

Sierra Leone

With the return of Sierra Leone's internally displaced people following the end of the armed conflict in 2002, the Global IDP Project is no longer actively monitoring the situation in that country.

When the active monitoring was ended in mid-2004, the situation in Sierra Leone was marked by the following developments:

- Significant progress had been made towards durable peace and stability
- Progress had also been made with regard to post-conflict reconstruction, including the re-establishment of civil administration throughout the country
- The overall security situation had improved continuously
- Over 225,000 IDPs had returned within the framework of the government's resettlement strategy
- A further 245,000 IDPs returned home spontaneously without assistance
- The National IDP Resettlement Programme had been officially completed in December 2002
- All IDP camps had been closed in early 2003

Although the country was laying the foundations for sustainable development, several challenges remained:

- Several thousand people who had been displaced by the conflict continued to live in Freetown and other urban centres without permanent shelter. It appeared that most of these people, generally referred to as "homeless" or "squatters", had received the reintegration package provided by the government, but chose to stay in the cities rather than return to their areas of origin. In Freetown the government had designated two former IDP camps as temporary settlement areas for this group of people
- Infrastructural rebuilding was a major need in over 67 out of 150 chiefdoms
- There was a need to improve access to basic services in many areas, particularly in districts with a high concentration of returnees
- Long-term reintegration support for the returning population was needed to ensure the re-establishment of livelihoods and the consolidation of peace

The Sierra Leone country report was last updated in October 2003.