

Ekondo Titi

There is an estimated population between 20,166 to 39,147 people living in Eko do Titi Village,¹ whereas in 2012 it had a population of about 15,000.² As of August 2022, the town was home to some 1901 internally displaced persons. The majority (66%) of the internally displaced people arrived to Ekondo Titi in the early years of the crisis, 2020 and before from other crisis-affected areas of Ndian Division. 28% of IDPs arrived in 2021 from Meme Division, and 5% arrived in the first two months of 2022.³ Approximately two pendular displacements were reported at the time the OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment was conducted last year due to attacks by unknown gunmen. IDPs moved to a secure neighborhood and then came back to their shelters in Ekondo Titi.⁴

Approximately 400 returnees are living in Ekondo Titi with 120 returning from other locations in Cameroon and 180 having returned from Nigeria. IDP returnees came back to Ekondo Titi in the early years of the crisis until 2021 with 65% returning in the first few years of the crisis, and the remaining 35% returning in 2021. Most were displaced in Mbonge Subdivision in Meme Division due to lack of livelihood opportunities in this place of displacement.⁵ The majority of returnees from Nigeria also came back in the early years of the crisis and stated their inability to find livelihood opportunities in Nigeria.⁶ Since last year various incidents were reported impacting civilians. This includes abductions, armed clashes, arrests, attacks on civilians, and the explosion of IEDS.⁷ Key issues reported having security concerns as armed attacks, theft, and civil unrest, while protection concerns were reported to be discrimination and arbitrary detention and arrest.⁸

50% of the IDPs are hosted living in good condition mudbrick houses, good condition wooden houses, or in good condition concrete structured houses. 49% of IDPs are renting their houses staying in either good condition or unfinished wooden or concrete structures that have two rooms or less. The average price of rent that they are paying is 5000 XAF per household per month.⁹ No household assessment was conducted in Ekondo Titi, but if it is compared to Ndian Division data collected by Plan International in December 2021, the average cost of rent was reported to be 9031 XAF per household per month for an average two-room shelter of various structures.¹⁰ The remaining 1% of IDPs are squatting in unfinished concrete and wooden houses.¹¹ 40% of returnees are living in good condition wooden structured houses, 30% are living in good condition concrete houses, 10% are living in good condition mudbrick houses, while 10% are living in damaged wooden houses, 6% are living in damaged concrete houses, and 4% are living in damaged mudbrick houses. The main cause of damage to these homes is degradation of the houses and lack of shelter maintenance interventions to improve and upgrade the house materials.¹² For the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023, the Shelter Cluster ranked Ekondo Titi as being in Shelter Severity Level 1, having adequate shelter.¹³

¹ Oakridge Laboratory Population Estimates Landsat Imagery 2021.

² https://www.pndp.org/documents/07_CDP_EKONDO_TITI.pdf

³ OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment August 2022

⁴ OCHA MSNA

⁵ OCHA MSNA

⁶ OCHA MSNA

⁷ ACLED Data Download January to December 2022

⁸ OCHA MSNA

⁹ OCHA MSNA

¹⁰ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

¹¹ OCHA MSNA

¹² OCHA MSNA

¹³ Shelter Cluster

Ekondo Titi itself is situated on the mainland area of the subdivision which is more tropical broadleaf forest ecoregion¹⁴, while parts of the subdivision are found to be covered in wetlands¹⁵ in a more mangrove type ecosystem¹⁶, which are rich in biodiversity with a variety of plants, wildlife, and bird species. This area has a number of fishing ports and is swampy in nature and very impassible during the rainy season.¹⁷ The closest forest reserve to Ekondo Titi is the Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve whose southernmost point is found 20km from the town.¹⁸ There are various soil types in Ekondo Titi which contribute to a variety of crop production especially palms and cocoa production.¹⁹ The wide variety of biodiversity has created a number of livelihood activities including farming, hunting, forest gathering, livestock rearing, and fishing. Some of these activities have done harm to the availability of forest land though over the years.²⁰ The most common occupations for IDPs are farming and agropastoralism.²¹

Several rivers pass nearby the town including the catchment areas in the Rumpi Hills from the Ndian, Meme, and Ma'a Rivers which connect to the Atlantic Ocean through the Gulf of Guinea.²² Most IDPs get their drinking water from an open unprotected well that is located less than 15 minutes from where the IDPs are living. Nearly none of the IDPs treats the water before drinking it.²³ IDPs struggle with the fact that there are not enough water points, not having enough containers to transport water.²⁴ The most common types of latrines used by IDPs are pit latrines with or without slabs, and use of open holes. IDPs don't have enough toilets, struggle with a lack of privacy, and have unhygienic latrines.²⁵ Pollution of waste into streams has resulted in the degradation of water resources in Ekondo Titi which has also contributed to the availability of water in the town and also extended to the rural and more remote villages.²⁶

Ekondo Titi has 6 health facilities of which 5 are functional. The types of health facilities are public hospitals, private hospitals, and health centres. These are located between 16 to 30 minutes from where IDPs are living and are mostly accessible to IDPs.²⁷ Wood is the main cooking fuel sold in the markets of Ekondo Titi and similar to nearby locations is the most prominent type of fuel used in cooking.²⁸ The market is largely accessible but IDPs have complained about a lack of money and the high prices of goods.²⁹

Humanitarian services have been limited in Ekondo Titi but have been reported as education activities done by IRC in the past.³⁰

¹⁴ Ecoregions of Africa World Wildlife Fund

¹⁵ Open Street Map Landuse Patterns

¹⁶ Ecoregions of Africa World Wildlife Fund

¹⁷ https://www.pndp.org/documents/07_CDP_EKONDO_TITI.pdf

¹⁸ Google Maps

¹⁹ https://www.pndp.org/documents/07_CDP_EKONDO_TITI.pdf

²⁰ https://www.pndp.org/documents/07_CDP_EKONDO_TITI.pdf

²¹ OCHA MSNA

²² https://www.pndp.org/documents/07_CDP_EKONDO_TITI.pdf

²³ OCHA MSNA

²⁴ OCHA MSNA

²⁵ OCHA MSNA

²⁶ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322987050_A_Model_for_Sustainable_Water_Supply_in_Rural_Communities_The_Case_of_Ekondo-Titi_Cameroon/download

²⁷ OCHA MSNA

²⁸ OCHA MSNA

²⁹ OCHA. MSNA

³⁰ OCHA MSNA