



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



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES



Commune créée en 1993

Par Décret Présidentiel Numéro 93/321

Du 25 Novembre 1993

FOREWORD

It is with great satisfaction that I present this report on the socio-economic profiling of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host populations in the Kouoptamo council. Conducted as part of the PESoP project, this study marks an important step towards understanding local dynamics and establishing inclusive development strategies.

For several years, and particularly with the security crisis in the English-speaking regions, Kouoptamo, like other councils in the West, has welcomed many displaced persons fleeing conflict and other disasters. Today, our council is home to more than 8,000 IDPs, in addition to 60,000 long-term residents. Despite our constant solidarity, responding effectively to their needs and ensuring their integration remains a challenge.

This report, based on rigorous data collection, finally provides us with reliable and detailed information. It will enable us to adapt our actions to better support vulnerable populations, strengthen economic opportunities, improve access to essential services and guide the interventions of national and international partners.

Key findings include:

- 42% of IDP households and 27% of host households use unsustainable coping strategies to deal with food insecurity.
- 51% of children under the age of 5 among IDPs do not have a birth certificate, which limits their access to basic services.

These data highlight the urgent need for action to ensure that every inhabitant, whether displaced or not, can flourish and contribute to the development of Kouoptamo.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who contributed to the production of this report:

- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the main donor;
- The Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL), which oversees the project;
- GIZ, UNHCR, the PESoP project's strategic steering committee, the local committee for monitoring and validating activities in Kouoptamo, BUCREP, INS, JIPS, and above all the local communities, whose active participation was essential

This report is not a simple compilation of data. It reflects our collective commitment to building a more resilient, equitable and harmonious council. I invite everyone to embrace its recommendations and transform them into concrete actions for the benefit of all.



Mr NJOYA OUSMANOU
Mayor of Kouoptamo Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The profiling exercise was conducted under the GIZ project Promoting Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Population Communities (PESoP) in West 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 Kouoptamo, Bafoussam 1^{er}, Mbouda, Foumban, and Dschang. 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 (JIPS²), the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the Central Bureau of the Census and Population Studies (BUCREP).

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

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1 Extended Strategic steering committee (COPI) and Activities Monitoring and Validation Local Committees (CLVA).

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 as the most overlooked displacement crisis, pointing to 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. This conflict, along with attacks on border communities, has triggered significant internal displacement across the country—including into the West region. According to OCHA and IOM, nearly 650,000 people have been displaced by the North-West crisis and its spillover into the West and Littoral regions. While some 494,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have reportedly returned as of September 2024, the humanitarian situation in displacement-affected areas remains critical.

A 2022 multi-sectoral needs analysis found the situation in the West region to be particularly severe (level 4 out of 5), citing urgent needs in shelter, food, water and sanitation, and protection—especially regarding under-age child labor. However, population estimates and socio-economic data on IDPs remains fragmented, often unverifiable, and limited in coverage. In this context, a profiling exercise in Kouoptamo (Noun) and four other Councils in the West Region, including Bafoussam I (Mifi), Dschang (Menoua), Foumban (Noun), and Mbouda (Bamboutos), was implemented as a component of the multiyear project Promoting the Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities (PESoP). These five councils together host an estimated 34% of the West's 114,111 IDPs (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 Kouoptamo had two main objectives:

- » Identify which specific vulnerabilities IDPs face and what obstacles they encounter to locally integrate in Kouoptamo.
- » Identify which challenges are faced by both IDPs and non-displaced residents in Kouoptamo, that are thus not specific to the displacement status and instead point to 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 represen-

tatives. 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 NIS and BUCREP to review analytical tools and standards (March 2025);
- » Council-level workshops to review and confirm preliminary findings (May 2025).



II.

MÉTHODOLOGY



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

Geographic scope: The geographic scope of the profiling exercise was determined through a series of workshops conducted in each of the five target council. Each workshop included a mapping exercise using maps produced by BUCREP to identify neighborhoods (quarters/villages or ADMIN4) with high, medium, and low

concentration of IDPs. This analysis was further refined drawing on knowledge of local community members (incl. imams, pastors, representatives of IDPs from PESoP local committees) and municipal stakeholders.

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

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


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

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

Sampling and identification of IDPs: The sampling plan was carefully developed based on BUCREP’s cartographic database and the level of IDP presence estimated during council workshops. It was based on a stratified two-stage random sampling method. In Kouoptamo, 28 enumeration zones with medium or high IDP presence were randomly selected. A full listing of all households took place in each sampled enumeration zone, during which households were categorized as displaced and non-displaced following a criteria-based identification

module as per the recommendations by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)⁸ and jointly finalized with BUCREP and INS. The sample was then randomly selected from the listed households in each enumeration zone. A total of 537 households were interviewed in Kouoptamo, distributed between IDPs and non-displaced. The samples were weighted prior to analysis. The results of the survey are representative of the entire council of Kouoptamo.

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

COUNCIL	HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED	IDPs	NON-DISPLACED	TOTAL	
KOUOPTAMO 	Unweighted	Households	236	301	537
		Individuals	837	1528	2365
	Weighted	Households	1451	12360	13811
		Individuals	5275	50496	55771

Source: 2024 profiling survey

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

III.

