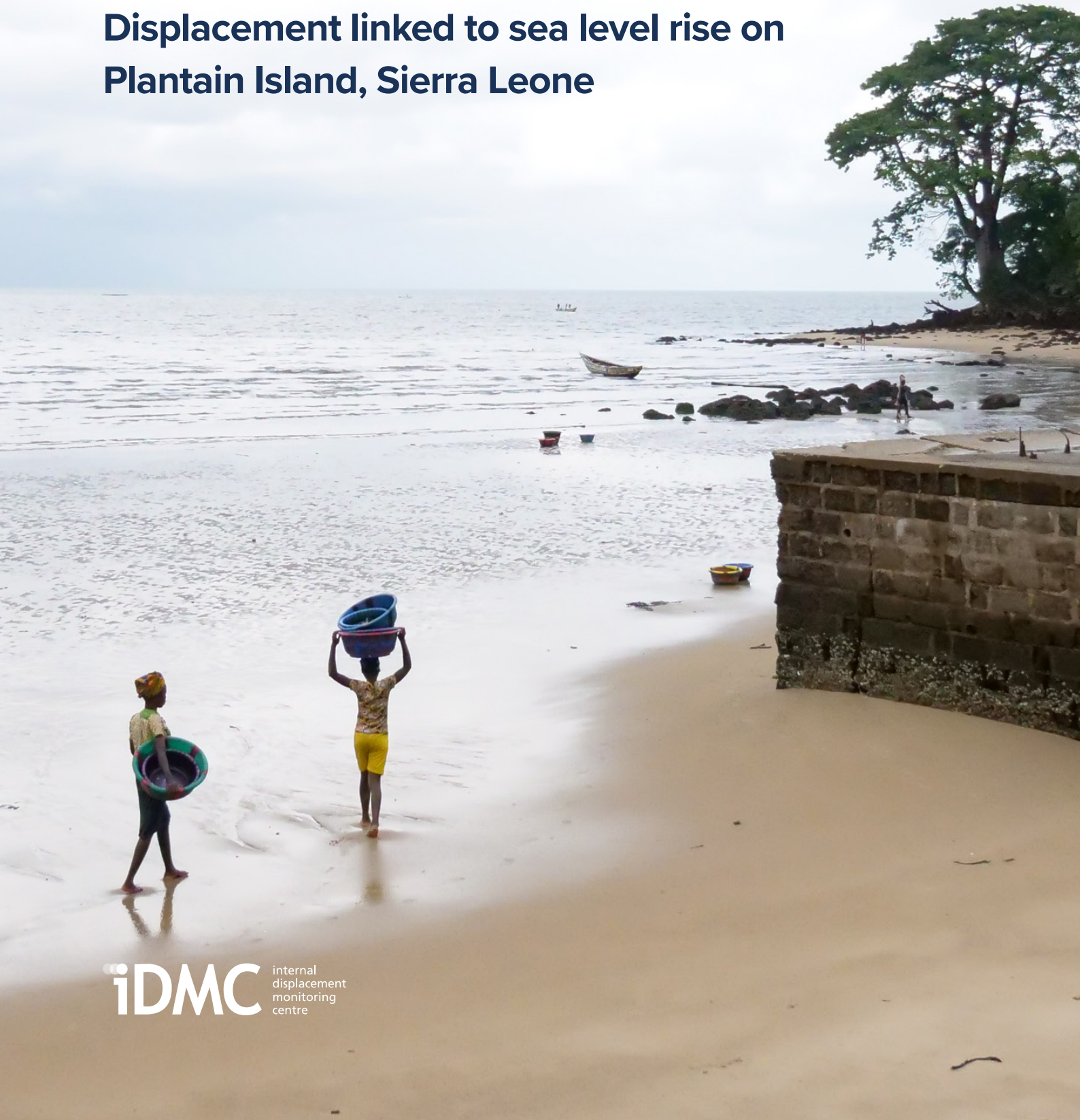


Impacts of displacement

**Displacement linked to sea level rise on
Plantain Island, Sierra Leone**



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Cover photo: Women heading to recover catch from the sea in Shenge. © IDMC, 2024.



Home under construction by those newly relocated to Shenge from Plantain Island © IDMC



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*Drone image of coastal erosion resulting in the collapse
of some classrooms in school in Plantain Island
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Executive summary

The coastal zone of Sierra Leone is highly vulnerable to the increased frequency and severity of coastal erosion and sea level rise linked to the effects of climate change and human activities. Over two million people along the coastal areas in Sierra Leone are expected to be at risk from predicted sea level rise. One of them is Plantain Island.

Plantain Island, which hosts a fishing community of around 5,800 people, has been losing homes and land to the sea for several decades. Many of those who lost their homes left the island, seeking refuge in other communities in the mainland. Those who were unable to leave the island were forced to move further inland on the island itself.

Sierra Leone's National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) conducted joint research on this displacement situation in June 2024. This report presents key findings, potential solutions and ways forward.

Impacts on livelihoods

Displacement has affected the livelihoods of people from Plantain Island in various ways.

Three-quarters of the internally displaced people (IDPs) surveyed continued to work, but two-thirds of them were earning their income in a different way to before their displacement. 15 percent of the IDPs surveyed had stopped working or had a household member who had stopped working after moving from Plantain Island.

Individual earnings declined after displacement on Plantain Island and in Tombo, with gendered imbalances. Household income also fell on Plantain Island, but it increased in Tombo, as more household members started to work after displacement.

Impacts on housing

Displacement has led to significantly worse housing conditions for IDPs on the island and those in Shenge and Tissana.

Many said they were less satisfied with their current housing for reasons that included increased costs, loss of privacy and overcrowding. The transition from owning a home to renting, or having to pay significantly higher rent, underscore the economic hardships that many IDPs face.

Most IDPs who moved to Tombo, on the other hand, said they were more satisfied with their new housing, citing improved security and safer conditions.

Impacts on security

IDPs' perceived or actual security differed depending on where they had moved to.

Many of those who moved to Tissana and Tombo said they felt safer, while many of those on Plantain Island and in Shenge said they felt less or equally safe. This despite conditions in the latter two locations actually being secure.

The loss of important documents during displacement heightened IDPs' sense of insecurity, making it harder for them to access services and support.

