

SOPISDEW



Data presentation on the need assessment for Internally Displaced Persons in the West Region of Cameroon

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Empowering Sustainable Development and Welfare: The Journey of SOPISDEW

Society for the Promotion of Initiatives for Sustainable Development and Welfare (SOPISDEW) was established and officially registered in Oku back in 2012. Its journey has been marked by significant transformations. In 2015, it transitioned into a national organization, relocating its headquarters to Bamenda-Nkwon. Originally conceived as a development-focused entity, SOPISDEW had to adapt to the evolving crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. Consequently, its mission expanded to encompass peace-building and humanitarian efforts, a pivot often referred to as a "mission drift."

Through its humanitarian endeavors, SOPISDEW extended crucial support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the educational sector, particularly in the central and littoral regions. This support materialized in the form of scholarships for young individuals, aimed at fostering their educational advancement. Presently, SOPISDEW's central objective is to facilitate the social and economic integration of crisis-affected individuals and host communities, thereby reducing dependence on humanitarian assistance and promoting sustainability through various livelihood initiatives.

Since 2014, SOPISDEW Cameroon has been a proud partner of the ASA program. Additionally, it has forged partnerships with the European Union and is currently engaged in a project focused on equipping youth, especially those affected by the crisis, with vocational skills in renewable energy. Furthermore, SOPISDEW Cameroon collaborates with the Re-Alliance network in the United Kingdom to promote urban regenerative activities.

SOPISDEW's mission revolves around the core principles of "empowering people's abilities and enhancing livelihoods through volunteerism and participation schemes, enabling individuals to attain sustainable lifestyles for the sake of peace and future generations." The organization's vision is to achieve sustainability in both environmental and human welfare, spanning local and international levels. SOPISDEW operates with inclusivity in mind, working with individuals irrespective of their race, political affiliations, social status, and more. Leveraging their knowledge and skills, SOPISDEW strives to support sustainable development initiatives. Among its notable contributions are the needs assessments conducted for IDPs and the creation of opportunities for their social and economic integration within Cameroonian host communities.

IDP Integration Challenge: SOPISDEW's Data-Driven Approach

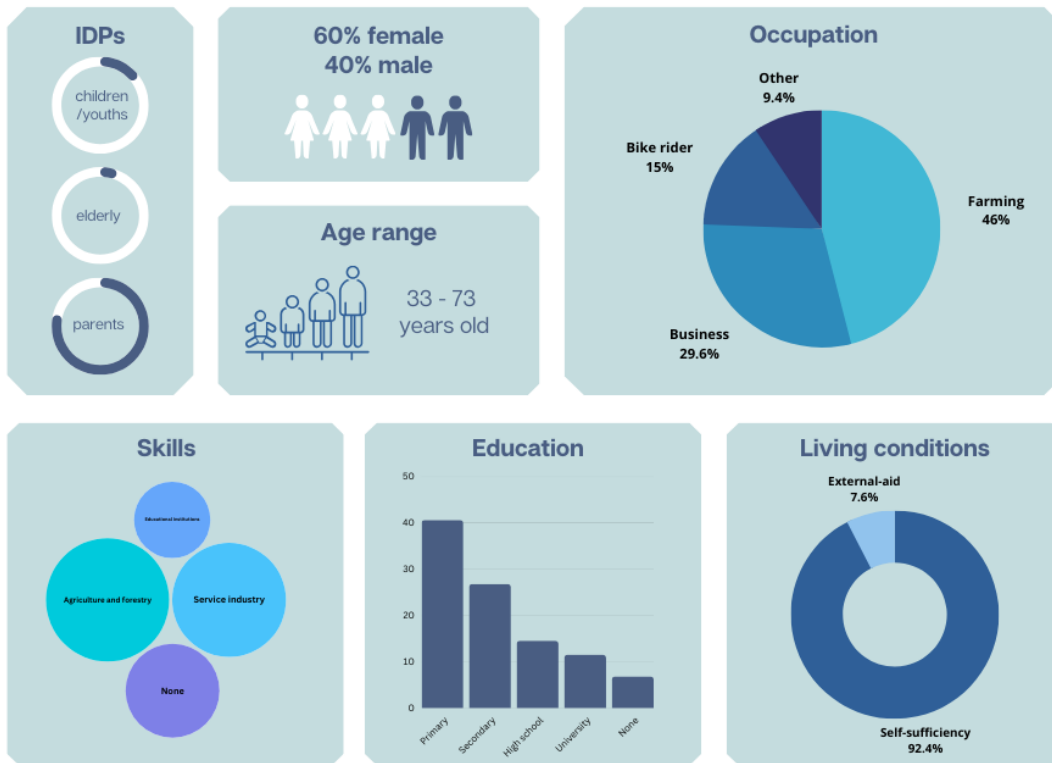
To facilitate the seamless integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within their host communities and to alleviate the heavy reliance on humanitarian aid, SOPISDEW was compelled to initiate a comprehensive needs assessment targeting IDPs in the western region. The impetus behind this undertaking stemmed from the organization's desire to foster income-generating activities that offer sustainable solutions, as opposed to perpetuating a cycle of dependency on non-sustainable humanitarian interventions.

