



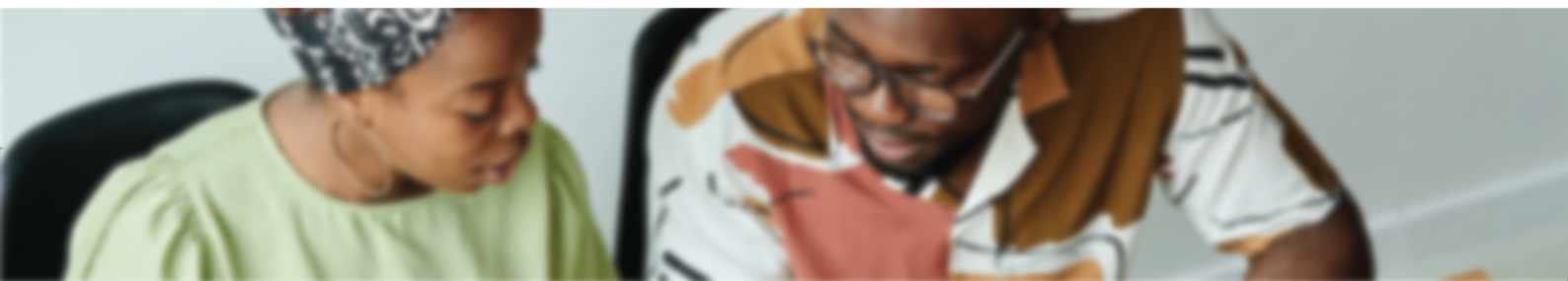
A STUDY REPORT ON

# YOUTH PERCEPTIONS & LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE ANGLOPHONE ARMED CONFLICT IN CAMEROON

*A Tool for the Positive Engagement of Youths  
in Conflict Resolution and Community Peacebuilding.*



**RADA**  
Reconciliation and Development Association



# Acknowledgements

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## Disclaimer:

*RADA is a community development organization which envisions communities where individuals live harmoniously and peacefully, harnessing their full potential to support community development, growth, prosperity, health and well-being for all. Its engagement in efforts towards peacebuilding and conflict resolution are in line with its vision and mission and not an endorsement of a political position or process. RADA is neutral as a non-community development organization and provides solutions that can help warring parties directly involved to solve the conflict to end the conflict with the goal of ending sufferings and promoting community development supreme. No mention of warring or other parties, regions or territories, in this report is a sign of endorsement of their political positions regarding the conflict or any boundaries as this is not also the focus of this report.*



# Executive Summary

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According to the World Population Review, Cameroon has a young population with a median age of 18.7 years and 41.25% of the population being between zero to 14 years old. The population pyramid is characterized by a high proportion of youth, with those below 35 years old making now up over 65% of the population. The armed conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon has persisted despite calls for an end by different stakeholders. The young generation is greatly affected and despite being leaders of today and tomorrow, their positive action to end the crisis is lagging significantly. This is in fact considering that “Older men declare war; but it is the youth that must fight and die”. They are mostly targeted in rights violations in these regions and as a result majority of them are frustrated with an uncertain future. This gave rise to the need for studies to understand their perspectives with respect to the conflict, to help better engage them in the resolution of the crisis at personal, community and national levels, through advocacy in accordance with the UNSCR 2250 of 2015. This report on youth perceptions and levels of engagement in the resolution of the Anglophone crisis therefore presents information on the youth’s perspectives and opinions on the ongoing conflict, various peace processes, their engagement, barriers, solutions as well as their perception on the roles of media, government and other stakeholders in the conflict. As a key demographic in the conflict, this report will help as a tool in the hands of the government, humanitarian, development and conflict resolution stakeholders to act in such a way that they properly preserve the future by considering the needs, challenges, concerns and perceptions of youths from the two restive regions in their own responses to the conflict and t positively engage the youth population in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and development. The report focuses on awareness about the conflict, its root causes, how it has affected the youths, their levels of engagements in peace building and conflict resolution activities, their perceptions on the role of government, the role of the international community, (organizations and foreign governments) and the role of media. It also looks at the challenges youth are facing in peacebuilding and tops it up with proposed solutions on how these challenges can be solved and what they need.

RADA used a convenient sampling method of research was used to collect data from over 849 youths, with participants selected based on their willingness and availability to participate in the study according to the method of administration most suitable to them. The survey questionnaire was self-administered through questionpro online and physical copies were administered offline. The dissemination was done by collective engagement of the national youth council to each different youth associations and for a in all divisions and sub divisions of the restive regions as well as physical copies disseminated to reach the most under-reached persons including people with disabilities as well as people in some of the rural vicinities in the main Cities of Bamenda and Buea. The report is arranged according to the thematic areas starting with Section A, on the demographics, to section J, on other comments that the youths provided. The detailed report below shows graphical presentation of the data and findings. The report has provided insights into the mind of youths and findings can be further explored in the main body. Nonetheless, the findings in the report indicate that the percentage of youth resident in the conflict affected regions who took the survey were almost equal, with the North West region having a majority of that representation (44.9 for the North West and 43.9 for the South West). These youths are

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very familiar with the crisis (64%) and they indicated overwhelmingly that the Anglophone conflict has affected them and their community (81.2) and daily life (68.2). These youths have been directly affected by the conflict (74.1%) with a majority having to flee their homes as a result of the conflict (85.5%). The study also looked at their understanding on the root causes of the conflict, which a majority held that, political differences were the main cause of the conflict (50.1%). A significant number indicating that the causes were a combination of political, historical, cultural and even greed, or other causes. Youths further expressed that the conflict is not an internal affair and should involve the international community (56.20%) to find a credible and lasting solution.

Zooming into their role in resolving the conflict, youths believed that they have a very important role to play (86.5%), though their voices and efforts are not taken into consideration (71.8%). Majority also indicated optimism that the conflict will be solved in their life time. Youths are willing to engage in the resolution of this crisis but they are having several barriers to their engagement, with the prominent being the fear of personal safety (66.1%). These youths believe that violence is not an option in resolving the crisis (73.40%) rather, dialogue is the best option in resolving this conflict (39%). Such dialogue presumably should be between the government and her citizens, where everyone's voice should be taken into account. Such a dialogue should embrace the presence of both parties to the conflict and the grievances of the Anglophones and should be genuine, honest and sincere. The youths asserted that the government has totally not been able to successfully resolve the conflict (41.5%) and demand dialogue described with several adjectives, as their main option in resolving the conflict, long overdue. This dialogue should be honest, genuine and inclusive of all warring factions. 82.9% indicated that they are moderately optimistic about the objectivity of the media in reporting on the conflict. This media has a positive role to play in the resolution of the conflict and promoting peace (66.3%).

While this report can be used by media, stakeholders and the youths as well as government and other stakeholders to inform their activities, we encourage users to report, highlight or quote the report accurately as well as within the spirit of its purpose. Spinning this report out of the true reflection of its purpose will mislead the population as well as readers of content generated and presented. We therefore encourage users refer this report in its entirety by their audiences as much as possible as well as to make good use of the findings to inform meaningful youth involvement in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Thank you.

Ferdinant M. Sonyuy  
**Program Director**



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# Abbreviations/ Definitions

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## ABBREVIATIONS:

- AU:** African Union
- CAYED:** Cameroon Association for Youth Education and Development
- CEMAC:** Central Africa Economic Monetary Community
- CHRDA:** Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa
- CSOs:** Civil Society Organizations
- GYSI:** Global Youth Service Initiative
- LOYOC:** Local Youth Corner
- NW:** North West
- RADA:** Reconciliation and Development Association
- REO:** Reach Out Cameroon
- SW:** South West
- UN:** United Nations
- UNHCR:** United Nations High Commission for Refugee
- YAPD:** Youth Advocates for Peace and Democracy

## DEFINITIONS:

- **Anglophone crisis:** Refers to the current armed conflict in the restive regions of Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. Regardless of classification of the conflict, it is referred to, interchangeably in this document for the purposes of simplicity.
- **Stakeholders:** Refers to entities that are directly or indirectly engaged with the initiation as well as process of resolution of the conflict. These include the government, Civil Society, international community, media, etc.
- **International Community:** The international community here includes international organizations, such as the political governing bodies, such as the UN, AU, CEMAC, past colonial entities such as Britain, France and other counties of diplomatic interest in Cameroon such as those with embassies in Cameroon. This also includes international humanitarian, human rights and other development organizations with interest in Cameroon's development.

# Introduction

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The purpose of this report is to guide activities that can appropriately engage young people to positively contribute to an end to Anglophone armed conflict. The armed conflict in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon has persisted since 2017 till date has affected the lives of young people tremendously. A crisis which in 2016 tapped into historical elements of the county and moved gradually from complaints from teachers and lawyers about grievances on the erosion of the common law legal and Anglo-Saxon educational systems to a full-scale general strike action and on to an armed conflict in 2017 where in conjunction with the diaspora, several youths joined forces to demand for an independent country – Southern Cameroons (aka Ambazonia). This has led to a sustained state of killings, torcher, looting, burnings and a generally very challenging environment for the population.

Currently, the UNHCR has reported over 86,000 refugees in Nigeria with others in other countries such as Ghana, and even the USA heading through the Mexico Road. Over 1,500,000 youths stayed out of school due to the security concerns that were associated with schooling and today, even more are internally displaced in the major cities of the two regions or other parts of Cameroon. Homes have been abandoned, farms also, and a challenging environment of insecurity has remained in perpetuity, hampering growth, economic progress and resulting to stunting in development with numerous “Ghost Towns” in addition to a permanent one every Monday, for the past 6 years.

The future of this generation is uncertain and filled with lots of anxiety leaving several youths with questions about whether they can be sure of a bright future in Cameroon. In this state, others are working hard to support efforts that are being made both by national and international authorities to bring the conflict to an end. Others are clearly with arms. Others are passionately dedicated in their various political and conflict related factions leaving a situation where the youth population is very divided across different ideologies all mostly in search of greener pastures or what their future will hold for them. Others have taken the “Mexico road” while others yet are traveling through the seas to find refuge in Europe.

Whether considered positive or negative, whatever ideological line youths have engaged into, certainly has takes a lot of courage and needs to also be encouraged or discouraged depending on what effects this has to their future. Solutions to a brighter future for youths have been earmarked in Africa Union’s Agenda 2063 of the Future we want, as well as UNSCR2250 Youth, Peace and Security of 2015. This does not include violence. In fact, silencing guns stands out as well as intergenerational dialogues.

In this state of affairs, while the government and the international community take steps to end the anglophone crisis, it is important to understand the mindset of the largest population segment of the country and the segment that holds the future of the country. Despite the challenging context, RADA has therefore embarked on a journey of systematic evidence-generation, with far reaching positive impacts on the conflict’s future, including its resolution and the necessary peacebuilding processes that will be attached to it. This study could assist stakeholders to better engage with youths by listening to their loud voice through such studies, hearing their needs, challenges, priorities and even demands, and by leveraging a good picture of the state of mind of youths with respect to the conflict, how they can contribute to an end to the conflict and how stakeholders can work to end the conflict with their vice heard.



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In order to achieve this, RADA developed and a cross sectional survey among youths aged 15–35, in the restive regions, gathering information on the youth’s perspectives or opinions on the ongoing Anglophone conflict including their knowledge, understanding and participation in various peace processes at local, national and international levels that could help resolve the problem, their level of engagement in the resolution of the conflict and barriers associated with this goal. The study used standard scientific and sociological methodologies to obtain results that can be depended on by stakeholders who want to support youth positive engagement in solving problems such as the conflict at hand sustainably.

The results of this survey explored in this report will be used to better understand the youth’s views and contribute to efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the conflict by all stakeholders given that youths are a very critical demographic of any society. It will also help to promote the meaningful engagement of youths in resolving the crisis. This survey focused on the geographical boundary of the two affected regions.

**“The solutions to our problems cannot be found by using the same approach that caused the problem in the first place.”**

**Albert Einstein**

# Literature Review

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Youth engagement in peace building as elaborated in the UNSCR 2250 Youth, Peace and Security of 2015, is not an option, but a necessity of every state. It is a concept that is fundamental to nation building and has been adopted by states overtime in order to give to itself a future it wants. This concept has been built through initiatives by individuals and organizations (both locally and internationally) and is aimed at fostering meaningful involvement in democratic processes, the achievement of sustainable states and inspire hope, justice, and patriotism. The Anglophone conflict has been persistent and had devastating effects on all of these aspects of youth life and counting, especially on the youths of the Northwest and Southwest regions, affecting their future, their participation in national life, politics or development, such as elections, and other civic duties. Other young people have simply been lost to death while others remain in anxiety and uncertainty and yet, others working hard to make ends meet and to contribute to peacebuilding in the communities and in the country as a whole.

