

Since 2014, Cameroon has felt the effects of the insurgency of the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA, formerly Boko Haram). The increase in violent attacks in Nigeria, Cameroon and neighbouring countries has led to the displacement of populations away from areas of conflict and violence.

The International Organisation for Migration set up and initiated the first round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in November 2015 with the objective of providing regular, accurate and up to date information on displaced populations within the Far North region of Cameroon to better inform the response of the Government of Cameroon and the humanitarian community.

The Cameroon DTM can be compared with the Nigeria DTM for an understanding of displacement within the regional context.

The data gathered between the 16th and 23rd of February includes information on number of displaced persons, period of displacement, reason for displacement, type of accommodation and demographic data on displaced populations. This report includes data collected through evaluations conducted in six (06) departments of the Far North region and in 38 arrondissement.



All analytical results and figures contained in this report have been rounded. Unrounded figures are available in the Raw Data Annex.

HIGHLIGHTS

Population identified by the DTM in February 2016 in the Far North region of Cameroon:

- 169,970 Internally Displaced Persons (31,233 households)
- 8,108 Unregistered Refugees (1,639 households)
- 35,434 Returnees (7,030 households)



82% of the displaced population was displaced by the insurgency and 18% by flooding and other natural disasters



16% of the current displaced population was displaced in 2016, 39% in 2015, 33% in 2014 and 11% before 2014



An estimated 70% of the displaced population lives in host communities while 10% live in spontaneous settlements, 10% in rented housing, 7% in collective centers, and 3% in open-air spaces.

1. DISPLACEMENT DATA

Breakdown of the displaced population by department, identified in February 2016

Department ¹	N° of IDP		N° of Unregistered Refugees		N° of Returnees	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Diamaré	3,655	2%		0%	144	0%
Logone-Et-Chari	102,917	48%	7,030	3%	23,436	11%
Mayo-Danay	19,057	9%	844	0%	8,450	4%
Mayo-Kani	243	0%	12	0%	170	0%
Mayo-Sava	21,672	10%	172	0%	-	0%
Mayo-Tsanaga	22,426	11%	50	0%	3,234	2%
Total	169,970	80%	8,108	4%	35,434	17%

IDPs, unregistered refugees and returnees were identified by key informants in 354 locations². An estimated 70% of the displaced population reside in host communities while the remaining 30% reside in spontaneous settlements (10%), rented housing (10%), collective centres (7%) and open-air spaces (3%).

Reports are received of villages emptying at nightfall to spend the night in the wilderness surrounding their homes in an attempt to escape potential ISWA attacks. These nightly displaced are not counted in this report of displaced populations however it is necessary to highlight their presence.

Although no empirical data could not be provided, several key informants confirmed the occurrence of secondary displacements of IDPs within Cameroon and of unregistered refugees within Cameroon and to Chad.

Notes: 1) A detailed breakdown of the population by arrondissement is available in Annex 1.

Notes: 2) A list of these locations is available in the raw data. A map of displaced individuals' locations is available in Annex 2.

Population Demographics



50% of the displaced population is female, 50% of the displaced population is male.



63% of the displaced population is below 18 years old. Of those 32% are aged 5 years of age or less.



Persons above 60 years of age make up 7% of the population.

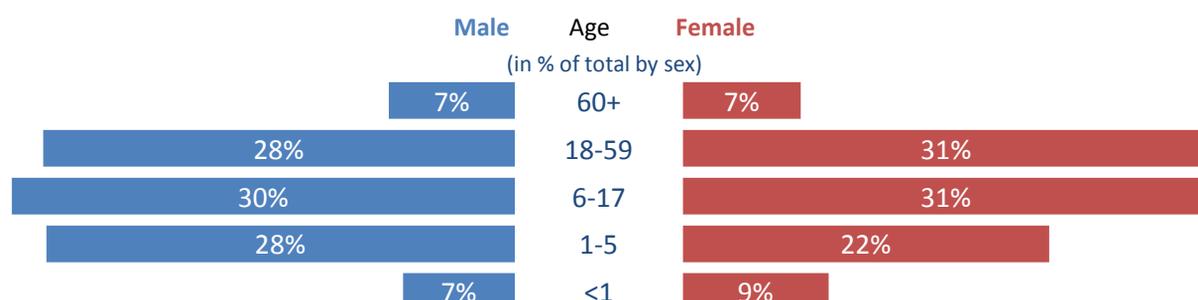


The average displaced household size is 8.35



95% of displaced households have children. Of those households with children, the average number of children per household is 5.52

