

# DAMAGE ASSESSMENT & FORCED MIGRATION REPORT

*Aftermath the Urban Armed Conflicts in Southeast of Turkey*



**Union of Southeastern Anatolia Region Municipalities  
(GABB)**



30 June 2016

# Destruction and Forced Migration

Peace talks, started in 2013 to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Kurdish question in Turkey was terminated in 2015. Armed conflicts restarted in the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia Regions of Turkey. Unlike the rural armed conflict episode in the 1900s and 2000s, the latest armed conflicts have taken place in urban areas. Ongoing armed clashes gained a new momentum after Turkish Armed Forces put its boots on ground in December 2015 with tanks, artilleries and all kinds of heavy weaponry that one can only see in conventional warfares. Afterwards, salience of destruction reached at a considerable level. Various NGOs have already published reports on violations of right to live that happened in the course of urban armed conflicts. The aim of this report is to delineate the extent of destruction and forced migration as main outcomes of recent urban armed conflicts in Turkey.

Findings on destructions used in this report were gathered by technical teams who conducted damage assessment visits under coordination of Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB), local municipalities and Union of Souteastern Anatolia Region Municipalities (GABB). Experts from *Emergency Architects Foundation* also participated some of those visits to conflict zones. After analysing all data gathered, we conclude that urban life in conflict zones like Sur, Cizre, Nusaybin, Şırnak and Yüksekova structurally collapsed along with breakdown of economic and social activities. While infrastructure of these urban sites were damaged greatly, municipal bodies were prevented from delivering services in İdil, Silopi and Cizre while authority of local governments was seized by District Governorates.

According to data gathered by Rojava Aid Association and municipalities, approximately 400.000 people were forced to migrate in the course of urban armed conflicts, thus their right to housing was violated. Almost all of 400.000 internally displaced people now have no home to go back either because their houses are already damaged or the central government has demolished or about to demolish their houses. According to data, majority of those families displaced forcibly migrated to Diyarbakir, Van, Batman city centers or nearby urban areas. Due to the sudden forced migration process, majority of families could not take their household goods with themselves while being deprived of their regular income at the same which caused urgent dispossession and poverty. Now, 400.000 internally displaced people either live in rented houses collectively under challenging conditions or they have been staying in tents for months which have no basic infrastructure and even access to clean water.

When looking at statements of government officials and policies pursued by central government in the course of armed conflicts and after military operations ended in urban areas, it is clear that they do not rely on basic principles of disaster and crisis management.

Thus, it is highly likely that the central government to follow a military-minded perspective systematically implementing displacement, demographic and social engineering policies. Following National Security Council meeting held in June 2016, various news circulated in Turkish media reporting that locations of city centers next to Turkish-Iraqi-Syrian like Cizre, Silopi, İdil, Nusaybin and Kızıltepe will be changed and people in these areas will be uprooted. Union of Southeastern Anatolia Region Municipalities (GABB) strongly suggests the central government that a bilateral ceasefire ought to be resumed and reconstruction process should be realized in a participatory manner with the residents of these cities affected from armed conflicts and in collaboration with local administrations in order to minimize social and political risks in post-conflict phase as well as to restore social peace and well-being.

## **Destruction & Forced Migration Data by City**

### **1. Dargeçit / Mardin Province**

- Total population of Dargeçit is 28.981 and number of people directly affected from the armed conflict is 15.355 in these four neighbourhoods: Saray, Tepebaşı, Bahçebaşı and Safa
- After the first curfew declared during 10-13 October 2015, damage assessment analysts found out that 25 buildings were damaged while one of them got totally destroyed and 3 were classified as “heavily damaged”.
- During the round-the-clock curfew that was effective during 11-29 December 2015, 40 buildings including houses, shops, schools, state buildings and stables were damaged, 15 of which were severely damaged by heavy weaponry.
- Damage assessment team also reported that most of battles which have a crucial role for subsistence of local people had been killed.
- After clashes ended in Dargeçit, 750 families forcibly migrated from Nusaybin and İdil, which are nearby cities, settled in Dargeçit.

