

Yemen: Figures analysis

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016: 1,974,000

New displacements associated with conflict in 2016: At least 478,000

Notes and caveats

Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016

Primary source: Our stock figure is based the raw dataset compiled by Yemen's Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM), which is led jointly by IOM's DTM and UNHCR. The TFPM is present in the field and coordinates regular data collection to inform operations on the ground. The dataset for its 13th report is undergoing verification, but it shared an initial draft version with us to allow us to prepare our GRID estimates.

Geographical and temporal coverage: The TFPM's data spans covers all of Yemen's 22 governorates. IOM works on 12 of them, and UNHCR on 10, the latter focusing specifically on the north-western governorates.

Description of source's methodology: The TFPM's joint methodology was developed between October and December 2015, and used for the first time at the beginning of 2016 to compile its 9th report in April. Any updates on the figures presented are addressed and if necessary corrected in subsequent reports.

The TFPM's data collection is based on area assessments and input from key informants. The collection and validation process for each cycle, or round, usually takes about a month, and it takes a further month to prepare the data for publication. The methodology in the field involves both static and mobile enumerators, but challenges associated with access and other context-specific needs require an ongoing check on the figures. The TFPM collects data by household unit, then converts it into figures for individuals by applying an average household size of six.

There are two important factors to consider when assessing the number of IDPs in Yemen:

- **Invisibility:** Yemen has a no-camp policy, which creates a number of challenges for both humanitarian providers and the local population. Yemenis tend to value their privacy highly, which can lead to extended families living together under one roof rather than looking for less cramped and more comfortable options such as shared accommodation in schools or hospitals. Their living conditions are often dire, because they tend not to be tracked and so do not receive assistance. Invisibility therefore means that numbers reporting internal displacement are likely to be underestimated.
- **Volatility:** The displaced population is highly dynamic, and many IDPs undertake frequent pendular movements between their places of origin and their temporary accommodation. IDPs also tend to return to their places of residence as soon as news of relative stability is received, but doing so may or not prove to be sustainable and often leads to repeated displacement, as noted both by the TFPM and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

New displacements associated with conflict in 2016

Primary source: See above

Geographical and temporal coverage: See above

Description of source's methodology: See above

We arrived at our estimate for new displacements by adding up the positive differences in stock variations during the year. These have been ascribed to an escalation of fighting in Marib and Sana'a that caused 325,738 new displacements in March and 152,009 between May and June.

We consider our rounded figure of 478,000 to be conservative – hence the qualifier “at least”. It may be as high as 753,000, an alternative estimate we arrived at by accounting for IDP returns in the estimate of new displacement.

In the end, however, we opted to use the more conservative figure after consultations with the TFPM determined that it was more representative of the scale of the situation they observed from the ground.

Other published displacement estimates not used: Other organisations and UN agencies shared ad hoc estimates of new displacements with us, but they were not the product of regular data collection and a systematic approach to monitoring.