



**SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF
FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN
BAFOUSSAM I COUNCIL**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGE



FOREWORD

It is with a deep sense of pride and responsibility that I present this profiling report on the local integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in our council. This document is the outcome of a collective effort bringing together local authorities, decentralized government services, civil society organizations, and our technical and scientific partners, including UNHCR, GIZ, JIPS, INS and BUCREP.

For several years, the Bafoussam I Council, a historic crossroads and the heart of Mifi, has been home to a growing number of IDPs seeking security, dignity and hope. Their presence represents not only a humanitarian challenge, but also an opportunity to strengthen “living together”, foster social inclusion and stimulate local development.

Based on reliable data and in-depth analysis, this report provides a clear picture of the realities experienced by these populations. It sheds light on their living conditions and basic needs, as well as the challenges they share with host communities, such as limited access to drinking water, healthcare, employment, sanitation and food security. It also draws attention to specific issues, such as the lack of civil status documents, which hinder their full integration.

This information now serves as a strategic instrument to inform public policies and guide local action, enabling the development of inclusive and sustainable responses that benefit all residents of the council.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to everyone who contributed to this initiative, including the technical experts, institutional partners, and most importantly, the communities of the Bafoussam I Council, who demonstrated great openness and solidarity by sharing their experiences.

This report should serve as a reference framework for our future actions. It reflects our shared ambition to create a council where everyone, regardless of where they are from, can find their place, live with dignity, and contribute to shared prosperity.

Let us continue this commitment together and ensure the successful integration of IDPs.



M. NGANG Cyrille
Mayor of the Bafoussam I Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The profiling exercise was carried out as part of the GIZ project called “*Promoting Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Population Communities (PESoP)*” in the West region of Cameroon. Led by UNHCR, the profiling exercise is the result of the collaborative work by the PESoP Committees¹ which include: 10 non-governmental organizations, 15 governmental organizations, as well as Municipal authorities and community representatives of Dschang, Bafoussam 1, Mbouda, Foumban, and Kouoptamo. The PESoP committees extend their appreciation and gratitude to all the persons who participated in the profiling and agreed to be interviewed.

This project was funded thanks to the generous financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Technical support to the exercise was provided by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)², the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the Central Bureau of Censuses and Population Studies (BUCREP).

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This report is part of a series of four others that can be viewed by clicking on the links below: [Bafoussam 1^{er}](#), [Dschang](#), [Foumban](#), [Kouoptamo](#) and [Mbouda](#).

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1 Extended Strategic steering committee (COPII) and Activities Monitoring and Validation Local Committees (CLSPA).

2 JIPS’ technical support was made possible through the generous support of UNHCR Cameroon, the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), and the American people through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMZ	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung)
BUCREP	Central Bureau of Censuses and Population Studies
CSI	Integrated Health Centres
HLP	Housing, Land and Property
EGRISS	Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
IASC	Inter-agency Standing Committee
IDP	Internally displaced person
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
JIPS	Joint IDP Profiling Service
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAT	Ministry of Territorial Administration
MINDEVEL	Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development
MINEFOP	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
MINEPAT	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINJEC	Ministry of Youth and Civic Education
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice
MINMIDT	Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development
MINPMEESA	Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
MINPROFF	Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations)
PESoP	Promoting Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

I.

INTRODUCTION

CONTEXT

In 2024, Cameroon topped the list of displacement crises that were most overlooked. This underscores the persistent gaps in funding, media visibility, and international political and diplomatic engagement³. Since 2016, Cameroon has faced escalating violence between the central government and non-state armed groups in the South-West and North-West regions. The ongoing conflict and attacks on border communities have led to significant internal displacement throughout the country, including in the West region. According to OCHA and IOM, nearly 650,000 people have been displaced by the crisis in the North-West and its spillover into the West and Littoral regions. While 494,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are reported to have returned home in September 2024, the humanitarian situation in areas affected by displacement remains critical.

A multi-sector needs assessment conducted in 2022⁴ revealed that the situation in the West region was particularly serious (level 4 out of 5). There are urgent needs for shelter, food, water and sanitation, and protection – particularly with regard to child labour. However, demographic estimates and socio-economic data on displaced persons remain fragmented, often unverifiable and limited. In this context, a profiling exercise in the Bafoussam I Council (Mifi) and four other councils in the West Region, namely Dschang (Menoua), Foumban and Kouoptamo (Noun) and Mbouda (Bamboutos), was implemented as part of the multi-year project to promote the economic and social participation of displaced persons and host communities (PESoP). These five councils collectively host nearly 34% of the 114,111 displaced persons in the West (OCHA, 2023).

Overview of the PESoP Project: Objectives and Key Components

The **Promoting Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Population (PESoP)** project is a German-Cameroonian cooperation project implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). PESoP is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and overseen by the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL). It aims to promote the economic and social participation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host populations, particularly women, in five councils (Bafoussam I, Dschang, Foumban, Kouoptamo, and Mbouda) in the West region of Cameroon. **The project provides direct support to beneficiaries and strengthens the capacity of local and non-governmental stakeholders to improve living conditions sustainably.**

The PESoP project is structured around four main components:

- » **Economic participation:** Facilitating access for IDPs and host communities to vocational training, as well as employment and income-generating opportunities;
- » **Social participation:** Strengthening the social inclusion and cohesion of these populations within their host communities.
- » **Socio-economic profiling:** Produce and make available up-to-date data on socio-economic vulnerabilities to better target interventions;
- » **Gender-based violence:** Improve the provision of prevention, protection and care services for survivors of GBV by state and non-state actors.

³ COR, 2024

⁴ IOM, 2022, Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs)

PROFILING: OBJECTIVES AND COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

The profiling exercise in the Bafoussam I Council had two main objectives:

- » To identify the specific vulnerabilities faced by displaced persons and the obstacles they encounter in integrating locally in the Bafoussam I Council.
- » To identify the challenges faced by both displaced persons and non-displaced residents in the Bafoussam I Council, which are therefore not specific to displacement status and instead indicate broader development needs.
- » The profiling exercise was carried out in collaboration with the following stakeholders: municipal authorities, sectoral ministries (MINDDEVEL, MINEPROFF, MINEFOP, MINPMEESA, MINJEC, MINJUSTICE, MINSANTE, MINMIDT, MINADER and MINAT), technical government entities (INS,

BUCREP and BUNEC), and community representatives. These stakeholders formed the Expanded Steering Committee, which coordinated the profiling process. The profiling was implemented by UNHCR, GIZ, BUCREP and INS, with technical support from JIPS.

Throughout the process, the expanded committee played an advisory role. Its responsibilities included defining objectives, reviewing and validating tools and procedures, supporting training and field operations, and analysing results. More specifically, a series of consultations and workshops were held:

- » Council-level workshops to define the geographic and thematic scope (June 2024);
- » A technical workshop with INS and BUCREP to review analytical tools and standards (March 2025);
- » Council-level workshops to review and confirm preliminary findings (May 2025).



II.

METHODOLOGY



Analysis approach and target populations: Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and non-displaced persons were included in the profiling. The approach was designed as a comparative analysis of the socio-economic situation of the displaced population compared to that of non-displaced persons, based on key criteria defined by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons . By identifying the main differences and similarities between the situations of displaced and non-displaced persons, the analysis highlights areas where displaced persons are worse off and can be considered to face displacement-related vulnerabilities, while also underscoring common challenges that point to broader development issues.