### **2. Nusaybin / Mardin Province**

- Total population of Nusaybin before the armed conflict started was 116.068 while total population directly affected from clashes was 33,922, particularly residents of Fırat, Dicle, Yenişehir, Abdulkadir Paşa neighbourhoods.
- Governor’s Office declared round-the-clock curfews for 7 times between October 2015 and March 2016. The last curfew, that is still effective as of June 2016, started on 13 March 2016. Central Government announced that military operation conducted in Nusaybin ended in 3 June 2016. Since authorities do not allow entrance of damage assessment experts into the city, it is not possible to have exact figures on destruction.

Nusaybin, Just After the Military Operation Ended, June 2016



According to local sources, approximately 70 percent of all buildings in Nusaybin were ruined due to recent clashes.

- The last damage assessment was conducted at the end of November 2015 during which 149 shops, 357 houses, 1 Mourning House and 1 Community Center had been damaged. Transformers in the city had been deliberately targeted while damage assessment could not be carried out in school buildings due to lack of safety.
- In the course of armed conflicts, 65 thousand resident of Nusaybin were forced to migrate. According to data gathered by the municipalities, 27,398 people migrated to Mardin city center, 18,910 to Kızıltepe, 4340 to Dargeçit and 11,228 to Midyat.
- Fırat, Dicle, Yenişehir, Abdulkadir Paşa, Zeynel Abidin and Yeni Şehir neighbourhoods are already enclosed with fences and concretes. Before displacement started, 80 thousand people used to live in these neighbourhoods. According to latest statements by government officials, Nusaybin city will be moved to 8 KM away from its original location.

### **3. Derik / Mardin**

- Total population of Derik is 61.320 while population of Kale, Cevizpınar, Dağ and Küçükpınar neighbourhoods, where armed conflicts took place, was 14,280 before clashes.

- Following round-the-clock curfews continued from 26th of November to 3rd of December 2015, a team consisting of 30 experts conducted damage assessment on 4th of December 2015. According to data, 56 shops, 6 of which were moderately damaged, and 172 houses were damaged, 9 of which were moderately while 2 severely as well as 1a mourning house. Lastly, damage assessment could not be carried out in school buildings due to lack of safety.

#### 4. Silvan / Diyarbakır

- Total population of Silvan is 83.633 while population of Tekel, Mescit and Konak neighbourhoods, where armed conflicts took place, was 14,345 before clashes.
- Governor's Office declared round-the-clock curfews for 6 times between August-October 2015 and a damage assessment was conducted on 16-18 November 2015.
- As a result of the assessment, it became clear that 105 shops, 40 of which were moderately and 8 of which were severely damaged, 552 houses, 112 of which were moderately and 44 of which were severely damaged in addition to 4 public buildings.
- Azizoğlu Mansion as one of the registered historical buildings was partially damaged during the curfew.

#### 5. Sur / Diyarbakır

- During the period of September-December 2015, Governor's Office declared round-the-clock curfews for 6 times in Cevatpaşa, Fatihpaşa, Dabanoğlu, Hasırlı, Cemal Yılmaz, Savaş neighbourhoods and the last one that started on 2 December 2015 still continues as of June 2016. Total number of people used to live in these neighbourhoods was 26,084 and most severe clashes which started on 2 December 2015 continued for



103 days after which authorities announced that the military operation ended in Sur on 10th of March, 2016.

- Since personnel of the metropolitan municipality, NGO representatives as well as international observers have not been allowed to access these neighbourhoods, it could not be possible to carry out a damage assessment so far. Analysis of satellite images and pictures released on social media shows that the process of destruction of existing buildings under dictate of Governor's Office continue since March 2016 after the military operation ended.
- Damage assessment could be conducted in October 2015 after the 3rd curfew ended. According to findings of this study, 693 damaged buildings could be in use after renovation while 13 severely damaged building required a more detailed analysis to reach a grounded decision. Nevertheless, this study does not reflect the extent of devastation after the recent wave of clashes.
- 1660 of 5440 families enforced to migrate from those above-mentioned neighbourhoods moved to other parts of Sur district while 1245 families to Yenişehir, 955 families to Kayapınar and 1580 families to Bağlar district which are all located at Diyarbakir city center.
- In the course of armed conflict, registered historical buildings located in the first buffer zone of UNESCO World Heritage Site were considerably damaged due to use of heavy weaponry. Street texture of Sur which had kept its antiquity since Roman era was destroyed as a result of destructions continued after operations.

