

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT UPDATE

Issue 5: 3 - 16 November 2016



HIGHLIGHTS

Instances of internal displacement caused by conflict, violence and disasters

CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

- 📍 Iraq: 68,000 new displacements, 17 October - 23 November
- 📍 India and Pakistan: At least 33,000 new displacements, 21 October - 6 November
- 📍 Myanmar: Up to 30,000 new displacements, 9 October - 14 November
- 📍 Afghanistan: 17,000 returns from Iran and Pakistan, 3 - 16 November

DISASTERS

- 📍 Dominican Republic: 26,000 new displacements, 9 - 16 November

FEATURE

Iraq

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 📍 | AFFECTED AREAS | Mosul and other areas |
| ⚔️ | CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Conflict |
| 👤 | FIGURES | 68,000 new displacements between 17 October and 23 November |
| 📖 | CONTEXT | |

About 68,000 people fled Mosul between 17 October and 23 November because of the Iraqi army's large-scale offensive to dislodge Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from Mosul ([IOM automated dashboard, 23 November 2016](#)). The cumulative

number of people displaced doubled in the second week of November. Airstrikes, shelling and the use of improvised explosive devices in densely populated areas of the city have resulted in increased civilian casualties. Civilians have also been used as human shields and targeted as they fled ([ECHO, 14 November 2016](#)).

A woman who arrived at Hassan Sham camp east of Mosul said her husband had been killed and she and her nine-year-old daughter badly burned when an ISIL suicide bomber blew himself up outside their home. The attack also killed members of four other families who were taking shelter together, she said ([Oxfam, 10 November 2016](#)).




There are also reports from Kirkuk and Nineveh governorates of Sunni Arab homes being destroyed between September 2014 and May 2016 in areas Kurdish Peshmerga forces retook from ISIL ([HRW, 13 November 2016](#)).

Security in cities such as Ramadi and Fallujah has improved, but the overall situation for displaced people in Iraq remains

“extremely worrisome”. There are few large international aid agencies with operations in central areas of the country. Local organisations continue to provide the most regular response in hard-to-reach areas, but their capacity is limited ([Refugees International, 15 November 2016](#)).

AMERICAS




Dominican Republic

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | 21 provinces |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Disaster (Flood) |
|  FIGURES | 26,000 new displacements |

CONTEXT

Floods displaced about 26,000 people on 9 November following heavy rains in the north-west, north-east, east and south-east of the country and the central highland area known as Cordillera Central ([CEODR, 9 November 2016](#)). A week later, more than 11,000 people remained displaced ([CEODR, 16 November 2016](#)).

Haiti

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Grand’Anse, Nord-Est, Nord and Nord-Ouest departments |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Disaster (Flood) |
|  FIGURES | 2,800 new displacements |




CONTEXT

About 2,800 people, including five with disabilities and 90 infants, took refuge in shelters in Nord department after heavy rains that began on 5 November and caused flash floods and landslides in Nord, Grand’Anse, Nord-Est and Nord-Ouest departments ([ECHO, 8 November 2016](#); [ANMWE, 11 November 2016](#)).

One month after hurricane Matthew, 176,000 people were still living in shelters ([OCHA, 16 November 2016](#)).

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Indonesia

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Aceh and West Java provinces |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Disaster (Flood) |
|  FIGURES | 13,000 new displacements |

CONTEXT

Floods caused by heavy rain on 8 and 9 November displaced about 4,400 people in Aceh Jaya district in Aceh province ([Radio Republik Indonesia, 9 November 2016](#)). In West Java province, about 1,800 people were evacuated to shelters in Bandung district on 11 November, and about 6,400 people were displaced in Karawang district on 13 and 14 November ([Pikiran Rakyat, 11 November 2016](#); [BNPB, 14 November 2016](#)).

Across Indonesia, 68 million people face a moderate to high risk of floods. Between 1 January and 11 November, disasters affected more than 2.5 million people and damaged 34,000 homes. Floods were the most common disaster ([BNPB, 13 November 2016](#)).




