



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MBOUDA COUNCIL



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES



FOREWORD

Since the onset of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon in October 2016, the town of Mbouda has welcomed a large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the North-West and South-West regions each year. In line with the Head of State's commitment to the principle of 'living together', our council is actively engaged in developing initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions of these vulnerable populations affected by the current crisis. For these initiatives to be effective and well-adapted, it is crucial to identify the specific needs and socio-economic characteristics of these displaced individuals.

It is in this context that this profiling report on the local integration of IDPs in our municipality has been developed. The document is the result of rigorous collaborative work, combining the efforts of municipal authorities, state representatives, and civil society organisations with the technical expertise of UNHCR, GIZ, JIPS, and national institutions such as INS and BUCREP.

It should be emphasised that the presence of IDPs is not only a humanitarian challenge, but also an opportunity to strengthen social cohesion and stimulate local development. This report provides a representative and in-depth analysis of their socio-economic situation and their prospects for the future. It also offers a clear overview of the challenges our communities face in terms of access to water, sanitation and employment, while highlighting the specific obstacles IDPs face, particularly with regard to food security and access to identification and civil documentation.

The data collected is therefore a valuable strategic tool. It will enable us to target our development policies and initiatives more effectively. We are fully committed to using these findings to strengthen local integration, address the identified gaps and create opportunities that benefit both displaced persons and host communities.

This work would not have been possible without the mobilisation and collaboration of many stakeholders. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to this study, from the field experts to the displaced and non-displaced residents of Mbouda who generously shared their experiences. This report will now serve as the basis for our collective actions in favour of inclusive and sustainable local integration.

Together, let us continue to build a future in which all Mbouda residents, regardless of their background, can enjoy dignity, security and prosperity.



Mr WADJI
Mayor of the Mbouda Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

PROFILING: OBJECTIVES AND COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

The profiling exercise in Mbouda had two main objectives:

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

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

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

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



II.

MÉTHODOLOGIE

Analysis approach and target populations: IDPs and non-displaced persons were taken into account 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 similarities between the situations 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 areas 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, local PESoP committees) and municipal 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, shelter, land and property, family reunification and participation in public life. In addition, intentions for the future were also collected. These themes were discussed at the municipal level during preparatory workshops to ensure that relevant sub-the-

mes 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 the analysis of 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 municipal meetings. The method used is two-stage stratified random sampling.

At the primary level, 28 displacement zones (DZs) were selected within the stratum (council). In each stratum, the candidate DZs are those covering areas with high and medium concentrations of IDPs. The profiling survey base is drawn from the BUCREP cartographic database. In these ZDs, a complete census was conducted and all households were registered. During this phase, households were classified as displaced⁸ or non-displaced according to an identification module based on criteria, in accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Group on Refugee, Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons Statistics (EGRIS)⁹ and finalised jointly with BUCREP and INS.

At the second stage, a random sample of 20 households (including 10 IDP households and 10 non-displaced households), for a total of 560 households, was drawn. However, the results of the listing showed that some of the ZDs drawn had fewer than 10 IDP households. Thus, in all ZDs where the number of IDP households did not reach the set number of 10, these IDP households were automatically drawn into the sample (in other words,

⁵ 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.

⁶ Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced and Stateless Statistics (EGRIS) (2020) International Recommendation on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS).

⁷ A displaced household is a household in which at least one displaced person lives.


⁸ EGRIS (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.

they were drawn with a probability of inclusion equal to 1). To ensure that in the sample of each stratum (council) there are as many IDP households as non-displaced households, the gap generated by ZDs with a low number of IDP households was filled by selecting more than 10 IDP households in ZDs with a large number of IDP households. This made it possible to balance the number of IDP households and the number of non-displaced households in the sample of each stratum (council). Households in the clusters (DZs) were selected at random. However, in each DZ, IDP households did not

have the same probability of inclusion as non-displaced households, as the sizes of the two target populations were not equal in the cluster.

The survey results are representative of areas 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. After data processing and cleaning, 539 were selected and divided between displaced and non-displaced persons as follows:

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

COUNCIL	HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED	IDPs	NON-DISPLACED	TOTAL	
MBOUDA 	Unweighted	Households	285	274	539
		Individuals	1061	1711	2772
	Weighted	Households	1127	5450	6577
		Individuals	4522	26,584	31,106

