

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis - GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Most displacement associated with conflict in Papua New Guinea is sparked by disputes over land, resources and other inter-communal grievances. Displacement in the country is of a protracted nature. IDPs face significant difficulties related to accessing livelihoods and tribal tensions. Difficulties in ending their displacement are related to hostility when they try to integrate locally or sudden changes in their families' economic circumstances.

In 2019, people in the region of Bougainville, a collection of islands in the South Pacific, voted overwhelmingly in a referendum to separate from Papua New Guinea and become [the world's newest nation](#). Should this new nation emerge, Bougainville may have similar displacement triggers as the rest of Papua New Guinea, particularly involving land issues, as [the region is suitable for large-scale mining](#).

| New displacements that occurred in 2019 | Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</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> | Stock | Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i> |
| 1,300 | 14,000 | - | - | - |

*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).

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC estimates the total number of new displacements to be at least 1,300 in 2019. The new displacements come from two separate incidences. In one case, which occurred between 23 November and 26 November, clans fought over land boundaries. In the other, which occurred in Hela province, tribes fought on 8 July. Women and children were killed in that incident.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate comes from IOM Papua New Guinea and the media. IOM deployed the DTM between 2018 and 2019 to assist in collecting and monitoring displacement for various disaster and conflict incidents in the country. Data from the media comes from quotes of local authorities and communities.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

IDMC has low confidence in the new displacement estimate. The figure is based on a limited amount of data, and additional information could not be obtained for triangulation. While data provided by IOM DTM is based on field assessments, IDMC considers it only a partial representation of displacement given the challenges and nature of conflicts in the country, as well as the difficulties in the monitoring of returns.

Significant changes from last year

There were no significant methodological changes from last year as tribal clashes continue to trigger new displacements.

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

IDMC estimates that there were more than 14,000 IDPs at the end of 2019. Most of this estimate comes from a 2017 profiling exercise by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM). The exercise was conducted on a sample of 8,400 internally displaced households in 37 locations across ten assessed provinces. The households, consisting of more than 12,000 individuals, were displaced between 2005 and 2016 and were still living in displacement at the time of the assessment on 9 March 2017. Out of that sample, 5,700 were displaced as a result of ethnic clashes, 5,600 as a result of tribal conflicts and 1,200 because of land disputes. The remainder of individuals living in internal displacement are accounted for by new displacements in 2019, as there was no evidence of achievement of durable solutions.

Sources and methodologies

IDP profiling data was collected by IOM, the government and other organisations at the national and sub-national level between 17 February and 9 March 2017. The data is not recent and is incomplete because of challenges in access, but the source is deemed reliable. IDMC's stock estimate includes those who were displaced by tribal clashes in 2019, as there is no evidence of returns to durable solutions.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The stock is a representative sample and offers only a selective coverage of the total number of people who might still be living in displacement - especially those who became displaced in the

aftermath of tribal fighting in the summer of 2017. Lack of information and access has limited the ability to triangulate and verify data. While data provided by IOM DTM is based on field assessments, IDMC considers it only a partial representation of displacement given the challenges and nature of conflicts in the country, as well as the difficulties in monitoring returns. There is little information related to progress towards durable solutions.

Significant changes from last year

The only change between GRID 2019 and GRID 2020 is the addition of the new displacements from 2019 as there is no evidence of returns.

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: new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

| Displacement metric | New displacements | Total number of IDPs |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reporting units | People | People, Households |
| Methodology | Media monitoring, Registration | Media monitoring, Registration |
| Geographical disaggregation | Subnational – admin 1 | Subnational – admin 1 |
| Frequency of reporting | Unknown | Unknown |
| Disaggregation by sex | Yes | Partial |
| Disaggregation by age | Partial | No |
| Data triangulation | No Triangulation | Some local triangulation |
| Data on settlement elsewhere | No | No |
| Data on returns | No | Partial |
| Data on local integration | No | No |
| Data on cross border movements | No | No |
| Data on deaths | Partial | Partial |
| Data on births | No | No |

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

For the full country profile on Papua New Guinea please visit:
<https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/papua-new-guinea>