

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail – Patrie

REGION DU LITTORAL

DELEGATION DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES

Tél : 233 42 44 57



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

LITTORAL REGION

DELEGATION OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Tél : 233 42 44 57

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF OFFICIALS OF CENTRAL AND
EXTERNAL SERVICES, EXTENDED TO BODIES UNDER THE
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

PRESENTATION

Experience in supporting Internally Displaced Persons and migrants in the Littoral region: descriptive approach (sites, statistics, major problems of the targets) and critical analysis of interventions carried out in 2021.

I. THE PHENOMENON OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

I.A THE PHENOMENON OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE LITTORAL: GENERALITIES

For almost five years now, Cameroon has been shaken by an internal crisis in the North and South-West regions, causing a humanitarian and security crisis in the two regions, of which one of the consequences is the phenomenon of internally displaced persons.

In addition to the mixing of populations and cultures that this phenomenon has fostered, it has also led to the aggravation of several social ills and scourges, including: the rise in poverty, juvenile delinquency, drug consumption and the rise of new social scourges in schools.

Because of its proximity with the two regions concerned, the entire Littoral is affected by the influx of IDPs, with a certain propensity observed in the Wouri division, which opens onto the South-West region, and the Mounjo, which also borders the South-West region to the east and is open to the West region, **the first area of withdrawal for IDPs from the North-West region.**

Driven by the instinct to survive, the overflow of IDPs in these two divisions, coupled with the precariousness that characterises their existence, many of these IDPs have found refuge/asylum in the other two divisions, namely the Nkam and the Sanaga Maritime.

I.B STATISTICS

In statistical terms, 8575 IDPs have been identified by our services, the Technical Operational Units in this case, in the four divisions of the Littoral region;

- The 8,575 IDPs in the Littoral region come from three (3) regions, namely: the North-West, the South-West and the West, due to the extension of the crisis to certain divisions in the West region.
- 641 IDPs have benefited from various quantifiable supports in the following areas: schooling, health, food, economic for the establishment of AGRs; other supports, not quantifiable, for example concerns accommodation, the provision of cultivable areas;

For all intents and purposes, it should be noted that all of the identified IDPs have benefited from psychosocial support when they contacted our services.

I.C MAJOR PROBLEMS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The problems encountered by IDPs are to be found in the following areas, which have also been the focus of the various forms of support they have received above. These are :

- - security due to the lack of accommodation or adequate accommodation
- - promiscuity
- - school drop-out due to two factors:
 1. The supply of services in terms of infrastructure has become short to the demand due to the flow of students in schools that can accommodate children who are of the English-sub system ;
 2. The lack of schools of the English-sub system in certain divisions such as the Nkam.
- Inter-community conflicts arising from either the theft of food stuffs in farms and IDPs in rural areas are pointed fingers at or the encroachment on arable lands by IDPs when they want to farm for their livelihood. All of which contribute to the stigmatisation and discrimination suffered by many IDPs.
- Poverty that prevails as a result of unemployment among IDPs exacerbates certain social ills such as prostitution and the consumption of drugs and other narcotics.
- The number of street children has increased and new sites have been created, aggravating the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency.
- Due to poor living conditions and poverty, IDPs have difficulty in securing health care.

I.D CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF INTERVENTIONS

Interventions on IDPs were essentially carried out within the Operational Technical Units, under the coordination of the divisional and the regional delegations.

Although effective, these interventions would be more effective if :

- All OTUs had received a budget allocation specifically for the care of IDPs. Only twenty-seven (27) out of the eighty-five (85) OTUs in the Littoral region have benefited.
- The spatial and territorial coverage of the Littoral in Operational Technical Units was complete: some sub-divisions (Councils), the basic unit for the establishment of the services of the Ministry of Social Affairs, are not covered by our services, while IDPs are scattered all over the region.
- The Operational Technical Units were all adequately staffed: some, if not most, of the OTUs had only one staff member, the head of the OTU.

II. MIGRANTS

II.A GENERALITIES

The Littoral region is also a great gateway to the world due to the development of maritime and airport transport routes in its capital. This privileged position of our region also enables it to have problems of migrants.

In collaboration with the regional sub-office of the International Organisation for Migrants (IOM) in Douala, in the partnership that links it to the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Littoral Regional Delegation of Social Affairs carries out synergistic actions for the identification and psychosocial care of compatriots in irregular situations in host countries and repatriated to Cameroon.

II.B STATISTICS

During the year 2021 and until January 2022, several contingents of Cameroonian migrants from different African countries were received at Douala International Airport. **In total, three hundred and one (301) migrants were repatriated, including two hundred and fifty-five (255) men, thirty-five (35) women and eleven (11) children.**

The table below summarises the disaggregated data on the reception, identification and psychosocial care of migrants in Douala.

N°	DATES	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
1	19/02/2021	20	20	00	00	Niger
2	24/02/2021	09	08	00	01	Morocco
3	12/03/2021	10	10	00	00	Niger
4	17/03/2021	10	08	01	01	Morocco
5	17/04/2021 ²⁹	29	25	03	01	Morocco
6	29/05/2021	30	28	02	00	Morocco
7	12/06/2021	16	12	02	02	Morocco
8	09/10/2021	50	42	06	02	Morocco
9	08/11/2021	27	19	08	00	Morocco
10	10/11/2021	23	15	06	02	Morocco
11	26/11/2021	13	12	00	01	Niger
12	09/12/2021	14	13	01	00	Niger Mali
13	13/01/2022	21	17	04	00	Niger
14	14/01/2022	04	04	00	00	Morocco
15	28/01/2022	25	22	02	01	Niger Algeria

II.C PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY REPATRIATED MIGRANTS

In addition to the frustration and disappointment that comes with the end of an unsuccessful adventure, migrants experience problems related to :

- The loss of societal references due to the shame of returning to their country;

- Total destitution after having squandered all the savings previously set aside to organise this messy journey;
- Various traumas due to their own guilt, and possibly due to the poor living conditions they experienced abroad.

II.D CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF INTERVENTIONS

Within the framework of the partnership between MINAS and the IOM, the migrants receive a warm welcome from the teams of these two organisations, which is enough to reassure them as soon as they get off the plane. However, looking at their poor psychological comfort, the emphasis should have been placed on the psychosocial care of migrants. This generally stops with a simple summary interview aimed at identifying the migrant and his or her needs in terms of socio-economic reintegration, then followed by the return to the family.

A transit centre exists in the Littoral and in Douala to be precise, where repatriated migrants spend a few days for psychological and moral reconditioning before returning to their families.

The setting for the arrival interviews, a hotel lobby, does not guarantee sufficient confidentiality to put the migrant at ease.

Social workers care should be considered. Better conditions must be provided for them, given the enormous sacrifices they make to honour MINAS' commitments to the IOM partner. The setting up of a substantial bonus is desirable, given that the reception of migrants is very often done outside normal working hours, depending on the landing hours of the flights that transport them, and most of the time, very late at night or in the early morning.