



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

International Organization for Migration

IDP RETURN INTENTION SURVEY in BANGUI, CAR

February 2014



An IOM staff member speaks with displaced persons at the Military Airport Transit Site in Bangui, CAR. © IOM – CAR (photo by Sandra Black)

SUMMARY

The International Organization for Migration conducted the second internally displaced person (IDP) Return Intention Survey in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) from 13-15 February 2014. IOM site facilitators interviewed **609** displaced persons at **40** sites in Bangui. This survey follows the first intention survey conducted 15-16 January.

The main results are the following:

Displacement:

89% of displaced persons left their place of origin since December 2013

99% left their place of origin for security reasons

20% of displaced persons have stayed at more than one site

Intentions:

66% of displaced persons intend to return to their place of origin within the next four weeks

19% of displaced persons want to stay at their displacement site

Reasons that hold the displaced back from returning to their place of origin are:

- Lack of financial means (**71%**),
- Lack of security forces in their neighborhood (**65%**), and
- Belongings stolen and/or home destroyed (**62%**).

Needs:

Displaced persons' primary needs are housing (**34%**), security (**29%**), and food (**11%**).

93% of displaced persons experienced interruption of professional activities due to displacement

64% anticipate resumption of professional activities upon their return.

Notable differences in response between the first survey and the second include:

The number of IDPs willing to return to their place of origin within four weeks decreased from **74%** to **66%**.

Responses suggest that the economic situation has worsened for displaced persons: the percent who have reduced family members' food portions (93%), reduced adult food to feed the children (90%), and spend days without eating (85%) have all increased slightly since January.

This second survey includes additional displacement sites where Muslims and other minorities are sheltered (Grande Mosque, Military Airport) in order to research and compare their return intentions with that of the majority (Christian) population.

1. INTRODUCTION

After the first Return Intention Survey conducted 15-16 January and before the second survey conducted 13-16 February, the Central African Republic's Transitional Government was elected, led by President Catherine Samba Panza.

Over the interim period two dynamics emerged. The majority (Christian) population perceived greater security and began to return to their areas of origin at least during the day, mainly to work, cultivate vegetables or visit the market. Muslim and other minorities remained confined in few displacement sites, for fear of the hostile anti-Balaka armed groups.

Security and political stability have yet to be achieved.

Two separate displaced persons' sites developed on either side of the airport: The Mpoko Camp, with an estimated population of 70,000, where majority (Christians) are taking shelter, and the Military Airport Transit site, where approximately 3,000 Third Country Nationals, Muslims, and minorities are seeking safety or waiting to be evacuated.

The second survey was conducted at 40 displacement sites to compare the intentions of majority and minority groups. This includes both airport sites and the Central Mosque displacement site where a Muslim population resides.

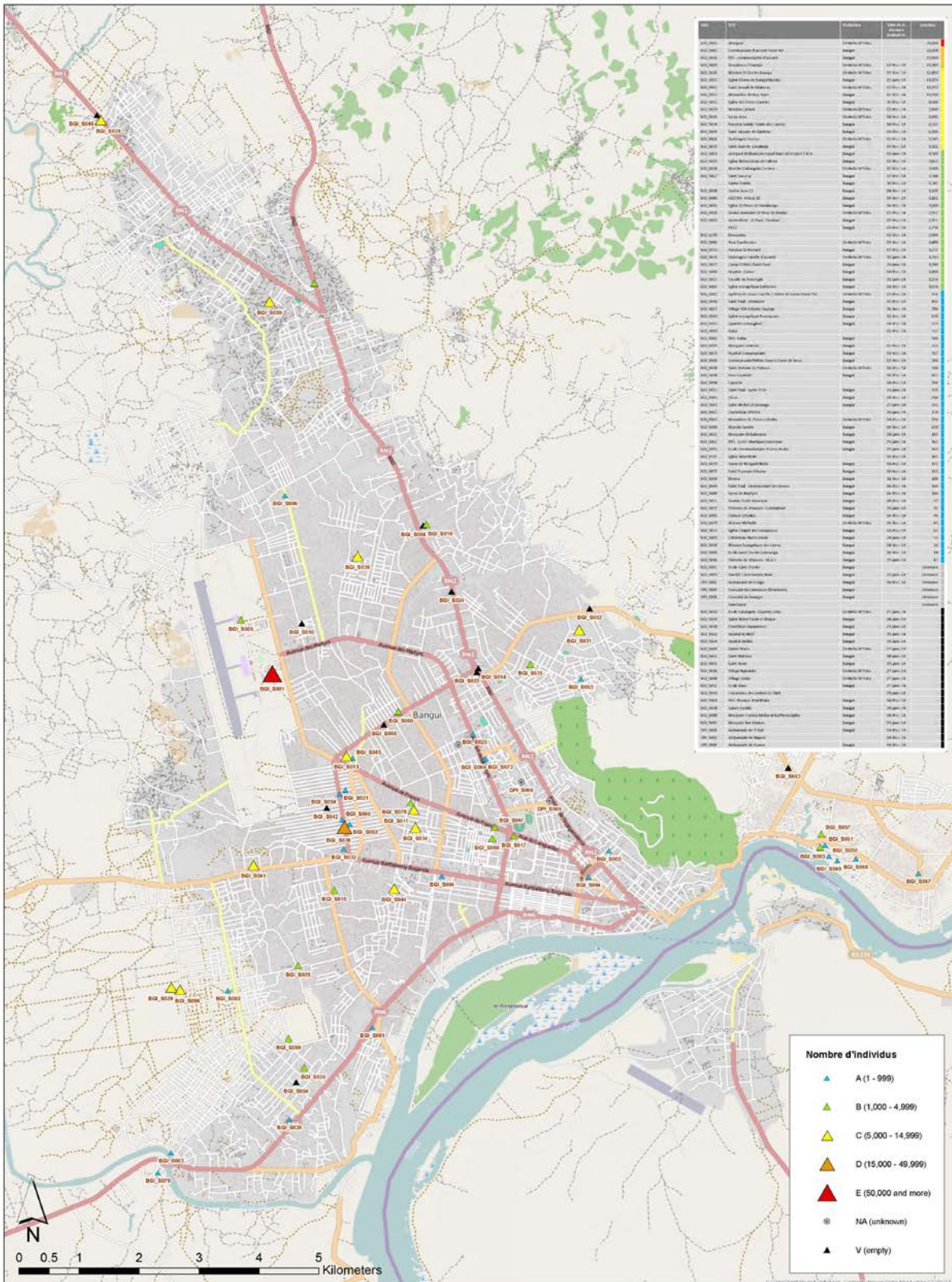
Several displacement sites are now empty while others have grown in size. This may be due to the movement of the displaced seeking out humanitarian assistance available at larger sites, and a perception of security at larger sites. The map below shows the sites by size (as of 11 February, source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix).

