

Mexico



Quick facts

Number of IDPs	5,000–8,000
Percentage of total population	Up to 0.1%
Start of current displacement situation	1994
Peak number of IDPs (Year)	60,000 (1995)
New displacement	Undetermined

Up to 40,000 people were displaced in the 1990s in the Mexican state of Chiapas during an uprising by the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) and the group's subsequent confrontations with government forces. OHCHR reported that between 3,000 and as many as 60,000 people were still internally displaced in 2003; and between 5,000 and 8,000 were reportedly still displaced in 2007 according to local NGOs. No new information on displacement in Chiapas was made available in 2009.

While the 1996 San Andrés Accords marked the end of the uprising, divisions within indigenous communities in Chiapas and also in Guerrero and Oaxaca States, based often on religious affiliation, have continued to cause violence and displacement. The Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI), a body created by the government, reported that over 1,000 indigenous members of protestant minorities were displaced from nine districts during 2009.

The CDI reportedly concluded assessments of the situation of IDPs in Chiapas, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Nayarit and Oaxaca States in 2009, but had not released its report by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, violence associated with turf battles between drug cartels in Ciudad Juárez in the northern state of Chihuahua escalated

dramatically in 2009, causing tens of thousands of people to flee the city. Up to 200,000 people reportedly left Ciudad Juárez between 2007 and 2009 to escape violence which the local government had been unable to curb.

The situation of this population is largely unknown: those affected have not yet been identified as IDPs and provided with support. This may be due to the fact that their displacement was caused by generalised violence linked not to ideology or armed action against the state, but to control of drug routes by criminal groups. Those displaced were mostly middle-class workers who moved to safer cities such as Monterrey and Guadalajara, and possibly found opportunities in the place of displacement through family networks.



Between 500,000 and 1.5 million people were displaced by internal armed conflict in Guatemala in the early 1980s.

The conflict between government forces and insurgent factions grouped under the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity ended in 1996, but not before the armed forces had carried out brutal "scorched-earth" campaigns to crush the insurgents.

The end of conflict in 1996 left large numbers of IDPs dispersed across the country, many of them in the shanty towns of the capital Guatemala City. These IDPs joined the ranks of the poorest citizens. The widespread harsh poverty in the country, and the additional difficulties associated with forced displacement, suggest that many people will have been unable to rebuild their lives. An unprecedented food crisis hit the country in late 2009, and the country now has the highest rate of malnutrition among children under five in Latin America.

13 years after the end of the conflict, little progress had been made in implementing the measures for reparations included in the peace accords. In 2009, however, it was reported that spending on reparations increased and that more than 10,000 survivors of the armed conflict had received reparations for violations suffered. IDP groups have negotiated collective reparations measures, including memorials and money to buy land.

Guatemala



Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Percentage of total population	–
Start of current displacement situation	1980
Peak number of IDPs (Year)	1,500,000 (1983)
New displacement	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, human rights violations

Recently, it has been reported that gang violence has forced people from their homes, especially in poor neighborhoods in urban centres where IDPs settled during the conflict. In Ciudad Quetzal, an impoverished neighbourhood of Guatemala City, it was reported that owners had abandoned their homes to escape violence and threats from gangs. Community leaders in Villa Nueva near Guatemala City have estimated that five per cent of families there have had to resettle after they failed to pay the illegal taxes imposed by those groups. The government has proved unable to provide security, accountability, and access to justice. The UN's International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, the first of its kind, continued its work towards addressing these problems in 2009.