Myanmar

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Maungdaw district in Rakhine state |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Conflict |
|  FIGURES | Up to 30,000 new displacements between 9 October and 14 November |

CONTEXT

Renewed clashes between government forces and armed groups displaced about 15,000 people in Maungdaw district in Rakhine state on 12 and 13 November. Another 15,000 people were displaced after clashes on 9 October. Access restrictions make it difficult to verify the numbers or meet IDPs’ needs ([ECHO, 14 November 2016](#); correspondence from OCHA, 18 November 2016). The last serious outbreak of violence in Rakhine in 2012 displaced 130,000 people and led to cross-border displacement to Bangladesh and eventually the 2015 boat crisis in the Andaman Sea ([ECHO, 16 November 2016](#)).

New Zealand




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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Central regions |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Disaster (Earthquake) |
|  FIGURES | Thousands of new displacements |

CONTEXT

Thousands of people pre-emptively evacuated in response to a tsunami warning after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 14 November ([The Guardian, 15 November 2016](#)). The earthquake, several strong aftershocks and related landslides forced more than 1,000 people to stay in a shelter ([BBC, 15 November 2016](#)). A local state of emergency was declared ([MCDEM, 16 November 2016](#)).

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Syria

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Aleppo city, Idlib governorate, Al-Raqqa city |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Conflict |
|  FIGURES | At least 5,500 new displacements between 29 October and 3 November in Aleppo; four IDPs killed on 26 October in Idlib; at least 3,000 new displacements in Al-Raqqa between 6 and 14 November |

CONTEXT


About 5,500 people were registered as displaced between 29 October and 3 November after intensified attacks on neighbourhoods in west Aleppo, with numbers expected to increase ([OCHA, 3 November 2016](#)). On 26 October, airstrikes in Idlib governorate, south-west of Aleppo, killed 34 people, including four IDPs ([OCHA, 4 November 2016](#)).

An unknown number of people fled from 17 villages north of Al-Raqqa city, east of Aleppo, between 6 and 14 November. More than 3,000 fled north behind combat lines, while an unknown number moved further into areas controlled by ISIL ([ECHO, 14 November 2016](#)).

About 800 internally displaced Syrians were reported to be stuck at Rajem Al Sleibi, a village on the Syrian side of the border with Iraq, 17 kilometres from a camp, where they were undergoing security screening by Kurdish police before being allowed to proceed ([OCHA, 4 November 2016](#)).

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Nimroz provinces |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Conflict |
|  FIGURES | 17,000 returns from Pakistan and Iran between 6 and 12 November |

CONTEXT




More than 7,600 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces between 6 and 12 November. The total number of such returnees from Pakistan between 1 January and 12 November 2016 is 228,000 (revised previous figures). More than 9,300 returned

from Iran through Herat and Nimroz provinces during the same period, bringing the total from Iran in 2016 to 391,000 (revised previous figures) ([IOM, 12 November 2016](#)).

The number of returnees is expected to drop in the coming months because of the winter suspension of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)'s repatriation programme from 1 November to 1 March. Pakistan has said Afghan refugees must leave by the end of March 2017 ([IRIN, 10 November 2016](#)).

Human Rights Watch said: "Like all other states, Pakistan is prohibited from refouling – that is, forcibly returning – registered refugees in any manner whatsoever to their home country, and has therefore committed mass refoulement ... If UNHCR resumes its cash grant on 1 March while Pakistan maintains its 31 March deportation deadline for registered refugees ... then UNHCR will become complicit in mass refoulement. That's because registered refugees will feel they have no choice but to take UN money to go home 'voluntarily' before Pakistan kicks them out with nothing." ([IRIN, 10 November 2016](#)).

India and Pakistan

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|  AFFECTED AREAS | Jammu and Kashmir state in India; Azad Jammu and Kashmir state in Pakistan |
|  CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT | Conflict |
|  FIGURES | Up to 33,000 new displacements in India between 21 October and 6 November; thousands displaced in Pakistan on or after 14 November |

CONTEXT

Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan, shelling forced as many as 33,000 people to flee from villages near the line of control in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir to relief camps between 21 October and 6 November ([Times of India, 6 November 2016](#)). Thousands in Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir fled their homes after shelling on or after 14 November ([AP, 15 November 2016](#)).

NOTES

The terminology, names and designations used in this update and the material in links do not imply any opinion on the part of IDMC.

Displacement figures reported here are indicative only and have been rounded to the nearest 100 (if the total is less than 10,000) or 1,000 (if the figure is 10,000 or larger). For IDMC-validated and peer-reviewed figures, read our Global Report on Internal Displacement [here](#).

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