



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE DSCHANG COUNCIL



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES



FOREWORD

The local integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is crucial to the stability and development of host communities. This is the essence of the GIZ project aimed at promoting the economic and social participation of displaced persons and host communities (PESoP) in the West region of Cameroon. The Dschang Council, like other local authorities in Cameroon, faces this major challenge.

The report we are discussing presents key achievements and challenges related to the local integration of IDPs into the Dschang Council. It demonstrates the commitment of local authorities, humanitarian partners and host communities to working towards stakeholder cohesion and improving the living conditions of displaced persons without adversely affecting those of the host populations.

The security crisis in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon has led to a massive influx of internally displaced persons into the Dschang Council. This situation has put a strain on local resources and infrastructure.

Despite the challenges, significant progress has been made in integrating IDPs. Initiatives have been put in place to improve access to basic services (health, education, water, etc.), promote food self-sufficiency and employment, and strengthen social cohesion and “living together”. However, challenges such as limited access to land and resources, pressures on infrastructure and basic services, and the need to strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders remain.

In terms of outlook, this report aims to share experiences and lessons learned in the integration of IDPs in Dschang. It is a call to action for authorities, partners and communities to continue efforts towards the local integration of displaced persons.



Jacquis Gabriel Kemleu Tchabgou
Mayor of the Dschang Council

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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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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 into 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 some 494,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have reportedly returned as of September 2024, the humanitarian situation in areas affected by displacement remains critical.

A multi-sector needs analysis in 2022⁴ found the situation in the West region to be particularly severe (level 4 out of 5), citing urgent needs in shelter, food, water and sanitation, as well as protection—especially regarding under-age child labor. However, population estimates and socio-economic data on IDPs remains fragmented, often unverifiable, and limited in coverage. In this context, a profiling exercise in Dschang (Menoua) and four other councils in the West Region, including Bafoussam 1er (Mifi), Foumban and Kouoptamo (Noun), and Mbouda (Bamboutos), was implemented as a component of the multiyear project Promoting the Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities (PESoP). These five municipalities together host an estimated 34% of the West's 114,111 IDPs (OCHA, 2023).

Overview of the PESoP Project 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 NRC, 2024

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

PROFILING: OBJECTIVES & COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

The profiling exercise in Dschang had two main objectives:

- » To identify the specific vulnerabilities faced by displaced persons and the obstacles they encounter in integrating locally in the Dschang Council.
- » To identify the challenges faced by both displaced persons and non-displaced residents in the Dschang Council, which are therefore not specific to the displacement status and instead indicate broader development needs.

The profiling exercise was shaped in a consultative and collaborative way, with the support and participation of municipal authorities, sectoral ministries (MIND-DEVEL, MINEPROFF, MINEFOP, MINPMEESA, MINJEC, MINJUSTICE, MINSANTE, MINMIDT, MINADER, MINAT),

technical government entities (INS, BUCREP) as well as community representatives. All these stakeholders formed the Extended Piloting Committee which functioned as the key coordination structure for the profiling. The profiling was implemented by UNHCR, GIZ, BUCREP and INS, with technical support from JIPS.

The Extended Committee played an advisory role throughout the process: it helped define objectives, reviewed and approved tools and methods, supported the training and field operations, and participated in the analysis of the results. Specifically, a series of consultations and workshops took place, including:

- » Council-level workshops to define the geographic and thematic scope (July 2024);
- » A technical workshop with INS and BUCREP to review analysis tools and standards (March 2025);
- » Council-level workshops to review and validate the preliminary results (May 2025).



II.

METHODOLOGY



Analysis approach and target populations: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and non-displaced persons were captured in the profiling. The approach was designed as a comparative analysis of the socio-economic situation of the displaced population against the non-displaced, across the key criteria outlined in the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs⁵. By identifying the key differences and commonalities in the situation of displaced and non-displaced, the analysis points to areas where IDPs fare worse and can be assumed to face vulnerabilities related to their displacement situation, while also highlighting shared challenges that point to development-linked problems⁶.

Geographic scope: The geographic scope of the profiling exercise was determined through a series of workshops conducted in each of the five target Councils. Each workshop included a mapping exercise using maps produced by BUCREP to identify neighborhoods (quarters/villages or ADMIN4) with high, medium, and low concentration of IDPs. This analysis was further refined drawing on knowledge of local community members

(incl. imams, pastors, representatives of IDPs from PESoP local committees) and municipal actors.

Thematic scope: The profiling focused on the following criteria from the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions: safety, adequate standard of living (incl. access to services, food and housing), access to documentation, livelihoods, housing land and property (HLP), family reunification and participation in public life. Additionally, intentions for the future were also captured. These topics were discussed at municipality level through preparatory workshops in order to ensure that relevant sub-topics were included. Subsequently, the identification of indicators per criterion ensured alignment with national standards of INS and BUCREP as well as international recommendations on IDP statistics and durable solutions analysis standards⁷.

