



**SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF
FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN
FOUMBAN COUNCIL**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES



FOREWORD

It is with a deep sense of responsibility and measured optimism that we welcome the publication of this profiling report: “Promoting the social and economic participation of internally displaced persons and host communities in the Fouban Council: key achievements and challenges.”

Our Council, rich in both history and the tradition of hospitality, has been facing a significant influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) for several years, mainly from neighbouring regions affected by crises. This situation demonstrates our collective capacity to offer refuge, while highlighting the structural challenges we must face together.

This report is the result of exemplary collaboration within the framework of the PEsOP project, led by UNHCR and GIZ, with financial support from BMZ and technical expertise from JIPS and our national institutions, INS and BUCREP.

I would like to express my gratitude to the PEsOP committees, community representatives, and, above all, the displaced and non-displaced households in Fouban for their participation in this exercise. Their commitment has made it possible to collect high-quality, reliable data that goes beyond simple humanitarian estimates to provide us with a real tool for local development planning.

The results confirm what we observe on a daily basis: the local integration of IDPs is well underway. The impressive level of school enrolment among displaced children and the predominantly positive intergroup relations are achievements we can be proud of.

However, the report highlights persistent challenges that require our immediate attention. The high level of food insecurity among IDPs, the precariousness of their livelihoods, limited access to legal documentation, and the economic vulnerability of young women are all indicators that remind us of the urgency to take action. Displacement has also put additional pressure on infrastructure, particularly schools (with overcrowded classrooms) and health facilities.

This document is not the ultimate goal: it is our roadmap. I urge local authorities, sectoral ministries, and our development and humanitarian partners to: (i) Focus efforts on vocational training and microcredit, particularly for female-headed IDP households, in order to combat precariousness and strengthen financial inclusion; (ii) Implement targeted civil registration campaigns for displaced children, which is essential to guarantee their future access to education and public services; (iii) Use this data to design projects that address both the specific vulnerabilities of IDPs (food security) and common development challenges (youth unemployment), thereby promoting social cohesion and stability in the Fouban Council.

By joining forces to implement these recommendations, we can transform the challenges associated with displacement into real opportunities for sustainable development for all the inhabitants of Fouban.



Hon. Patricia Tomaino NDAM NJOYA
Mayor of Fouban Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The profiling exercise was carried out as part of the GIZ project «Promoting the economic and social participation of internally displaced persons and host populations» (PESoP) in the West Cameroon. Led by UNHCR, the profiling exercise is the result of the collaborative work by the PESoP Committees which include: 10 non-governmental organizations, 15 governmental organizations, as well as Municipal authorities and community representatives from Bafoussam 1 , Dschang, Foumban, Kouoptamo and Mbouda 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) , 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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Cover photo : © Jerry Eyong Ndohtabi.

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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 highlights a lack of funding, media attention and international political and diplomatic initiatives³. 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 as of September 2024, the humanitarian situation in areas affected by displacement remains critical.

A multi-sectoral 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 was carried out in Bafoussam 1 (Mifi) and four other councils in the West region, namely Dschang (Menoua), Foumban and Kouoptamo (Noun) and Mbouda (Bamboutos), as part of the multi-year project to promote the economic and social participation of IDPs and host populations (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 OIM, 2022, *Analyses multisectorielles des besoins (MSNA)*

PROFILING : OBJECTIVES AND COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

The profiling exercise in Fouban had two main objectives:

- » To identify the specific vulnerabilities faced by displaced persons and the obstacles they encounter in integrating locally in the Fouban Council.
- » To identify the challenges faced by both displaced persons and non-displaced residents in Fouban, which are therefore not specific to displacement status and instead indicate broader development needs.
- » The profiling was developed in a consultative and collaborative manner, with the support and participation of municipal authorities, sectoral ministries (MINDDEVEL, MINEPROFF, MINEFOP, MINPMEESA, MINJEC, MINJUSTICE, MINSANTE, MINMIDT, MINADER, MINAT), technical govern-

ment entities (INS, BUCREP, BUNEC) and community representatives. All these stakeholders formed the Expanded Steering Committee, which served as the main coordinating structure for profiling. The implementation of profiling was led by UNHCR, GIZ, BUCREP and INS, with technical support from JIPS.

- » The expanded committee played an advisory role throughout the process: it helped define objectives, reviewed and approved tools and methods, supported training and field operations, and participated in the analysis of results. More specifically, a series of consultations and workshops were held, including:
 - » Council-level workshops on defining the geographical and thematic scope (July 2024);
 - » Technical workshop with the INS and BUCREP to review analysis tools and standards (May 2025);
 - » Council-level workshops to review and confirm preliminary results (May and June 2025).



II.

MÉTHODOLOGY



Analytical 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 persons⁵. By identifying the main differences and commonalities in the situation of displaced and non-displaced persons, the analysis highlights areas where displaced persons fare less well and can be considered to face vulnerabilities related to their displacement, while also highlighting common challenges that indicate development-related issues⁶.

Geographical scope: The geographical scope of the profiling exercise was determined by a series of workshops organised in each of the five target councils. Each workshop included a mapping exercise using maps produced by BUCREP to identify neighbourhoods (neighbourhoods/villages or ADMIN4) with high, medium and low concentrations of internally displaced persons. This analysis was refined by drawing on the knowledge of local community members (including imams, pastors, representatives of displaced persons from local PESoP committees) and council stakeholders.

