

# Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

## INDIA

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement  
Figures analysis



## INDIA - Contextual Update

<b>Stock:</b>	806,000
<b>New Displacements:</b>	78,000
<b>Returns:</b>	4,000
<b>Provisional Solutions:</b>	0

Confidence  
Assessment  
(from Helix)

Based on research and historical trends, we believe the figure does little to reflect the true scale of internal displacement in the country and is conservative at best. No national authority or international organisation monitors and reports on displacement associated with conflict in India comprehensively. It is a politically sensitive issue for the government and international organisations in the country, and has largely been ignored by most stakeholders.

Data gathering is also hampered by a lack of humanitarian access to some areas affected by conflict, particularly in the north-east of the country. A significant number of IDPs are not counted because of the government's tendency to close displacement camps even if security conditions for return are not in place and returnees do not have sufficient access to basic necessities. Considerable numbers of IDPs are also believed to live with host communities and in urban areas, but they are not recorded in official statistics. Given the challenge in monitoring displacement flows, where a movement does occur there is little information available to verify returns.

Displacement has been and still is a multi-generational issue. Many of those displaced settle elsewhere or never return home.

IDMC's estimates represent a conservative assessment, based mainly on media reports due to the lack of systematic monitoring of conflict-induced displacement in the country and limited access to affected areas. Displacement in India in 2017 was typically related to border skirmishes with Pakistan, along with some civil unrest and communal tensions. However, due to the fluid and ongoing nature of displacement in the country, it is believed that only a small proportion of IDPs returned home by the end of the year.

# INDIA - Map of major displacement events in 2017

Some 70,000 people were displaced due to cross-border firing with Pakistan.  
Location: Line of Control (LoC), Jammu and Kashmir  
Dates: May - September 2017  
Source: Media



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013.  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

# INDIA - Stock: 806,000 IDPs

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017*



## **Sources and methodologies**

Given the challenges of monitoring displacement in India, there is no primary source. As most reports come from the media, sources tend to be historical analyses, investigative reporting, or reports from civil society organisations and, where available, the government.

## **Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges**

Data is most likely an underestimate and is of low confidence given the political climate and challenges related to monitoring or acknowledging conflict displacement.

## **IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

Of the total stock figure, more than 400,000 are people displaced in the Jammu and Kashmir region by territorial disputes and conflict with Pakistan since the 1940s. The remainder have been displaced since the 1990s as a result of ethnic conflicts and land disputes in Chhattisgarh, Chirang, Gujarat and Tripura. Research in 2017 revealed that around 4,600 people are currently displaced due to the 2013 riots in Muzaffarnagar. The estimate also includes new displacement that occurred from communal conflict and the cross-border clashes between India and Pakistan in 2017 since there is little evidence to suggest that all IDPs have returned home since the fighting.

## **Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes**

Additional evidence of stock displacement from conflict events prior to 2017 and increasing cross-border firing between India and Pakistan that have resulted in displacement in Jammu and Kashmir explain the increase compared to the 2016 figure.

# INDIA - New Displacements: 78,000

*This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year*



## **Sources and methodologies**

Given the challenges of monitoring displacement in India, there is no primary source. Most reports come from the media with references to the number of people forced to flee according to government sources, displaced persons, and local authorities/officials quoted in media reports.

## **Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges**

Data is most likely an underestimate and is of low confidence given the political climate and challenges related to monitoring or acknowledging conflict-related displacement.

## **IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

The new displacement estimate includes people displaced due to two main kinds of generalised violence: ethnic and communal conflict; and cross-border clashes and firing between India and Pakistan from May to September 2017. Ethnic and communal conflicts resulted in around 8,500 new displacements, while increasing ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) around Jammu and Kashmir has led to about 70,000 displacements in 2017 with no reports to indicate that these people have or want to return home. India claims that there have been more than 700 ceasefire violations in 2017 by Pakistan - the most since 2010.

## **Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes**

In 2017, most conflict-induced displacement with Pakistan came from villages in Jammu and Kashmir, while in 2016, not only were there displacement in Jammu and Kashmir, but also from Punjab state bordering Pakistan. This explains, in part, the decrease in the new displacement figure recorded for 2017 compared to the 2016 one.

# INDIA - Returns: 4,000

*This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence*



## **Sources and methodologies**

Media quoting government sources, displaced persons, and local authorities/officials.

## **Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges**

The figure is most likely an underestimate and is of low confidence given the political climate and challenges related to monitoring or acknowledging conflict displacement.

## **IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

Around 4,000 people in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri returned home in November 2017.

## **Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes**

Similar to 2017, returns in 2016 included people previously displaced by cross-border firing in Jammu and Kashmir. Return figures are most likely an underestimate given the political climate and challenges related to monitoring returns.

# INDIA - Provisional Solutions: 0

*This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution*



IDMC has not identified or obtained relevant data in relation to this category.