Sampling and identification of IDPs: The sampling plan was carefully developed based on BUCREP's cartographic database and the level of IDP presence estimated during council workshops. It was based on a stratified

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


⁶ For more background on the durable solutions analysis approach see: UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, JIPS, UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, DRC et al (2018) Durable Solutions Analysis Guide & Indicator Library.

⁷ Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) (2020) International Recommendation on IDP Statistics (IRIS).

two-stage random sampling method. In Dschang, 28 neighbourhoods (enumeration zones) with medium or high IDP presence were randomly selected. A full listing of all households took place in each sampled enumeration zone, during which households were categorized as displaced and non-displaced following a criteria-based identification module as per the recommendations by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics EGRISS⁸ and jointly finalized with BUCREP and

INS. The sample was then randomly selected from the listed households in each enumeration zone. A total of 549 households were interviewed in Dschang, distributed between IDPs and non-displaced persons. The samples were weighted prior to analysis. The results of the survey are representative of neighbourhoods with a medium or high concentration of IDPs. They do not reflect the situation in areas with few or no IDPs, or the entire Council.

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

COUNCIL	HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED	IDPs	NON-DISPLACED	TOTAL	
DSCHANG 	Unweighted	Households	258	291	549
		Individuals	833	1192	2025
	Weighted	Households	1391	10,083	11,474
		Individuals	4784	35,010	39,794

Source: 2024 profiling survey

⁸ EGRISS (2023) Towards a standardized approach to identify IDPs, refugees and related populations in household surveys. This publication outlines the recommended criteria-based identification of IDPs in surveys through a series of questions.

III.

DISPLACEMENT TO DSCHANG COUNCIL



INTRODUCTION TO DSCHANG COUNCIL

Dschang is a city located in the highlands of Cameroon’s West Region and is the capital of the Menoua Division. The Dschang Council includes 34 urban neighborhoods and five rural groupings. The local economy is driven by agriculture, livestock, small-scale trade, and education—with the notable presence of the University of Dschang that has been a significant pull factor shaping the city’s growth.

Dschang has an estimated population of 218,359 persons (BUCREP 2023), which has grown dramatically since the 1980s with growing urbanisation and the influx of internally displaced persons since 2016, seeking refuge in the Council. Specifically, it is estimated based on the profiling exercise that roughly 6% of the Council population are IDPs⁹. This represents a

significant segment of the population that has now been integrated into municipal structures and services.

The rapid growth of the urban population is exacerbating key challenges that the Council faces in accommodating the needs of its residents. Such challenges, flagged already in 2019 in a diagnostic report by MINEPAT, include: access to basic amenities (water, energy, sanitation) as well as housing problems¹⁰. Food insecurity has further been identified as a major issue by a more recent study in Dschang (2023)¹¹. The profiling findings add to these flagged challenges, by offering a cross-sectoral representative evidence-base that is able to not only quantify the challenges but also disaggregate them according to displacement status and different demographic characteristics (incl. sex and age). The results provide a robust evidence-base for the Council and other relevant stakeholders to inform priorities for advancing both the local integration of IDPs in the Council as well as addressing some of the broader development challenges of the city.

⁹ The profiling included a listing exercise of all households in the sampled enumeration areas generating accurate figures for IDPs and non-displaced; these results were extrapolated to estimate the total size of the IDP population in the city and subsequently the proportion of IDPs. The extrapolation did not use the BUCREP 2024 projections, as combining the BUCREP estimates of the total population with the estimated proportion of IDPs from the listing, in order to derive the total IDP population would be hazardous, given that they are based on different methodologies and reference years. For more details, please consult the BUCREP methodology on population estimates from 2023 and the profiling methodology section of this report.

¹⁰ MINEPAT (2022) Demography in the west region. Diagnostic Report for the West.

¹¹ Legwegoh, A., Riley, L. (2023). Hunger in an Agricultural City: Exploring Vulnerability in Dschang, Cameroon. In: Riley, L., Crush, J. (eds) Transforming Urban Food Systems in Secondary Cities in Africa. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