Thematic scope: Profiling focused on the following criteria from the IASC framework on durable solutions: security, adequate standard of living (including access to services, food and shelter), access to documentation, livelihoods, housing, land and property (HLP), family reunification and participation in public life. In addition, intentions for the future were also collected. These themes were discussed at the council level during preparatory workshops to ensure that relevant sub-themes were included. Subsequently, the identification of indicators by criterion ensured alignment with national standards of the INS and BUCREP as well as international recommendations on statistics on displaced persons and standards for analysing durable solutions⁷.

Sampling and identification of displaced persons: The sampling plan was meticulously designed using BUCREP map data and the estimate of the number of displaced persons (IDPs) obtained during council meetings. The method used is two-stage stratified random sampling. In the Fouban council, 28 displacement areas (DAs) with a medium or high presence of IDPs were selected at random. A complete list of all households was compiled in each sampled enumeration area, during which households were categorised as displaced and non-displaced according to a criteria-based identification module, in line with the recommendations of 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.


⁷ Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Stateless Statistics (EGRIS) (2020) International Recommendation on IDP Statistics (IRIS).

Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Stateless Statistics (EGRISS)⁸ and finalised jointly with BUCREP and INS. The sample was then selected at random from among the households listed in each enumeration area. A total of 525 households were surveyed in Foumban, divided between displaced and non-displaced persons. The samples were weighted before being analysed. The

survey results are representative of neighbourhoods with a medium or high concentration of displaced persons. They do not reflect the situation in areas where there are few or no displaced persons, or in the council as a whole.

⁸EGRISS (2023) Towards a Standardised Approach to Identifying Displaced Persons, Refugees and Related Populations in Household Surveys. This publication outlines recommended criteria for identifying displaced persons in surveys using a set of questions.

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

COUNCIL	HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED	IDPs	NON-DISPLACED	TOTAL	
FOUMBAN 	Unweighted	Households	227	298	525
		Individuals	846	1819	2665
	Weighted	Households	2181	26811	28992
		Individuals	7857	136465	144322

Source: 2024 profiling survey

III.

DÉPLACEMENT VERS LA COMMUNE DE FOUMBAN

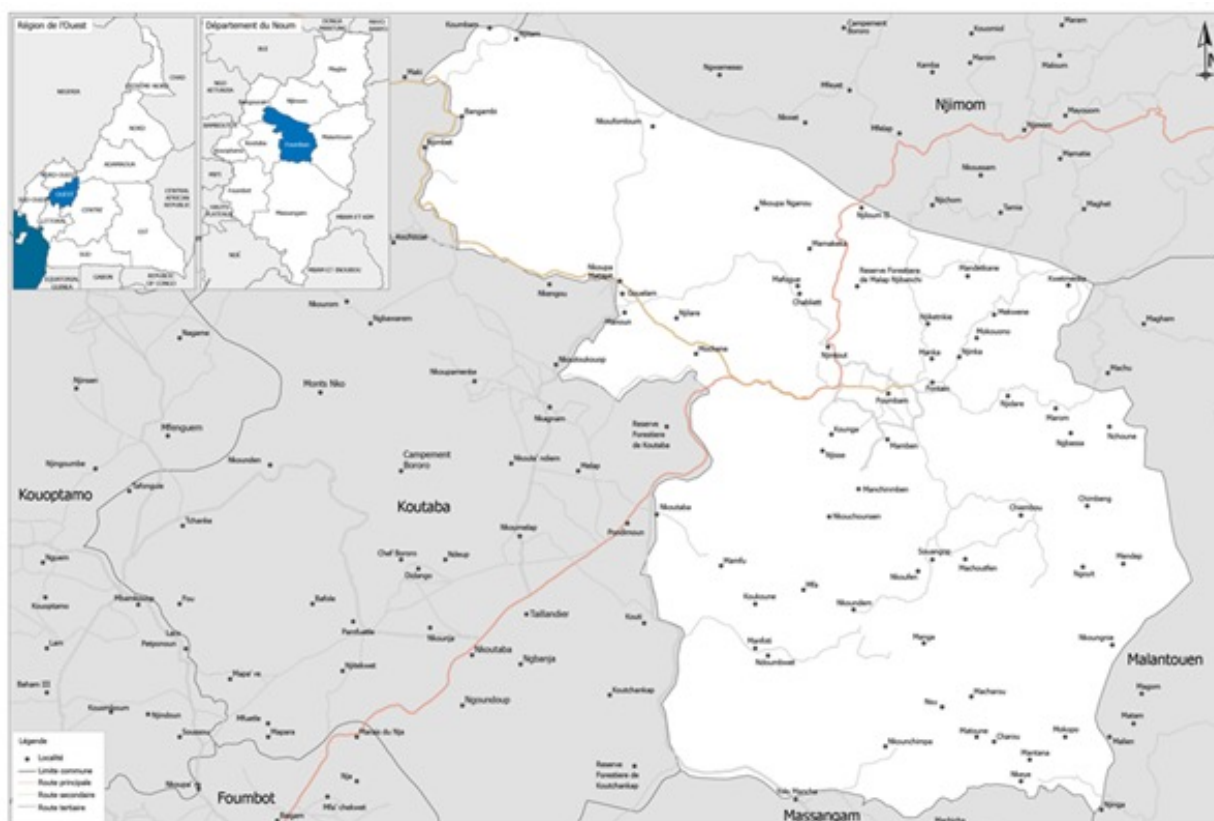
PRESENTATION OF THE FOUMBAN COUNCIL

Socio-economic situation of the Fouban Council

The Fouban council is located in the West region of Cameroon, in the heart of the Noun Division. It is bordered by the councils of Malantouen (east), Koutaba

(west), Njimom (north) and Massagam (south). Its area is estimated at 418 km², and its population at around 160,000 inhabitants, giving a density of 383 inhabitants per km². The population is diverse, dominated by the Bamoun people. The council comprises eight groups and three autonomous villages under the traditional authority of the Sultan King of the Bamoun.