## **6. Bismil / Diyarbakır**

- Governor's Office declared round-the-clock curfews for 4 times in Uluturk and Dumlupınar neighbourhoods of Bismil during September-October 2015, where 11,698 people live.
- After the damage assessment conducted in Bismil, it became evident that 41 shops and houses were damaged which would cost 108.560,15 TL to repair.

## **7. Dicle / Diyarbakır**

- No curfew was declared in Dicle during armed clashes took place in October 2015. Bağlarbaşı neighbourhood having a population of 518 was directly affected from armed conflicts.
- According to damage assessment, 22 houses and shops were damaged and total cost of this damage was 56.049,04 TL.

## **8. Lice / Diyarbakır**

- Armed conflicts occurred in Lice happened during July and August 2015. Despite only 2 houses were damaged due to shelling by the Turkish army, large-scale forest fire emerged and caused substantial environmental damage in rural areas.

## 9. Yüksekova / Hakkari

- Governor's Office declared round-the-clock curfews for 5 times between August 2015 and March 2016 in Yüksekova city that had a population of 68,757 before the latest and long-lasting armed conflicts. While almost all neighbourhoods were damaged in the course clashes, Governor's Office announced that the military operation ended 20 April 2016.
- Damage assessment was held in Yüksekova for two times. Despite 20 houses and shops were damaged in November 2015, the one conducted in June 2016 depicts full picture of damage emerged after the longest armed conflicts.
- Despite authorities announced that the military operation ended on 20 April 2016, shelling by artilleries and tanks continued until 1st of June, 2016. After damage assessment teams visited the city, they diagnosed that 3133 structures had minor damages, 647 had moderate damages, 787 had major damages while 867 of them were in ruins and 1337 of them had been set on fire. Number of buildings which show traces of armed clashes is quite low.



- According to data provided by municipalities, 6928 families were forced to migrate from Yüksekova. 1700 of them migrated to Hakkari city center, 723 of them to Şemdinli and 4505 of them to Van city center.
- Concerning applications of families to the Fire Authority, 300 houses were deliberately burned down and further applications continue as of June 2016.
- 15.06.2016 tarihi itibarıyla devlet tarafından ağır hasarlı olarak tespit edilen yapılar Cumhuriyet mahallesinde yıkılmaya başlanmıştır.
- As of 15th of June, 2016, with the order of Central Government, the process of demolishing heavily damaged buildings in Cumhuriyet neighbourhood already started.

### **10. Şemdinli / Hakkari**

- Armed clashes which took place in August 2015 affected almost all neighbourhoods in Şemdinli, which had a population of 15,739 before urban armed conflicts started.
- According to results of damage assessment carried out by Şemdinli Municipality on 20 November 2016, 122 shops, 5 public buildings and 42 houses were damaged and total cost of this damage was 2.500.000 TL.
- After armed clashes started in Yüksekova, 723 families migrated to Şemdinli as IDPs.

### **11. Şırnak / Merkez**

- Round-the-clock curfew in Şırnak city center begun as of 14 March 2016 and directly affected 61.335 residents of the city. The military operation conducted in the city continued for 82 days and the Central Government announce that the operation ended on 3rd of June, 2016. Despite operations ended, the curfew continues as of 26 June 2016.
- Since damage assessment teams are not allowed to get into the city center, no study could be realized yet. On the other hand, since all neighbourhoods in Şırnak were considerably damaged in the course of armed clashes, almost entire population of Şırnak had to migrate.
- According to data provided by Şırnak Municipality, after being forcibly migrated, 3.000 families struggle to survive in tents in Dergul rural area, 1500 families migrated to Uludere and Balveren village, 1000 families to Silopi, 400 families to Cizre, 400 to German area close to Güçlükönak, 400 to Eruh and about 2000 families migrated to Siirt city center. 5000 families who could stay in Şırnak city center live in Gündoğan and Yenişehir neighbourhoods.
- Neighbourhoods of İsmetpaşa, Gazipaşa, Cumhuriyet, Dicle, Yenimahalle and Bahçelievler were destructed almost entirely while Aydınlikevler, Atatürk and Yeşilyurt neighbourhoods were partially destructed so far.