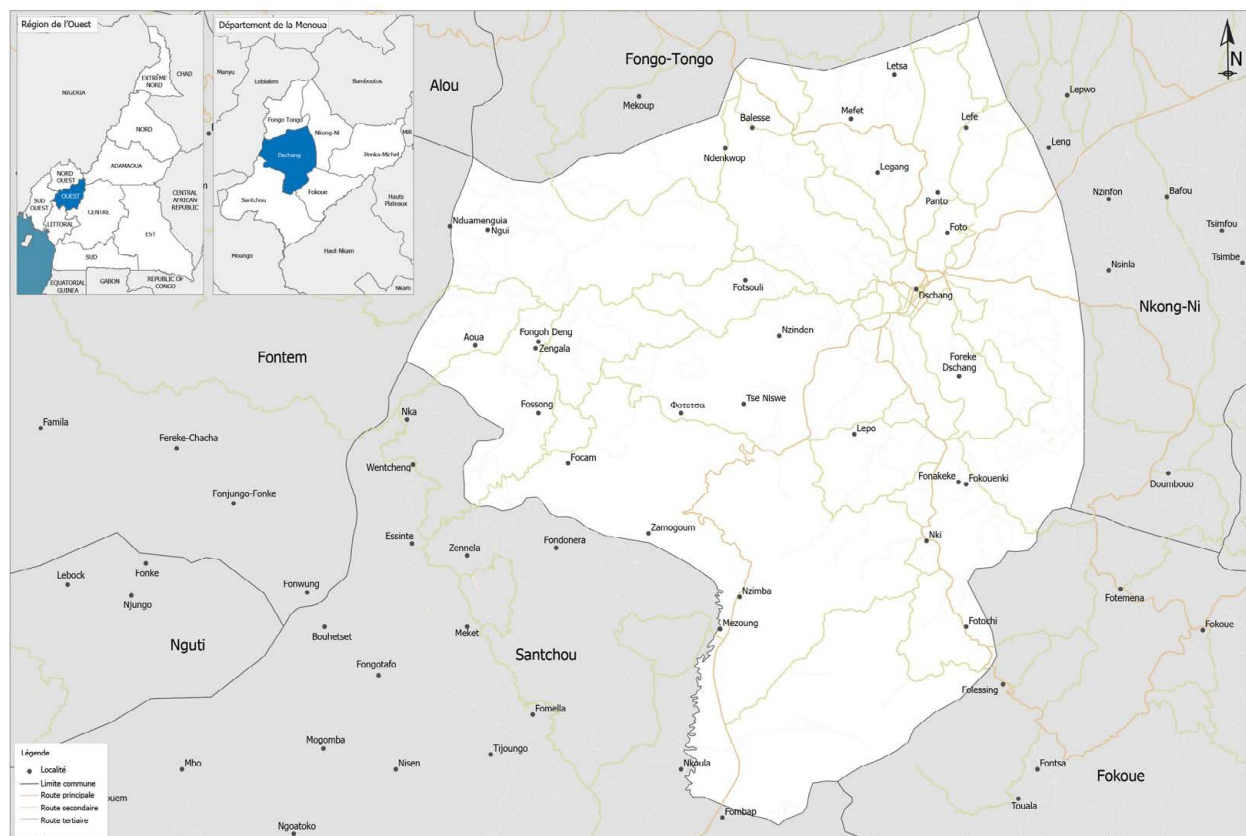
DISPLACEMENT HISTORY AND INTENTIONS OF IDPs

Most IDPs in Dschang originate from the same division: The great majority of IDPs (87%) residing in Dschang were displaced between 2016 and 2020. One third of them have been living in Dschang four years or less, while the remaining have been in Dschang between five and eight years. Most IDPs were displaced from the division of Lebialem (69%) in the South-West Region, and more specifically from the sub-divisions of Alou and Fontem. Another 10% were displaced from

the division of Mezam and 8% from Fako. Almost half of the IDP households (48%) have been back to their place of origin after they were displaced, mainly to visit family (49%) and for agricultural reasons (26%).

The vast majority of IDPs will remain in Dschang for the foreseeable future: Half of the IDP households (50%) prefer to remain in Dschang, mainly because of the employment opportunities and access to services. While the other half prefers to leave Dschang, only 10% of them have concrete plans of doing so. In other words, most will remain in Dschang for the foreseeable future. The reasons for wanting to leave Dschang are often linked to the cost of living, the lack of employment opportunities or family reasons.

Map 1 : Dschang Council in the West Region of Cameroon; IM Unit, UNHCR, 2024



IV.

KEY FINDINGS



OVERVIEW

Generally, the socio-economic situation of IDPs is similar to that of the non-displaced persons, indicating that local integration is in progress, with improvements needed in specific areas where results show that IDPs are lagging behind. Specifically:

- » Almost half of IDP households have left property behind in the place of origin, mainly a house and/or farming land. Many of them cannot access that property and do not have the required documentation to prove ownership. **This loss of property sets IDP livelihoods significantly back.** For example, IDPs are now mainly renting housing and are vulnerable to tenure insecurity and high rents.
- » While access to water, sanitation and health poses challenges for both IDPs and non-displaced persons, the analysis points to a somewhat **worse access for IDPs across those services.**
- » Significantly fewer **IDP children under 5 years of age possess a birth certificate**, compared to non-displaced children. This can impact access to education and other services later on.
- » **Food security is one of the major challenges** for IDPs, where they fare significantly worse compared to the non-displaced.

The profiling results also point to areas where IDPs and the non-displaced local population face very similar challenges pointing to shared development challenges. Specifically:

- » Youth unemployment and inactivity is a major concern for both population groups.

Lastly, there are also areas where the results point to achievements in local integration and where both IDPs and non-displaced persons are faring well. Specifically:

- » A clear majority of IDPs and non-displaced feel very safe in the neighborhoods they live in.
- » Schooling has not been impacted by the displacement and the attendance rate of internally displaced children is just as high as for the non-displaced.
- » The relations and perceptions between IDPs and non-displaced neighbors are reported as positive by both groups.

