

Rapid Protection Assessment Report



A Rapid Protection Assessment (Focus Group Discussion) in Monte Carlo, Southwest, Cameroon



This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**. The contents are the responsibility of the DRC and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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List of Acronyms

BIR	Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HC	Host Community
HLP	Housing, Land and Property
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KI	Key Informant
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSAG	Non-State Armed Group
NW	North-West
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SW	South-West
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children

1. Introduction

The ongoing crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon has created a complex and volatile situation, marked by conflict and displacement. The region's instability has led to a rapidly changing humanitarian landscape, with evolving needs that pose significant challenges for aid organizations. The dynamic nature of the crisis necessitates adaptive strategies to address the fluctuating humanitarian needs and ensure the delivery of timely and effective assistance to the affected population. In order to address the felt needs of affected communities in the Southwest regions, DRC decided to conduct a rapid protection assessment in the Division of Fako, Meme, and Kupe Manenguba. This was to identify protection risks and challenges faced by the populations in these areas. This assessment serves as a foundational step in understanding the immediate and evolving protection needs of the affected communities. By delving into the current state of affairs in terms of human rights, safety, and vulnerability, the report aims to provide a comprehensive overview that will guide the design and implementation of effective response strategies. The findings not only inform ongoing projects but are instrumental in shaping future initiatives, ensuring a targeted, needs-based, and timely approach to address the unique protection concerns prevalent in these regions. The assessment report stands as a key instrument in the commitment to fostering resilience and reinforcing the well-being of the populations in Fako, Meme, and Kupe Manenguba.

1.1 Purpose

The aim of this assessment was to understand the protection challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the population. This assessment sought to identify immediate threats, risks to safety, and well-being, providing a foundational understanding of the community's specific needs. This was to ensure that DRC's interventions are tailored to address critical protection issues promptly and that response strategies are not only contextually relevant but also sensitive to the evolving nature of the conflict, laying the groundwork for effective and targeted humanitarian assistance that prioritizes the safeguarding of the affected community.

1.2 Methodology

The assessment was conducted in a total of 9 communities, 1 community in Fako, which is in Buea subdivision (Maumu), 4 communities in Meme division, which are Monte carlo (Kumba 1 subdivision), Palm city (Kumba 2 subdivision) and Maromba 1 and 2 (Mbonge subdivision). 4 communities in Kupe Manenguba Division which 3 of them in Tombel subdivision (Tombel center, Etam and Ebonji) and 1 community in Nguti subdivision (Manyemen). Overall, 45 KI have been assessed during the data collection activity, as the graph bellow shows. Data collection was

conducted by the DRC protection staff with the use of a structured questionnaire. The data was collected through key informant (KIs). The selection of the key informants was based on fact that they have appropriate knowledge about their community. Gender and age were also taken into account. The KIs selected were from different age groups and included youths, adults and the elderly while maintaining gender balance. The key informants also included host community (HC), Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Returnees. The data was collected using the kobo mobile application using mobile telephones. The key informants were taken to a separate and safe place where they were able to feel safe and comfortable to provide the information. Before the data collection was conducted, the team also observed to identify and prevent potential risk which the key informants could have faced during and after the data collection.

Table 1: Characteristics of participants disaggregated by community, gender and age

Division	Subdivision	Communities	Gender		Age			Total
			Male	Female	18-29	30-59	60 and older	
Fako	Buea	Maumu	0	1	0	1	0	1
Meme	Kumba 1	Monte carlo	1	2	0	3	0	3
		Palm City	3	2	0	5	0	5
	Mbonge	Maromba 1	4	2	0	3	3	6
		Maromba 2	3	1	0	3	1	4
Kupe Manenguba	Nguti	Manyemen	3	3	0	5	1	6
		Ebonji	3	3	1	3	2	6
	Tombel	Etam	3	3	0	6	0	6
		Tombel Centre	5	3	0	5	3	8
Total			25	20	1	34	10	45

1.3 Limitation of the assessment

DRC's protection team registered some limitations while collecting information to produce the analysis. The difficulties encountered ranged from limited gender balance representation. The majority of the key informants were female while males had less representation as most had left the community. The team also encountered difficulty reaching interviewees, especially in the Maumu community, due to the highly volatile nature of the area. This made it challenging to conduct interviews, resulting in only one interview being conducted in that community. Another challenge was linked to physical access particularly in the communities of Maromba 1 and Maromba 2. Though the team encountered these limitations, they were able to reach 9 communities. Finally,

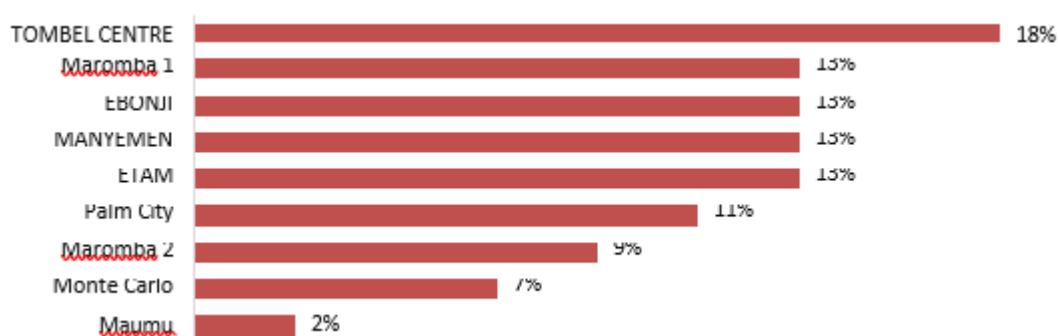
some questions didn't enable to go in depth in the assessment to inquire about the quality, quantity, or sufficiency of existing facilities.

2. Sociodemographic Characteristics of Respondents

2.1 Percentage of participants per site

Tombel Central had the highest number of participants (18%), followed by Maromba 1, Ebonji, Manyemen and Etam, each of which made up 13% of the total population. The least of the participants were from Maumu, making up just 2%. This is because Maumu is quite volatile, and some key informants were hesitant to provide information. The hesitancy of key informants stemmed from fear of being wrongly perceived by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in the community. Some key informants, who often possess valuable insights into local dynamics, feared potential repercussions or misinterpretation of their responses by NSAGs. Tombel central had the highest number of participants due to the easy access to the site. The site is safer and more accessible compared to the other communities where data was collected.

Figure 1: % of participants per site

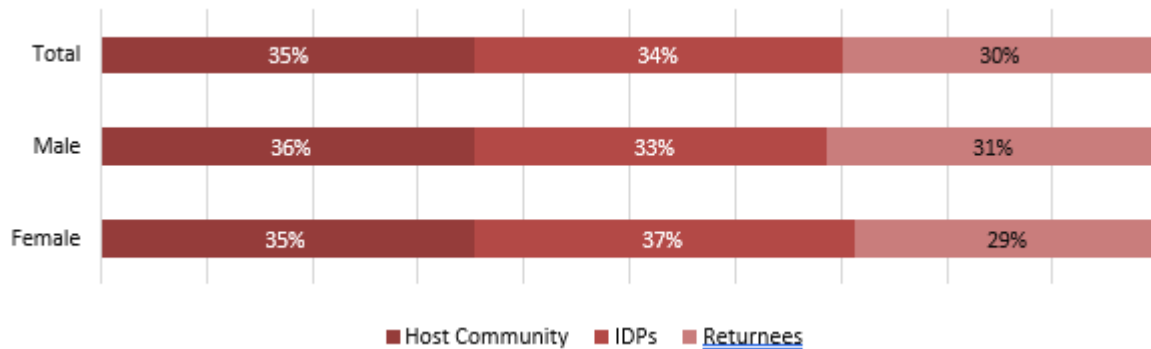


2.2 Type of population in site

With regards to the type of population in the targeted sites, responses indicated that overall, 35% were members of host communities, 34% were IDPs and 30% were returnees. From a gender