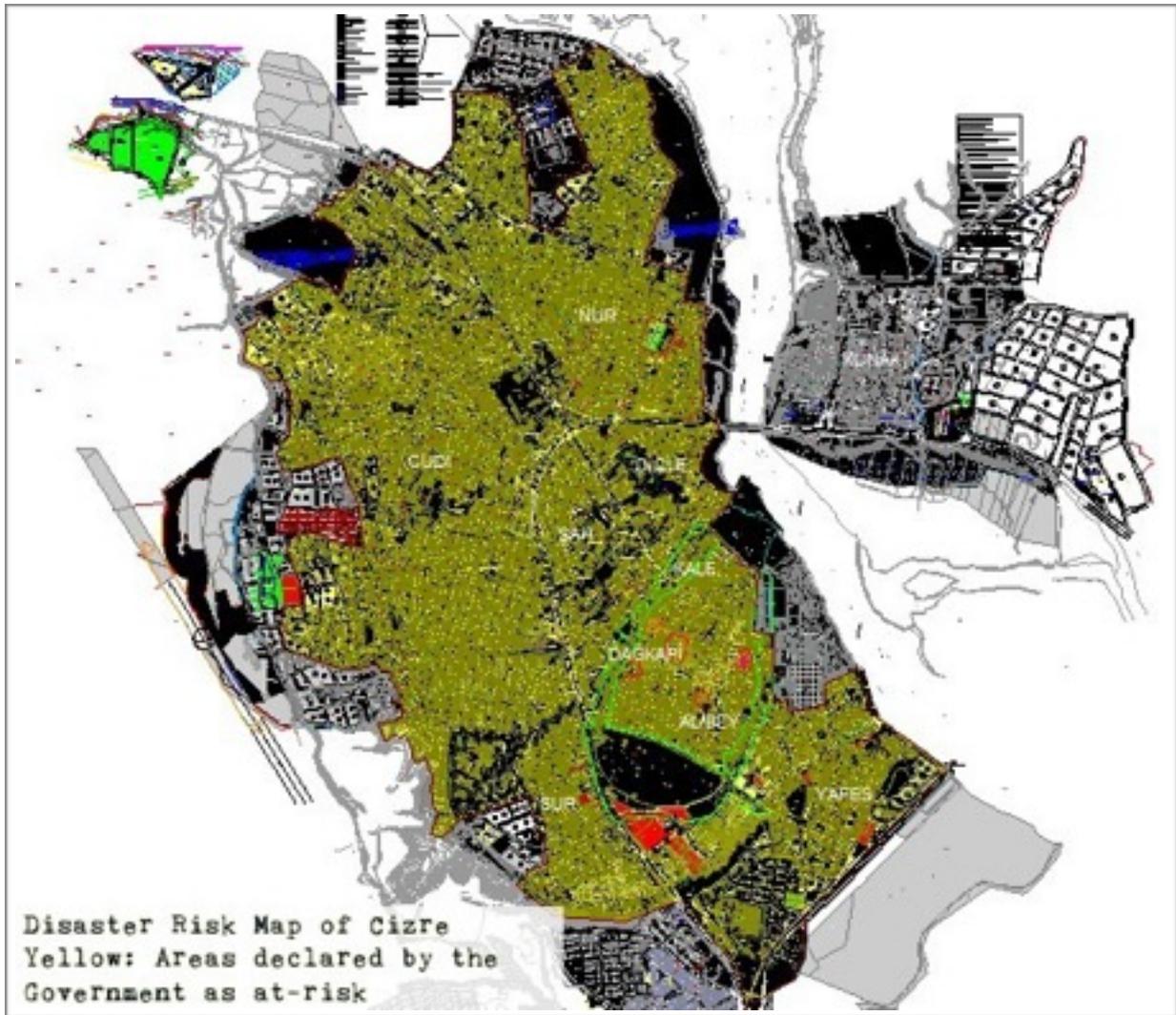


## 12. Cizre / Şırnak

- Total population of Cizre before urban armed conflicts started was 112.973 while number of those who directly affected from the conflict was diagnosed as 67.162.
- After 8-day-long first round-the-clock curfew that was effective during 4-12 September 2015: 652 houses, 204 shops, 2 bakery, 2 pharmacy, 1 health center, 1 cultural center, 2 school buildings, 5 mosques, 2 stables, 27 cars were damaged. Damage assessment teams found out that 132 houses and shops were severely damaged by heavy weaponry, 9 of them were burned down and 46 hoses were heavily damaged.



- No damage assessment could be conducted after round-the-clock curfews effective during September-December 2015. Nevertheless, after 2,5 month long armed conflicts happened between 14 of December, 2015 and 1st of March, 2016, a team consisting of 180 people carried out damage assessment. According to this field research, 9.800 structures were found damaged, 6800 of which were moderately damaged, 1750 buildings were heavily damaged and 1250 buildings were having major damages.