DISPLACEMENT TO KOUOPTAMO COUNCIL



PRESENTATION OF KOUOPTAMO COUNCIL

Kouoptamo is a council located in the West Region of Cameroon, within the Noun Division, and has a surface area of 399 km. Its rugged terrain, featuring plains, hills, and mountains like Mount Kogham (2263m), contributes to its largely rural character. The council encompasses 13 villages. The last known census in 2005 recorded a population of 63,777 inhabitants. Since its creation in 1993, Kouoptamo has experienced population growth, with BUCREP estimated population of 72,532 persons in 2023⁹. The population is a diverse mix, predominantly Bamoun (around 70%), alongside Bamiléké, grassfields and coastal peoples, and Peulh populations, with a balanced distribution of Muslims and Catholics.

With its Sudano-Guinean climate and highly fertile volcanic soils, the local economy is primarily driven by agriculture and livestock, with a developing small-scale trade sector.

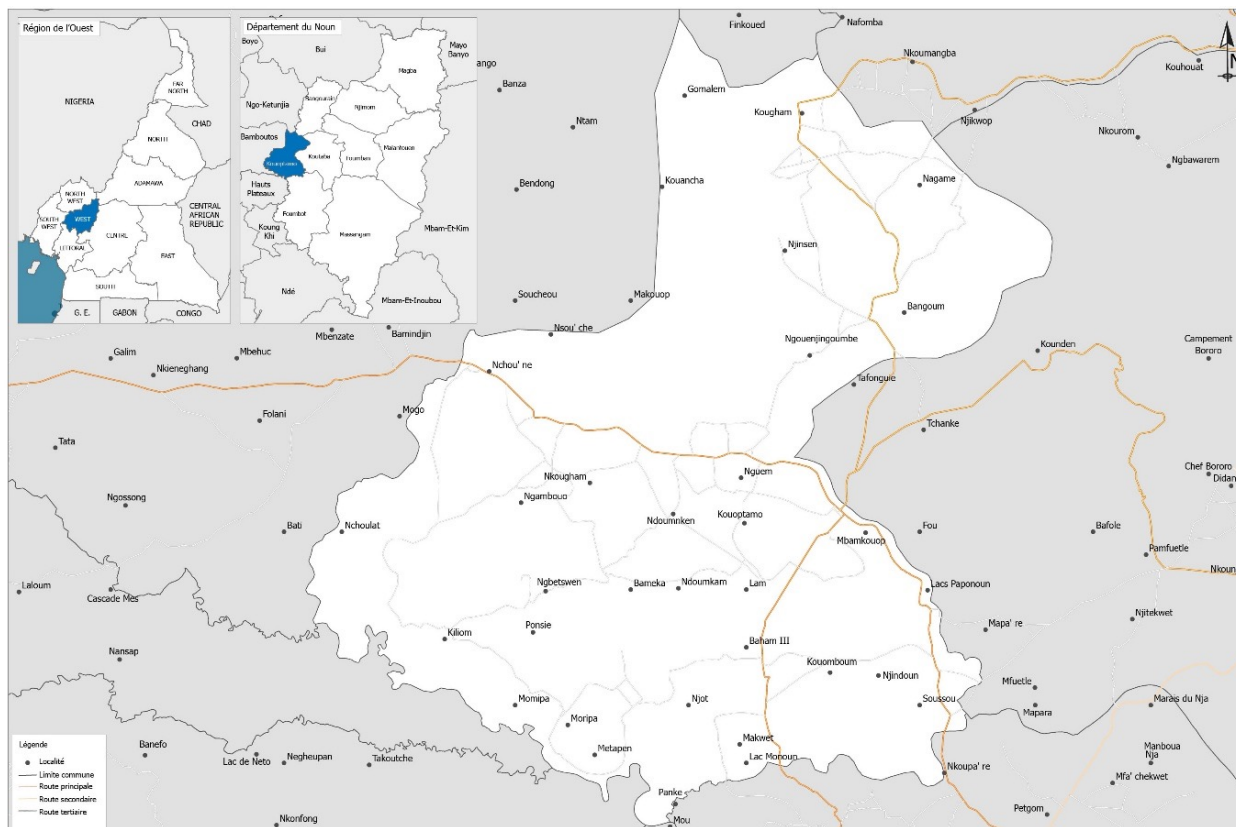
The population growth has been further impacted by the influx of IDPs since 2016, seeking refuge in the Council. Specifically, it is estimated, based on this profiling exercise, that roughly 10% of the population of the council are IDPs. This is a significant population group that has been integrated into the Municipal structures and services, exacerbating significant challenges in accommodating its residents' needs. These challenges, flagged already in 2022 in a diagnostic report by MINEPAT, include limited access to readily accessible roads in all seasons (many are only passable in the dry season), traditional farming methods, land access and ownership, informal economic sectors, insufficient infrastructure, clean water scarcity, and inconsistent energy supply¹⁰.

The profiling findings add to these flagged challenges, by offering a cross-sectoral representative evidence-base that helps quantify the challenges and disaggregate them by displacement status and different demographic characteristics (including sex and age). The results provide a robust evidence-base for the Council and other relevant stakeholders to inform priorities for advancing both the local integration of IDPs in the Council as well as addressing some of the broader development challenges of the city.

