EL SALVADOR

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Despite the Chapultepec Peace Accords of 1992 and significant demilitarisation efforts following the civil war, the situation in El Salvador is still dangerous. The country is part of a transnational route for drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Assassinations, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, rapes, kidnappings, threats, forced recruitment of children, intimidation and extortion have forced many to flee across or within El Salvador's borders. Yet, during 2019 it has seen an unprecedented 28% drop in the number of homicides, from 3,346 to 2,383 murders. This drop begun in July 2019 soon after President Nayib Bukele took office and began the implementation of the Territorial Control Plan.

The number of people fleeing the country has risen over the last decade. Asylum claims reached 59,000 in 2017 and 46,800 in 2018. Meanwhile, the scale of internal displacement is not completely known. This is a result of the lack of systematic data collection.

El Salvador's supreme court recognised the existence of internal displacement associated with violence in a July 2018 ruling. In January 2020, the government and legislative assembly recognised forced internal displacement and signed the Special Law for the Attention and Integral Protection of Persons in Conditions of Forced Internal Displacement.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019	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 (1 January – 31 December 2019)	Stocks	Flows (1 January – 31 December 2019
453,000	-	-	-	510

*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's estimate is based on the results of a representative survey from the University Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP) of the Central American University José Simeón Cañas. The survey was conducted in November 2019. IDMC extrapolated the results to the country's total adult population based on a projection of the 2007 census. This resulted in the estimate of the number of people who had to change their place of residence in response to threats during the past year.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on the results of the IUDOP survey. The IUDOP survey was deployed in January and February 2020, and it included the same question (6a) used in previous years on whether the respondent/family was displaced during 2019. This question was complemented with several follow up questions, including a question on the number of people in their family/house that were reportedly displaced at the same time. Therefore, the results of the survey provide an estimate that can be compared to previous years and complements this by also counting family members displaced. When complementing the respondents' results with the number of people in each family/house that were reportedly displaced at the same time, the results yields that for every respondent that reported having been displaced, 3.3 people in the household also were displaced. The projection of the sum of the respondents displaced and the household members displaced along results in 453,706 new displacements during 2019. This survey results were extrapolated by IDMC using the ratio of the number of respondents displaced to the total number of people displaced, including household members, and applies it to the extrapolation of the 2.2% of displaced respondents. In other words, the result is calculated by obtaining the ratio (r) of total movements (d) per displaced respondents (x), where $r = d/x$. And from this it is obtained the total extrapolated movements (E), with (P) being DYGESTIC's population projection and (m) being the sample: $E = (x/m)p*r$.

IDMC uses these last results as the final estimate of new displacements for El Salvador. This is the highest estimate that IDMC can produce with confidence based on the responses obtained from the survey carried by IUDOP. Using the answers to the original question would revert a result that is consistent with previous year's results, yet IDMC was already aware (as explained in previous years caveats) that this was a sub-estimate, as only one respondent per household was counted as displaced.

IDMC reviewed information from IDHUCA, Cristosal, the police and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, as well as a profiling exercise published by the government, UNHCR, JIPS and the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO) in March 2018. It considers the IUDOP study, however, to be the most comprehensive assessment, providing the best available estimate for displacement figures in 2019.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The survey is voluntary, so there may be some bias related to the characteristics of people who agreed to participate in it. The survey asked respondents if they had been displaced as a result of threats. It thus excludes people whose displacement is associated with other kinds of violence, such as homicides, theft, extortion and forced recruitment. The survey's estimate also refers to people who have been displaced at some point in 2019, rather than all incidents of internal displacement. This means that repeated and multiple displacements of one person during the year are not captured.

Extrapolating the survey to El Salvador's total adult population is possible, since the survey is representative of the country's adult population (the survey was applied to adults only). Nevertheless,

the sampling error should be taken into account. Given the low ratio of responses, the sampling error suggests that responses could be biased 2.53% below or above the overall population of El Salvador.

Consequently, IDMC considers this figure to be more accurate representation of the phenomenon in El Salvador, compared to previous years' estimates.

Significant changes from last year
The increase in the estimate compared to previous GRIDs is mainly a result of methodological changes.

When comparing the results of the original questions, IDMC reported 295,897 new displacements during 2017, and 246,311 new displacements during 2018. This means that during 2019 there has been a significant decrease of more than 50%, with around 105,438 new displacements during 2019.

Nevertheless, a change in methodology (counting the people displaced within the household as according to the respondent) leads to a higher estimate of total new displacements during the last year. Therefore, GRID 2020 estimates of El Salvador do not allow for a solid comparison to GRID 2019 estimates. Nevertheless, it is possible to compare GRID 2019 and previous GRID estimates to the results of the original question on the number of respondents displaced, which is not used as final GRID 2020 estimate.

NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

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 that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people

IDMC figure and rationale
IDMC's estimate is based on information on families displaced that have made progress towards durable solutions after being attended by the National Directorate for the Attention of Victims and Forced Migration.

Sources and methodologies
IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from National Directorate for the Attention of Victims and Forced Migration, of the Ministry of Justice and Security. The number of families is based on the cases attended by the Directorate.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges
This is the only information available on durable solutions in El Salvador. It is considered as Unverified flow, as conditions cannot be verified. The source refers to 118 families in progress towards durable solutions, which yields 507 people based on the Average Household Size (AHHS).

Significant changes from last year
This is the first year that IDMC is reporting on progress towards durable solutions in El Salvador. No information was available before.

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	New displacements
Reporting units	People, Percentage of population
Methodology	Other
Geographical disaggregation	Subnational - admin 1
Frequency of reporting	Once a year
Disaggregation by sex	Yes
Disaggregation by age	No
Data triangulation	No Triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No
Data on returns	No
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 El Salvador please visit:
http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/elsalvador