Impacts on education

More than half of the IDPs surveyed across all locations said their children's education had been interrupted as a result of their displacement.

Those in Tombo said they were more satisfied with their children's education than before displacement, even though the costs involved were reportedly higher than on Plantain Island. Despite the extra expense, more children were in school after displacement than before.

Impacts on health

Displacement has affected health and food security of IDPs from Plantain Island significantly by introducing financial burdens and reducing access to medical facilities and traditional food sources.

Despite some improvements in access to healthcare in mainland locations, many IDPs still face high costs and logistical challenges such as long distance to the health facilities. Food security is precarious, particularly during the rainy season, heightening displaced families' vulnerabilities.

Potential solutions and way forward

Many of the socioeconomic impacts IDPs have experienced are linked to the wider conditions in the areas they now live in rather than displacement itself.

Those unable to leave Plantain Island and who have instead moved inland were already marginalised or vulnerable. Displacement served to aggravate their situation by creating new financial, practical and psychosocial burdens.

Solutions to IDPs' challenges cannot focus on them alone. They must address the local communities' needs for better healthcare, security, water and sanitation, education and transport. As such, solutions to displacement cannot be considered only from a humanitarian angle. They must be embedded in national development plans and included in the government's discussions with international partners and donors.

Introduction

Sierra Leone is regularly affected by weather-related hazards, many of which trigger disasters and internal displacement.¹ There is not enough data to paint an accurate picture of the phenomenon, but several major events have led to tens of thousands of movements in the past decade.² An exceptional mudslide which occurred near the capital of Freetown in August 2017 led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of displacements.³ The event also prompted an assessment of the country's disaster risk management capacity, which in turn led to the creation of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in 2020.⁴

NDMA is responsible for supporting people affected by disasters, including internally displaced people (IDPs), and for reducing the risk of future disasters and related displacement. It has its headquarters in Freetown and regional offices throughout the country, but it has trouble meeting its ambitious goals given its limited financial, technical and human resources. Low levels of socioeconomic development and the depreciation of Sierra Leone's currency, most recently in early 2024, constitute significant challenges in addressing the drivers and impacts of disaster displacement without external support.⁵

Floods, storms and landslides are the events that most often trigger displacements, but the country is also heavily affected by sea level rise and coastal erosion linked to the effects of climate change and human activities.⁶ According to Hazard and Risk Profile of Sierra Leone⁷, over two million people living along the coastal areas are expected to be affected by sea level rise including displacement, undermining the subsistence of local communities.

The research also helps to bridge a global knowledge gap on internal displacement linked to sea level rise, a topic on which only limited data is available, and enrich our evidence base on the impacts of different triggers and drivers of displacement.

This report presents the key findings from the research and outlines potentials solutions.

Why Plantain Island?

NDMA selected Plantain Island for the research because it is heavily affected by displacement linked to sea level rise and coastal erosion. These phenomena are rarely documented as displacement triggers, making this study not only relevant in and of itself but also as a contribution to collective research on the links between the slow-onset effects of climate change and internal displacement.

Most of the island's inhabitants have lost at least one home to sea level rise or coastal erosion, meaning a significant share of its population can be considered internally displaced. Some have moved to higher ground on the island, while others have sought refuge on the mainland, mostly in Tombo, a three-hour boat ride away and closer to Freetown. A few others have resettled in Shenge and Tisana. The number of people to have left the island for the mainland is unknown.

Sample description

This study interviewed 197 IDPs and 31 of their non-displaced counterparts on Plantain Island and in Shenge, Tisana and Tombo. Given the small number of host community members interviewed, the findings focus primarily on the internally displaced population.

Ninety-two per cent of the IDPs surveyed (or 182 respondents) cited sea level rise as the primary cause of their displacement, and seven per cent floods. Disasters and environmental issues such as climate change were also mentioned as contributing

Plantain Island, which hosts a fishing community of around 5,800 people, is an example of this phenomenon. Once a tourist destination with historical remnants of the slave trade in the 17th and 18th centuries, the island has been losing homes and land to the sea for several decades.⁸ This has led thousands of people to seek refuge further inland on the island itself or in mainland communities. Rising sea levels and increasingly intense rainy seasons, whose storms and waves erode the land, drag more homes and trees into the water each year. Tree felling to make way for new homes or provide building material, firewood or other goods for sale to secure basic livelihoods for IDPs further reduces the island's sea defences.

Joint research initiative

NDMA and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) conducted joint research in June 2024 on the displacement situation on Plantain Island and in the mainland communities where IDPs have sought refuge.

In an effort to improve NDMA's ability to respond to disaster displacement, data was collected on its socioeconomic impacts, covering livelihoods, health, education, security and housing, using our survey tool adapted to the local setting and displacement dynamics. The information gathered will be vital for NDMA and other government entities to tailor their interventions to the specific needs of affected people and prioritise the most impactful activities.



Figure 1: Map of the locations where interviews were conducted (Plantain Island, Shenge, Tisana and Tombo) circled in red

factors. Given that this report is intended to further understand the impacts of displacement linked to sea level rise, only the responses of those who reported the phenomenon as the primary cause of displacement were retained for analysis.

Of this group, 47 per cent were still living on the island while 53 per cent had moved to the other locations – 51 per cent to Tombo and 0.55 per cent to Tissana and Shenge. Given the small sample size in Shenge and Tissana, the analysis focuses primarily on Plantain Island and Tombo.

Eighty-one per cent of the IDPs were aged between 25 and 59, and 105 were women and 77 men. The higher number of women might suggest that displacement disproportionately affects them, but several factors should be considered: Many of the community's men were out fishing when the interviews took place; the survey was intended to cover all households without specifically targeting gender balance; and the interviews focused on the person most knowledgeable about household expenditure, meaning the figures may indicate that women hold this role within the community.

Themne was the most commonly spoken language among the sample, with Krio, Mende, and Sherbro also spoken. Only one IDP said English was the main language spoken at home.

Eight IDPs reported as having a disability, and 11 households reported at least one member of their household had a disability. All of them were still living on Plantain Island. This highlights the additional vulnerabilities displaced families may face and the importance of addressing disability-specific challenges in displacement settings.

The data reflects family composition of the displaced, with significant numbers of children and adults among IDPs (see figure 2). This indicates that displacement impacts whole families, not just individuals.

