

Profile
at a glance

Central African Republic

Bamingui-Bangoran

“We had done surveys before, but this was the first methodology that we worked on together to adapt to CAR.”

Alain Serge Magbe, Echelle

Two decades of internal conflict in Central African Republic (CAR) have forced families from their homes. Many have taken up residence in the Northern parts of the country, living with host families in towns, villages and rural areas.

It is within this context that humanitarian and development actors decided to work together to learn more about the lives of an affected population in the previously inaccessible and underserved area of Bamingui-Bangoran. With support from the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), this profiling process was undertaken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the National Census Bureau and the Danish Refugee Council, on behalf of the Protection Cluster with support from local NGO Echelle.





2,111 host family and IDP households counted

300 in-depth interviews

40 focus group discussions, including males and females aged 12-17, 18-33, and 34+

Which methods were used?

The exercise focused on the Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture, in both rural (Bamingui) and urban (Ndélé Centre) areas, with a methodology designed to be adjusted and implemented in other regions of the country.

The methodology was designed in order to derive reliable age, sex and location disaggregated estimates on

the displacement-affected population. All accessible census enumeration areas were selected, and subsequently identified IDP and non-IDP households were randomly selected to be surveyed. By collecting information through this extensive household survey and a series of focus group discussions, the profiling team was able to assemble a comprehensive picture of the situation.

“Implementing fieldwork can be complicated... with the different forms, many staff to manage and a very tight timeline.”

Lukas Rüst, Danish Refugee Council

What was the impact?

“Local NGO Echelle made the profiling happen ...not only was their capacity enhanced, but their credibility also increased.”

Lukas Rüst, Danish Refugee Council

The profiling process had a number of tangible impacts for the displaced population and operational organisations in CAR:

- It was an impetus to improve humanitarian access in Bamingui-Bangoran, despite the challenge of insecurity in some parts of the area.
- By involving enumerators/implementors right from the start, the process encouraged further collaboration with local NGO Echelle whose capacity and expertise in turn was strengthened.
- It highlighted the need for a joint humanitarian and development response to the situation of internal displacement given the similar challenges facing the displaced and host communities.
- The findings brought humanitarian partners to realize the critical importance of increasing the provision of basic services to the population of concern.



What were the findings?

Overall the profiling results showed no great differences in the situation of IDPs and non-IDPs in Bamingui-Bangoran, demonstrating the considerable resilience of IDPs, the remarkable absorption capacity of the host community and the non-discriminatory detrimental effects of the conflict. These findings indicate a real need to direct humanitarian and development responses to both the displaced and host communities.

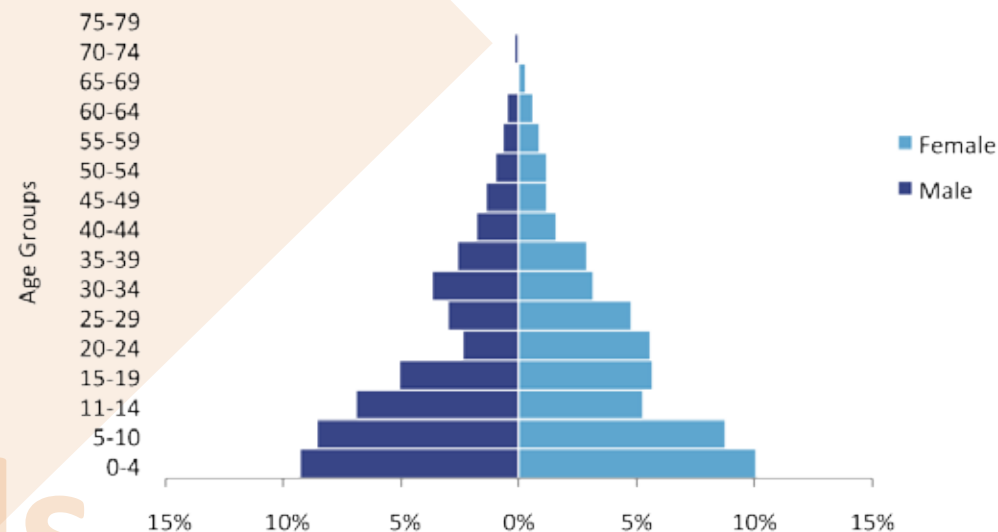
Table 1: Estimated displaced and non-displaced population

	Displaced	Non-Displaced	Total
Ndélé Centre	10,009	28,017	38,026
Bamingui	8,178	15,575	22,753
Total Bamingui-Bangoran	18,187	43,592	60,779

Disaggregated numbers

Of the total population (estimated at over 60,000 persons) the displaced community comprises over 14,500 IDPs (see Table 1), with slightly more females than males in both the IDP and host communities. The population is notably young with 60% under 19 years old (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Bamingui-Bangoran population pyramid



Over 25% of underage girls were found to be in an early marriage

Cause of displacement

In general, over a quarter (29%) of people surveyed were forced to leave their place of usual residence. The primary reason respondents gave for their displacement was fear of attacks by non-governmental forces (see Figure 2).