⁹ BUCREP (2024) Estimated population of Cameroon in 2023.

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

Map 1: Kouoptamo council in the West Region of Cameroon; IM Unit, UNHCR, 2024



HISTORY OF DISPLACEMENT AND INTENTIONS OF IDPs

Most IDPs in Kouoptamo originate from the same division and were displaced between 2016 and 2020:

The majority of IDPs (73%) residing in Kouoptamo were displaced between 2016 and 2020. Two third of them have been living in Kouoptamo for five years or less, while the remaining one third have been in Kouoptamo between six and eight years. Most IDPs were displaced from the division of Ngoketunjia (47%) in the North-West Region, and more specifically from the sub-divisions of Ndop and Balikumbat. Another 13% were displaced from the division of Mezam and 12% from Donga-Mantung all in the North-West Region, which has been at the epicenter of the conflict since late 2016, a period that has seen a dramatic escalation in violence and a corresponding humanitarian crisis.

The security situation across the North-West region remains volatile and unpredictable, characterized by continuous clashes between State security forces (SSFs) and non-state armed groups (NSAGs). Civilians bear the brunt of this violence, facing targeted killings, abductions for ransom, arbitrary arrests, and extortion¹¹. The frequent use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by NSAGs, poses a significant threat to both civilians and humanitarian workers¹². The conflict's impact extends beyond direct violence. NSAGs regularly impose «ghost town» lockdowns and movement restrictions particularly in the run-up to national events and elections. These restrictions severely disrupt daily life, impede socio-economic activities, and hinder humanitarian access, making it difficult for aid organizations to reach people in need. The widespread destruction of houses and farms also leads to severe food insecurity and the erosion of livelihoods¹³. These combined threats of physical violence, restricted movement, and the destruction of homes and livelihoods serve as the primary drivers

¹¹ OCHA Cameroon: North-West and South-West- Situation Report No. 63 (March 2024)

¹² Global Protection Cluster: Protection Incident Trend Analysis: February 2024

¹³ OCHA: Cameroon: North-West and South-West Situation Report No.78- June 2025

compelling the displacement of populations from the region. These conditions have rendered return to their places of origin dangerous and unpredictable, even for short-term visits.

A small percentage of the IDP households (12%) have been back to their place of origin after they were displaced, mainly to check on the properties left behind (49%), visit family (23%) and to attend events like marriages, and funerals (20%). The low percentage of returns, even for brief visits, underscores the ongoing insecurity in their home communities. The fact that the most common reason for returning is to «check on properties» suggests a deep concern for what they left behind, while the limited visits for social events

(weddings, funerals) point to the severe disruptions of social cohesion caused by the crisis. This indicates that while they may desire to reconnect with their roots, the security situation remains a significant deterrent to a full-scale return.

The majority of IDP households will remain in Kouoptamo for the foreseeable future: 83% of them prefer to remain in Kouoptamo, mainly because they feel secure, crime is low, and they feel welcomed in the community. While a few (17%) prefer to leave Kouoptamo, only 24% of them have concrete plans to do so. The reasons for wanting to leave Kouoptamo are often linked to the lack of employment opportunities, cost of living, and lack of aid.



IV.

MAIN RESULTS



OVERVIEW

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

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

The profiling results also point out that youth unemployment and inactivity are a major concern for both population groups.

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

- » A clear majority of IDPs and non-displaced feel very safe in the neighborhoods they live in.
- » Despite the displacement, the schooling rate remains strong, with IDP children attending school at a rate consistent with their non-displaced peers.
- » The relations and perceptions between IDPs and non-displaced neighbors are reported as positive by both groups.
- » Building on what has been achieved already in the Council and further closing the remaining gaps between displaced and non-displaced goes hand in hand with improved social cohesion in the community and improved inter-group relations and acceptance. The next section outlines in more detail by topic the key challenges that both population groups are faced with, but also the significant achievements made by IDPs, the hosting population and KOUOPTAMO COUNCIL in integrating the displaced population.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

More non-displaced households are composed by only one person: 9% of IDP households are composed by only one person (more than half of them are men while the remaining 36% are women). In contrast, there is a greater proportion of non-displaced households (17%) composed by one member. On average, IDP households are significantly larger, with 6.7 members, compared to non-displaced households, which average 5.6 members.

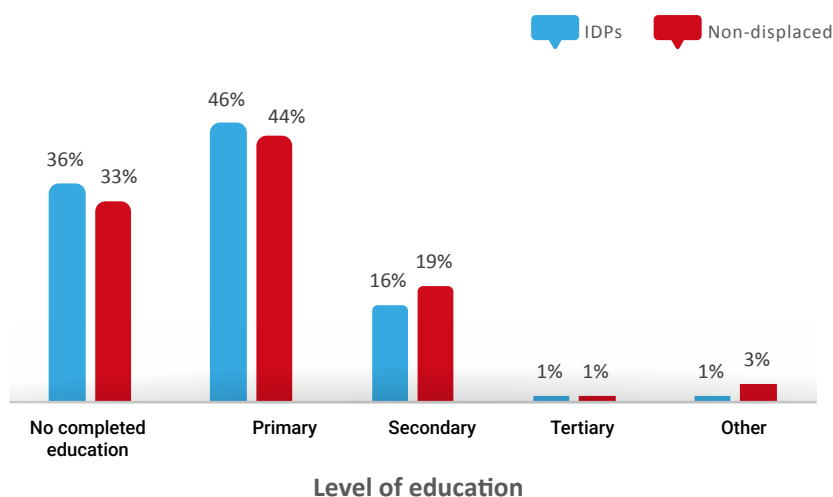
Almost half of IDP households have separated members since they fled: Most families that got separated during displacement have not been able to reunite. Specifically, 34% of IDP households who were separated are still separated from at least one family member. Nearly two thirds of these have tried to re-unite but have not managed, mainly due to financial difficulties.