- Amid armed conflicts, certain historical registered buildings were also damaged. Eastern walls and 20 windows located at dome of Ulu Mosque were damaged. Another historical heritage, Deşt Bridge lost its concrete pieces on the entrance and the exit sides, historical stones of bridge were removed and balance structure of the bridge significantly damaged since military vehicles crossed over the bridge. Lastly, windows of Abdaliye Madrasa were broken as well.



### 13. Silopi / Şırnak

- Silopi had a total population of 87,150 before urban armed conflicts started. Cudi, Başak, Barbaros, Nuh and Şehit Harun Boy neighbourhoods of Silopi witnessed armed conflicts and number of people directly affected from clashes is 43.670.
- Round-the-clock curfews declared during October- December 2015 lifted on 18 January 2016 and damage assessment was realized immediately after. Findings of this study are as follows: 72 structures were damaged and could be restored while 125 structures were moderately damaged.
- Concerning Barbaros, Başak, Cudi, Karşıyaka, Şehit Harun Boy, Nuh, Yenişehir and Yeşiltepe neighbourhoods, the Central Government enacted “Urgent Expropriation Decree” on 6 March 2016. The process of destruction in above-mentioned neighbourhoods continue as of June 2016. 260 houses claimed to be heavily damaged by the Central Government are already destructed and it is highly likely that destruction work will continue.