Building on what has been achieved already in the Council and further closing the remaining gaps between displaced and non-displaced goes hand in hand with improved social cohesion in the community and improved inter-group relations and acceptance. The next section outlines in more detail by topic the key challenges that IDPs are faced with, but also the significant achievements made by IDPs, the hosting population and the Dschang Council in integrating the displaced population.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

More non-displaced households are composed by only one person: 16% of IDP households are composed of only one person (more than half of them are men while the remaining 42% are women) In contrast, there is a significant proportion of non-displaced households (35%) composed of one member; primarily young men under the age of 34, typically studying or working. This is expected in the context of a University city.

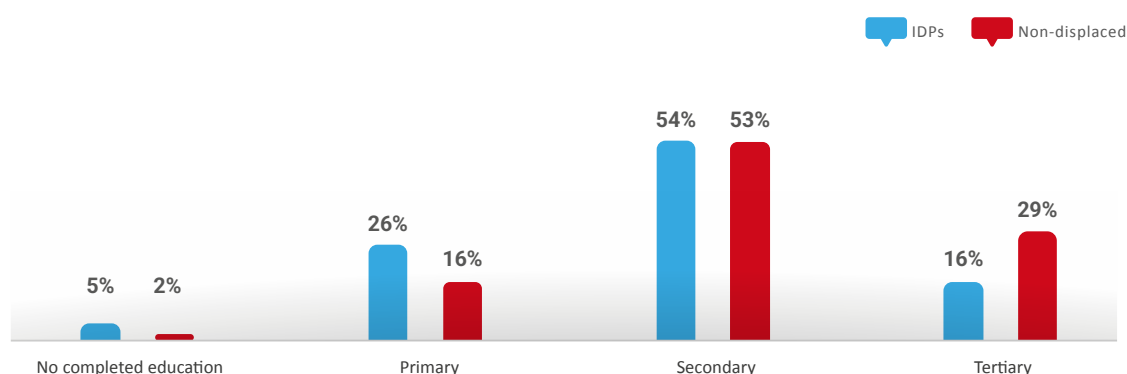
One fourth of IDP households have been separated from some of their members since they fled: Most families that got separated during displacement have not been able to reunite. Specifically, 25% of IDP households are still separated from at least one family member. Two thirds of these have tried to re-unite but have not managed, mainly due to financial difficulties.

Lower marriage rates among IDPs aged 25–35: 42% of male IDPs between 25 and 35 years of age are not married, compared to 72% of non-displaced men. Similarly, 31% of female IDPs are not married compared to 40% of their non-displaced counterparts. Thus, significant proportions of mainly young men under 35 are not married.

Bilingualism is an asset for many IDPs: Most IDPs primarily speak English, while non-displaced individuals mainly speak French. Bilingualism is more common among IDPs (32%) than among the non-displaced persons (13%).

Literacy and education levels are high in both groups: Over 94% of persons above 15 years of age, amongst both IDPs and non-displaced persons, can read and write. Additionally, more than half of individuals, above the age of 18, in both groups, have completed secondary education (54% of IDPs and 53% of NDPs). Fewer IDPs (16%) have reached tertiary education compared to non-displaced (29%). Only 5% of IDPs above 18 and 2% of non-displaced persons have not completed any education. In sum, even though more IDPs have only reached the end of primary education, in contrast to non-displaced persons, where more have continued to tertiary education, there is nevertheless a good foundation in terms of human capital, in both groups.

Graph 1 : Highest level of education reached by persons 18 years and above



SAFETY, SECURITY & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

High degree of safety in both groups: The great majority of both groups (around 90%) feel very or fairly safe when walking around in their neighbourhood during the day. Very few households (5% of IDP and 8% of non-displaced households) have experienced security incidents in the past 12 months.

Rule of law institutions are not reached out to by either group: Among the few households which did experience an incident, the vast majority in both groups did not report the incident to the relevant authorities

(e.g. police, traditional authority). Specifically, only 13% of displaced households and 16% of non-displaced households that experienced a security incident approached competent authorities to report this.

In both groups, an insignificantly small proportion indicates having been victims of GBV or other violence. However, this finding is likely due to underreporting. One percent of IDP and non-displaced respondents reported having experienced gender-based violence or other forms of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. However, the feedback received during the validation workshop on the preliminary results, held in Dschang in June 2025, points to the fact that this number is likely not capturing the actual incident rate¹².



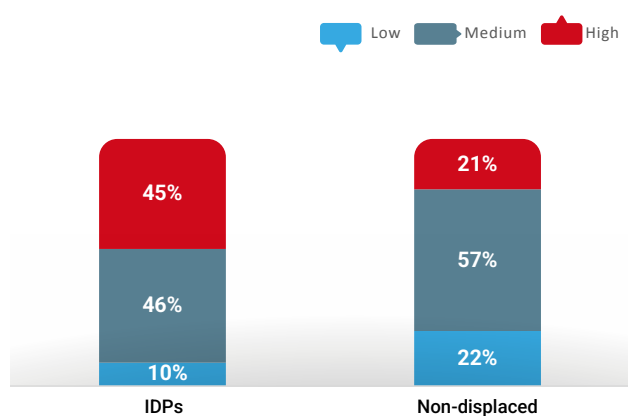
¹² It is expected that due to the sensitive nature of this indicator and the format of household survey interviews, many respondents may not have felt comfortable to respond to this freely.