Geographical scope: A series of workshops were organised in each of the five target councils to determine the geographical scope of the profiling exercise. Each workshop included a mapping exercise using BUCREP-produced maps to identify neighborhoods (villages or ADMIN4) with high, medium, or low concentrations of internally displaced persons. This analysis was refined by drawing on the knowledge of local

community members, including imams, pastors, and representatives of displaced persons from local PESoP committees, as well as council stakeholders.

Thematic scope: The profiling focused on the following criteria from the IASC framework on durable solutions: security; an adequate standard of living, including access to services, food and shelter; access to documentation; livelihoods; housing; land and property; family reunification; and participation in public life. In addition, intentions for the future were collected. These themes were discussed at the council level during preparatory workshops to ensure that all relevant sub-themes were included. Subsequently, identifying indicators by criterion ensured alignment with national INS and BUCREP standards, as well as international recommendations on statistics for displaced persons and standards for analysing durable solutions.

Sampling and identification of displaced persons: The sampling plan was meticulously designed using BUCREP map data and estimates of the number of displaced persons (IDPs) obtained during council-level meetings. Two-stage stratified random sampling was used as the


⁵ Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement (2010) IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, April 2010.

⁶ For more information on the sustainable solutions analysis approach, see: UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, JIPS, UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, DRC et al. (2018) Sustainable Solutions Analysis Guide & Indicator Library.

method. Within the Bafoussam I Council, 28 displacement zones (DZs) with a medium or high concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) were randomly selected. A complete list of all households was compiled for each sampled enumeration zone. According to a criteria-based identification module, households were categorised as displaced or non-displaced. This was in line with the recommendations of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Stateless Statistics (EGRISS). This classification was carried out in collaboration with BUCREP

and INS. The sample was then selected at random from among the households listed in each enumeration area. A total of 536 households were surveyed in the Bafoussam I Council, divided between displaced and non-displaced persons. The samples were weighted prior to analysis. The survey results are representative of neighbourhoods with a medium or high concentration of displaced persons. However, they do not reflect the situation in areas where there are few or no displaced persons, nor in the council as a whole.

Table 1 : Sample- households and individuals, collected and weighted

COUNCIL	HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED	IDPs	NON-DISPLACED	TOTAL	
BAFOUSSAM 1er 	Unweighted	Households	288	248	536
		Individuals	1099	1687	2786
	Weighted	Households	3680	15 956	19636
		Individuals	14 412	84 988	99 400

Source: 2024 profiling survey

⁸ EGRISS (2023) Vers une approche standardisée pour identifier les personnes déplacées, les réfugiés et les populations apparentées dans les enquêtes auprès des ménages. Cette publication décrit les critères recommandés pour l'identification des personnes déplacées dans les enquêtes à l'aide d'une série de questions.

III.

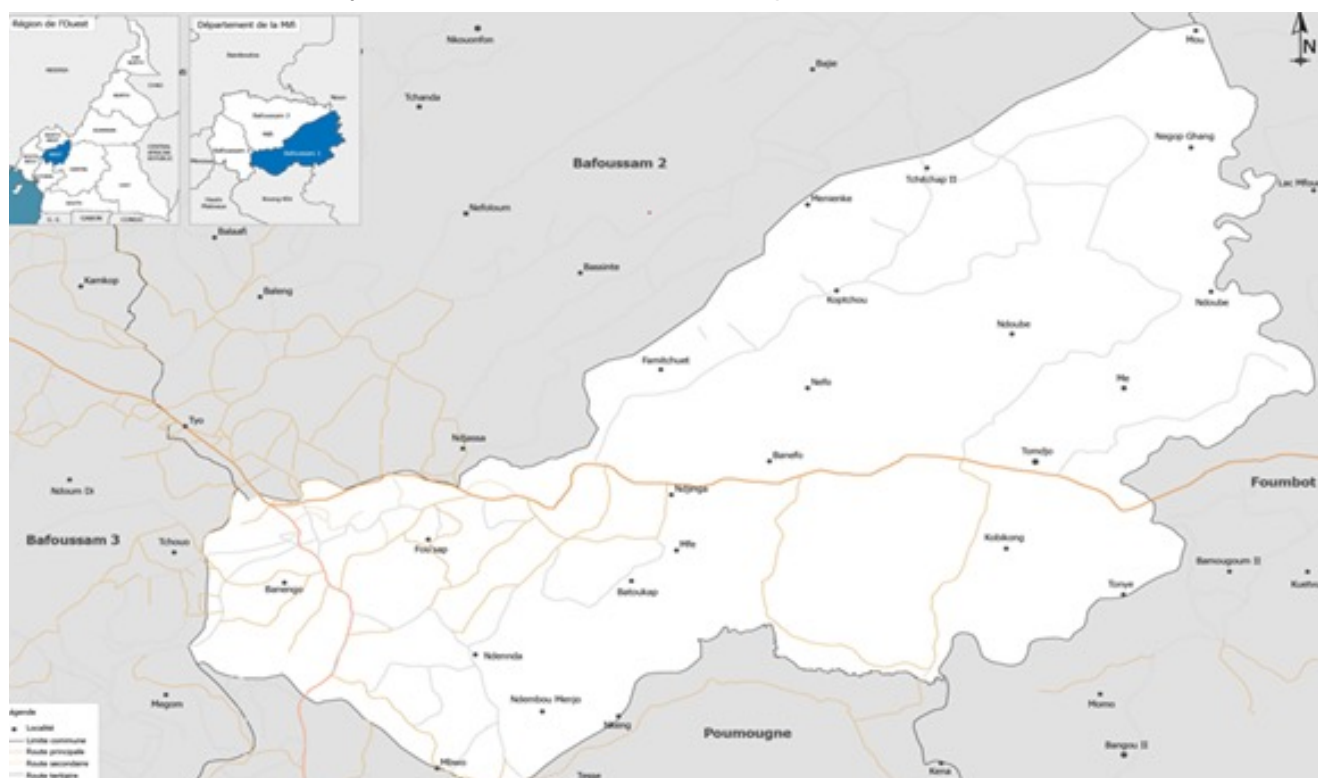
DISPLACEMENT TO BAFOUSSAM I COUNCIL

PRESENTATION OF BAFOUSSAM I COUNCIL

The Bafoussam I Council was established on 17 January 2008 by Decree No. 2008/022. Covering an area of 91 km², it has an estimated population of 148,786 (BUCREP

estimates for 2023) and is composed of several ethnic groups, including the majority Bamiléké, as well as Bamoun, Sawa, Beti and Bassa. The council comprises 41 villages and neighbourhoods, which correspond to third-level chiefdoms that form the Bafoussam group. This group is headed by a second-level chief.

Map 1 : the Bafoussam I Council in the West Region of Cameroon



Source : IM Unit, UNHCR, 2024

The council's economy is divided into three sectors: primary, secondary and tertiary. The primary sector comprises agriculture and livestock farming. The area's agricultural development is due to favourable natural conditions. Thanks to this potential, the population engages in a variety of agricultural activities, including vegetable crops (leeks, onions, peppers, tomatoes, chillies, cabbage, etc.) and food crops (e.g. maize, beans, plantains, yams, cocoyam, tomatoes, black nightshade, potatoes and bananas). They also grow cash crops such

as Arabica coffee, plantains and sugar cane. Given the rudimentary tools used (hoes, dibber, pickaxe, machete, etc.), this agriculture remains traditional. As most farms are family-based, it is fair to say that this is family farming.

