Afghanistan

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figures Analysis – 2020

	Figure	Highlight	Methodology and Sources	Caveats and Challenges
New Displacement	404,000	This figure refers mostly to displacement triggered by clashes between the Taliban and the Afghan security forces. Most of the new displacements were reported in the northeastern and southern provinces. Almost half of the displacements took place following the start of intra-Afghan peace talks in September.	This figure was obtained from the Displacement Tracking System (DTS) of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It is based on displacement reports captured by OCHA's DTS using the 'petition system' under which displaced persons visit their local Directorate of Refugees and Repatriations (DoRR) office for assistance. To a lesser extent, the DTS also receives information from alerts by humanitarian agencies and other partners. Displaced persons are then verified as IDPs in a screening meeting attended by humanitarian organisations, local authorities, and occasionally community elders.	We have high confidence in this figure because the current estimate is based on the most recent figure as per OCHA's DTS system. However, several challenges exist. OCHA's verification process for displacements in 2020 may continue for several months into 2021. As a result, it is possible that OCHA's figure may increase following IDMC's finalisation of its 2020 figure. The DTS data only includes newly registered IDPs. It does not include secondary displacements (people who were displaced more than once) in 2020. It also occasionally captures short-term displacement. Many people who are displaced temporarily are never registered within the OCHA DTS data. Access constraints may also affect IDPs' ability to register within OCHA's system.
Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2020 *Pending further information and evidence, those who are in a situation of displacement, but progressing towards a durable solution have not been included.*	3,547,000	Reported IDPs are Afghans who fled from other settlements in Afghanistan and have arrived and presently reside at the assessed location as a result of, or to avoid, the effects of armed conflict. This figure includes assessments from all 34 provinces in Afghanistan, with the largest IDP hosting provinces being Herat, Helmand, and Badghis.	This figure was obtained from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It is based on IOM DTM's Round 10 mobility baseline assessment methodology as of June 2020. The methodology covers the whole country and relies on key informant and focus group discussions conducted by field enumerators at the settlement level. The assessment includes data on conflict as a trigger for displacement, which is used to estimate the total number of people displaced by conflict.	We have high confidence in this figure. However, it remains an estimate as it is based on key informant interviews. It may overestimate the number of IDPs in some parts of Afghanistan. An additional complexity is the high rate of displacement linked to disasters, primarily drought and floods, in Afghanistan in 2020. While key informants report on the number of IDPs by cause of displacement (disaster or conflict) these reports are based on estimated proportions of IDP populations and are not precise. Surveys are also still carried out using paper forms. This is likely to lead to errors in the data collection process compared to using digital forms.

iDMC internal displacement monitoring centre

Afghanistan

Displacement associated with Disasters

Figures Analysis – 2020

	Figure	Highlight	Methodology and Sources	Caveats and Challenges
New Displacement	46,000	This figure refers mostly to displacement triggered by flooding between March and May, and in August, triggering around 39,000 new displacements in total. This included one major event between 25-27 August when flash floods led to 14,000 new displacements in the eastern provinces. Extreme winter conditions, including avalanches, hailstorm, and winter storms, also triggered displacement in 2020.	This figure was obtained from data extracted from IOM's Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment System as well as reports by OCHA that were not recorded by IOM. It is based on data disaggregated at the village level that includes the number of families displaced to shelters, host families, or informal settlements, as well as housing destruction. IDMC multiplied household figures by the average household size to estimate the number of people displaced.	We have medium confidence in this figure. Slow-onset disasters such as drought are not necessarily well reflected in the IOM Humanitarian Assistance Programme (HAP) data. While drought data was reported in previous years, none was available in 2020. In addition, displacement data for this hazard type is not systemically collected and requires a composite analysis and assessment based on various sources.
Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2020 *Pending further information and evidence, those who are in a situation of displacement, but progressing towards a durable solution have not been included.*	1,117,000	Our year-end estimate is based on time series data and housing destruction data for specific disaster events, as well as aggregated figures on the number of people displaced by disasters recorded by governments and other stakeholders. In addition to the people displaced by disasters in 2020, this figure includes cases from previous years where there was information on the number of people still displaced. We used an algorithm that reduces tens of thousands of data points entered into IDMC's database into a final IDP stock estimate per country. The script also filters the data into a variety of pre-defined scenarios and to ensure that no overestimation can occur. The code was written by the Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, and funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Impact Acceleration Account grant. Our methodology remains a work in progress.	Providers of disaster displacement data tend not to include information about when, how and for how long people were displaced. One of the main gaps and challenges in accurately estimating the number of IDPs is the lack of measurement of return flows. Data tends not to be collected on people who have achieved durable solutions either by local integration or resettlement elsewhere in the country. Our headcount does not include people displaced from hundreds of events for which we recorded only one data point (i.e., one figure provided at only one moment in time). These figures often reflect the maximum number of people displaced, commonly during an evacuation, and including these figures would have led to an overestimate.