Turkey Migration and Internally Displaced Population Survey (TMIDPS)

Internally Displaced Persons: Concepts and Situation in the World
4 March 2005

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Internal Displacement

- According to the international definition used, “internally displaced persons” are defined as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.
Internal Displacement

- Only persons who have been forced or obliged to leave within their countries are accepted as “internally displaced”. Those who have migrated due to economic reasons or who have voluntarily migrated are not included in this definition.
In the framework of this project, whenever possible, in order to avoid conceptual confusion, the term “yerinden olmuş nüfus” (internally displaced persons) is used for expressing any internal displacement regardless of the specific reason. For the displacement due to armed conflicts, violence and security reasons, the term “yerinden edilmiş kişiler” will be used as a sub-group of internally displaced population.
United Nations Guiding Principles

- “Guiding Principles” aims to help and provide protection to internally displaced persons.
- These principles are offered to be implemented to the studies concerning internally displaced persons.
- In this project, “Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons” plays a determining role at the stages of data collection, analysis and interpretation.
United Nations Guiding Principles

- These principles determine the rights relevant to the protection of people during displacement and the assistance they get as well as their protection against displacement, the duration of their return, resettlement and reintegration.
United Nations Guiding Principles

- These principles are consistent with International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law which provide guidance to states when faced with the phenomenon of internal displacement, all other authorities, groups and persons in their relations with internally displaced persons, public institutions and non-governmental organizations.
Since its publication in 1998, Guiding Principles have become a basis for international defense and actions. UN organizations, regional institutions, non-governmental organizations and governments whose numbers are gradually increasing have used these principles in their policies and programmes developed for internally displaced persons.
Situation in the World

- Predictions about the number of internally displaced population have been made since the beginning of 1980s. In time, the number of internally displaced persons have declined because of returns or transition of temporal settlements to permanent ones. However, general tendency results in an increase caused by the occurrence of new displacements.
- From the beginning of 21st century, it is estimated that approximately 25 million people are internally displaced due to conflicts or human rights violations.
**Distribution of Internally Displaced Persons among Continents**

In the end of 2003, the distribution of internally displaced persons among continents was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of countries</th>
<th>Number of internally displaced persons (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pasific</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>52</strong></td>
<td><strong>24.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Global IDP Project, 2004
International Organizations Having Activities Related to Internally Displaced Persons

- Norwegian Refugee Council – IDP Project
- UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Human Rights Watch
- Brookings Institute
- UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
International Organizations Having Activities Related to Internally Displaced Persons

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation for Europe (OSCE)
- European Council
- World Bank
- European Union
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- US Committee for Refugees
- Etc.
IDP Project – Norwegian Refugee Council

- IDP Project was established by Norwegian Refugee Council in 1996 as a non-governmental organization, mainly in response to increasing number of internally displaced persons and growing information needs related to these people.

- IDP Project, which is financed by the contributions of volunteer people, institutions or organizations, has the following objectives:
  - Not only to help finding realistic solutions to develop the living conditions of these people, but also to protect and advocate the rights of the victims who have been internally displaced due to conflicts and the violations of their rights in their regions,
IDP Project – Norwegian Refugee Council

- To provide internally displaced persons to return in safety, to have a settled and regular way of life and to live in harmony with the society,

- To pursue internally displaced population worldwide in order to provide necessary information to be gathered and analyzed for decision-makers in the countries.

IDP Project prepared a report on 5 April 2004 related to the internally displaced persons in Turkey.
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- UNHCR was established in 14 December 1950 by United Nations General Assembly to protect the rights of refugees and resolve the refugee problems worldwide.

- Aims of UNHCR:
  - To provide assistance and protection to refugees irrespective of their race, religion, gender or language,
  - To strive to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find refugee in other state and to return voluntarily,
  - To assist refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country.
There are an estimated 25 million internally displaced people in at least 50 countries. Even though the basic interest area of UNHCR does not comprise internally displaced persons, in addition to the refugees UNHCR helps some of these IDPs (currently an estimated 5.8 million people) as internally displaced civilians are often caught up in same conflicts and face the same problems like refugees.

Countries assisted by UNHCR related to internally displaced population:
- Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo, Angola, Georgia, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Burundi.
Human Rights Watch is an independent, non-governmental organization, supported by contributions of volunteer people, institutions or organizations. It accepts no direct or indirect government funds.