## **Impact on the General Population:**

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) report released in September 2021, the Anglophone crisis has led to over 760,000 people being internally displaced, with an additional 60,000+ seeking refuge in neighboring Nigeria. The report also states that more than 3,500 people have been killed since the conflict began in 2016, with many more injured or traumatized (UNHCR, 2021). In terms of property damage, over 600 houses have been burned down or destroyed, along with dozens of schools and health clinics (UNHCR, 2021). The abuse of human rights and violations of human dignity with impunity, death to community development including stagnation in the development of roads, electricity, water and other basic necessities have led to lack of interest to participate in democratic processes and general trauma and increasing /degrading suffering in the population despite efforts from the government, and the humanitarian community to reduce suffering. It is important to note that the conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone Region has received relatively less attention from the international community compared to other conflicts in Africa, such as Southern Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nonetheless the situation in Cameroon has been the subject of concern and attention from various Human Rights Organizations, Governments and international bodies (Amnesty International, 2021).

## **Response by the Population:**

Many demographics of the population have been affected and responded to the conflict including the women, who have been a great voice wailing and calling for an end to the anglophone conflict. Women have organized march pasts, wailing pogroms, a peace conference and participated vocally in negotiation and dialogue processes (International Crisis Group, 2022). Men on the other hand, have been leaders in areas such as national leadership as well as leaders in different political parties and entities involved in the conflict compounding or making efforts to end it. Some women have also been in the political sphere. Children have been massacred ruthlessly with no ability to fight back for themselves (International Crisis Group, 2022). Youths have on the other hand been everywhere. At Government, political, separatist, Neutral, Federal arms of the spectrum, acting as strong surrogates, advocates and subjects of the conflict's current state.

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## **Government Response:**

Initially, the government is reported to not have responded to the written appeals by lawyers. Similarly for the teachers (ReliefWeb 2017). Following a long sit-down strike action and several protests, the government responded by scheduling several meetings with the leaders of the trade unions and Bar Associations. These were the beginnings of dialogue which unfortunately, morphed into a political situation when leaders of the then formed “Consortium” were jailed when their demands moved from professional to a federation as was in 1960. According to the detained leaders, some of who escaped and fueled the movement into an outright demand for independence, this demand was intended to secure the Anglo-Saxon systems that the teachers and lawyers were fighting for. Following the continuous escalation till conflict, the government called for a Major National Dialogue which resulted in the granting of a Special Status to the NW and SW regions of Cameroon and a resolution to accelerate the decentralization process as adopted in the 1996 Constitution (News Upfront, 2019). Not being satisfied with the results of the Major National Dialogue, some groups leaning towards Federation have continued their pursuit of federation in conjunction with several political parties while the group that were not at all on the able, have mobilized even further in armed resistance, for separation as non-negotiable, causing an even stiffer and challenging armed conflict situation post the Major National Dialogue. The government has nonetheless continued to focus on implementing the resolutions of the MND, with several meetings scheduled to follow up on the effectiveness of these solutions while putting the national army and the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) at the disposal of the regions for security purposes. Unfortunately, there is more confusion especially for the population as it hardly knows what security means given that they are often caught in cross fire between the warring parties and sometimes, due to the context, accusations, counter accusations, score settling and set ups, besides kidnappings accompanied by torture, and all sorts of misfortune befall the citizenry at the hands of armed men from both sides as seen in several recorded unfortunate incidences. These circumstances have led to a very stark distance between the ideology of the warring factions whereby, coming to any agreement on what constitutes a solution requires standard, quick and robust conflict solution processes if there must be stability not only in these two regions, but also as touching key aspects of daily life, of individuals, communities and the entire nation. Further Escalation is not desirable.

## **How Important is the Youth Voice:**

Despite the persistence of the conflict, it is important that the voices of youths that represent the majority of youth perspective and stance concerning the ways forward to resolving the conflict should be taken into consideration. The voices of youths are the voices that need to be heard and understood, given that many are also directly involved in the conflict ether as non-armed or armed youths enduring the perpetuity and its consequences on their future. Youths as a vital component of the society, leaders of tomorrow and the energy of today, are a critical domain of interest for stakeholders in this conflict as their actions, experiences, needs, challenges and opinions matter not just now but in the future of the country. It is in this light that several authors have addressed youth participation in peacebuilding in relation to conflict resolution but also particularly to the Anglophone crisis. The African

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Union Office of the Legal Counsel's report (2019) on "The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon: Legal Reflections on Youth Participation and the Way Forward" provides a legal perspective on the crisis and emphasizes the importance of meaningful youth participation in the peacebuilding process. The report calls on the government to take steps to address the underlying grievances of the English-speaking regions (African Union Office of the Legal Counsel, 2019) and to engage in dialogue with separatist groups. The report also highlights the need for investigations into allegations of human rights abuses and the release of all arbitrarily detained individuals, and underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict and the role that young people can play in promoting a peaceful resolution. These reports provide a more comprehensive understanding of the complex and ongoing crisis in Cameroon and the urgent need for a peaceful resolution.

An article by Emmanuel-Pierre Guittet (2020) on "Youth and the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon: From Protest to Radicalization" provides valuable insights into the role of youth in the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon and the factors that have led some youth to turn to more radical forms of activism. The author highlights the importance of addressing underlying issues such as government repression, lack of employment opportunities, and a sense of marginalization to prevent further radicalization and promote sustainable peace in Cameroon. (Guittet,2020)

This study comes in with the need to increase avenues to hear the voice of youths as far as the conflict is concerned so that by addressing their legitimate concerns, needs, challenges and priorities, the contributions of youths in the peace building process can be guaranteed and the major stakeholders in the conflict can effectively promote a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

### **Frameworks for Youth Meaningful Engagement:**

Bart Cammaerts in his book "Youth Participation in Democratic Life: Stories of Hope and Disillusion" (2018) provides an insightful analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing young people in democratic processes. The book provides a range of examples and case studies from different parts of the world. The author's emphasis on the importance of listening to and engaging with young people is particularly noteworthy, and the book provides a number of practical recommendations for policymakers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to support and promote youth participation in democratic life. (Cammaerts, 2018). Thus far, several organizations both nationally and internationally have done a lot through varying initiatives to support young people to engage in peace building and nation building in Cameroon.

Other non-governmental and civil society organizations within Cameroon have also carried out initiatives that support youth engagement. Organizations such as Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC); Nkafu Policy Institute, Civic Watch, Reach Out Cameroon (REO); Cameroon Association for Youth Education and Development (CAYED); Global Youth Service Initiative (GYSI); Youth Advocates for Peace and Democracy (YAPD) have organized initiative youth forums, training workshops, peace matches and dialogues, awareness campaigns and psychosocial support all aimed supporting youths engage and participate in peace processes.

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## **RADA's Survey Report:**

The United Nations promotes youth engagement through policies such as the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security which has recognized the important role of young people in promoting and maintaining international peace and security. It also recognizes the positive contribution of youths and youth-led organizations in promoting peace and countering violent extremism. Again, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2419 builds on the principles outlined in Resolution 2250. It specifically highlights the need to address the root causes of conflict and violence that disproportionately affect young people (United Nations Security Council, 2015; United Nations Security Council 2018), such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and employment opportunities. The African Union has itself, put in place the African Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security is a regional framework to promote the meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding efforts across the continent and recognizes the unique challenges faced by young people in Africa (African Union Commission, 2018). The framework builds on the principles outlined in Resolutions 2250 and 2419, and emphasizes the importance of youth-led initiatives in promoting peace and preventing violent extremism. The framework also recognizes the unique challenges faced by young people in Africa, including poverty, political marginalization, and the impact of conflict and insecurity on their lives.

Thus far, several organizations both nationally and internationally have done a lot through varying initiatives to support young people to engage in peace building and nation building in Cameroon. As the conglomerate of these initiatives continue to take root, the gaps in periodic and timely understanding by stakeholders of the perspective of youths, their understanding, needs, and level of involvement in peacebuilding processes has been too pronounced. This survey has therefore taken a step forward to fill that gap and get a better understanding of youths' perspectives in the peace building processes geared towards resolving the Anglophone conflict. It will help inform ways to meaningfully engage in resolving this crisis.

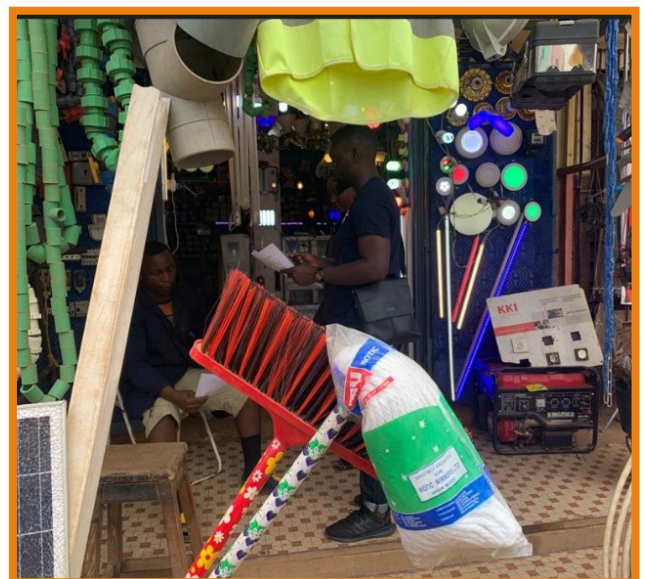
The results of this survey should further help to amplify the legitimate voices of young people who are often marginalized in peacebuilding efforts such as the one ongoing in Cameroon, and should help provide a space for youths now, to share their stories and perspectives about the conflict, right from the place of daily experience. We hope that this report can help to foster greater understanding and empathy among different groups, which is essential for promoting peace and reconciliation. It has been produced to contribute in addressing the root causes of the conflict, which are inherently political, by highlighting the perspectives of youth on it, vis-avis the impact of the conflict on young people and advocating for their rights and needs and their calls to action. As we hope that this piece of research work will promote the meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding efforts and contributing to the implementation of the resolutions and frameworks earlier mentioned, RADA presents a total of 29 recommendations segmented to different stakeholders to help accelerate the process of meaningful youth engagement in the resolution of the anglophone crisis and to bring lasting peace to the restive English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

## Study Design/Methods:

The study design took into consideration a cross-sectional design, with a self-administered questionnaire as the data collection tool. The questionnaire was administered online and offline, to young people aged 18–35 in the restive Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. The sample was selected using a convenient sampling method, with participants selected based on their willingness and availability to participate in the study according to the method of administration most suitable to them. The sample size of 385 was determined using the calculator.net with a 95% confidence interval, 5% margin of error, and a population size of 3.6 million youths representing the estimated number of youths in the two regions; who represent about 45% of the total population of approximately 8 million people in the affected regions. Nonetheless, a total of 849 youths completed the study. The inclusion criteria for participants included being able to read and write in English and the willingness to take the survey using one of the methods suitable to the potential participant. Also, youths living out of the Northwest and Southwest but with origins from the two Regions were allowed to participate online. The informed consent to participate by respondents was at 98.74%. Those not consenting were automatically not considered in the analysis. The number was nonetheless negligible and cannot affect the results of the report.

## Findings:

The finding of this study is hereby presented according to the section in the protocol of the study. This is for fluency, coherency and understanding of the findings, addressing specific topics or areas of focus in the study.



Administration of survey to the hard to reach population

# SECTION A

## Demographics (age, gender, education, marital status & residence)

The demographics of the survey revealed that majority of the respondents were youths between 18 to 24 years (49.05%), those between 31 to 35 years were the least (14.04%) while those between the ages of 25–30 made up 36.02 per cent of the total respondents. The gender distribution of respondents showed that 50.06% were female and 49.04%, male, a 1:1 ratio that reflects the current ratio of male to females in the Cameroonian population.

