

# RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis 2020

#### CONTEXT

Protracted displacement in the Russian Federation is a legacy of the regional conflicts of the 1990s. Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Russia are listed as *‘вынужденный переселенец’*, which translates as "forced migrants". 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 and aid, including housing programmes.

IDMC estimates are based on official statistics on the registration of IDPs by the Russian government. The government has been registering IDPs since 1995 and has seen a consistent reduction in the number of IDPs from year to year. There were 1,820 IDPs registered in 2019.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
-	1,800	-	-	460

\*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 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 having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

\*\*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

## TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate is based on official statistics regarding IDPs published yearly by the Russian Federation. According to this data, there are 1,824 IDPs registered in the country, a figure which has been rounded to 1,820. The number of "forced migrants", or IDPs, is based on registration data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which established its registration system in 1992. The published figure represents IDPs as of 1 January of each year. IDMC does not have further information about the official registration process.

The total number of IDPs represents only the number of Russian citizens who were displaced within the territory of the Russian Federation and whose displacement status was official and recorded by the authorities on 1 January 2019. It does not include Russian citizens displaced from other countries to the Russian Federation or those who lost their official status or did not renew it.

According to the 1993 law that created the official designation of forced migrant, this estimate includes people who were displaced because of violence or harassment directed against themselves or their family members, or because of a real danger of being persecuted on the basis of racial or national origin, religion, language, or group, or because of political beliefs.

It excludes people who committed a crime against peace or humanity, or other serious crimes; who did not apply and did not have a valid excuse for not applying for the status of forced migrant within 12 months of leaving home; and those who left their place of residence for economic reasons or as a result of famine, epidemics or other emergency situations.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from the government's Federal Service of State Statistics based on registration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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

The interpretation of displacement in the estimate by the Russian Federation is more limited than that of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The government's estimate also excludes people who committed certain crimes according to Russian law, as well as those who moved as a result of other causes, such as disasters. The number of IDPs is, as a result, very conservative and should be considered an underestimate. Local activists report people living in IDP-like conditions in the Russian Federation without being officially recognised by the authorities. The lack of monitoring of these caseloads makes it complex to triangulate the data received. The estimate is, as a result, considered to be of limited reliability.

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

The figure represents a decrease from the 2018 figure. Whereas there were 2,279 IDPs registered in 2018, there were 1,824 IDPs registered in 2019. This follows a continuous trend in which the number of IDPs registered has consistently decreased since 1995. It may indicate some partial progress towards durable solutions, a change in the status of IDPs or their registration, or some other important change.

## 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 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate, amounting to 455 IDPs, is based on a comparison in the stock figure for IDPs in Russia between 2018 and 2019. This may be an indication that these people have made progress towards durable solutions. There is not enough evidence, however, to ascertain with confidence that these people have achieved any solution.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate is based on data from the government's Federal Service of State Statistics based on IDP registration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The number of IDPs registered in 2019 was subtracted from the number of IDPs registered in 2018.

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

A reduction in the IDP stock figure may serve as an indicator that a solution has been achieved. Because no evidence is available on the current condition of these people, however, their status has been categorized as unverified.

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

There is a change in the unverified conditions estimate provided in 2019 compared with the year before. There was also a reduction in the official government stock figure from 2017 to 2018. This was not, however, included as unverified at the time. The change in the figure represents a change in the methodology used to calculate it, as well as a continuous reduction in the official numbers of IDPs registered in the country.

## 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.

Displacement metric	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People
Methodology	Registration
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory – admin 0
Frequency of reporting	Once a year
Disaggregation by sex	No
Disaggregation by 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](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

For the full country profile on the Russian Federation please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/russian-federation>