

Njinikom

Njinikom is the main city in Njinikom Subdivision and has a population between 10,607 to 26,424 people¹, while in 2011 it was reported to have 10,001 people.² 2100 IDPs are reported to be residing in Njinikom town.³ 36% of IDPs arrived in the early years of the crisis prior to 2020, 31% arrived during 2021, 13% arrived between January and February 2022, and 20% arrived between March and August 2022. The main place of origin of the IDPs is from other areas in Boyo Division.⁴ Displacement has been caused by armed attacks that are impacting the division particularly in neighboring Fundong to the North of the village.⁵ Security concerns for the village include the threat of armed attacks, theft, and shooting. Protection concerns include the lack of civil documentation, drug abuse, and physical assault and abuse.⁶ Pendular movements were frequent during the month of July for fear of armed attacks and military operations ongoing. IDPS engaging in these pendular movements fled to nearby villages for shelter.⁷ Despite the uncertain climate, there have been 1300 returnees returning to Njinikom since the start of the displacement crisis. All returnees came back to the village in 2021 due to lack of livelihood opportunities in their location of displacement in the Littoral Region.⁸

42% of IDPs are staying with host families in damaged mudbrick houses, unfinished mudbrick houses, and damaged concrete houses. 25% of IDPs are self-settled without permission in good condition, unfinished, and damaged mudbrick houses. 21% of IDPs are living in makeshift shelters composed of plastic, straw/thatch, and wood. 12% of IDPs are renting their accommodation in damaged or good condition mudbrick accommodations and damaged concrete houses. These accommodations range in sizes from one to three rooms or more apartments. It is reported that the average cost of rent for IDPs is 15,000 XAF.⁹ While there was a household assessment conducted by Plan International in Njinikom in December 2021, there was no data available about the average cost of rent per month.¹⁰ 44% of returnees are living in damaged mudbrick houses, 31% are living in damaged concrete houses, and 25% are living in good condition mudbrick houses. The main cause for damage to the houses is related with being damaged accidentally during the course of conflict activity.¹¹ For the Humanitarian Needs Overview exercise 2023, the Shelter Cluster ranked Njinikom as being in shelter severity level 3, moderate inadequacies.¹² According to the vulnerability classification of 30 IDP, returnee, and non-displaced households randomly assessed in December 2021, 67% were found to have moderate inadequacies, 17% were found to have minor inadequacies, and 14% were found to have severe inadequacies.¹³

Njinikom's climate is marked by two distinct seasons: a dusty and windy dry season where temperatures can range between 14 to 28 degrees and a windy and foggy rain season where rainfall is usually significant.¹⁴ Njinikom's topography is located across a high elevation with 80% of the population's surface found above 1400 m altitude¹⁵, while slopes range between 3% to 20% gradient.¹⁶ Landslides are a frequent natural disaster risk and have been reported throughout the

¹ Landsat Imagery Oakridge Laboratory, Human Settlements Layer ECHO

² https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

³ OCHA MSNA

⁴ OCHA MSNA

⁵ ACLED Data extract 2022

⁶ OCHA MSNA

⁷ OCHA MSNA

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 Shelter Cluster

¹³ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

¹⁴ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ WFP elevation layer Slope analysis

area's history.¹⁷ Njinikom's soil is characterized by being a silicic soil¹⁸, which is typically characterized by having vulnerability to erosion, which has been exacerbated by poor farming techniques.¹⁹ The nearest protected nature reserve to the village is the Ijim Plant Life Sanctuary which is shared with neighboring Bui Division. The Sanctuary protects chimpanzees, gorillas, and birds, and numerous plants.²⁰ Basalt is a common form of raw material, which is usually employed in the construction of houses and roads throughout the subdivision.²¹

During the rainy season, the village has access to various streams and creeks, but these are dried up during the dry season due to the low water table.²² The crisis-affected population uses an unprotected spring as their main source of drinking water, and does not typically engage in water treatment. This spring is said to be about a 31-60 minutes distance from where they are living. Challenges with the water source is that it is too far, that there are not enough water taps installed, and that the water tastes bad.²³ The sanitation situation for households is also extremely poor. Of 30 households randomly assessed in the village, 77% stated that they did not have any functional sanitation villages and that they engaged in open defecation, while 33 % said that they had functional latrines inside their shelters.²⁴ Latrine types included flush toilets, pit latrines without slabs, and open holes. Latrines are reported to lack privacy and to be unhygienic.²⁵ Waste management has also been a challenge for the council and is exacerbated by poor collection and disposal patterns at the household level.²⁶

Electricity coverage to the town is provided by ENEO Cameroon but in 2011 it was reported that coverage was only connected for 552 households and 5 street lamps.²⁷ Efforts to improve electricity, water and waste management systems for the council have been further slowed by armed attacks during the crisis.²⁸ According to household data collected in December 2021, 63% of households say they have light at night occasionally, 23% say they rarely have lights at night, 10% say they always have light at night, and 3% say they never have lights at night. The main sources of lighting are 57% using the electrical network, 20% using bush lamps, 10% using solar lamps, 7% using candles, 3% using a fireplace, and 3% using flashlights.²⁹ 93% of households surveyed say that they cook inside their home, and all households report using wood cooking at a three stones fireplace.³⁰ Charcoal is also sold at the market and could be used for other forms of cooking.³¹

Market challenges are reported to be the expense of the items, the market not having required items in stock, and also being difficult to access.³² Key informants have stated that the market is too far,³³ while household data reports that 40% of households say that they don't have access to a functional market. 33% of households say there is a functional market at more than 30 minutes distance from their house, 20% state the market is at less than 30 minutes, and 3% state that the market is more than an hour away from where they are living.³⁴

¹⁷ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

¹⁸ Surface Lithology of Africa

¹⁹ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

²⁰ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

²¹ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

²² https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

²³ OCHA MSNA

²⁴ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

²⁵ OCHA MSNA

²⁶ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

²⁷ https://www.pndp.org/documents/10_CDP_NJINIKOM1.pdf

²⁸ <https://mimimefoinfos.com/njinikom-mayor-announces-improvement-in-water-and-electricity-supply/>

²⁹ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

³⁰ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

³¹ OCHA MSNA

³² OCHA MSNA

³³ OCHA MSNA

³⁴ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

Farming, pastoralism, and agropastoralism are commonly reported livelihoods for displaced persons in the village.³⁵ Casual labor both skilled and unskilled forms in addition to agriculture, and support from friends are also sources of income for non-displaced, returnees, and IDPs in the village.³⁶ Food is made available through one's own production or also purchasing it with cash. Common coping mechanisms of the crisis affected population include relying on cheaper food.³⁷

Caritas provided assistance in the Subdivision during 2022 through the delivery of light shelter kits.³⁸ Other types of humanitarian services provided include COMISUD delivering food assistance and DIHA providing psychosocial support.³⁹

³⁵ OCHA MNSA

³⁶ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

³⁷ OCHA MSNA

³⁸ [Shelter Cluster 5W](#)

³⁹ OCHA MSNA