Central African Republic

IDP RETURN INTENTION SURVEY IN BANGUI

July 2014
International Organization for Migration
SUMMARY

As part of its implementation of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted the seventh Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Return Intention Survey in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) from 10-15 July 2014. IOM site facilitators interviewed 606 displaced persons at 29 sites out of 41 in Bangui. This survey follows the sixth Return Intention Survey conducted in June 2014.

This report presents the following main results:

DISPLACEMENT

87% of displaced persons left their place of origin before December 2013 at the peak of the violence.

10% of displaced persons have stayed at more than one spontaneous displacement site.

RETURN INTENTIONS

80% of displaced persons indicated their intention within the next four weeks to leave the sites to return to their place of origin. 13% wanted to relocate to a new area.

Only 6% of the displaced persons indicated their intention to remain at their displacement site. Although not conclusive, this may be attributed to the improvement in security from the presence of more international forces. Reasons preventing displaced people from returning to their place of origin are:

- Belongings stolen (74%)
- No financial means (68%)
- No authorities present (68%)
- Do not feel safe (68%)

NEEDS

39% of displaced people rated housing as the highest priority to facilitate return. This was followed by security at 33%, while 15% referred to Non-Food Items (NFIs) as conditions that would facilitate return.

93% of IDPs reported an interruption of economic activities due to displacement. 47% of IDP’s expressed confidence that they would be able to resume their previous economic activities if they returned home.

As in the previous surveys, food security remains a critical issue: 97% of households report a reduction in the number of meals per day and 96% in the quantities consumed. 95% of IDPs surveyed have reduced the food consumption of adults in their households in favor of the children.

ALL PREVIOUS IOM INTENTION RETURN SURVEYS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM CARRESPONSE.IOM.INT
Aerial view of destroyed homes
Kokoro neighborhood, in Bangui’s 3rd district.
1. INTRODUCTION

The total number of displaced people in Bangui continued to decrease in July to 111,523 IDPs as of 24 July, according to the Commission on Population Movement. According to data from the CMP, there are about 9,500 fewer IDPs in Bangui since June 2014.

The displaced population in Bangui is gradually declining. Despite the overall decrease in the number of displaced persons the situation remains volatile and there are frequent spontaneous movements to/from the camps and the areas of return.

80% of those surveyed expressed their intention to return to their place of origin. Housing, security and NFIs were the three main needs indicated to facilitate return.

2. METHODOLOGY

In its effort to contribute to ending the displacement of persons in the CAR, the IOM tracks and monitors displaced populations in order to ensure informed distribution of humanitarian aid. To this end IOM deploys site facilitators that visit the displacement sites in Bangui on a weekly basis to report on needs and assistance. Working with a local NGO, Association des Femmes de la Promotion de l’Entrepreneuriat (AFPE), the facilitators conduct a monthly survey aimed at assessing the situation, the needs and the intentions of the displaced population living in the sites to collect information on return and relocation.

To gather data, IOM’s facilitators conduct the survey (Annex A) over a period of five days across displacement sites in Bangui. The July monthly survey was conducted at 29 IDP sites from 10-15 July 2014. The 606 persons interviewed were chosen randomly from the IDP population present at the sites. IOM surveyed 0.9% of the population at each IDP site. Participants consented to take part in the survey after being informed of survey intentions and the principals of voluntary participation. Interviews took place Thursday to Tuesday between 9am-4pm. The sample surveyed represents a part of the population that is present on sites during the day, which is not necessarily representative of those frequenting the sites mainly at night and participating in activities elsewhere during the day.