These assets, which are plentiful in the culturally diverse Bafoussam I Council, can promote the integration of displaced populations, most of whom are from the North West region and have been affected by armed conflict.

HISTORY OF DISPLACEMENT AND INTENTIONS OF IDPs

A predominantly young displaced population: Nearly 50% of the internally displaced persons surveyed in the Bafoussam I Council are between 15 and 34 years of age. Women are slightly more represented than men in the 15–34 age group (48% compared to 45%) and in the 60+ age group (3.2% compared to 2.7%). Conversely, men are slightly more represented than women in the younger age group (under 15: 34% compared to 32%) and in adulthood (35–59 years: 17% compared to 16%). These differences appear small and do not, at first glance, indicate any significant difference in the gender structure of the displaced population.

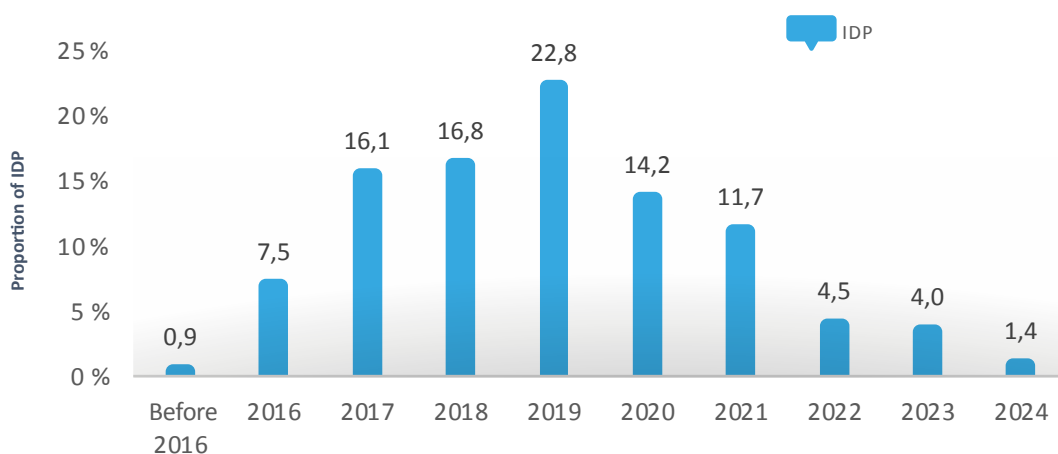
The majority of displaced persons originate from the North-West: the north-west and south-west regions are the main regions of origin of the populations that

have moved to the Bafoussam I Council. The majority of internally displaced persons come from the North-West region (81%), followed by the South-West region (13%) and the West region (4%). At the departmental level, most displaced persons come from Bui (23%) and Mezam (28%).

Almost all displacement is caused by armed conflict: almost all internally displaced persons (97%) moved to Bafoussam I because of armed conflict.

The flow of displacement in the Bafoussam I Council reached its peak in 2019: Figure 1 shows that 23% of internally displaced persons moved to the Bafoussam I Council for the first time in 2019. It should be noted that this proportion increased from 1% in 2016 to 23% in 2019. It then fell in 2020 to 14% and continues to decline until 2024, when it will return to almost the same level as before 2016, i.e. 1%.

Graph 1 : Proportion of IDP according to initial year of displacement



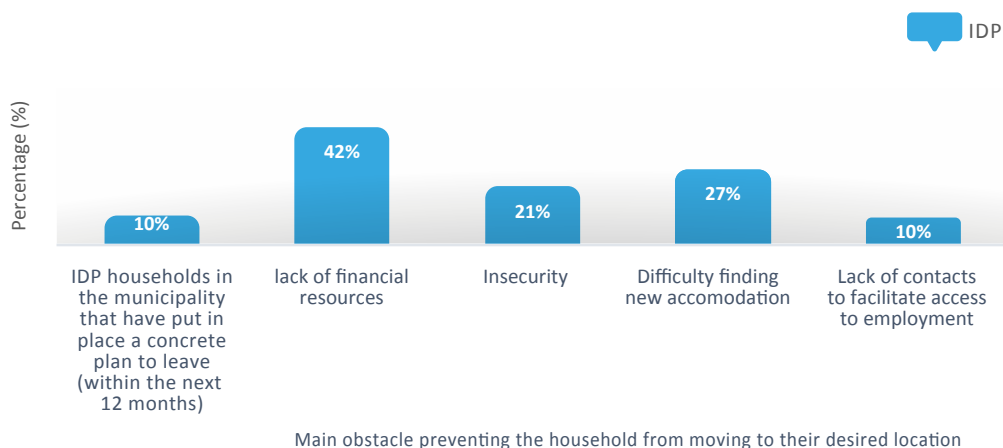
A difficult return for displaced persons to their place of origin: Few IDPs residing in the Bafoussam I Council can return to the locality where they lived just before being forced to flee if they so wish. However, several IDPs have found the opportunity to visit their place of origin for specific reasons. With regard to checking on property (land, house, shop, etc.), 51% of men and 49% of women visited their place of origin for this reason. 68% of men compared to 32% of women visited their place of origin to meet relatives or friends. Women (68%) are also more likely than men to visit for family events (weddings, funerals, etc.).

One in two displaced households sees its future in a place other than its current place of residence: nearly half of households (48%) express a desire to leave their current place of residence, reflecting a high level of dissatisfaction or instability. Among them, the majority

wish to return to their place of origin (47%), reflecting a desire to rebuild their previous life. Others are considering internal mobility, mainly to another locality in the same district (23%) or another region of the country (11%). A minority (6%) wish to leave Cameroon, which remains marginal in the context of prolonged displacement.

While the majority wish to move, only a minority have concrete immediate plans: among IDP households in the council, only 10% have concrete and immediate plans (within the next 12 months), revealing a significant gap between intention and actual capacity for mobility. The main obstacle is a lack of financial resources (42%), followed by difficulty finding housing (27%) and insecurity (21%). The lack of contacts to access employment (10%) is also an obstacle.

Graph 2 : Proportion of IDP households that have made concrete plans for the next 12 months, according to the main obstacle to moving to their desired location



Main obstacle to moving elsewhere

IV.

KEY FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

From an overall perspective, displaced and non-displaced populations in the Bafoussam I Council experience different realities in most areas, including demographic, socio-economic, security and even cultural. However, there are a few similarities in these areas. More specifically:

- » IDP households are denser (more people) than non-displaced households. The high density of IDP households seems to be caused by the rapid and spontaneous regrouping of members in the council, given that more than a third of IDP households have lost members due to their forced displacement.
- » Most IDPs are English-speaking and are more bilingual than non-displaced persons. Bilingualism is becoming an undeniable asset for the integration of IDPs in the Bafoussam I Council and also an asset for non-displaced persons to improve their spoken English.
- » In terms of security, displaced persons are more at risk than non-displaced persons. IDPs face greater challenges in protecting themselves than non-displaced persons, as they experience more violence, fear reprisals more and report incidents to the authorities more often than non-displaced persons.
- » With regard to food insecurity, IDP households use high-risk coping strategies more than non-displaced households. IDP households are therefore more dependent on strategies to manage a food crisis than non-displaced households.
- » In terms of employment, IDPs are less employed than non-displaced persons. Adults (aged 35-64) have the highest employment rates (in both groups), with a higher rate among non-displaced persons than among displaced persons. IDP jobs are mostly temporary or self-employed. IDPs are also affected by higher underemployment than non-displaced persons.
- » In terms of schooling, the two groups have almost identical trends, with a clear advantage for non-displaced persons. The level of schooling is high in both groups. In terms of health, however,

IDP households have easier access to healthcare than non-displaced persons. In addition, they make greater use of specialists for childbirth than non-displaced persons.