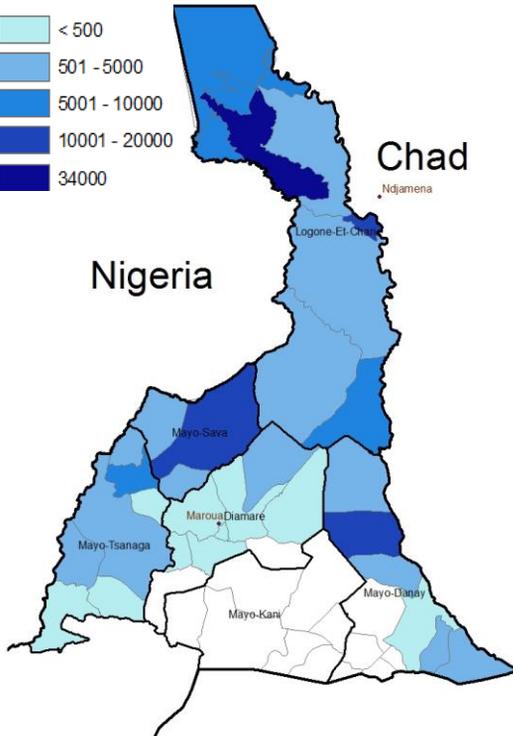
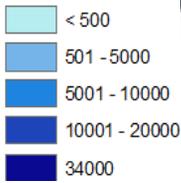
Demographic breakdown of the displaced population by sex and age



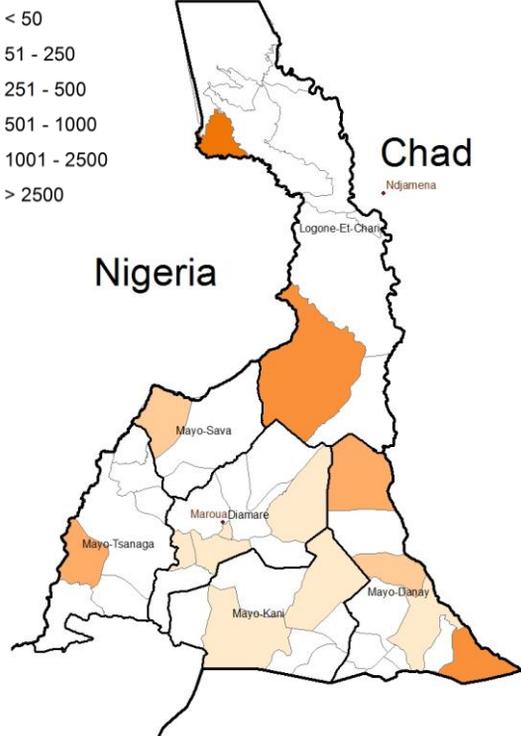
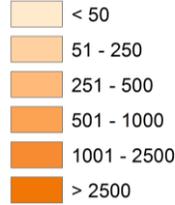
2. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY ARRONDISSEMENT

Distribution of IDPs (blue), unregistered refugees (orange) and returnees (green) by arrondissement

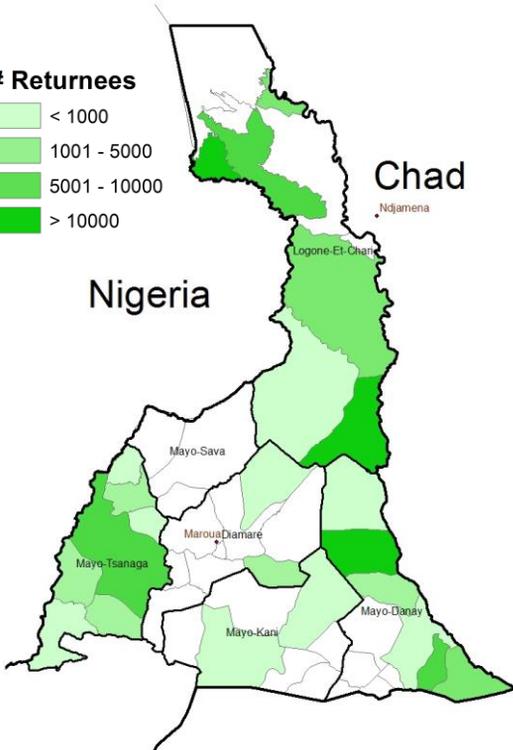
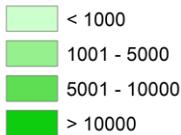
IDP