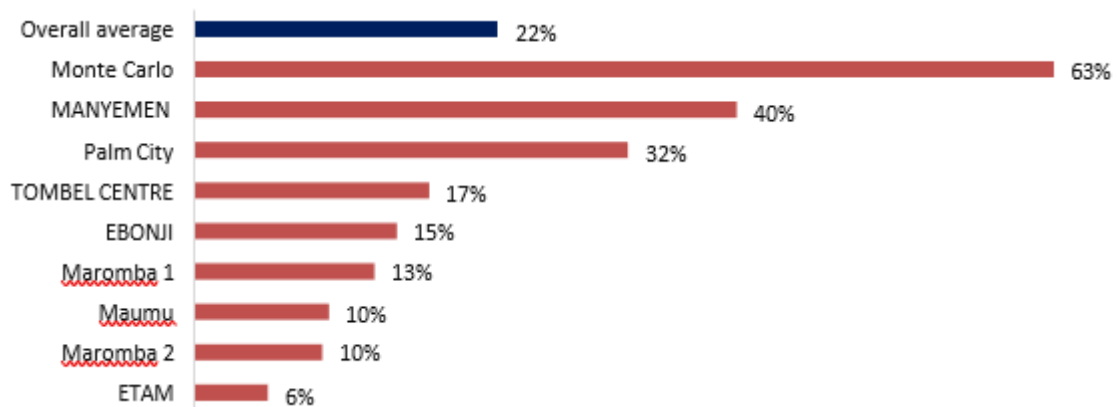
perspective, 36% of the males were deemed to be host community members, 33% IDP and 31% returnees while among the females the population of host community, IDP and returnees was considered to be 35%, 37% and 29% respectively.

Figure 2: Types of population in site



The findings further showed that, overall, 22% of the targeted population was estimated to be IDPs with the highest proportions recorded in Monte Carlo (63%), Manyemen (40%), and Palm City (32%). The three communities with the least number of IDPs were Etam (6%), Maromba 2 (10%) and Maumu (10%).

Figure 3: % of IDPs in each community

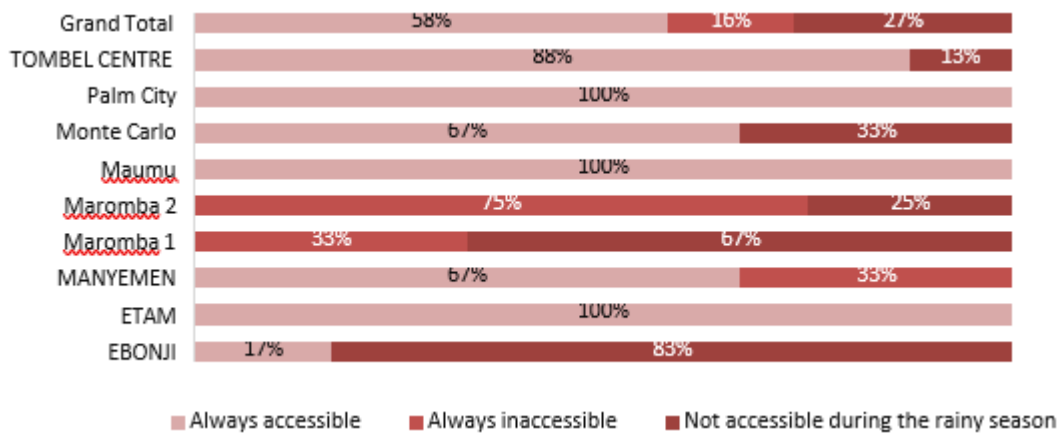


2.3 Accessibility of sites

A total of 45 key Informants (KIs) located in 9 communities were interviewed. Generally, the sites in the communities were predominantly always accessible (58%) with 16% of the sites that were continuously inaccessible and 27% of the sites inaccessible during the raining season. The inaccessibility of the site was mainly because of physical access. The bad roads and heavy

downpour during the rainy seasons makes access to these communities significant challenge. The communities' inaccessibility to humanitarian actors, including other partners, has intensified their urgent need for assistance. In the other hand, all the respondents in Palm city, Maumu and Etam reported their communities being always accessible, most of the latter located in Mbonge 55% and Tombel subdivision 30%.

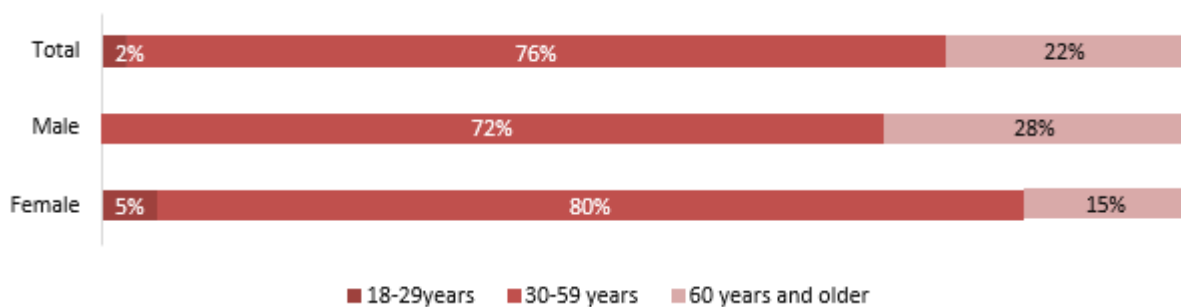
Figure 4: Accessibility of communities



2.4 Age of respondents

72% of males are 30-59 years old, while 28% are more than 60. From female participants, most of them (80%) were aged between 30-59, while 15% were 60 and more. Just a few of them were aged between 18-29.

Figure 5: Age of participants per gender



2.5 Presence of IDPs in communities

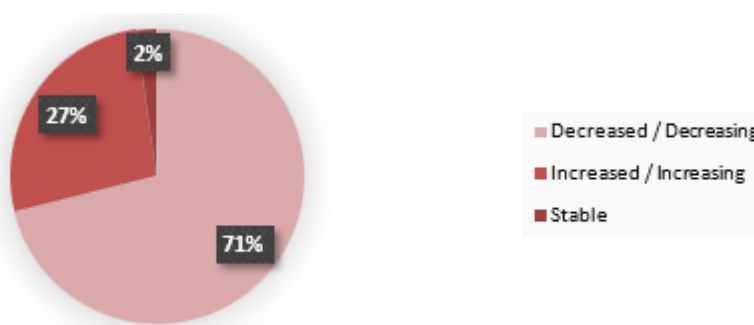
IDPs are predominantly found in relatively stable communities like Monte Carlo, and Palm City as opposed to volatile ones such as Etam, Maromba 2, Maumu and Manyemen. This pattern arises from the displaced individuals seeking safety and security in areas where the risk of conflict and instability is comparatively lower. These relatively stable communities often serve as havens for IDPs, providing a more secure environment for them to rebuild their lives and access essential services. See figure 3.

3. Communities’ General Profile

3.1 Pre- and post-population movements

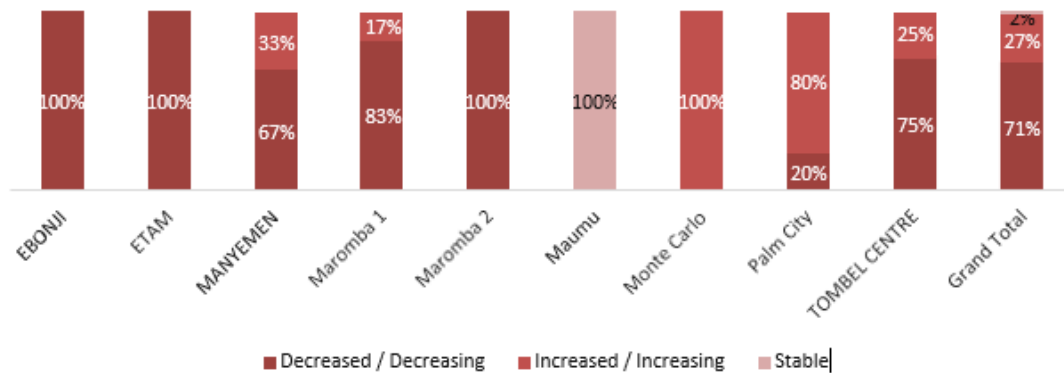
The assessment findings shown in the figure below indicate that 71% of the participants indicated that the population of their communities decreased or is decreasing compared to before the crises, 27% indicated that theirs instead increased (likely host communities) while just 2% admitted that their population was relatively stable. The continuous decline in the population as compared to before the crisis is justified by the fact that, most of the communities are still faced with hostilities and confrontations and so community members are continuously leaving the community to seek refuge either in the bush or outside the community in more stable communities. This makes these community members more and more vulnerable as they continue to move from one community to the next. As reported by 2% of key informants from Maumu, that population has been relatively stable.