Lower marriage rates among IDPs aged 25–35: Marriage rates are low for young people aged 25-34, with a higher percentage of IDPs remaining unmarried (23%) compared to non-displaced individuals (15%). This difference is more pronounced among women, as 23% of female IDPs are unmarried compared to just 8% of non-displaced women.

Bilingualism is an asset for many IDPs: Most IDPs primarily speak English, while non-displaced individuals mainly speak French. Though bilingualism rates are well below the national average in both groups, bilingualism is more common among IDPs (7%) than among the non-displaced (3%), providing an important resource in terms of human capital than could be leveraged by IDPs to improve communication and foster greater social cohesion.

Literacy and education levels are sub-optimal in both groups: Averagely 68% of persons above 15 years of age, amongst both IDPs and non-displaced, can read and write (77% for men and 59% for women). Close to one-third of both IDPs (36%) and non-displaced individuals (33%) have not completed any formal education while close to half of individuals, above the age of 18, in both groups, have completed primary education (46% of IDPs and 44% of non-displaced persons). Fewer IDPs (16%) have reached secondary education compared to non-displaced (19%). In sum, while there is a foundational level of literacy and primary education for IDPs and non-displaced individuals, the high proportion of no formal education and limited progression to higher educational levels suggest a human capital base that requires further development and investment.

Graph 1: Highest level of education reached by persons 18+ years disaggregated by displacement status



SAFETY, SECURITY & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

High degree of safety in both groups: The great majority of both groups (around 87%) feel very or fairly safe when walking around in their neighborhoods during the day. Very few households (8% of IDP and 3% of non-displaced households) have experienced security incidents in the past 12 months.

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

not report the incident to the relevant authorities (e.g. police, traditional authority). Specifically, only 11% of IDP households and 9% of non-displaced households that experienced a security incident approached competent authorities to report this.

More IDPs reported having been victim of GBV or other violence. However, this is likely an underreporting. 9% of IDP and 2% of non-displaced respondents reported to have experienced gender-based violence or other forms of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. However, the feedback received during the validation workshop on the preliminary results, held in Kouoptamo in June 2025, points to the fact that this number is likely not capturing the actual incident rate¹⁴.



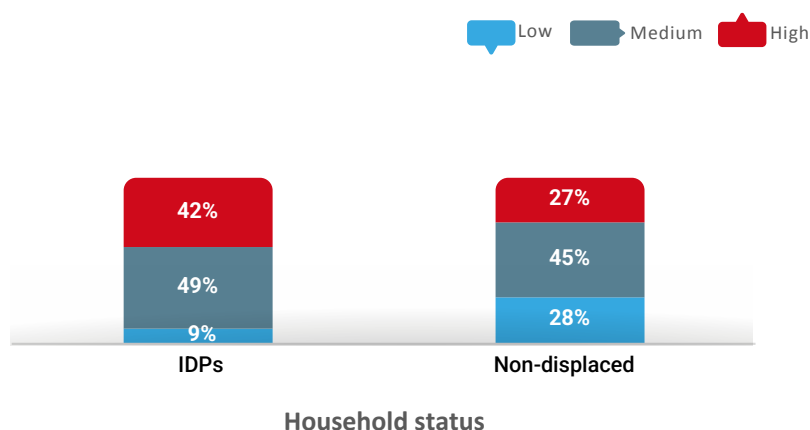
¹⁴ It is expected that due to the sensitive nature of this indicator and the format of household survey interviews, many respondents may not have been comfortable to respond to this freely.

LIVELIHOODS & EMPLOYMENT

Food insecurity¹⁵ is a serious challenge for a significant portion of the IDP households: IDPs face higher levels of food insecurity with 42% of IDP households using

high-risk (negative) coping strategies, compared to 27% of non-displaced households. While both populations are facing food insecurity to an important extent, this clearly highlights a heavier dependence of IDPs on less sustainable strategies to manage food shortages.

Graph 2: Reduced coping strategies by household status



Livelihood sources are somewhat similar in both groups with a tendency for less reliable sources amongst IDPs: The primary livelihoods source in both groups is agriculture (62% for IDPs and 75% for non-displaced). However, among the remaining households, IDPs (15%) tend to rely more on casual labour which are typically less stable and less formal than non-displaced (1%). This disparity stems from IDPs' lack of land access and ownership¹⁶, a key challenge highlighted during the joint analysis workshop in Kouoptamo. While small businesses, livestock, and transport also contribute income, IDPs disproportionately depend on less reliable income sources due to land constraints, emphasizing their precarious economic situation.