Source: 2024 profiling survey

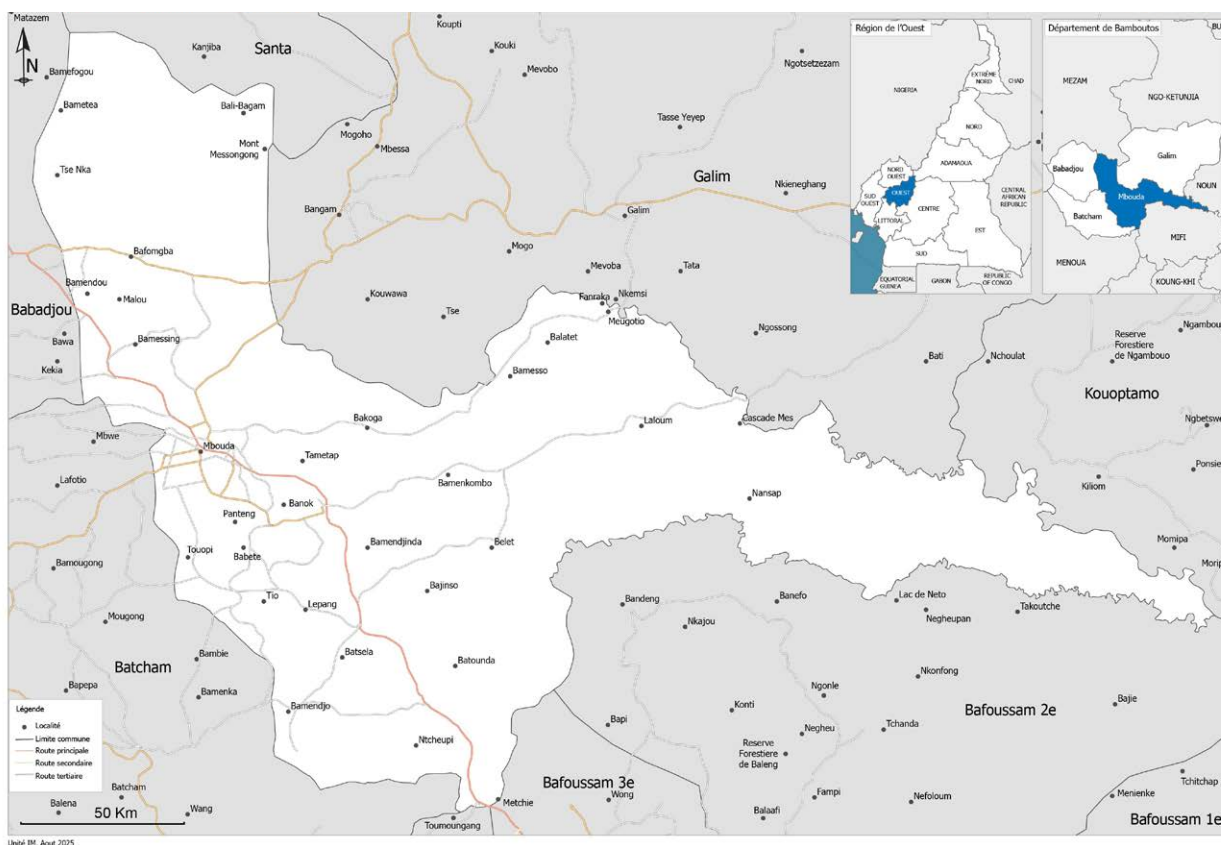
III.

DISPLACEMENT TO THE MBOUDA COUNCIL

PRESENTATION OF THE MBOUDA COUNCIL

The Mbouda council is located in the Bamboutos Division, in the West Region of Cameroon. It covers an area of 457 km².

Map 1 : Mbouda council in the West Region of Cameroon



Source : IM Unit, UNHCR, 2024

The main economic activities in the Mbouda of council are agro-pastoral, practised by nearly three-quarters of the working population. The main crops are maize, beans, potatoes and vegetables. Livestock farming is domestic and mainly involves pigs and poultry. Production systems are still artisanal, resulting in low yields.

Mbouda has numerous public and private primary and secondary schools. Data shows that there is a shortfall between the number of places available in classrooms and the number of pupils enrolled. The council has 28 health facilities, including a district hospital, a district medical centre, 16 public integrated health centres (CSI), two private hospitals (Protestant and AD LUCEM), a private clinic, a foundation and six health centres, which provide basic healthcare services to the population. However, access to healthcare remains a challenge, particularly for rural populations. Access to drinking water is also a challenge in Mbouda, with

recurring shortages. Projects are underway to improve the drinking water supply in the town and surrounding area.

According to BUCREP estimates¹⁰, Mbouda will have a population of approximately 183,901 in 2023. Based on the profiling exercise, approximately 14.5% of households are IDP households¹¹.

The profiling results add to these identified challenges by providing a cross-sectoral database capable of disaggregating them according to displacement status and various demographic characteristics (including gender and age). The results enable the council and other relevant stakeholders to inform priorities for advancing the local integration of displaced persons in the council, as well as addressing some of the council's broader development challenges.

HISTORY OF DISPLACEMENT AND INTENTIONS OF IDPs

The majority of displaced persons fled their localities between 2016 and 2021, coming from the North-West Region. 83% of displaced persons residing in the Mbouda of council were forced to flee for the first time between 2016 and 2021. 68% have been living in Mbouda for less than 5 years. The majority of these IDPs come from the North-West Region, particularly the

