EGYPT

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

IDMC has recorded four new displacements during 2019 associated with conflict and violence. These were the result of an attack by militants allegedly belonging to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) who shelled a village in North Sinai Governorate. This has led to instances of villagers fleeing the attacked area. Because the media reports used to document the attack lacked concrete and detailed information on displacements, IDMC has remained conservative and our figure is very likely an underestimate.

Besides, IDMC believes, that based on contextual information, internal displacement in the form of forced evictions is ongoing in North Sinai because of security operations against Islamist groups. "Operation Sinai", launched in 2016, is a pledge by the government to dismantle extremist Islamist armed groups, in particular in North and South Sinai governorates. This has been described by locals as a war on civilians. Access to North Sinai is severely restricted, and no displacement monitoring is taking place there.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 (Year figure was last updated: 2019)	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 (1 January – 31 December 2019)	Stock	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019)
4	97,000	-	-	-

*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).

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC estimates four new displacements associated with conflict and violence in 2019. This figure is based on one instance of new displacement following an attack by militants in October 2019 in North Sinai. The figure is most likely an underestimate as no specific figure was provided in the reports. The violence in the region is ongoing, but the monitoring of displacement is not systematic.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on a local media article and data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) relaying the same information. The article in the Mada Masr outlet uses local medical sources as the basis for its information.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

No official source has backed this information, and IDMC was only able to triangulate this data by ACLED reports. IDMC thus has a low confidence in the figure.

Significant changes from last year

New displacements in 2018 were much higher as a result of the forced evictions which IDMC continues to report on in the stock of IDPs.

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 based its estimate for the total number of IDPs on its 2018 figure and added the new displacements reported in 2019. IDMC's figure includes people who left their homes in North Sinai between 2013 and 2018 as a result of military operations against ISIL and several other groups. The cities of Rafah and Arish were particularly affected, but people have also left many small villages. The additional displacement included from 2019 consists of people who fled their home because of an attack led by ISIL against their villages in North Sinai.

Sources and methodologies

The source for IDMC's estimates is a local media article and ACLED for the new displacement in 2019 and a May 2018 report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) for the 2018 figure. HRW's main tool is the analysis of satellite images of destroyed buildings. HRW complemented this tool using interviews with affected populations.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The opacity of the situation in North Sinai with regards to internal displacement limits monitoring. The region has been a military zone for the past six years and is inaccessible, except for organizations operating under army supervision. The government does not release any official displacement figures. As a result, it is very difficult to estimate the scale of displacement. The government issued its last update in 2016 when it reported that 25,000 people were displaced from Rafah.

The HRW reports can include destroyed homes as well as destroyed commercial buildings. The number of people displaced as a result of such destruction was obtained through extrapolation and might therefore be an overestimate. People in Sinai, however, live in extended family groups and one building can host a large number of families. As our analysis is based on our estimated Average Household Size measure (AHHS), applied to the number of destroyed housing units, there is an additional margin of potential error in our estimate.

Because of the lack of systematic monitoring of displacement across Egypt, IDMC assumes that its figure is only partial and other underreported displacement events have likely occurred. For the same reason IDMC has not reported on any returns.

Significant changes from last year
IDMC has not been able to gather any evidence on returns, so the total number of IDPs from last year remains unchanged.

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, Households
Methodology	Media monitoring	Media monitoring, Satellite imagery, Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Subnational - admin 1
Frequency of reporting	No update	No update
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

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

For the full country profile on Egypt please visit:
https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/egypt