

DTM Papua New Guinea – Round 1 – October 2016

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Background overview

Displacement in Papua New Guinea (PNG) occurs largely as a result of tribal fights due to land, natural disasters and or the economic situation of families. Tribal fights due to land in PNG are quite common and driven by complexity of tenure relationships, overlapping land rights, migration due to economic or environmental factors and cultural differences. Upon displacement many families move to informal settlements in urban areas to find jobs. Displacement in turn affects access to government services such as health, food security, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene, social protection and education.

Internal displacement

With at least 40 incidences of emergencies and disasters having been recorded in PNG between 2013 and 2016, such incidences contributed to the displacement of at least 44,500¹ individuals. Figure 1 below shows that number of affected individual by type of hazard.

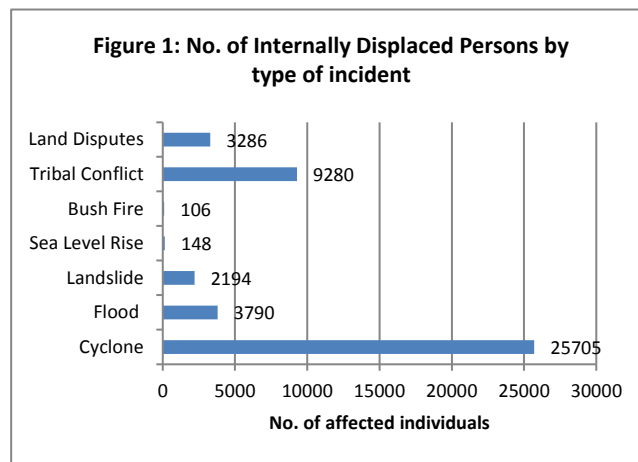


Figure 1: Number of Internally Displaced Persons by type of incident

The majority were of internally displaced persons (IDPs) were affected by cyclones (25,705) in Milne Bay (66%) and Oro (34%) provinces. Differently from many other multi-ethnic societies, conflicts in PNG mostly take place at local level². Tribal conflicts were second on record on incidences that contributed to internal displacement affecting 9,280 individuals over the past three years. Other incidences that contributed to internal displacement are flooding, landslides, sea level rise, bush fire and land disputes. Flooding displaced 3,790 individuals in East Sepik (1,193), Jiwaka (477), Morobe (2,046) and Bougainville (74) provinces, and landslides displaced (2,194) individuals, 50 per cent each in Enga and Morobe provinces. A total of 148 individuals were displaced in Bougainville as a result of the rising sea level while land disputes and bush fires contributed to the displacement of 3,286 and 106 individuals in the National Capital District and Southern Highlands respectively.

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¹ PNG Displacement Tracking Matrix

² Reilly, B., 2008. Conflict in Papua New Guinea