Figure 6: Population of sites compared to before the crisis



There are varying degrees of population movements in different communities as reported by the KIs, with Ebonji, Maromba 2, and Etam experiencing a 100% movement, Maromba 1 at 83%, Tombel centre at 75%, Manyemen at 67%, and Palm city at 20%. Only 2% of Key Informants (KIs) indicate stability in their community, with Maumu being the most stable. Conversely, 27% of KIs report population increases, with Manyemen recording a 33% increase.

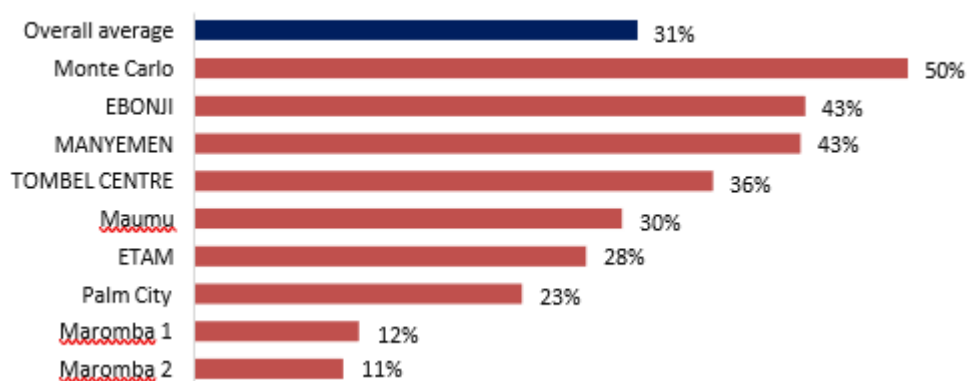
Figure 7: Pre- and post-crisis population movements per site



3.2 Vulnerability profile

The average percentage of female-headed households across sites is 31%, with Monte Carlo (50%), Ebonji (43%), Manyemen (43%), and Tombel Central (36%) exceeding this average, while Maromba 1 and 2 are the least female-headed communities. There has been an increase in the number of female-headed households in all the communities where data collection was conducted as reported by our Key Informants. Information shared by community members through focus group discussions reveals that men have left the community for fear of being targeted by the parties to the conflict. Some of the men have also been targeted and killed leaving their wives to provide for themselves and the family.

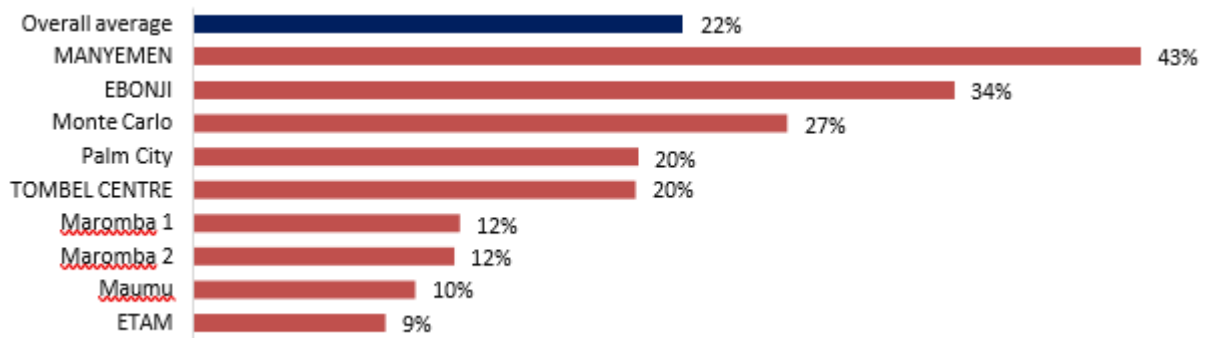
Figure 8: Average of female-headed household's % per site



With regards to the representation of pregnant women in these communities, overall the key informants indicated that 22% of the community were made up either by pregnant or breastfeeding

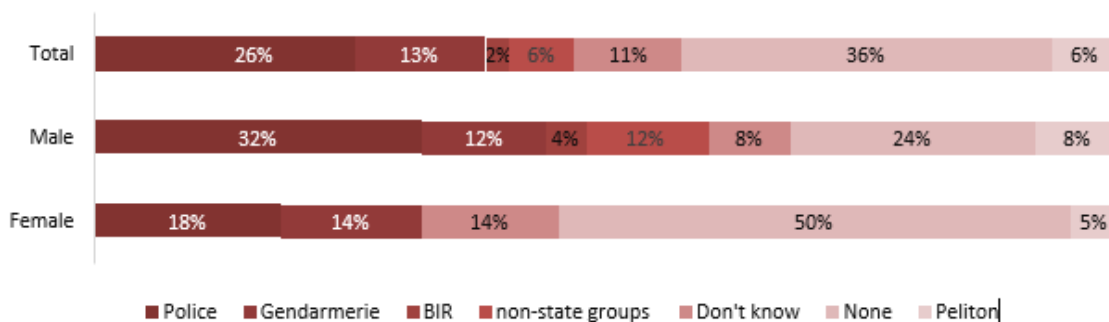
women, with the highest proportion noted in Manyemen (43%), Ebonji (34%) and Monte Carlo (27%) and the least recorded in Etam, Maumu and Maromba 1 and 2. One thing that has cut across is that these pregnant women do not have access to services.

Figure 9: Average of pregnant or breastfeeding women % per site



Going by the analysis, overall, 26% of the participants reported the existence of police, 13% Gendarmes, 2% BIRs, 6% NSGs, 6% Peliton, while 11% and 36% reported having no knowledge and non-existence of any respectively.