At the time of the survey, most IDP respondents had been displaced relatively recently, having left their previous place of residence less than one year ago. A majority of IDPs (62%) have been displaced twice before reaching their current location.

Only 21% of IDPs intend to return

Preferred solutions

Of those who are displaced, the majority are well integrated, living with relatives or others who have also been forced to flee in the past. Whilst the vast majority of those surveyed indicated that they wanted to remain with their host family, less than a quarter expressed a desire to return.

Interestingly, as Figure 3 shows, a higher proportion of IDPs in urban areas (Ndélé Centre) intend to return compared to those in rural areas (Bamingui).

Figure 2: Primary reason for displacement

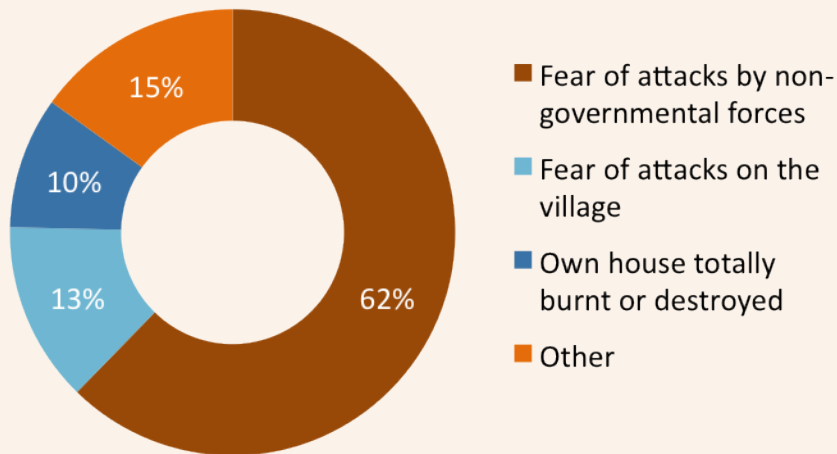
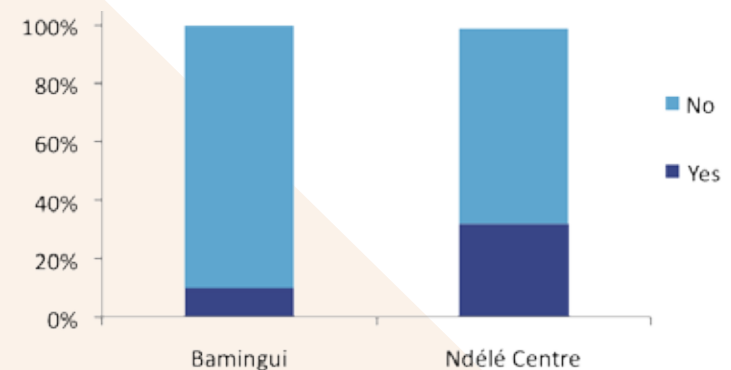


Figure 3: Return intentions in urban Ndélé and rural Bamingui



Employment

Displaced households experience a high level of employment, mostly in the agricultural sector. Women make up the majority of the workforce.

Humanitarian and development programming should consider that over one fifth (23%) of young people aged 15-17 are currently working.

Housing, land & property

Displaced and non-displaced people have limited access to their property due to the ongoing crisis; a disconcerting fact considering that many rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Over half of IDPs do not cultivate their land in their place of usual residence, and over a quarter of host community members interviewed cannot access their plots due to insecurity.

26% of Non-Displaced do not have access to their plots

Education

Many parents indicated that they do not see the value of sending their children to school. This should be understood in the context of a large proportion of children working in agriculture and other areas.

Less than 50% of children under 15 are in school

Community participation

Few IDPs engage in rural community group activities. These mechanisms effectively promote social cohesion, and have been recommended for Bamingui-Bangoran.

This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative IDP profiling process. Governmental and non-governmental, national and international actors contributed to the development of the survey objectives and tools, and implementation of the exercise.

JIPS brought these entities together to organize an in-depth study of displacement in Bamingui-Bangoran through an internationally endorsed methodology for profiling IDP situations.

This glance into the Bamingui-Bangoran profiling exercise hopes to spark interest in learning more about the specific findings, as well as in profiling of IDP situations in general.