- » The majority of IDPs are tenants in the housing they occupy. Some of them face evictions and difficulties in accessing better living conditions (access to water and other resources, access to property, etc.). Indeed, IDP households have less access to developed or secure water than non-displaced persons.
- » Forced displacement due to conflicts in English-speaking areas, particularly in the North-West for most displaced persons, in the Bafoussam I Council, has led to family separations, with many families finding it difficult to reunite. The households most affected by family separations are those consisting exclusively of IDPs, and the main difficulties encountered in family reunification are financial.
- » Relations between the two groups are considered positive. Indeed, several non-displaced persons consider that the situation of IDPs is much better than their own, which reflects the better social integration of IDPs into host communities. However, there have been reports of incidents of violence and discrimination against displaced persons.
- » Nearly half of displaced persons wish to leave their current place of residence. This may be explained by a feeling of dissatisfaction or instability due to living conditions in their environment. However, very few of these households have concrete immediate plans for relocation.

It is clear that, despite efforts to integrate IDPs into host communities in the Bafoussam I Council, significant disparities remain, prompting some IDPs to consider moving in order to improve their living conditions.

The following section describes in detail, by theme, the main challenges faced by displaced persons more than non-displaced persons, as well as the challenges shared by both groups, but also the significant achievements of displaced persons, the host population and the Bafoussam I Council in terms of the integration of the displaced population and development.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

More displaced persons live in large households, while single-person households are more common among non-displaced persons. Overall, in the Bafoussam I Council, a household has an average of 6.6 persons. This size varies from 6.9 persons in IDP households to 6.5 persons in non-displaced households. The majority of IDP households have between six and nine people (40%), compared to 33% among non-displaced persons. Single-person households are twice as common among non-displaced persons (12%) as among IDPs (7%).

As many IDP households as non-displaced households are headed by women. Nearly two in five displaced households (38%) are headed by a woman, as are non-displaced households (37%). The majority of heads of household (HH) are married (48% among displaced persons compared to 56% among non-displaced persons) or live as if they were married (15% among IDPs compared to 14% among non-displaced persons).

Just over a third of displaced households (IDPs only and IDPs & non-displaced persons) have been separated from their members as a result of their forced displacement since they fled: Approximately 37% of households with at least one IDP currently have a member missing due to displacement (including 48% among households with only IDPs and 31% among mixed households (IDPs and non-displaced persons). Among them, in equal proportions in both IDP household subgroups, three quarters have tried to reunite (74%), but only 7% have been reunited to date (5% in IDP-only households and 9% in mixed households), and most households that were separated during displacement have not been able to reunite. More specifically, 89% of displaced households are still separated from at least one family member, mainly due to financial difficulties (65%, including 61% among IDP-only households and 68% among mixed households), ongoing

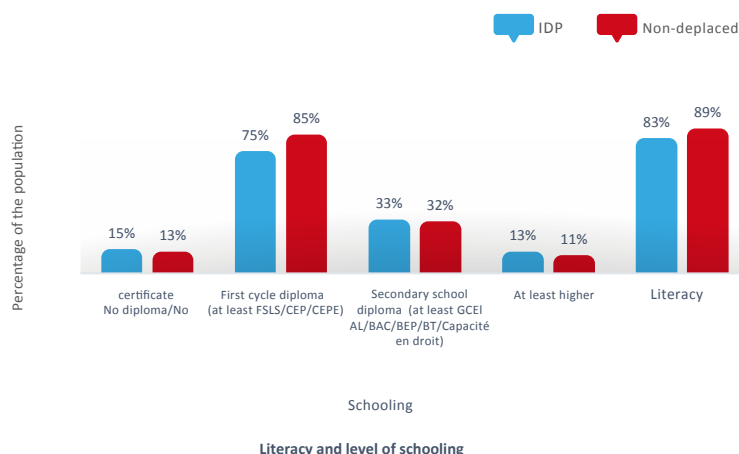
insecurity (43%, including 42% among IDP-only households and 44% among mixed households) in the region of origin, and lack of transport (27%, including 34% among IDP-only households and 20% among mixed households).

The level of disability reported in the general population is low: disability, as reported, affects a tiny proportion of the population (6%). This rate is 5% for the IDP population and 6% for the non-displaced population. Among heads of household, 14% report having a disability. This rate is twice as high among non-displaced heads of household (15% compared to 9% among IDP heads of household). In order of importance, the most frequently reported disabilities among persons with disabilities are visual impairment (49% among IDPs and 53% among non-displaced persons), motor disability (32% among IDPs and 46% among non-displaced persons) and difficulty caring for oneself (17% among IDPs and 15% among non-displaced persons).

Bilingualism is an undeniable asset for the integration of IDPs. Most displaced persons speak only English (64%), while non-displaced persons speak only French (84%). However, bilingualism is much more widespread among displaced persons (20%) than among non-displaced persons (9%). This represents an important lever for their socio-economic integration and social cohesion. Their access to public services, education and the labour market has become slightly easier. It would therefore be essential to strengthen language training programmes, particularly in English for English-speaking IDPs and in French for French-speaking host populations, in order to promote communication and mutual inclusion.

The level of literacy is relatively high in both groups, with a slight advantage in favour of host populations: 83% of displaced persons over the age of 12 and 89% of non-displaced persons can read and write. This gap is observable among both men (84% versus 92%) and women (83% versus 87%).

Graph 3 : Percentage of people aged 18 and over according to highest level of education attained, by status

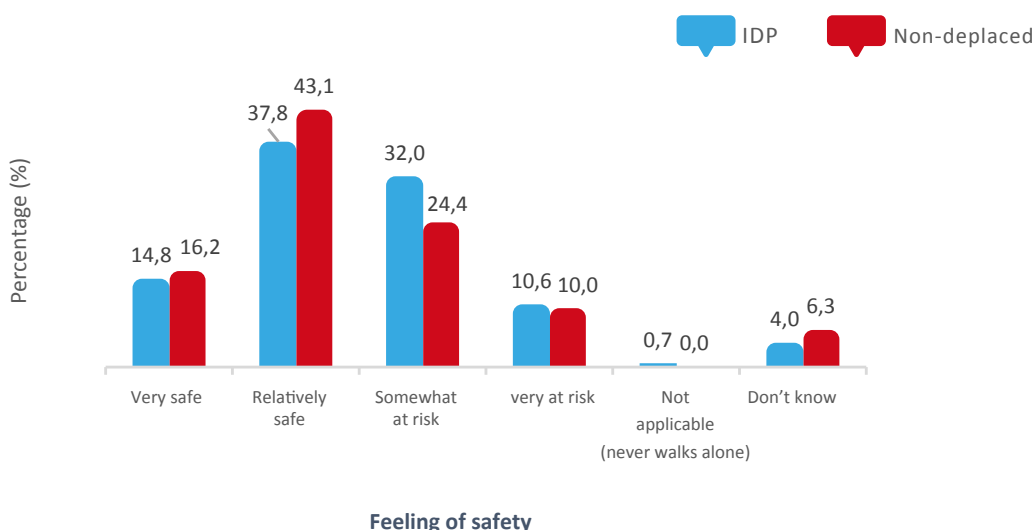


SECURITY, SAFETY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Non-displaced persons feel safer than displaced persons: in terms of security, non-displaced persons report a greater sense of security than displaced persons. Among IDPs, 15% feel very safe in their neighbourhood during the day and 38% feel relatively safe, compared to 16% and 43% among non-displaced persons, respectively. In addition, 32% of IDPs feel somewhat unsafe, compared to 24% of non-displaced persons.

