

# Senegal



## Quick facts

Number of IDPs	24,000–40,000
Percentage of total population	0.2–0.3%
Start of current displacement situation	1982
Peak number of IDPs (Year)	70,000 (2007)
New displacement	1,000

Senegal's Casamance region has since 1982 witnessed low-intensity conflict between government forces and the separatist Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC). A 2004 peace agreement was rejected by an MFDC faction. 2009 witnessed a surge in violence with heavy clashes between the Senegalese army and MFDC militants.

The actual number of people still internally displaced across Casamance is unknown, as no profiling exercise was carried out in 2009. Estimates range between 24,000 and 40,000 IDPs. In September, an attack by rebels on an army base near Ziguinchor led to the displacement of some 600 people.

Gender-based violence is believed to be widespread, but has tended to go unreported. For children, violence and dis-

placement have disrupted access to education, as schools in some parts of the region have been closed and teachers have preferred not to go back to insecure areas.

In some cases, displacement lasted only a few days. In others, IDPs were supported by family members or host communities while commuting to their home areas by day to tend their orchards.

According to the evidence available, most IDP returns have been spontaneous and unassisted. Because of landmines planted by the MFDC, freedom of movement has generally remained limited. In 2009, insecurity hampered humanitarian demining efforts and put on hold government construction plans around border areas, further impeding the achievement of durable solutions.

Senegal has no bodies with a mandate to protect IDPs, nor has it developed legislation or policies in their favour. In 2009 Senegal was not among the countries which signed the Kampala Convention. Regional development plans have targeted IDPs among other groups, including people remaining in conflict areas. International organisations have outsourced most programme implementation to local NGOs as they face a lack of access.



# Liberia



## Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Percentage of total population	–
Start of current displacement situation	1989
Peak number of IDPs (Year)	500,000 (2003)
New displacement	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations

Up to 500,000 people in Liberia were internally displaced by the 14-year civil war which ended in 2003 with the Accra Peace Agreement. IDP camps were officially closed in 2006 and the return of IDPs and refugees was completed in mid-2007.

In 2009, both the government and its international partners considered the internal displacement situation in Liberia to be over. However, the specific concerns of an unknown number of unregistered IDPs who had found refuge in public buildings in the capital Monrovia during the war remained undocumented.

Liberia is facing extraordinary reconstruction challenges and many of the vulnerabilities shown by the returnees are

shared by the rest of the population. However, a survey published in 2009 showed the heavy toll that displacement had had on Liberians, as becoming displaced still represented the biggest fear for more than a third of respondents. Insecurity has continued in areas of return, with repeated clashes between rival ethnic groups over land ownership. Sexual and gender-based violence remains a major concern. Durable solutions will depend on better services and infrastructure, the peaceful resolution of land conflicts, and improved security of tenure for those who opted to integrate in the place they were displaced to, or to settle elsewhere in the country.

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were adopted into national legislation in 2004 but there is still room for better governance and wider access to justice to guarantee durable solutions. In 2009, Liberia was among the countries which signed the Kampala Convention. The current challenge is to phase out the humanitarian clusters in such a way as to enable the transition to recovery and development, yet ensure that residual humanitarian needs are addressed.