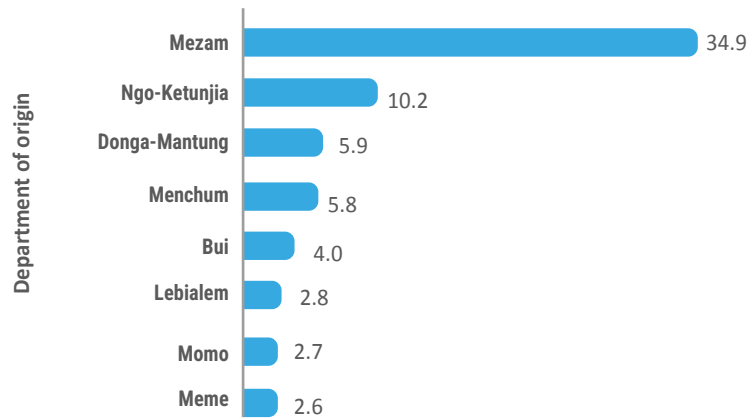
departments of Mezam (34.9%), Ngo-Ketunjia (10.2%), Donga-Mantung (5.9%) and Mentchum (5.8%). Indeed, the Bambutos, of whom Mbouda is the capital, share a long border with the North-West Region. 20% of internally displaced persons moved to the Mbouda of council for the first time in 2019. It should be noted that this proportion increased from 1% to 20% between 2016 and 2019. It then fell from 2020 onwards to 4% in 2024. This year also corresponds to the moment when the crisis reached its peak.



¹⁰ Population estimate for Cameroon, October 2024

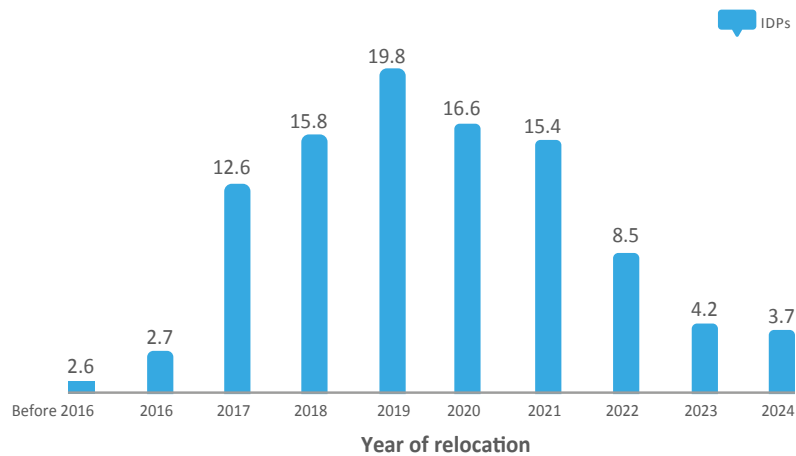
¹¹ The profiling included an exercise of listing all households in the sampled enumeration areas, generating accurate figures for displaced and non-displaced persons; these results were extrapolated to estimate the total size of the displaced population in the city.

Graph 1 : Distribution of IDPs by department of origin



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Graph 2 : Distribution of IDPs by year of displacement



Source: 2024 profiling survey

The majority of displaced persons will remain in Mbouda in the near future. 55% of displaced persons currently prefer to remain in the mbouda council . The main reasons are security, employment opportunities and access to services.

45% of displaced persons would prefer to leave the Mbouda council. The reasons for leaving are mainly economic (the cost of living and, above all, the lack of employment opportunities) and family-related. However, only 14% of them have concrete plans to move within the next 12 months.

IV.

MAIN RESULTS



OVERVIEW

Given that the majority of displaced persons are likely to remain in Mbouda in the near future, it is particularly important to understand their level of integration into the council and the challenges that remain. In general, displaced persons seem to be fairly well integrated into the Mbouda council, with a socio-economic situation similar to that of non-displaced persons. Improvements are needed in terms of access to drinking water, sanitation facilities, healthcare, identity documents and food security. More specifically:

- » **Security:** The majority of displaced and non-displaced persons feel very safe in the neighbourhoods where they live.
- » **Access to education:** School attendance rates for displaced and non-displaced children are almost identical.
- » **Access to water, sanitation and health:** While access to these basic services is difficult for both displaced and non-displaced persons, the data indicate that access is slightly worse for displaced persons.
- » **Livelihoods and food security:** While employment is comparable to that of non-displaced persons and difficulties in accessing the labour market for young people are shared by both groups, the situation of displaced persons is worse in terms of food security.

- » **Property left behind in place of origin:** Less than half of internally displaced households left property behind in their place of origin, mainly houses or agricultural land. Many of them cannot regain access to it and do not have the necessary documents to prove ownership.

- » **Documentation:** While the vast majority of internally displaced persons have a birth certificate, displaced children under the age of 5 lag behind in terms of civil registration. In addition, the proportion of internally displaced persons with a national identity card is lower than that of non-displaced persons.

- » **Intergroup relations:** These are considered positive by both groups. Although experiences of discrimination are limited in both groups, twice as many internally displaced persons report such incidents and link them to their language and ethnicity/tribal affiliation.