Furthermore, the proportion of IDPs who feel a high level of violence in the neighbourhood where they live is higher than that of non-displaced persons. It should be noted that 2.4% of IDPs believe that the level of violence is very high, compared to 1.6% of non-displaced persons. The observation is the same for a high level of perception, with 12% of IDPs believing this to be the case, compared to 7% of non-displaced persons. In addition, 32% of non-displaced persons believe that the level of violence is very low or low, compared to 28% and 27% of IDPs respectively.

Graph 4 : Households according to their sense of safety when walking around their neighbourhood during the day



The incidence of violence is slightly higher among IDPs than among non-displaced persons: IDPs appear to be more afraid of becoming victims of violence than non-displaced persons in the 12 months preceding the survey. Nearly 10% of IDPs report fearing that they could become victims of violence during this period, compared to 3% of non-displaced persons. Among IDPs who express such fears, 61% believe that non-displaced persons would be responsible for their victimisation, while 30% believe that the threat would come from IDPs themselves. Nearly 24% of non-displaced persons consider that any potential victimisation would be caused by other people.

IDPs are more likely to be victims of GBV than non-displaced persons: 7% of IDPs have experienced GBV in the last 12 months, compared to 1% of non-displaced persons. When disaggregating GBV survivors by gender, men appear more likely than women to experience GBV, regardless of household status (IDP or non-displaced). Among IDPs, 7.5% of men reported having experienced GBV in the 12 months preceding the survey, compared

to 7% of women. Among non-displaced persons, the pattern is reversed, with a slightly higher prevalence of GBV among women (0.9%) than among men (0.7%).

Incidents of violence are mainly reported by IDPs: Among IDPs who were victims of violence, 68% reported the incident to the authorities, compared with 29% of non-displaced persons. IDPs reported incidents of violence to all relevant authorities, whereas non-displaced persons approached only a limited number of them. Only IDPs reported incidents to the police (38%), to traditional authorities (28%), and to the gendarmerie (20%). By contrast, non-displaced persons reported incidents exclusively to the gendarmerie (56%) and to traditional authorities (44%).

Reprisals and lack of trust are the main reasons for not reporting incidents of violence: 70% of IDPs who did not report the incident said they were afraid of reprisals or further harm. Among non-displaced persons, 34 percent cited fear of reprisals, while 48 percent reported a lack of trust in the police or other authorities.

LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT⁹

With three out of four displaced households experiencing food insecurity¹⁰, their vulnerability is higher than that of non-displaced households: approximately 73% of IDP households use high-risk coping strategies, compared to 60% of non-displaced households, highlighting an increased reliance on less sustainable strategies to manage food shortages. Furthermore, the coping strategy index is 26.05 in households in the Bafoussam I Council, which translates into a high index. The level of coping strategy is higher in IDP households (31.35) than in non-displaced households (24.83).

Unlike non-displaced persons, internally displaced persons rely mainly on less stable and more precarious sources of income: IDPs rely mainly on casual work (41%, compared to 28% for non-displaced households), reflecting the greater precariousness of their livelihoods. In contrast, non-displaced households derive a larger share of their income from agriculture (29% compared to 16% among IDPs) and formal employment (15% compared to 7%). IDPs are also slightly more likely to engage in small-scale commercial activities (17% compared to 14%). These data suggest that IDPs have more limited access to stable resources, such as land and formal employment, and are therefore more frequently compelled to resort to informal or unstable activities.

The employment rate is low in both groups, with a slight advantage for non-displaced persons. Displaced women have a lower employment rate than non-displaced women, and lower than men—whether displaced or not: employment was measured by having worked in the last seven days. It appears that the percentage of people who have worked in the last seven days is lower among IDPs (23%) than among non-displaced persons (29%), both for men (31% versus 39%) and women (17% versus 19%). Overall, women are significantly less active than men, regardless of their status, with an average employment rate of only 19%, compared to 38% for men. These data reflect a double vulnerability for displaced women, who face both gender-related and displacement-related obstacles, significantly reducing their access to the labour market.

The unemployment situation is a cause for concern for both groups, with high rates. The most common reason given by people, whether displaced or not, is that they have never worked or are looking for work: IDPs are proportionally more likely to be unemployed (77.0% compared to 71.4% among non-displaced persons). This higher level of inactivity is largely explained by the fact that a greater share of IDPs has never worked (39.7% compared to 31.4%) and that they are more frequently looking for work (25.2% compared to 20.0%), reflecting their limited access to the labour market. Conversely, non-displaced persons are more engaged in the education system (34.4% students compared to 24.9% among IDPs) and include a higher proportion of retirees, pensioners and housewives, which points to relatively greater socio-economic stability.

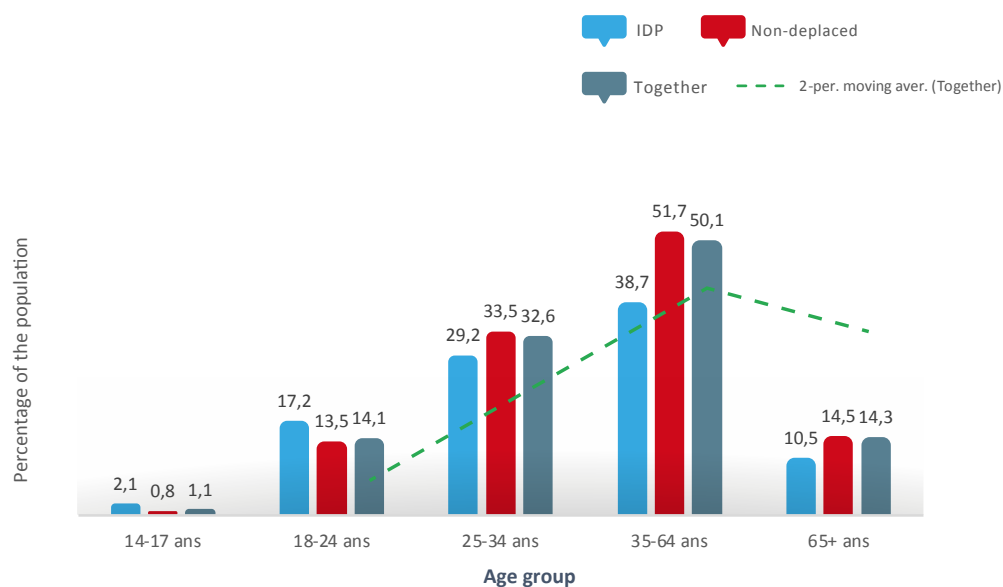
The higher unemployment rate among IDPs underscores their vulnerability in the labour market, in contrast with the comparatively less pronounced socio-economic vulnerability of non-displaced persons. The high proportion of people actively seeking employment highlights the need for targeted labour-market integration programmes for both groups.

Employment trends are better for non-displaced persons than for displaced persons across all age groups, with fewer young people in work: employment increases with age up to 64, then declines. People aged 35 to 64 have the highest employment rates, particularly the non-displaced (52%) compared to 39% among IDPs in the same age group. In general, the non-displaced are more active than internally displaced persons in almost all age groups. The gap is less pronounced among those aged 25 to 34 (34% of non-displaced persons are economically active, compared to 29% of IDPs). Conversely, young people aged 14 to 17 have very little presence in the labour market, with a very low overall employment rate (1% in total). Finally, among those aged 65 and over, employment remains marginal (14%), reflecting a possible age-related withdrawal from the labour market.

