

Comparative Studies Between IDPs And Non-IDPs In Bukavu, South-Kivu-DRC

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◆ Abstract

For more than two decades of violence, displacement and humanitarian assistance, South-Kivu province presents the particularity of an environment where **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** are present without camp settings, official registration, and humanitarian assistance in some areas. Indeed, IDPs in urban areas such as Bukavu are more considered development assistance because humanitarian assistance is not tailored to meet urban IDPs. Nevertheless, IDPs population makes up of Bukavu residents for which little research has been conducted to understand and to gather evidence of this population. As part of an intensive fieldwork combining qualitative and quantitative methods, this paper engages a comparison study between IDPs and non-IDPs in Bukavu city based on a small scale survey of 697 household covering topics such as settlement, assets, food security, basics services, income, background of the household. Many assumptions are reconsidered such as IDPs characteristics and living condition often linked to experiences of loss or discrimination and a very poor condition in urban cities. However, the research unveils precarious situations of IDPs living conditions when it comes to coping strategies to maintain their living in Bukavu.

◆ Introduction

- 487000 IDPs are estimated to make up of South-Kivu population (OCHA, 2017)
- Bukavu has been a central point for the reception of Displaced Persons over the last 20 years of conflict
- No information has been gathered on displacement in Bukavu including IDPs number
- National and International responses towards growing urban have to considered IDPs in their policy to be effective and durable

◆ Objectives

- Filling the gap on IDPs characteristics
- Providing a snapshot on IDPs conditions as compared to residents
- Highlighting IDPs decisions to maintain their life in BUKAVU
- Stimulate debate and inform the development of appropriate responses in urban areas