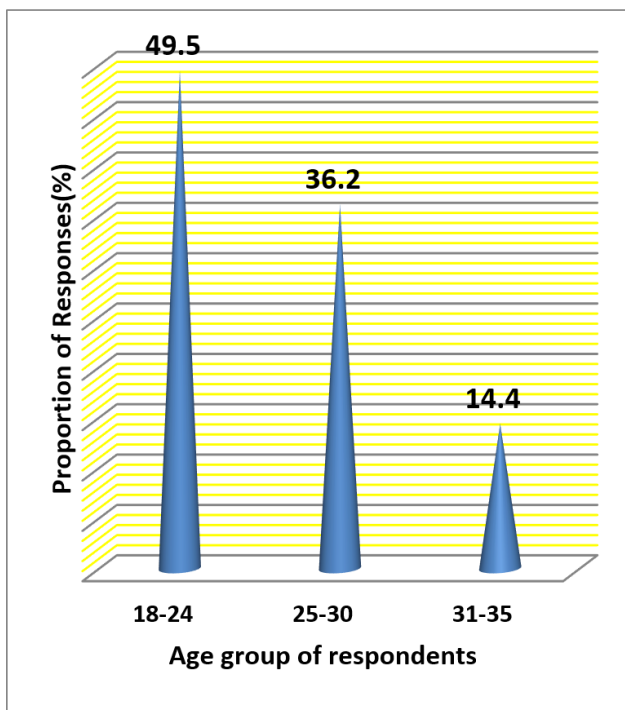


Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by Age

Source: RADA 2023

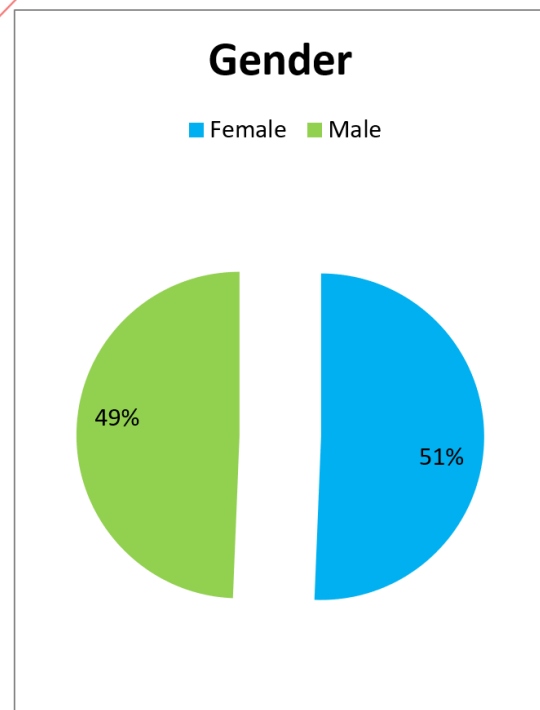
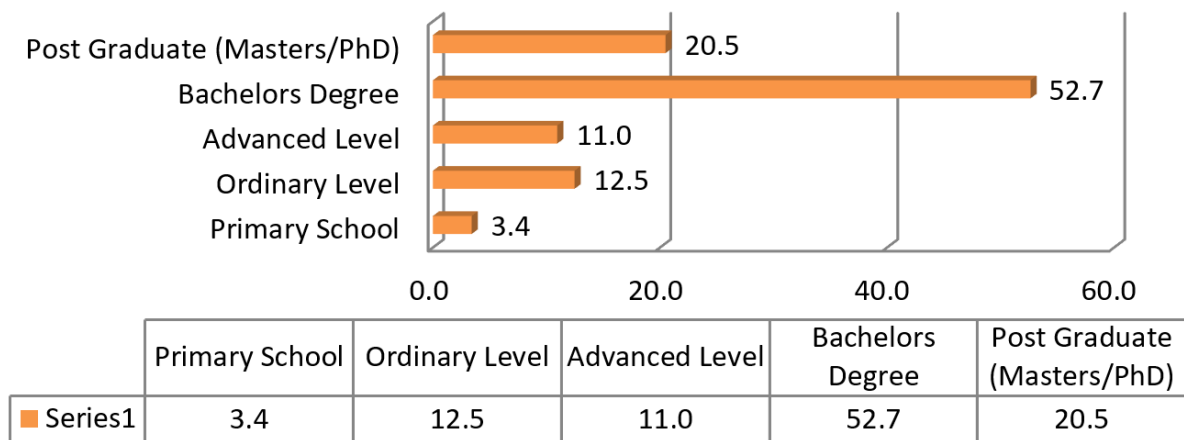


Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by Gender

For the education profile of respondents, the survey was dominated by the responses from first degree holders (Bachelor's Degree) making a total of 52.07 percent of the entire survey population. This number was closely followed by post graduate students at a percentage score of 20.05 percent. The least fraction whose opinions were sampled was those with basic (primary education) with a percentage score of 3.4 percent, with those having ordinary and advanced levels making up 12.5 per cent and 11 per cent of the total population, respectively.

**Majority of respondents were between 18-24 years old. 52% of respondents had at least a 1st Degree.**

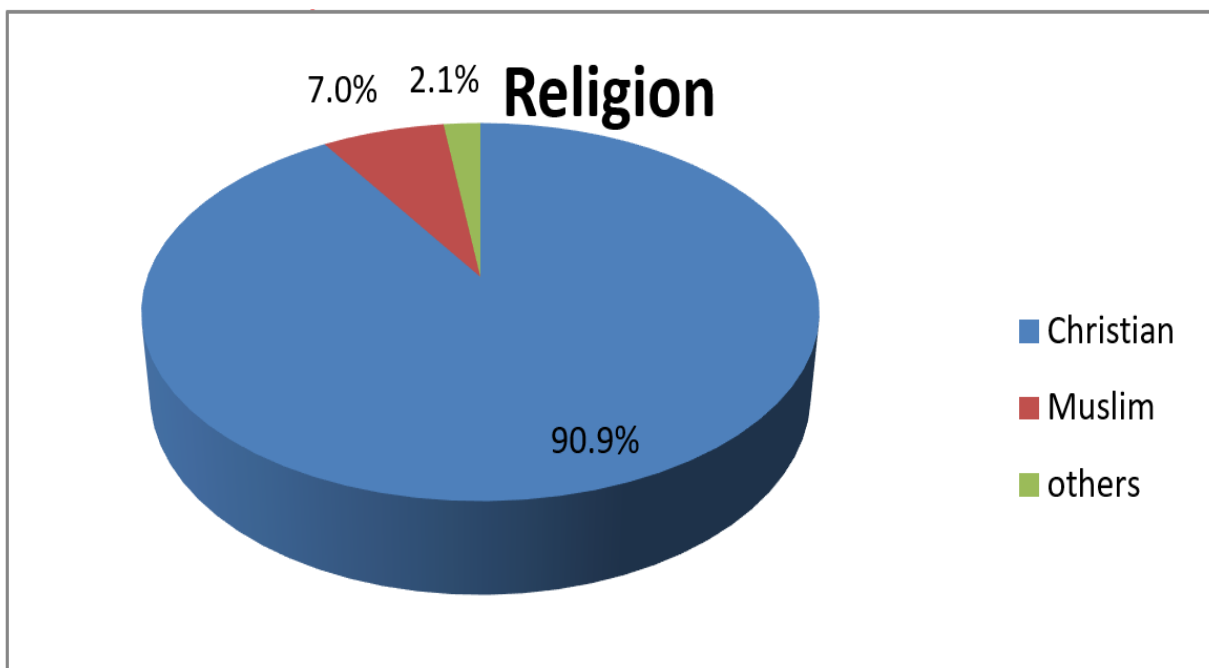
## Level of Education (%)



Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by level of education**

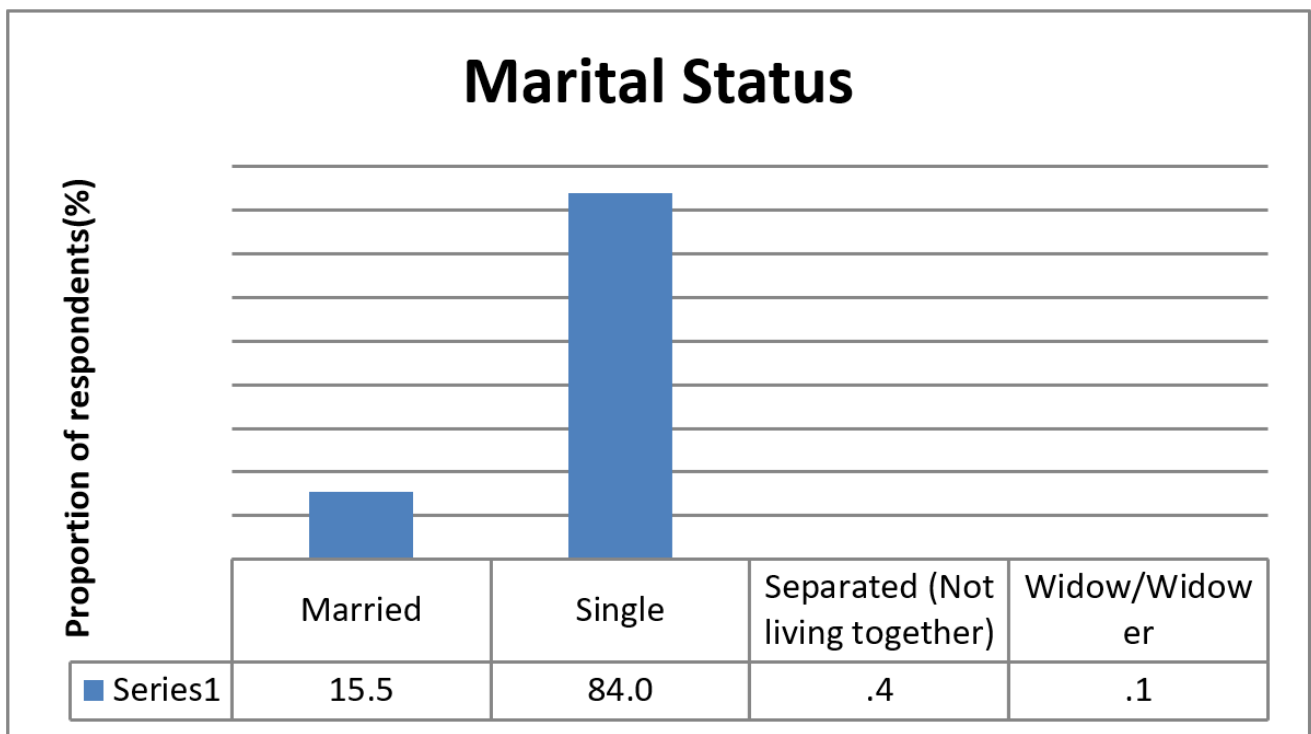
The distribution of participants by religious affiliation showed that 90.9 percent of the respondents were Christians. The Muslim population constituted 6.09 per cent of the total population, while 2.1 per cent had other religious affiliations. To make the survey more inclusive, it was important for the study to identify participants with impairment. 70 out of the 849 respondents had a physical impairment. Some had Hearing (0.8%), Cognitive (0.2%) and Speech (1.3%) functional limitations. Apart from the 4.2 % of participants who indicated visual impairment and 1.9% who had mobility impairment, a majority (6.0%) of respondents stated that they had other impairments not necessarily specified in the survey questions.



Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by religion**





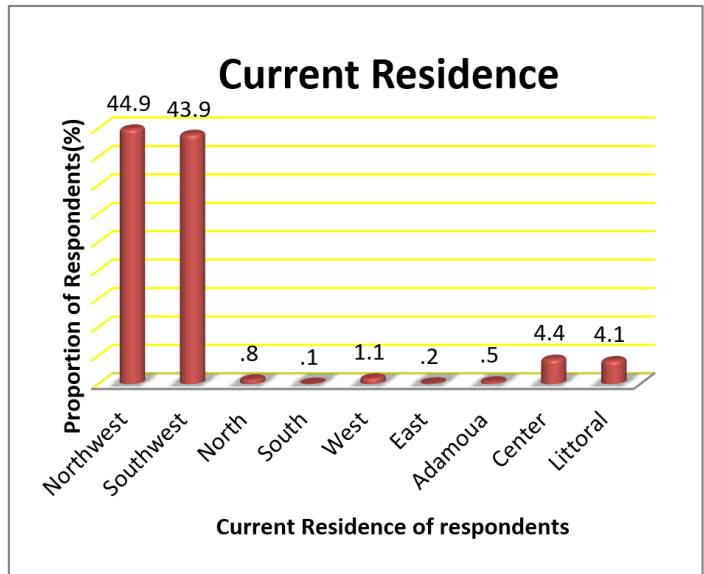
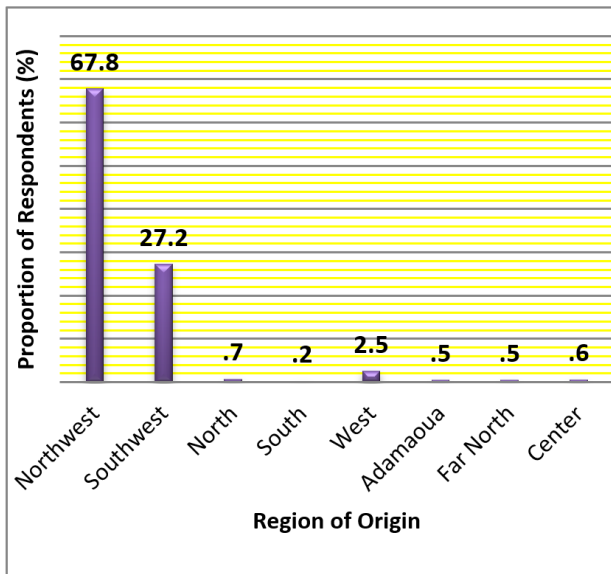
Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 5: Distribution of respondents according to Marital status**

For region of origin, there were 67.8% of respondents from the Northwest, 27.2% from the South West, 0.7% from the North, 0.2% from the South, 2.5% from the West, 0.5% from the Far north and Adamawa, and 0.6% from Centre Regions. Respondents were equally asked to specify the division of origin if they were from the Northwest region. From the 576 respondents, the results showed that; 37.5% were from Boyo, 13.2% from Bui, 10.8% from Donga Mantung, 3.3% from Menchum, 23.9% from Mezam 7.1% from Momo and 4.2% from Ngoketunjia. Out of the 231 respondents that indicated to be from the Southwest, Fako Division had 8.4%, koupe-manengouba 3.8%, Lebialem 3.5%, Manyu, 6.1%, meme 4.5%, Ndian 0.9 % of those who participated in the survey. Meanwhile, out of the total number (849) of survey respondents, 47.9 percent were currently residing in the Northwest Region, 39.53 percent were resident in the Southwest Region while respondents residing in the rest of the eight regions made up 12.57 per cent. Then, the distribution of respondents by marital status revealed that 84.0 per cent of the respondents were single, while 15.5 percent were married. While no respondent had divorced, 0.4 per cent of respondents were separated from their spouses, and 0.1 per cent were either widows or widower.