As of the 18th of February the Commission of Movements of Population estimates that the total number of displaced persons in Bangui is 273,497.



SITES SPONTANÉS - BANGUI

Matrice de suivi des déplacements (DTM) - République Centrafricaine - 11 février 2014



2. METHODOLOGY

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities contribute to the tracking and monitoring of displaced populations in order to assist in the prioritization of humanitarian aid. In CAR, IOM is working in partnership with local NGOs (AFPE, AIDE, IDEAL, JUPEDEC and REMOD). Through this partnership, a site facilitators program has been developed. Site facilitators are deployed at most displacement sites since the early days of the crisis. Facilitators collect information on displaced persons' needs. IOM compiles and shares this information with humanitarian organizations in order to focus humanitarian assistance provision. Both displaced communities and humanitarian organizations have expressed appreciation for the program, which helps the humanitarian community to more effectively respond to the crisis.

During their daily visits to the sites, facilitators conducted both the first and second round of the intention survey, using the intention survey questionnaire (see annex A). The questionnaire used in the second survey was an updated version of the questionnaire used for the first survey. This survey mainly keeps the same sets of questions for the original form. In order to allow comparison between surveys, this updated version focused in more detail on the intended place of return and destinations by adding three specific questions (see annex A 13.1, 13.2, 13.3). The exercise took place in 40 sites (out of the 66 sites in Bangui) between the 13th and the 15th of February, one month after the first survey and involved 609 interviewed persons.



Ninety-seven (97) of the 609 questionnaires were collected at two sites where the Muslim community is currently sheltered.

Site	Number of interviewed persons	Site	Number of interviewed persons	Site	Number of interviewed persons
BGI_S002	15	BGI_S030	25	BGI_S066	13
BGI_S003	4	BGI_S031	26	BGI_S067	22
BGI_S005	1	BGI_S034	19	BGI_S068	12
BGI_S006	2	BGI_S035	8	BGI_S070	5
BGI_S009	27	BGI_S038	8	BGI_S076	7
BGI_S011	8	BGI_S039	15	BGI_S077	11
BGI_S015	37	BGI_S041	10	BGI_S079	6
BGI_S017	20	BGI_S044	22	BGI_S080	9
BGI_S020	24	BGI_S053	39	BGI_S081	4
BGI_S025	8	BGI_S058	3	BGI_S083	15
BGI_S026	27	BGI_S059	39	BGI_S084	6
BGI_S028	3	BGI_S060	3	BGI_S086	15
BGI_S029	24	BGI_S065	58	BGI_S094	7
				BGI_S098	2

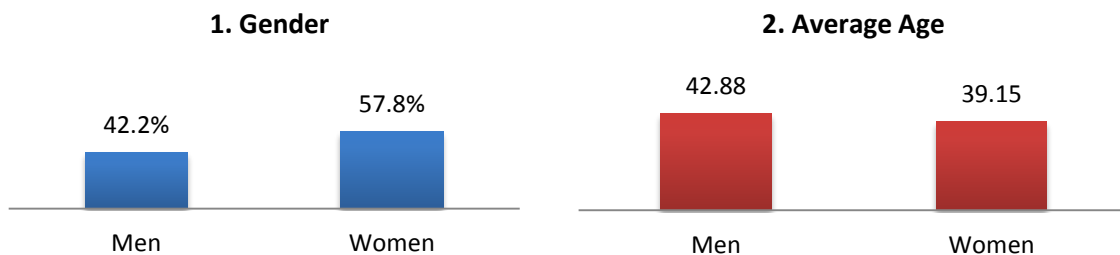
3. RESULTS

This section presents the main results of the February survey.

3.1. Demographic data

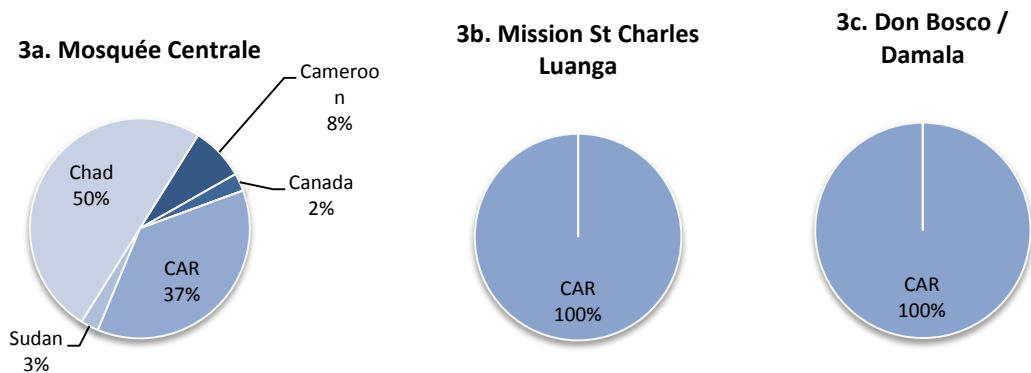
In total, 609 persons responded to the questionnaire. In this second survey, IOM included the Military Airport and the Central Mosque, which were not previously assessed due to security reasons. Survey participants were 42.2% men and 57.8% women. As seen in Graph 2, the average age of men interviewed (42.8 years old) is slightly above that of women interviewed (39.1 years old).

