



Enumerators conducting an interview with Returnees congregating in the village of Nanabaria
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EVENT TRACKING TOOL (ETT)

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF
RETURNEES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT
IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

VILLAGES OF NANABARIA, MAISSOU,
MAIBO, BOUMOU ET MAYA

SOUS-PRÉFECTURES OF BEKOUROU
AND DEMBO (BARH-SARA
DÉPARTEMENT, MANDOUL
PROVINCE)

JUNE 2021



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

I. BACKGROUND

The objective of the Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is to collect information on large and sudden population movements. Between **12 and 26 May 2021**, following armed conflict and clashes in the Central African Republic (CAR), thousands of Chadian and Central African nationals crossed the border and found refuge in the *sous-préfectures* of Bekourou and Dembo (province of Mandoul département of Barh-Sara).

In total, **199 households of 709 Chadian nationals** found refuge in the five villages of **Maibo, Maissou, Nanabaria, Boumou** in the *sous-préfecture* of Bekourou and **Maya** in the *sous-préfecture* of Dembo (62 households of 198 persons in the village of Maya, 70 households of 187 persons in the village of Maibo, 29 households of 159 persons in the village of Maissou, 25 households of 130 persons in the village of Nanabaria and 13 households of 35 persons in the village of Boumou).

2. METHODOLOGY, OBJECTIVE AND LIMITATIONS

The data presented in this report was collected from **26 to 29 May 2021** through discussions with key informants composed of local authorities and representatives of returnees (only Chadian nationals). In addition, three focus groups were held with returnees (2 groups of women and 1 of men). This report seeks to provide an overview of the demographic profile of these returnees, as well as their situations and needs in host locations.

The results hereby presented only concern Chadian nationals who arrived in the *sous-préfectures* of Bekourou and Dembo between 12 and 26 May 2021 and cannot be generalised to the entire population displaced to Chad due to recent clashes in CAR.

It should be noted that nationalities are self-declaratory and have not been confirmed or verified through I.D. verification.

3. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND HOST LOCATION

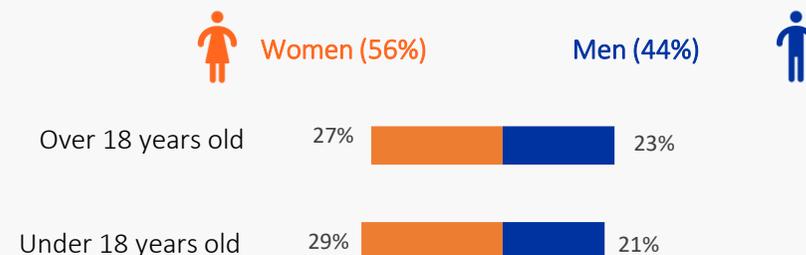
On average, returnee households consist of **four members**. The majority of the returnee population (56%) are **women**. Half of all returnees (50%) are children: 29 per cent are girls and 21 per cent are boys.

The village of Maya hosts the greatest number of returnees (198 individuals, or 28%), followed by Maibo (26%) and Maissou (22%).

 **199 households (709 individuals) identified**

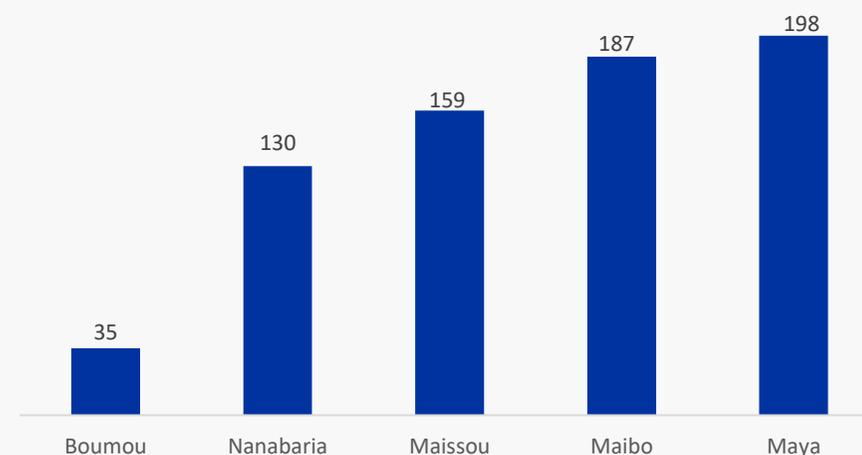
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Fig. 1: Sex and age distribution of returnees



HOST LOCATIONS

Fig. 2: Number of people per host village



4. PLACES OF ORIGIN

Prior to their displacement, all returnees resided in the town of Markounda (Ouham *préfecture* in CAR). Returnees reported having lived in the Central African Republic for years, many for generations. During focus groups, participants indicated that their families left Chad during the droughts and conflicts which occurred in the 1970s. The term "returnees" for these individuals only comes from the fact that they are Chadian nationals and not because they are returning to their usual places of residence.

