

EL SALVADOR

Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

CONTEXT

Despite the Chapultepec Peace Accords in 1992 and significant demilitarisation efforts after the civil war, the situation in El Salvador remains dangerous for many. 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.¹ The number of people fleeing El Salvador has risen, as evidenced by the number of asylum claims that by the end of 2017 reached 60,000.² Meanwhile, the scale of internal displacement is not completely known, and its magnitude remains invisible due to the lack of systematic data collection.

In a July 2018 ruling, El Salvador's Supreme Court recognised the existence of the forced internal displacement related to violence.³ In the ruling, the Supreme Court demanded the Government and Legislative Assembly to develop public policies and legislation to prevent it. The country's Justice and Security Minister has also officially recognised forced displacement associated with gang violence and the government published in 2018 a first profiling study carried out with the support of UNHCR and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS).

Two law projects have been presented in 2018, after the Constitutional Court granted protection to a family that had been displaced by gang violence and also acknowledged the limited ability of the Victims' Law in El Salvador in responding to internal displacement.⁴ Following the court's decision and the launch of the two projects, El Salvador's government responded by announcing it is drafting a Special Attention to Victims Law that would include victims of forced displacement.

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
246,000	No data available	No data available	No data available
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 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 rather than people.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances this number may refer to movements rather than people.</i>

NEW DISPLACEMENTS

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC's estimate is based on the results of a representative survey conducted in November 2018 by the Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP) from the Central American University José Simeón Cañas. IDMC reviewed information registered by 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 but considers the IUDOP study to be the most comprehensive assessment and provides the best available estimate for displacement figures in 2018.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

The survey was 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, which means it excludes those associated with other kinds of violence, such as homicides, theft, extortion and forced recruitment. It is also important to note that the survey's estimate refers to people that have been displaced at some point in 2018, rather than all incidents of internal displacement. This means that repeated and multiple displacements of one person during the year are not captured. Consequently, IDMC consider this figure to be an underestimate.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC extrapolated the results of the IUDOP survey to the country's total adult population based on a projection of the 2007 census. In doing so, it formulated its estimate of the number of people who had to change their place of residence in response to threats during the past year for the whole population.

Significant changes from last year

Given the significant limitations in the quality of the data, the estimate for this year does not allow to give a solid comparison between the magnitude of displacement in El Salvador in 2017 and in 2018.

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	Percentage of population
Methodology	Other
Geographical disaggregation	Country/territory - admin 0
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Once a year
Disaggregation on sex	No
Disaggregation on 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/el-salvador>

¹ IDMC, [An atomized crisis: Reframing displacement caused by crime and violence in El Salvador](#), September 2018.

² IDMC, [The Invisible Majority: Returning to El Salvador. Signs of an internal displacement crisis](#), September 2018.

³ Revista Factum, [Una sentencia obliga al Estado a reconocer el desplazamiento forzado por violencia](#), 13 July 2018.

⁴ La Prensa Grafica, [Presentan proyecto de ley que busca atender y proteger a víctimas de desplazamiento forzado en El Salvador](#), 8 April 2019.