Unregistered Refugees



Returnees



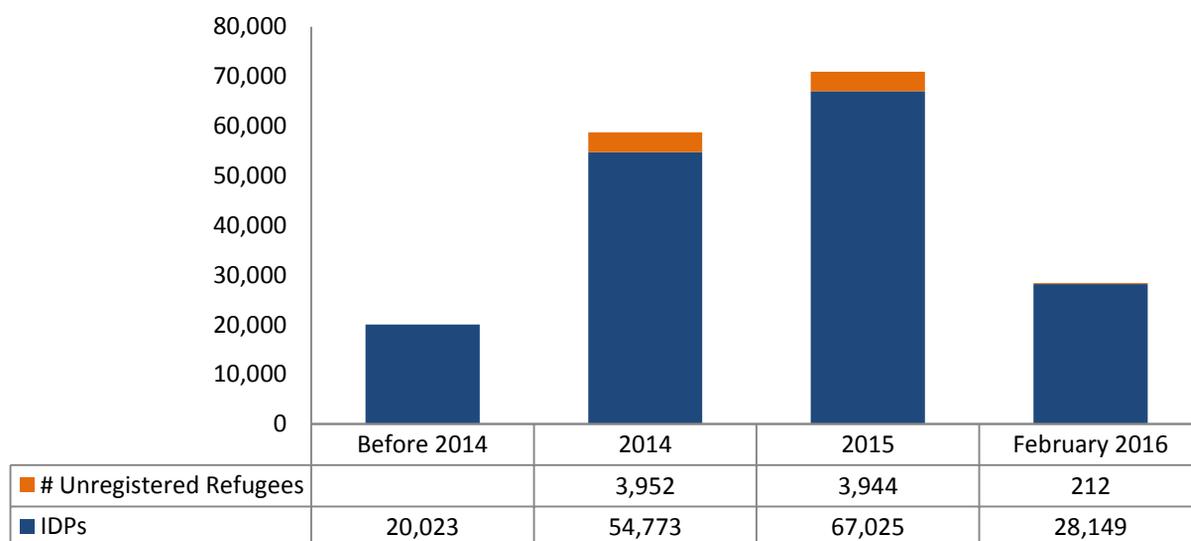
- IDPs were identified in 35 arrondissements in the Far North region. The highest number of IDPs can be found in Makary (35,700) and Kousséri (17,650) in the Logone-et-Chari department, in Kai-Kai (112,243) in the Mayo-Danay department and in Mora (13,349) in the Mayo-Sava department
- Unregistered refugees were identified in 10 arrondissements in the Far North region. Fotokol (5,000) and Waza (1,880) in the Logone-et-Chari departments have the highest concentration of unregistered refugees.
- Returnees were identified in 25 arrondissements in the Far North region. The most returnees can be found in Fotokol (10,140) and in Zina (8,050) in the Logone-et-Chari department and in Kai-Kai (6,080) in the Mayo-Danay department

3. DISPLACEMENT TRENDS: IDPS AND UNREGISTERED REFUGEES

- 11% of the total displaced population has been displaced since before 2014, 32% has been displaced in 2014, 39% has been displaced in 2015 and 16% has been displaced in 2016.
- The most significant displacement periods for 2015 were January to April (15%) and September to November (16%), with the current period (January-February 2016) equating the early period of 2015 with 15%.

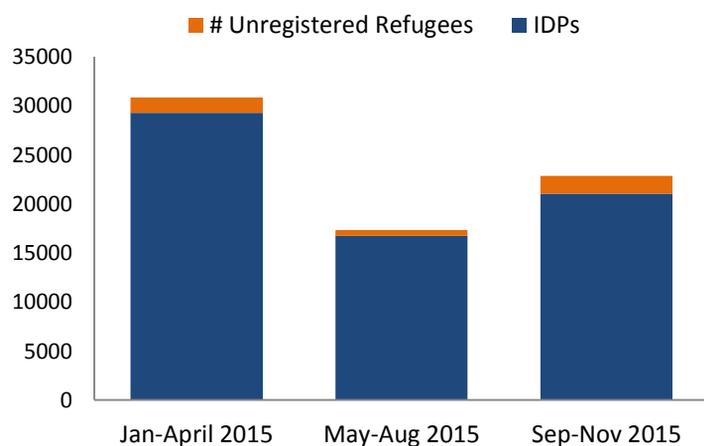
Arrival of IDPs and Unregistered Refugees

Arrival of IDPs and Unregistered Refugees by year



- Of the IDPs currently displaced in the Far North region, 17% were displaced as of 2016, 39% were displaced in 2015, 32% in 2014 and 12% before 2014.
- 2014 and 2015 were marked by a high number of arrival of unregistered refugees in the Far North region with 97% of arrival of unregistered refugees occurring during these years.

Arrival of IDPs and Unregistered Refugees in 2015 (thousands)



- 17% of IDPs and 29% of unregistered refugees were displaced between December 2015 and February 2016.
- A reported 31% of IDPs were displaced in 2015) and 2% of unregistered refugees were displaced in 2015 (From January to November 2015).

	Jan-Apr 2015	May-Aug 2015	Sep-Nov 2015
Unregistered Refugees	1,534	585	1,825
IDPs	29,285	16,730	21,010

4. DISPLACEMENT TRENDS: RETURNEES¹

- 84% of the returnees are former IDPs who returned to their place of origin.
- 16% of returnees are Cameroonian Nationals who returned from a foreign country.