Human Rights Watch was established in 1978 as Helsinki Watch, to monitor the compliance of Soviet Block countries with the human rights provisions of the landmark Helsinki Accord. In 1980’s Americas Watch was set up and this was followed by the formation of several “watch committees” in many part of the world. In 1988, all the “Watch Committees” were united to form Human Rights Watch.
HRW – Human Rights Watch

- Goals of this committee:
  - To provide the protection of human rights worldwide,
  - To reveal human rights violations,
  - To terminate discrimination,
  - To increase political freedom,
  - To protect people from negative events during war time.

- Human Rights Watch prepared a report in October 2002 about Turkey titled “Diplaced and Disregarded – Turkey’s Failing Village Return Program”
Internally Displaced Population in Turkey

- In Turkey, because of terror attacks and the prevention terrorism lots of villages and fields were evacuated in the last 20 years, especially in the East and South-east Anatolia. In addition to these, due to economic reasons, large scale development projects in the frame of South-east Anatolia Project (SAP), earthquakes, natural disasters and settlement policies, there were other evacuations of settlements in the region.
Internally Displaced Population in Turkey

- According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs data, in 12 provinces (Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hakkari, Mardin, Muş, Siirt, Şırnak, Tunceli ve Van) in East and Southeast Anatolia, the number of people displaced as a result of terrorism and the fighting with terrorism is about 357,000.

- However, some international institutions and non-governmental organizations have declared that the number of these people changes between 1 and 3 million.
RVRP

“Return to the Villages and Rehabilitation Project” started by Turkish government covers 14 provinces. The aims of RVRP are,

- To settle the people who are volunteer to return, to an appropriate territory(-ies) or near to their usual residences,
- To establish the necessary social and economic infrastructure,
- To provide sustainable living conditions in these settlements,
- To reestablish interrupted rural life and maintain a sustainable living,
- To constitute a more stabilized settlement plan in the rural areas,
- To perform a more rational allocation of public sector investments and services,
- To support the development of central villages
RVRP

- Return to the Villages and Rehabilitation Project was exposed to various criticism both in Turkey and in abroad.
- A lot of legal, social, technical and security issues have been highlighted related to the principles that have oriented the application of RVRP, type of processing, attitudes towards them and problems faced in this field.
Return

- As of January 2005, Turkish government have declared that approximately 125,000 persons (1 out of 3 displaced) have returned to their villages.
Law No. 5233

- Law No. 5233-The Law on Compensation for Damage Arising from Terror and Combatting Terror, generally known as Compensation Law, was ratified by Turkish Grand National Assembly on 17.7.2004.

- Regulation No. 2004/7955 determining the application procedures and principles of this law was accepted and put into force by the Council of Ministers on 4.10.2004.
Law No. 5233

- The law aims to indemnify the material damages of persons who have migrated or displaced due to terror or anti-terror acts (Article 1). Besides, this law also aims to pay on account of the partially reimbursed damages of public officials, who cannot be consired in the extent of internally displaced person or population but who have been affected by terror or anti-terror acts, according to the legal amount (Temporary Article).
The damages arising from terror and combatting terror which are compensated through several ways as monetary or in kind in pais or based on the cases opened before the law was enacted (article 2a, b, c), the damages arising from personal intentions (article 2e), damages arising from economic and social reasons other than terror and security even if they include migration and internal displacement (article 2d) are out of the scope of damages that will be compensated.
Law No. 5233

- Damages related to the actions of the ones who have been sentenced because of the crimes in the scope of Article 1, 3 and 4 of Law No. 3713 Anti-Terror Law, the help and harbor terror actions are judged to be not indemnified (Article 2 f).

- The Law on Compensation for Damage Arising from Terror and Combatting Terror has been largely criticized and the criticisms still continue.
Other Assistances in the Region

- Social Foundation
- Ministry of Agriculture – Direct Income Support
- Micro credit...