Fifty-one per cent of the IDPs surveyed who had moved as a result of sea level rise had been displaced more than once. This applied to 55 per cent of those who had stayed on Plantain Island and 40 per cent of those who had moved to the mainland. This also points to the increased vulnerabilities of those remaining on the island. Fifty-six per cent of those who had been displaced more than once cited disasters as the reason, and 15 per cent said it was because they were no longer able to afford to stay in their previous homes.

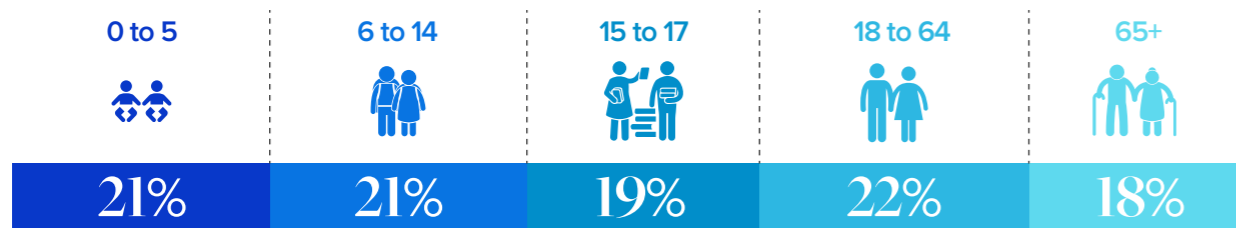


Figure 2: The percentage of different age groups among displaced families



Local community in Shenge out in sea fishing in Shenge © IDMC

Impacts on livelihoods

IDPs' primary sources of income before displacement were fishing and trade. Of the 55 who earned money from fishing, 73 per cent were men, while of the 43 who earned money from trade, 72 per cent were women. Fishmongering was the third most common source of income, with 86 per cent of the 35 IDPs involved being women. This gender disparity reflects the traditional roles and economic activities on Plantain Island.

The average annual household income before displacement was 35,146 leones (\$1,560), and at the individual level 15,131. Eighty-two per cent of the IDPs surveyed earned money from work before displacement, 58 per cent among women and 42 per cent among men.

Fishing, trade and fishmongering remained the three main sources of income after displacement. Individual income streams changed though. Only 26 per cent of the IDPs surveyed said they continued to earn money in the same way as before, compared with 51 per cent who said they had to earn money in a different way. A higher proportion of women than men on Plantain Island reported having to change their income source, while the reverse was the case in Tombo (see figure 3).

Ten per cent of displaced respondents had stopped working altogether, and five per cent said no household member was working. This was particularly the case for those in Shenge and Tissana.

Average individual income fell after displacement, to 12,485 leones in Tombo and 10,529 on Plantain Island. These impacts are gendered. Nineteen per cent of female IDPs on the island said their income had decreased significantly, while 28 per cent of their male counterparts said it had increased significantly. Among those who moved to Tombo, 10 per cent of women reported a slight decrease in their income, compared with 39 per cent of men.

Average household income increased in Tombo to 53,630 leones while on the island it fell to 27,340. This highlights an improvement in household income in Tombo while it deteriorated on Plantain, even with more people in the household going to work. This could partly be explained by key informants' remarks about reduced catches in recent years as a result of erosion and water contamination. Reduced catches can translate into higher prices, which may explain the higher income men on the island reported. The drop in catches is still significant, however, and reduces household income.



Figure 3: Changes in employment, disaggregated by gender and location

Impacts on housing

Those who lost their homes to the sea on Plantain Island have faced significant challenges in securing new accommodation, even temporarily, and many continued to report poor housing conditions years after their displacement.

Ninety-one per cent of IDPs owned their homes before their displacement, five per cent rented and five per cent lived in accommodation provided free of charge. Ownership was primarily secured via verbal agreements. Only 19 per cent had written proof of ownership.

Displacement changed their housing situation changed drastically. Fifty-eight per cent of IDPs now rent their homes and only 31 per cent are owners.

The situation varies between locations. Eighty-two per cent of IDPs in Tombo rent their homes while only nine per cent are owners. The figures for Plantain Island are 53 and 33 per cent respectively. All IDPs in Shenge own their homes, while all those in Tissana rent (see figure 4). The shift from homeownership to renting reflects the financial and logistical challenges that IDPs face.

The average annual rent before displacement was 625 leones. The figure after displacement has risen to 6,048, but with significant variations by location. The figure for Tissana was reported as 350 leones, for Plantain Island 3,064 and Tombo 6,054. These figures highlight the economic strain IDPs face in three of the four locations studied.

The average value of owned homes before displacement was 51,509 leones, a figure that rose to 131,733 after displacement. The increase reflects the higher cost of securing housing after displacement. This was particularly the case for those who moved to Tombo, a more urban and centrally located mainland neighbourhood.

Overall, 46 per cent of the IDPs surveyed said they were less satisfied with their housing conditions since their displacement, but again responses varied between locations.

Fifty-four per cent of those who moved inland on Plantain said they were less satisfied with their housing conditions since their displacement as a result of higher cost, loss of privacy and more crowding. This may be attributed to the fact that they had to build further inland, often without support from the community, government or any other organisation. Many were forced to live in makeshift shelters or in the open while doing so, and access to clean water is still a serious issue.

On the other hand, 47 per cent of the IDPs who moved to Tombo said they were more satisfied with their housing conditions despite the higher costs incurred. They cited improved safety, security and protection from environmental factors. Only 37 per cent said they were less satisfied.

