

Kosala 1

Kosala 1 is one of the villages in Kumba 2 Subdivision where the population is estimated to be around 69,378 people.¹ There are currently 3325 internally displaced people living in Kosala 1.² These IDPs have arrived to Kosala during the first years of the crisis prior to 2020 and during 2021. 70% of the IDPs arrived prior to 2020, while the remainder came during 2021. The majority of the IDPs are from surrounding subdivisions of Meme that have been impacted by the crisis including Mbonge and Konye subdivisions.³ There are reported to be 345 returnees in Kosala, of which 60% of them returned from the Littoral Region prior during 2020 and the years prior. During 2021, 29% of the IDPs returned from Limbe 1 in Fako Division. The remainder of the returnees returned from the Littoral during the first two months of 2022.⁴ Kumba 2 has been the scene of many armed attacks and also destruction of properties.⁵ Top security concerns in Kosala, include armed attacks, theft, and shooting. Protection concerns have been reported as arbitrary detention and arrest, lack of civil documentation, and drug abuse.⁶

75% of IDPs are renting their accommodation typically in good condition two to three or more rooms wooden houses or good condition concrete houses of two rooms or less. The average rental cost paid by these IDPs is 8000 XAF per household per month.⁷ There has been no household assessment reported by Shelter Cluster partners in Kosala, but two partners have done various data collection exercises in other parts of Kumba. According to data collected by Plan International in December 2021 in Kumba 1 of 16 households of which 56% of them were renting, the average cost of rent they were paying was 4,833 XAF for concrete or wood houses of an average of 1-4 rooms. 13% of them were reporting to have had significant damage.⁸ According to data collected by NRC of 106 households in Kumba 3 in Tancha village, the average cost of rent these households were paying were 8667 XAF per household per month, this was in addition to 2190 XAF per month in terms of electricity costs, 2167 XAF per month in terms of water bills, and around 7000 XAF per month for gas or wood for cooking.⁹ The remaining 25% of IDPs in Kosala are hosted in good condition wooden houses and good condition concrete houses.¹⁰ 60% of the returnees are living in good condition wooden houses, while the remaining 40% are living in good condition concrete houses.¹¹ For the Humanitarian Needs Overview exercise for 203, the Shelter Cluster ranked Kosala as having Shelter severity level 3, Moderate Inadequacies.¹² Prior to the current crisis, Kumba as a city has long struggled with the issue of inadequate housing and urban sprawl, which has resulted in conflict between the communities overland and the forced demolition of properties that are not meeting

¹ Oak Ridge Laboratory Population Estimates Landsat 2021

² OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment August 2022.

³ OCHA MSNA

⁴ OCHA MSNA

⁵ ACLED data download.

⁶ OCHA MSNA

⁷ OCHA MSNA

⁸ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

⁹ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/documents/nrc-lessons-learned-document>

¹⁰ OCHA MSNA

¹¹ OCHA MSNA

¹² Shelter Cluster

housing standards.¹³ The surge in IDPs taking shelter in Kumba has likely only exacerbated the challenge.

Kosala is considered to be one of the downhill quarters of Kumba and is relatively flat in topography.¹⁴ It is approximately 7 km from Barombi Lake,¹⁵ which is famous for being the largest volcanic lake in Cameroon.¹⁶ Kosala is located approximately 55 km from the Rumpi Hills Protected Forest area and approximately 90 km from the Korup National Park.¹⁷

The main source of drinking water for IDPs is piped spring (motorized borehole).¹⁸ Water treatment is observed by half the people prior to drinking it, and the water source is located between 16 to 30 minutes away from where the IDPs are living. Water challenges existed due to the fact that there were too few water points, that water points were found to be dysfunctional, and that the water has a bad taste.¹⁹ According to the data collected by NRC, 63% of households were getting their water from a borehole or well, 23% were collecting the water from a spring, 8% were receiving it from piped water, and 6% were having to pump the water from their house.²⁰ The main types of latrines available to IDPs were pit latrines with and without slabs, and use of open holes.²¹ 88% of people surveyed by NRC had latrines, with 51% having ventilated improved pit latrines, 25% having pit latrines without ventilation, 11% having flush toilets, and 8% practicing open defecation.²² IDPs have stated that their problems with access to latrines are not having enough toilets, having no privacy, toilets being unhygienic.²³

Waste management is also a persistent problem. 70% of households in Kumba dispose of waste in community containers, 13% dispose through community collection, and 12% dispose waste into an open field. 52% of households dispose of waste water in open drainage channels in the street, 21% reported dumping waste water in a simple cesspit or hole in the ground, and 14% reported throwing it behind the house, while only 2% reporting having a septic tank.²⁴ The behavioral patterns in Tancha seem transferrable to Kosala, given the reports that have been made of pollution of urban springs in the area. This pollution has been facilitated due to the construction of houses in unsafe areas and the pollution of man-made waste which block the ability of run off water during the rainy season which have contributed to flooding.²⁵

Kosala has 3 healthcare centres which are all functional located within 16 to 30 minutes distance from where IDPs are living. It is reported that health is not readily accessible for IDPs due to the expense of the healthcare.²⁶

¹³<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283321668> Journal of Geography and Regional Planning Urban housing improvement and conflict prevention framework for Cameroonian cities Lessons from Kumba/download

¹⁴ <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation.aspx?paperid=65031>

¹⁵ Google Maps

¹⁶ [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumba_\(Cameroun\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumba_(Cameroun))

¹⁷ Google Maps

¹⁸ OCHA MSNA

¹⁹ OCHA MSNA

²⁰ NRC Rental Market Assessment

²¹ OCHA MSNA

²² NRC Rental Market Assessment

²³ OCHA MSNA

²⁴ NRC Rental Market Assessment

²⁵ <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation.aspx?paperid=65031>

²⁶ OCHA MSNA

The markets are typically well served, and Cluster partners have conducted market assessments there in the past year and made the data available to the Cluster's market monitoring dashboard.²⁷ The main challenge reported with markets is that the goods are too expensive.²⁸ Electricity is mostly provided through ENEO Cameroon. Households use either wood or gas for cooking depending on the stove type.²⁹ The main occupation types for IDPs include farming, working as a daily labourer, and petty trading.³⁰

Shelter Cluster partners did not report any humanitarian activities in Kosala over the last year.³¹ According to the OCHA MSNA, previous humanitarian assistance provided in Kosala include Doctors without Borders (MSF) for health, IRC for delivery of NFIs, Plan International for Education, and Caritas for cash assistance.³²

²⁷ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/northwest-and-southwest-cameroon-shelter-cluster-price-monitoring>

²⁸ OCHA MSNA

²⁹ OCHA MSNA

³⁰ OCHA MSNA

³¹ Shelter Cluster

³² OCHA MSNA