- Services of NGOs related to their target population
Village Guard System

- Temporary village guard system has been enacted on 26.03.1985 by a law number 3175 and come into force on 27.09.1986.
- “In order to protect purity, life and commodity of everybody living in a village, village guards exist” was stated in an article of the law.
Village Guard System

- The staff of village guards has not been increased since the year 2000 and currently, there are 58,542 guards in 22 provinces.
State of Emergency

- State of emergency was declared covering the East and Southeast Anatolia Regions of Turkey in 1987. Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hakkari, Bingöl, Tunceli, Van, Siirt and Mardin provinces were included to the State of Emergency Regional Governorship on 19.07.1987 when the Martial Law in Diyarbakır, Böngöl, Hakkari, Mardin and Siirt was ceased to have force.

- According to the 121st article of Constitutional Law, as a result of the demand of Council of Ministers, the state of emergency period had been prolonged for maximum 4 months.

- The State of Emergency in East and Southeast Anatolia was ceased to have force on 30.11.2002.
# 2004 Human Development Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GDP per capita (PPPS)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>ADIYAMAN</td>
<td>2.735</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AĞRI</td>
<td>1.803</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BATMAN</td>
<td>3.410</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BİNGÖL</td>
<td>2.331</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BİTLİS</td>
<td>1.932</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DİYARBAKIR</td>
<td>3.701</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELAZIĞ</td>
<td>4.931</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAKKARİ</td>
<td>2.455</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARDİN</td>
<td>2.519</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUŞ</td>
<td>1.587</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SİİRT</td>
<td>3.062</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŞIRNAK</td>
<td>1.816</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUNCELİ</td>
<td>4.355</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAN</td>
<td>2.447</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ongoing and Planned Regional Development Projects in Turkey

There has been five regional development experience of Turkey:

- Zonguldak-Bartın-Karabük (ZBK) Regional Development Project,
- East Black Sea Region Development Plan (DOKAP),
- Yeşilırmak River Basin Development Project covering Amasya, Çorum, Samsun and Tokat Provinces,
- East Anatolia Project (DAP),
- Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP).
Ongoing and Planned Regional Development Projects in Turkey

- East Anatolia Project was prepared by five universities in the region under the leadership of State Planning Organization.
Ongoing and Planned Regional Development Projects in Turkey

- The main purpose of East Anatolia Project is to create the environment necessary for evoking the potential of the region.

- Economic, social, environmental and residential target groups were determined in order to reach this goal.
Ongoing and Planned Regional Development Projects in Turkey

- Southeast Anatolia Project is the largest and most comprehensive regional development project in Turkey.
- Project includes dams, hydroelectric power plants, irrigation systems, agricultural infrastructure services, industrial development, education, health and other sectoral projects.
- Provinces covered by Southeast Anatolia Project (9 provinces): Adıyaman, Batman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Şırnak and Şanlıurfa.
Ongoing and Planned Regional Development Projects in Turkey

- Southeast Anatolia Project aims at using the local resources in order to eliminate the problems stemming from regional underdevelopment.

- It is a human centered regional development project whose purpose is the development of South East Anatolia as a whole.
Sub-Region Development Plan- TSBD

- The Sub-Region Development Plan aiming at restructuring the related regions and returns to villages under the “Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project” is completed in 2002 by Turkish Social Science Association for Presidency of Southeast Anatolia Regional Development Administration.

- The administration of these plans in which one pilot zone is selected from each province and model village projects for 2500 people are implemented left to the appreciation of Governors’ Office.
Sub-Region Development Plan-TSBD

The aims of “East and Southeast Anatolia Regions Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project Sub-Region Development Plan” are:

- to make the population who were subject to and drastically experienced the problems of the displacement productive for themselves and for the country;
- to transform the social and economic costs of internal displacement into opportunities by planning the return to villages properly; and to constitute a new settlement design rather than dispersed settlements with severe transportation conditions which are heavily dependent on agricultural activities and in which it leads very high costs to maintain services;
- to organize the destroyed houses and rural service infrastructure with a new understanding;
- to provide more rationalist and livable physical and social environment.
Focus group interviews were completed with the households determined by sampling among the groups who were living in provinces and some districts covered by the project and declared their desire to return to villages to administrational agencies, in order to obtain quick rural evaluations.
Focus group studies were completed with a sample of 1097 people who migrated from their villages in Batman, Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hakkari, Mardin, Muş, Şırnak, Tunceli, Van provinces and Batman/Gercüş, Bingöl/ Genç, Elazığ/ Palu, Siirt/Eruh districts and Şırnak/Merkez/Kumçatı Villages.
The Parliament Study Commission

- The Parliament Research Commission founded for investigation of the problems of migrated citizens as a result of evacuated settlements in East and Southeast Anatolia and for determination of precautions that are necessary to be taken has prepared a report in 1998.