**Despite disparities in region of origin, respondents were distributed almost similarly in the affected regions, indicating an experience of a similar context of conflict regardless of their region of origin.**





**Figure 6: Distribution of respondents by region**

**Figure 6: Distribution of respondents by current residents**

Source: RADA 2023

This distribution shows that all the youths who participated in the survey indicated residence in both regions almost equally. More of the youths who took the survey were of northwest origin. The residence distribution indicate that the experiences shared by the youths are common across both regions. It does not matter the region of origin; the effect of the conflict is being experienced across the regions. Fewer were resident in the other regions and also had origins from other regions. Less of the responses thus reflect the situation and experiences of youths from the entire nation.

“He who fights and runs lives to fight another day. But ending the Anglophone Crisis completely is a meaningful investment into the future of the entire country. this conflict is having real -life negative impacts on he young people and their futures”

**Respondent Anonymous Quote.**

## SECTION B

### Youth Awareness, Perception and Effect of the Anglophone Conflict

#### Awareness:

On the subject of awareness, respondents were asked how familiar they were with the Anglophone Conflict, and the extent to which they believed it had affected their community and daily life. The results of the survey revealed that the majority of the youths whose opinions were sampled were very familiar with the conflict (64%). Then, 81.2 percent of youths indicated that the conflict has affected their community and 68.2 percent said that the conflict has affected their daily life greatly.

**Table 1: Youth awareness of the Anglophone conflict.**

<b>Q17 - How familiar are you with the Anglophone Crises?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very familiar	543	64.0
Somewhat familiar	187	22.0
Not very familiar	83	9.8
Not at all familiar	36	4.2
Total	849	100.0
<b>Q18 - To what extent do you believe the Anglophone Conflict has affected your community?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not at all	12	1.4
Slightly	64	7.5
Moderately	84	9.9
A lot	689	81.2
Total	849	100.0
<b>19 - How has the Anglophone Conflict affected your daily life?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Greatly	579	68.2
Somewhat	137	16.1
Not much	114	13.4
Not at all	19	2.2
Total	849	100.0

Source: RADA 2023

## Youth Experiences and Effects:

Out of the 849 youths who participated in the survey, 629 (74.1%) of them had been directly affected or at least knew someone directly affected by the violence associated with the ongoing conflict. Up to 85.6% of youths said they had to flee their home or at least knew someone who fled their home due to the violence associated with the Anglophone Conflict. A description of their experience or the experiences of other people they know has been thematically analyzed and presented in Table 2 below. The thematic grounding approach of qualitative data analysis used to produce the results in Table 2 entails grouping together similar themes and extracting the most catching sentences (quotations) and summarizing the number of persons that shared identical views (grounding). Based on the results above, frequent kidnapping, harassment, violation of privacy and torture were the highest experiences of violence by youths (23%). This is followed by the loss of family members (17%) and loss of property/houses and other sources of income (15%). A good number of youths had also experienced the loss of lives by members of the community and friends (14%), missing out on their education (10%), internal displacement (9%) and had suffered from health complications/ loss of limbs due to shooting (6%) as well as frequent arrests/ raids (3%) and Rape (1%).

**Table 2: Thematic analysis of the description of youths' experiences of violence associated with the Anglophone armed conflict.**

THEME	GROUNDING	Per cent	QUOTES
Non responses	220		
Frequent kidnapping, harassment, violation of privacy/ torture	145	23%	<p>"Kidnap and torture which led to the damage of the jaw bones. The person is suffering today. Also demand for heavy ransom."</p> <p>"Harassments from military as they do not even know the people, they are fighting with; military has a uniform while the others do not have. the civilians are all suspects making it difficult to live a normal life."</p>

Killing/loss of family member's lives	104	17%	<p>"My brother was shot to dead on the 27/06/2021 and since then it has probably affected my mom mentally"</p> <p>"I lost a brother in the middle of gunshots between the military and the separatist fighters"</p> <p>"My uncle was killed in his farm in the village all because he advocated for school resumption"</p>
Loss of property/houses and other sources of income	92	15%	<p>"My grandmother's house was burnt down by separatists, and till now, the building is just there uncompleted."</p>
Loss of lives of members of the community and friends	89	14%	<p>"It was too bad that Children were killed mercilessly in my own village, it pains me because I thought those Children in church just a month before they were killed it was really a bad experience"</p>
Missing out on education	61	10%	<p>"Parents and family sent to the bush, education deprived to my children and kindred's for over 8years."</p> <p>"I have been stopped by armed men on my way to school. And had to promise not to go to school again for my release. Few months back, armed men attacked me still and collected everything on me. My phone, money, even withdrawal from the mobile money."</p> <p>"I dropped school for 4 years"</p>

Internal Displacement	59	9%	<p>"Many people in my village are now living in the other regions as IDPs due to this crisis"</p> <p>"A church member lost his home, him and his family had to relocate to kumba. Living in a miserable condition. His youngest child presently lives with us. His wife has developed countless sicknesses as a result of this."</p> <p>"I faced challenges going to work because of lock downs and i could not receive my salary on time as well as some of my colleagues were laid off as a result of slow economic activities that came about due to the crisis."</p>
Health complications/ loss of limbs and other body parts.	40	6%	<p>"People have had their hands cut off."</p> <p>"My uncle was shot and till now he is limping"</p>
Frequent arrest/ raids	19	3%	<p>"Frequent police brutality and harassment, the ghost town practices is affecting me as a student and also an entrepreneur"</p> <p>"I have witnessed military raids more than four time and sometimes I was force to go and sleep in the forest. There was another time when I was at gun point"</p>
Increase in prices and cost of living	11	2%	<p>"I was with a friend one faithful evening and we separated at about 11p.m. Behold the next morning only his lifeless body was found and the head had been taken away. Till date the vision of his face is still very fresh."</p>

Raping	9	1%	“I was raped during the crisis” “My cousin was raped brutally by two unknown men”
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Source: RADA 2023

## Youth Perceptions on the Main/Root Causes:

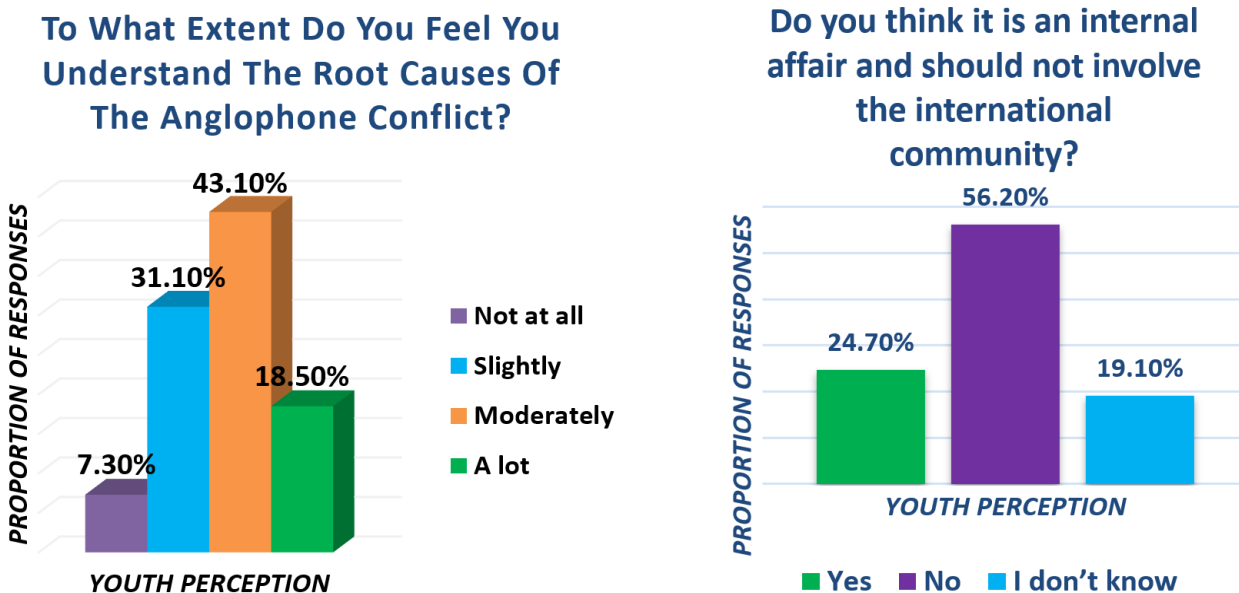
An analysis of youth’s perception on the main/root causes of the Anglophone conflict showed that 50.2% of youths perceived it to be caused by political differences. Those who opined historical differences and economic disparities were 25.8% and 15.5% respectively. Respondents saw cultural differences (4.5%) as the least cause of the Anglophone conflict. Worthy of note is the fact that respondents’ opinion on “other reasons” pointed to the direction that all (political, economic, historical and cultural difference) were the leading causes of the conflict, higher than economic disparities and all other reasons individually except Political differences.

**Table 3: Youth Perception on root causes of Anglophone Conflict**

<b>Q28 – In your opinion, what are the main/root causes of the Anglophone Conflict?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Political differences	426	50.2
Economic disparities	132	15.5
Historical differences	219	25.8
Cultural differences	38	4.5
<b>Other Specify (frequency 34)</b>		
All of the above	10	31%
Poor governance	2	6%
Economic and historical differences	4	13%
Economic political and cultural differences	2	6%
Educational differences and poor governance	2	6%
Greed	3	9%
Favoritism/Marginalization	2	6%
Personal motives	3	9%
Political and economic reasons	2	6%
Political and historical differences	2	6%
Social differences	2	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: RADA 2023

Majority (43.1%) of youths feel that they moderately understand the root causes of the Anglophone conflict. While a small proportion (24.7%) of youths think the conflict is an internal affair and should not involve the international community, the majority (56.2%) think otherwise.