⁹ Employment here refers to having worked at least one hour in the last seven days. Anyone who has a job within the meaning of this study is considered to be employed.

¹⁰ To assess food insecurity, we analysed how often and to what extent households resort to coping strategies when faced with a lack of food or insufficient resources to obtain it. A higher score on this scale reflects greater reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as skipping meals or borrowing food, and is indicative of more severe food insecurity. The survey adopted the reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) module, which examines the frequency and severity with which households adopt coping strategies when they lack food or the means to purchase it. A high score on this scale reflects greater reliance on negative coping mechanisms – such as reducing or skipping meals, borrowing food, etc.

Graph 5 : Percentage of the population (aged 14 and over) by employment status, age group and status of household member



IDPs are more likely to work in temporary jobs than non-displaced persons, who are mainly self-employed: internally displaced persons (IDPs) are mainly employed in temporary jobs (44%), a significantly higher proportion than among non-displaced persons (29%). Conversely, non-displaced persons are more often self-employed (38% compared to 27% among IDPs) and permanent employees (23% compared to 19%), reflecting greater job stability. IDPs are also more likely to be in less structured or more precarious forms of employment, such as unpaid internships (5% compared to 1%), while non-displaced persons are more likely to be domestic workers (4% compared to 1%).

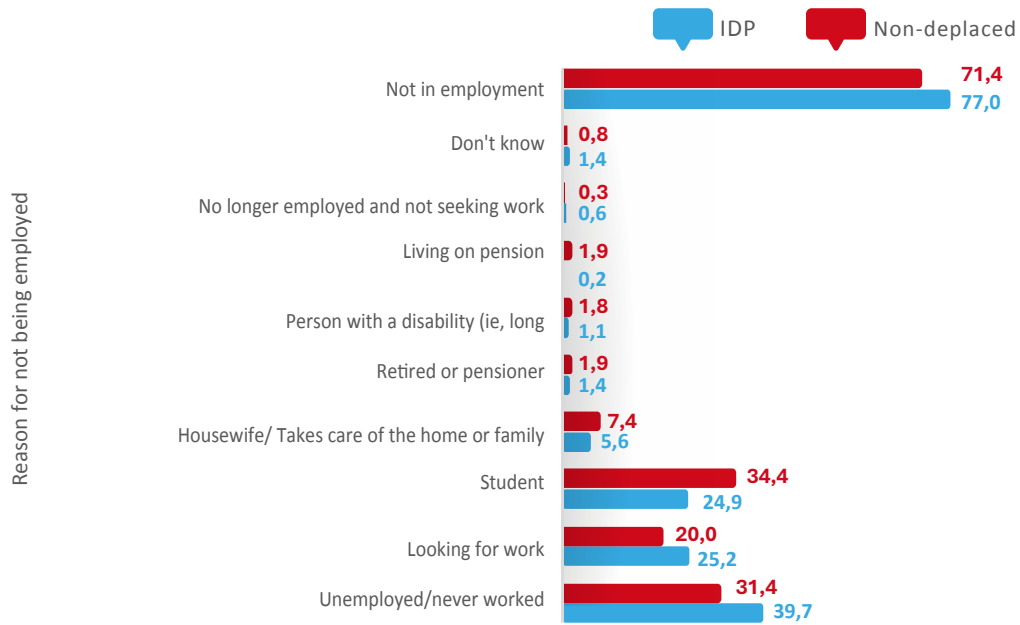
These data highlight that IDPs are more confined to temporary or unstable forms of employment, reflecting more difficult integration into the formal labour market and more limited economic opportunities.

The proportion of young people aged 15-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET/SDG 8.6.1) is significant: 33% of displaced men and 21% of non-displaced men, as well as 39% of displaced women and 22% of non-displaced women. This group of young

people faces barriers to economic (and social) participation. It is important to prevent the loss of human capital (by supporting education and vocational training for young people) and to facilitate their entry into the labour market.

Compared to non-displaced persons, underemployment affects IDPs more severely, particularly women, revealing unequal access to stable, full-time employment. Measured in this study by the percentage of people working less than 40 hours per week, underemployment highlights a form of job insecurity. Conversely, full employment is captured by the percentage of people who worked 40 hours or more per week. Underemployment affects IDPs slightly more (24% compared to 20% among non-displaced persons), but the gap is particularly marked among women. Among employed IDP women, 24% work less than 40 hours per week, compared to 16% among non-displaced women. Furthermore, non-displaced women are more likely to work full-time (84%), while IDP women have a lower rate (76%). These data highlight that underemployment affects displaced women more, exacerbating vulnerabilities related to both gender and displacement status.

Graph 6 : Percentage of the population who did not work in the seven days prior to the survey, by reason



For this segment of the population



ACCESS TO SERVICES AND DOCUMENTATION

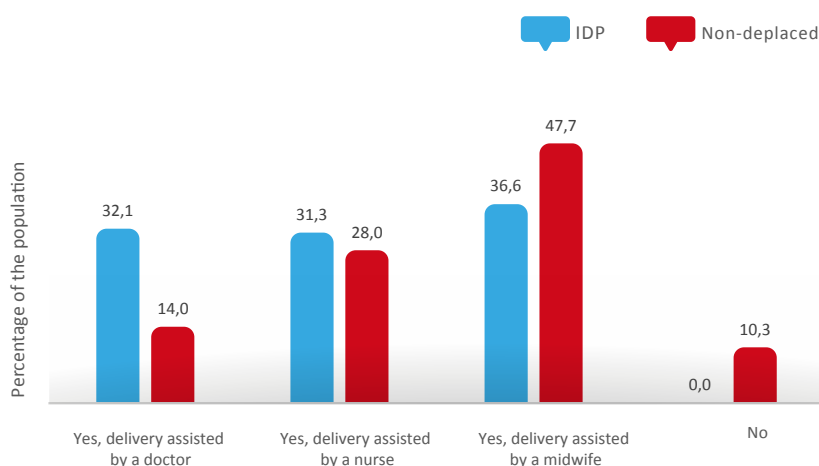
School enrolment rates are high in both groups, but slightly higher in non-displaced households: the population aged 6-18 enrolled in a public or private formal educational institution represents more than 85% of the population in this age group. This proportion is higher among the population (aged 6-18) living in non-displaced households (94%) than among the population of IDP households (87%). Taking into account the gender of the head of household, non-displaced households headed by women have the highest enrolment rate (95%). This is followed by non-displaced households headed by men (93%), IDP households headed by men (88%) and finally IDP households headed by women (86%).

Non-displaced households appear to have greater difficulty accessing health services than IDP households:

non-displaced households in need of healthcare have greater difficulty accessing health services than IDP households. The proportion of IDP households encountering these difficulties is 72% compared to 65% among IDP households. In the specific case of IDP households, their members encounter difficulties accessing healthcare due to their displacement. Women (33%) are more affected by this phenomenon than men (27%).

IDP households consult specialists more often for childbirth than non-displaced households: in the last 12 months, 21% of IDP households had at least one member who gave birth, compared to 7% of non-displaced households. Among these households, in 32% of IDP households, deliveries were assisted by a doctor, compared to 14% of non-displaced households. 31% of IDP households and 28% of non-displaced households were assisted by a nurse. Non-IDP households are more likely to use the services of a midwife (48%) than IDP households (37%).

