

THAILAND

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis - GRID 2020

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 because no systematic mechanism exists to identify and provide basic assistance to displaced people.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2007)</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>	Stock	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
-	41,000	-	-	-

*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).

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 estimates a total of about 41,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) whose displacements are associated with conflict in Thailand. Available estimates range from 35,000 to more than 100,000 people, according to an [International Crisis Group \(ICG\) report from 2007](#). A survey, whose results are published in a [Harvard study from 2010](#), revealed that about 41,000 people moved out of three southern provinces in the conflict zone. This is a conservative estimate, and the figure is decaying, since the data comes from 2007. For this reason, we have low confidence in the figure. The Harvard study focuses specifically on ethnically motivated armed conflict and migration flows. It also provides analysis and data on the conflict in the south through access to the area and an evaluation of government and academic research on it.

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 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. This included interviews with 160 village heads, as well as focus group discussions with citizens in nine districts. In 2019, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported to IDMC that the figure in the Harvard study is based on the house registration survey of the National Statistical Institute which is conducted every ten years.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has low confidence in the estimate in particular due to the age of the data and the lack of a systematic mechanism to identify victims and to provide basic assistance to displaced individuals and affected communities. Conflict and violence continue in the south, forcing both Buddhist and Muslim populations to leave the area. It is not known, however, if authorities are following or monitoring the situation.

Significant changes from last year

There has been no update or change from GRID 2019.

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	Subnational – admin 1
Frequency of reporting	No update
Disaggregation by sex	No
Disaggregation by 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

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