Source: RADA 2023

Figure 8: Youth opinions on root causes of Anglophone Conflict



**81% of youths report that this conflict is affecting them "A a lot" as opposed to 1.4% who say it has "not at all" affected them. Almost 70% indicate that it is affecting their daily lives.**

**50% of youths believe the conflict is political. While 31% believe it is has both political, economic, historical ad cultural root causes. This means that if the political class does not solve this problem, then they have failed the youths of today. Politicians are public servants, they have the responsibility to rise up to the occasion and do their responsibility by saving the future of the youths.**

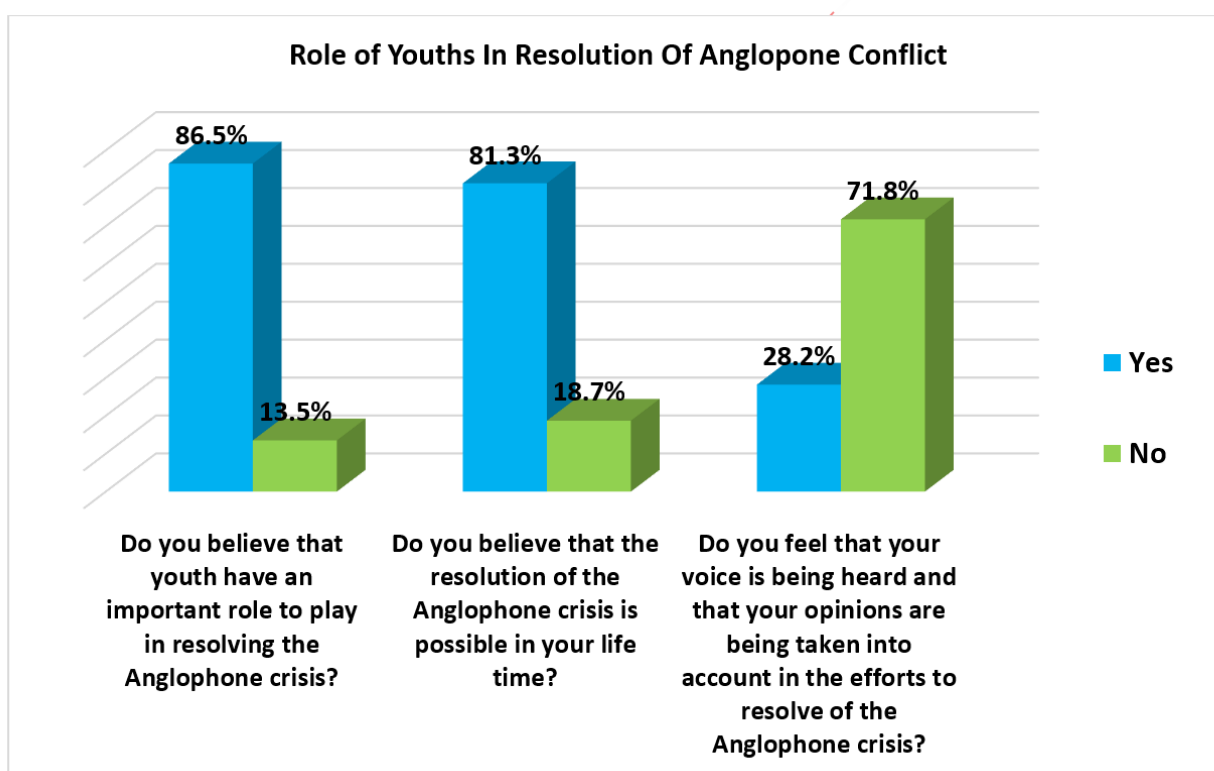


## SECTION C

### Youth Engagement in the Resolution of the Anglophone Conflict

#### Engagement In Resolution of the Conflict:

Concerning their engagement in the resolution of the Anglophone Conflict, 86.5% of youths believe that they have an important role to play in resolving the Anglophone conflict, although majority of them (71.8%) feel that their voice is not being heard and that their opinions are not being taken into account in the efforts to resolve of the Anglophone conflict. 81.3% believe that the resolution of the Conflict is possible in their lifetime. (Figure 9)



Source: RADA 2023

Figure 9: Perceived Role of Youths in the Resolution of Anglophone conflict

An analysis of youth optimism about the future resolution of the Anglophone conflict revealed that 23.3 per cent were very optimistic. Although some were not at all optimistic (15.0%), a commendable number of youths were slightly (38.4%) and moderately (23.3%) optimistic that there would be a future resolution of the conflict. (Table 4a). A thematic analysis of explanations as to why they felt the way they did (Table 4b), depicts themes around negative change (42%) and bad governance (10%) as the main contributions to youths being not at all optimistic about the future resolution of the Anglophone conflict. On the other hand, the feeling of being slightly optimistic, moderately optimistic or very optimistic could be associated thematically with observed positive change (31%), belief in God's peace (6%), Hope (4%), Dialogues (3%) and intervention from international bodies (2%).

**Table 4a: Youth Perceptions about the Future Resolution of Anglophone Conflict**

<b>Q34 – How optimistic are you about the future resolution of the Anglophone conflict?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not at all optimistic	127	15.0
<b>Slightly optimistic</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>38.4</b>
Moderately optimistic	198	23.3
Very optimistic	198	23.3
Total	849	100.0

Source: RADA 2023

**Table 4b: Why do you feel this way?**

<b>THEME</b>	<b>GROUNDING</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>QUOTATION</b>
NONE RESPONSES	228		
NEGATIVE CHANGE	258	42%	<p>“Because those Who sit in power don’t give way for youths with revolutionary ideas that can bring change for the country and make a great difference”</p> <p>“It keeps getting worst by the day. More murder cases, more kidnapping and more people disappearing”</p> <p>“Because the crisis has been going in for years and each year lives are lost but nothing seems to be happening and does not look like it will happen”</p> <p>“Because the crisis keeps getting worst ever, no better solution has been taken to resolve or stop the killings”</p> <p>“I really do not see it ending because both camps are making money out of it”</p>

<p>POSITIVE CHANGE</p>	<p>195</p>	<p>31%</p>	<p>“Difficult to say but the presence of multiple organizations working towards peace has helped so far”</p> <p>“Many youths are suffering and are willing to take part in bringing peace”</p> <p>“I believe the first step to ending the current crises will come when certain authorities will step down and be replaced by more understanding individuals”</p> <p>“These peacebuilding programs reaching out to Youths is encouraging”</p> <p>“Presence of various peace programs, reduce rate of killing”</p> <p>“If people can find food, shelter and respect, there’ll be increased peace in the community. This is that one time were the dependability of youths on the government have been questioned and put to the test. Youths are getting more rigorous in finding a better future. As we do, we’d find less interest in fighting with weapons”</p>
<p>BAD GOVERNANCE</p>	<p>61</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>“This is because the crisis takes a different turn every year. The problem keeps prolonging”</p> <p>“Because the government has not been doing so much on ground”</p> <p>“The solution to this crisis, remains a political solution and those who can bring the solution keep shying away, but rather prefer to provide cosmetic solutions”</p> <p>“The government is bunch of hypocrites who lack the will to solve the problems. The government is providing cosmetic solutions!”</p> <p>“From my point of view the are doing nothing to put things together people have lost their homes innocent people are in jail for crimes the know nothing about maybe they should start from there and also finding a way to limit lockdowns and removing the Monday lockdown so that things can be a bit normal”</p>

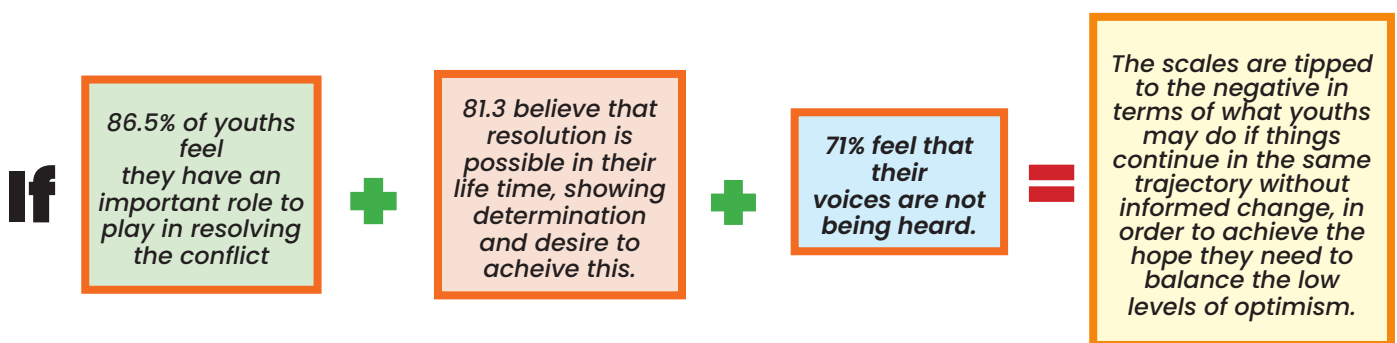
<p>BELIEF IN GOD'S PEACE</p>	<p>40</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>"because i know with God the father everything is possible."</p> <p>"I just believe that it can be resolved if we all call in God to intervene"</p> <p>"It is because I know God is seen everything happen in our country today and I know he is going to put an end to this situation"</p> <p>"Because there is this God feeling in me that everything is going to be fine as long as God exist"</p> <p>"Because even after all efforts being put in place have always been to no avail, I believe that the prayers and cries of our hearts will bring about a resolution, #IBELIEVE"</p>
<p>HOPE</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>4%</p>	<p>"Because everyone is indifferent especially the government"</p> <p>"Based on hope and nothing more"</p> <p>"A better Cameroon lies ahead"</p> <p>"I'm hoping for a better future"</p> <p>"Nothing last forever i believe if everyone put heads and hands together they will be a way out, bringing people together is possible. it all started by bringing people together it will stop by doing same"</p> <p>"We all hope and pray for a better future in Cameroon especially for the generations to come. What a marvelous sight it will be! However, the FACT is that there is major and actionable change which needs to take place. If not, all youths will flee and seek for refuge/greener pastures as the violence keeps surmounting and our lives and our families are at stake. Take note that the reason youths were sent to school was to learn in the hopes of acquiring/creating some form of work/ be it entrepreneurial or etc. to provide for their families which sacrificed their meager incomes to give them a chance at life. If these opportunities are not present/ or the economy is not safe don't you think they will run away and go to where they will be permitted to thrive and help their families and siblings? Worst still, it is so disheartening and appalling that the ongoing crisis has led to so many students and children being beaten &amp; tortured to the extent of losing their lives. They live in fear every day and are left with the choice to either flee or join the gangs which roam about and terrorize others."</p>

DIALOGUE	21	3%	"The different on going dialogues can help"
INTERVENTION FROM INTERNATIONAL BODIES	10	2%	"I believe international communities are seeing what is happening and they are planning on how to bring a long-lasting solution"
SPECIAL STATUS	5	1%	"Because of the special status"
MARGINALISATION	4	1%	"Francophone have colonized all the position in Cameroon"  "The Anglophone crisis is intentionally created. Besides, most Francophone don't seem to even understand what the crisis is about or have an I-don't-care approach to it, thus making it difficult for them to consciously contribute towards protecting the Anglophone minority interest. So, the resolution of the Anglophone Crisis looks more like an Anglophone thing, than a national concern. And given that Francophone are the majority, even when it comes to voting or deciding on how to go about resolving this Crisis, most of them don't find a need to cast a vote that favors the Anglophones."

Source: RADA 2023

### Youths' Participation in conflict resolution initiatives:

The results from the survey show that 51.6% of youths had participated in initiatives or activities aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict, with a majority of them being involved mainly in Peacebuilding/conflict resolution programs (23.4%). Other initiatives they have participated in include community meetings/dialogues (17.1%) and demonstrations/protests (9.0%). On the subject of youths' perceptions of the positive effects of their involvement in initiatives on the resolution of the Anglophone conflict; the majority of youths (42.2%) believe that their involvement in these initiatives has not at all made a positive impact on the resolution of the Anglophone conflict.



**Table 5: Youths' Participation in conflict resolution initiatives**

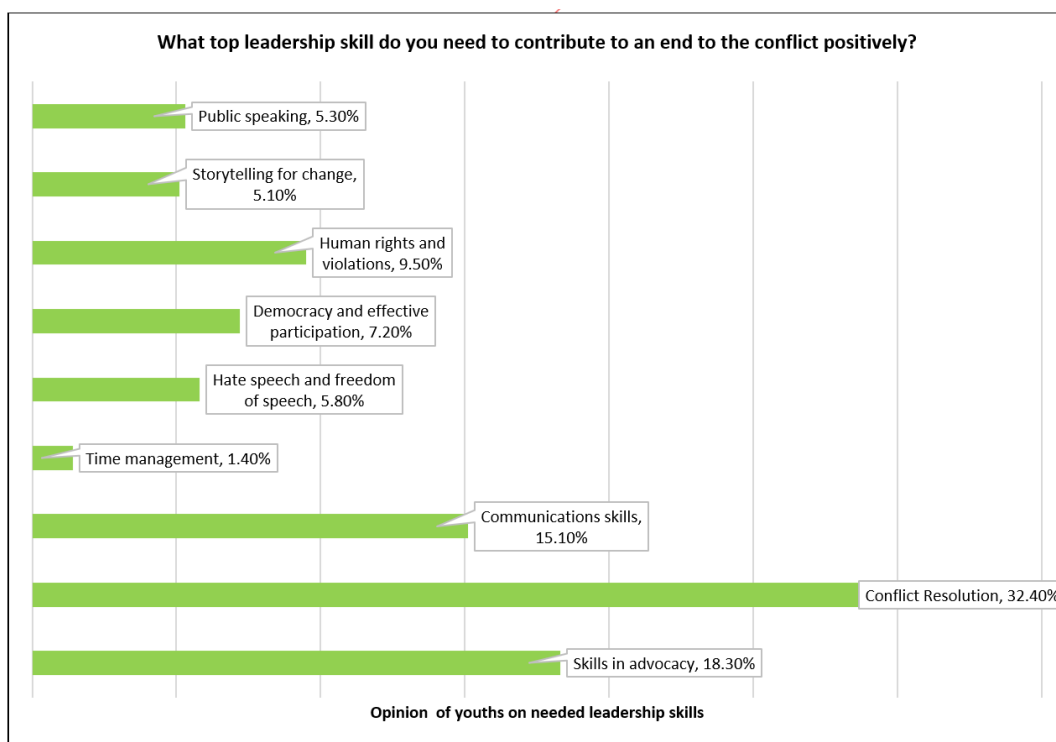
<b>Have you participated in any initiatives or activities aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	438	51.6
No	411	48.4
Total	849	100.0
<b>If yes, what kind of initiatives have you participated in?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>(Proportion of youths that had not participated)</b>	411	48.4
Demonstrations/Protests	76	9.0
Community meetings/dialogues	145	17.1
<b>Peace building/Conflict resolution programs</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>23.4</b>
Other (please specify and describe your involvement)	18	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>To what extent do you believe your involvement in these initiatives has made a positive impact on the resolution of the Anglophone conflict?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Not at all</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>42.2</b>
Slightly	245	28.9
Moderately	174	20.5
A lot	72	8.5
Total	849	100.0

Source: RADA 2023

### **Leadership Skills Needed by Youth for Positive Contributions:**

Findings of the analysis depicted that more youths, 275 (32.4%), were interested in developing conflict resolution skills, 18.3% pinpointed advocacy skills, and 15.1% for communication skills. Other relevant leadership skills needed by the youths, according to the responses, included; Human rights advocacy (9.5%), democracy and effective participation (7.2%), public speaking (5.3%), and storytelling for change (5.1%), among other necessary skills. These are indications that youths are willing to participate in the conflict resolution process (Figure 10).