Demographic Data of Survey Participants

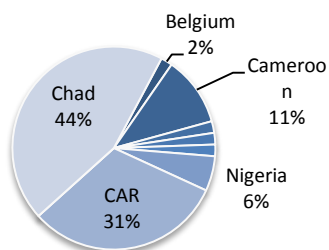


In this second intention survey, site facilitators inquired about displaced persons' intended place of return. While respondents at sites with majority (Christian) populations answered that their intended place of return would be in Central African Republic, respondents at minority population sites indicate a preference to resettle in foreign countries. The graphs below represent place of return preferences at four of the largest sites in Bangui (charts 3b, 3c, 3e, 3f) as well as two sites where Muslims minorities are located (graphs 3a and 3d).

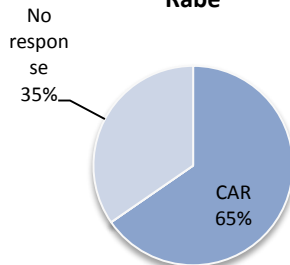
Place of Return Preferences by Displacement Site



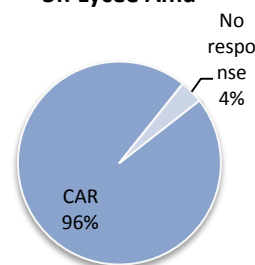
3d. Ex Base Aérienne



3e. Monastère de Boy-Rabe

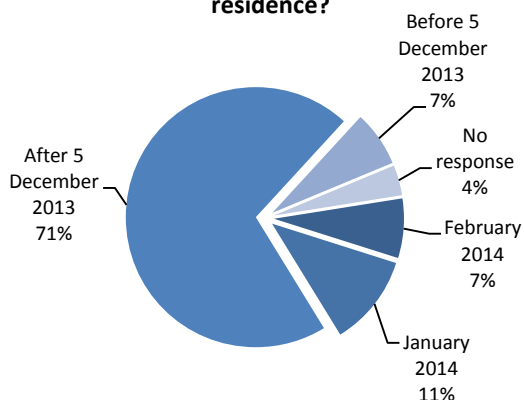


3f. Lycée Ama



3.2. Displacement and conditions of displacement

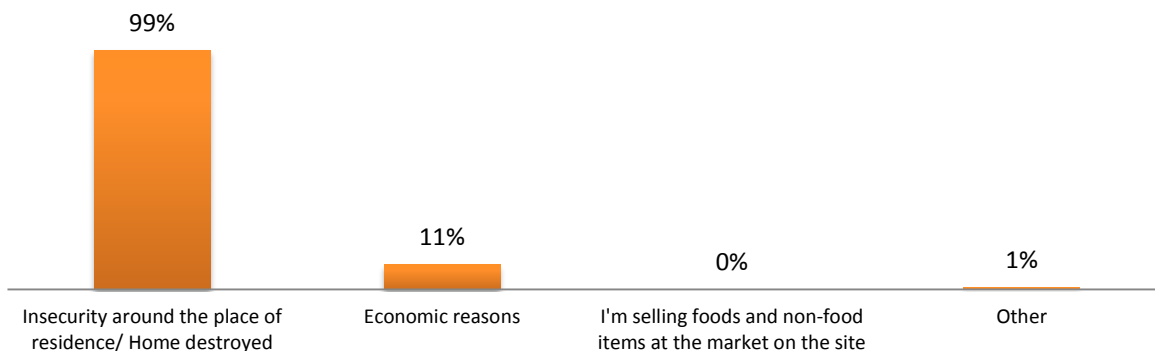
4. When did you leave your place of residence?



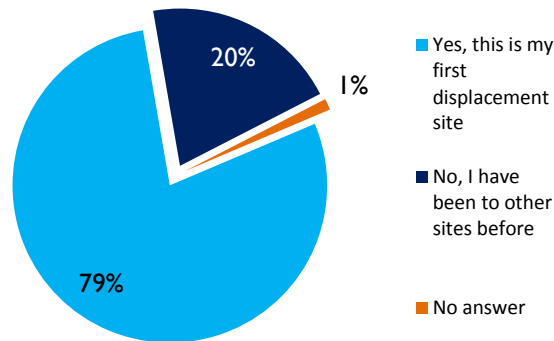
As depicted in chart 4, the majority of the displaced population (71%) left their place of origin after the 5th of December due to the escalation of violence, while 7% left their place of origin before that date. A significant portion were also displaced in January 2014 (11%) and February 2014 (7%).

The vast majority left their place of residence because of insecurity or because their home was destroyed (99%); 11% said they also departed for economic reasons (chart 5). One fifth of the displaced population (20%, chart 6) has sheltered in more than one displacement site.

5. Reason for leaving your place of residence



6. Is this your first spontaneous site or were you in other sites before?

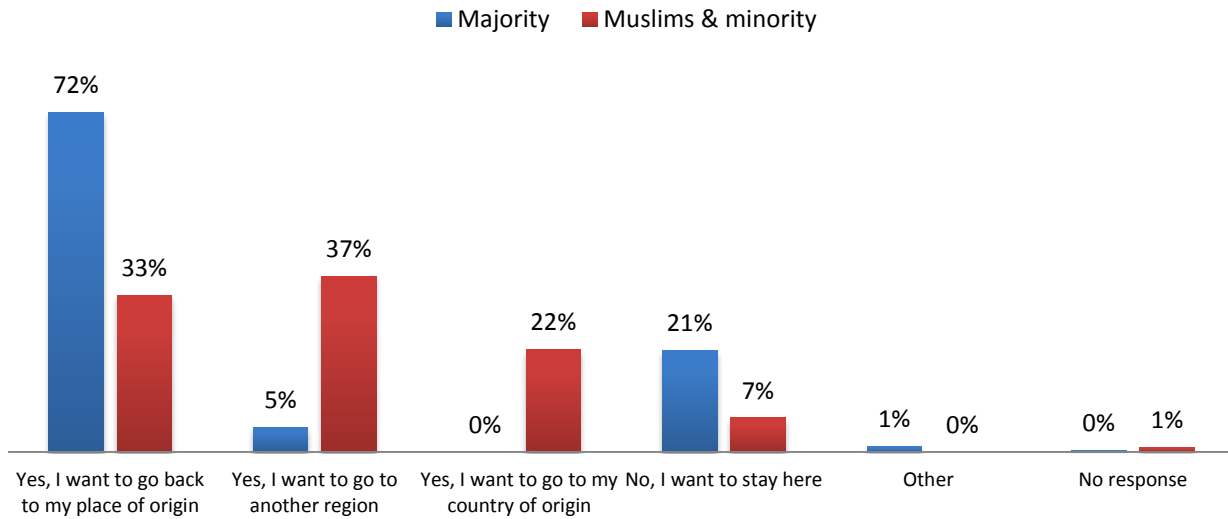


3.3. Return intentions

The main objective of this survey is to explore the return intentions of the displaced population in Bangui. In order to analyze the dynamics in greater detail, the survey disaggregates the answers of the majority population (Christians) and the answers of Muslims and minorities including *Peuls* (non-Arabic speaking Central African nomads) and other nationalities (the greatest proportion being Chadian and Cameroonian).