Breakdown of the returnees' provenance by period

Department / Provenance	Nigeria	Chad	CAR	Cameroon	Total
Before 2014	-	1,525	-	4,585	6,110
In 2014	2,904	219	13	2,054	5,190
Jan. – Apr. 2015	242	50	-	563	855
May – Aug. 2015	88	-	-	7,078	7,166
Sept. – Nov. 2015	225	-	-	12,043	12,268
Dec. 15 – Feb. 2016	294	-	-	3,551	3,845
Total	3,753	1,794	13	29,874	35,434

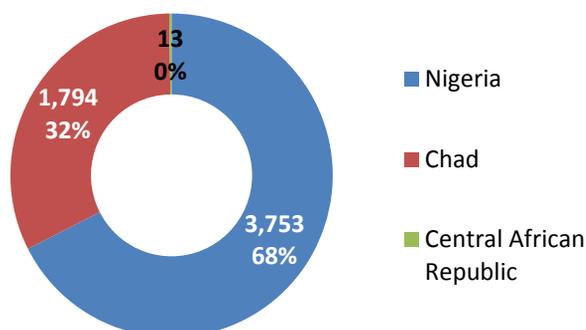
Returnees: Former IDPs

- Of the 35,434 returnees identified in February 2016, 29,874 (84%) are former IDPs who have returned to their place of origin.

Department / Provenance	Nigeria	Chad	CAR	Cameroon	Total
Diamaré	-	144	-	-	144
Logone-Et-Chari	406	-	-	23,030	23,436
Mayo-Danay	439	1,650	-	6,361	8,450
Mayo-Kani	55	-	13	102	170
Mayo-Tsanaga	2,853	-	-	381	3,234
Mayo Sava	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3,753	1,794	13	29,874	35,434

Returnees: Cameroonian Nationals who returned from a foreign country

- Of the 35,434 returnees identified in February 2016, 5,560 (16%) are Cameroonian nationals who returned from a foreign country.
- Of these 5,560 returnees, 3,753 individuals returned from Nigeria (67.50%), while 1,794 returned from Chad (32.27%), and 13 from the Central African Republic (0.23%).



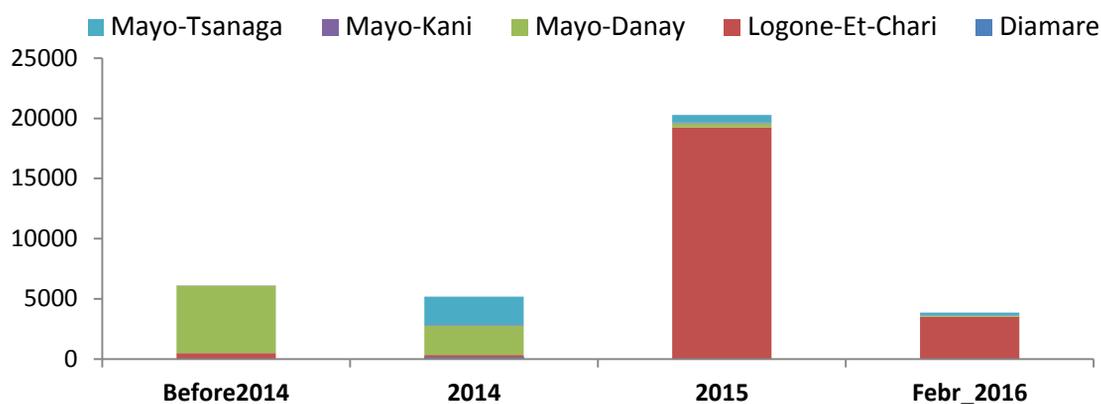
Provenance	Inds.	%
Nigeria	3,753	67.50%
Chad	1,794	32.27%
Central African Republic	13	0.23%
Total	5,560	100.00%

4. DISPLACEMENT TRENDS: RETURNEES¹

- 57% of returns in the Far North region occurred in 2015, 11% in 2016.
- 11% of returnees returned to their place of origin between January and February 2016.
- A reported 84% of returnees were former IDPs from Cameroon, while 11% returned from Nigeria, and 5% from Chad.

Return Trends By Department And Time Period

Return periods (as reported by returnees) for each department of the Far North region (thousands)