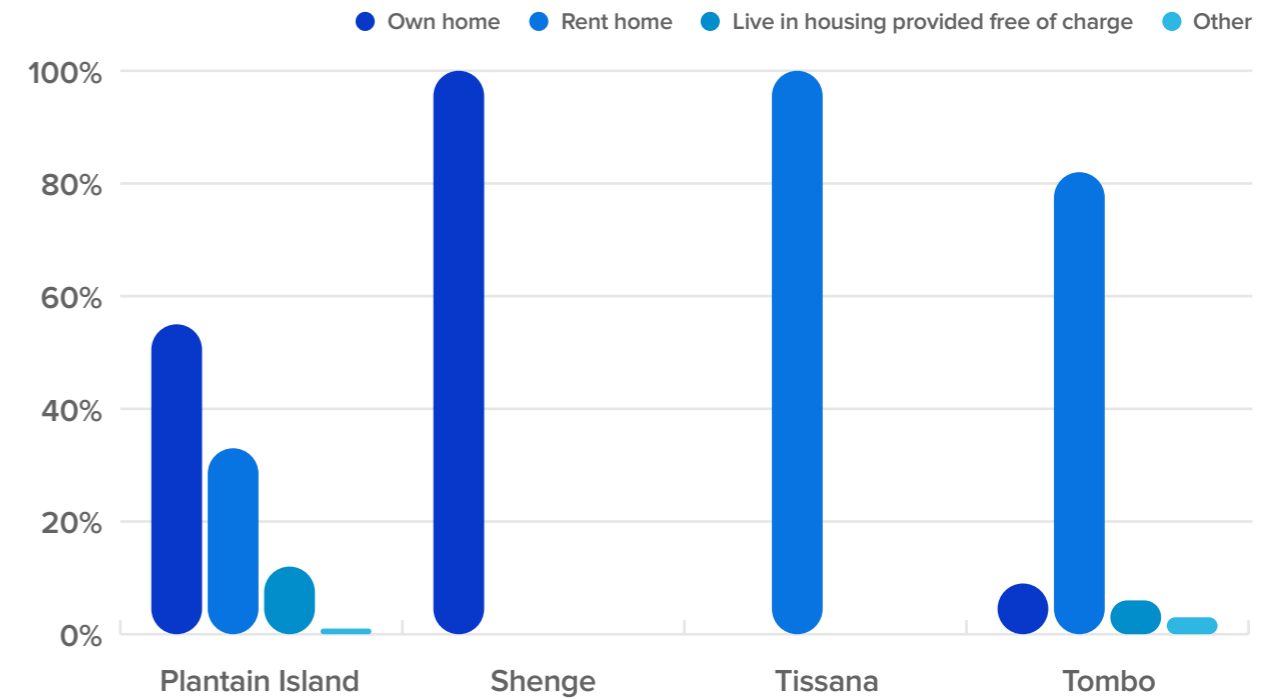


Figure 4: Change in housing situation, by location

Impacts on security

Displacement affects IDPs' perceived or actual security in different ways. Overall, 46 per cent of those surveyed felt safer after their displacement, 34 per cent less safe and 19 per cent equally safe, but there were variations between locations (see figure 5).

Among those who stayed on Plantain Island, only 35 per cent felt safer, 44 per cent less safe and 21 per cent equally safe. Among those in Tombo, 57 per cent said they felt safer, 26 per cent less safe and 17 per cent equally safe.

All IDPs who moved to Shenge said they felt equally safe, despite key informants reporting issues with drug use, theft and cannibalism. This perception of safety may be the result

of recent improvements, including the deployment of police in recent years, also as noted by key informants. All IDPs surveyed in Tissana also said they felt safer.

IDPs who felt less safe revealed common reasons across all locations, citing poor housing conditions, distance from family and community and higher disaster risks as major concerns. Those who felt safer cited better housing conditions, closer family and community ties and lower disaster risks.

Eighty-one per cent of IDPs lost important documents such as birth certificates, ID cards and housing agreements as a result of their displacement, aggravating their sense of insecurity by making it harder for them to access services and support.

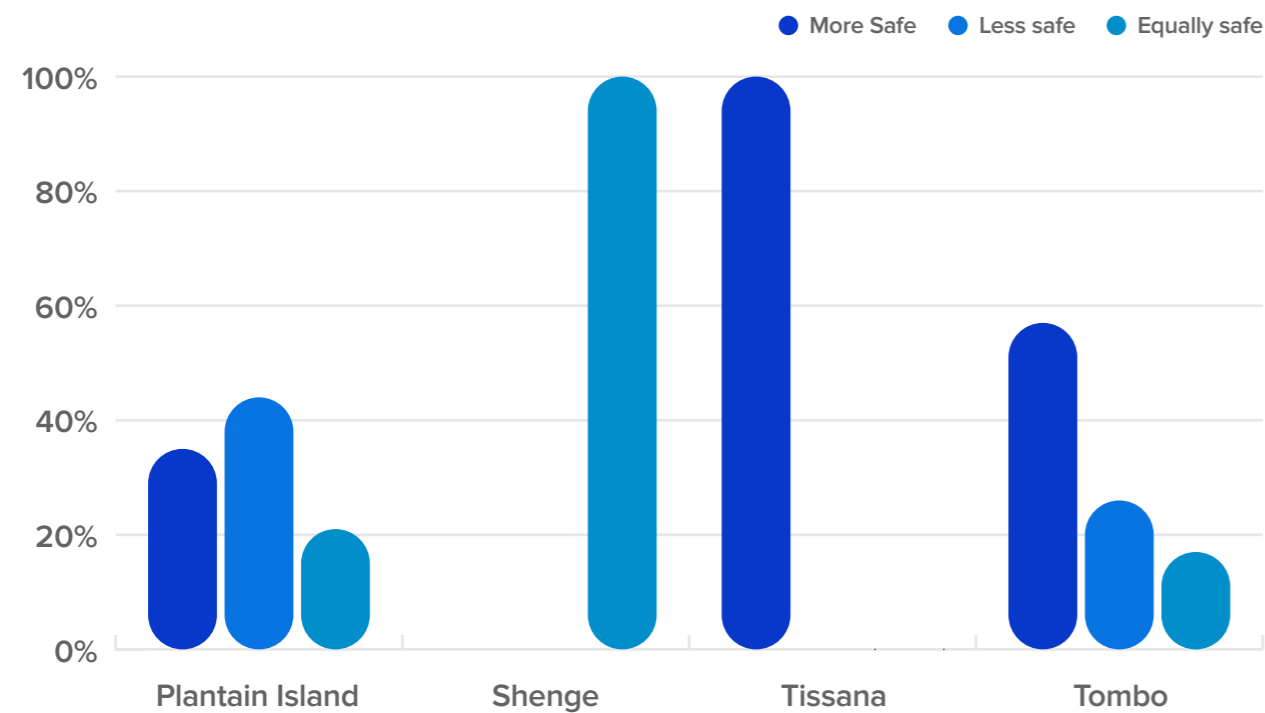


Figure 5: IDPs' perceptions of safety by location



View of abandoned boats owned by people who had to relocate from Babylon in Plantain Island as a result of coastal erosion

© IDMC

Impacts on education

Fifty-seven per cent of IDPs with school-aged children across all locations said their education had been interrupted as a result of their displacement. Among those who moved to Tombo the figure was 68 per cent, and for those who stayed on Plantain Island it was 49 per cent. No IDPs in Shenge reported such interruptions.