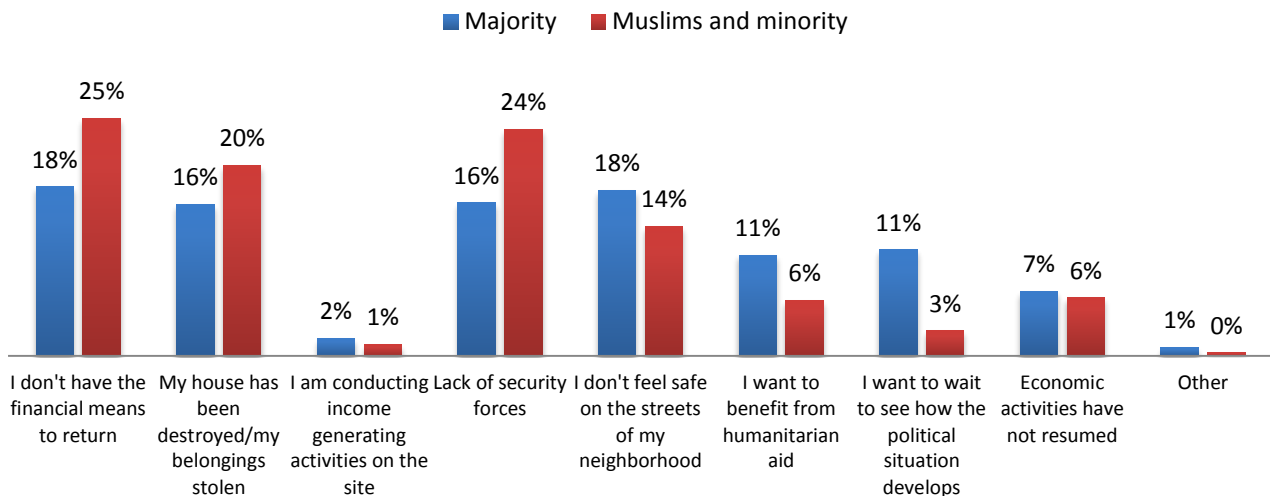
When asked about their intentions to leave the site in the next month, 72% of the Christian majority replied *“Yes, I want to return to my place of origin”* and 21% of displaced persons intend to stay at the site. The answers of the Muslim minorities to the same question ***“Are you thinking about leaving the displacement site in the next 4 weeks?”*** is different and show a strong intention of leaving Bangui for another region (37%) or another country (22%). However, one third (33%) of this group seems committed to stay and return to the areas of origins. See below.

7. Are you thinking about leaving the displacement site within the four weeks?



The next question explored obstacles to return *“...what is holding you back from departing?”*

8. If you intend to go back to your place of origin and to leave the site, what is holding you back from departing?

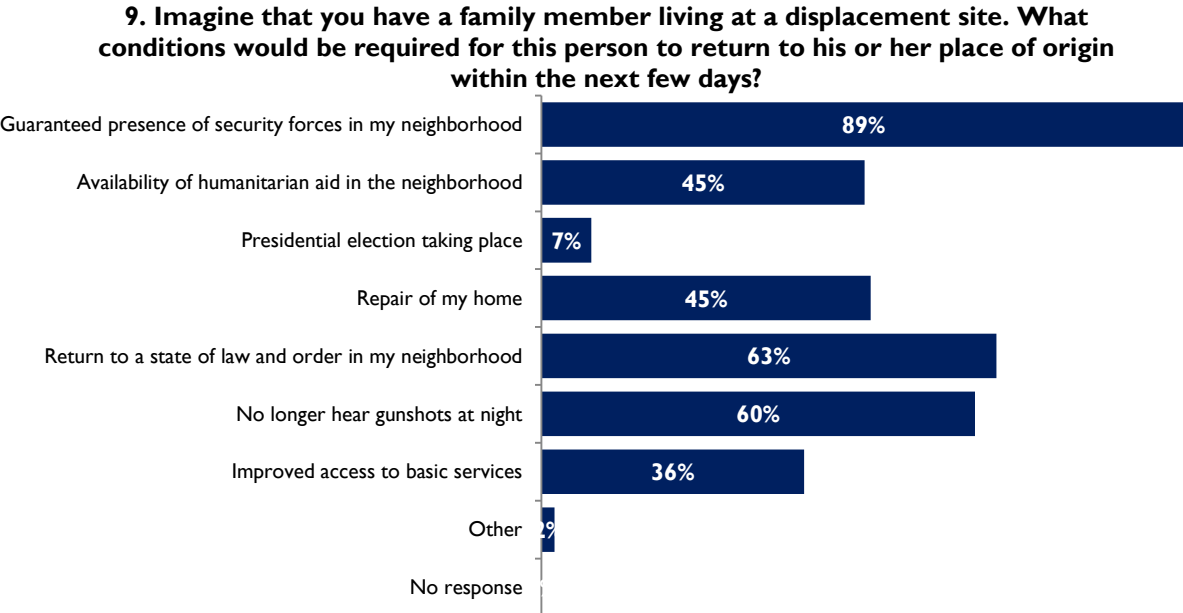


As seen in the above graph, the Christian majority indicated lack of financial means and insecurity (18% for both answers) as the main obstacles to return. A lack of security forces, and having their home destroyed/belongings stolen received a similar number of responses (16%). The February questionnaire separated the lack of presence of security forces from the feeling of insecurity; this distinction was not included in the January survey.

The Muslim minority surveyed also replied that financial means to return is a main constraint. This common element indicates that the entire population is suffering due to the scarcity of financial means; in addition to the humanitarian crisis, CAR is also facing a severe economic crisis.