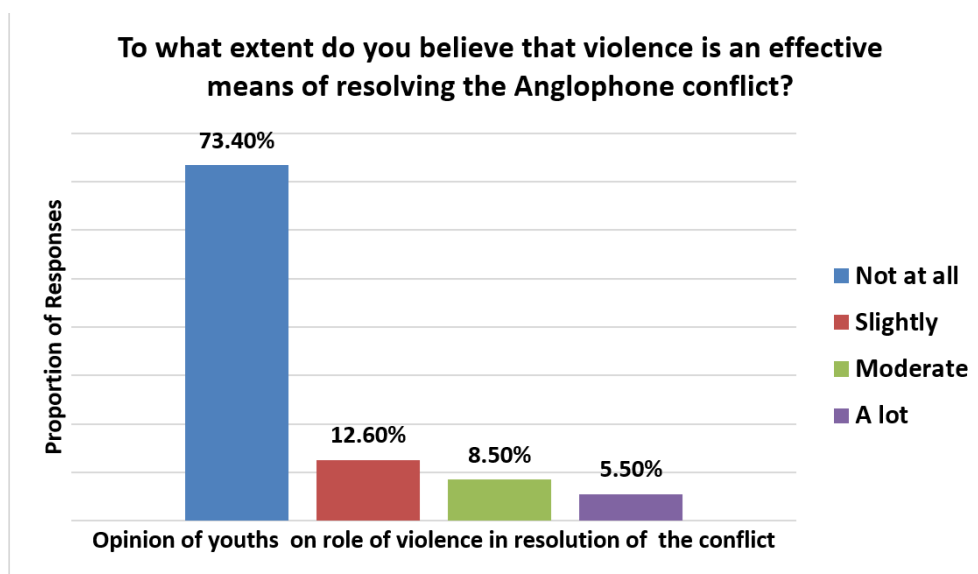


**Figure 10: Youths' perception of leaderships skills relevant to resolve the Anglophone conflict**

Source: RADA 2023

## Youth Opinion on Violence as a Means of Conflict Resolution:

On the theme of violence, participants viewpoints were sorted on the stake of violence being an effective means of resolving the Anglophone conflict, the findings disclosed that a vast majority of the youths constituting (73.4%) of the respondents were not in support of violence as a means to resolve the conflict, a reasonable number of the youths opined that violence could slightly be embarked on (12.6%) and moderately 8.5% but then 5.5% of the youths succinctly affirmed that resorting to violence is an effective means of resolving the Anglophone conflict (Figure 11).



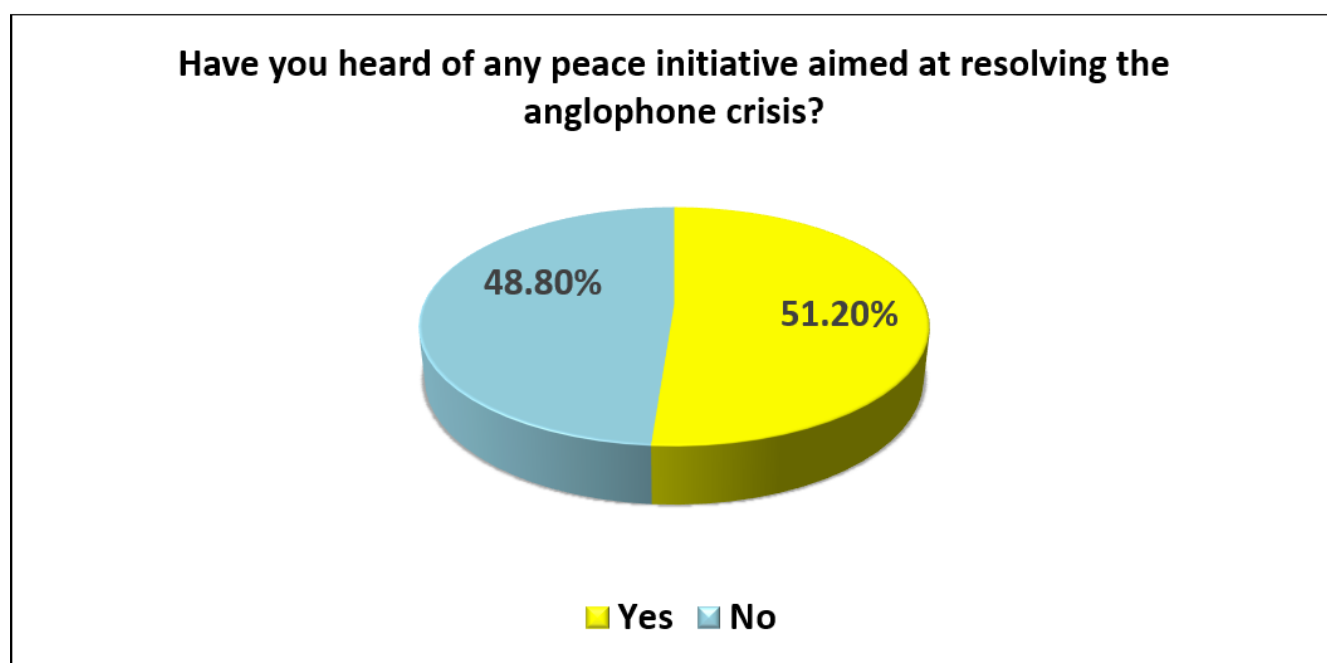
Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 11: Youths Opinion on Violence as a Means of conflict resolution**

## SECTION D

### Peace Processes: Awareness, Perception and Participation in Initiatives

Regarding youths' awareness of peace initiatives aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict showed that 51.2% were aware or had at least heard of such initiatives, and 48.8% of the youths proved to be ignorant of any peace initiatives aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict (figure 12). A thematic approach to the different forms of initiatives youths were aware of (Table 6) presented themes centered around the Major National Dialogue (23%), UNO/ international bodies advocating for peace (15%), NGOs (10%), peace advocacy by religious institutions (10%), peace conference resolution (12%), seminars, national days and meeting groups/local community peace initiatives (5%) respectively, political parties (4%), media peace talk and human rights groups (3.5%) respectively and lastly 2% indicated laying down of arms campaign. These according to the perspectives of the youths who participated in the realistic initiatives aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict are the different initiatives and their level of knowledge by youths of their existence.



Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 12: Youths' Awareness of Peace initiatives**

*Majority of youths have heard about peace initiatives and desire to participate and have their voices heard. Several of them indicate that they need three key skills to effectively contribute positively in peace-building Training in Conflict Resolution, Advocacy and Effective Communication:*



## IF YES, WHICH PEACE INITIATIVE HAVE YOU HEARD OF?

Table 6: Youths perception on forms of peace initiatives to resolve the Anglophone conflict

THEME	GROUNDING	PERCENT	QUOTATION
None Responses	414		
NATIONAL DIALOGUE	100	23%	<p>“Northwest / Southwest women task force”</p> <p>“A dialogue was organized in the political capital of Cameroon Yaoundé some years back in order to end this problem though it ended up not yielding any fruits”</p> <p>The special status given by the government to the Northwest and the Southwest</p>
UNO/ INTERNATIONAL BODIES ADVOCATE FOR PEACE	67	15%	<p>“UN peace keeping mission”</p> <p>“International crises group, mediation for peace by foreign bodies like Switzerland and Canada, Human Rights Watch”</p> <p>“the united nations peace building movement from the roots which is based on the four pillars of peace resolution for women”</p> <p>“Canada wanting to have a dialogue with the government in a bit to look for lasting solutions to the crisis”</p> <p>“Canada Peace Initiative”</p>
PEACE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION	53	12%	<p>“Peace Conference Resolution in Cameroon”</p> <p>“End Anglophone Crisis”</p> <p>“Several meetings held in Yaoundé and the several talks”</p> <p>“Women in alternator action (WAA) Cameroon is doing a lot in peace building”</p> <p>“Workshops on peace buildings, conflict resolution and media influence”</p> <p>“Peace Building programs encouraging youths to involve themselves and give their own point of view”</p>

			<p>“Women in peace building. Where women are targeted and used as the pivot to bring peace to them communities since it is believed that women are generally peaceful”</p> <p>“Peace building conference by the north west region assembly in Nkambe which am presently there. The meeting is ending today”</p>
<b>NGOs</b>	42	10%	<p>“Non-governmental organization provide food and clothes for those whose parents have been killed and the homeless”</p> <p>“CHRDA organized some peace-building programs for youths. -NGOs like skylight associations strive to promote peace”</p> <p>“I heard of mediation initiatives from other countries seeking to come in as a third party in bringing the warring parties to bring peace. An instance here is Canada.”</p> <p>“Advocacy against hate speech both online and offline by Xhuma Africa”</p> <p>“Peacebuilding program: RADA”</p> <p>“Online protest and Peace Day celebration with the VISNET NETWORK, Onsite peace activities under PLAN Cameroon. And WAA Cameroon”</p> <p>“SWNOT and Hope of Africa HOFA which is headed by Sarah Derval Eposi Lifanda”</p>
<b>PEACE ADVOCACY BY RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS</b>	28	6%	<p>“Praying for the national peace and security”</p> <p>“National Dialogue Peace Conference by archbishop in Douala”</p> <p>“National Dialogue, prayers and appeals from clergies, peace talks on different media</p> <p>“Presbyterian Church in Cameroon Peace Work project”</p>
<b>RDDC CENTER/ DISARMAMENT CENTRE</b>	24	6%	<p>“An organization of ex fighters has been created. - Dialogue with the two parties.”</p>

<b>MEETING GROUPS/ LOCAL COMMUNITY PEACE INITIATIVE</b>	22	5%	<p>“VISNET PEHGOM, MILE4 TEEN TANK CLUB FOR PEACE”</p> <p>“A general protest by women to stop violence”</p> <p>“The holding of meeting with community members by the Mayor of Ngie”</p> <p>““Storytelling for Healing” Peace Initiative carried out by BAYA SOCIAL ENTERPRISE in Kumba”</p> <p>“Building Bridges for Peace “ Peace my agenda campaign organized by Women in Alternative Action Cameroon (WAA-Cameroon)”</p> <p>“Voices of Youths in Cameroon for Peace by WAA Cameroon, Bambili Youth Think Tank Club for Peace”</p> <p>“Advocacy and peace building in the community”</p>
<b>SERMINARS</b>	20	5%	<p>“Seminar on Building Bridges for Peace my agenda campaign organized by Women in Alternative Action Cameroon (WAA-Cameroon)”</p> <p>“Cameroon national Women’s Peace Convention”</p> <p>“Peace Building Conference by the Northwest region assembly in Nkambe which am presently there. The meeting is ending today”</p>
<b>NATIONAL DAYS</b>	20	5%	<p>“The Bilingualism and Multiculturalism Comission”</p>
<b>POLITICAL PARTIES</b>	17	4%	<p>“The Cameroon Renaissance Movement initiates some peaceful marches to protest against the resolution of the crisis”</p>
<b>MEDIA PEACE TALK</b>	16	3.5%	<p>“RADIO TALK PEACE WORKSHOPS”</p> <p>“Radio and TV talks”</p>
<b>HUMAN RIGHT</b>	16	3.5%	<p>“Centre of Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA) initiative to alleviate Hate Speech in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon”</p>

<b>LAI D DOWN OF ARMS CAMPAIGN</b>	10	2%	<p>“THE YOUTHS HAVE TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS”</p> <p>“That for peace to reign the guys should drop their guns n I hear many r doing that n going to the DDR Center”</p>
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Source: RADA 2023

