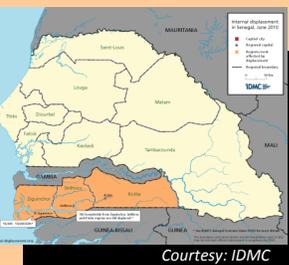


# CASAMANCE REGION OF SENEGAL



## Reasons for Displacement:

Since 1982, Senegal has been plagued by a low intensity civil war over the Casamance region between the government of Senegal and the Movement Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC).

The arrest of MFDC leaders in 1982 sparked a vicious cycle of Senegalese Army clamp down, which increased resistance and desire for independence. The conflict, although not as brutal as in other parts of Africa, led to thousands of people being killed and remains one of West Africa's most protracted conflicts.

## Current situation:

Casamance refugees tend to move back and forth across the border and stay with extended families as conflict reduces and rises. Whilst a ceasefire was announced in April 2014 between the two fighting factions, decades of war and violence has left the region isolated and underdeveloped. With over a generation of underdevelopment and insecurity, young people are unemployed, unskilled and displaced from their villages.

The region desperately needs peace to attract investment and infrastructure, which will help provide employment opportunities for those refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking to return. However, with peace deals failing in the past, Casamance's long-term future still remains uncertain.

## Number of refugees:

14,274 residing in Senegal  
23,118 originating from Senegal  
[source: UNHCR]

## Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

24,000  
[source: IDMC]

## History:

**1982**—Arrest of MFDC leaders

**1990**—MFDC begins reprisals by attacking Senegal's military facilities and buildings

**1997**—Ceasefire is signed

**2001**—Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade agrees to a peace deal which releases prisoners, clears landmines, and swathes return of refugees; split of MFDC leads to conflict amongst each other

**2005**—Another round of negotiations

**2006**—clash between MFDC broken factions

**2014**—Salif Sadio, MFDC rebel leader, declares unilateral ceasefire

## Assistance:

- RIJ supported various projects including agricultural training and natural resource management as well as installation of water pumps and water management training
- Due to a lack of opportunities for refugees in Senegal to return, UNHCR is supporting their local integration