5. LIVING CONDITIONS AND CURRENT SITUATION

This section is intended to provide a general overview of the current situation regarding different sectors while considering protection as a cross-cutting sector. Some sectorial topics may require in-depth assessments to gather more detailed information.

- **Shelter:** In the five locations, just over half of the people (55%) are homeless, 25 percent reside in makeshift shelters, and 20 percent of the people are living in banco shelters, with host families. The lack of shelter is glaring given that the rainy season has already started in Southern Chad.

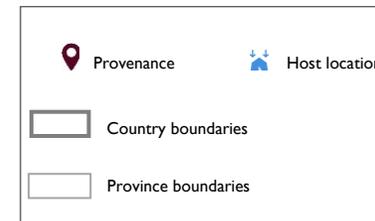
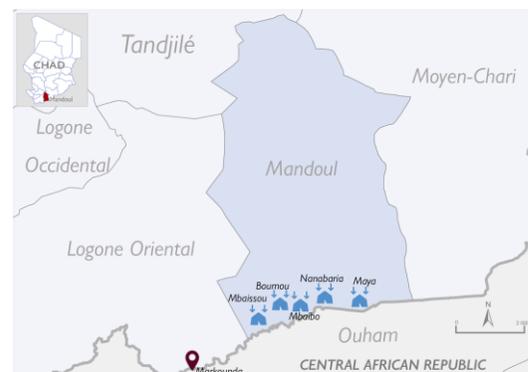
- **Food security:** With the current fruits picking season in Southern Chad, 65 per cent of returnees are primarily feeding on these fruits, 30 percent of them are assisted by host communities for food. Only 5 percent of returnees reported to have taken their food stocks with them when fleeing CAR.

- **Water:** In all five host villages, 85 per cent of returnees use river water, while 15 percent use water from undeveloped wells.

- **Sanitation and hygiene :** Very few latrines are available in host locations. Thus, 94 per cent of returnees defecate in the open, in the surrounding bushes. Only 6 per cent of households use collective latrines of host communities.

- **Health:** The most common health problems cited were malaria (64% of households), fever (22%) and diarrhoea (14%). Three per cent of households reported that one or more of their members had suffered from psychosocial problems since their arrival.

PLACES OF ORIGIN



This map is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be error free nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

LIVING CONDITIONS AND CURRENT SITUATION

Fig.3: Type of shelter in the host location

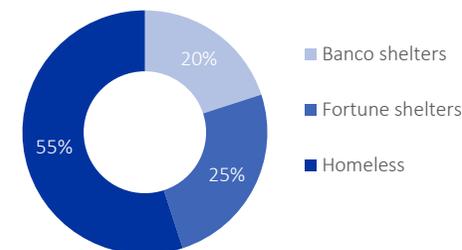


Fig.4: Most common health problems amongst returnee populations

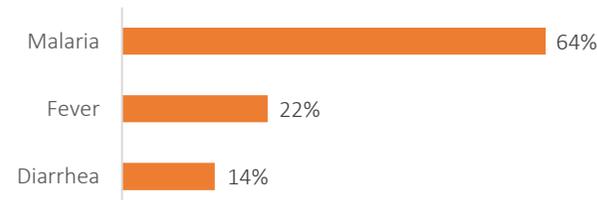
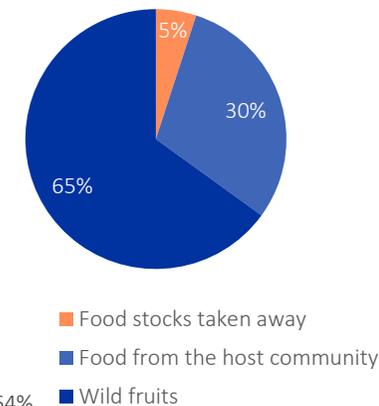


Fig.5 : Main sources of food of returnees



6. PRIORITY NEEDS

Given the current situation, **returnees indicated that their priority needs are : shelter, food, latrines, water, and non-food items such as sleeping mats.** Some of these returnees have received support from host communities, particularly in terms of food, but which remains insufficient. IOM is advocating for resources to assist these people.



1. Shelter



2. Food



3. Latrines



4. Water



5. Non-Food
items

7. TESTIMONIALS GATHERED DURING FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS ”

Thank God, although living conditions are difficult, we manage to sleep easily. We lack food, drinking water and cooking utensils . We regret having had to abandon our farms and are worried about the other members of our families whom we have not heard from.

A RETURNEE WOMAN

My family and I have suffered extreme losses because of violence in the Central African Republic, including our farmland, our livestock, and many of our household items. We decided to settle here, where we feel safer.

A RETURNEE WOMAN

The only advantage of being here is that we are far from dangers and threats. The drawbacks on the other hand, are enormous: we have no shelter, no food for our families, and we had to leave our farms behind, just at the start of the harvest.

A RETURNEE MAN

It is very difficult not to hear from other members of our families, who are not here with us. We keep wondering everyday if they are still alive, hidden in the forest or settled in other villages in Chad

A RETURNEE MAN



Discussion between an IOM staff and returnees at Boumou
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Enumerators mediate a focus group discussion with male
returnees in Maya village
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