## Perception on Feelings about Current Peace Initiatives and their Capacity to bring Peace: A Cross Tabulation:

A cross-tabulated analysis (Table 7) of how youths feel about the various peace processes that have been proposed or are underway and their belief on whether community peace initiatives can play a role in resolving the conflict, showed that youths who were optimistic about these initiatives, also believe that community peace initiatives can do a lot (12%) in resolving the conflict. The majority of those who were pessimistic believed that the ongoing initiatives could only resolve the conflict slightly (10%). Meanwhile, those who were skeptical believed that the initiatives could resolve the conflict moderately (14%). Although some youths were neutral about the feelings that they had concerning the peace initiatives, they still believed the ongoing initiatives could either solve the conflict slightly (7%), moderately (10%), or even a lot (9%)

**Table 7: Cross-tabulation of youths’ opinions on feelings and beliefs about community peace initiatives to address the Anglophone conflict**

<b>How do you feel about the various peace processes that have been proposed or are underway to address the Anglophone Conflict * - To what extent do you believe that community peace initiatives can play a role in resolving the Anglophone conflict?</b>						
		To what extent do you believe that community peace initiatives can play a role in resolving the Anglophone conflict?				Total
		Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	A lot	
How do you feel about the various peace processes that have been proposed or are underway to address the Anglophone	Optimistic	14(5%)	28(3%)	48(6%)	106(12%)	<b>196</b>
	Pessimistic	9(1%)	81(10%)	17(2%)	11(1%)	<b>118</b>
	Skeptical	17(2%)	73(9%)	119(14%)	92(11%)	<b>301</b>
	Neutral	13(2%)	59(7%)	83(10%)	79(9%)	<b>234</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>849</b>

The thematically analyzed results in Table 8 below depict that although 35 per cent of youths who participated in the survey did not give their opinion on the desired outcomes of peace initiatives underway to address the Anglophone conflict, the largest proportion of them (22%) said they desired that conflict/war should come to an end. Other major themes that could better express their desired outcomes were centered on equality among Cameroonians (6%), national unity and oneness (7%), security (6%), freedom of speech (6%), reconciliation (5%), end of ghost towns (1%), peace (2%), disarmament (2%), Federation (1%), Youth engagement (2%), and separation (1%). Regardless of their desired outcome of peace initiatives, 22% desiring the end of the conflict is an indication of how ending the conflict is a priority to young people. Also, 35% of respondents were mute on their desired outcome. The reasons for their muteness were not asked. While political outcomes were low on the scales, systemic outcomes were high and thus, require urgent attention. They are an indication of the political outcomes if a political outcome if the political actors engage positively towards meeting the needs of the youthful population, and ending their frustrations.

THEME	GROUNDING	PERCENT	QUOTATION
NON-RESPONSE	293	35%	None
End War/ Conflict	185	22%	<p>"It should be able to end the crisis"</p> <p>"An end to the armed conflict and a round table dialogue between the government and aggrieved Anglophones"</p> <p>"Laying down of war weapons and restoration of community life to normalcy."</p>
National Unity/ Oneness	63	7%	"Completely dropping of arms, Political negotiations and resolution and the political state of the two parts"
Security	55	6%	<p>"There should not be fear in the community and the rate of killing should equally stop with kidnapping."</p> <p>"It will put a stop in the act of violent"</p> <p>"Less kidnapping, more security, less theft"</p> <p>"People should be able to live their lives as they so desire without interrogation and fear."</p>
Freedom of speech	53	6%	<p>"Communication between armed forces and fighters."</p> <p>"More freedom and no more ghost town."</p>

			<p>"Freedom of speech, democracy, human rights and governance."</p> <p>"The demand of the people should be granted nothing should be forced on them they should be the one to choose what they want."</p>
Equality Among Cameroonians	51	6%	<p>"There should be a peace-loving country where reward ideas should be produced by young leaders in a cycle."</p> <p>"Let justice be served and let freedom should be given and everyone should be treated."</p> <p>"No tribalism Anglophones should be given same opportunity and advantage as francophone."</p> <p>"Equal rights to the Anglophones and Francophone."</p>
Reconciliation	40	5%	<p>"First of all, efforts should be made to convince the armed groups to drop their weapons and more efforts should be made to integrate them into society."</p> <p>"Start by telling the truth of the people's reality. Report the news as it is. Call the Government's attention to their conscious nonchalance on the matter affecting the entire nation. Find a common for unbiased peaceful talks with parties at war."</p>
God's Intervention In The Conflict	26	3%	<p>"Put Christ Jesus at the center of our hearts."</p> <p>"GOD'S POWER IN OUR NATION."</p>
Peace	21	2%	<p>"A complete resolution of the conflict and a return to normalcy."</p> <p>"A peaceful community."</p> <p>"Return of peace and calmness in both Northwest and Southwest Regions."</p> <p>"A positive outcome and a more peaceful society."</p> <p>"Any initiative aimed at resolving the conflict should have one outcome in mind, sensitizing the people towards embracing peace and also effecting a stop to all gun violence and armaments of any sort."</p> <p>"Peace ought to bring an end to all the killing and violation of human rights."</p>

Disarmament	20	2%	<p>"First of all, efforts should be made to convince the armed groups to drop their weapons and more efforts should be made to integrate them into society."</p> <p>"Dropping of arms and ending ghost towns."</p> <p>"Disarmament of separatist's fighters and reduction of military presence in these restive regions"</p> <p>"The aim should be the laying down of weapons and accepting to amicably handle the root cause of the conflict without killing or causing harm."</p>
Youth engagement	15	2%	<p>"Sensitizing the youths who are the major age group at risk so as to stop them from picking arms which is not the best way to resolve conflict."</p> <p>"Youth participating in the different peace processes."</p> <p>"Youths should talk more about peace."</p>
Federation	10	1%	<p>"Either a federation of two states, 9 states or complete plan for separation with leaders and nations pledging to support and mentor both Cameroons in good faith or the one Cameroon, in good faith."</p> <p>"Federal government/States."</p>
Separation	9	1%	<p>"Separation is the higher way to gain peace or solution to our problem."</p>
Ghost towns	8	1%	<p>"End of ghost towns". _ _ employment opportunities for youths.</p> <p>"1. End of Ghost Towns 2. Release of those arrested and detained by the government on account of the conflict 3. Rebuilding destroyed facilities and homes 4. Government's attention on social structures like road construction, water, electricity"</p> <p>"No more ghost towns and reduced violence."</p>

Source: RADA 2023

Youth Opinions on Steps to Resolving the Conflict: It is evident in Table 9 below that, out of the 849 youths who participated in the survey, 334 (39%) indicated that to effectively resolve the Anglophone conflict, the key steps should be measures geared towards dialogue. Such dialogue apparently should be between the government and her citizens, where everyone's voice should be taken into account. Such dialogue should embrace the presence of both parties to the conflict and the grievances of the Anglophones clearly tabled and soliciting the presence of actors who championed the course towards the Fouban Conference. 79 (9%) of respondents think that advocacy and peace talks could be alternatives in resolving the conflict, closely followed by 47 (6%) of those who believe that administration transparency is another way forward. 34(4%) and 26 (3%) youths pointed out negotiation and mutual understanding between the State Actors and Non-State Actors, respectively. Meanwhile, others held views related to freedom of speech (3%), reshuffling the Government/economy (4%) and lastly, God's intervention (4%) as essential steps that need to be in order to resolve the Anglophone conflict and bring lasting peace to the region. For some youths, other vital steps could include: Involving the International community (4%), Ceasefire (8%), Youth engagement (6%), and addressing the root causes of the conflict (3%).

**Table 9: Opinion of youths on the most important steps needed to be taken to resolve the Anglophone conflict and bring lasting peace to the region**

THEME	GROUNDING	Percent	QUOTATION
NA	61	7%	
DIALOGUE	334	39%	<p>"In order to resolve the Anglophone conflict, there have to dialogue between government and its citizens where everyone's voice should be taken into account"</p> <p>"All parties should be put on a table and the Anglophones should be asked what they really want. whether to join or to separate"</p> <p>"Both parties should be brought to the table. The countries that initiated the Fumban conference should be the ones to address the root cause."</p>
Advocacy and PEACE TALK	79	9%	<p>"Brutality should stop Let's make peace with the military There should be no gunshots and ghost town Let us become one again"</p> <p>Organization of youth programs to train and develop youths with skills and knowledge so that They can actively take part in peace building activities</p>



			<p>Advocacy for peace Creating awareness on the importance of peace Educating the population avoid hate speech and there should be freedom of speech, there should be good communication</p>
Cease Fire	69	8%	<p>Call for cease fire Encourage real dialogue Involve the diaspora in the talks.</p> <p>Calling for the lay down of arms (cease fire), army returning to their barracks, changing the form of the state, promoting meritocracy and punishing any form of tribalism and then, ensuring there is a state of law with strict separation of powers</p>
Youth Engagement	51	6%	<p>Youth need to be given their place. For example, I am the member of north west junior assembly. But during this meeting. Youth were left out and the SDO Nkambe even told us openly that we are not recognized.</p> <p>Youths should be at the fore front during the cease fire.</p> <p>Youths should be more active in some political decision making in the country and equality should be practiced</p>
TRANSPERENCY IN ADMINISTRATION	47	6%	<p>"Involving youths in peace building because youths are influential people and their mindsets are free and capable of thinking straight and implementing solutions"</p> <p>"Frank and sincere peace crusade by the government and community activist - Decentralization of economic resources"</p> <p>"Firstly: Forgiveness and tolerance Secondly: The voice of the youths be heard Lastly: Providing jobs for the youths and allow them take part in nation building"</p> <p>"The UN &amp; AU bodies should bring together both approved authorities chosen independently from each side."</p> <p>"Funds should be given to youth concerning the peace making"</p>

Involve the International community	36	4%	Adherence to international organizations peace resolution measures- Community togetherness on peace initiatives There is need for a credible and inclusive mediation. The UN, AU, Switzerland
NEGOTIATION	34	4%	"Looking into the problems and bringing up means to solve the problems peacefully" "The government, the separatist fighters and a foreign nation who will act as a mediator will need to seat and see how they can restore peace in the two Anglophone regions" "First, the cause of the problem, the effects and how to prevent them, how far it has been disadvantageous, calling out on the negative opportunists to stop, and joining heads that can decide what's right after taking into consideration the responses from the population" "Talk with the people at hand or any other way give them what they want and stop the crises"
Gods' intervention in the country	32	4%	"Turn to God in prayer and repent from their evil ways" "Let churches come together and pray hard"
RESHUFFLE THE Government/ ECONOMY	30	4%	"The old should resign and the young takeover" "Change of power" "Getting the youths fully involve" "The leaders of our country should listen to what youths have to say." "The youths should be placed in leadership positions and should be given a chance for their voices to be heard"
Mutual understanding	26	3%	"They need to understanding one another to solve this problem because when the is now understanding they will not agree in one decision"

			"A solid Anglophone reputation should be built, Anglophones should be considered, and their voices should be heard."
FREEDOM OF SPEECH and human rights	26	3%	"Freedom should be granted to the Anglophones. They should put an end to human right violation"
Address root causes of the conflict	24	3%	"The best step is to address the root causes of the conflict "Tackle the conflict from the roots" "A good number of the steps should be based on the origin of the war)

Source: RADA 2023

*Combining Talks related opinions from the respondents; more than 52% prescribe talks. Other solutions as meaningful as they are constitute elements of a sustainable solution and include Cease Fire, God's intervention, Cabinet Resettlements, international community, transparency in administration and the international community.*

**What type of Dialogue is needed despite the MND and it's resolutions? Was the MND not inclusive of these adjectives or that it was not sufficiently reflective?**

*We gathered some adjectives besides the prescription of dialogue that tell us that either the MND. These adjectives were frequently found in youth prescriptions of dialogue as a solution.*

**They include:**

- "Open"
- "Sincere"
- "Honest"
- "Genuine"
- "Inclusive"