Figure 10: Existence of security forces in the site before the crisis



4. Access to basic services

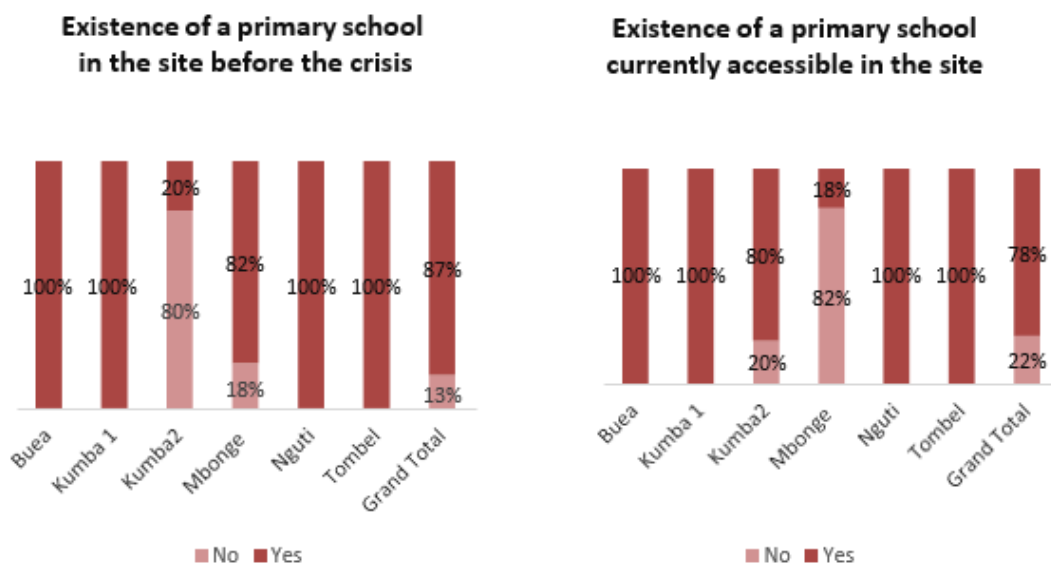
4.1 Education

The evolution of operational primary schools in the communities is a concrete example of the Crisis' impact on services. Education has been used as a political instrument, which is both at the origin and at the core of the crisis in the NW and SW regions. Persistent violence and displacement have disrupted schools, causing closures, and creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity for both students and educators. The destruction of school infrastructure, attacks on educational personnel, and the displacement of communities have resulted in a significant decline in school attendance and overall educational quality. According to reports from organizations such as Human Rights Watch¹ and UNESCO², the crisis has led to the burning of schools, abduction of students and teachers, and the displacement of thousands, depriving children and young people of their right to education. The lack of access to safe learning environments hinders the provision of quality education and exacerbates an already challenging situation, contributing to a potential lost generation if swift and effective interventions are not implemented urgently. Hence, 87% of KIs reported that there were primary schools operational in their communities before the crisis, as opposed to 78% who reported that schools are operational in the present day. Some of the key reasons why there are less operating primary schools as stated by the KIs were schools that were damage/abandoned 62%, people being scared to use state services 15%, ever existence of a school 15% and no teachers 8%. Focus group discussions indicate that community members have resorted to sending their children out of the community so they can be able to access education. There is still a big gap in services with regards to access to education. Some of these communities have also established community schools and most of the community members in those communities have resorted to using it.

Figure 11: Existence of a primary school in site (before and during crisis)

¹ Human Rights Watch. (2022). [Cameroon: School Closures Fuel Education Crisis](https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/03/cameroon-school-closures-fuel-education-crisis).
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/03/cameroon-school-closures-fuel-education-crisis>

² UNESCO. (2022). [Education under Attack in Cameroon](https://en.unesco.org/news/education-under-attack-cameroon). <https://en.unesco.org/news/education-under-attack-cameroon>



4.2 Health

Health facilities closures also illustrate the repercussion of the crisis on health services. According to Cameroon 2023 HNO, attacks on healthcare impacted the quality and quantity of services offered as health personnel, including physicians, nurses and midwives fled affected areas in the North-West and South-West. Regarding the existence of health facilities, KIs have reported that 62% of the sites hosted a functional health facility prior to the crisis. While 67% of the sites now host functioning health facilities. Even though there exist health facilities in these communities, the community revealed through focus group discussions that most community members still do not have access to them. One of the reasons provided is the lack of financial resources which makes it difficult for people to pay to access health services. Another reason is that some of the health services are located outside of the community, and people have to cross checkpoints, which hampers access as some of the community members don't have identification documents in order to safely cross the checkpoints.

Figure 12: Existence of a health facility in site (before and during crisis)

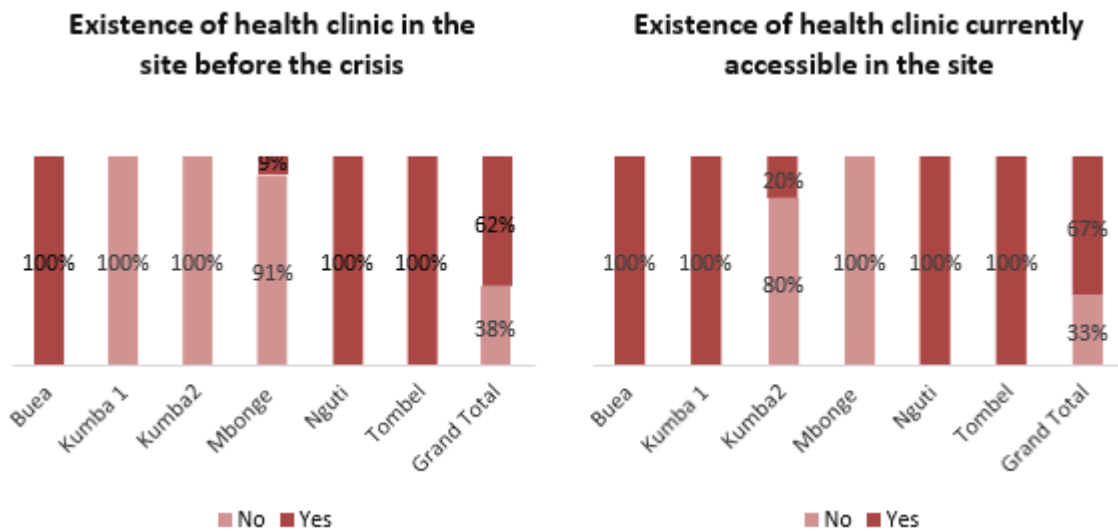
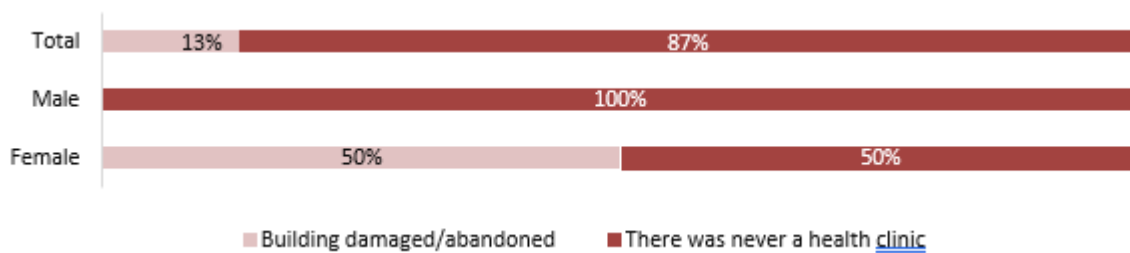


Figure 13: Reason for lack of health facility response per gender



KIs in Mbonge subdivision reported that, prior to the crisis there existed some few Health clinics (9%) in Maromba 1 and 2, this has significantly decrease as they now exist no Health clinic in the area. The lack of health facilities in Maromba 1 and 2 (Mbonge) is a particular concern. The crisis has significantly impacted health clinics in this Mbonge sub-division, mainly due to heightened insecurity and restricted accessibility caused by the crisis. Additionally, hospitals in the region have been repurposed as military bases by conflicting parties, further limiting healthcare resources and services.

4.3 Access to markets

Comparing the data collected from key informants, the number of weekly markets presently functional in communities has decreased in comparison to the number of functioning weekly markets before the crisis. On average 62% of weekly markets took place on sites before the crisis against 56% in current times. The constant inaccessibility of these markets makes it very difficult for community members to have access to food stuff. With markets being central hubs for economic

activities, the inability to operate has disrupted local livelihoods and economic stability. Residents face challenges in accessing essential goods and services, leading to food shortages, rising prices³, and increased economic hardships. There are localities where inhabitants must go out of their communities in order to access the market; at times having to cross checkpoints. This makes access difficult especially for those who don't have identification documents.