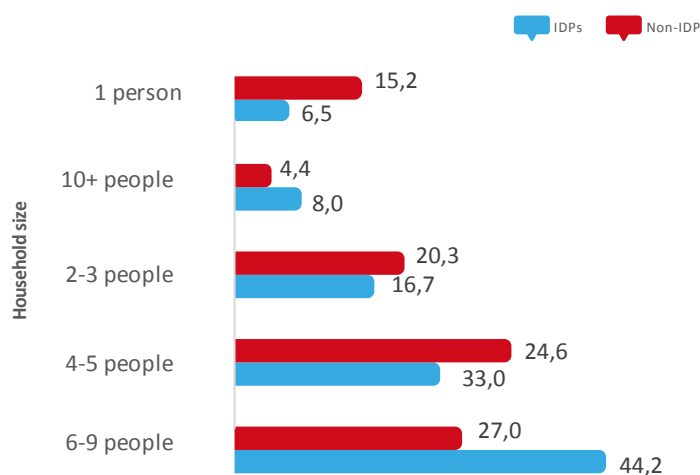
Supporting the local integration of IDPs, focusing on areas where data show that IDPs lag behind local non-displaced populations, will be essential to reversing the trend of human capital and development loss associated with displacement. Addressing these gaps goes hand in hand with better social cohesion within the community. The following section presents the main challenges faced by displaced persons, but also the significant progress made by these persons, the host population and the Mbouda council integrating displaced populations.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

In both groups, a significant proportion of households are headed by women. Thirty-four per cent of IDP households are headed by a woman, compared to 35 per cent of non-displaced households. Among non-displaced households, 7 per cent are single-person households. In contrast, 15 per cent of IDP households

are single-person households, usually consisting of a student or worker. It should also be noted that 43% of displaced households include one or more members who are non-displaced persons. In most cases (81%), these persons are related by family ties.

Graph 3 : Household size according to displacement status



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Marriage is the most common marital status. The majority of heads of household are married, whether among internally displaced persons (IDPs) (54.7%) or non-displaced persons (52.2%). However, there is a higher proportion of widowed heads of household among non-IDPs (19.9%) than among IDPs (13%).

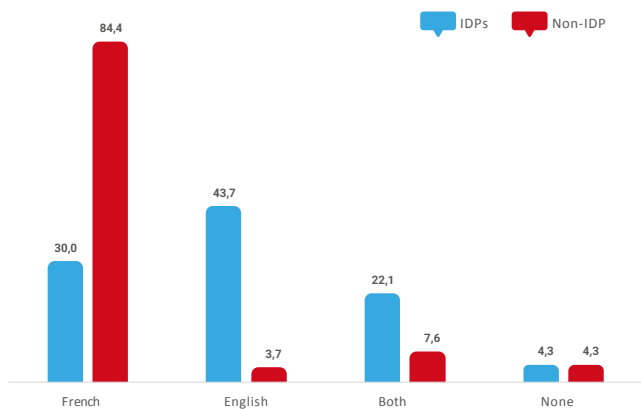
Disability is reported by 6% of respondents: in both groups, these are mainly people over the age of 60.

A significant proportion of households separated during displacement have been unable to reunite. 37% of displaced households are still separated from at least

one family member. Among those still separated, 65% have tried to reunite, but many are unable to do so, mainly due to financial difficulties.

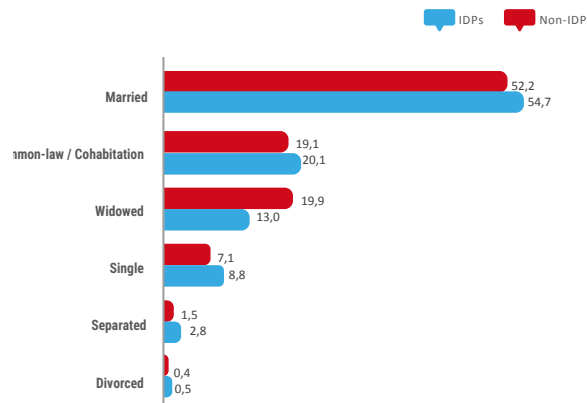
Bilingualism is more common among IDPs: The results reveal notable linguistic differences between displaced and non-displaced populations. Displaced persons communicate mainly in English, while French is the predominant language among non-displaced persons. However, bilingualism is significantly more prevalent among displaced persons (22%) than among non-displaced persons (8%).

Graph 4: Proportion of people by official language spoken



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Graph 5: Distribution of heads of household by marital status



Source: 2024 profiling survey



SECURITY, SAFETY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The vast majority of members of both groups feel safe. The population’s opinion on security, captured here by how safe people feel when walking alone during the day, is very positive. 78% of IDP households and 78% of non-displaced persons feel relatively or very safe.

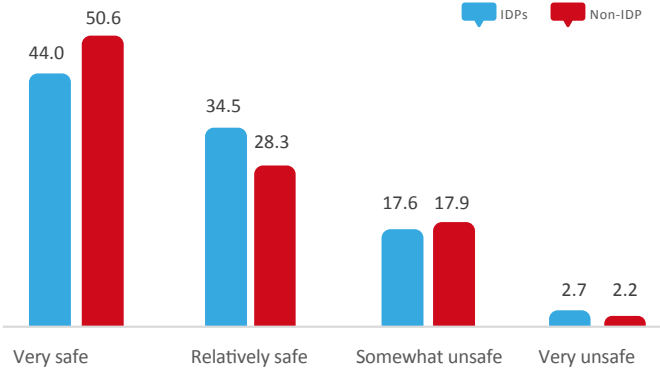
Only 2.7% of IDPs and 2.2% of non-displaced persons feel very unsafe. The main fears are physical assault and theft.

Few households have experienced security incidents in the last 12 months: 11% of displaced households and 10% of non-displaced households reported having been victims of security incidents. Among households that were victims, very few (24% of IDPs and 26% of non-dis-

placed persons) reported the incident to the relevant authorities (e.g. the police, traditional authorities).

