

PROMOTING ECONOMIC & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

of Internally
Displaced Persons
and Host Population
Communities
(PESoP)

THE CHALLENGE

The ongoing conflict in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon has resulted in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) seeking refuge in other regions of the country. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the conflict had produced 712,800 internally displaced persons as of March 2021. Although the majority of IDPs stayed within the conflict regions, a significant number have fled to other regions of Cameroon, notably to the neighboring West Region. The majority of IDPs are women and children who are often traumatized by the violence experienced and who have lost their livelihood due to displacement. The population in the West Region has taken in many IDPs in private households or rented them accommodation. Nevertheless, discrimination and stigmatization of IDPs is increasing as the uncontrolled influx of people is equated with a loss of order and increasing crime.

Basic needs, including food, primary health care, and access to education remain a critical issue for the IDPs. More importantly, however, further-reaching services that would ensure the economic and social participation of IDPs such as professional training, support for business start-ups, entrepreneurial training, employment promotion and creation, income-generating measures and assistance with integration into the labor market are often subjected to major barriers and challenges.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project name	Promoting Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Population Communities
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	West region of Cameroon
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Lead executing partner	Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINNDEVEL)
Duration	September 2021 - August 2024 (3 years)

As a result, the economic and social inclusion of a majority of IDPs and vulnerable members of the host population is low. In addition, tensions between the IDPs and the host population are increasing and are intensified by factors such as the over-stretching of public infrastructures in the host communities.

The project Promoting Economic and Social Participation of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Population Communities (PESoP) thus aims to improve the economic and social participation of IDPs and members of selected hosting communities in the West region of Cameroon.

OUR APPROACH

GIZ implements PESoP on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The target group of the project are IDPs and vulnerable members of the hosting communities. The approach of the project consists of two interlinked fields of activity: 1) The prerequisites for the economic participation of internally displaced people and members of host communities have been enhanced; and 2) The prerequisites for social participation on the part of internally displaced people and members of host communities have been enhanced.

In the field of activity 1) the project improves the economic participation of the target groups through vocational training, the promotion of business start-ups, cash for work measures and access to income-generating and employment opportunities, amongst others. Field of activity 2) aims to improve the conditions for social participation of IDPs and the local vulnerable population, thereby promoting the sustainable positive impact of the qualification and income-generating measures and socio-economic participation at local level (social participation).

The project's intermediaries are representatives of the selected municipalities, employees of NGOs, teachers working at TVET facilities, and personnel from companies and institutions such as chambers of commerce that offer services or incubators for business start-ups or MSMEs.

The intermediaries also include representatives of relevant decentralized services, e.g. the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP). Municipalities and non-governmental actors receive capacity development which enables them to promote social participation on the part of the target groups

OUR STRATEGY

The project pursues an integrative approach i.e. IDPs and the vulnerable host population are addressed equally. In this context, IDPs are to account for at least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the project. The project is committed to the principles of Do No Harm (DNH) and Leave No One Behind (LNOB), and takes into consideration the unique needs of women, persons with disabilities, and members of other disadvantaged groups. Measures are adapted to the needs of women and young people, e.g. through specific advisory and support services for women wishing to start up a business or through activities that address gender-specific abuses (violence against women, child marriage, teenage pregnancies, etc.) and foster positive masculinity.

ZONES OF INTERVENTION

The project operates in the West Region of Cameroon, specifically in the municipalities of Foumban, Dschang, Mbouda, Bafoussam 1 and Kouoptamo.

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