

# YEMEN

## Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

### Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

#### CONTEXT

There had been no substantial progress in the implementation of the Stockholm agreement until May, with continuous ceasefire violations especially in Hodeidah. In mid-May, however, Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthi movement, began to [withdraw its forces](#) from the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa. The signing of the [Riyadh agreement](#) between the Southern Transitional Council and the internationally-recognised Yemeni Government in November signalled progress. [A truce had also been observed](#) between Saudi Arabia and Ansar Allah since November, and [Saudi Arabia's state media](#) announced the country would ease restrictions on Yemeni airspace to allow flights out of Sanaa, the Ansar Allah- held capital, to transport people requiring medical treatment abroad.

Displacement, however, continued to occur, and its scale overwhelmed the local response capacity. About 398,000 displacements were recorded during the year. Not only was the new displacement for the first semester of 2019 nearly double the figure IDMC identified for the same period in 2018, but it surpassed the IDMC estimate for all of 2018. Most of the people displaced in 2019 had been previously displaced. Hajjah, Al-Hodeidah, Al Dhale were still the governorates most affected by the conflict. The escalation involved mostly fighting between Ansar Allah forces and the internationally recognised government (IRG or Hadi forces) supported by the Saudi-led coalition, as well as tribal fighting.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2018)</i>	Partial Solutions or 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 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
398,000	3,635,000	26,000	1,193,000	9,000

*\*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's estimate includes displacements associated with conflict and violence recorded between 1 January and 21 December 2019. This estimate is based on reports by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) and includes only movements where conflict and violence were the reasons for displacement. We used IOM-DTM's Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) database up to 30 November 2019 and the weekly reports from 1 December to 21 December. More up-to-date figures are still in the process of being made available. IDMC does, however, consider this estimate to be reliable.

Many IDPs stayed within the same district or governorate where their close family and relatives live. Our humanitarian partners reported that movements also respect traditional tribal boundaries.

Hajjah was the most affected governorate by displacement. The escalation in the fighting mostly involved two types of military confrontation: fighting between Ansar Allah forces and the internationally recognised government, and tribal fighting in the east of the governorate. These movements reportedly affected people who had been displaced on multiple occasions already. Al Dhale'e and Al Hudaydah were the second and third most affected governorates by displacement in 2019.

The main reason behind these movements was the intensity of the conflict in these areas. Unsurprisingly, an overwhelming majority of the IDPs came from these three governorates.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from IOM DTM.

The tool reports on numbers of households forced to flee on a daily basis in terms of numbers, geography and needs. IOM uses the RDT to compile information from various partners including local and international NGOs, as well as local and national authorities. The information gathering is done through document reviews, as well as interviews by key informants (KIs) conducted face-to face or by phone. For locations to which IOM has direct access, DTM field teams verify the information provided by partners through visual observations, review of individual registries and KI interviews. The reports resulting from this process are usually accompanied by datasets that give us more access to data and help us filter it. As of now, the entire country is covered.

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

The figure represents displacement between 1st January and 21 December 2019. More up-to-date figures are still in the process of being made available.

DTM Yemen is unable to report figures for some governorates because of access limitations. IDMC only reported figures that were verified and for which conflict and violence were clearly the cause. Another general challenge surrounding the analysis of data on Yemen is the lengthy information verification process which might result in underreporting some new displacements.

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

Only 252,000 new displacements were recorded in 2018 in Yemen. The figure of 398,000 displacements for 2019 can be explained by better geographical coverage in reporting and the intensification of the conflict. The increase in new displacements in the first semester of 2019 was the product of greater localised conflict. One example of this was the wave of people fleeing the

fighting in Hajjah governorate from the end of January until March, which alone led to at least 33,000 new displacements. Other significant conflicts occurred in Hodeidah and Ad Dhale.

## 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 for the number of people displaced is based on data from IOM DTM which was calculated or obtained through the Baseline Sub-Area Assessment conducted in November 2018 and published in March 2019. Most IDPs come from Al Hudaydah, Taizz and Hajjah as well as Marib, the governorate often considered a safe haven.

### **Sources and methodologies**

The aim of the sub-area assessment is to track and monitor IDP and returnee populations in Yemen. Information is collected on population size, area of origin, current location, duration of displacement, shelter types, priority needs and movement trends. DTM has complete country coverage, with active data collection taking place in all 22 governorates and 333 districts.