Few households report having been victims of gender-based violence (GBV). 4% of households surveyed among IDP households and 2% of non-displaced households reported **fearing gender-based violence**, and only 1% (in both groups) reported experiencing incidents of gender-based violence in the past 12 months. However, feedback received during the preliminary results validation workshop highlighted that this figure probably does not reflect the actual incidence rate, likely because the question was asked at the household level and, given the sensitivity of the subject, respondents are not always comfortable providing reliable answers. Future operations should take this into account and ask the question to a randomly selected individual in the household, following the methodology adapted to the collection of data on GBV.

Graph 6: Distribution of households according to sense of security



Source: 2024 profiling survey

LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT

Agricultural activities are the main source of livelihood for households. 31% of IDP households and 49% of non-displaced households stated that agriculture is their main source of livelihood. Next, casual work (daily or seasonal) is the main source of livelihood for 20% of IDP households and 11% of non-displaced households. The percentage of households whose main source of

livelihood is remittances is around 2% in both groups.

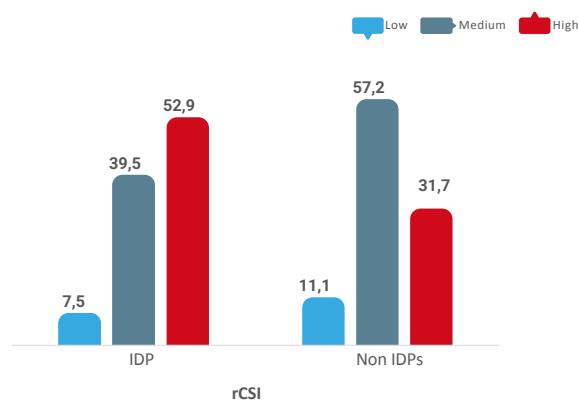
IDP households face higher levels of food insecurity¹²: 53% of IDP households use high-risk coping strategies, compared to 32% of non-displaced households, highlighting a greater reliance on less sustainable strategies to manage food shortages. However, the level of food insecurity is high for both groups.

Graph 7: Distribution of households according to main source of livelihood



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Graph 8: Distribution of households by level of coping strategy



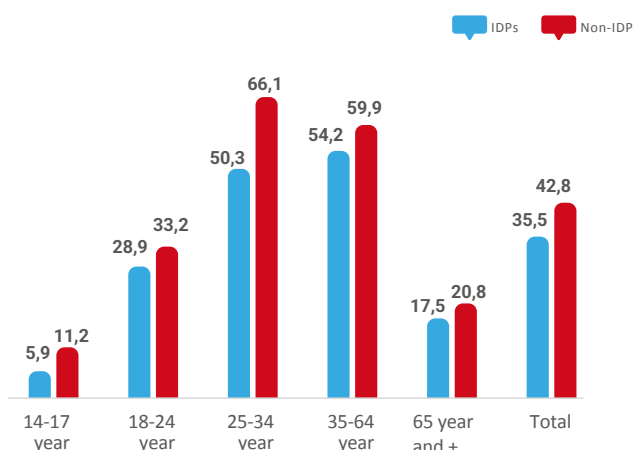
Source: 2024 profiling survey

Employment is lower for IDPs, but in general, employment trends are similar in both groups, with fewer women and fewer young people in work. Slightly fewer displaced persons reported having worked in the week prior to the survey (36%) compared to non-displaced persons (43%). Employment among women remains lower in both populations: 49% for men versus 25% for

women among IDPs and 53% versus 34% for non-displaced persons. The most active age group is 25-34 years old for non-displaced persons and 35-64 years old for IDPs. With regard to child labour (aged 12 to 17), 8% of children aged 12-17 among non-displaced persons and 4% among IDPs worked during the reference period.

¹² To assess food insecurity, we examined the frequency and severity of coping strategies adopted by households when they lack food or the means to purchase it, rated on a scale of high, medium and low. A higher score on this scale reflects greater use of negative coping mechanisms such as reducing or skipping meals, resorting to less preferred or cheaper meals, borrowing food, etc.

Graph 9: Percentage of persons aged 14 and over who worked during the week preceding the survey, by age group



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Graph 10: Percentage of persons aged 14 and over who worked during the week preceding the survey, by sex

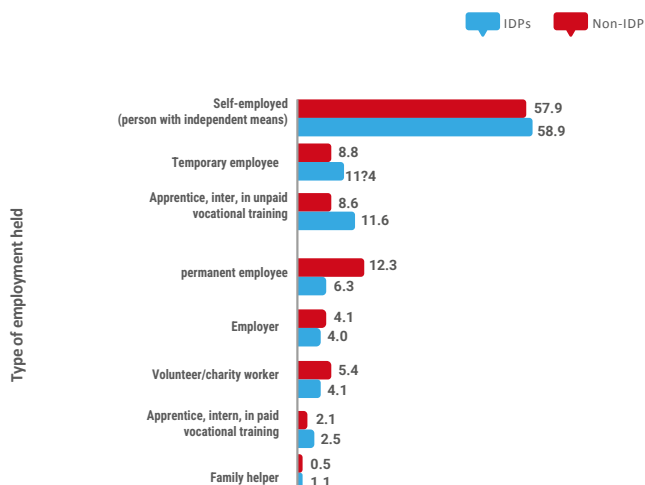


Source: 2024 profiling survey

Self-employment is dominant in both population groups. Self-employment is the most common type of employment in both groups, accounting for nearly 58% of jobs for both IDPs and non-displaced persons. The proportion of permanent employees is higher among the non-displaced population (12%) than among IDPs