Similar trends on employment in both groups, with less women and youth at work: Youth (aged 15–34 years) were significantly less likely to be employed than those over 35 years of age, across both groups. Specifically, 51% of IDP youth compared to 64% of IDPs above

35 years of age are working; and amongst non-displaced, 52% of youth compared to 70% of adults above 35 years work. Female employment remains somewhat lower in both populations (amongst IDPs, 58% of women worked compared to 63% men, and amongst non-displaced 62% of the women compared to 67% of the men). Overall, less IDPs reported having worked the week prior to the survey compared to non-displaced (60% vs. 64%).

Most workers in both groups are self-employed: A significant majority of individuals in both groups who worked in the seven days before the survey are self-employed, with nearly three-quarters (70%) of IDPs and 77% of non-displaced individuals falling into this category. The next most common employment type is family caregiver, a role both groups are almost equally likely to hold, with 12% of IDPs and 9% of their non-displaced counterparts in this position.

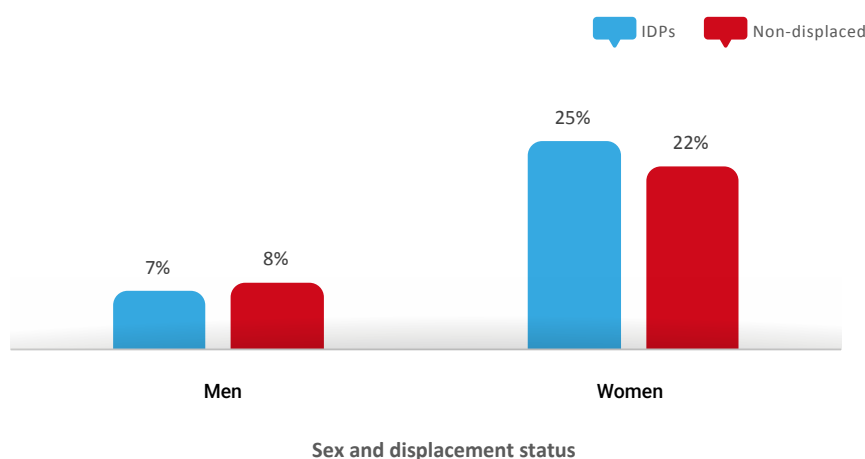
¹⁵ The survey adopted the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) module which examines how frequently and severely households adopt coping strategies when they lack food or the means to purchase it. A higher score on this scale reflects greater reliance on negative coping mechanisms—such as reducing or skipping meals, borrowing food etc.—indicating more severe food insecurity

¹⁶ Access to land and property was not directly assessed in the survey; however, during the joint analysis workshop, community representatives emphasized that it is difficult for non-displaced individuals to sell land because it is typically inherited family property. This highlights the unique challenges faced by many IDPs, who must resort to renting in the absence of such inherited assets.

A significant proportion of youth in both groups is not working and not in education¹⁷: Amongst youth aged 15 to 24, close to one-fifth (16%) of IDPs are not engaged in employment, education, or training (NEET). Notably, a significantly higher proportion of IDP women (25%) are in this situation compared to IDP men (7%). Similarly, the NEET rate for non-displaced youth in the

same age group is almost same 15%, with more non-displaced women (22%) being NEET than men (8%). In sum, these results point to a significant risk that the economic and social well-being of close to one fifth of youth may be impacted if attention is not provided to their integration into the labour market. This is particularly important because they represent the foundation of tomorrow's workforce and society.

Graph 3: Youth (15-24 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) by displacement status and sex



Most unemployed IDPs possess no vocational skills but have completed primary education¹⁸: While a significant proportion of unemployed IDPs (32%) report having no vocational skills, their educational background presents a strong foundation for future development. The majority of these unemployed IDPs (52%) have completed primary education, and nearly one-third (30%) have completed secondary education. Only a small

minority (15%) lack any formal education. Furthermore, a notable segment of this unemployed IDP population is young, with 32% falling between the ages of 14 and 25. This demographic profile, combined with their existing educational attainment, provides a solid basis for targeted further education, vocational training programs, and successful integration into the job market.

¹⁷ The percentage of young people (15-24 years of age) who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training; is the so-called NEET rate (also an SDG, 8.6.1); and is commonly used to measure the prevalence of young people who are disengaged from the typical pathways of education and work.

¹⁸ The results provided in this paragraph are deriving from the enrollment of IDPs conducted in Kouoptamo during the end of 2024. It should be noted that the enrollment is ongoing, and the data from December 2024 does not capture the full IDP population in the Council.

ACCESS TO SERVICES & DOCUMENTATION

School attendance is high: 87% of children of school age between 6 and 18 years were reported to be enrolled in formal education (86% for IDPs and 87% for non-displaced), while attendance rates for those enrolled (which requires at least 4 days a week in school) were notably high at 98% for IDP and 97% for non-displaced children. However, for the remaining 13% of school-aged children not in school, their exclusion is primarily due to unfulfilled registration or enrollment requirements, such as the payment of school or registration fees. This financial barrier, highlighted during our joint analysis workshop in Kouoptamo, points to a key area where targeted support could significantly improve school enrollment for the most vulnerable.