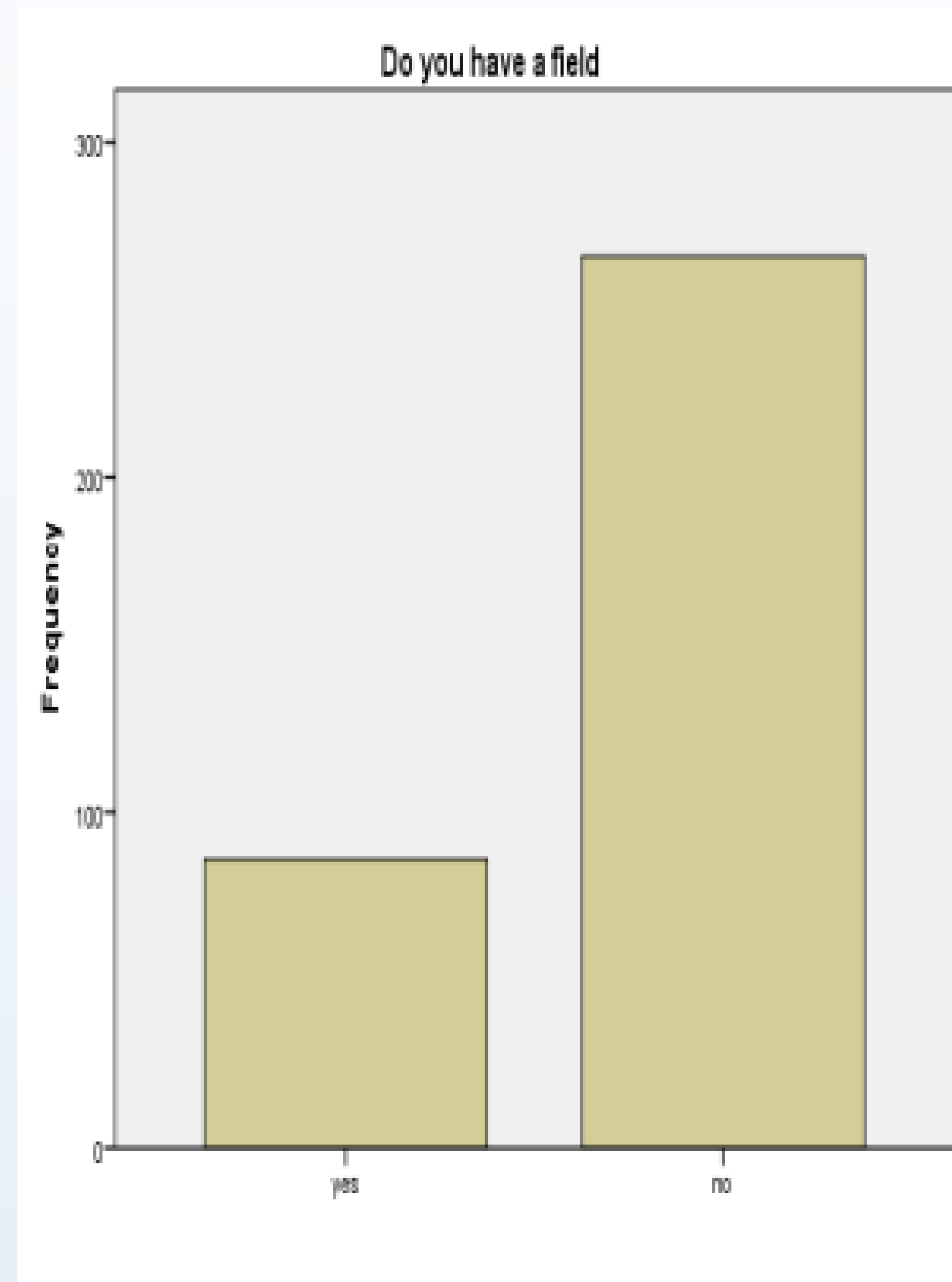
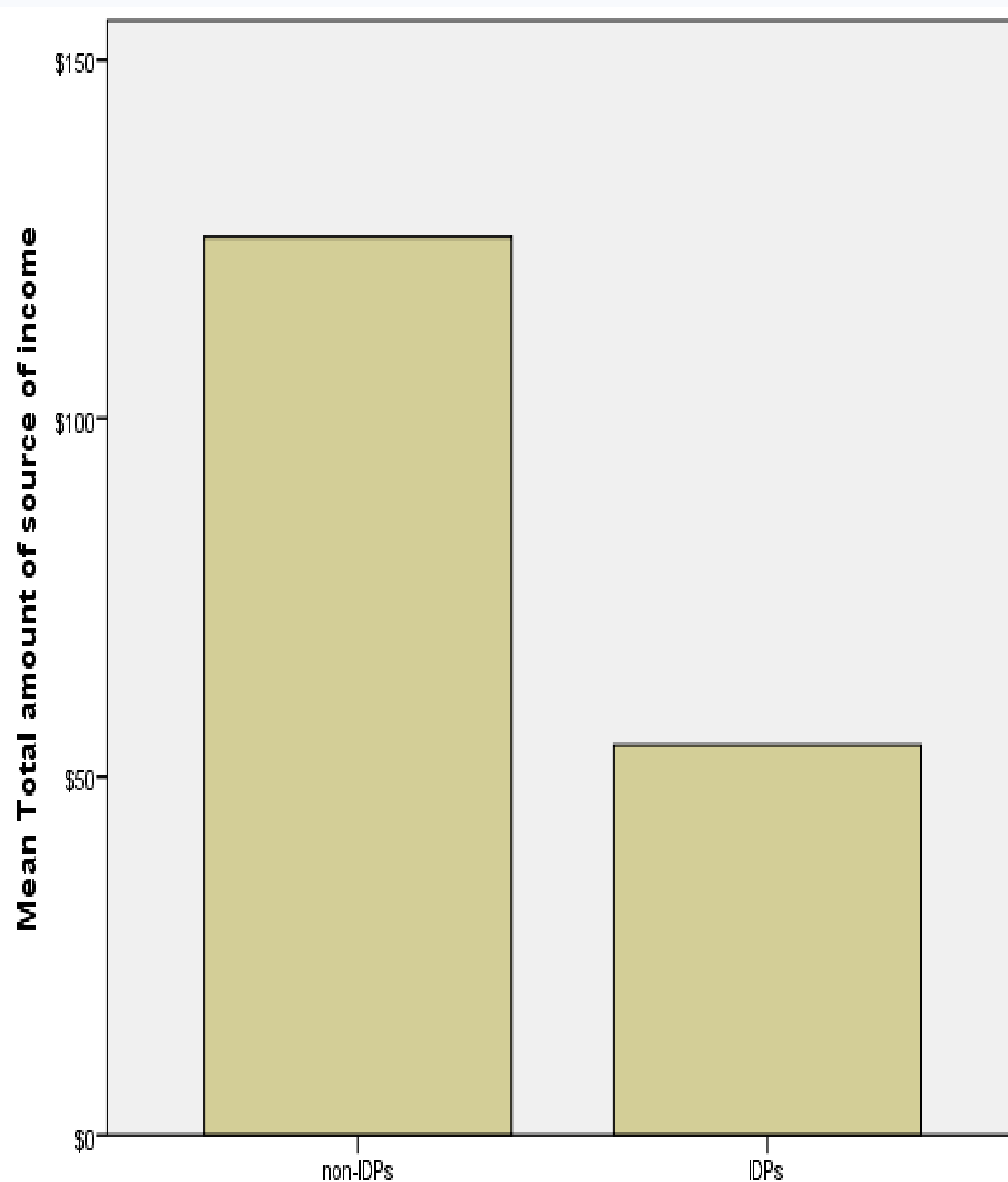
◆ Research question