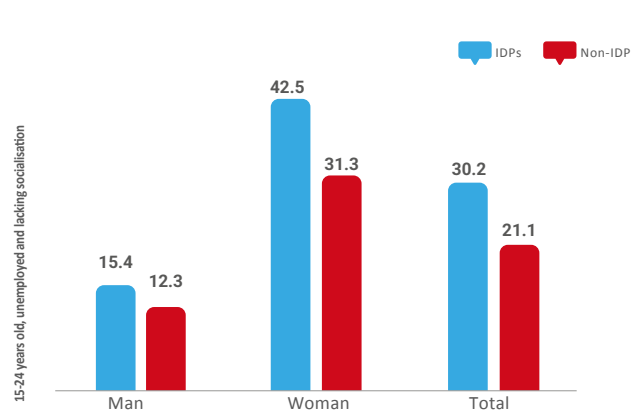
(6%). Underemployment (related to working hours) is higher among women, particularly displaced women (40% of working women report working less than 40 hours per week).

Graph 11: Distribution of employed persons by type of employment



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Graph 12: Proportion of persons aged 15-24 who are neither working nor attending school

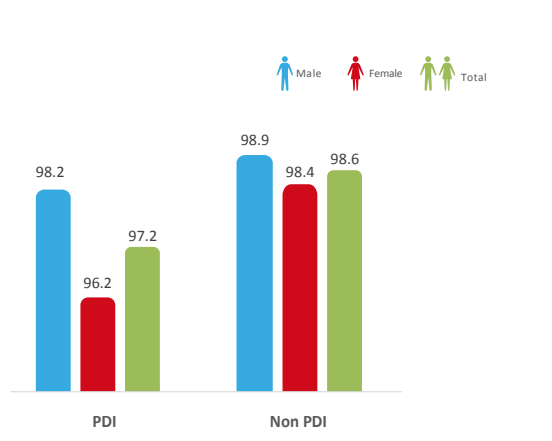


Source: 2024 profiling survey

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND DOCUMENTATION

School attendance is fairly high. School attendance for the 6-18 age group, measured by the proportion of target individuals enrolled in school and attending classes at least 4 days per week, is relatively high (97.2% for IDPs and 98.6% for non-displaced individuals), both for displaced and non-displaced children. There are no significant differences between boys and girls: 98.9% vs. 98.4% for non-displaced persons and 98.2% vs. 96.2% for IDPs. The literacy rate stands at 82%.

Graph 13: School attendance rates for 6-18 year olds

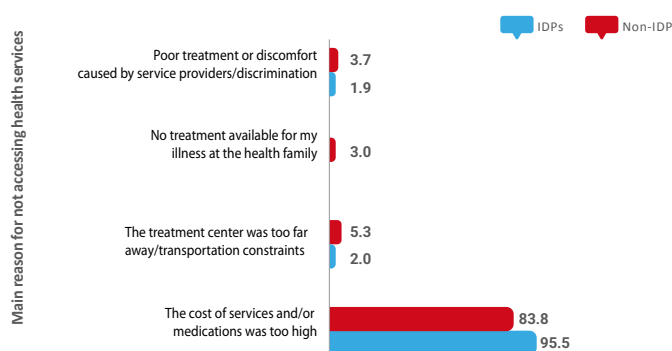


Source: 2024 profiling survey

Both groups face difficulties in accessing health services. Among households that attempted to access health services in the last six months, 65% of displaced persons and 63% of non-displaced persons encountered difficulties in accessing these services. Cost-related difficulties are common to both groups when it comes to accessing healthcare, while 19% of displaced persons also reported encountering difficulties related to their status as displaced persons.

The vast majority of births are attended by skilled personnel. 96% of births among IDPs and 98% of births among non-displaced households are attended by skilled health personnel, including midwives, nurses and doctors.

Graph 14: Main reason for lack of access to health services



Source: 2024 profiling survey

Access to improved sanitation facilities remains low for both groups. IDP households make greater use of semi-improved sanitation facilities ¹³(81%) than improved facilities ¹⁴(19%). The same trend is observed in non-displaced households, with semi-improved sanitation (82%) and improved sanitation (18%).

Access to safely managed drinking water remains a real challenge. Only 3% of non-displaced households and 2% of displaced households have access to a safely managed water source. Almost all households are connected to the electricity grid, despite numerous interruptions in supply.

Access to documentation remains a challenge for IDPs. While only 1.5% of non-displaced persons have no identity documents, this is the case for 7% of IDPs, who mainly cite a lack of knowledge about the procedure for obtaining these documents as the reason. 17% of displaced persons do not have birth certificates. This ratio is 11% in the non-displaced population. Considering children under the age of 5, the proportion of children among IDPs with a birth certificate is only 67%, highlighting the need to register children earlier in the civil registry. National identity cards are held by 73% of IDPs and 76% of non-displaced persons (persons aged 16 and over).