Figure 14: Existence of weekly markets in site before the crisis

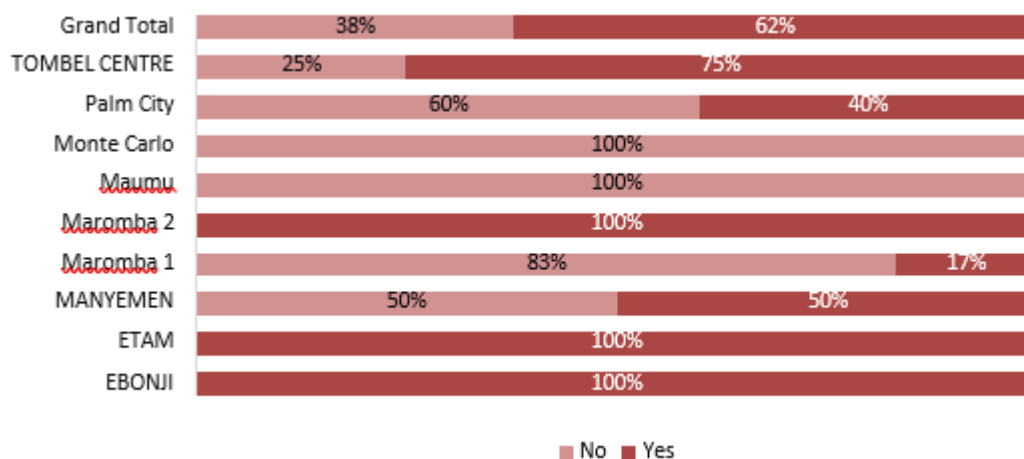
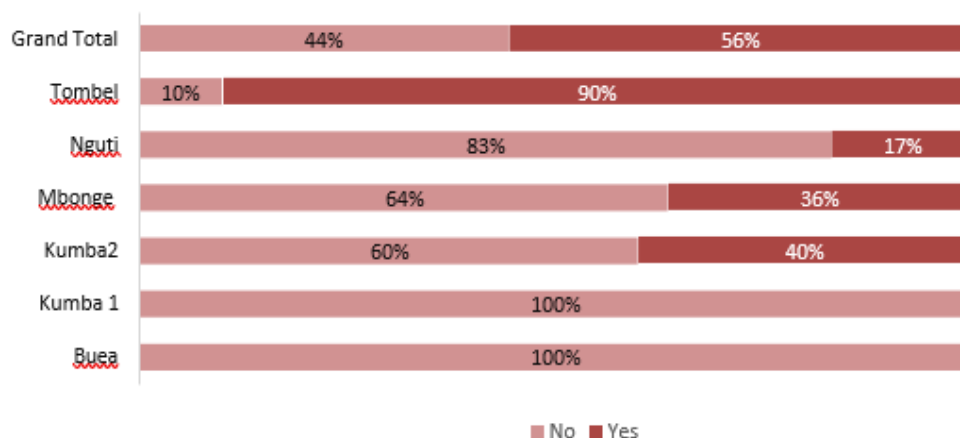


Figure 15: Existence of weekly markets currently operating in site



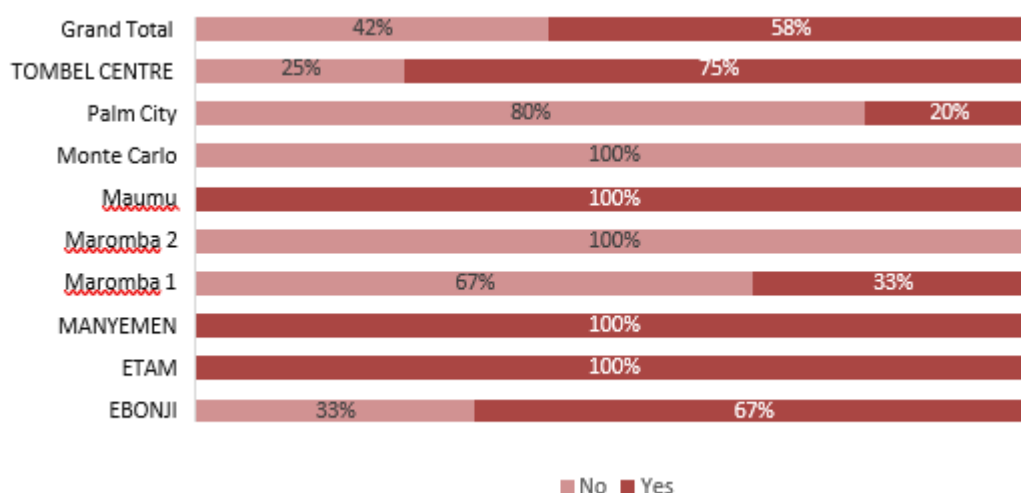
4.4 WaSH

³ OCHA (2023). Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview. Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 (March 2023) - Cameroon | ReliefWeb

4.4.1. Water points

According to respondents, access to water remains a significant concern in the surveyed communities, with 58% of them indicating that community members have access to water. Notably, communities such as Manyemen, Maumu, and Etam have reported relatively better access to water sources. However, challenges persist in communities like Monte Carlo, Maromba 2, and Palm City, where residents face limited access to water. This disparity underscores the uneven distribution of water resources, with some areas experiencing more significant difficulties in meeting residents' basic water needs compared to others. Inaccessibility to water was also identified by DRC in June 20223 as a major community concern in Meme and Fako Divisions.

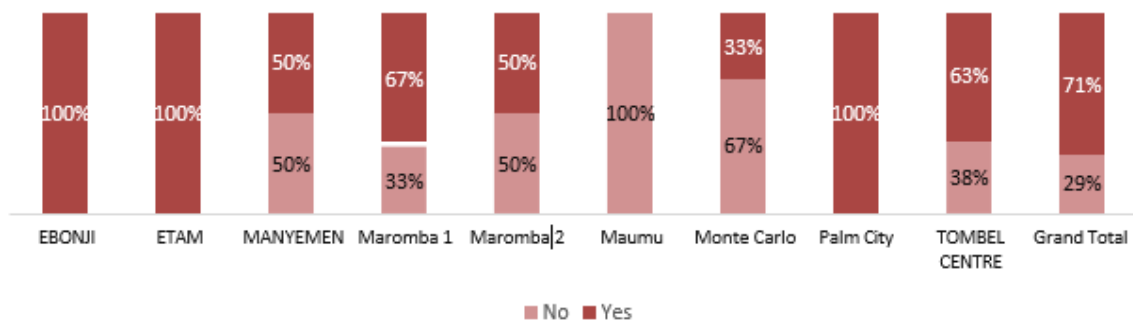
Figure 16: Accessibility to functioning water point in site



4.4.2. Latrines

In contrast, it was reported that 71% of the sites have functioning latrines. It should be noted that the question did not ask whether there was more than one functioning latrine, whether the latrine met quality standards, or whether the number of functioning latrines is sufficient for the population of the community. The limited existence of functional latrines in communities such as Maumu and Monte Carlo may raise critical protection concerns, primarily impacting public health and individual safety. The lack of proper sanitation facilities exposes community members, especially vulnerable populations like women and children, to health risks such as waterborne diseases.

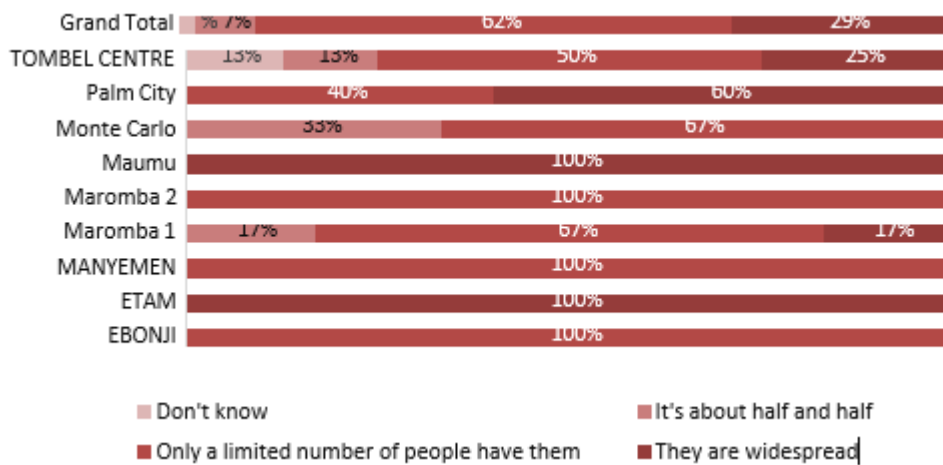
Figure 17: Existence of functioning latrines in site



4.5 Civil documentation

Only 29% of KI reported that birth registration documents were owned by most people in their communities while 62% reported that only a limited number of their population had birth certificates. Access to birth registration is a contributing factor to acquiring birth certificates. Community members indicate that, the reason for the limited access to birth registration is because of lack of health facilities in their communities where the documents are delivered.