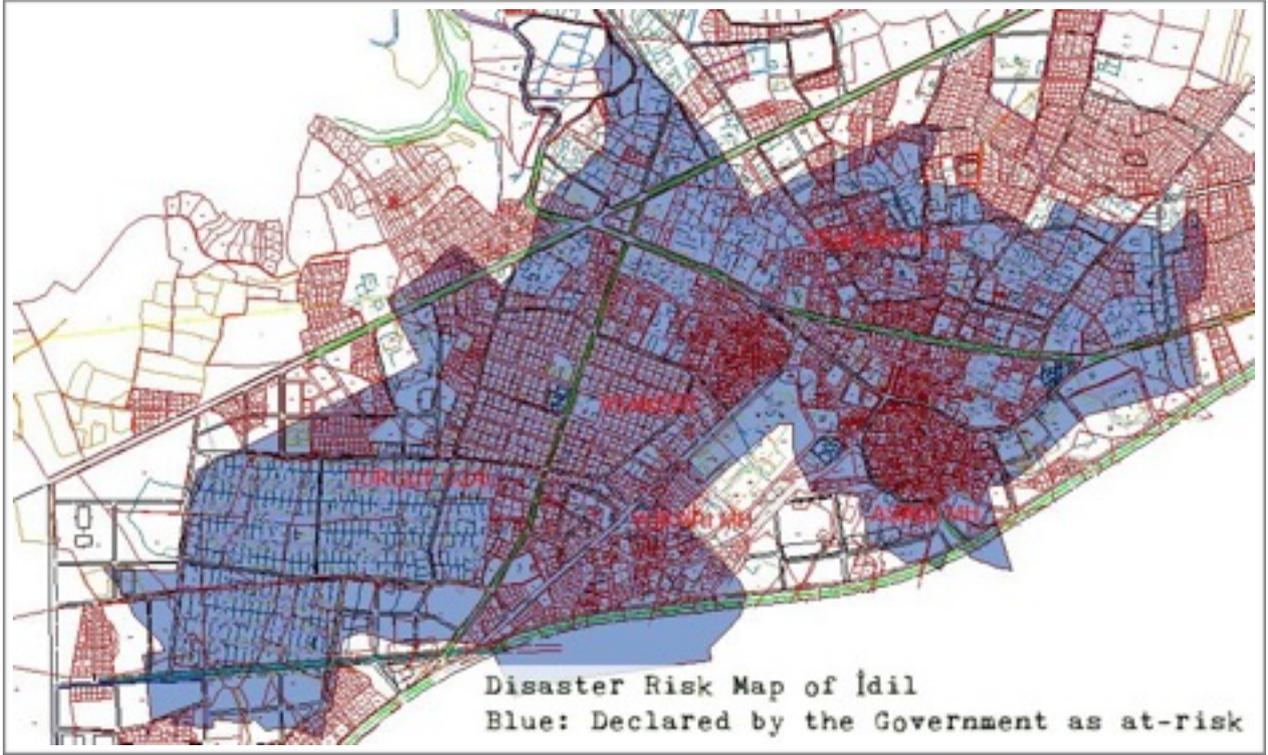


- While the number of families migrated from Silopi to nearby provinces could be determined, local sources confirm that families migrated to Batman, Antep, Mersin and Adana.

#### **14. Beytüşşebap / Şırnak**

- Urban armed conflicts which took place in Beytüşşebap in September affected all people in the town, 5263 people in total.
- 10 with moderate damages and 14 with heavy damages, 24 structures were damaged in total.

## 15. İdil / Şırnak



- Entire neighbourhoods of İdil city, having 26,511 population before urban armed conflicts started were affected from the conflict. A significant part of destruction took place in Yeni and Turgut Özal neighbourhoods.
- Round-the-clock curfews were effective during 16 February & 30 March 2016 in İdil. Damage assessment revealed that 1200 structures (about 1600 houses) were damaged in total. 700 of those were moderately damaged, 250 were heavily damaged, 100 had major damage while 120 were already in ruins.
- Concerning application by families to the Fire Authority, 150 families reported that their houses had been set on fire.

## 16. Varto / Muş

- During armed conflicts took place in August 2015, 10,241 people were affected from clashes.
- In total, 91 houses and shops were damaged. In addition to this, 3 construction vehicles and 1 car got damaged.