- The practices of government were evaluated from a critical perspective and the problems that citizens faced with were pointed out.
Other Reports and Documents Related to the Issue

- Middle East Technical University – Southeast Anatolia Project Population Mobility Survey - 1994
- Parliament Research Commission - “Commission founded for investigation of the problems of migrated citizens as a result of evacuated settlements in East and Southeast Anatolia and for determination of precautions that are necessary to be taken” - 1998
Other Reports and Documents Related to the Issue

- GÖÇ-DER – “Socio-economic and Socio-cultural conditions of Kurdish Citizens of Turkish Republic Before and After Migration, The Problems Stemming from the Migration as a result of Armed Conflicts and Tension Policies and Investigating the Tendency of Disadvantaged Families related to Return Migration and Suggestions on Solutions”
- TESEV – “Return to Villages Following the Internal Forced Migration” - 2004
- TİHV – Monthly Reports
Estimations Mentioned in the Reports

- ABD Refugees Committee: between 400,000 and 1 million
- Human Rights Watch: 380,000 – 1 million
- Human Rights Watch: 2 million
- Göç-Der: between 3,5 and 4 million
- TİHV: 3 million
- TMMOB: 3 million
- USA Ministry of State: Maximum 1 million
- UNHCR-United Nations High Commission of Refugees: 2 million
- İHD-TİHV-TMMOB-Göç-Der-ÖDP-HADEP-TOHAV: more than 3 million people
Estimations Mentioned in the Reports

- United Nations Helsinki Commission: more than 3 million
- Minority Human Rights Group International: 3 million
- Council of Europe Committee of Migration: between 370,000 and 10 million
- Paris Kurdish Institute: 2.5 – 3 million
- Geneva Human Rights Kurdish Centre: 3 million
- KİHP: 2.5 – 3 million
- Diyarbakır Bar: 3 million
- NRC (IDP Project): 1 million (They state that “Turkish NGOs estimate a number between 1 and 4.5 million"
Criticisms to Turkey Regarding to IDPS

- There are different numbers stated for the internally displaced population.
- The number of people returned is very low.
- Village guard system is a barrier for return to villages.
- Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project is not participatory.
- There is uncertainty related to implementation of “Compensation law for damages stemming from terror and struggle with terror” and its contribution to solutions.
Criticisms to Turkey Regarding to IDPS

- There are settlements where security problems still exist.
- Land mines are important barriers for return in some settlements.
The Importance of Displacement for Turkey

- In the 2003 Accession Partnership Document of European Union, there is a statement about “supporting and accelerating the return of internally displaced persons to their origin” in the political criteria section.

- The Progress Report 2004 related to Turkey’s Partnership covers the issue and in the report, it is stated that the issue is still important and most of the internally displaced persons live under bad circumstances.
The Importance of Displacement for Turkey

- Secretary General of UN Special Representative of Internally Displaced Persons Francis M. Deng pointed out the importance of acceleration of the process by the active participation of international organizations and of overcoming the weak points of Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project.
European Court of Human Rights

- There has been applications to Europe Human Rights Court claiming that “they are forced to migrate by the security forces as a result of terrorist acts during 1990-1996 and they were prevented from returning to their villages”.
TMIDPS Project

- This project is a result of an international cooperation initiative on this issue.
- The project aims at making a complementary and contemporary survey on internally displaced persons and Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project.
- It is important for the project to be participatory and transparent.
TMIDPS Project

- However, the project should not be limited to internally displaced persons and Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project. It should provide comprehensive outcomes for regional development projects.

- It is important to maintain the national and international cooperation in order to guarantee the integration to large scope development projects.
TMIDPS Project

- In order to redress grievances of internally displaced persons, steps should be taken regarding the implementation of Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project and Compensation Law and policies necessary for the solution of the issue should be determined.

- Outcomes of this project will contribute to the improvements on this issue and be beneficial for regional development policies and sustainability of existing policies.
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