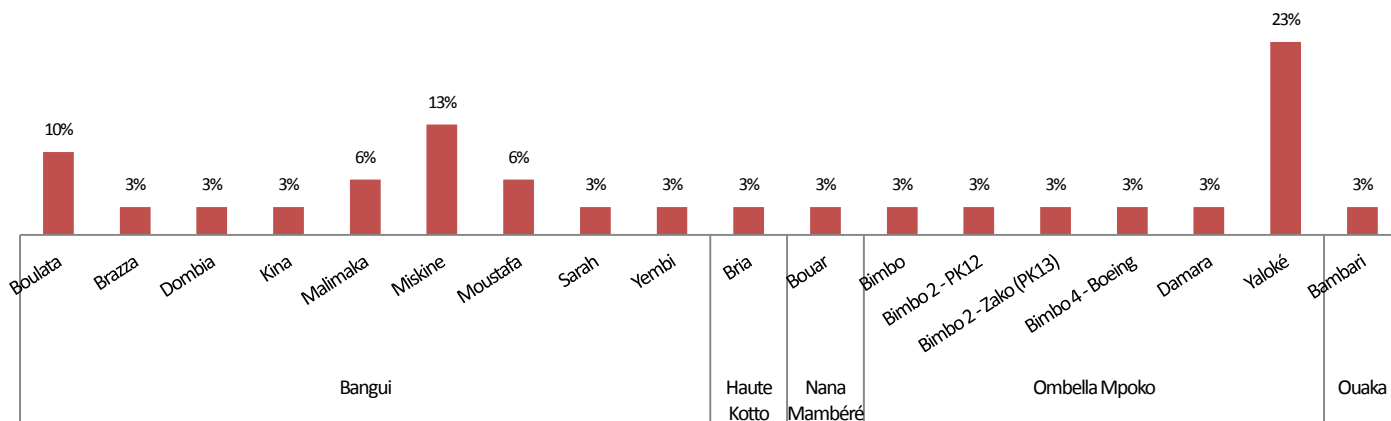
The lack of security forces is the second reason for not returning. The third reason is the destruction of their home or stolen belongings (20%).

Responses to the question of conditions that would enable return are more straightforward (graph 9). Increasing security through the presence of the police and army is the first priority for all survey participants. The second priority is the re-establishment of the rule of law. The third priority for 60% no longer hearing gunshots at night will facilitate their decision to come back.

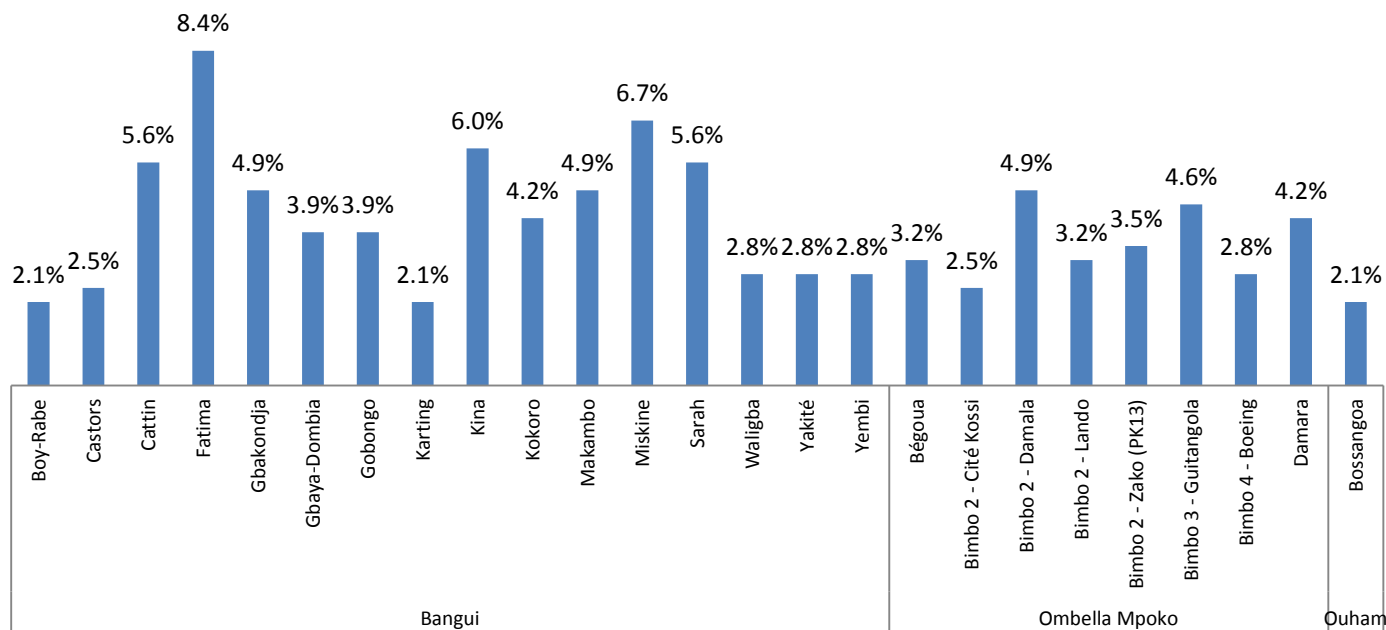


For the Muslims and minorities the preferred places of return are Yaloké in the prefecture of Ombella Mpoko, and to Miskine and Boulata (in Bangui). The intended districts and cities of return for the majority population (Christian) are Fatima, Miskine and Kina, all within Bangui.

10. Intended cities and districts of returns in CAR for the Muslim minorities



11. Intended cities and district of returns in CAR for the Christian majority now displaced



3.4. Return intentions

Needs in the areas of return

Are the “areas of return” ready for the return of the displaced population? We have asked the question “**What is the primary / secondary priority needs in your place of origin?**” There is a striking disparity of needs expressed by ethnic group. The primary needs indicated by the Christian majority are security (30%), housing (27%) and food (12%).

For the minorities, with many of their houses destroyed, housing is the main priority (62%) – followed by security (21%) and employment (7%).

Employment and non-food items have been indicated as priorities by all groups. Unemployment statistics were not broken down by age.