The length of interruption varied between location (see figure 6) and between boys and girls.

Sixty-eight per cent of displaced children in Tombo and 53 per cent on Plantain Island experienced interruptions of up to three months. For those who were out of school for more than a year, the figures were 32 per cent on Plantain Island and 12 per cent in Tombo.

Fifty-seven per cent of both boys and girls reported interruptions to their education after moving to Tombo, compared with 43 per cent of those who stayed on Plantain Island. The length of interruption was also shorter for both girls and boys in Tombo than for those on Plantain. Seventy-one per cent of boys and 63 per cent of girls in Tombo were able to go back to school within three months, but the figures for those on Plantain were only 54 and 50 per cent respectively.

Despite the disruptions more children are currently in school than before displacement, up from 77 to 80 with equal distribution on Plantain Island and in Tombo.

That said, more boys than girls in Tombo and an equal number of each on Plantain Island are not in school. Fifty per cent of IDPs with school-aged children on Plantain cited higher costs as a reason for their children no longer going to school, while 25 percent mentioned early marriage or the lack of secondary education on the island. Sixty-seven per cent of those in Tombo cited higher costs.

All children on Plantain Island receive free primary education, but parents have to pay a fee of 5,000 leones a term for exams to cover the cost of one teacher's salary. The government used to provide fee notebooks, but recently stopped doing so.

Beyond the exam fees, average annual school-related costs before displacement were 1,572 leones, covering uniforms, extra classes, materials, transport, meals and other expenses. That figure has risen to 2,660 leones since displacement. Parents in Tombo pay slightly more than their counterparts on Plantain Island.

IDPs in Tombo have access to more education facilities, but their financial struggles can still stop them from sending their children to school. Of the 40 IDPs with school-aged children surveyed, 84 per cent received no support for the expenses they incurred. Support for displaced families to send their children to school, either in the form of financial assistance or waivers for fees and other direct and indirect costs would help to ensure equal access to education for all children in the Tombo area.

Sixty-four per cent of IDPs with school-aged children in Tombo said they were more satisfied with their education since their displacement, compared with 42 per cent on Plantain Island. Similarly, 17 per cent in Tombo said they were less satisfied, compared with 28 per cent on Plantain Island.

The main reason for increased satisfaction was better quality of education. Others included less crowding, schools being nearer home and better transport. Reasons for being less satisfied included overcrowding, lower quality of education and longer journeys to and from school.

Two of Plantain Island's six classrooms were recently washed away by coastal erosion, and more may disappear in the coming years. Financial support to rebuild the infrastructure elsewhere on the island would help to ensure continued education and avoid overcrowding.

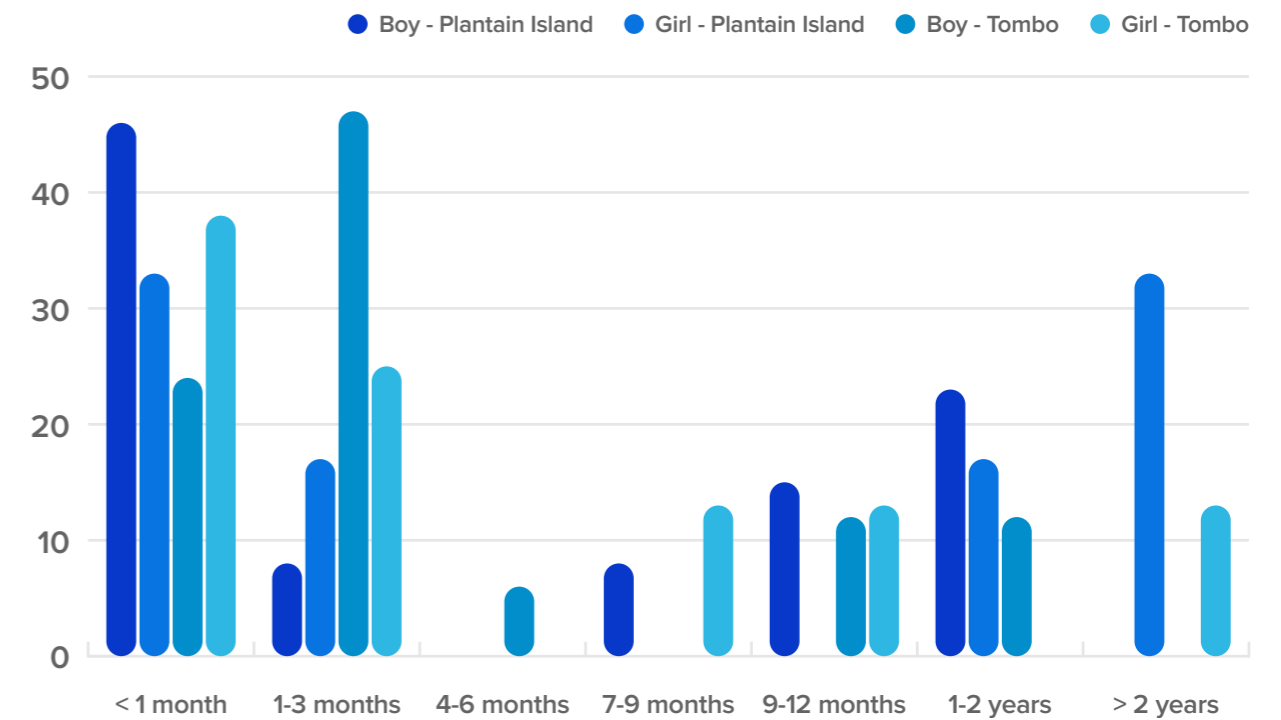


Figure 6: Length of interruption to schooling as a result of displacement by gender and location

Impacts on health

As with education and security, IDPs' access to healthcare is linked more to the conditions where they live than their displacement.

