

Ngwo

The population of Ngwo village in Njikwa Subdivision in Momo Division is estimated to be between 10,607 to 26,424 people¹, while in 2012, it was estimated that the village had 10,000 residents². As of August 2022, 550 IDPs were reported to be living in Ngwo village. 73% of these IDPs arrived to Ngwo during the early stages of the crisis before 2020, 19% arrived in 2021, while the remainder arrived between January to August 2022. All IDPs are reported to be from other villages in Njikwa Subdivision.³ Several pendular movements were reported from Ngwo, largely caused by military operations. IDPs usually flee with entire households into the nearby bush.⁴ 1024 returnees have been reported to return to Ngwo since being displaced throughout the last several years of the crisis. During their displacement these IDPs fled to Bamenda, Buea, and even to the Center Region. Their return was primarily motivated by the inability to find livelihood opportunities in their location of displacement. 48% of IDPs returned prior to 2020, 38% returned during the course of 2021, and the remainder returned between January and August 2022.⁵ Security risks were reported to be armed attacks, theft, and shooting, while protection risks include arbitrary detention and arrest, gender-based violence, and early pregnancy.⁶

68% of IDPs are living with host families, good condition and damaged mudbrick houses and damaged concrete houses. 16% are squatting in damaged mudbrick houses, damaged concrete houses, and good condition mudbrick houses. 15% of households are renting in good conditioned mudbrick or concrete structure with 3 or more rooms apartments or mudbrick houses with two rooms or less. The damaged condition of the IDP houses is reported to be due to degradation of the homes and lack of upkeep of the biodegradable materials forming the structures. The average cost of rent is reported to be 20,000 XAF per month.⁷ No household data collection has been reported by Shelter Cluster partners in this village.⁸ 45% of returnees are living in damaged mudbrick houses, 27% are living in good condition mudbrick houses, 19% are living in damaged concrete houses, and 9% are living in good condition concrete houses. The main cause of damage for returnee houses has been that they were burnt intentionally due to the elements of the crisis.⁹ During the Humanitarian Needs Overview Exercise for 2023, the Shelter Cluster ranked Ngwo to be in Shelter Severity Level 2, having minor inadequacies.¹⁰

Ngwo is said to experience quite a fluctuation in its temperatures which can go as low as 12 degrees and as high as 40 degrees throughout the year.¹¹ The soil type is silicic which can be prone to soil degradation.¹² The council reports that the harder nature of the soil is often used in making sun-dried mudbricks for use in the construction of buildings and in the cultivation of high-altitude crops such as Irish potatoes, coco yams coffee, cocoa and rice.¹³ Houses are built at various altitudes of elevation in the village,¹⁴ with slopes ranging from 3-10% gradient.¹⁵ A number of livelihood practices in Njikwa are reported to have extractive tendencies that are causing harm to the environment of its villages. It is reported that families often engage in cutting and chopping of leaves and branches from eucalyptus leaves to get wood for fuel in cooking. Extraction of granite and laterite stones also serves as an income generating activity while hunting of various wild species

¹ Landsat Oakridge Laboratory 2021, ECHO Human Settlements Layer 2022

²https://archive.wikiwix.com/cache/display2.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pndp.org%2Fdocuments%2F09_CDP_NJIKWA1.pdf

³ OCHA MSNA

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⁸ Shelter Cluster

⁹ OCHA MSNA

¹⁰ Shelter Cluster

¹¹https://archive.wikiwix.com/cache/display2.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pndp.org%2Fdocuments%2F09_CDP_NJIKWA1.pdf

¹² Africa Surface Lithology

¹³https://archive.wikiwix.com/cache/display2.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pndp.org%2Fdocuments%2F09_CDP_NJIKWA1.pdf

¹⁴ Google Earth Imagery 11/28/2022

¹⁵ WFP Elevation Layer Slope Extraction in % gradient

including monkeys, grass-cutters, rabbits, deer, and rat moles is contributed to the reduction of the biodiversity of the subdivision. Forest degradation has also been reported as families search for more agricultural land to plant crops.¹⁶

Water is provided through tap stands installed close to the community.¹⁷ The crisis affected population is reported to have tap stands only 15 minutes from where they are living, and most households are treating the water prior to drinking it. Challenges with water access include that they are too few watering points installed and that IDPs lack water containers to transport the water.¹⁸ The latrine types in the community include pit latrines with or without slabs and hanging toilets. Lack of privacy and unhygienic conditions are the most commonly reported challenge for the latrines and that they are not physically accessible for disabled people.¹⁹ Waste manage is also a further challenge that has not been solved since the start of the crisis. The municipality lacks a waste treatment facility and also household level practices further worsen the environment for waste.

The main occupation of the displaced people is reported to be farming, agropastoralism, and petty trading. Food has been acquired by IDPs through buying with cash, gifts, and also through begging. Relying on cheaper food, reducing consumption for small children, exploitation, spending savings, selling of assets have been reported as negative coping mechanisms.²⁰ Market challenges are related with the high prices and markets being unsafe.²¹ In addition to wood being a common source of cooking, charcoal is also sold in the markets.²² Electricity infrastructure is said to be limited in Ngwo village.²³

Humanitarian activities in Ngwo have primarily included education provided by IUSPD and GPA and health services provided by CBC.²⁴

¹⁶https://archive.wikiwix.com/cache/display2.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pndp.org%2Fdocuments%2F09_CDP_NJIKWA1.pdf

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ OCHA MSNA

¹⁹ OCHA MSNA

²⁰ OCHA MSNA

²¹ OCHA MSNA

²² OCHA MSNA

²³https://archive.wikiwix.com/cache/display2.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pndp.org%2Fdocuments%2F09_CDP_NJIKWA1.pdf

²⁴ OCHA MSNA