Data is collected through an extensive KI network within the operational area. In the Yemen context, the suggested practice for field teams and implementing partners is to select KI representatives of both the host and IDP communities while adhering to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence. This ensures that the selected KIs are the most relevant and appropriate individuals to ensure the successful implementation of the exercise.

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

The analysis was conducted in November 2018. There was no subsequent Baseline Assessment conducted afterwards by IOM and we could not come up with any other reliable figures on the total number of IDPs as of December 2019. Humanitarian partners in the country use IOM-DTM's figures. As it is the only system in the country conducting such an assessment, there was no triangulation.

All districts in Yemen were assessed. IOM DTM's 37<sup>th</sup> Round was the first to cover the entirety of the country, with data collection having taken place in all 22 governorates and 333 districts.

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

The figure of 3,635,000 IDPs represents an increase of more than a third, or 1,311,000 compared with the figure for GRID 2018. This increase can be attributed to wider geographical coverage compared to previously performed assessments. It was the first time since the outbreak of the war that IOM was able to conduct a survey in the northern governorates. The assessment was conducted in November 2018 and published in 2019 after the lockdown of figures for GRID 2019; these figures were therefore not published then.

## NUMBER OF IDPS WHO HAVE MADE PARTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A DURABLE SOLUTION

*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 that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.*

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC's estimate of movements that led to partial progress towards a durable solution is based on IOM DTM's figures of returns. According to IOM DTM RDT, 26,000 reported return movements were recorded between 1 January and 30 November 2019. Given the lack of detailed information on these movements, they were included in the partial solutions category.

The estimated total number of people who made partial progress towards a durable solution as of 31 December 2019 is based on the number of people who have been displaced since 2015 as a result of the conflict, and who were reported by IOM DTM as having returned to their habitual place of residence. We do not, however have sufficient information to ascertain that these people no longer suffer from displacement-related vulnerabilities.

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's estimate for the number of movements that led to partial solutions is based on data on returns flows from IOM DTM RDT. The estimate for the total number of people having reached partial solutions as of the end of 2019 was calculated based on the Baseline Sub-Area Assessment published in March 2019 on an assessment conducted in November 2018.

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

Scarce information regarding the current conditions of IDPs who reportedly returned makes it impossible to record them as having achieved durable solutions to their displacement. People that developed income-generating activities in their place of displacement, for instance, could be considered as having made progress toward local integration, but there is very little information on such solutions.

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

In GRID 2019, 1,009,000 people were estimated to have achieved partial solutions as of June 2018. As of 30 November 2018, 1,193,000 people are reported by IOM as having returned. This represents only a slight increase of 184,000 people reported as having achieved durable solutions. As for the stock of IDPs for Yemen, this increase is likely a result of better geographical coverage between the IOM assessments. November 2018 was the first time IOM had coverage throughout the country.

## 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 of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified corresponds to the number of people reported by IOM DTM RDT as having "left" their displacement location in 2019 but about whom there is no additional information. As nothing is known about what happened to them, IDMC reports on them as "unverified conditions". This should be considered as a flow as the same people may have been counted several times throughout the year.

### **Sources and methodologies**

The estimate includes movements monitored by IOM DTM of IDPs who have left their displacement location, but for whom there is no available information as to whether they returned to their habitual place of residence or if they are again in a situation of displacement.

IOM DTM in Yemen implements various assessment activities, including RDT, the baseline sub-area assessment and flow monitoring registries and surveys.

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

The dataset reports on displacement in Yemen from 1 January to 30 November 2019, but IOM DTM began to report on people that left their displacement location only as of October. For this reason, data is only available on people that left their displacement location from October to November.

Only 9 of the 22 governorates show unverified flows. There is no information available as to whether this is because such flows have not been reported elsewhere in the country, because of a lack of access, or because of different practices among data collectors in different locations.

More up-to-date figures are still in the process of being made available. IDMC does, however, consider this estimate to be sufficiently reliable.

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

It is the first time that IDMC has reported on unverified conditions.

## 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	Key informants, Registration	Key informants, Registration
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	More than once a month	Once a year
Disaggregation by sex	Partial	Yes
Disaggregation by age	Partial	Yes
Data triangulation	No Triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Yes	Yes
Data on returns	Yes	Yes
Data on local integration	Partial	Yes
Data on cross border movements	Yes	Yes
Data on deaths	No	Yes
Data on births	Yes	Yes

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

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