Plantain Island has a small health centre staffed by two nurses that suffers shortages of equipment and medicines. It only received supplies twice in 2023, despite being scheduled for quarterly deliveries. The shortages force the centre to prioritise vulnerable people such as pregnant women and young children, leaving many without adequate treatment.

Fifty-four per cent of IDPs in Tombo said they had better access to healthcare since their displacement, compared with 17 per cent on Plantain Island. Those who said they had less access cited high treatment and transport costs and long journeys to facilities as major obstacles.

All IDPs in Shenge and Tissane, and 79 per cent in Tombo said their health status had improved or remained the same since their displacement. The figure for those on Plantain Island was only 31 per cent. Those who said their health status had improved cited better access to services, clean water and better housing conditions as the main reasons. The 24 per cent across all locations who said their health status had deteriorated cited poorer housing conditions, less access to services and higher disease rates.

According to key informants, the main health concerns on Plantain Island include pneumonia, malaria and tuberculosis.

People who recently lost their homes and are forced to live in makeshift shelters or out in the open also suffer from colds. Similar diseases were reported in Shenge, along with cases of HIV. The Shenge health centre, which is staffed by one doctor and five nurses, provides free medication for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, but often faces shortages. Complicated cases have to be referred to Moyamba or Tombo, which are far from accessible.

Healthcare provision in Tombo is better in terms of facilities, personnel and supply of medicines, but displaced families' financial struggles mean their access to services is still limited. IDPs' average annual healthcare expenditure rose as a result of their displacement from 350 leones to 613 on Plantain Island and 585 on Tombo. The increase on the island may be the result of the limited supply of medication and a rise in health issues among IDPs. The increase in Tombo reflects better healthcare, as shown by the large proportion of IDPs there who said their health status was unchanged or had improved since their displacement.

Food security is another vital issue for displaced families, and this does not differ across locations. Securing food during the rainy season becomes difficult as boats are often unable to go out to sea. Sixty-one women and 43 men reported such challenges.

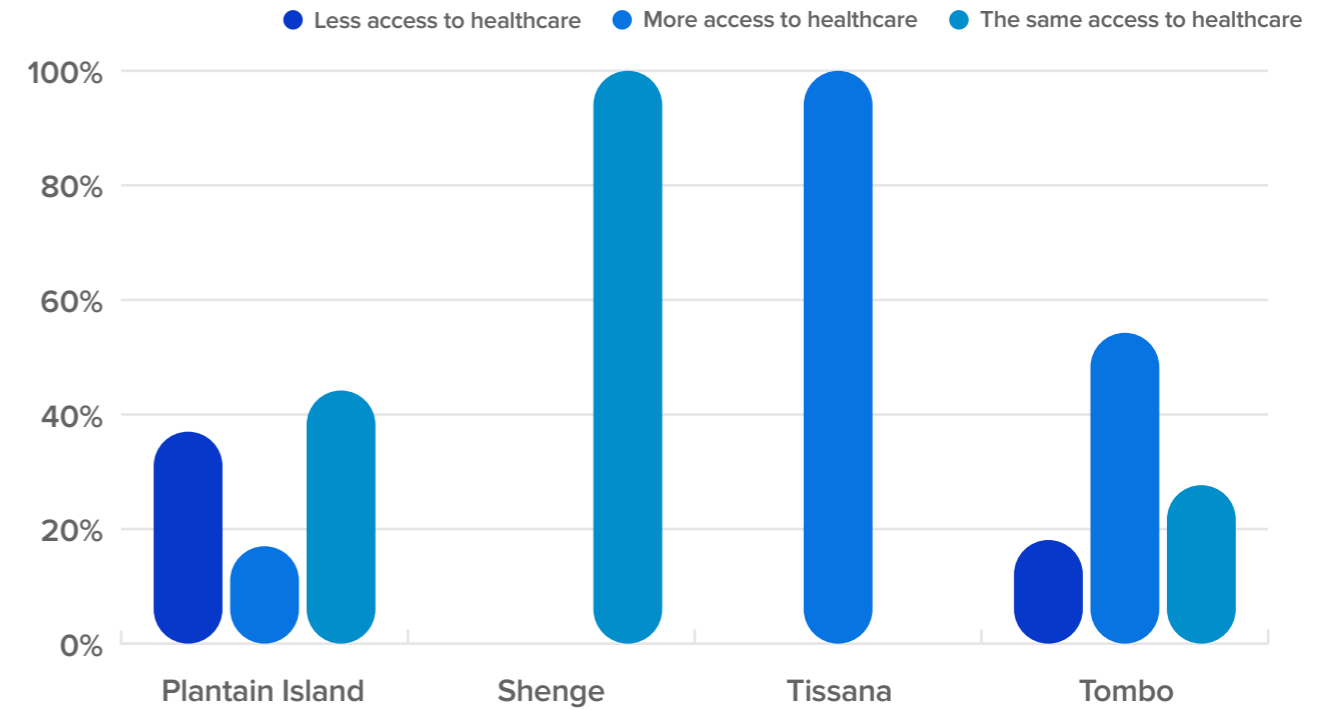


Figure 7: IDPs' access to healthcare by location

Potential solutions and way forward

Plantain Island has been affected by sea level rise and coastal erosion since the 1990s but the pace has increased since the 2000s.⁹ Homes on the island are lost to the sea every rainy season, making displacement an urgent issue to address.

Its impacts are complex and not always easy to identify. Many people who have left the island said their living conditions had improved, while many among those who stayed and moved inland said they had deteriorated.

The challenges IDPs face and their preferred solutions very much depend on where they are, making it essential to tailor support to each community.

Those who have stayed on Plantain Island after losing their home to the sea, in some cases several times, continue to hope that a solution will be found to protect the island and have asked for government help in building an embankment. Other countries affected by sea level rise have attempted to reclaim land using various techniques and with varying degrees of success, often with very large budgets, as in Indonesia, the Maldives, Nigeria and Singapore.¹⁰

Building an embankment or wall around the whole island may not be a viable option, but other communities in Sierra Leone have managed to reclaim some land from the sea using an ingenious approach. Artificial reefs created off the coast of the town of Lakka by tying old truck tyres together with cables trap sand brought in with each rising tide. Over time this creates an area where plants can grow and further secure the reclaimed land.