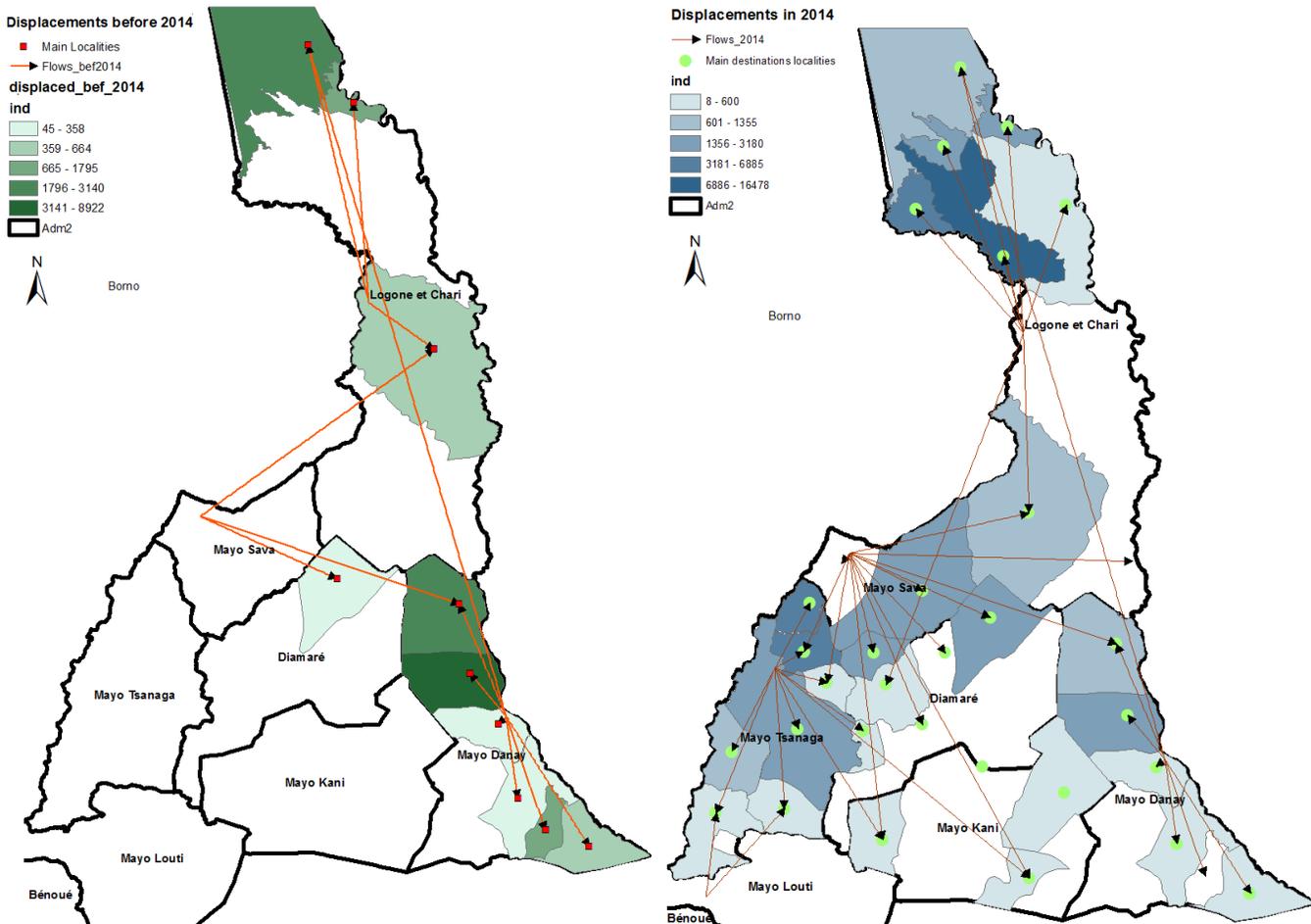
	Before 2014	2014	2015	Jan-Feb 2016
Diamaré	0	144	0	0
Logone-Et-Chari	490	196	19,250	3500
Mayo-Danay	5,585	2,420	331	114
Mayo-Kani	35	49	71	15
Mayo-Tsanaga	0	2,381	637	216

- Before 2014, the main return trends were towards the Mayo-Danay department but now have been mostly observed in the Logone-Et-Chari Department.
- Currently, the main reason of displacement in the Mayo-Danay department is flooding. Before 2014 and the ISWA insurgency, returns to that area were likely a natural conclusion of displacement due to natural disaster.
- Fluctuating insecurity and violent events within the Logone-et-Chari department could be inducing displaced populations to return to their place of origin as either conditions improve in their home area or conditions deteriorate in their host area.
- Consistent with the previous reporting period, significant returns continue to be observed in the Logone-et-Chari department between December 2015 and February 2016, specifically to the arrondissements of Fotokol (3,500 individuals).
- Those who returned to Zina (Logone-et-Chari Department) were displaced to the Mayo-Danay department. The flooding in Mayo-Danay could have caused them to return to their place of origin.
- Although no empirical data could be provided, key informants indicated that some populations who had previously returned to their place of origin were further displaced since November 2015.

Notes: 1) DEFINITION: For this DTM report, the category "returnees" includes Cameroonians who resided in Nigeria and returned to Cameroon, and former IDPs who returned to their village of origin.

Movement flows of displaced populations before and during 2014

Combined displacement or return flows of displaced before 2014 (green) and during 2014 (blue)¹