Graph 7 : Households with a member who gave birth in the last 12 months, by status of assistance from qualified health personnel and household status



Drinking water is less appreciated among IDPs than among non-displaced persons: 30% of IDP households, compared to 34% of non-displaced households have access to a safe source. 51% of IDP households and 46% of non-displaced households have access to an improved source. Unimproved sources and surface water are the least used by households, with 19% and 0.5% for IDP households, compared to 17% and 2.3% for non-displaced households, respectively. With regard to drinking water supply, 54% of IDP households believe that the water supplied to them is not drinkable, compared to 48% of non-displaced households.

In the six months prior to the survey, **15% of IDP households were denied access to drinking water because of their displaced status**, compared to 10% of non-displaced households.

Almost all households have access to electricity: 99% of IDP households and 97% of non-displaced households have access to electricity. However, in the six months

prior to the survey, 11% of IDP households were denied access to electricity because they were displaced.

The national identity card and birth certificate are the personal documents most commonly held by households: 83% of IDPs have a birth certificate, compared with 91% of non-displaced persons. As for national identity cards, 49% of IDPs and 48% of non-displaced persons have one. Among those who do not possess any personal documents, 9% are internally displaced persons, compared to 3% of the non-displaced population. Among those who do not have identity documents, 42% of IDPs and 60% of non-displaced persons say that this is due to a lack of knowledge about the registration and documentation process.

The births of the majority of children (aged 0-5) are registered: birth registration is effective for more than 80% of children aged 0-5. Nearly 90% of the non-displaced population aged 0-5 is registered at birth, compared to 82% of the displaced population aged 0-5.



HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

Several internally displaced households are evicted from their homes: In the six months prior to the survey, 16% of IDP-only households were evicted from their homes, compared to 20% of mixed households. Eviction seems to have affected mixed households more than IDP-only households. With regard to problems encountered in their current housing, 9% of IDP-only households have a dispute over property ownership, while no mixed households are affected. 34% of IDP-only households have a dispute over access to water or other resources, compared to 17% of mixed households. Financial barriers to recovering or accessing property affect 22% of IDP-only households, compared to 17% of mixed households.

IDPs mainly abandoned their homes and agricultural land: IDPs abandoned their homes, agricultural land, small businesses and livestock before arriving in the Bafoussam I Council. In fact, 80% of IDPs abandoned their homes, 73% their agricultural land, 25% their small businesses and 18% their livestock .

Difficult access to property abandoned by displaced persons: Very few displaced persons have access to the property they abandoned in their previous place of residence. Among those who abandoned their households,

15% still have access to them. The same is true (15%) for those who have access to their farmland. Between 8% and 9% of those who abandoned commercial transport, agricultural tools, seeds or plants still have access to their property. The majority of IDPs (95%) who abandoned their property face obstacles in accessing it due to armed conflict, insecurity or violence.

The majority of dwellings occupied by IDP or mixed households are rented: almost all IDP households are tenants in the dwellings where they live. The occupancy status «ordinary rental without a lease agreement» applies to 51% of mixed households (IDPs + non-displaced persons), compared to 36% of IDP-only households. Only 31% of IDP households have the status of «ordinary rental with a lease agreement», compared to 25% of composite households. Less than 2% of IDP households are owners with land titles and building permits, i.e. 1.9% for IDP households only and 1% for composite households.

Sanitary facilities are less common in IDP households than in non-displaced households: It appears that 32% of IDP households have improved sanitary facilities, compared to 37% of non-displaced households.



¹¹ It should be noted that a displaced person may lose multiple assets at once.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Voter turnout is lower among IDP households than among non-displaced households. In the 2020 legislative and municipal elections, only 32% of IDP households voted, compared to 65% of non-displaced households. Among those who did not vote, 32% of IDP households were not registered on the electoral roll, a rate identical to that observed among non-displaced households (). It should be noted here that the question was asked to the main respondent for each household.

IDP households are less involved in local decision-making bodies than non-displaced households, largely due to a lack of information: over the past 12 months, only 31% of IDP households participated in local committees, compared to 53% of non-displaced households. Among IDP households that did not participate in these committees, 34% reported that they were not informed of their existence, more than double the rate observed among non-displaced households (15%). This lack of information is therefore a major obstacle to their participation in social life. Furthermore, 17% of IDP households explained their non-participation by a lack of invitation or inclusion, compared to 15% of non-displaced households. It should be noted that 32% of non-displaced households said they did not know the reasons for their non-participation, a figure significantly higher than among IDP households (9%). Actions such as the creation of a local community alert and participatory information system dedicated to the regular dissemination of information on local committees, their dates, locations, objectives and participation procedures should be encouraged to raise awareness among the population and IDPs, particularly with regard to community participation.

Intergroup relations are generally positive, but with significant incidents of violence and discrimination: The perception of internally displaced households regarding their reception by host populations is generally

positive (90%). However, a minority express reservation: 7% have a neutral opinion, and 3% disagree. This suggests that, while the majority of IDPs feel welcome, some still perceive limitations to their acceptance. Among non-displaced households, the perception of the reception given to IDPs is even more favourable (92%). No respondents disagreed. This reflects a very positive and consistent view of their hospitality towards IDPs.

The perception of community violence is generally more negative among IDPs: 15% of them consider the level of violence to be high or very high, compared to 9% of non-displaced persons. This reflects a more fragile sense of security among IDPs, possibly linked to their increased vulnerability, forced mobility or past experiences of violence.

In terms of perceived discrimination, although rates remain relatively low, a significant proportion of internally displaced households report having faced discrimination in accessing basic services in the last six months because of their displacement status. Health is the sector most affected, with 10% of IDP households reporting discrimination as the reason for being denied access to healthcare. This is followed by electricity (10%) and education (7%). In addition, 12% of displaced persons report having experienced harassment or discrimination, compared to 5% of non-displaced persons.

Non-displaced persons acknowledge that IDPs are in a more precarious situation than they are: when non-displaced persons compare their own situation to that of IDPs, 63% consider it to be better or much better, 26% consider it to be the same (while only 7% consider it to be worse). This awareness is important for cohesion and understanding between groups. A better understanding of the specific challenges faced by displaced persons can contribute to understanding between groups.

V.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN THE BAFOUSSAM I COUNCIL

According to the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPs, «a durable solution is achieved when displaced persons no longer have specific assistance and protection needs related to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without suffering discrimination on account of their displacement». The search for durable solutions – whether in the form of local integration, resettlement or return – is a process aimed at overcoming the vulnerabilities associated with displacement and encompasses several criteria, including safety and security, access to basic services and livelihoods. It is important to note that displaced persons must meet these criteria to the same extent as the non-displaced population. For this reason, the profiling adopted a comparative analysis of the socio-economic situation of displaced populations relative to non-displaced populations, based on the criteria defined in the IASC framework. **By identifying the differences between the situation of displaced persons and that of non-displaced persons, the analysis highlights areas where the displaced population is worse off and where it can be assumed that they still face vulnerabilities related to displacement. In this way, the analysis identifies the main obstacles to finding solutions while highlighting shared challenges in the council that are linked to broader development issues.**

The results show that while challenges related to food security, access to basic services and youth inactivity affect both displaced and non-displaced households, displaced persons are more severely affected. In other words, **displacement exacerbates these vulnerabilities**, making affected households less resilient and more exposed. Among the most significant challenges observed are:

Food insecurity among IDPs. IDPs are more exposed to food insecurity than non-displaced persons. Nearly three out of four IDP households use high-risk coping strategies, compared to 60% of non-displaced households. The coping strategies implemented by households reveal insufficient food supplies or difficult access to food due to financial difficulties. It is therefore necessary to increase food supplies by developing the agricultural sector, facilitating access to land for the population, and creating GICs or development committees to integrate

food-insecure populations so that they can participate in agricultural activities. For dependent populations, it is necessary to deploy food aid programmes with the support of individuals and NGOs.