Nature-based approaches could also slow the island's disappearance, for example by planting trees to improve the soil's resistance to erosion. This, however, would require providing the islanders with alternatives to logging for livelihoods, building material and firewood, and raising their awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation techniques. Doing so could form part of a multifaceted approach to resolving displacement and preventing future movements.

A key challenge for many IDPs in Tombo is having to rent accommodation rather than living in the homes they inherited from their parents on Plantain Island. The cost of renting comes on top of having to find new sources of income and replace lost possessions, increasing the financial pressure they face. Providing housing support such as grants, subsidies or land could help IDPs significantly in starting anew.

Some countries have offered people displaced by disasters new homes. Tonga, for example, built a new village for people displaced from Atata island.¹¹ For such initiatives to be successful and sustainable, social cohesion between the relocated IDPs and their new host community is essential, as are connection to transport and communications networks and the availability of basic services such as healthcare and education.

Many of the challenges the IDPs interviewed for this study reported had more to do with other vulnerabilities, such as having family members with disabilities, than with their displacement. In such cases displacement acts as an aggravating factor, marginalising people further and heightening their vulnerabilities by creating new financial, practical and psychosocial burdens.

Solutions to these challenges cannot focus on IDPs alone. They must also address local communities' needs for better healthcare, security, water and sanitation, education and transport. As such, solutions to displacement cannot be considered solely from a humanitarian angle but must be embedded in national development plans and included in the government's discussions with international partners and donors.

Investing in improved connectivity between areas of displacement and places of work is essential for supporting the livelihoods and overall wellbeing of people who continue to be displaced on Plantain Island and those who move to Shenge. Improving roads would not only facilitate trade and access to healthcare but also strengthen the ties between the two communities, offering a more viable alternative to the long

and arduous journey to Tombo. It is also vital to understand why IDPs prefer Tombo for their children's education and their families' healthcare and business activities, despite its distance from Plantain Island.

These factors significantly influence the options available to those on Plantain Island in terms of potential relocation. Any such move would require thorough engagement with community members, ensuring their active participation and respecting their strong desire to remain on the island. Any decision would have to be made with the explicit approval and involvement of community members, acknowledging their preferences and cultural ties to their home.





IDMC's survey tool

Developed in 2019, IDMC's survey tool collects quantitative and qualitative data and financial information to measure the impacts of internal displacement. The data is essential for planning, budgeting and advocacy in humanitarian and development settings. We have used this tool to collect primary data in selected locations across 14 countries, covering a wide range of displacement situations and triggers.

The survey covers both economic and non-economic losses for IDPs and host communities. It is structured to explore various aspects of livelihoods, housing, health, security and education:

Livelihoods: Income, work disruption, financial support, employment opportunities and basic needs

Housing: Ownership, costs, hosting expenses and satisfaction

Health: Physical and mental wellbeing, food security and access to and cost of healthcare

Security: Perceptions, changes and concerns

Education: Access, barriers, costs, interruptions, quality and support

The survey allows data to be disaggregated by sex, age, disability status, income and education levels, area of origin, duration of displacement and ethnolinguistic identity. This helps to reveal overlapping vulnerabilities.

Adapting the survey tool

To ensure the survey was appropriate and effective, a collaborative adaptation process was undertaken. Participants from NDMA, the National Statistical Agency, the Environment Protection Agency, the Sierra Leone Institute of Geoscientists and the University of Sierra Leone provided feedback that helped to refine the survey to better capture the impacts of displacement linked to sea level rise on Plantain Island. The key informant interview guide was also reviewed and deemed appropriate.

Incorporating local expertise helped to capture detailed and relevant data, significantly enhancing its accuracy and applicability. This makes the survey a powerful tool for informing policy and operational decisions to reduce future displacement risks and improve IDPs' lives.

Sampling approach

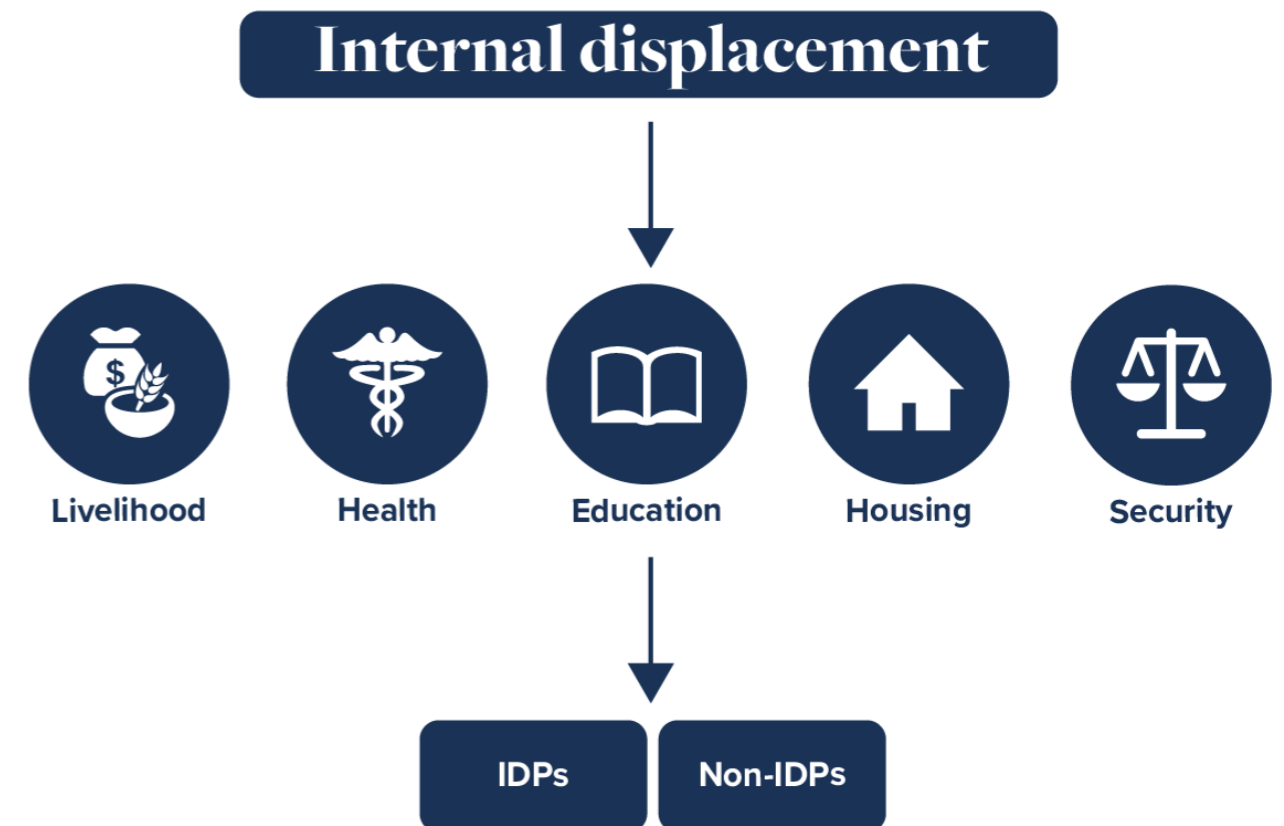
Data collection for this study was conducted using a combination of random walk and respondent-driven sampling techniques. Enumerators on Plantain Island employed a random walk approach to select participants. In Tombo and also in Tissanana, a small community near Shenge, respondent-driven sampling was used to identify people displaced from the island.