Map 1: Fouban council in the West Region of Cameroon



Source : IM Unit, UNHCR, 2024

The terrain is very rugged, with alternating plains, plateaus and hills, which promotes erosion. This erosion very often causes landslides, leading to internal displacement within the Council. The soils are varied, generally poor for agriculture but suitable for brick making. The vegetation is savannah scrub, conifers, eucalyptus and gallery forests.

Economically, agriculture is the main economic activity in the council (food crops, market gardening, coffee). This is followed by traditional livestock farming (poultry, small ruminants) and modern livestock farming (poultry, fish farming).

Trade and services are also activities carried out mainly in the urban centre of the council, where the main banks, insurance companies and transport companies have their branches.

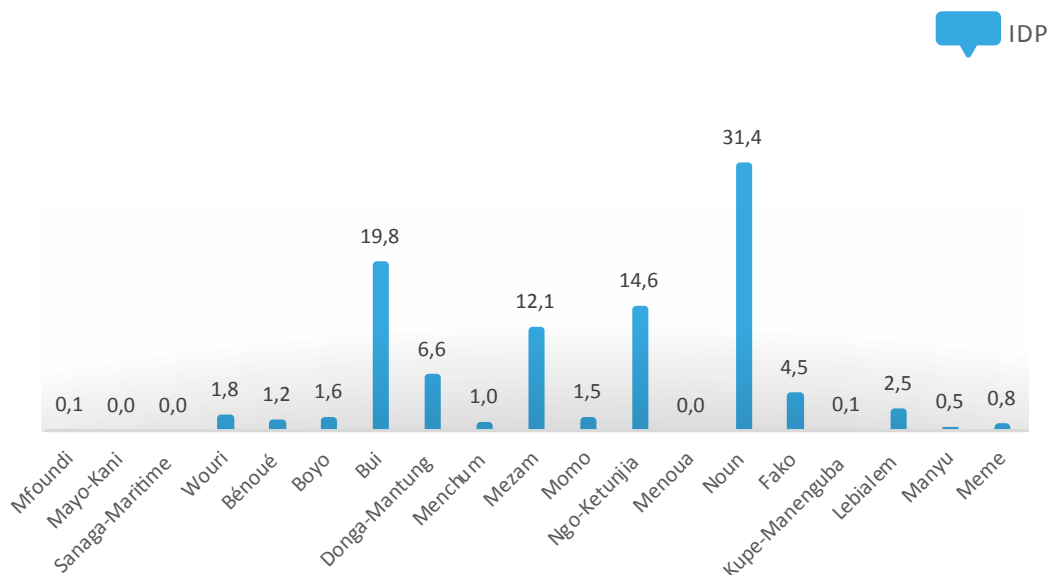
Fouban, considered the «City of Arts», is renowned for its rich and varied crafts, including sculpture, pottery and bronze work. Tourism also plays an important role, attracting visitors interested in the cultural and historical heritage of the Bamoun Kingdom, notably the Royal Palace of Fouban and the Museum of Bamoun Arts and Traditions.

HISTORY OF DISPLACEMENT AND INTENTIONS OF IDPs

Majority of IDPs from the North-West Region: The majority of IDPs (76%) arrived in the council between 2018 and 2022, with a peak in 2019, accounting for 24%. IDPs

residing in the Fouban council come mainly from the departments of NOUN (31%) in the West Region, BUI (20%), NGO-KETUNJA (15%) and MEZAM (12%) in the North-West Region. This shows that, due to its proximity to the North-West Region, combined with recurrent landslides, the Fouban council has also experienced significant internal displacement.

Graph 1 : IDPs by department of origin



IDPs' attachment to their place of origin: despite the insecurity, around a quarter (24%) of IDP households have been able to return to their place of origin, mainly to visit family or friends (50%) or to check on abandoned property (35%).

The immediate future of IDPs in Fouban: among households wishing to remain in Fouban, security is the main reason cited (51%), while among those who

want to leave, difficulties in accessing housing (31%) and economic reasons (26%) are the main reasons cited. However, among those who wish to leave Fouban, 71% have no concrete plans to leave in the next 12 months. For those with concrete plans to leave, the vast majority (91%) cite lack of financial resources as the main obstacle. This shows that it is necessary to provide sustainable solutions for IDPs, with an emphasis on local integration.

IV.