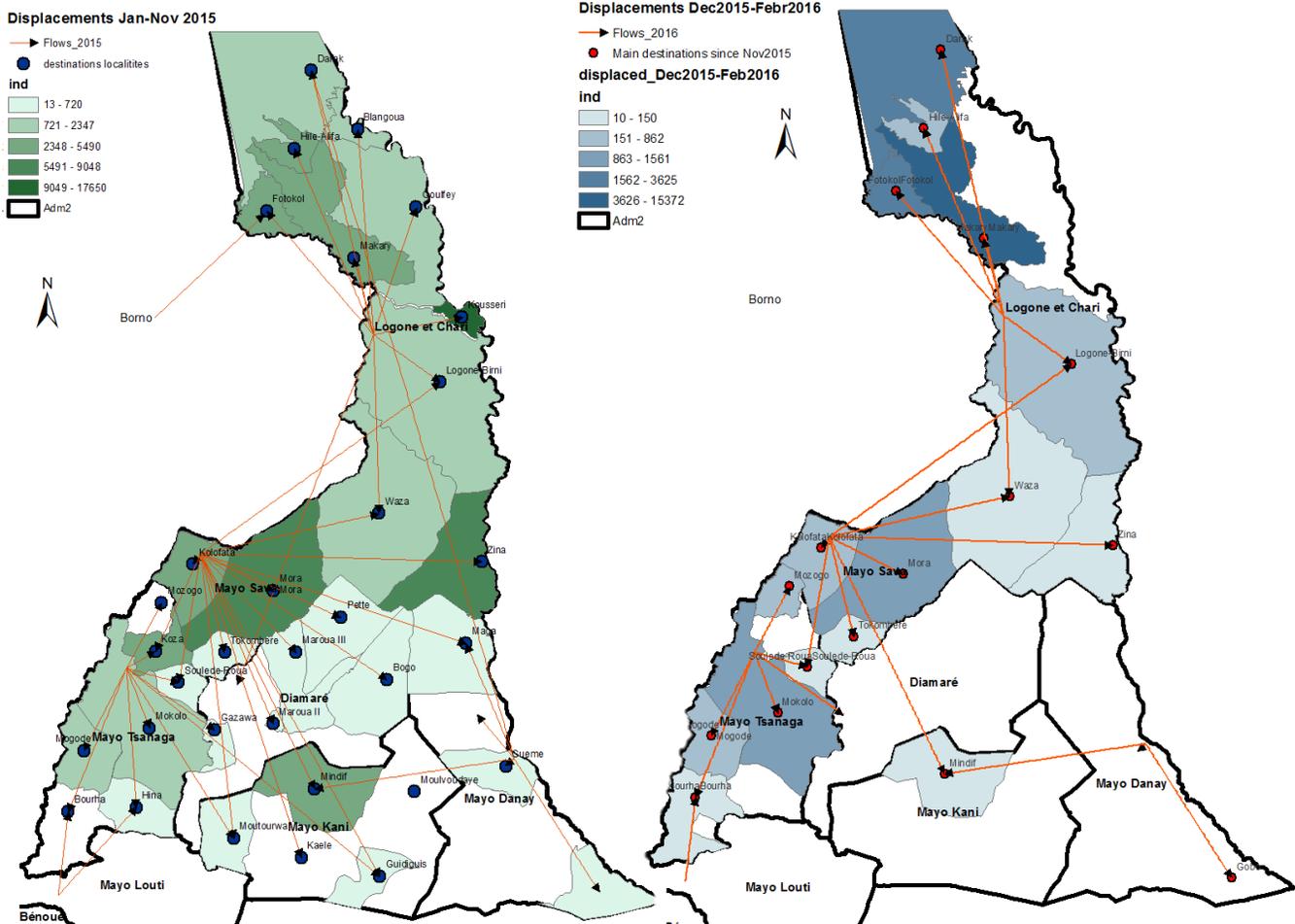


- Before 2014, the main displacement flows were within the Mayo-Danay department and within the Logone-et-Chari department.
- In 2014, populations tended to move within the Far North, with increased movement in Logone-et-Chari department as well as the departments of Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga. The displaced population mostly originated from the area but some displaced individuals also came from Borno and Adamawa (in neighbouring Nigeria)
- The main movement flows within the Far North region were firstly in the northern part of the Logone-et-Chari department, secondly within the Mayo-Tsanaga department and thirdly within and out of the Mayo-Sava department

Notes: 1) Only population flows that contained more than 500 individuals are shown

Movement flows of displaced populations during 2015 and 2016

Combined displacement and return flows of displaced populations between January-November 2015 (green) and December 2015-February 2016 (blue)