For a total population of 71,589 estimated IDPs in Bangui (excluding the airport site) using an interval of confidence of 95% the margin of error of the data is estimated to be 4%.
TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF ASSESSED SITES AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>No. Interviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S00 2</td>
<td>Communaute des Apôtres de Jesus Crucifié / Centre de Sante Padre Pio</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S00 9</td>
<td>Don Bosco / Damala</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S01 1</td>
<td>Eglise Frères des Castors</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S01 5</td>
<td>Eglise Notre de Dame de Fatima</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S01 7</td>
<td>Faculte de Theologie (FATEB)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S02 0</td>
<td>Grand séminaire St Marc de Bimbo</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S02 9</td>
<td>Mission Carmel</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S03 0</td>
<td>Paroisse St Charles Luanga</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S03 4</td>
<td>Paroisse St Trinité des Castors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S03 8</td>
<td>St Antoine de Padoue</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S03 9</td>
<td>St Jean de Galabadja</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S04 4</td>
<td>St Jacques de Kpetene</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
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<td>BGI_S04 5</td>
<td>St Michel de Bazanga</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S05 3</td>
<td>Quartier Votongbo2</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGI_S04 1</td>
<td>St Joseph de Mukassa</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>BGI_S059</td>
<td>Mosquée Centrale</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>BGI_S067</td>
<td>St Sauveur</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>BGI_S068</td>
<td>Centre Jean 23</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGI_S077</td>
<td>St Francois D’Assise</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGI_S079</td>
<td>Maison Micheline</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>BGI_S080</td>
<td>Pere Combonien / St Joseph de Bimbo</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>BGI_S083</td>
<td>Eglise Evangelique Lutherienne</td>
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<td>BGI_S098</td>
<td>Capucin</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGI_S102</td>
<td>Complexe Scolaire Adventiste</td>
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<td>Complexe Pédagogique Bethanie</td>
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<td>BGI_S109</td>
<td>Marché Yaloa</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>BGI_S110</td>
<td>Ndjongo</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGI_S111</td>
<td>Notre Dame de Chartres</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGI_S112</td>
<td>Temple Benjamin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. RESULTS

This section presents the main findings of the survey:

3A. SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

A total of 606 internally displaced persons responded to the questionnaire, each representing one household, which represents a population of 5,273 displaced individuals (collected data shows an average family size of 8 people). As shown in Chart 1, 37% surveyed participants were men and 63% were women. This is explained by the fact that most men leave the sites during the day, when the survey is conducted, to engage in activities in the neighborhood. This percentage difference is similar to that of previous surveys. Most of the respondents were aged 26-40 (44%) and 41-60 (35%).

![Chart 1: Survey Participants by Sex](image1)

![Chart 2: Survey Participants by Age Group](image2)

3B. DISPLACEMENT AND CONDITIONS OF DISPLACEMENTS

This section briefly looks at the profile of the displacement and the survival mechanisms of the displaced population.

As shown in Chart 3, the majority of the displaced population (87%) left their place of origin before December 2013; 4% left in January; 2% in February, March, April and May; and less than 1% in June.

The highest levels of displacement were registered in December and January, at the height of the crisis when many people were regularly moving to find a safer place to live.

![Chart 3: Time of the Start of the Displacement](image3)
Since March, much of Bangui’s IDP population has begun to return, especially those whose houses were not destroyed and who are not located in the areas with the least security (the 3rd and 5th districts).

The large majority of the displaced population has never changed of site over the past months.

In line with previous surveys 94% of the respondents cited insecurity in their place of origin as the main reason for displacement, followed by 74% who referred to conflict in their neighborhoods. Looting (59%) and damage to houses (50%) were also cited as drivers of displacement (Chart 5).

The principal survival mechanisms used by IDPs to cope with displacement during the last two weeks are: reducing the number of meals eaten per day (97%), reducing family members’ food consumption (96%), reducing adults’ consumption in order to feed children (95%), and not eating for an entire day (87%).

Since June, there has been a significant decline in the number of IDPs who said they had borrowed money, sent family members to live elsewhere, or used work tools to survive in the last two weeks. In May, those mechanisms were the top three cited, while in June and July a much higher percentage pointed to decreased food consumption as a coping method. Only a third of the population surveyed in July borrowed money in the last two weeks, while in May that number stood at 98%.

The change in survival mechanisms indicates that those surveyed have adopted new means of dealing with their basic needs, and that their economic livelihoods have not improved. Solutions
like borrowing money and selling tools have been replaced by more drastic approaches involving food consumption.

3C. RETURN INTENTIONS

This section explores the intentions of the displaced population to return or relocate away from displacement sites.