Accessing health services poses challenges amongst both groups: Amongst households that needed healthcare in the six months prior to the survey, a majority reported difficulties: 58% of IDPs and 65% of non-displaced residents. While financial costs were the primary obstacle for both groups, a notable 47% of IDPs also cited challenges linked to discrimination. This sense of discrimination among IDPs was a key point of discussion during the joint analysis workshop in Kouoptamo, where participants highlighted a combination of contributing factors. The primary issue is the language barrier, leading to communication breakdowns rather than intentional discrimination. Compounding this, some IDPs may feel entitled to immediate service, using their displaced status as a «laissez-passer» to bypass queues. This behavior can create friction with non-displaced residents and healthcare staff, who expect everyone to follow standard procedures. While it's true that all hospitals serve people regardless of their status, the lack of interpreters and a general lack of patience from both sides can lead to misunderstandings, which IDPs may interpret as discriminatory. This friction highlights a broader need for improved social cohesion and targeted solutions to bridge communication gaps.

Almost all births in both groups were assisted by qualified health personnel: 97% of births among IDPs and 100% of births among non-displaced households have been assisted by qualified health personnel. This high rate of birth assistance from doctors, nurses, midwives, and other health professionals aligns with State laws, which mandate that pregnant women be cared for by qualified health personnel. The findings from the joint analysis workshop confirm that these laws are being followed in Kouoptamo.

Improved sanitation is a challenge for a large proportion in both groups: Improved sanitation facilities are designed to hygienically separate human waste from human contact, minimizing the risk of disease transmission¹⁹ and are expected to not be shared between more households. Only 2% of households in both groups access such improved²⁰ sanitation facilities. The vast majority of households (97% in both groups) uses semi-improved sanitation facilities. Sanitation thus remains an area where infrastructural improvements are needed at the council level.

Access to safely managed water is a challenge for both groups: Safely managed water is water from an improved source²¹ that is accessible on the premises. Only 1% of non-displaced households have access to safely managed water, while no IDP households (0%) have access to this. The majority of households in both groups have access to improved sources which are not on their premises (86% of IDPs and 83% of non-displaced). This is a problem for public health and should be addressed by authorities.

More than half of IDP children under five have no birth certificate and IDPs generally lag behind in documentation: While only 9% of non-displaced persons were found to lack any personal identification, this figure rises to 23% for IDPs. This disparity is largely attributed to a lack of knowledge regarding the documentation process. The majority of IDPs without documentation are children under 5, equally distributed between boys and girls. For example, while over half of both IDPs and non-displaced persons possess birth certificates (60% and 76%

¹⁹ Specifically, improved sanitation facilities include: flush/pour flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs (including ventilated pit latrines), and composting toilets

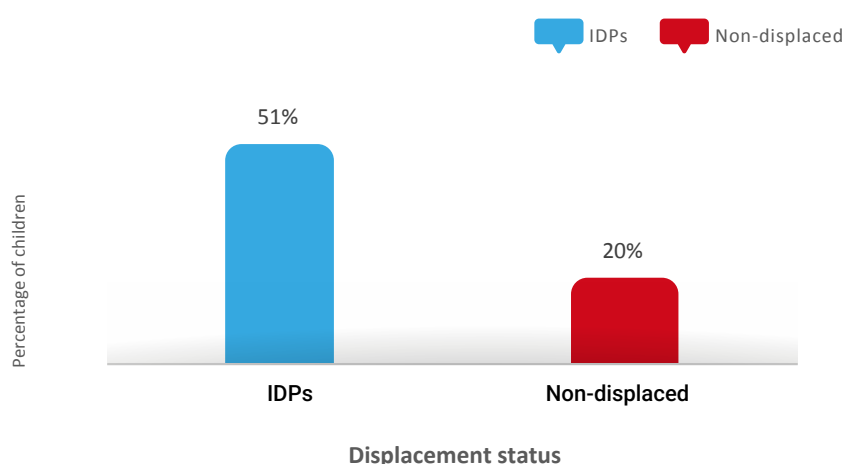
²⁰ Semi-improved sanitation facilities include shared flush toilet, shared modern latrine and traditional toilets

²¹ Improved drinking water sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction, and include: piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water.

respectively), this proportion drops significantly to 49% for IDP children five years and below compared to 80% for non-displaced children of same age group. This highlights the critical need for earlier inclusion of children in civil registries. During the joint analysis workshop in Kouoptamo, it was noted that while procedures exist within the council to establish birth certificates for children under five, many displaced parents are hesitant to have «Kouoptamo» listed as the place of birth on their children’s birth certificates, preferring to wait and

obtain these lifelong documents in their home regions upon eventual return. Therefore, extensive sensitization efforts are needed to address this mindset and overcome this hurdle. Lastly, National Identity Cards are held by 70% of IDPs and 81% of non-displaced persons (among those 18 years of age and above), pointing out a need to include adults as well in efforts to provide documentation, as this can be an obstacle to accessing other services.