LIVELIHOODS & EMPLOYMENT

Food insecurity¹³ is a serious challenge for almost half of the IDP households: IDPs face higher levels of food insecurity, with 45% of IDP households using high-risk (negative) coping strategies, compared to 21% of non-displaced households. This clearly highlights a heavier dependence of IDPs on less sustainable strate-

gies to manage food shortages. Most unemployed IDPs possess no vocational skills but have completed secondary education¹⁵: While a significant proportion of unemployed IDPs (66%) indicates they have ‘no skills’, the majority has completed secondary education (64%) or higher (tertiary education completed by 17%). The profile of this young unemployed population segment provides a solid basis for further education, vocational training, and integration in the job market.

Graph 2 : Use of coping strategies according to the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) that indicates food insecurity (by the households using ‘high’ coping strategies)



Livelihood sources are somewhat similar in both groups, with a tendency for less reliable sources amongst IDPs: The primary livelihood source in both groups is casual labour (22% for both IDPs and NDPs) and agriculture (18% for IDPs and 14% for NDPs). However, among the remaining households, IDPs tend to rely more on small-scale businesses, which are typically less stable and less formal. Non-displaced households rely on remittances but also benefit more from formal employment and income sources such as pensions.

Similar trends on employment in both groups, with fewer women and youth at work: Youth (aged 14–34 years) were significantly less likely to be employed than those over 35 years of age, across both groups. Specifically, 15% of IDP youth, compared to 50% of IDPs above 35 years of age, are working; and amongst non-displaced, 18% of youth compared to 59% of adults above 35 years are working. Female employment remains somewhat lower in both populations (amongst IDPs, 22% of women worked compared to 29% men, and amongst non-displaced 26% of the women compared to 44% of the men).

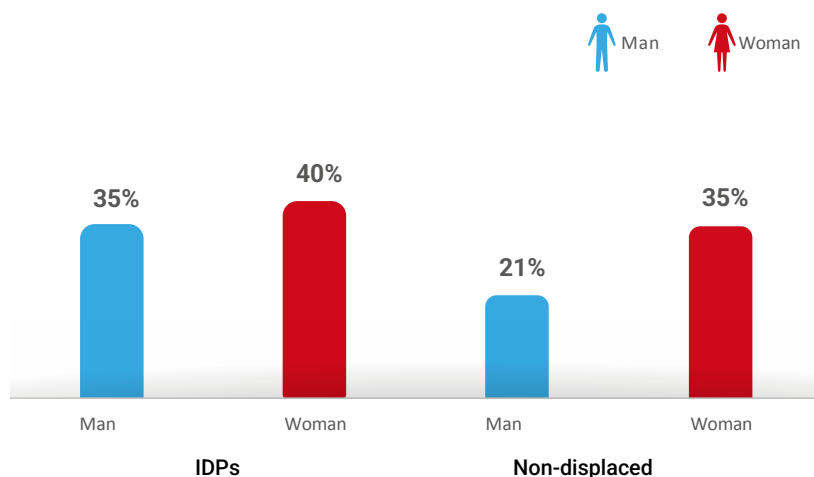
Most IDPs who work are self-employed: Half of the working IDPs are self-employed, which is the case also for 38% of the non-displaced who work. Permanent employment is higher among non-displaced (32% of non-displaced compared to 18% of IDPs); while equal proportions in both groups (32%) are engaged in temporary employment.

A significant proportion of youth in both groups is not working and not in education¹⁴: Amongst the youth aged 15 to 25, more than one third of IDPs (35% of men, 40% of women) are not working and not studying. That is the case for a smaller proportion of non-displaced persons (21% and 35% respectively). In sum, these results point to a significant risk that the economic and social well-being of more than one third of IDP youth may be impacted if attention is not provided to their integration into the labour market. This is particularly important because they represent the foundation of tomorrow’s workforce and society.

¹³ The survey adopted the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) module which examines how frequently and severely households adopt coping strategies when they lack food or the means to purchase it. A higher score on this scale reflects greater reliance on negative coping mechanisms—such as reducing or skipping meals, borrowing food etc.—indicating more severe food insecurity

¹⁴ The percentage of young people (15–24 years of age) who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training; is the so-called NEET rate (also an SDG, 8.6.1); and is commonly used to measure the prevalence of young people who are disengaged from the typical pathways of education and work.

Graph 3 : Male and female youth (15-24 years) not working and not studying (SDG indicator 8.6.1/ NEET rate)



Most unemployed IDPs possess no vocational skills but have completed secondary education¹⁵:

While a significant proportion of unemployed IDPs (66%) indicates they have ‘no skills’, the majority has completed secondary education (64%) or higher

(tertiary education completed by 17%). The profile of this young unemployed population segment provides a solid basis for further education, vocational training, and integration in the job market.