Chart 7 shows that 80% of the IDPs indicated their intentions to return to their places of origin while 6% intend to stay in the displacement sites.

The most widely-cited reason preventing return was the theft of belongings (74%), followed by lack of financial means to return home (68%) and the absence of authorities (68%), which were also among the leading factors in the June and May surveys (Chart 8).

The consistent referral to financial insecurity as an inhibiting return factor suggests that the economic situation of IDPs is not improving. Security, manifested by stolen belongings (74%), absence of authorities and not feeling safe (68% respectively) remain the most important reasons, demonstrating that political and military developments directly impact IDP’s return intentions.
IDPs cited several security conditions that, if met, would facilitate their return (Chart 9). No longer hearing gunshots at night (84%), presence of security personnel (83%), and the return of law and order (71%) have been IDP’s primary return conditions for the last four months.

While security as a whole remains the main concern, just under half of IDPs surveyed also referred to house repairs and access to services as enabling conditions. There was a decrease of 11% in the number of IDPs for whom access to aid was an enabling condition.

Charts 10 and 11 below show the locations, by prefecture and city respectively, of intended returns. As in previous surveys, Bangui and Ombella Mpoko are the preferred prefecture destinations while Bangui, Bimbo, and Bégoua are the main destinations by city. In previous surveys in May and April, about a fifth of IDPs did not answer this question. In July, all IDPs listed an intended city of return demonstrating that more people are at least considering return.
3D. NEEDS

This section identifies the primary and secondary needs to facilitate IDP's return process to their places of origin.

Chart 12 shows the disaggregated response of the IDP's primary and secondary needs. Housing, security, and Non-Food Items (NFIs), in this order, are the primary needs identified to facilitate the return or relocation of IDPs. However, secondary needs are identified as security, employment, and NFIs. In comparison with previous surveys the increase in the need for jobs indicates that after remaining in displacement sites for several months, critical economic conditions have affected the conditions IDPs require in order to return home.

Food, furniture, psychological support, education, transport, water, and training are other needs identified but not as highly prioritized by surveyed IDPs.
Chart 13 shows that according to IDPs, services like schools, markets, and health centers in their areas of origin have still not been restored. Reported availability of schools declined by 10%, markets by 8%, and health centers by 2%.

However, a greater number of IDPs reported that international military forces were present in their areas of origin – 64% reporting a presence. EUFOR forces deployed in CAR in the last few weeks, likely contributing to this perception.

A consistent number (86%) of IDPs continued to report that houses were damaged in their areas of origin.
Chart 14 shows that, similar to previous surveys, almost all of IDPs sampled described an interruption of their regular income generating activities. 47% of the surveyed IDPs assumed they could return to their previous economic activity when they return. Since most IDPs have remained in the sites since December 2013, many of their connections to economic activities at home have likely weakened.

![Chart 14: Income Generating Activities](chart14.png)

Chart 15 shows that the main income generating activities of respondents before displacement among women were food sales (56%), and non-food sales among men (18%). Men also reported activities related to agriculture and local products, while women were mostly involved in commerce.

![Chart 15: Income Generating Activities Before Displacement (by Sex)](chart15.png)

**Conclusion**

Since June, the population of IDPs in Bangui has continued to decrease, from 117,379 to 111,523, as well as the number of sites declined from 43 to 40. While some are returning spontaneously, others remain in the sites waiting for conditions to improve in the areas of return or relocation.
Most notably, 80% of displaced persons express an intention to leave the displacement sites in the next month. This could be related to deteriorating economic conditions at sites, and/or improved security, economic, and social conditions in IDP’s areas of origin. IDPs (64%) pointed to an increased presence of international military forces in the neighborhoods, which could partially explain the heightened intention to return. However, increased desire to return is accompanied by a sharp decline in those who wish to stay at displacement sites, indicating that intentions to return are positively correlated with the improvement of the conditions at home and with the worsening of the conditions at the displacement sites during the rainy season.

Despite the large number of IDPs expressing intentions to return, housing and security needs still prevent many from doing so. The survey also shows a 15% decline in IDPs’ confidence that they would have economic opportunities in their areas of origin if they returned.