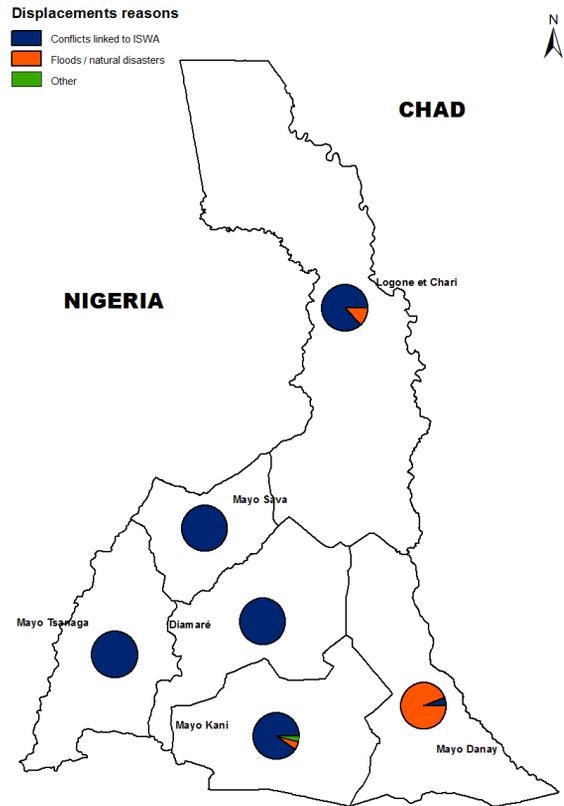
- The movement flows observed during this round of reporting remain consistent with those observed in 2015 with high movements observed in the Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Sava departments. Populations continue to mostly move between arrondissements while still remaining within department boundaries.
- High concentrations of populations arrived in the arrondissements of Makary, Kousséri and Fotokol (Logone-et-Chari)
- In the Mayo-Tsanaga department the principal flows were towards the arrondissement of Mokolo and in the department of Mayo-Sava main flows have been towards the arrondissement of Mora.
- Consistent with the previous report, the main population flows have been observed within the Logone-et-Chari department. There were significant movement flows from the arrondissement of Makary and Fotokol (both in the Logone-et-Chari department) as well as in the Mayo-Sava and Mayo Tsanaga Departments.

Notes: 1) Only population flows that contained more than 500 individuals are shown

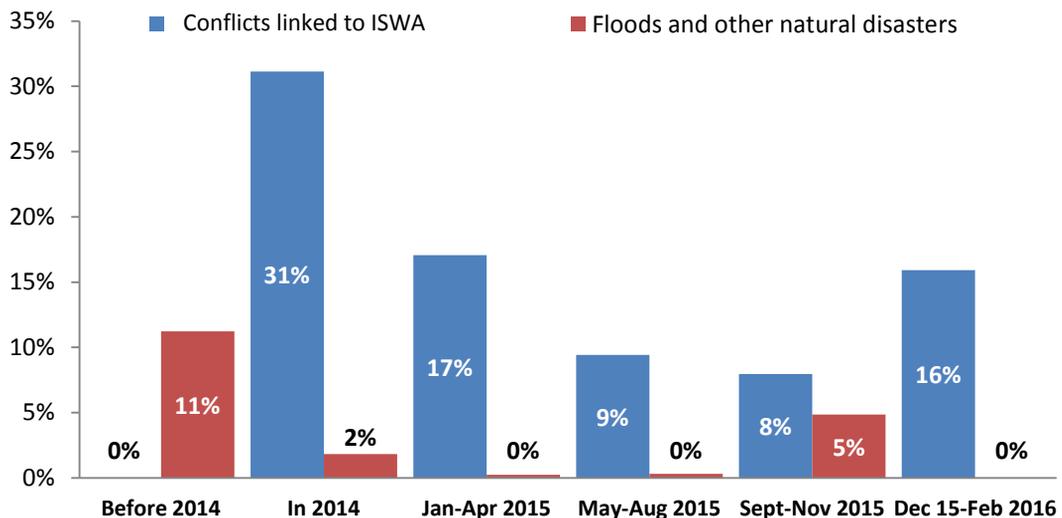
6. REASONS FOR DISPLACEMENT

- The main reason for displacement remains the conflict linked to the insurgency of the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA)
- 82% of the IDP population in the Far North region has been displaced due to conflict. 18% has been displaced due to flooding and other natural disasters
- 100% of Nigerian nationals left their country of origin because of violence and conflict
- The IDP population has been displaced largely due to conflict in 2014 and 2015.
- Before the ISWA insurgency, the main cause of internal displacement in the Far North region was the yearly flooding that occurs following the rainy season
- 100% of the population displaced before 2014 reports being displaced due to flooding/natural disasters
- 100% of the IDP population displaced in January and February 2016 have indicated the armed conflicts caused by the ISWA as cause of their displacement.

Reason of displacement (Geographical)