Graph 4: Children 5 years and below who lack birth certificates by displacement status

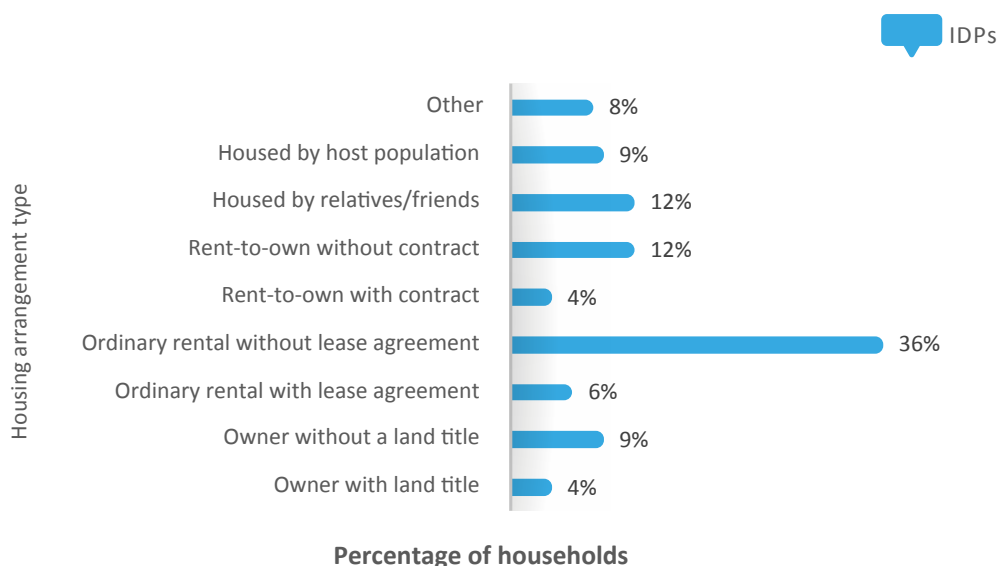


HOUSING, LAND & PROPERTY

Most IDPs are renting their dwelling and less than half of the households have tenure security: 58% of IDPs are renting their current dwelling, while the rest either own the house (13%) or live with relatives or other people. The security of the tenure modality is important, and the profiling shows that only 14% of all IDP households have a tenure arrangement that can be regarded as secure;

meaning that it is documented in writing (e.g. written rental lease agreement or land title). For the remaining 86%, tenure of accommodation is insecure. When it comes to actual evictions, 5% of households have experienced this. The topic of rent amount was raised during the joint analysis workshop in Kouoptamo as a point that can greatly impact IDP household economies; given the majority depending on rental arrangements. Access to affordable housing for IDPs is a key factor to their local integration in the city.

Graph 5: Housing Tenure Arrangements for IDP Households



64% of the displaced households left behind a house and/or farmland when they fled: A significant proportion of IDP households had to abandon a house or land when they were displaced; specifically, 67% left behind a house and 60% left behind agricultural land (some left behind both things). It is important to understand to which extent these properties can be accessed and re-claimed. Only 14% of those who left a house behind

have a document to prove they own it and just 9% can still access it today. Only 12% of households who left behind agricultural land have documents proving ownership, and just 6% can still access their land. This indicates that support will be required for IDPs to reclaim and access these properties, which is an important matter linked to solutions regardless of the intentions that households may have to return or not.



CIVIC PARTICIPATION & SOCIAL COHESION

Civic participation is lower amongst female IDPs: In the 2020 elections, a lower proportion of IDPs (47%) compared to non-displaced (70%) voted. For the IDPs that voted, 58% were men and 34% women. For the non-displaced individuals that voted, 70% were men and 69% women. This indicates women are less likely to vote within both groups especially IDP women and the primary reason for not voting was that they didn't register to vote. While the participation of IDP women is not insignificant, local integration may require some effort to promote their participation in local affairs and/or remove obstacles. Community participation in local committees in the 12 months preceding the survey was high, with 78% of all households reporting engagement. Both IDPs (73%) and non-displaced households (78%) were actively involved in community decision-making. However, a notable gender gap exists, as male-headed households participated at a much higher rate (83%) than female-headed households (69%).

Good level of cohabitation between IDPs and non-displaced members: In Kouoptamo, while most households are exclusively composed of non-displaced members (88%), a notable segment of them (7%) are mixed, comprising both IDPs and non-displaced individuals.

This mixed composition, suggests a degree of cohabitation. In both displaced and non-displaced households, a significant majority (98%) are related by family ties.

Generally positive intergroup relations with low incidents of violence and discrimination: 96% of IDP respondents say that they are welcomed and accepted by the non-displaced in their community and conversely, 99% of non-displaced say that they welcome IDPs settling in their area. Most households in both groups report low inter-group violence in their community (68% of IDPs and 68% of non-displaced). A modest proportion of IDPs (9.0%) and a significantly smaller proportion of non-displaced individuals (less than 1%), report experiencing discrimination. IDPs that have experienced discrimination do flag discrimination based on their gender, language and tribal affiliation as the main reasons. The validation workshops did point to the fact that these results may need further exploration as underreporting might be the case²².

Acknowledgement by non-displaced that IDPs are worse off: When non-displaced compare their own situation to that of IDPs, 65% judge it to be better or much better, 21% judge it to be the same, while only 11% judge it to be worse. Such awareness is important for inter-group cohesion and understanding. Furthering such awareness of the challenges that IDPs specifically face may contribute to inter-group understanding.