¹³ Semi-improved facilities include shared flush toilets, shared modern latrines, traditional latrines and hot water toilets.

¹⁴ Improved facilities include indoor flush toilets, private outdoor flush toilets, and private modern latrines

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

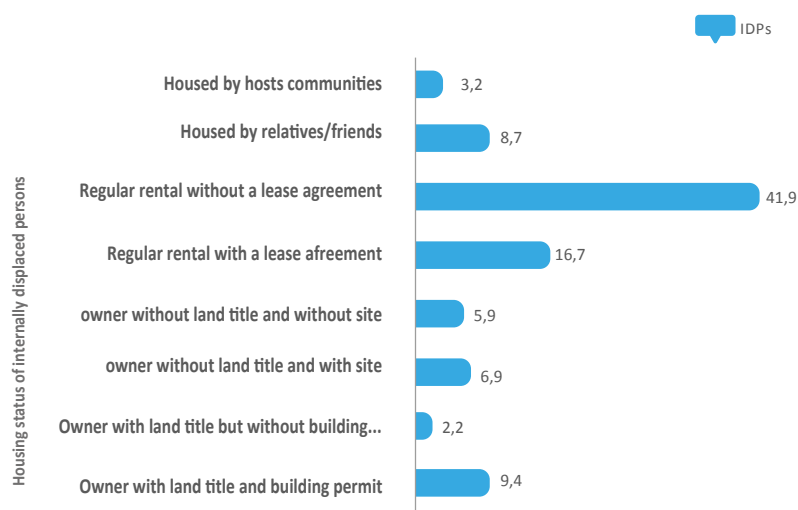
59% of IDP households are renting, while 24% of IDP households live in housing owned by the household.

Another 9% are housed by relatives/friends and 3% are housed by host communities. Among those living in rented accommodation, 42% are in ordinary rentals without a lease agreement and 17% have a lease agreement. Security of tenure is important, and profiling shows that 28% of all IDP households have a form of tenure that can be considered secure, meaning that it is documented in writing (e.g., a written rental agreement or land title). For the rest, the form of tenure is not secure.

With regard to evictions themselves, 10% of IDP households have experienced them. The main reason for these evictions is the inability to pay rent (74%). Access to affordable housing for displaced persons is a key factor in their local integration into the city.

In terms of living space, measured by the number of people per room intended for sleeping, 68% of IDP households live in adequate living spaces, while 32% live in overcrowded spaces (more than 3 people per room).

Graph 15: Housing status of internally displaced persons



Source: 2024 profiling survey

A significant proportion of IDP households had to abandon a house or land when they were displaced.

More specifically, 73% left behind a house and 64% left behind land (some left behind both). It is important to understand the extent to which it is possible to access and recover these assets. Only 42 per cent of those who left a house behind have a document proving that they own it, and only 29 per cent of them still have access to

it today. Only 32% of those who left land behind have documents proving ownership, and only 27% of them can still access their land. This indicates that support is needed to enable 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.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Civic participation is low among the IDP population. In the 2020 elections, fewer displaced persons voted than non-displaced persons. Among IDPs, 30% of men voted, compared to 24% of women. Among the non-displaced population, 50% of men voted, compared to 49% of women. With regard to participation in local committees, we note that only 29% of displaced persons say they have participated in local committees (development committees, security or vigilance committees, etc.), compared to 46% of non-displaced persons.

Good relations between the two groups. 88% of displaced persons surveyed say they are welcomed and accepted by non-displaced persons in their community. Similarly, 90% of non-displaced persons say they

welcome displaced persons who settle in their locality. A large proportion of households in both groups report low levels of violence within the community (42% of IDPs and 35% of non-displaced persons). 28% of IDPs and 29% of non-displaced persons even believe that there is no violence in their community. Only 4% of IDPs and 8% of non-displaced persons believe that the level of violence is high/very high.

Discrimination and exploitation in both groups are reported to a very low extent. 10% of IDPs and 1% of non-displaced persons report having been victims of discrimination (often in the form of insults or, to a lesser extent, denial of access to services). 2% of displaced persons and 0% of non-displaced persons report being denied access to financial, material or economic resources. 3% of members of both groups report having been victims of economic exploitation, mainly by being forced to work without compensation.



V.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN THE MBOUDA 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 on the basis 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 where it can be assumed that they still face vulnerabilities related to displacement. In this way, the analysis identifies the main obstacles to finding solutions while highlighting shared challenges in the council that are linked to broader development issues.

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

- **Food insecurity:** 53% of IDP households have a «high score» on the reduced coping strategy index¹⁵, meaning that they use less sustainable coping mechanisms more frequently to deal with food shortages. Among the non-displaced population, 32% fall into this category. According to the WFP (November 2024¹⁶), 27% of households in the West region have a «high score» on the ICSR. Thus, while the non-displaced population of Mbouda is slightly better off than the West average, displaced households face significant food insecurity issues. According to the profiling, agriculture is the main source of livelihood for 31% of IDP households and 49% of non-displaced households. At the same time, investments in urban and peri-urban agriculture may be necessary, alongside other efforts to strengthen food systems, in order to combat food insecurity.

¹⁵ The reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) was used to calculate the frequency and severity of coping strategies due to food shortages.