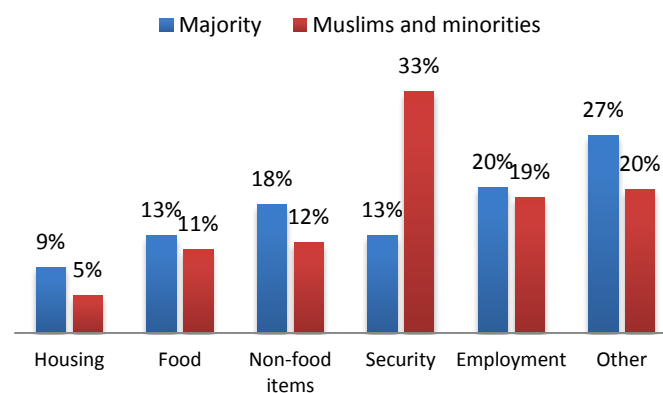
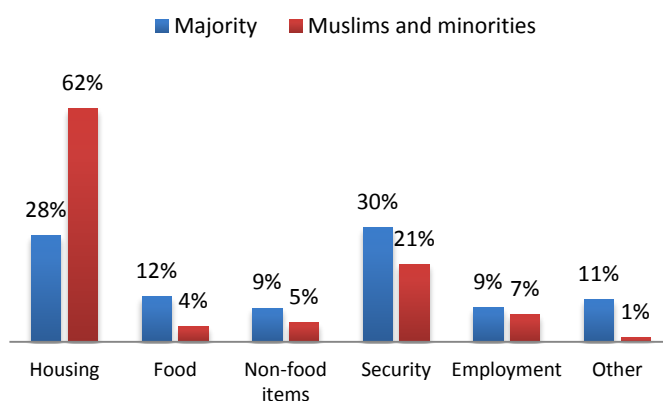
Of the secondary needs, “employment” captured the preference of one-fifth of both groups (20% Christians, 19% Muslims and minorities). The considerable number of ‘other’ responses will need to be investigated in the next survey planned for March 2014.

Looking closely at the neighborhoods (*quartiers*) the respondents have provided many insightful indications.

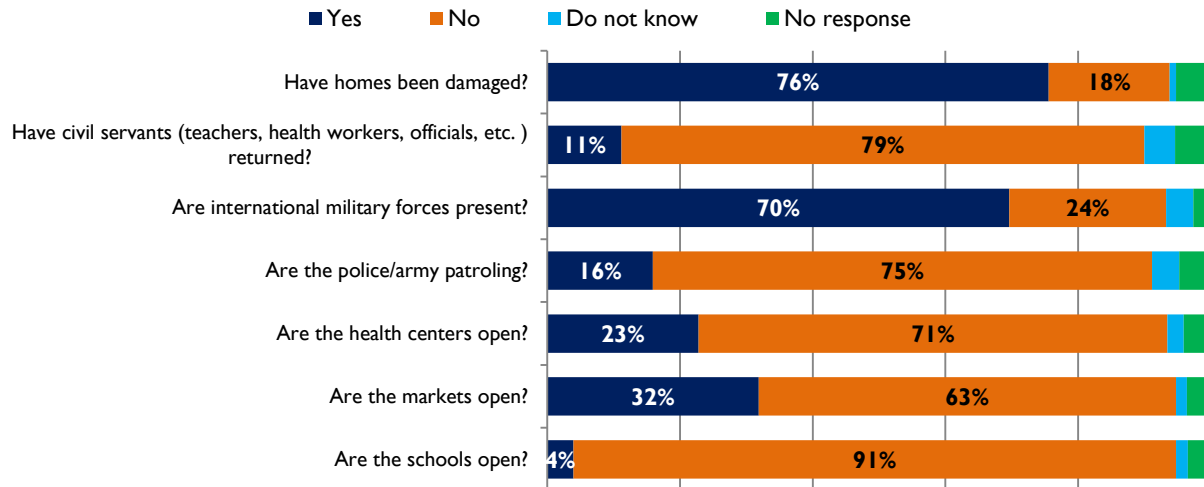
House damage has been reported by 76% of respondents; 79% are aware that civil servants have not returned and that services are not guaranteed. The military seem to be present in one-fourth of the areas (24%) and 75% said that the police are patrolling their area.

Markets (63%) and schools (91%) have not been re-opened yet.

12. Primary needs



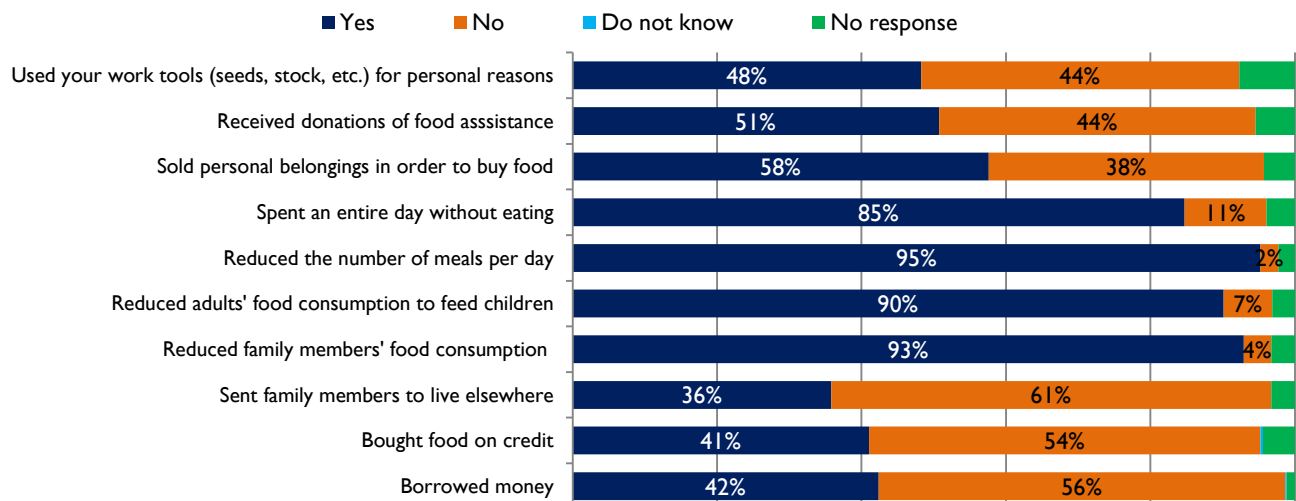
13. In your neighborhood,



3.5. Household economy

Graph 14 indicates that amongst the survival mechanisms, the majority of respondents (95%) have reported a reduction in the number of meals consumed per day followed by a reduction of family members' food consumption (93%) and a reduction in adults' food consumption in order to feed children (90%) over the last two weeks. The January intention survey reported similar survival mechanisms, indicating that priority needs remain, related to food. A majority of households are selling personal belongings in order to purchase food, which exposes them to a debt cycle and potential loss of tools for income-generating activities.