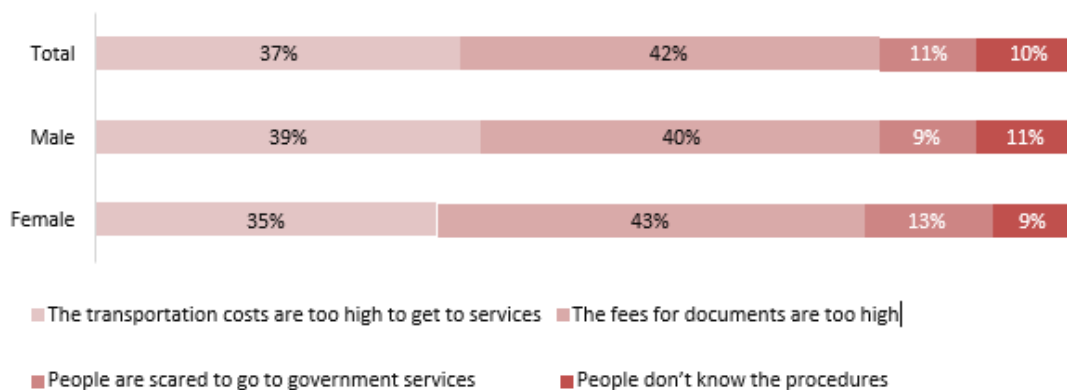
Figure 18: KI's response to people having birth certificate



Some of the main barriers for accessing their documents as stated by the KIs included transportation costs being too high to get to registration centres (37%), too high fees for documents (42%), people scared to visit government services (11%) and lack of knowledge of the birth registration procedures (10%). The primary obstacles highlighted by key informants in accessing documentation are predominantly associated with financial constraints. These is a crucial barrier as most of the community members have lost their source of livelihood as reported by community members through focus group discussions conducted. This has made it challenging for community

members to pay in order to access documentation, most of them spend most of their money trying to fend for themselves. Regarding the fear of accessing government services, this stems from the fact the NSAGS have been against the production and issuance of civil documents by the Cameroon civil status centres.

Figure 19: Barriers faced in accessing civil documentation



The common risk faced by people who lack civil and identity documents includes restriction of movement, harassment by security forces, barriers to accessing services, barriers in accessing land and property 34%, 33%, 19%, 14% respectively. 96% of the respondents revealed that the frequency of risks linked to the lack of documentation have increase and 4% of the respondents stated that the impact of these risks has worsened as compared to before the crisis. This result is also corroborated by the fact that KIs revealed that the main barriers of freedom of movement faced by IDPs include lack of documentation (30%), curfews (22%), checkpoints run by state authorities (19%), presence of armed groups at check points (11%), direct armed conflict (10%), risk of sexual harassment or sexual exploitation (5%), risk of force recruitment (3%). According to Delphine Brun⁴, another indicator of insecurity is the loss, seizure or destruction of identity documents. This only worsens a situation in which the lack of civil and legal documentation was, prior to the crisis, already an issue. Displacement as well as the crisis-related disorganization of administrative systems has made the loss or lack of civil documentation the source of significant risks. IDPs, having abandoned homes that are burned or destroyed, often have no access to the legal papers they lost or left behind. Those papers are required for the renewal or issuance of civil and legal documentation.

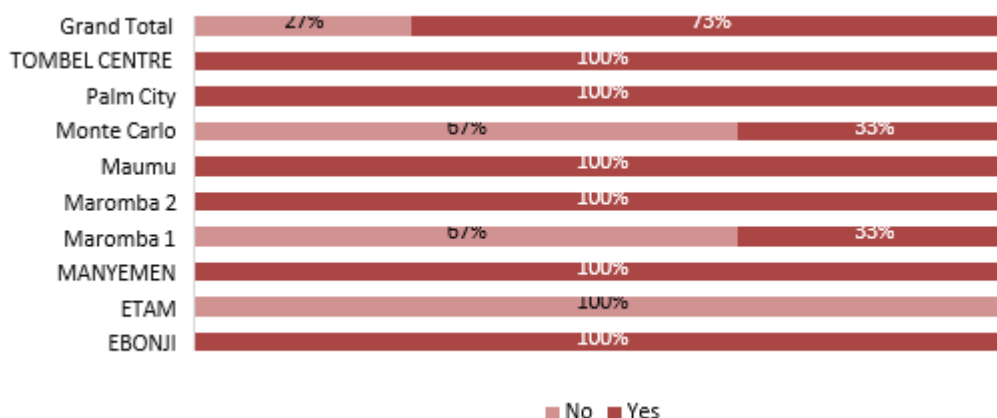
5. Security

⁴ NRC (2022). CARBON FOOTPRINT 2022. https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/_reports/a-more-generous-embrace/a-more-generous-embrace.pdf

5.1 Security incidents in communities

Overall, 73% of the respondents indicated the occurrence of incidents of insecurity in the survey sites while 27% of the respondents indicated the non-existence of incidents of insecurity in the survey sites in recent times. With all respondents in Tombel Central, Palm city, Maumu, Maromba 2 and Ebonji indicating existence of more incidents of insecurity in their communities. Key informants of Maromba 1 and Monte Carlo indicated less incidents of insecurity 67%, while the KIs of Etam said there are no recent incidents of insecurity in their communities.

Figure 20: Existence of security incidents in communities

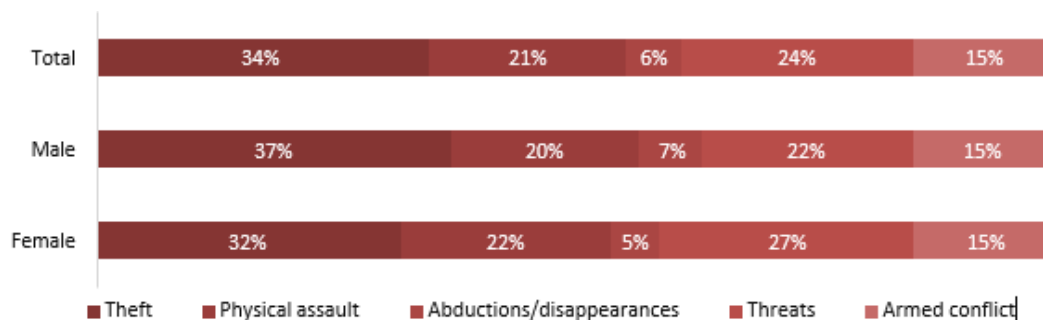


5.2 Types of security incidents

The main types of incidents of insecurity reported were theft, threats to safety as a result of constant confrontations, physical assault, armed conflicts, abductions/disappearances, by 34%, 24%, 21%, 15% and 6% of responses respectively.

Furthermore, the KIs responses revealed that traditional leaders (55%), state local authorities (12%), police (10%), gendarmerie (10%) military (5%) are the main sources/people the community talk to in times of insecurity. Theft was noted to be one of the most predominant incidents reported in these communities. Focus groups information collected indicates that majority of the items stolen were food stuff. Theft in most of these communities is very much a result of the fact that most people have lost their source of livelihood. Theft has been a concern as many people continuously keep losing their source of livelihood as they are continuously being displaced.