Many obstacles to return remain, causing IDPs to decrease or adjust food consumption, sometimes not eating for an entire day. Financial insecurity is consistently cited as a factor preventing return, which also affects the quality of life in the sites.

The lack of financial means to return, economic opportunities, and the unavailability of houses, schools and other service providers in IDP’s areas of origin could contribute to a permanent state of displacement. Security improvements alone are not enough to bring about widespread return. There must be restoration of state authority, reopening of services, and rehabilitation of buildings in order to impact actual returns. Thus, for IDPs in displacement sites, much depends on the actions of the government, local authorities and military forces to facilitate return.
### ANNEX A: DTM QUESTIONNAIRE

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrondissement</td>
<td>Quartier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personne enquêtée</td>
<td>Homme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nombre de membres dans la famille</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Quand est-ce que vous avez quitté votre lieu d’origine?**
- Oui, c’est mon premier site de déplacement
- NON, je suis d’abord passé par d’autres sites avant

2. **Lieu d’origine**
- Prefecture
- Sous prefecture
- Ville/village
- Arrondissement (si Bangui)
- Quartier (si Bangui)

3. **Pour quelles raisons avez-vous quitté ce lieu d’origine? (plusieurs choix)**
- 1. Insécurité sur le lieu d’origine
- 2. Je viens vendre biens et produit alimentaires sur le marché du site
- 3. Raisons économiques
- 4. Maison brûlée/maisons endommagées
- 5. Attaque(s) sur le quartier/village
- 6. Conflits intercommunautaires
- 7. Pillage
- 8. Fuite de mes voisins
- 9. Fuite de ma famille
- 10. Par ce qu’on m’a obligé
- 11. Bloqué par la crise
- 12. Menaces physique
- 13. Autre, précisez :

4. **Ce site est-il votre 1er site de déplacement ou êtes-vous restés dans d’autres sites avant d’arriver ici?**
- OUI, c’est mon premier site de déplacement
- NON, je suis d’abord passé par d’autres sites avant

5. **Au cours des deux dernières semaines, avez-vous...**

4a. **Emprunter de l’argent?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4b. **Acheter de la nourriture à crédit?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4c. **Envoyer des membres de la famille vivre ailleurs que dans le site?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4d. **Réduit les portions alimentaires des membres de la famille?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4e. **Réduit l’alimentation des adultes pour nourrir les enfants?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4f. **Réduit le nombre de repas par jour?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4g. **Passer des journées entières sans manger**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4h. **Vente des biens pour pouvoir acheter de la nourriture**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4i. **Reçu des dons de nourritures (entraide)?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4j. **Utilisé (vendu, mangé) vos ressources de travail (outils, stocks, semences agricoles)?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

4k. **Quels problèmes vous ou votre famille avez-vous actuellement ici?**
- Oui
- Non
- Ne sais pas

5a. **Pensez-vous quitter le lieu de déplacement actuel dans les 4 prochaines semaines?**
- Oui, je veux retourner sur mon lieu d’origine
- Oui, je veux aller dans une nouvelle région.
- Oui, je veux aller dans mon pays d’origine.
- Non, je veux rester sur place.
- Autre:

5b. **Lieu de retour?**
- Préfecture
- Sous-préfecture
- Ville / village
- Arr.
- Quartier
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 dès aujourd’hui ? (plusieurs choix)

□ 1. Je n’ai pas les moyens financiers de rentrer.
□ 2. Mon logement est détruit
□ 4. Mes économies ont été pillées
□ 5. J’ai des activités économiques sur le site.
□ 6. Absence des forces de l’ordre.
□ 7. Je ne me sens pas en sécurité dans les rues de mon quartier d’origine
□ 9. Je veux attendre de voir comment la situation politique et sécuritaire évolue.
□ 10. Pas de reprise des activités économiques sur ma zone de retour
□ 11. 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)

□ 1. Assurer la présence des forces de l’ordre dans mon quartier.
□ 2. Bénéficier de l’aide internationale dans les quartiers.
□ 3. La tenue des élections présidentielles.
□ 4. Réparation de mon logement
□ 5. Retour d’un Etat de Droit dans mon quartier.
□ 6. Ne plus entendre des coups de feu la nuit.
□ 7. Amélioration de l’accès aux services de base (eau, nourriture, éducation, santé, etc.)
□ 8. Autre, précisez :

7b Comment saurez-vous que la sécurité est rétablie dans les quartiers?