²² For example, in a more targeted question on whether households had experienced discrimination linked to accessing required health care specifically, 25% of IDPs said that was the case. This may point to a need to unpack further the domains where discrimination may be prevalent.



V.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN KOUOPTAMO COUNCIL

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

The findings show that while challenges linked to food security, youth inactivity, and access to basic services are faced by both displaced and non-displaced households, IDPs are impacted to a higher degree. In other words, Zooming in on these key challenges:

- **Food insecurity:** In Kouoptamo 42% of IDP households have a ‘high score’ in the reduced Coping Strategy Index meaning they more frequently use less sustainable coping mechanisms to address food shortages. Amongst the non-displaced population, 27% fell in that category. According to WFP (November 2024), 27% of households in the West region have a ‘high score’ on the rCSI. Thus, while the non-displaced population in Kouoptamo matches the West region’s average, IDP

households face major food insecurity challenges. In Kouoptamo, a predominantly rural area, agriculture remains the primary source of livelihoods for both resident and displaced populations. However, reliance on traditional agricultural methods frequently exposes farmers to low yields and vulnerability to climate shocks. This limits the potential for agriculture to fully meet the food security needs of households, despite its central role. Therefore, there is a clear and urgent need to modernize agricultural practices in Kouoptamo, alongside other efforts to strengthen local food systems, to improve food security and ensure more stable livelihoods for its residents. During efforts to achieve this, particular attention should be given to the displaced population.

- **Youth inactivity:** The proportion of youth in the 15-24 years age category who are not in education, employment or training (NEET/ SDG 8.6.1) is significant concern for both groups: 7% of male IDPs and 8% of male non-displaced as well as 25% of female IDPs and 22% of female non-displaced. This group of youth is facing barriers to economic (and social) participation. It is important to both prevent loss of human capital (through supporting education and vocational training of youth) as well as entry into the labour market. With the demographic outlook of steady growth in the population, youth unemployment and youth inactivity will amplify protection concerns and poverty going forward and is thus a crucial topic to be addressed. Kouoptamo has now developed an ongoing enrollment of IDPs, which will enable Municipal authorities to identify youth for targeting of vocational training and employment initiatives.

- **Housing and land in place of origin:** Averagely 64% of IDP households have left behind a house and/or land in their place of origin, which for most IDPs in Kouoptamo is in the division of Ngoketunjia in the North-West region, and more specifically the sub-divisions of Ndotop and Balikumbat. Only some households can prove ownership of left behind property or access it. This will

²³ The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was used to calculate the frequency and severity of strategies due to food shortages.

²⁴ WFP (2024) [November Bulletin](#)

make it difficult for IDPs to regain access to lost property when the security situation will permit and should be addressed preemptively by keeping track of the claims IDPs have, regardless of their intention to stay or not in Kouoptamo.

- **Current housing situations:** Regarding the current living situation In Kouoptamo, the majority of IDPs rent housing and access to land is estimated to be low²⁵ and tenure insecure. Thus, lack of access to property and tenure security is one of the areas that needs to be addressed.

- **Birth certificates for children:** 51% of IDP children under the age of five, do not have a birth certificate, which is a crucial documentation for accessing services

and later for obtaining a National Identity Card. Given the IDP enrollment efforts in KOUOPTAMO COUNCIL, and with the support of BUNEC, the households with young children not having Certificates yet can be identified and supported to obtain the required personal documentation, thus ensuring they will not face challenges later.

As highlighted above, the great majority of IDP households in Kouoptamo are expected to remain in the council for the foreseeable future. Support to overcoming the above-mentioned obstacles to the local integration of IDPs and attention to the social cohesion of the communities hosting IDPs is thus particularly important going forward, both for the IDPs and the sustainable development of KOUOPTAMO COUNCIL.



²⁵ While access to farming land was not assessed in the study, the results show that 62% of IDP households rely on agriculture as their main livelihoods source.

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**

87%

87%

Households having experienced a security incident the past 12 months

8%

3%

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

7%

2%

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

10%

2%



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

58%

65%

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

97%

100%

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

86%

83%

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

0%

0%

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

2%

2%

Households accessing electricity **SDG 7.1.1**

77%

79%

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

100%

97%

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

96%

98%

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

76%

77%

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

56%

60%

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**

27%

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

80%



Access to employment and livelihoods

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

42%

27%

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

64%

67%

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

58%

62%

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

7%

8%

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

25%

22%

DURABLES SOLUTIONS CRITERIA

KEY INDICATORS INDICATING PROGRESS TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS



IDPs



NON DISPLACED



Access to documentation

Persons with a birth certificate

60 %

76 %

Persons 18 years and above with a National Identity Card

70 %

81%

Persons with no personal documentation at all

23 %

9%

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

49 %

80%



Access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land and property

Displaced households that left a house behind in place of origin

67 %

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

9 %

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

14 %

Displaced households that left agricultural land behind in place of origin

60 %

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

6 %

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

12 %



Civic participation in local

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

58%

70%

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

34 %

69%



Family reunification

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

34%



Social cohesion & discrimination

IDP households who feel welcomed and accepted by the local community

95%

Non-displaced households who welcome IDPs

98%

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

9%

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.

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TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

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



FINANCIAL PARTNERS

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BMZ

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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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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