Recognizing the importance of data-driven decision-making, SOPISDEW embarked on this endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs and livelihoods of IDPs. By collecting and analyzing this vital information, the organization aimed to tailor its interventions more effectively, aligning them with the real-life challenges and aspirations of the displaced population. This approach represents a strategic shift towards empowering IDPs to become self-reliant and actively contribute to their own well-being and that of their host communities.

Assessing the Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in the West Region of Cameroon

The Need Assessment for internally displaced persons in the West region of Cameroon offers a comprehensive view of the challenges faced by this vulnerable population. This report presents key findings and underlines the critical necessity for immediate support and assistance.

Report



Demographics and Vulnerability:

The assessment focused on 500 households in the West region, reaching 350 households to date. It is significant to note that 60% of the registered individuals were female, and 40% were male, with the majority falling within the age range of 33 to 73 years, underscoring the challenges faced by both the elderly and middle-aged individuals in the region. The assessment revealed that 15.3% identified as children or youths, 6.1% as elderly, and 78.6% as parents, highlighting the diverse needs within the IDP community, particularly concerning the welfare and education of children and the elderly.

Occupation and Economic Potential:

Occupationally, the IDPs exhibited diversity, with 46% engaged in farming, 29.6% in business activities, 15% as bike riders, and 9.4% in various sectors such as hairdressing, mechanics, or domestic work. This diversity suggests potential avenues for economic empowerment and entrepreneurship among the IDPs.

Education and Stability:

Education plays a crucial role in the lives of IDPs, with 40.5% having completed primary education, 26.7% attending secondary school, 14.5% reaching high school, and 11.5% pursuing university education. This highlights the importance of providing educational assistance to aid the IDPs in regaining stability and rebuilding their lives.

Living Conditions and Community Support:

Regarding living conditions, 92.4% of IDPs reported self-sufficiency, while 7.6% relied on external aid. Significantly, 58% were living with other IDPs, emphasizing the importance of community support, while 42% had only their immediate family for assistance, necessitating targeted interventions for those lacking a social network.

Property Ownership and Loss:

Property ownership was another critical aspect assessed, with a staggering 60.3% of IDPs having no property. Only 18.3% had houses, and 7.6% possessed farms. These figures highlight the urgent need for assistance in rebuilding homes and livelihoods for the IDPs.

Skills and Business Accounts:

Approximately 19.8% of IDPs had experience in agriculture and forestry, 16.9% in the service industry, and 7.6% in educational institutions. However, 31.3% reported having no prior experience, indicating a potential need for skill development and training programs. Moreover, only 5% of IDPs had business accounts with partner microfinance institutions, emphasizing the lack of access to financial services and the need for micro-funding initiatives to empower IDPs in starting or expanding their businesses.

Primary Needs and Conclusion:

In conclusion, the assessment underscores the pressing need for financial assistance, with 80.9% of IDPs expressing a desire for micro-funding to either start or enhance their businesses. Additionally, 15% identified the need for educational support, and 3.7% indicated a need for business coaching and counseling. This report emphasizes the urgent call for support for internally displaced persons in the West region of Cameroon. The statistics and findings highlight the diverse needs of the IDP community, ranging from financial aid to education and skill development. Immediate action is required to address these challenges and empower the IDPs toward self-sufficiency and stability.

Empowering Internally Displaced Persons: SOPISDEW's Strategy for Self-Sufficiency and Recovery

Based on the information and the identified needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the West region of Cameroon, SOPISDEW could pursue the following strategy to help reduce dependence on humanitarian aid and assist the IDPs in the West region of Cameroon in stabilizing and rebuilding their lives independently:

1. Promotion of Economic Self-Sufficiency:

Given the diversity of the IDPs' professional backgrounds (farming, business activities, bike riders, various service sectors), SOPISDEW can develop programs to promote income generation and entrepreneurship. This could include providing microloans, offering entrepreneurship skills training, and fostering cooperatives and business initiatives.

2. Education Support:

Education plays a crucial role in the stability and prosperity of IDPs. SOPISDEW can introduce educational programs aimed at supporting IDPs at various educational levels. This could involve providing school materials, offering tutoring, and establishing educational centers.

3. Strengthening Community Support:

As a significant portion of the IDPs live in communities and support each other, SOPISDEW can develop programs that enhance community bonds and support those who lack social networks. This could include creating community centers, self-help groups, and social support networks.

4. Promoting Vocational Skills and Financial Access:

Since some IDPs lack vocational skills and access to financial services, SOPISDEW can offer training and vocational qualification programs while facilitating access to microfinance institutions.

5. Ongoing Needs Assessment:

SOPISDEW can conduct regular needs assessments to ensure that its programs meet the evolving needs of the IDPs. Data-driven decision-making should continue to play a key role.

6. Strengthening Partnerships:

Collaborating with international organizations, local communities, and other NGOs can help pool resources and expertise to meet the needs of the IDPs more effectively.