KEY FINDINGS



Overall, the situations of IDPs and non-displaced persons are broadly similar, indicating that local integration is underway, with improvements needed in specific areas where results show that IDPs are lagging behind. However, IDPs are disadvantaged in certain areas, including:

- » More than half of IDP households have left assets behind in their place of origin, mainly a house, agricultural land or a small business (24%). Many of them can no longer access these assets and do not have the necessary documents to prove ownership. **This loss of property significantly reduces the livelihoods of displaced persons.** For example, displaced persons now mainly rent accommodation and are vulnerable to insecurity of tenure and high rents.
- » A large majority of IDP households are still separated from some members of their original household, which is a significant factor in their vulnerability.
- » While access to water, sanitation and health care poses challenges for both displaced and non-displaced persons, analysis shows that **access to these services** is slightly worse **for displaced persons.**
- » Far **fewer displaced children under the age of 5 have a birth certificate** than non-displaced children. This can have an impact on access to education and other services later on.
- » **Food security is one of the main challenges facing** displaced persons, whose situation is significantly worse than that of non-displaced persons.

- » **The social participation** of IDPs in elections or decision-making committees is also lower among displaced persons than among non-displaced persons.

The profiling results also indicate areas where displaced persons and the local non-displaced population face very similar challenges, highlighting common development issues. Specifically, youth unemployment and inactivity are a major problem for both population groups.

Finally, there are also areas where the results indicate successes in local integration and where displaced and non-displaced persons are doing well. In particular:

- » A clear majority of displaced and non-displaced persons feel safe in the neighbourhoods where they live.
- » The school attendance rate for displaced children is as high as that for non-displaced children.
- » Relationships and perceptions between displaced persons and non-displaced neighbours are considered positive by both groups.

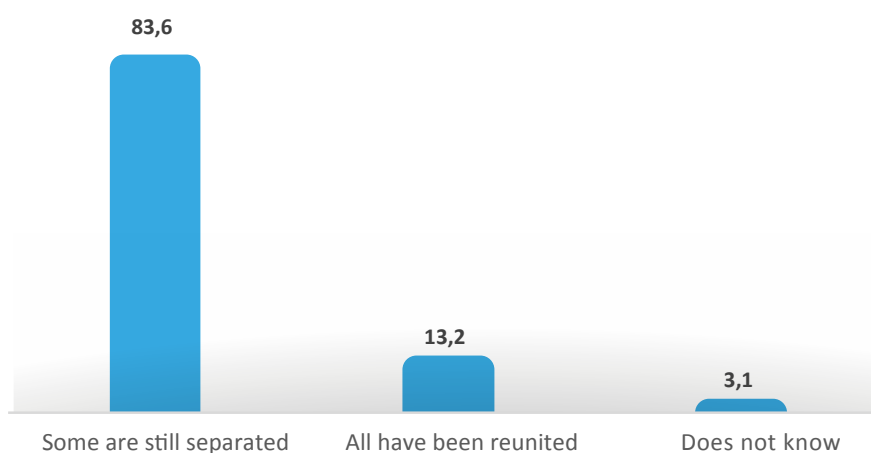
Building on what has already been achieved in the council and continuing to bridge the gaps that remain between displaced and non-displaced persons goes hand in hand with improving social cohesion within the community and improving relations and acceptance between groups. The following section describes in more detail, by theme, the main challenges faced by displaced persons, but also the significant achievements of displaced persons, the host population and the Fouban council in integrating the displaced population.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

More male heads of household: Overall, the proportion of male heads of household (67%) is higher than that of female heads of household (33%), with the proportion of female heads of household being higher in IDP households (45%) than in non-displaced households (32%). Few households (14%) consist of a single person (8% of IDP households vs. 15% of non-displaced households).

Persistent family separation: Nearly one-third (32%) of IDP households have experienced family separations within their original household due to displacement. The vast majority of IDP households (84%) are still separated from some members of their family. 61% of IDP households have attempted to reunite their family, but have been unsuccessful, mainly due to financial difficulties (80%).

Graph 2 : IDP households by separation status of members



High literacy rates in both groups: the vast majority of IDPs and non-displaced persons (85% and 87% respectively) aged 15 and over are literate (can read and write) in any language. However, a significant proportion cannot read or write any language, namely 11% of IDPs and 9% of non-displaced persons.

Low overall level of education: the majority of IDPs and non-displaced persons aged 19 and over have a primary school certificate (39% and 37% respectively), few have a lower secondary school certificate (17% respectively) and the proportions of those who have never been to

school are 19% and 18% respectively. The proportion with upper secondary or higher education qualifications remains low overall.

Notable linguistic integration: the majority of IDPs speak French (44%), but a significant proportion speak English (40%), while non-displaced persons speak mainly French (92%). The proportion of those who speak French and English is higher among IDPs (14%) than among non-displaced persons (3%). This could be an asset in terms of their access to employment opportunities.