Data was collected between 1 and 3 June 2024 and again between 25 and 27 June. Surveys were conducted with 197 displaced and 31 non-displaced individuals. The IDPs surveyed were displaced between 2013 and 2024. Respondents with

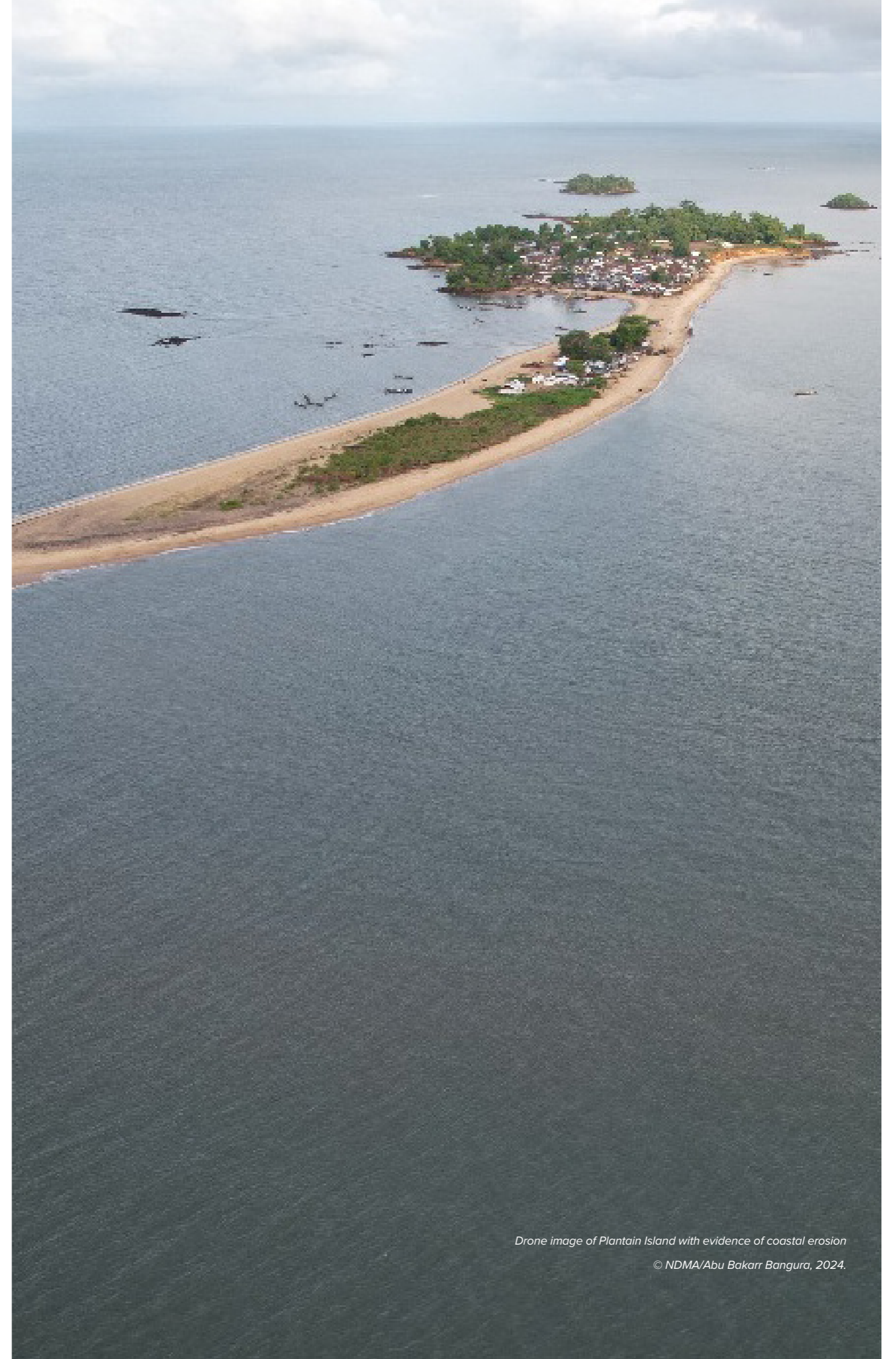
the highest knowledge of household expenditure were selected for the interviews, representing 985 IDPs and 155 local community members.¹²

The quantitative survey was complemented with key informant interviews with a dozen representatives from local and national authorities, health and education professionals and community leaders and representatives. The interviews contextualised the quantitative findings with qualitative insights, ensuring a comprehensive analysis.

The quantitative survey relies on respondents' memories and perceptions, which may be influenced by broader economic factors, but it still offers valuable insights into the impacts of displacement linked to sea level rise on housing, livelihoods, safety, education and health. Beyond Sierra Leone, the findings could also inform targeted research in similar settings elsewhere.



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- 12 The estimate number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of households surveyed by Sierra Leone's average household size, which is five people.



Drone image of Plantain Island with evidence of coastal erosion

© NDMA/Abu Bakarr Bangura, 2024.



Every day, people flee conflict and disasters and become displaced inside their own countries. IDMC provides data and analysis and supports partners to identify and implement solutions to internal displacement.

Join us as we work to make real and lasting change for internally displaced people in the decade ahead.



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