¹⁶ [WFP \(2024\) Bulletin November](#)



● **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: 15% of internally displaced men and 12% of non-displaced men, as well as 42% of internally displaced women and 31% 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.

● **Housing and land in the place of origin:** 73% of displaced households left behind a house and/or land in their place of origin. The majority come from the North-West Region, specifically the departments of Mezam, Ngo-Ketunjia, Donga-Mantung and Mentchum. Only some households are able to prove that they own the abandoned property or have access to it. 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 stay or not.

● **Current housing situation:** With regard to current living conditions in Mbouda, the majority of displaced persons rent accommodation and access to land and land security are low¹⁷. 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:** 33% 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 commune of Mbouda, and with the support of BUNEC, households with young children who do not yet have a certificate 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 Mbouda are expected to remain in the council for the foreseeable future. Support for removing the above-mentioned obstacles 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 Mbouda council of Mbouda.

¹⁷ 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.

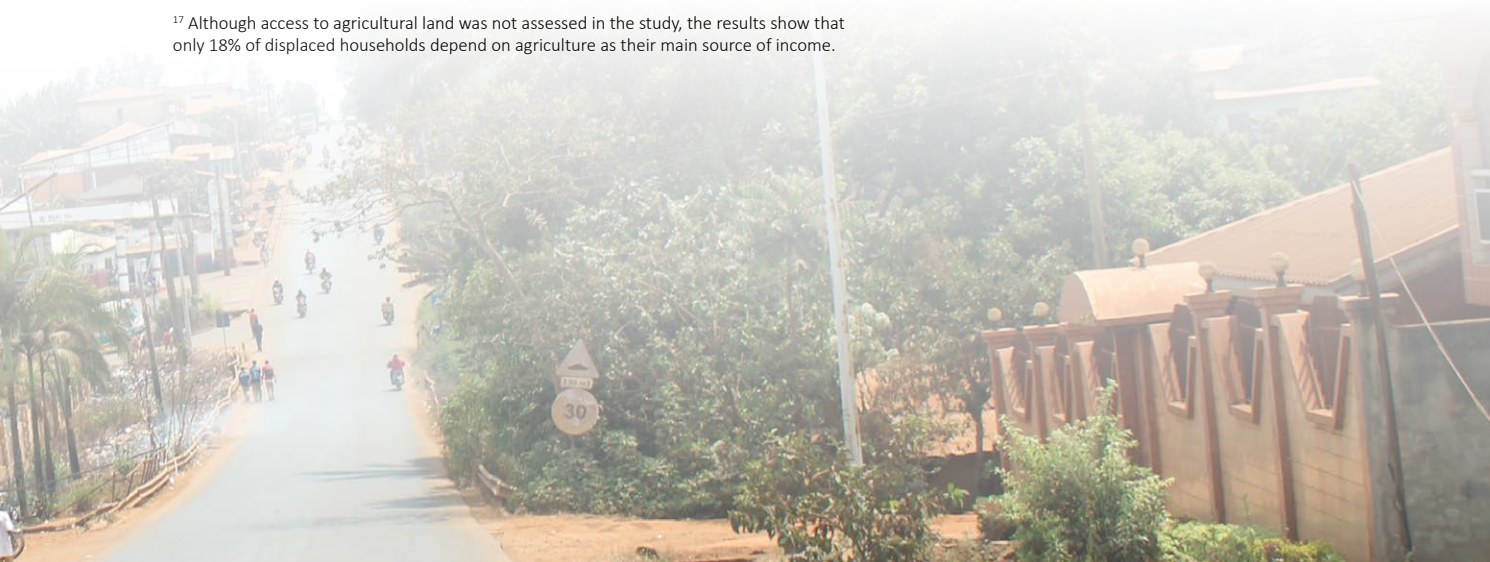


TABLE OF FACTS - SELECTED 'PROGRESS' INDICATORS PER DURABLE SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

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**

79%

79%

Households having experienced a security incident the past 12 months

11%

10%

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

4%

2%

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

5%

1%



Adequate standard of living / access to basic services

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

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

65%

63%

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

98%

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.**

2%

3%

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

19%

18%

Households accessing electricity **SDG 7.1.1**

99%

100%

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

98%

99%

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

98%

100%

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

84%

88%

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

78%

78%

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**

35%

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

68%



Access to employment and livelihoods

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

52%

30%

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

49%

56%

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

26%

36%

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

15%

13%

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

41%

32%

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS INDICATING PROGRESS TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS



IDPs



NON DISPLACED



Access to documentation

Persons with a birth certificate

83 %

93 %

Persons 18 years and above with a National Identity Card

82 %

84%

Persons with no personal documentation at all

10 %

2%

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

66 %

96%



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land and property

Displaced households that left a house behind in place of origin

37 %

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

32 %

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

42 %

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

28 %

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

29 %



Civic participation in local

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

15%

55%

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

25 %

48%



Family reunification

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

31%



Social cohesion & discrimination

IDP households who feel welcomed and accepted by the local community

88%

Non-displaced households who welcome IDPs

87%

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

8%

1%

PRESENTATION OF PARTNERS

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

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

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

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



TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

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



FINANCIAL PARTNERS

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BMZ

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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

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



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