Conflict and Migration Flows in Thailand: A New Dataset”, a survey revealed that about 41,000 people moved out of three southern provinces in the conflict zone.<sup>2</sup> This is a conservative estimate and the figure is decaying, since the data comes from 2007. Consequently, we have low confidence in this figure.

The Harvard study specifically focused on ethnically motivated armed conflict and migration flows in Thailand. It also provides specific analysis and data on the conflict in the south including gaining access to and evaluating government and academic research in the area.

### **Significant changes from last year**

There has been no update or change from GRID 2018, we published the same figure.

## 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	Subnational - admin 1
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Upon request
Disaggregation on sex	No
Disaggregation on age	No
Data triangulation	Good 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](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

For the full country profile on Thailand please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/thailand>

<sup>1</sup> International Crisis Group, [Southern Thailand, the problem with paramilitaries](#), 23 October 2007

<sup>2</sup> Harvard University, [Violence and Internal Displacement in Thailand's Deep South Armed Conflict 2002-2008](#), 2010