Reason of displacement for IDPs by time period¹



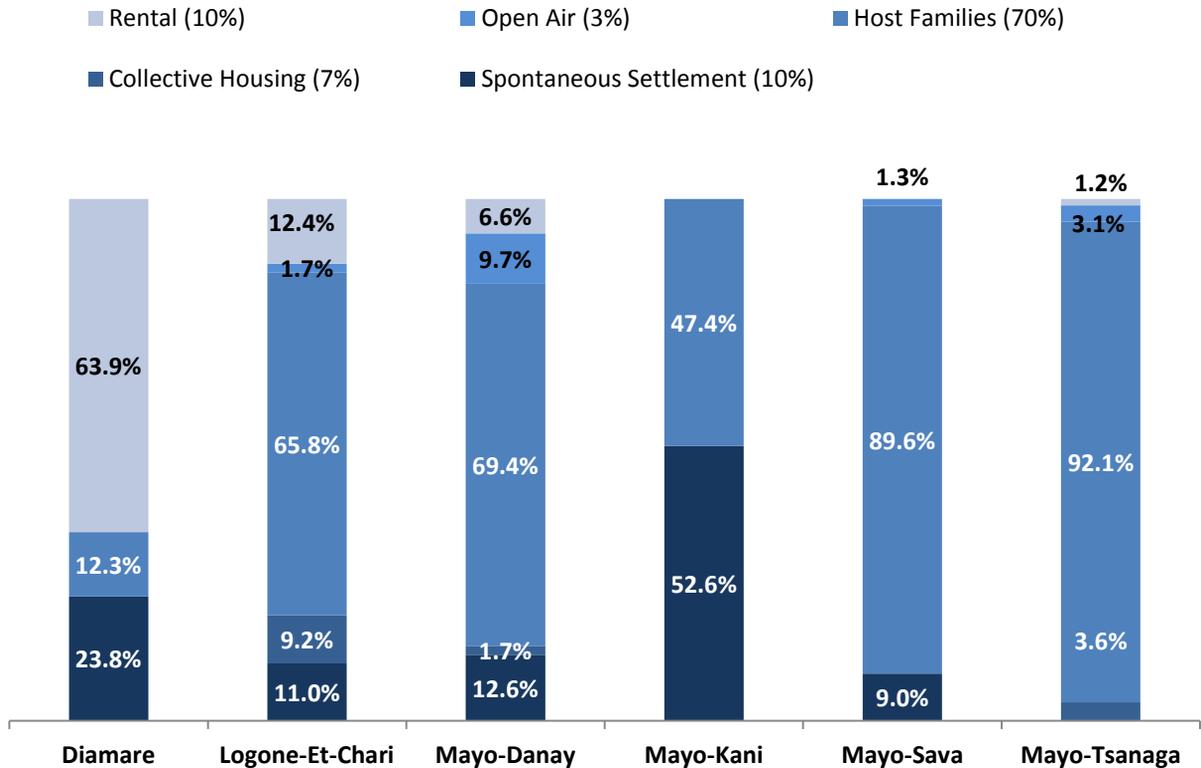
	Before 2014	In 2014	Jan-Apr '15	May-Aug '15	Sept-Nov '15	Dec 15 – Feb 16
Flooding/ Natural Disaster	19,978	3,259	415	550	8,653	0
Conflict	45	55,452	30,404	16,765	14,182	28,361

Notes: 1) The reasons of displacement for IDPs by arrondissement and department are available in Annex 3

7. SHELTER TYPE

- An estimated 70% of the displaced population resides in host communities, while 10% lives in spontaneous settlements, 10% in rented housing, 7% in collective centres, and 3% in open-air spaces.
- Reports state individuals displaced by conflict reside with host communities due to the strong historical, cultural and ethnic links between populations of the Lake Chad region.

Estimated proportion of displaced persons by shelter type.



- The Cameroonian departments neighbouring the Nigerian border and most directly affected by ISWA violence, namely Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga have the highest proportions of displaced groups residing in host communities.
- The high proportion of spontaneous settlements in the Mayo-Danay department is linked to the high proportion of IDPs and unregistered refugees (81%) who state being displaced by flooding/other natural disaster in that department. The displaced groups affected by heavy rains and flooding are more likely to be residing in spontaneous settlements.
- Key informants report that displaced persons in those spontaneous sites are likely to return to their place of origin in the coming months to rebuild their homes. This displacement due to heavy rains and flooding is reported as a regular event following the rainy season.

8. METHODOLOGY

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix aims to collect data on displaced populations within the Far North region of Cameroon. Data is collected through key informants directly in the areas hosting displaced persons and is verified with other key source such as local and international NGOs and local authorities.

Data collectors are trained in DTM methodology before being deployed to collect data. Following the end of the data collection, the data is verified with local authorities, regional authorities and other key sources.

A department baseline assessment is carried out in each department of the Far North region. All departments in the region are visited to ensure thorough understanding of the regional context. The assessment is carried out with key informants ranging from local government authorities, traditional leaders and NGO staff. The purpose of the Department level assessment is to define the overall number of displaced persons within the department and to identify which arrondissements are hosting displaced population and therefore require further assessment.

An arrondissement baseline assessment is carried out in each arrondissement identified as hosting displaced populations. This assessment is also completed with key informants and is supported by location visits to verify the location of displaced individuals. In addition, demographic data is gathered directly from sample households to create a demographic profile.

To account for the complexity of the Cameroonian context, the DTM gathers data on 3 types of displaced populations.

- Internally Displaced Persons.
- Unregistered Refugees.
- Returnee Individuals: The Cameroon DTM defines a returnee as a person or group of persons who previously experienced forced displacement but have since returned to their place of origin.

Additional documents (annexes) are available and include: Population Data by Arrondissement, Locations of Displaced Individuals (Map), Reason of Displacement for IDPs, and Department and Arrondissement Assessment Forms.

The DTM is implemented in partnership with two Cameroonian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Respect Cameroon and Saheli.

The DTM is funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)



For more information on the DTM tools and methodology, please contact: DTMCameroon@iom.int