

## Bamunka

Bamunka is a village in Ndop that is said to be hosting 5100 IDPs.<sup>1</sup> The current population of Bamunka could be estimated to be around 26,424 people or larger.<sup>2</sup> 53% of the IDPs arrived to Bamunka in the early years of the conflict prior to 2020, while 35% arrived over the course of 2021. A few IDPs also were displaced to Bamunka during 2022. Most of the IDPs are arriving from other parts of Ngo-Ketunjia, while others are reported to be displaced from neighboring Bui Division.<sup>3</sup> Bamunka itself is not entirely safe from conflict activity and a series of attacks on the town itself were reported during the second quarter of 2022. In April, Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) set fire to several houses because they claimed that the occupants had relatives that were fighting for the Cameroonian State Security Services, while in June the State Security forces set fire to at least 13 buildings and business in Bamunka.<sup>4</sup> Anticipatory pendular movements to the nearby bush were further reported in the month of July in fear of upcoming further attacks against the village.<sup>5</sup> 2460 returnees are reported to have returned to Bamunka, with 80% of the returnees returning prior to 2020. Most of the returnees had fled to the West Region during their displacement. The main reason for returning was the need to access better services than those available in the place of displacement. Several vulnerable groups are reported to be living in Bamunka including 104 unaccompanied children, 53 single female head of households, 43 elderly head of households, 25 single male headed households, and 306 separated children.<sup>6</sup>

47% of IDPs are living with host families in makeshift shelters, unfinished mudbrick houses, and damaged mudbrick houses. 35% are living in makeshift shelters composed of tarpaulin, plastic, straw/thatch, and bamboo. The main cause of damage to these shelters was due to lack of regular maintenance.<sup>7</sup> 18% of IDPs are renting one room apartments, and mudbrick homes with 1 to 3 rooms for the price of 8000 XAF per month<sup>8</sup>, which is corroborated in a random household survey conducted by Plan International which found that people are paying 8500 XAF per month on average for rent.<sup>9</sup> 37% of returnees are living in damaged mudbrick houses, 29% are living in damaged concrete houses, 26% are living in good condition mudbrick houses, and 8% are living in good condition concrete houses. The majority cause of damage to the damaged houses was that they were burnt intentionally during the course of the conflict.<sup>10</sup> For the Shelter Cluster 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, the Shelter Cluster ranked Bamunka as having Shelter Severity level 4 severe inadequacies. Of 31 households that were randomly assessed by Plan International in December 2021, 52% were found to have minor inadequacies, 35% moderate inadequacies, and 13% severe inadequacies.<sup>11</sup>

Bamunka is found to be in tropical and subtropical grasslands<sup>12</sup> with a long wet season and a short dry season. The NDOP council has identified that seasonal constraints include limited access to agricultural roads during the rainy season and the exposure to vector-borne diseases particularly through mosquito-spread malaria.<sup>13</sup> Bamunka as being part of Ndop is found along the Cameroonian line of Volcanic mountains<sup>14</sup>, and therefore has very fertile soil that favors agricultural activity in

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<sup>1</sup> OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment

<sup>2</sup> Oakridge Laboratory Landsat Population Estimates 2021

<sup>3</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>4</sup> ACLED Data Download Jan 2022-Jan 2023

<sup>5</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>6</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>7</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>8</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>9</sup> <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

<sup>10</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>11</sup> <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

<sup>12</sup> WWF Ecoregions of Africa

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.pndp.org/documents/08\\_CDP\\_NDOP1.pdf](http://www.pndp.org/documents/08_CDP_NDOP1.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Surficial Lithology of Africa

addition to clay which supports artisanal livelihood activities and laterite soils for construction of roads.<sup>15</sup>

While the Ndop council considers its hydrology network to be one of the natural advantages of the subdivision with connections to rivers through its many stream networks, access to drinking and bathing water is particularly complicated during the dry season. The water supply is also poorly maintained with limited functioning water management schemes, and the well is reported to pose many dangers beyond poor health including the risk of children drowning in the well.<sup>16</sup> The crisis affected population says that only half the people have access to drinking water with the main source of water being an open unprotracted well, which is untreated when drinking it. Few people are also treating the water at the household level. The water distance from the place of where they are living is between 31-60 minutes away. In addition to lack of water supply points, the crisis affected population lacks containers to transport water and has complained that the water has a bad taste.<sup>17</sup> Of the 31 households surveyed, 45% have latrines inside their shelter, 39% have communal latrines outside their shelter, and 16% are said to not have any latrines and practice open defecation.<sup>18</sup> The types of latrines reported in Bamunka include pit latrines with or without slab and open holes. Latrine challenges include not having enough and unhygienic conditions in the existing latrines.<sup>19</sup> Waste management poses a challenge

Bamunka is connected to the electrical network and is only 4 km from Power Junction.<sup>20</sup> 97% of households were said to receive their main source of electricity from the ENEO network, but the performance of the electricity at night was said to be inconsistent with 84% of those households saying they have lighting at night occasionally, and 16% saying they rarely have lighting at night.<sup>21</sup> 84% of households say that they cook in their home, with 13% say they cook in shared spaces, and 3% saying they cook at a neighbor's place. All households said that they use wood for cooking in a three stones fireplace.<sup>22</sup>

The Bamunka market is said to be the main market in the Subdivision. The main challenges of market accessibility have to do with the financial constraints of the crisis affected population. Food is provided through one's own production, purchasing food on credit, and provided as a gift. Coping mechanisms when unable to afford food include reducing consumption or the meals per day in order to feed children.<sup>23</sup> Bamunka is also famous for its rice fields and for being on an elevated plane which was converted from swampy land,<sup>24</sup> and has become a main source of employment for its residents.<sup>25</sup> Between 1980 and 2000, an 8% increase of agricultural land was identified which also resulted in the decrease of forest and grassland vegetation.<sup>26</sup> Other types of income in the area include commerce and skilled daily labour activities.<sup>27</sup>

Humanitarian activities in Bamunka in the previous years have included NFI from Plan International, SHUMAS and COMINSUD for food provision, and RUWSED for WASH.

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<sup>15</sup> [http://www.pndp.org/documents/08\\_CDP\\_NDOP1.pdf](http://www.pndp.org/documents/08_CDP_NDOP1.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.pndp.org/documents/08\\_CDP\\_NDOP1.pdf](http://www.pndp.org/documents/08_CDP_NDOP1.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>18</sup> <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

<sup>19</sup> OCHA MSNA

<sup>20</sup> <https://mapcarta.com/N4464881098>

<sup>21</sup> <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.pndp.org/documents/08\\_CDP\\_NDOP1.pdf](http://www.pndp.org/documents/08_CDP_NDOP1.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Ngoketunjia#Q25397586>

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.pndp.org/documents/08\\_CDP\\_NDOP1.pdf](http://www.pndp.org/documents/08_CDP_NDOP1.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Tankie Quinta Shegwe, Wirsy Destain Yungsi, Sirri Erika Suh, Tchana Christian Brice, Aloysious Kohtem Lebga, Takem Mbi Bienvenu Magloire, Chretien Ngouanet. Land Use / Land Cover Change in the Western Highlands of Cameroon: Case of the Sabga-Bamunka Area (1980-2020). American Journal of Remote Sensing. Vol. 9, No. 1, 2021, pp. 55-64. doi: 10.11648/j.ajrs.20210901.17

<sup>27</sup> <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>