SECURITY, SAFETY AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

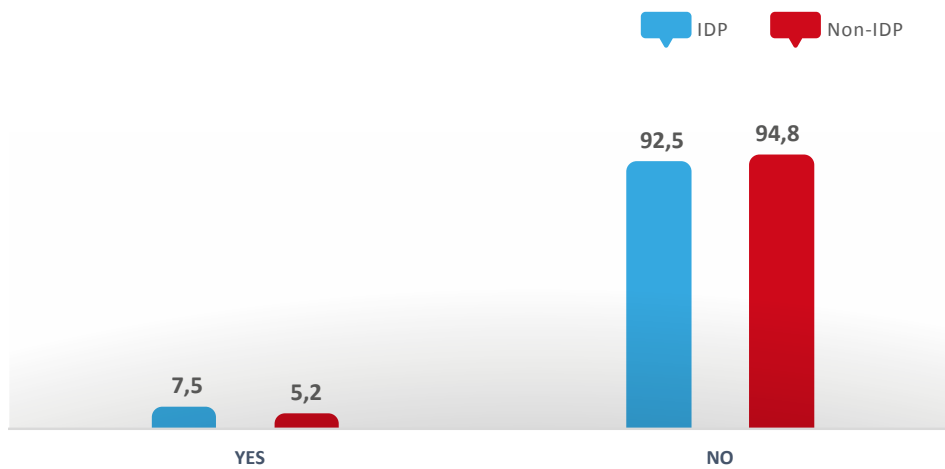
Appreciable level of security: nearly 85% of IDP and non-displaced households feel safe walking around their neighbourhood during the day. Less than 5% of IDP and non-displaced households have been victims of violent incidents in the last 12 months, mainly verbal abuse and theft.

Low recourse to the authorities: the general trend is for non-IDPs not to report incidents of violence to the

authorities (82% of non-IDP households and 55% of IDP households that have been victims have not reported them), with preference given to informal conflict resolution within communities (28%).

Low prevalence of gender-based violence, but further investigation is needed: slightly more IDP households (7%) have experienced gender-based violence (GBV) in the last 12 months than non-displaced households (5%). However, collecting this indicator requires more specific studies, including individual surveys using methods that guarantee the confidentiality of respondents.

Graph 3 : Prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last 12 months by household status



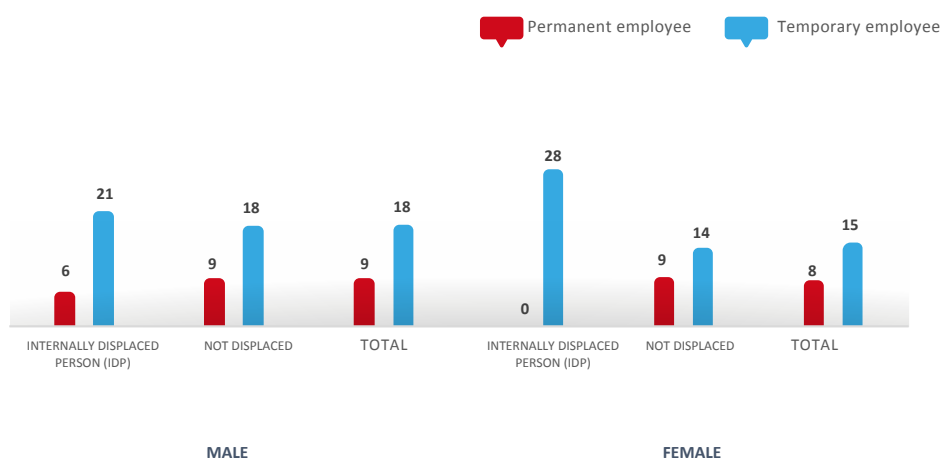
LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT⁹

Food security is a challenge to be overcome by IDP and non-displaced households in Fouban. Food insecurity particularly affects IDP households, with a large proportion of IDP households (44%) resorting to high-risk coping strategies compared to non-displaced households (33%). IDP households headed by men

are the most affected (50%) of them have a high rCSI, compared to 30% for IDP households headed by women.

IDPs in the Fouban council are in precarious employment compared to non-displaced persons. IDP women are more vulnerable, as they do not have permanent jobs or employer status (0% compared to 9% for non-displaced women).

Graph 4 : Employment status by gender and displacement status



IDPs generally have limited incomes and are mainly active in precarious and informal economic sectors. For one third of IDPs (30%), the main source of livelihood comes from small businesses (primary and secondary). In addition, 23 per cent of IDPs resort to casual work (compared to 20 per cent of non-displaced persons), while they are very poorly represented in more stable sources of income such as wages (6 per cent). Almost no IDPs derive their income from old-age pensions or government assistance. This trend reflects high economic vulnerability and marginalisation in access to structured economic opportunities.

Similarly, as the main sources of income (primary and secondary) over the last 30 days, agriculture is more prevalent among non-displaced persons (22%) than IDPs (19%). Farming requires ownership of arable land, which would explain the imbalance between IDP and non-IDP households.

Most working IDPs are self-employed: employed IDPs are self-employed (45%) or temporary employees (24%), compared to 57% and 17% among non-displaced persons, respectively.

Underemployment in the Fouban council is mainly observed among non-displaced persons. The underemployment rate, defined as the proportion of persons aged 14 and over who worked less than 40 hours per week, is 27% among non-displaced persons and 19% among internally displaced persons (IDPs). The main cause of underemployment is the decline in economic activity, which is mainly due to unfavourable economic conditions. This reason is cited by 46% of non-displaced persons and 52% of IDPs.