ACCESS TO SERVICES & DOCUMENTATION

School attendance is almost universal: All children of school age were reported to be enrolled, while attendance rates (which requires at least 4 days a week in school) were notably high (just under 100%), both for IDP and non-displaced children. Community feedback during the joint analysis workshop in Dschang did nuance these results by indicating that actual attendance may be lower.

Accessing health services poses challenges amongst both groups, but more often for IDPs: Amongst households that needed health care during the six months prior to the survey, 55% of IDPs and 41% of non-displaced faced challenges accessing the required services. These challenges were mainly linked to costs, while in the case of IDPs, 25% also reported encountering challenges that were linked to discrimination. Addi-

tionally, female-headed IDP households needing health care services were more likely to encounter challenges (62%) compared to male headed IDP households (48%). Language barriers that were flagged in the workshop as a likely challenge faced by IDPs may also be impacting this finding.

Almost all births in both groups were assisted by qualified health personnel: 96% of births among IDPs and 100% of births among non-displaced households had been assisted by qualified personnel, which includes doctors, nurses, midwives or other health professionals.

Improved sanitation is a challenge for a large proportion in both groups: Improved sanitation facilities are designed to hygienically separate human waste from human contact, minimising the risk of disease transmission¹⁶ and are expected to not be shared between households. Forty-four percent of IDP households access such improved sanitation facilities, compared to 56% amongst non-displaced households. Sanitation thus remains an issue where infrastructural improvements are needed at the area level.

¹⁵ The results provided in this paragraph are derived from the enrolment of IDPs conducted in Dschang during the end of 2024. It should be noted that the enrolment is ongoing, and the data from December 2024 does not capture the full IDP population in the Council.

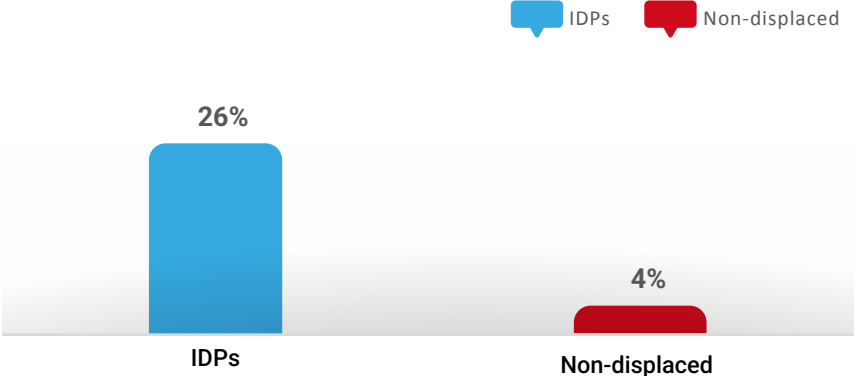
¹⁶ Specifically, improved sanitation facilities include: include: flush/pour flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs (including ventilated pit latrines), and composting toilets

Access to safely managed water is a challenge for both groups: Safely managed water is water from an improved source¹⁷ that is accessible on the premises. Only 15% of non-displaced households have access to safely managed water, while that is the case for even fewer IDP households (7%). The majority of households in both groups have access to improved sources which are not on their premises (76% of non-displaced and 70% of IDPs).

26% of IDP children under five have no birth certificate: While only 1% of non-displaced persons was found to not have any personal identification at all, that is the case for 7% of the IDPs, who mainly indicate a lack of

knowledge on the process required for obtaining such documentation, as the reason. The group of IDPs having no documentation at all is mainly comprised by children under 12 years of age (equally distributed between boys and girls). For example, when looking at birth certificates, while the vast majority across both IDPs and non-displaced have those (91% and 97% respectively), the proportion falls to 74% for IDP children below the age of 5 (meaning that 26% do not have a birth certificate). This points to the need for including children earlier in the civil registry. Lastly, National Identity Cards are held by 74% of IDPs and 86% of non-displaced (amongst persons of 16 years of age and above).

Graph 4 : Proportion of children up to 5 years of age, who do NOT have a birth certificate- SDG 16.9.1



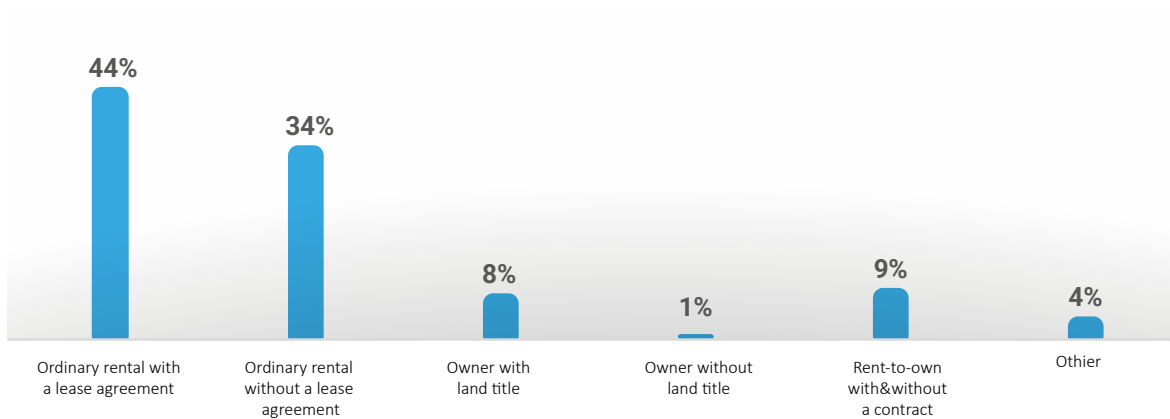
¹⁷ Improved drinking water sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction, and include: piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water.