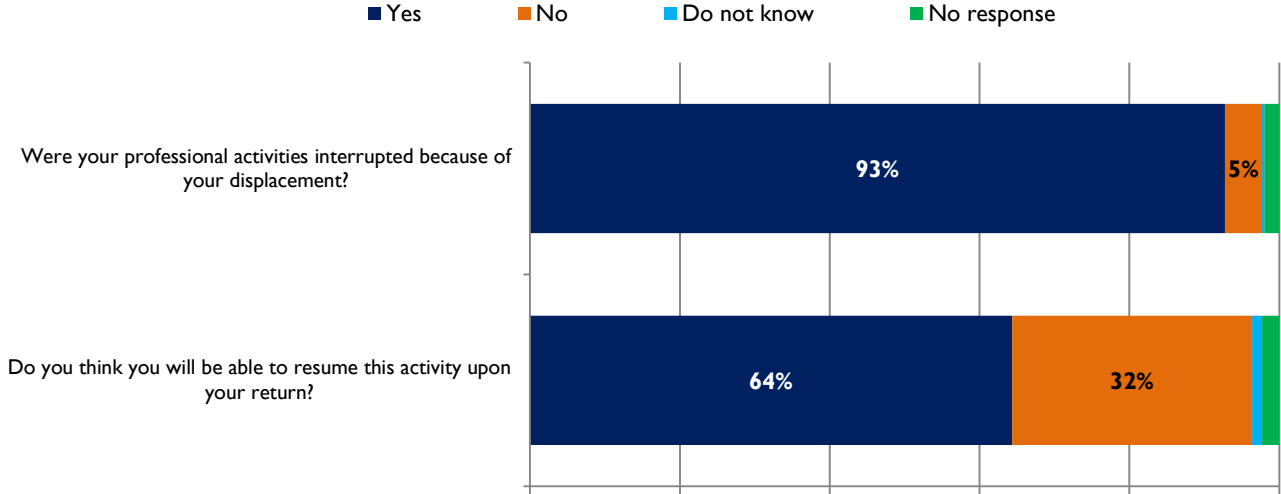
14. Within the last two weeks, have you...



Finally, 93% of the respondents are still unemployed, having stopped their professional activities because of their displacement. This figure remains relatively unchanged compared to the January survey which showed

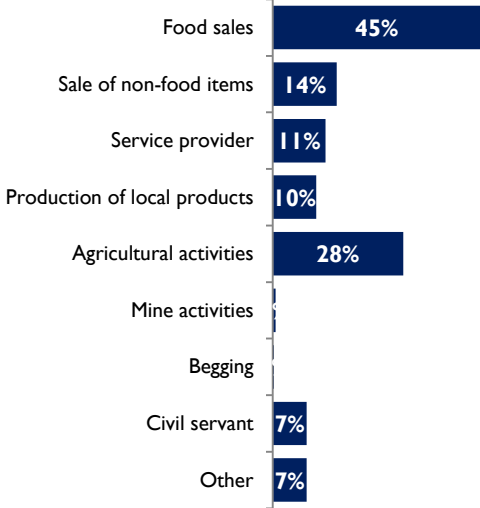
that 92% were unemployed for the same reason. In comparison, only 64% of the IDPs believe that they will be able to resume their previous professional activities upon their return.

15. Income generating activities



The majority of displaced persons’ professional activities before their displacement were related to food sales (45%) and agricultural activities (28%).

16. What were your employment activities before displacement?



4. CONCLUSION

The second Return Intention Survey provides a more refined snapshot of the situation of the displaced population in Bangui.

The violent events of December 2013 triggered the massive displacement of the population in Bangui, both the violence and displacement have persisted through February 2014.

The survey results indicate slight improvements for the Christian-majority, who return to their areas of origin during the day when security is higher. Many have started to cultivate their land and go to the market, however, basic services (education) have not yet resumed. The lack of financial means and lack of employment prevent further returns. The re-establishment of rule of law and acceptable levels of security would facilitate returns from the displacement sites to place of origin. Behind the numbers presented in this report, the Christian-majority displaced population seems to ask: “What will we do if and when we will return?”

Violence continues against the Muslim community and other minorities. Until their lives are protected, it is premature to propose return to this portion of the population. It is alarming that only 7% of this community is willing to stay at their displacement site (Grand Mosque and Military Airport) and 59% prefer to go to another region/prefecture (37%) or to another country (22%). For this community the question seems to be different: “Where shall we go?”

The situation of the neighborhoods (*quartiers*) described by the respondents is not encouraging. In the *quartiers*, there are no officials, no civil servants to guarantee the services, no health services, and few markets open. Of the persons interviewed, 91% said that schools in their areas are closed and teachers, like others, have not returned.

The impact of humanitarian crisis on the social fabric of CAR is already evident. In the last two weeks a considerable portion of displaced persons have spent the entire day without eating, reduced their food consumption and number of meals, purchased food on credit, and borrowed money. The demography of Bangui has changed. Areas where people from different ethnicities and religions once lived together are now almost nonexistent; minorities are now confined to sites that are becoming enclaves. The massive departure (more than 65,000 since December 2013) for other regions or countries has direct repercussions on the economy and on the sectors where the Muslim community had a strong profile, including commerce and transport.