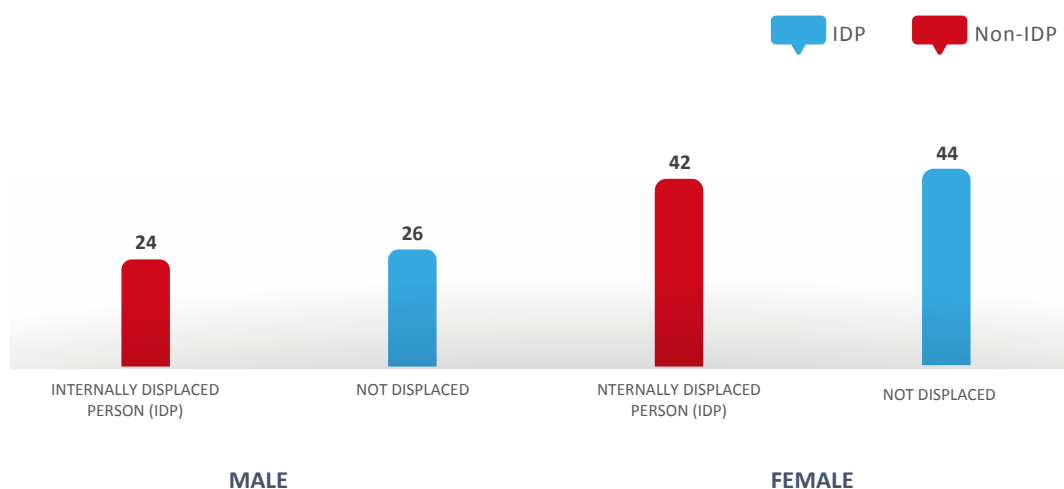
Women have significantly higher NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) rates than men, regardless of their displacement status. The proportion

⁹ 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.

of non-IDP women aged 15 to 24 who are not working, enrolled in school or in training is 44%, compared to 26% for non-IDP men in the same age group. This trend

is also observed between IDP women and IDP men. The gap between IDPs and non-IDPs of the same sex remains relatively small.

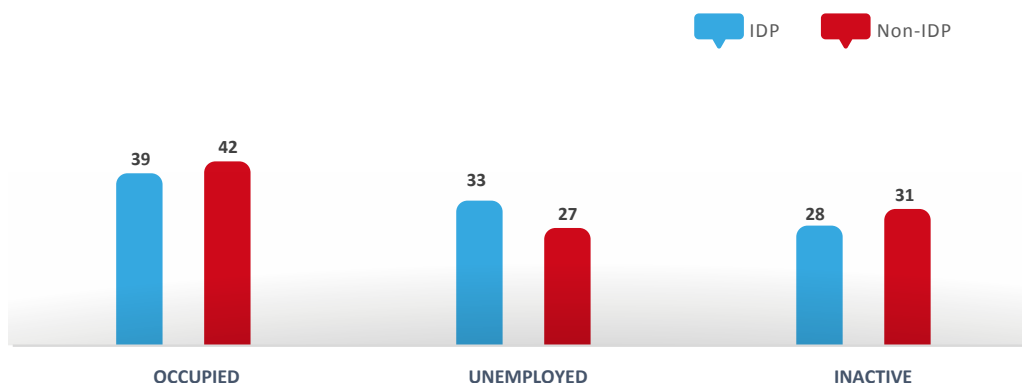
Graph 5 : Young men and women (aged 15–24) not in employment or education



The labour market situation highlights differences in access to employment depending on displacement status. The percentage of IDPs who did not work in the week preceding the survey was 33%, significantly higher than that observed among non-displaced persons

(27%). This statistic may reflect an imperative to seek employment driven by increased economic pressure, rather than an improvement in opportunities.

Graph 6 : Labour market situation (aged 15-64) according to household displacement status



ACCESS TO SERVICES AND DOCUMENTATION

Bank account ownership remains very low among IDP households, with only 8% having a bank account. The data reveal a significant disparity in financial inclusion according to the gender of the head of household, particularly among internally displaced households (IDPs). In fact, 16% of IDP households headed by men have at least one member with a bank account, compared to only 4% of IDP households headed by women.

The possession of birth certificates shows worrying disparities: only 73% of IDP children aged 0-5 are registered, compared to 82% of non-displaced children. Notably, IDP boys have the lowest registration rate (69%), reversing the usual trends of gender discrimination.

The possession of identification documents reveals specific challenges. 52% of IDPs without identity papers cite security issues as the main obstacle, a response not given by non-displaced persons. IDP women are particularly affected, with 62% mentioning security issues as a barrier to obtaining papers.

Inequality between population groups emerges with regard to schooling. IDP children are less likely to be enrolled in school, with financial and social barriers. Data show that 83% of IDP children are enrolled in school, compared to 86% of non-displaced persons.

Barriers to schooling include lack of financial resources (31%) and religious or social barriers (12%). IDP girls are slightly more likely to attend school than boys, but their attendance declines with age due to family or economic constraints. In terms of school attendance, among those enrolled, 90% of IDPs