Urban Armed Conflict Zone	Number of ppl Affected from Conflict / Population	Extent of Damage	Latest Situation (As of 30.06.16)
<b>Dargeçit / Mardin</b>	15.355 / 28,981	26 houses, 9 shops and 1 public property were damaged	750 families from İdil and Nusaybin migrated to Dargeçit. People of Dargeçit try to repair buildings with their own resources
<b>Nusaybin / Mardin</b>	80,000 / 116,068	70 percent of all buildings in the city were either damaged or being demolished by the Central Government	Destruction, curfew and blockade continues in neighbourhoods where clashes happened. Number of people displaced forcibly is about 65,000.
<b>Derik / Mardin</b>	14,280 / 61,320	56 shops, 172 houses and 1 mourning house were damaged	With the support of local municipality, restoration could be carried out partially
<b>Silvan / Diyarbakır</b>	14,345 / 83,633	105 shops, 552 houses and 4 public buildings were damaged	Majority of damaged buildings were repaired with the support of Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
<b>Sur / Diyarbakır</b>	45,000 / 50.341	1100 buildings were destroyed by the Central Government. Council of Ministers issued Urgent Expropriation Decree for whole Sur district	Destruction, curfew and blockade continues in neighbourhoods where clashes happened. 22,000 people have no home to go back since their homes were destroyed.
<b>Bismil / Diyarbakır</b>	11,698 / 112,461	41 houses and shops in total were damaged	People of Bismil try to repair buildings with their own resources
<b>Dicle / Diyarbakır</b>	518 / 40,033	22 konut ve iş yeri zarar görmüştür	People of Dicle try to repair buildings with their own resources
<b>Lice / Diyarbakır</b>	25,354 / 25,354	Large scale forest fires emerged	Armed clashes and shelling continues in rural areas of Lice
<b>Yüksekova / Hakkari</b>	40,000 / 68,757	3133 structures have minor damages, 647 have moderate damages, 787 have major damages while 867 structures are ruined and 1337 of them had been set on fire.	Destruction and blockade continues in neighbourhoods where clashes happened. 6,978 families had to migrate and have no home to go back since their homes were destroyed.
<b>Şemdinli / Hakkari</b>	15,739 / 15,739	122 shops, 5 public buildings and 42 houses were damaged	People of Şemdinli try to repair buildings with their own resources
<b>Şırnak (Merkez)</b>	61.335 / 61.335	80 percent of all buildings in the city were either damaged, set on fire or demolished by the Central Government	Destruction and blockade continues in neighbourhoods where clashes happened. 8,700 families (55,000 people) had to migrate and have no home to go back since their homes were destroyed.
<b>Cizre / Şırnak</b>	67,162 / 112,978	9,800 structures in total were damaged in the course of armed conflict.	Central Government declared greater part of Cizre as area at-risk. Demolitions continue. Restoration of buildings could be done partially with the support of municipality
<b>Silopi / Şırnak</b>	43,670 / 87,150	445 structures were damaged in total, of which 216 diagnosed as ruined or should be demolished	Destruction and blockade continues in neighbourhoods where clashes happened. 260 structures demolished already. Restoration of buildings could be done partially with the support of municipality
<b>Beytüşşebap / Şırnak</b>	5,263 / 5,263	24 buildings in total, of which 14 were heavily damaged	People of Beytüşşebap try to repair buildings with their own resources
<b>İdil / Şırnak</b>	26,511 / 26,511	1,200 buildings in total were damaged in the course of armed conflict.	Central Government declared greater part of İdil as area at-risk. Demolitions continue.
<b>Varto / Muş</b>	10,241 / 10,241	91 houses and shops as well as 3 construction vehicle and 1 cab were damaged	People of Varto try to repair buildings with their own resources

# FORCED MIGRATION IN SOUTHEAST OF TURKEY

**Number of People Forcibly Displaced  
400.000 (At least)**

From Suriçi to Other Districts of Diyarbakir : 5440 Families  
To Sur: 1660 Families  
To Yenigeçir: 1245 Families  
To Kayapınar: 955 Families  
To Bağlar: 1.580 Families

From Nusaybin, Cizre, Silopi, Şirnak to Batman city center: 930 families (9000 ppl)