There is a clear call to the humanitarian community to respond to displaced persons requests and improve humanitarian service provision to respond to the worsening humanitarian crisis in CAR.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix activities are funded by:



5. ANNEX A

ENQUETE SUR LES INTENTIONS/CONDITIONS DE RETOUR DES DEPLACES INTERNES A BANGUI - Février 2014

Date	_/ _/2014	SSID	Nom du site
Arrondissement	Quartier		
Personne enquêtée	<input type="radio"/> Homme <input type="radio"/> Femme	Age	Nombre de membres dans la famille
1. Quand est-ce que vous avez quitté votre lieu d'origine? <input type="radio"/> Février 2014 <input type="radio"/> Janvier 2014 <input type="radio"/> Décembre 2013 <input type="radio"/> Avant Décembre 2013			
2. Pour quelles raisons avez-vous quitté ce lieu d'origine? (plusieurs choix)		<input type="checkbox"/> Insécurité sur le lieu d'origine / maisons endommagées <input type="checkbox"/> Autre, précisez : <input type="checkbox"/> Raisons économiques <input type="checkbox"/> Je viens vendre biens et produit alimentaires sur le marché du site	
3. Ce site est-il votre 1er site de déplacement ou êtes-vous restés dans d'autres sites avant d'arriver ici?		<input type="radio"/> OUI, c'est mon premier site de déplacement <input type="radio"/> NON, je suis d'abord passé par d'autres sites avant	
4. Au cours des deux dernières semaines, avez-vous...			
4a. Emprunter de l'argent?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas	4b. Acheter de la nourriture à crédit?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne sais pas
4c. Envoyer des membres de la famille vivre ailleurs que dans le site?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4d. Réduit les portions alimentaires des membres de la famille?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4e. Réduit l'alimentation des adultes pour nourrir les enfants?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4f. Réduit le nombre de repas par jour?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4g. Passer des journées entières sans manger	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4h. Vente des biens pour pouvoir acheter de la nourriture	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4i. Reçu des dons de nourritures (entraide)?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
4j. Utilisé (vendu, mangé) vos ressources de travail (outils, stocks, semences agricoles)?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
5. Pensez-vous quitter le lieu de déplacement actuel dans les 4 prochaines semaines?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui, je veux retourner sur mon lieu d'origine (Précisez la zone _____) <input type="radio"/> 2. Oui, je veux aller dans une nouvelle région. <input type="radio"/> 3. Oui, je veux aller dans mon pays d'origine. <input type="radio"/> 4. Non, je veux rester sur place. <input type="radio"/> 5. Autre :		
6. Si vous avez l'intention de retourner sur votre lieu d'origine et de quitter le site, qu'est-ce qui vous empêche de le faire des aujourd'hui? (plusieurs choix)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Je n'ai pas les moyens financiers de rentrer. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mon logement est détruit/mes biens volés. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. J'ai des activités économiques sur le site. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Absence des forces de l'ordre. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Je ne me sens pas en sécurité dans les rues de mon quartier d'origine <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Car je veux bénéficier de l'aide des organisations internationale. <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Je veux attendre de voir comment la situation politique et sécuritaire évolue. <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Pas de reprise des activités économiques sur ma zone de retour <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Autre, précisez :		
7. Supposons que vous avez un membre de votre famille qui vit dans le site actuellement. Quelles sont les conditions qui feraient que ce proche quitte le site dans les prochains jours et retourne dans son lieu d'origine? (plusieurs choix)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Assurer la présence des forces de l'ordre dans mon quartier. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Bénéficier de l'aide internationale dans les quartiers. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. La tenue des élections présidentielles. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Réparation de mon logement <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Retour d'un Etat de Droit dans mon quartier. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Ne plus entendre des coups de feu la nuit. <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Amélioration de l'accès aux services de base (eau, nourriture, éducation, sante, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Autre, précisez :		
8. Quel est votre besoin le plus urgent dans votre lieu d'origine. (1 choix)	<input type="radio"/> 1. Logement <input type="radio"/> 4. Meubles <input type="radio"/> 7. Scolarisation <input type="radio"/> 10. Eau/Hygiène <input type="radio"/> 2. Alimentaire <input type="radio"/> 5. Soutien Psychologique <input type="radio"/> 8. Sécurité <input type="radio"/> 11. Emploi <input type="radio"/> 3. Biens non-alimentaire <input type="radio"/> 6. Santé <input type="radio"/> 9. Transport <input type="radio"/> 12. Formation		
9. Quel est votre besoin secondaire dans votre lieu d'origine? (1 choix)	<input type="radio"/> 1. Logement <input type="radio"/> 4. Meubles <input type="radio"/> 7. Scolarisation <input type="radio"/> 10. Eau/Hygiène <input type="radio"/> 2. Alimentaire <input type="radio"/> 5. Soutien Psychologique <input type="radio"/> 8. Sécurité <input type="radio"/> 11. Emploi <input type="radio"/> 3. Biens non-alimentaire <input type="radio"/> 6. Santé <input type="radio"/> 9. Transport <input type="radio"/> 12. Formation		
Dans votre quartier d'origine,			
9.1. Les écoles fonctionnent-elles?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
9.2. Les marchés sont-ils ouverts?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
9.3. Les centres de sante t-ils ouverts?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
9.4. La police/armée effectue-t-elle des patrouilles?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
9.5. Les forces armées internationales sont-elles présentes?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
9.6. Les fonctionnaires de l'Etat (enseignant, personnel de sante, mairie) sont-ils de retour?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
9.7. Des maisons ont été endommagées?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
10. Quelles étaient vos occupations professionnelles avant le déplacement (plusieurs choix)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Ventes de produits alimentaires. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Ventes de produits non-alimentaires (pièces auto, vêtements, outils, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Vente de services (cartes téléphoniques, réparations voitures, femme de ménages) <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Activités artisanales/fabricants. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Activités agricoles (maraichage, élevage, pêche) <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Activités minières <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Mendicité <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Fonctionnaire d'état <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Autre, précisez :		
11. Vos activités professionnelles ont-elles été interrompues par le déplacement?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
12. Pensez-vous pouvoir reprendre cette activité, une fois de retour dans votre quartier?	<input type="radio"/> 1. Oui <input type="radio"/> 2. Non <input type="radio"/> 3. Ne Sais Pas		
12.1. Si NON à la question 13, pourquoi?			
13.1 Préfecture de retour	13.2 Ville/village ou quartier	13.3 Pays de retour si hors RCA	