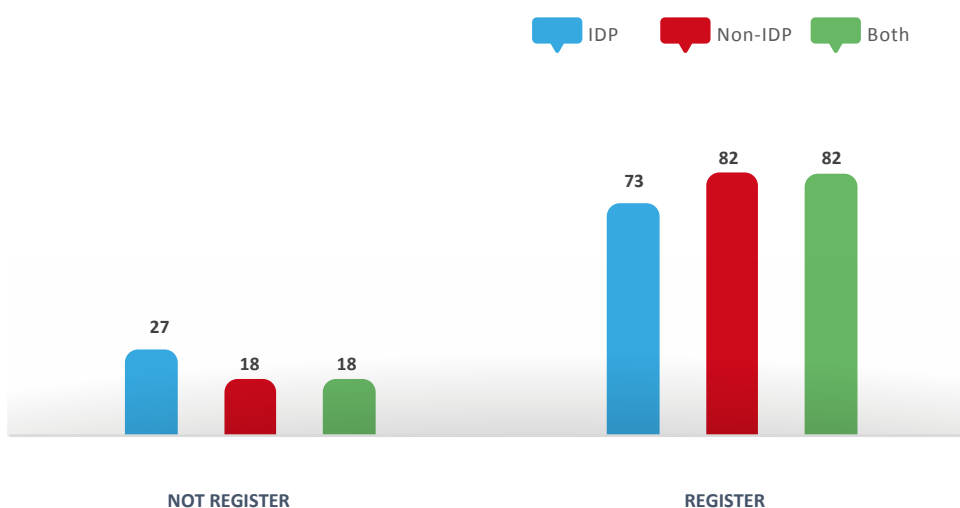
Access to healthcare is limited by high costs for IDPs in the Fouban council. Among IDPs, 60% sought access to healthcare, compared to 50% of non-displaced persons. However, 71% of IDPs who sought access encountered difficulties, mainly due to high costs (99%). Furthermore, 19% of IDPs attribute these obstacles to their displaced status, a proportion that rises to 27% among male IDPs.

In terms of sanitation, approximately 11% of IDPs have access to improved toilets, compared to 13% of non-displaced persons.

With regard to access to drinking water, although there is no major difference, 61% of IDPs consider their water source to be safe, compared to 67% of non-displaced persons. Unimproved sources are considered unsafe by 73% of non-IDPs. In addition, 12% of IDPs have been deprived of access to water because of their status as displaced persons.

Access to electricity is high among IDPs (97%). Electricity (ENEO) is the main source of lighting (96% of IDPs), but 2% of IDPs use candles, a practice that does not exist among non-displaced persons.

Graph 7 : Birth registration status (population aged 0-5) according to household member status



HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

More than half of IDPs live in rented accommodation without a lease, exposing them to a constant risk of eviction. In fact, 55% of IDP households live in rented accommodation without a lease. The risk of eviction is more pronounced in female-headed households, 15% of which have been evicted, compared to 7% of male-headed households.

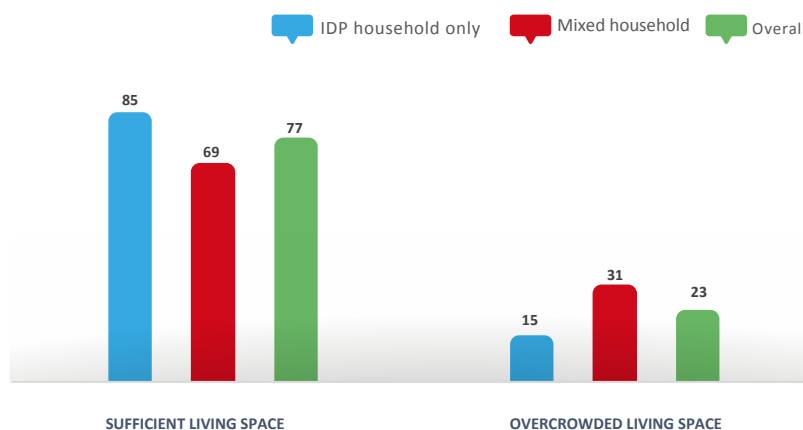
Mixed households (composed of IDPs and non-displaced persons) experience higher rates of overcrowding (31%) than IDP households (15%). Few IDPs own their homes with a land title (4%) compared to 8% for mixed households.

Among households composed exclusively of internally displaced persons (IDPs), more than half (57%) report «other» as the type of document proving their

ownership, suggesting a high degree of informality or a non-standard diversity of evidence used. Mixed households, comprising both IDPs and non-displaced persons, are more likely to hold registered area certificates (32%) or local government decisions (24%). Customary law is used by 11% of households composed exclusively of IDPs and only 6% of mixed households. A significant proportion of IDP households (14% exclusively displaced, 10% mixed) currently hold no legal title, revealing significant land tenure vulnerability. Finally, customary property certificates, wills, deeds of sale and certificates of hereditary acquisition are not widely used, each accounting for less than 6% of certificates.

Overcrowding affects 23% of IDP households, but this rate is even higher among mixed households (31%). Finally, 11% of IDPs have been evicted in the last six months, mainly due to their inability to pay rent (56%).

Graph 8 : IDP households by living space density and household status



Displacement has caused significant family breakdown. 32% of IDP households are separated from at least one family member, with higher rates among 100% IDP households (39%). Of these separated families, 61% have attempted to reunite, but only 14% have succeeded.

59% of displaced households left behind a home and/or agricultural land when they fled: A significant proportion of displaced persons had to abandon a

home or land when they were displaced. It is important to understand the extent to which it is possible to access and recover these assets. Only 16% of those who left a home behind have documentation proving ownership. Only 15% of those who left land behind have documents proving ownership. This indicates that support will be needed for displaced persons to recover and access these properties, which is an important issue related to solutions, regardless of whether households intend to return or not.

¹⁰ More than 3 people per bedroom

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Participation in civic life is low among internally displaced persons. In the 2020 legislative and municipal elections, 46% of internally displaced persons voted, compared to 56% of non-displaced persons. According to the gender of the head of household, 57% of male-headed households, both internally displaced and non-displaced, participated in the vote, compared to 51% of female-headed households.