HOUSING, LAND & PROPERTY

Most IDPs are renting their dwelling and less than half of the households have tenure security: 78% of IDPs are renting their current dwelling, while the rest either own the land (9%) or live with relatives. The security of the tenure modality is important, and the profiling shows that 56% of all IDP households have a tenure arrangement that can be regarded as secure; meaning

that it is documented in writing (e.g. written rental lease agreement or land title). For the remaining 44%, tenure of accommodation is insecure. When it comes to actual evictions, 6% of households have experienced this. The topic of the cost of rent was raised in the validation workshops as a point that can greatly impact IDP household economies, given that the majority depends on rental arrangements. Access to affordable housing for IDPs is a key factor to their local integration in the city¹⁸.

Graph 5 : Housing Tenure Arrangements for IDPs



44% of the displaced households left behind a house and/or farmland when they fled: A significant proportion of IDP households had to abandon a house or land when they were displaced; specifically, 35% left behind a house and 33% left behind land (some left behind both). In total, 44% had left behind either a house and/or land. It is important to understand to which extent these properties can be accessed and re-claimed. Only

38% of those who left a house behind have a document to prove they own it and just 20% can still access it today. Only 27% of those who left behind land have documents proving ownership, and just 13% can still access their land. This indicates that support will be required for IDPs to reclaim and access these properties, which is an important matter linked to solutions, regardless of the households' intentions to return or not.

¹⁸ Questions on housing tenure were not posed to non-displaced households; this information will however be collected in the subsequent profiling round scheduled for November 2025.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Civic participation is lower amongst IDPs: In the 2020 elections, a lower proportion of IDPs compared to non-displaced voted: 40% male IDPs and 33% female IDPs compared to 63% male non-displaced and 55% female non-displaced. Women are less likely to vote within both groups. A similar trend is observed regarding participation in local committees. While the participation of IDPs is not insignificant, local integration may require some effort to incentivize their participation in local affairs and/or remove obstacles.

Generally positive intergroup relations with incidents of violence and discrimination: 80% of IDP respondents say that they are welcomed and accepted by non-displaced in their community and conversely, 94% of non-displaced say that they welcome IDPs settling in

their area. Most households in both groups report low inter-group violence in their community (65% of IDPs and 60% of non-displaced), while there is also 21% of IDPs and 15% of non-displaced who report moderate or high violence. Small proportions of IDPs (6%) and smaller (3%) of non-displaced report having been discriminated against. IDPs that have experienced discrimination do flag language and tribal affiliation as the main reason. The validation workshops did point to the fact that these results may need further exploration as underreporting might have occurred¹⁹.

Acknowledgement by non-displaced that IDPs are worse off: When non-displaced compare their own situation to that of IDPs, 63% judge it to be better or much better, 26% judge it to be the same (while only 7% judge it to be worse). Such awareness is important for inter-group cohesion and understanding. Furthering such awareness of the challenges that IDPs specifically face may contribute to inter-group understanding.



¹⁹ For example, in a more targeted question on whether households had experienced discrimination linked to accessing required health care specifically, 25% of IDPs said that was the case. This may point to a need to unpack further the domains where discrimination may be prevalent.

V.

KEY POINTERS FOR ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN DSCHANG COUNCIL

As per the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, ‘a durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement’. Achieving durable solutions – whether in the form of local integration, resettlement or return – is a process towards overcoming vulnerabilities linked to displacement and encompasses several criteria, including safety and security, access to basic services and livelihoods. An important consideration is that IDPs need to achieve these criteria to the same extent as the non-displaced population. Therefore, the profiling has adopted a comparative analysis of the socio-economic situation of the displaced populations against the non-displaced, across the criteria outlined in the IASC Framework. **By identifying the differences in the situations faced by displaced and non-displaced, the analysis points to areas where the displaced population is worse off and can be assumed to still experience displacement-linked vulnerabilities. In this way, the analysis identifies the main obstacles to reaching solutions while also pointing to shared challenges in the Council that are linked to wider development problems.**

The findings show that while challenges linked to food security, access to basic services and youth inactivity are faced by both displaced and non-displaced households, IDPs are impacted to a higher degree. In other words, **the displacement situation exacerbates these vulnerabilities**, making affected households less resilient and more exposed. Zooming in on these key challenges:

Food insecurity: In Dschang 45% of IDP households have a ‘high score’ in the reduced Coping Strategy Index²⁰ meaning they more frequently use less sustainable coping mechanisms to address food shortages. Amongst the non-displaced population, 21% fell in that category. According to WFP (November 2024²¹), 27% of households in the West region have a ‘high score’ on the rCSI. Thus, while the non-displaced population in Dschang is slightly better off compared to the average in the West, IDP households face major food insecurity challenges. A recent research (2022)²² in Dschang describes the decline in the effectiveness of traditional informal food sources and local agricultural production to meet the food security needs of residents. While agriculture used to be a major source of livelihoods in the past, according to the profiling, it is only reported as the key source of livelihoods by 14% of non-displaced

²⁰ The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was used to calculate the frequency and severity of strategies due to food shortages.