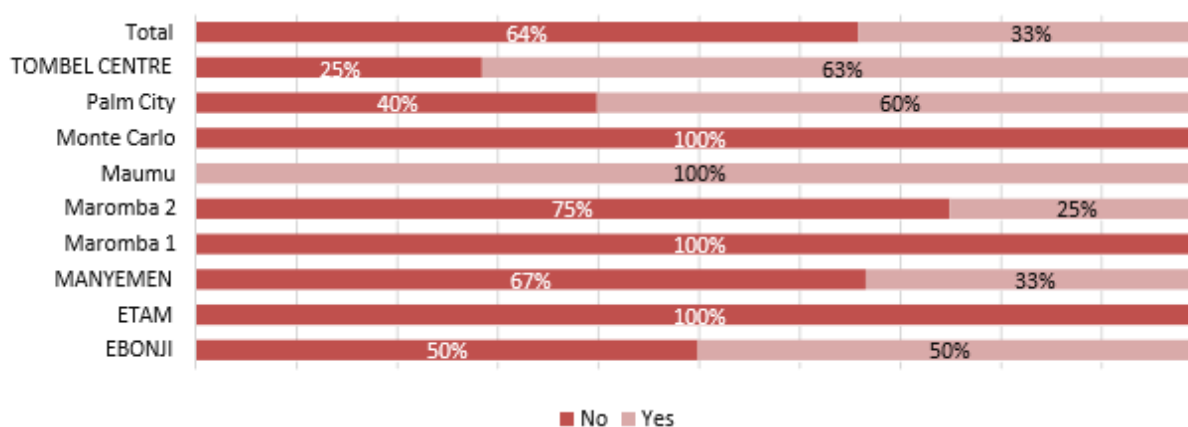
Figure 21: Main types of security incidents reported per gender



6. Access to humanitarian aid

33% of KIs reported that their communities have received support from NGOs before. In Maumu, 100% of KIs confirmed that they had received support, whereas none of the KIs from Etam, Maromba 1 and Monte Carlo indicated that the community has received humanitarian assistance.

Figure 22: KI response on people receiving NGO support in their community

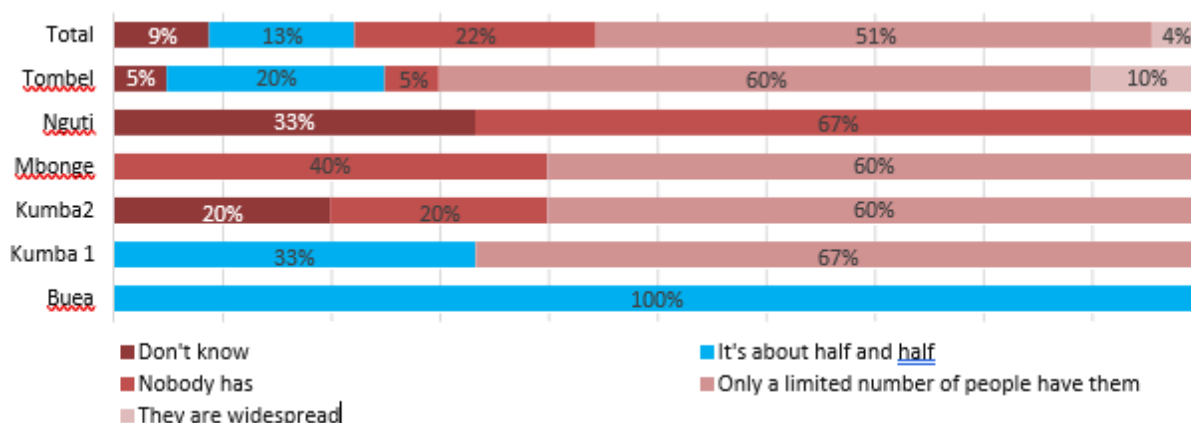


7. Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

Concerning ownership of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP), the findings revealed that 4% of KIs indicated that ownership is common, while 51% of respondents believed that only a limited number of people possess HLP. Additionally, 22% expressed the opinion that nobody owns such property, 13% reported a situation where half of the population possesses HLP while the other half does not, and 9% appeared uncertain or uninformed about property ownership.

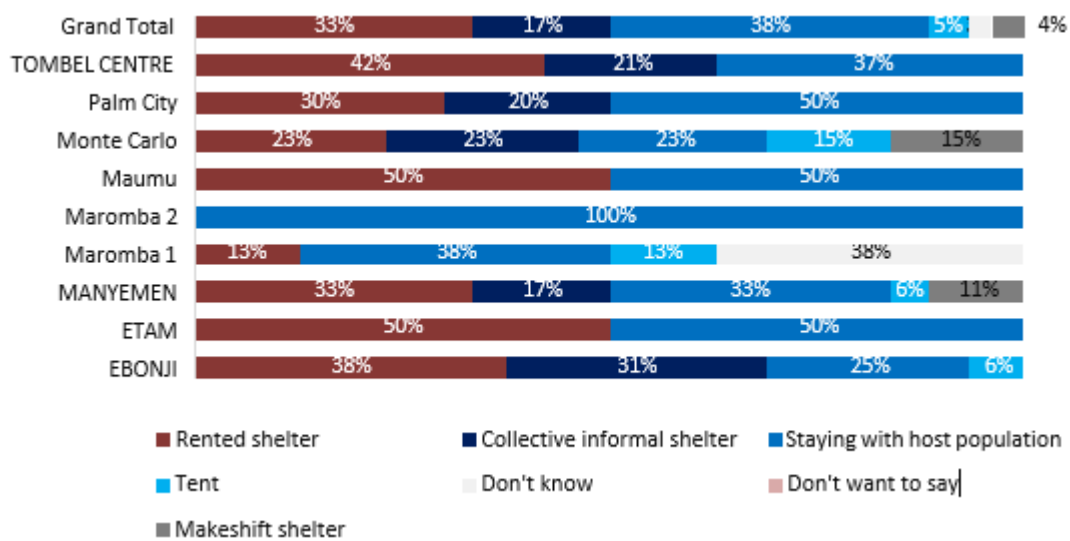
The possession of secure and stable housing can provide a foundation for a sense of normalcy and safety, crucial in the midst of displacement and insecurity. Land and property ownership are not only essential for shelter but also represent economic assets, enabling individuals to rebuild their lives and communities after conflict subsides. Additionally, HLP rights are intricately linked to identity, belonging, and the ability to access essential services, emphasizing their significance in fostering resilience and recovery for those grappling with the profound impacts of conflict.

Figure 23: KI's response on people having property or land ownership documents



Overall, 38% of the KIIs reported that they live with host population, 33% in rented shelter, 17% in collective informal shelter, 5% use tents, 4% live in makeshift shelters while 3% did not seem to know. Furthermore, the analysis of KIIs by communities shows that staying with host population is most common in Maromba 2 (100%), Palm City (50%), Maumu (50%), Etam (50%), Maromba 1 (38%), Tombel Centre (37%), Manyemen (33%); while living in rented shelters is higher in Maumu (50%), Etam (50%), Tombel Central (42%), Ebonji (38%), and Manyemen (33%).

Figure 24: Types of shelter occupied by a majority of IDPs



The KII analysis show that the most common incidents and issues that affect land and property are destruction of property (26%), theft or confiscation of properties (20%), robbery or banditry (14%), reduction of available land (10%) and occupation of land by armed groups (9%). Also, 12% of the KIIs indicate the absence of hazards.

Figure 25: Types of hazards that currently affect land and property

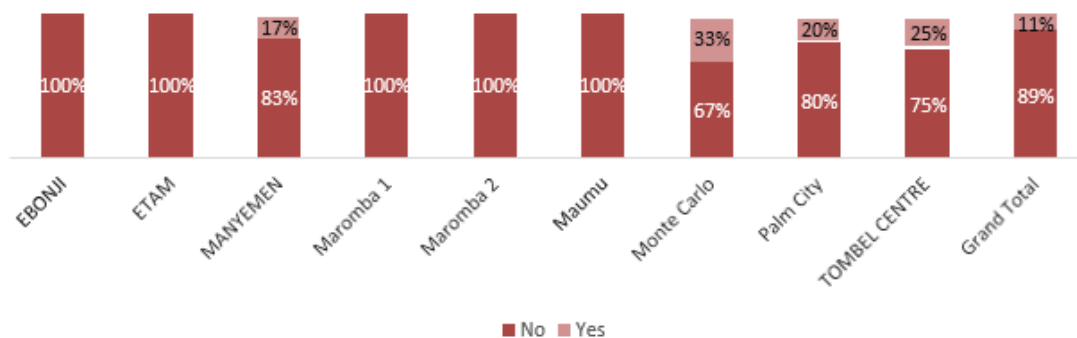


8. Social cohesion in communities

Overall, 89% reported the non-existence of tensions while 11% indicated tensions do exist within their communities. Possible tensions common in these communities include but are not limited to competition for limited resources in host communities, strain on land, infrastructures, homes and social services and cultural differences.

