

SIERRA LEONE

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis – GRID 2020

CONTEXT

About 2,500 people were displaced in the Pujehun region in January 2019 as a result of clashes between members of the traditional Poro Society and state security personnel who were protecting land used by a private company to produce palm oil. The indigenous landowners claim their [rights are being violated by the private company](#). They were also reportedly harassed, intimidated and physically assaulted, their houses vandalised, and their properties and cash looted.

The clashes came a few months after about 3,000 people, mostly supporters of the main opposition All People’s Congress (APC) party, were displaced from Kono district to Masingbi in the northern region of the country in 2018. The displacement, a result of political violence, [followed the April 2018 presidential elections](#).

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>	Stocks	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
2,500	5,500	-	-	-

*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 a report by News24 and the World Rainforest Movement (WRM). A part of the figure refers to people who fled as their homes were being looted. The second part of the figure, or about 2,500 people, relates to people displaced in the conflict between state security personnel and indigenous inhabitants.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements is based on data from the media, local authorities and police, and WRM. IDMC triangulated this information with additional media sources.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Sierra Leone does not have a systematic data collection system in place for internal displacement. Beyond the sources cited above, IDMC was not able to identify any other information on the conditions of displacement from this specific instance of population movement.

Significant changes from last year

IDMC reported 3,000 new displacements in the country as a result of electoral violence in 2018. The conflict in 2019 is unrelated to the developments in 2018.

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 the total number of IDPs in Sierra Leone as of 31 December 2019 is 5,500. This estimate includes the reported new displacements from the electoral violence in 2018 and the new displacements from January 2019 in the Pujehun region. IDMC does not have information about whether the 3,000 displaced people in 2018 were able to return home. For this reason, we consider them all to be still displaced. IDMC has also not been able to identify any evidence of returns from the 2,500 new displacements in 2019 and includes them in the total number of IDPs as well.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate for new displacements in 2018 is based on data from the Turkish Anadolu Agency which covered the crisis and cites the Caritas assessment as its source for displacement figures. IDMC triangulated these figures using local news sources, including Sierra Express Media. The estimate of the total number of IDPs in Sierra Leone also includes the new displacements from 2019, the sources for which are described in the previous section.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Because of the lack of systematic monitoring of internal displacement in the country, IDMC has not been able to obtain evidence of the conditions of displacement and whether some of the displaced were able to return to their habitual place of residence.

Significant changes from last year

This is the second time that IDMC has reported on conflict displacement in Sierra Leone. Because of the lack of evidence on returns, the new displacements for 2018 were included in this year's estimate. This explains the overall increase in the figure.

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	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	Households, People	People
Methodology	Media monitoring	Media monitoring
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Country/territory - admin 0
Frequency of reporting	Other	Other
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	No	No
Data on returns	No	No
Data on local integration	No	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

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

For the full country profile on Sierra Leone please visit:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/sierra-leone>