Job insecurity: IDPs have greater access to precarious jobs and small commercial activities. In general, their income comes from casual work. In contrast, the income of non-displaced persons comes mainly from agriculture and formal employment. In order to improve IDPs' access to decent jobs, it is necessary to promote entrepreneurship, the creation of stable jobs, and the integration of IDPs into vocational training in promising professions in agriculture, livestock farming, aquaculture, etc.

Youth inactivity: The proportion of young people aged 15-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET/SDG 8.6.1) is significant: 33% of displaced men and 21% of non-displaced men, as well as 39% of displaced women and 22% of non-displaced women. This group of young people faces barriers to economic (and social) participation. It is important to prevent the loss of human capital (by supporting education and vocational training for young people) and to facilitate their entry into the labour market.

Current housing situation: Internally displaced populations, like host populations, live in precarious housing conditions. However, these conditions are more prevalent among IDPs than among non-displaced persons. IDPs have an average household size of nearly seven members, compared to slightly less among non-displaced persons. In addition, the majority of IDP households are in rented accommodation and face several difficulties in accessing basic services. To improve these conditions, it is necessary to facilitate access to property titles by reducing the costs of obtaining them and simplifying the process of applying for them.

Birth certificates for children: 18% of displaced children under the age of five do not have a birth certificate, an essential document for accessing services and, later, for obtaining a national identity card. Given the efforts to register displaced persons in the Bafoussam I Council, and with the support of BUNEC, households with young children who do not yet have birth certificates can be

identified and assisted in obtaining the required personal documents, thus ensuring that they will not face difficulties later on.

Access to water: Difficulties in accessing basic services, particularly access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, are almost identical for IDPs and non-displaced persons (nearly 20% for each group) and are at an acceptable level. However, efforts to improve the situation are noteworthy, with the construction of drinking water points and high-quality sanitation infrastructure to protect the health of the population. Local authorities must improve access to water by setting up drinking water points and providing regular assistance to households.

Development of strategies for family reunification: Due to armed conflict in the places of origin of the majority of IDPs (90%), many family members have been separated. The households most affected are those consisting exclusively of IDPs, nearly half of which (48%) have experienced family separations. Family reunification is a crucial issue that requires the intervention of several administrative, judicial and social institutions.

As highlighted above, the vast majority of displaced households in the Bafoussam I Council are expected to remain in the council for the foreseeable future. **Support for addressing the obstacles hindering the local integration of displaced persons, along with sustained attention to social cohesion within host communities, is therefore essential for the future—both for the well-being of displaced persons and for the sustainable development of the Bafoussam I Council.**

TABLE OF FACTS - SELECTED 'PROGRESS' INDICATORS PER DURABLE SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS INDICATING PROGRESS TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS



IDPs



NON-DISPLACED



Long-term safety and security

Households that report feeling safe/very safe when walking in the day - **SDG indicator 16.1.4**

53%

59%

Households having experienced a security incident the past 12 months

15%

12%

Women who experienced Gender Based Violence or another form of violence the past 12 months

11%

1%

Men who experienced Gender Based Violence or another form of violence the past 12 months

5%

1%



Adequate standard of living / access to basic services

(health, water, sanitation, education, housing etc.)

Households that needed to access health services in the past 6 months and faced challenges

65%

73%

Births attended by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives) - **SDG indicator 3.1.2**

100%

90%

Households accessing improved drinking water sources (likely to be protected from outside contamination)

80%

80%

Households accessing improved drinking water sources, who do NOT share with other households - safely managed water sources - **SDG 6.1.1.**

30%

34%

Households accessing improved sanitation facilities not shared with other HHs - **SDG 6.2.1**

32%

37%

Households accessing electricity **SDG 7.1.1**

99%

97%

Girls between 12 and 18 years of age who attend secondary school

100%

98%

Fréquentation de l'enseignement secondaire par les filles de 12-18 ans

95%

94%

Men above 15 years of age who are literate (can read and write) - **SDG indicator: 4.6.1 (a)**

83%

92%

Women above 15 years of age who are literate (can read and write) - **SDG indicator: 4.6.1 (a)**

82%

86%

IDP households that have tenure security in their current housing (that is: have legal documentation, including land title, rental agreement etc.) - **component of SDG 11.1.1**

37%

IDP households residing in sufficient living space (no more than 3 persons per room) - component of **SDG 11.1.1**

56%



Access to employment and livelihoods

Households applying 'high coping' strategies based on the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) - food insecure

73%

60%

Men between 14 and 64 years of age who worked in the 7 days prior to the survey

30%

40%

Women between 14 and 64 years of age who worked in the 7 days prior to the survey

17%

20%

Male youth (15-24 years) Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET rate) - **SDG indicator 8.6.1**

33%

21%

Female youth (15-24 years) Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET rate) - **SDG indicator 8.6.1**

39%

22%

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS INDICATING PROGRESS TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS



IDPs



NON DISPLACED



Access to documentation

Persons with a birth certificate

84 %

92%

Persons 18 years and above with a National Identity Card

84%

88%

Persons with no personal documentation at all

10%

3%

Children up to 5 years of age with a birth certificate - [SDG indicator 16.9.1](#)

82%

89%



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land and property

Displaced households that left a house behind in place of origin

49%

Displaced households who can still access their house, out of the households who left a house behind in place of origin

15%

Displaced households that have proof of ownership of the house they left behind, out of the households who left a house behind in place of origin

32%

Displaced households that left agricultural land behind in place of origin

44%

Displaced households that still can access their agricultural land, out of the households that left agricultural land behind in place of origin

15 %

Displaced households that have proof of ownership/documentation, out of the households that left agricultural land behind in place of origin

27 %



Civic participation in local

Men 20 years and above who voted in the 2020 legislative and municipal elections

35 %

69%

Women 20 years and above who voted in the 2020 legislative and municipal elections

25 %

62%



Family reunification

IDP households that currently have family members that are separated from them

33 %



Social cohesion & discrimination

IDP households who feel welcomed and accepted by the local community

87 %

Non-displaced households who welcome IDPs

92%

Persons that report having been discriminated against the past 12 months due to different reasons (sex, language, tribal, etc) [SDG 10.3.1](#)

15%

5%

PRESENTATION OF PARTNERS

This section highlights the essential contribution of the partners who played a key role in the successful implementation of this socio-economic profiling project. Their collaboration, expertise and dedicated support were essential to the successful implementation of the project and the conclusions presented in this report.

We express our sincere gratitude to all the institutions and individuals who contributed to this endeavor.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

We warmly thank the following government institutions for their essential participation and support:



TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

We would like to extend our special thanks to our main technical and implementation partners for their leadership and expertise:



FINANCIAL PARTNERS

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BMZ

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Our sincere appreciation to the following organizations for their valuable strategic collaboration:



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the community stakeholders, whose commitment was essential to making this project a reality:

- Traditional and religious leaders;
- Representatives of IDPs;
- Representatives of host communities.



On ajoute les SUVs à l'he
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