- What are IDPs characteristics in Bukavu?

◆ Results

			group		Total
			Non-IDPs	IDPs	
Do you owe money?	no	Count	130	119	249
		% within	42,1%	37,4%	39,7%
	yes	Count	179	199	378
		% within	57,9%	62,6%	60,3%
Total	Count	309	318	627	
	% within	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	

Pearson Chi-Square: 1,415 df : 1 Sig. : 0,134



◆ Methods

- Survey data collected in March 2015 after 15months of qualitative study in Bukavu
- 2013 Bukavu population data was available to design the sampling
- Sampling methods combining stratification and quota
- Snowball involving IDPs, non-IDPs, local authorities, ethnic associations, local NGOs, church leaders and members because of invisibility of IDPs
- 350 IDPs and 353 non-IDPs were interviewed

◆ Hypotheses

- IDPs experience situation of loss and discrimination
- IDPs living conditions are worse than non-IDPs
- IDPs are in debt to survive in urban areas

◆ Discussion

- 24% IDPs have their lands whereas 75.4% do not. This explanation is not only linking to a consequence of the conflict, but to the fact that some IDPs sold their lands or fields to settle in town, abandoned their lands or cultural inheritance is not allowing women to inherit lands. Besides, 36.5% still want to get back to their villages while 57.5% do not.
- IDPs approximately spend 54.45\$ though Non-IDPs spend 113.67\$ to meet their basic needs per month.
- There is no evidence to suggest a difference between IDPs and non-IDPs in term of the debt situation as the p-value (0.134) is greater than our significance chosen. Also, IDPs strategies to respond are different from non-IDPs such as selling household items, stopping paying children school fees or being a journey when non-IDPs are using their saving or finding a wage-earning job

◆ Conclusion

- IDPs are experiencing loss but not discrimination.
- IDPs living conditions are worse than non-IDPs
- IDPs are not in debts to survive in Bukavu
- IDPs situation requires development programs to sustain their living as they are able to survive on their own
- It is important to considerer different group among IDPs when it comes to an effective assistance

◆ References

- Jacobsen, K. (2008). Urban IDPs study. Boston, USA, Feinstein International Center
- NRC (2014). Living conditions of displaced persons and host communities in Goma, DRC, Norwegian Refugee Council.