

GUATEMALA

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Guatemala’s 36-year-long civil war came to an end in 1996. More than two decades later, transnational criminal organisations and generalised criminal violence pose serious security threats. Violence and displacement have continued despite the country’s post-civil war period of political stabilisation and the establishment of a democratic process. Assassinations, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, rapes, kidnappings, threats, forced recruitment of children, intimidation and extortion have forced significant numbers of people to flee across and within the country’s borders. There were [almost 14,000 reported cases of extortion in 2019](#), a 66 per cent increase from the previous year. The government, however, has not yet officially recognised internal displacement. As a result, there is a lack of systematic gathering and sharing of information and data on the phenomenon and those it affects.

Development projects also represent a significant driver of displacement. Land disputes are often linked to the removal of people from protected areas or to evictions to make way for development projects. Forced evictions tend not to be accompanied by a support plan to safeguard the livelihoods of those affected. This often results in [onward movements from the areas where people relocated](#). The government evicted several communities from their homes in 2017, forcing them to move elsewhere. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has denounced the evictions, which were the only new displacements IDMC recorded during 2017. No new displacements have been recorded during 2018 and 2019.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 1997)</i>	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
-	242,000	-	-	-

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

**This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

The figure recorded in 1997 is decaying and unlikely to be up to date, but there is insufficient proof to conclude that the IDPs concerned have achieved durable solutions.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on a 2000 report by the Central American Development Foundation (FUNCEDE), the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, and UN Habitat. The report disaggregates 1997 figures from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that 10 of the 52 pending eviction orders were executed, leaving 210 families without land, housing or means of subsistence. IDMC does not take this into account because of the lack of enough information on whether these evictions had a forced component.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC obtained information on new displacements that occurred in 2007 and 2017, as well as on some cases reported by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) in 2016. We did not add them to the 1997 caseload, however, to avoid the risk of double-counting. As a result, IDMC's estimate includes people displaced during the civil war, but no people who may have fled criminal violence or been forcibly displaced through evictions in 2017.

Significant changes from last year

There are no significant changes from last year because of the lack of historical and current data.

CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

Displacement metric	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People
Methodology	Unknown
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0
Frequency of reporting	No update
Disaggregation by sex	No
Disaggregation by age	No
Data triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No
Data on returns	Yes
Data on local integration	No
Data on cross border movements	No
Data on deaths	No
Data on births	No

For any additional questions please email: data@idmc.ch

For the full country profile on Guatemala please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/guatemala>