In 5 Out of the 9 communities included in the KIIs, 100% of the KIIs report that there are no tensions between IDPs and host communities while the KIIs in the other 4 communities reported some tensions between IDPs and host communities (33% in Monte Carlo, 25% in Tombel Central, 20% in Palm City and 17% in Manyemen).

Figure 26: Existence of tensions between IDPs and host communities

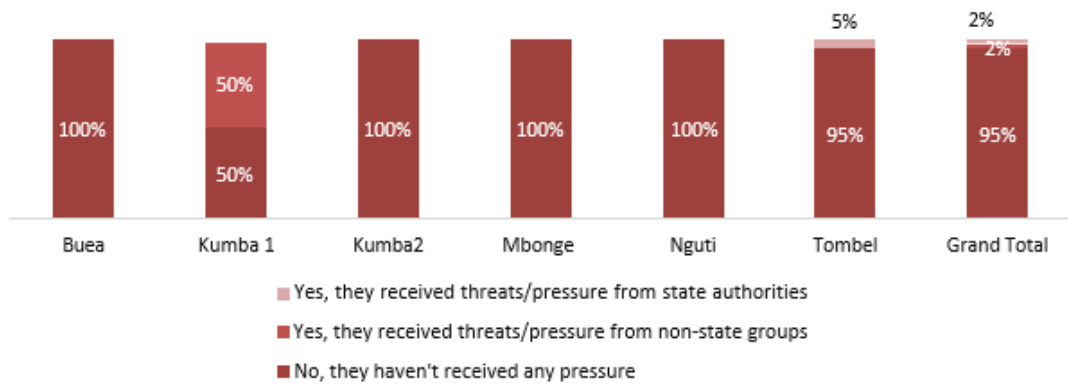


9. Population movements

9.1 Pressure to return to place of origin

Concerning pressure to return to their place of origin, the analysis of the KIIs indicate that overall, 95% of the KIIs reported that IDPs have not received any pressure to return to their places of origin; 2% reported to have received such pressure from state forces and another 2% from NSAGs. Specifically, while KIIs in Buea, Kumba 2, Mbonge and Nguti all indicate that they haven't received any pressure, 50% of those in Kumba 1 reported they have been pressured by NSAGs to return and 5% in Tombel said they have received such pressure from state forces.

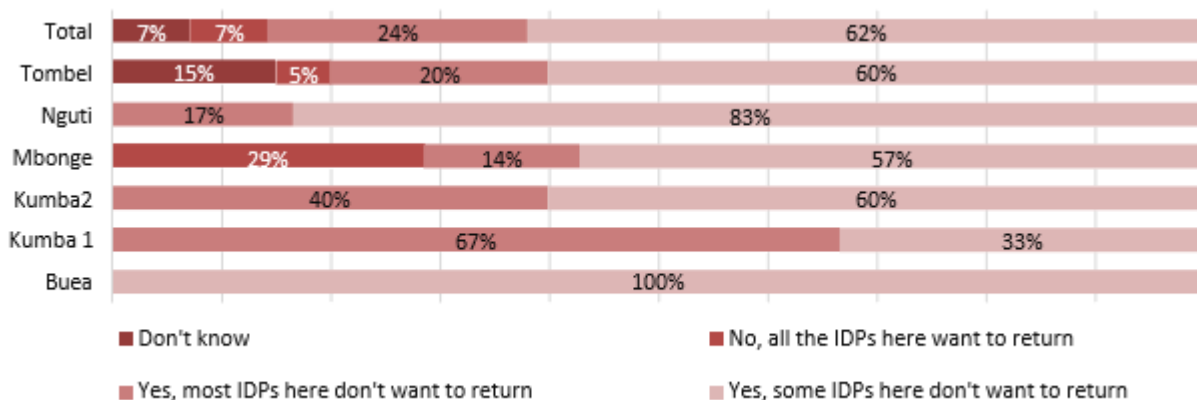
Figure 27: Do IDPs have been pressured to return to their place of origin?



9.2 Reasons why IDPs prefer staying in host communities

Reports from key informants indicates that 62% of them stated that some of the IDPs who live in their communities don't want to return to their communities of origin. However, 24% of the KIs consider that most IDPs don't want to return while 7% of the KIs believe that all the IDPs want to return and 7% don't know if they want to return or not to their place of origin. In Kumba 1 subdivision, KIs reported that IDPs don't want to return. In Buea subdivision, all the KIs reported that some IDPs don't want to return. In Kumba 2, 40% of the KIs reported that most IDPs don't want to return while 60% reported that some IDPs don't want to return.

Figure 27: KI's response to the question: Are there IDPs who would prefer not to return and wish to move permanently in the community?



10. Conclusion

The Rapid Protection Need Assessment has enabled DRC to have a better understanding of the evolution of the protection situation and needs of the populations covered by this study. The main results can be summarized as follows:

- All communities where data was collected have been significantly impacted by the ongoing crisis and as a result there has been constant displacement. Some have faced significant multiple displacement.
- High levels of vulnerability were reported in all communities, particularly concerning female headed households, elderly individuals, pregnant and lactating women and girls, unaccompanied and separated children, and people living with disabilities.
- Most of the communities covered in the data collection are still faced with a lot of insecurity and protection risks, amongst which are theft, arbitrary arrest, abductions, and physical violence. There is need for such people to be provided with assistance.
- There is a clear decline in access to basic services, in terms of education, health facilities, and markets. Among the reasons raised is lack of financial resources. This is because most of them have lost their source of income and therefore do not have the necessary resources needed to access these services.
- Most of the IDPs in the communities where the assessment was done have disclosed that they don't want to return to their community of origin because they have established new social and economic ties in their host communities.
- The severe lack of civil documentation (birth certificates, property, or land registration documents) is putting undocumented individuals at higher risk of violations of their rights and protection risks. It also prevents community members from accessing services especially if they must cross checkpoints, which is often the case when facilities are placed outside of the community. The lack of these essential documents puts community members at risk.

11. Recommendations

1. Donors to increase funds on civil documentation, and DRC and other humanitarian actors to reinforce the provision of assistance in the aspect of civil documentation. This will permit the community members to have access to services especially if they have to cross checkpoints. Moreover, it will help reduce the exposure to arbitrary arrest and harassment from authorities.

2. Mobilize joint advocacy efforts within the protection cluster towards state authorities to remove barriers to accessing civil and identity documentation so as to mitigate protection risks.
3. Actors involved in WaSH should mobilize efforts to support the communities that don't have access to water and latrines.
4. ICRC and humanitarian actors to advocate with parties to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law on the respect of the rights of civilians.
5. OCHA to advocate to the Cameroonian government to implement durable solutions for IDPs intending to stay in their host communities.
6. The Protection cluster to mobilize the shelter/NFI cluster members to increase the provision of transitional shelter facilities to IDPs as most of them don't intend to go back to their communities of origin.
7. Economic recovery actors to increase assistance in terms of income generating activities to IDPs by targeting people most at risk of protection threats such as HHs with people without civil documentation and female headed HHs.
8. DRC to strengthen its overall humanitarian assistance by prioritizing communities with higher needs and little or no humanitarian support as per KIIs.
9. DRC to strengthen activities on facilitating access to birth certificates. This can reinforce access to education especially in communities where schools are available.
10. DRC to strengthen activities in Child Friendly Spaces especially in communities where schools are not available and child protection risks may be widespread due to security issues.
11. DRC to focus pre-positioned NFIs assistance in communities where there is higher presence of breastfeeding and pregnant women.
12. DRC to reinforce its activities on GBV prevention especially in communities where water and latrines are not accessible as women might face higher risks of GBV while trying to collect water and accessing latrines being GBV risk higher away from the community as per DRC Q3 protection monitoring report.



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societies - and we work with communities, civil society and responsible authorities to promote protection of rights and peaceful coexistence.

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