There is a high level of cohesion and mutual acceptance between internally displaced persons and non-displaced persons (82%). This mutual acceptance is thought to stem from the cultural and family ties between the Bamoun and Bansa peoples, who originate from the BUI department in the north-west. **Relations between the two groups are also perceived as good. Ninety per cent of displaced households report having been well received and accepted by their hosts, while 94 per cent of non-displaced households say they welcome displaced persons.**

The profiling highlights low voter turnout in 2020 and low participation in local committees by IDP households compared to non-displaced households. The results show that 46% of IDP households voted in 2020, compared to 56% of non-displaced households. Overall, 67% of households say they participated in

decision-making committees, including 54% of IDP households and 68% of non-displaced households. By gender, 69% of male-headed households participated in decision-making bodies, including 57% of IDP households and 70% of non-displaced households.

This trend is confirmed among male IDP heads of household (44% of voters), well below their non-displaced counterparts (58%). The main reasons for not voting among IDPs include not being registered (45%), feeling unsafe (6%), or being too young (14%). In female-headed displaced households, 10.2% say they do not feel safe to vote, compared to none among non-displaced households.

Households headed by women, especially displaced women, encounter specific barriers (fear, lack of invitation, lack of information) to community activities. Among the households surveyed, 63% said they had participated in decision-making in the past 12 months, including 50% of IDP households headed by women and 65% of non-displaced households headed by women. In contrast, among households headed by men, 57% of households participated, compared to 70% of non-displaced households.

The vast majority of IDP households reported that no member of their household had been denied access to education (93%), drinking water (88%) or electricity (95.3%) by a member of a non-displaced household. The same was true for harassment or discrimination, which stood at 93%.



V.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN THE FOUMBAN COUNCIL

According to the ICRC's framework on durable solutions for displaced persons, «*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 because 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 IPR 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 can be assumed to still face displacement-related vulnerabilities. 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. The most significant challenges observed are:

Food insecurity. In Fouban, 44% of displaced households have a «high score» on the reduced coping strategy index¹¹, meaning that they use less sustainable coping mechanisms more frequently to deal with food shortages. Among the non-displaced population, 33% fall into this category. According to the WFP (November 2024¹²), 27% of households in the West region have a «high score» on the ICSR. While agriculture was once a major source of livelihood, according to profiling, it is reported as the main source of livelihood by only 19% of non-displaced households and 22% of displaced households. This indicates a diversification of livelihoods, which increasingly include casual labour, formal employment and small businesses. At the same time, investments in urban and peri-urban agriculture may be needed, alongside other efforts to strengthen food systems, to address food insecurity.

¹¹ The reduced coping strategies index (RCSI) was used to calculate the frequency and severity of strategies due to food shortages.

¹² WFP (2024) [November Bulletin](#)



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: 24% of displaced men and 26% of non-displaced men, as well as 42% of displaced women and 44% 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. With demographic projections predicting steady population growth, youth unemployment and inactivity will amplify protection and poverty issues in the future, making this a crucial issue to address. Fouban has established a permanent registration system for displaced persons, which will enable municipal authorities to identify young people in order to target vocational training and employment initiatives.

Housing and land in the place of origin: 59% of displaced households left behind a house and/or land in their place of origin. Only some households are able to prove ownership of or access to the abandoned property. It will therefore be difficult for displaced persons to regain access to lost property when the security situation allows, and this should be addressed preventively by keeping track of displaced persons' claims, regardless of whether they intend to remain in Fouban.

Current housing situation: With regard to current living conditions in Fouban, the majority of displaced persons rent accommodation and access to land and land security are poor¹³. Thus, lack of access to property and security of tenure is one of the direct consequences of displacement and one of the areas in which displaced persons lag behind non-displaced persons.

Birth certificates for children: 27% 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 Fouban 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.

As highlighted above, the vast majority of displaced households in Fouban are expected to remain in the council for the foreseeable future. **Support for removing the above-mentioned barriers to the local integration of displaced persons and attention to the social cohesion of communities hosting displaced persons are therefore particularly important for the future, both for displaced persons and for the sustainable development of the Fouban council.**

¹³ Although access to agricultural land was not assessed in the study, the results show that only 18% of displaced households depend on agriculture as their main source of income.



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**

76%

85%

Households having experienced a security incident the past 12 months

12%

6%

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

12%

5%

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

0%

6%



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

71%

72%

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

100%

96%

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

87%

81%

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

6%

3%

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

11%

13%

Households accessing electricity **SDG 7.1.1**

97%

97%

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

93%

91%

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

86%

83%

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

90%

93%

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

78%

79%

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**

16%

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

77%



Access to employment and livelihoods

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

44%

33%

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

49%

50%

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

27%

29%

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

24%

26%

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

42%

44%

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS INDICATING PROGRESS TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS



IDPs



NON DISPLACED



Access to documentation

Persons with a birth certificate

90 %

89 %

Persons 18 years and above with a National Identity Card

77 %

85%

Persons with no personal documentation at all

5 %

4%

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

73 %

82%



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land and property

Displaced households that left a house behind in place of origin

43 %

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

14 %

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

16 %

Displaced households that left agricultural land behind in place of origin

38 %

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

22 %

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

15 %



Civic participation in local

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

47 %

60%

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

49 %

53%



Family reunification

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

27%



Social cohesion & discrimination

IDP households who feel welcomed and accepted by the local community

90%

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](#)

9%

7%

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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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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