□ 1. Patrouille de la sangaris dans les quartiers
□ 2. Patrouille de la MISCA dans les quartiers
□ 3. Patrouille des FACA dans les quartiers
□ 4. Patrouille de la gendarmerie dans les quartiers
□ 5. Patrouille de la police dans les quartiers
□ 6. Retour (massif) des gens de mon quartier
□ 7. Quand on entendra plus des tirs
□ 8. Quand tous les Balaka seront partis
□ 9. Quand tous les séléka seront partis
□ 10. Quand les Balaka auront été désarmés
□ 11. Quand les séléka auront été désarmés
□ 12. Quand les militaires internationaux seront partis
□ 13. Quand la justice sera rétablie/l’impunité finie
□ 14. Quand les coupables seront punis
□ 15. Quand l’État sera renforcé
□ 16. Quand la MINUSCA sera déployée
□ 17. Après les élections
□ 18. Quand tous les musulmans seront revenus
□ 19. Quand tous les musulmans seront partis
□ 20. Quand tous les chrétiens seront partis
□ 21. Quand tous les chrétiens seront revenus
□ 22. La sécurité ne sera jamais rétablie
□ 23. Je ne sais pas

8. Quel est votre besoin le plus urgent dans votre lieu d’origine. (1 choix)

□ 1. Logement
□ 2. Alimentaire
□ 3. Biens non-alimentaire
□ 4. Meubles
□ 5. Soutien Psychologique
□ 6. Santé
□ 7. Scolarisation
□ 8. Sécurité
□ 9. Transport
□ 10. Eau/Hygiène
□ 11. Emploi
□ 12. Formation

9. Quel est votre besoin secondaire dans votre lieu d’origine ? (1 choix)

□ 1. Logement
□ 2. Alimentaire
□ 3. Biens non-alimentaire
□ 4. Meubles
□ 5. Soutien Psychologique
□ 6. Santé
□ 7. Scolarisation
□ 8. Sécurité
□ 9. Transport
□ 10. Eau/Hygiène
□ 11. Emploi
□ 12. Formation

Dans votre quartier d’origine,

10a. Les écoles fonctionnent-elles ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

10b. Les marchés sont-ils ouverts ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

10c. Les centres de santé t-ils ouverts ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

10d. La police/armée effectue-t-elle des patrouilles ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

10e. Les forces armées internationales sont-elles présentes ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

10f. Les fonctionnaires de l’État (enseignant, personnel de santé, mairie) sont-ils de retour ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

10g. Des maisons ont été endommagées ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

11. Quelles étaient vos occupations professionnelles avant le déplacement (plusieurs choix)

□ 1. Ventes de produits alimentaires
□ 2. Ventes de produits non-alimentaires (pièces auto, vêtements, outils, etc.)
□ 3. Vente de services (cartes téléphoniques, réparations voitures, femme de ménages)
□ 4. Activités artisanales/fabricants
□ 5. Activités agricoles (maraichage, élevage, pêche)
□ 6. Activités minières
□ 7. Mendicité
□ 8. Fonctionnaire d’état
□ 9. Autre, précise :

12. Vos activités professionnelles ont-elles été interrompues par le déplacement ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

13a. Pensez-vous pouvoir reprendre cette activité, une fois de retour dans votre quartier ?

□ 1. Oui
□ 2. Non
□ 3. Ne Sais Pas

13b. Si NON à la question 13a, pourquoi ?

□ 1. Perte des moyens et outils pour l’activité professionnelle
□ 2. Effondrement de l’État/absence de structures étatiques
□ 3. Taux de chômage trop élevé
□ 4. Pas de paiement des salaires
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