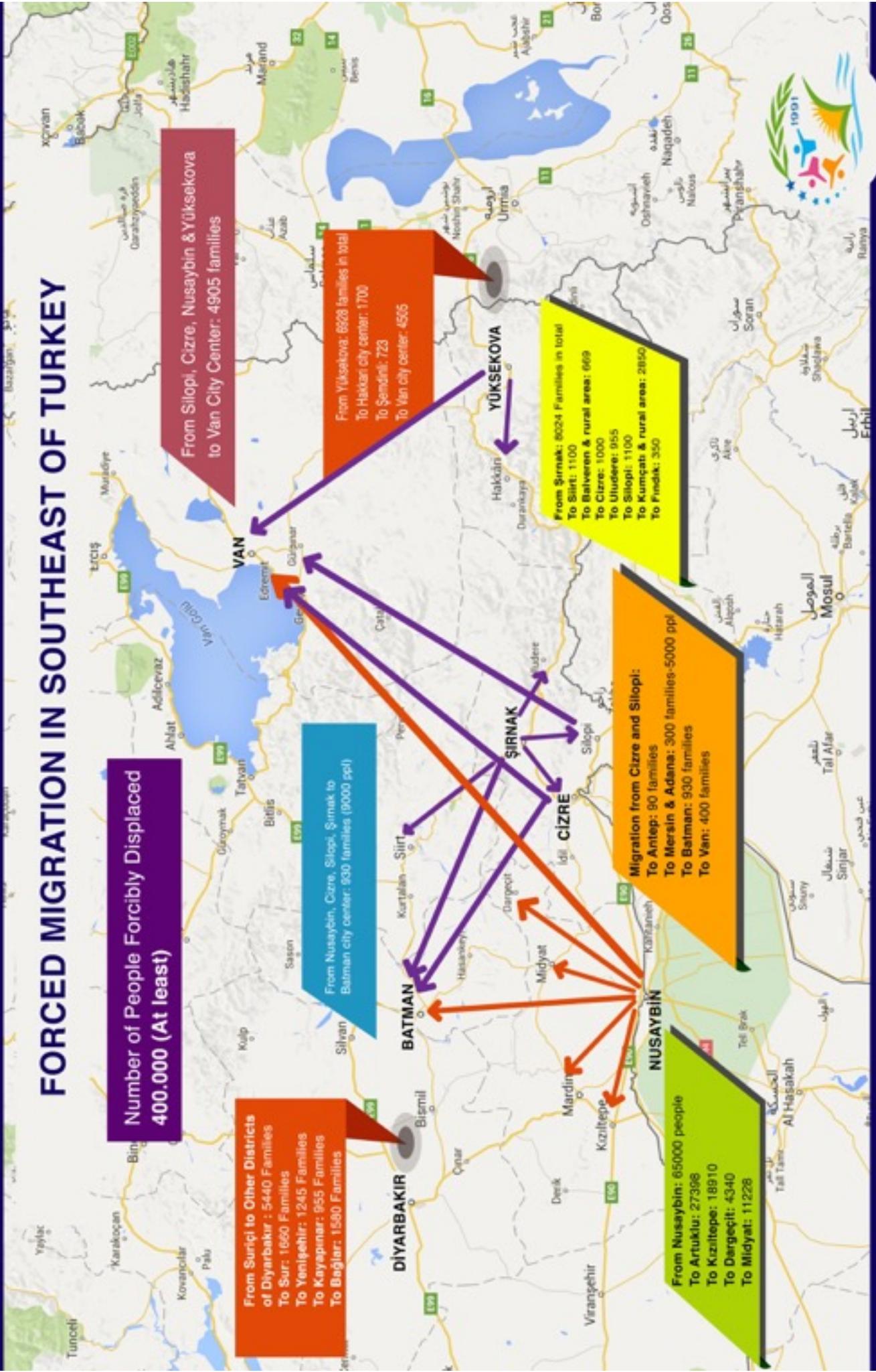
From Silopi, Cizre, Nusaybin & Yüksekova to Van City Center: 4905 families

From Yüksekova: 6828 families in total  
To Hakkari city center: 1700  
To Şemdinli: 723  
To Van city center: 4555

From Şirnak: 8024 Families in total  
To Siirt: 1100  
To Balveren & rural area: 669  
To Cizre: 1000  
To Uludere: 955  
To Silopi: 1100  
To Kumçatış & rural area: 2850  
To Fındık: 350

Migration from Cizre and Silopi:  
To Antep: 90 families  
To Mersin & Adana: 300 families-5000 ppl  
To Batman: 930 families  
To Van: 400 families

From Nusaybin: 65000 people  
To Artuklu: 27398  
To Kızıltepe: 18910  
To Dargeçit: 4340  
To Midyat: 11228



From 2015 to June 2016

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