²¹ WFP (2024) November Bulletin

²² Legwegoh, A., Riley, L. (2023). Hunger in an Agricultural City: Exploring Vulnerability in Dschang, Cameroon. In: Riley, L., Crush, J. (eds) Transforming Urban Food Systems in Secondary Cities in Africa. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.



households and 18% of the IDP households. This points to a diversification of livelihoods, which increasingly includes casual work, formal employment and small businesses. At the same time, investment in urban and peri-urban agriculture may be needed, alongside other efforts strengthening food systems, to counter the food insecurity.

Youth inactivity: Around one third of the population is between 15 and 24 years of age (33% of IDPs and 28% of non-displaced), indicating a predominantly young population. The proportion of youth in that age category who are not in education, employment or training (NEET/ SDG 8.6.1) is significant: 35% of male IDPs and 22% of male non-displaced as well as 38% of female IDPs and 35% of female non-displaced. This group of youth is facing barriers to economic (and social) participation. It is important to both prevent loss of human capital (through supporting education and vocational training of youth) as well as reinforce entry into the labour market. **With the demographic outlook of steady growth in the population, youth unemployment and youth inactivity will amplify protection concerns and poverty going forward and is thus a crucial topic to be addressed.** Dschang has now developed an ongoing enrolment of IDPs, which will enable municipal authorities to identify youth for targeting of vocational training and employment initiatives.

Housing and land in place of origin: 44% of the IDP households have left behind a house and/or land in their place of origin, which for most IDPs in Dschang is in the division of Lebialem in the South-West region, and more specifically the sub-divisions of Alou and Fontem. Only

some households are able to prove ownership of left behind property or access it. This will make it difficult for IDPs to regain access to lost property when the security situation will permit and this should be addressed pre-emptively by keeping track of the claims IDPs have, regardless of their intention to stay or not in Dschang.

Current housing situations: Regarding the current living situation in Dschang, the majority of IDPs rent housing and access to land is estimated to be low²³ and tenure is insecure. Thus, lack of access to property and tenure security is one of the very direct results of displacement underlining the areas where IDPs are lagging behind compared to the non-displaced population.

Birth certificates for children: 24% of IDP children under the age of five, do not have a birth certificate, which is a crucial documentation for accessing services and later for obtaining a National Identity Card. Given the IDP enrolment efforts in the Council of Dschang, and with the support of BUNEC, the households with young children who do not have Certificates yet can be identified and supported so as to obtain the required personal documentation, ensuring that they will not face challenges later.

As highlighted above, the great majority of IDP households in Dschang is expected to remain in the council for the foreseeable future. **Thus, both support in order to overcome the above-mentioned obstacles to the local integration of IDPs and attention to the social cohesion of the communities hosting IDPs are particularly important going forward, both for the IDPs and the sustainable development of the Dschang Council.**

²³ While access to farming land was not assessed in the study, the results show that only 18% of IDP households rely on agriculture as their main livelihoods source.

SELECTED 'PROGRESS' INDICATORS PER DURABLE SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS



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](#)

90%

88%

Households having experienced a security incident the past 12 months

5%

8%

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

0%

1%

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

1%

0%



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

55%

41%

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

96%

100%

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

83%

84%

Households accessing improved drinking water sources, who do NOT share with other households - safely managed water sources - [SDG 6.1.1](#).

7%

15%

Households accessing improved sanitation facilities not shared with other HHs - [SDG 6.2.1](#)

44%

56%

Households accessing electricity [SDG 7.1.1](#)

100%

99%

Boys between 12 and 18 years age who attend secondary school

97%

100%

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

100%

97%

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

94%

99%

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

94%

96%

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](#)

56%

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

71%



Access to employment and livelihoods

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

45%

21%

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

29%

44%

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

22%

26%

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

12%

2%

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

20%

13%

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS



IDPs



NON-DISPLACED



Access to documentation

Persons with a birth certificate

91 %

98%

Persons 18 years and above with a National Identity Card

82%

91%

Persons with no personal documentation at all

7%

1%

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

74%

96%



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land and property

Displaced households that left a house behind in place of origin

35%

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

27%

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

51%

Displaced households that left agricultural land behind in place of origin

33%

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

19 %

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

38%



Civic participation in local

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

38 %

56%

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

37 %

39 %



Family reunification

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

25 %



Social cohesion & discrimination

IDP households who feel welcomed and accepted by the local community

80 %

Non-displaced households who welcome IDPs

94%

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

7%

3%

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.

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TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

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



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BMZ

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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.



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