**OVERVIEW**

Between January and June 2023, we documented 26 internal displacement events driven by violence in Mexico. These displacements occurred across 8 states—Chiapas, Chihuahua, Guerrero, Michoacán, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas, and Zacatecas—and affected at least 7,710 individuals. On average, this translates to one displacement event per week and 43 internally displaced persons (IDPs) daily.

The majority (70%) of these internal displacement events occurred in rural settings. Three municipalities reported two mass internal displacement events during the first semester: Guadalupe y Calvo in the state of Chihuahua, and Coyuca de Catalán and Ajuchitlán del Progreso in Guerrero.

**DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS**

- Violence caused by organized armed groups
- Violence related to political and social conflicts and/or territorial disputes

**STATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Affected municipalities</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>IDPs</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHIAPAS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,243</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIHUAHUA</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>OAXACA</td>
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<td>ZACATECAS</td>
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DATA ANALYSIS AND TRENDS

The media coverage of internal displacement events in Mexico during the first half of 2023 paints an alarming picture. We have observed an increase in figures compared to previous periods, alongside a heightened level of violence in various regions of the country. In the first semester of 2022, there were 15 internal displacement events and 1,439 IDPs. The period from July to December saw 10 events but a substantial increase in the number of IDPs, reaching 8,163.

We have also identified emerging trends in the dynamics of violence within the country during the first six months of this year. Notably, the media reported a violence-induced internal displacement event in the state of San Luis Potosí for the first time. Additionally, the mass displacement that occurred in May in Frontera Comalapa, Chiapas, resulting from clashes between organized crime groups near the Guatemala border, foreshadowed the escalating violence associated with drug trafficking and other criminal activities in the southern border region.

CONCERNS AND PRESSING ISSUES

- **IDPs in the Northern border:** IDPs continue to arrive at the Mexico-US border in search of protection. A study conducted by the IOM across 12 border cities revealed that IDPs constitute the predominant group of those living in shelters, with 91% reporting that they were forced to flee their communities due to widespread violence and 21% reporting a missing relative. There are significant concerns regarding the safety and security of people waiting at the border, with a growing apprehension that criminal actors may exploit their vulnerable situation, potentially subjecting them to extortion and other risks. In Tijuana, local actors have identified that, in addition to IDPs escaping criminal violence in states like Michoacán and Guerrero, there is an increased number of people fleeing the heightened violence in Chiapas and those displaced by the impacts of climate change.

- **Attack against IDPs:** In June, a criminal group targeted and attacked displaced families in Polhó, a community where they had sought refuge after being displaced from the Santa Marta area in Chenahó, Chiapas, in 2022. The attack occurred at a warehouse where IDPs were sheltered, resulting in the death of seven individuals.

- **Suppression of rights:** In February, reports emerged of an agreement between the Oaxaca state government and displaced Triqui families that required the families to refrain from organizing any future protests or public demonstrations, infringing upon their right to peaceful assembly.

NATIONAL RESPONSE TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The draft of a national law on internal displacement, which was approved by the Chamber of Deputies in 2020, remains 'frozen' in the Senate. This past June, the Bicameral Commission for Concord and Pacification organized a forum titled 'Challenges of Internal Forced Displacement' aimed at addressing this issue and exploring legislative proposals to combat it. During the event, various actors called upon the Senate to approve the pending bill. The Commission has also indicated that it will seek technical assistance from the Federal Institute of Public Defenders to try and unlock the bill and promote the enactment of the Law.

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**STATE-LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS**

**Baja California:** A proposed reform to the State Law for Attention, Protection of Rights, and Support to People in the Context of Human Mobility includes specific provisions for internally displaced persons.

**Chiapas:** In January, authorities in the municipality of Comitán allocated public land to 10 families as a reparation measure, after they had been living in internal displacement for 7 years.

**Chihuahua:** A legal reform was passed to criminalize individuals responsible for internal forced displacement in the state, with penalties of 3 to 10 years in prison and fines. In the municipality of Delicias, police received training on internal forced displacement, human rights, and torture prevention, provided by the State Human Rights Commission.

**Guerrero:** The state government provided land in Técpan de Galeana for the resettlement of over 200 displaced families. Training on internal forced displacement and public policies was conducted for state officials.

**Michoacán:** The State Migration Office is addressing the needs of approximately 1,300 Michoacán residents displaced in the border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, focusing on humanitarian aid, capacity-building, and the development of a protocol for legal and security assistance. The state’s inter-agency committee for internal displacement held two sessions, addressing specific displacement situations, such as that of the municipality of Apatzingán and IDPs from Apatzingán in Ciudad Juárez, and proposed next steps for the government response. A bill for a state law for preventing and addressing internal forced displacement was introduced.

**Sinaloa:** The Inter-agency Commission for Internal Displacement reported progress regarding housing, IDP registration, and the provision of legal, social, and psychological support for women in 18 municipalities. A pilot program to facilitate the return of IDPs was initiated in Tepuche, Culiacán. However, the state’s Human Rights Commission raised security concerns regarding the return to Tepuche. In Salvador Alvarado, 25 plots were provided to displaced families. A software for IDP registration underwent pilot testing.

** Zacatecas:** In the municipality of Jerez, around 80% of IDPs have reportedly returned to their communities following an investment of nearly 1.8 million dollars by the authorities in security and community rehabilitation programs. Educational, healthcare, agricultural, and social activities were resumed. Support for home restoration was provided to encourage the return of IDPs, benefiting 26 households.

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