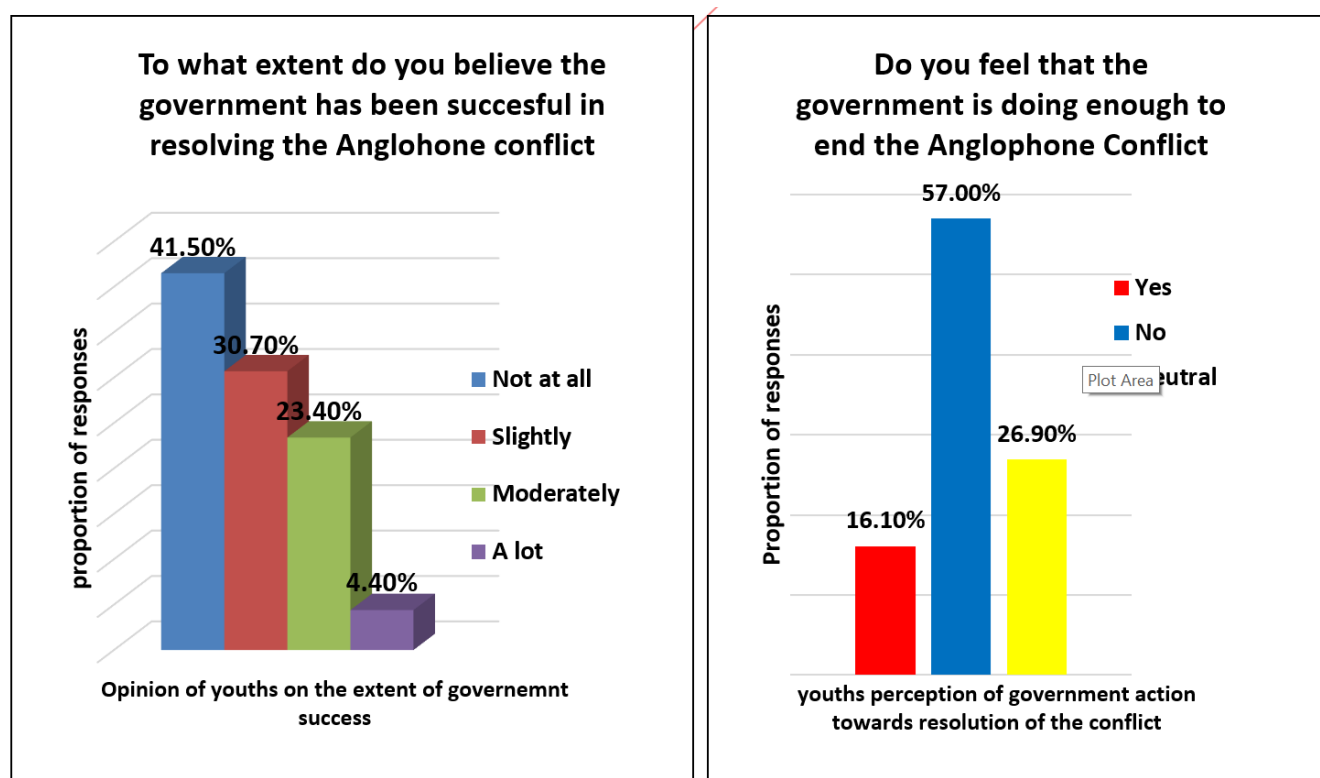
**Do we need another dialogue? or we don't? Do we need another dialogue to follow the MND in order to reflect the mixture of these adjectives so as to fulfill the hope of youths?**



# SECTION E

## Perceptions of Government Efforts to Resolve the Conflict

Taking into consideration youths' perceptions of government efforts to resolve the Anglophone conflict, it is observed from the survey that a majority of youths representing 41.5% of the total sample, were of the opinion that the government has totally not been able to successfully resolve the conflict, closely followed by 30.7% of youths who pointed out that the government has slightly been successful. However, some youths representing 4.4% out of the total respondents hold the view that the government has done a lot in a bid to resolve the Anglophone conflict. On another hand, an overwhelming majority of youths who participated in the survey constituting (57.0%) hold the view that the government is not doing enough to resolve the Anglophone conflict. Up to 26.9% of the same respondents stood their grounds on the basis of neutrality. Observation from the analyses above indicates that much is still expected of the government as far as resolving the Anglophone conflict is concern (Figure 13).



Source: RADA 2023

Figure 13: Youths perception of role of Government in addressing the Anglophone conflict

### Youth Opinions on how the government can better address the Anglophone conflict:

From the findings and as presented on table 10 below, it was observed that an overwhelming majority of youths, constituting 355(40%) of the total number of youths who participated in the survey proposed dialogue as the most appropriate measure to effectively address the Anglophone conflict by the government. 72(8%) youths opined that the conflict could be resolved if Government sought the intervention or aid from the local and international community. This was closely followed by 45(5%) youths, who think that the government

should reconsider the causes of the conflict, accompanied by the opinion of 42 youths (5%) who proposed a ceasefire. 31(4%) of the youths on their part pointed out the guarantee of freedom of speech as a need. Other proposals by the youths on government strategy to address the conflict revolved around themes which mainly included: the disbursement of aids/resources to the affected population; setting up special status; granting federalism/separation; communication; youth engagement in the resolution process; accepting the existence of the conflict; peace talks and the curbing of military actions.

**Table 10: Analysis of youths' perceptions on how the government can better address the Anglophone conflict.**

THEME	GROUNDING	Percent	QUOTATION
No Responses	97	11%	
THROUGH DIALOGUE	355	40%	<p>"Attend to the desire of the people"</p> <p>"The government needs to be honest. It needs to be honest with the truths related to the conflict. There are many facts that the government is not considering, and if they do, they will forge the right path ahead. The government needs to be open and listen to citizens and then put a serious effort into taking their opinions. They need to also engage in dialogue to understand the claims and either clear them or accept their responsibility and take a change in pathways being used now. Honesty is the key."</p> <p>"By bring the separatist on a dialog table"</p> <p>"Inclusive dialogue with stakeholders concerned"</p>
AID/INTERVENTION FROM LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES	72	8%	<p>"By considering and implementing some suggestions given by some intellectuals of the country and international peace keeping organization"</p> <p>"By inviting the international community to resolve the issue"</p>
CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT	45	5%	<p>"Listen to the people, resolve the causes of the conflict"</p> <p>"History has it that they have been some things the Anglophone community of Cameroon has been asking of to be done to them and has never been done."</p>

			<p>... A very peaceful way to end this is simply, the government just get start doing the things that the Anglophone has been asking for years. For example, in all institution, if the head is a francophone the assistant should be Anglophone and vice versa let it runs from the head of state right down to even a primary school. Decentralized power. Why should I want to follow up my documents and I go but to Yaoundé. Let all this be done at regional headquarters. For the Anglophone let their roads be check. Etc. The truth be told, if these things the government sincerely start to do these things without asking anyone in the Anglophone regions I bet you, you will automatically see this conflict coming to an end."</p> <p>"Let them start acting and stop ignoring the problem"</p>
ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF THE CONFLICT	44	5%	<p>Accept the reality and empower its youths through economic based activities and sense of Civic rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Accepting that conflict exists and then calling for a genuine dialogue</p> <p>"By first of recognizing the presence of the problem and then paying attention to the peoples' plight, not just doing what she thinks is ok by her"</p>
CEASE FIRE	42	5%	<p>"Reduce military invasion"</p> <p>"By not using violence against innocent people."</p> <p>"By stopping the excess military actions of killing innocent people"</p> <p>"Withdraw all the militants from the Anglophone regions of Cameroon"</p> <p>"By calling for a cease fire of its soldiers since it the state which has the armies, police, gendarmes etc., it should call for the laying down of arms and return of its military back to their barracks and then seek help from the United Nations to conduct peace talks with the other warring faction"</p>

			<p>"A reduction of the number of arm forces in both the Anglophone regions Restricting unnecessary shooting by arm forces Pay attention to the cry of the people and provide the necessary solutions"</p> <p>"Withdrawing troops from the conflict affected area and also see into it that the boys in the bushes lay down their weapons"</p>
MILITARY	39	5%	<p>"Reduce military invasion"</p> <p>"Curb military excesses of burning and raping"</p>
CREATE JOB/ EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTHS	32	4%	<p>"By creating jobs, peace talks and dialogue"</p> <p>"Keep on with the great work by reinforcing military security, reconstruct lost homes, create my employment for the youths"</p> <p>"Most of this people involved in the conflict are youth so let the government give full Powers and resources to you that Can help fight against this conflict"</p> <p>"Should listen to what the youths have to say about resolving the conflict"</p>
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION PROCESS			
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND HUMAN RIGHTS	31	4%	<p>"Freedom of speech and they should look for other methods than using violence"</p> <p>"By granting equal rights to its citizens"</p>
PEACE TALKS	26	3%	<p>"Peace Talks not violence"</p> <p>"Peace is the best method, killing makes both parties to be angered the more"</p> <p>"Peaceful meetings by the government"</p> <p>"Strengthen the peace keeping mechanism"</p>
Grant federalism/ Separation	21	2%	
SETTING UP SPECIAL STATUS	18	2%	<p>More proactive in accelerating the resolutions of the major National Dialogue such as the special status, creating a commission to talk to separatist and reinforcement of security in the Anglophone Regions</p>

COMMUNICATION	15	4%	Communicate and create equality btw francophone and Anglophones  Communication involving the government and those in the affected regions. Knowing and solving their problems, investing in roads education, health care, granting solutions, through education be and employment too, sponsoring your development activities
DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCE TO THE AFFECTD POPULATION	12	1%	"By making a positive gesture for the benefit of all affected by the conflict" "Give better social amenities to the regions, like roads."

Source: RADA 2023

### How youths feel about the role of the government in addressing the Anglophone conflict:

Analysis of the survey responses on Youths perception on the role of the government in addressing the Anglophone conflict, indicated that 28.4% of youths who participated in the survey expressed negative feelings towards the government, closely followed by 26.0% of youths who positively esteem the government. It is however surprising that a significant percentage of youths, constituting a greater proportion of the respondents (45.6%) indicated their neutrality, this is an indication that most youths do not believe in or are lukewarm toward the government efforts in resolving the Anglophone conflict (Figure 14).

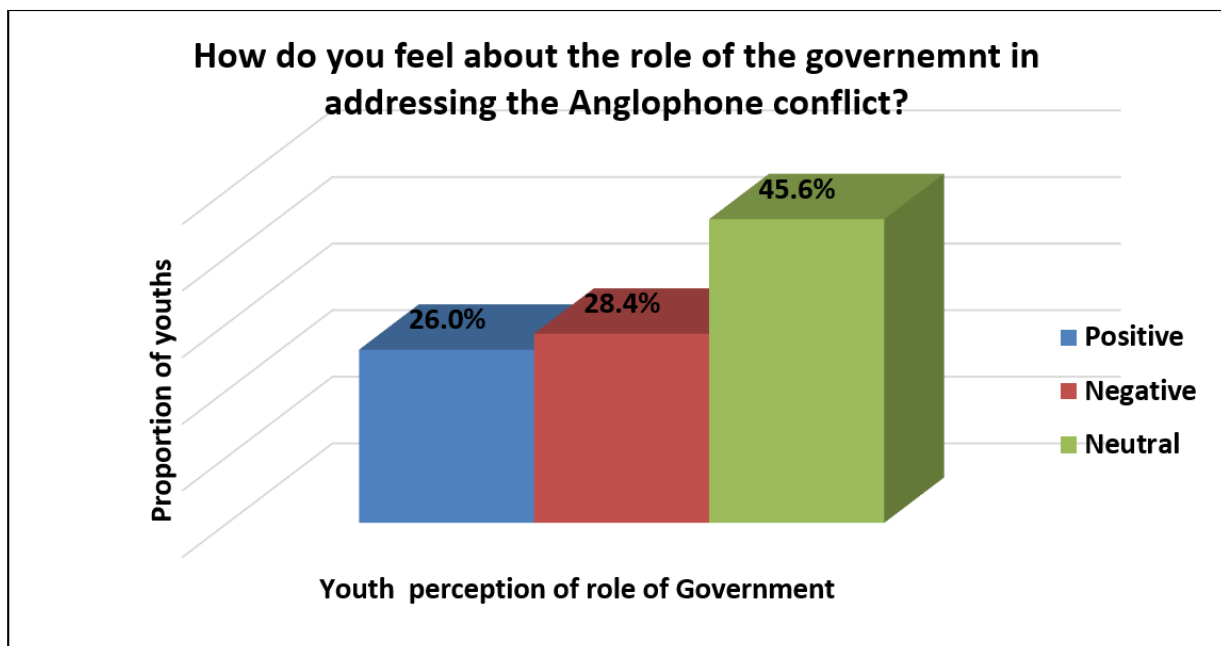


Figure 14: Youth perception of role of Government



## SECTION F

### Perceptions of the Role of External Actors in Resolving the Conflict

With respect to youths perception on the role of international organizations and foreign governments in resolving the Anglophone conflict, 33.2% and 32.2% of youths sampled in the survey believe that international organizations and foreign governments have done a lot or moderately respectively in resolving the Anglophone conflict. However, 15.7% of youths deflated the role of these actors in resolving the Anglophone conflict. In another perspective, 40.3% of these youths hold an affirmative view on the role of international organizations and foreign countries in addressing the Anglophone conflict. However, 39.6% of the youths who participated in the survey neither expressed positive or negative views indicating that they were indifferent regarding the role of international organizations and foreign countries in addressing the Anglophone conflict is concerned. (Table II)

**Table II: Youth perception of role of international organizations in the Conflict Resolution**

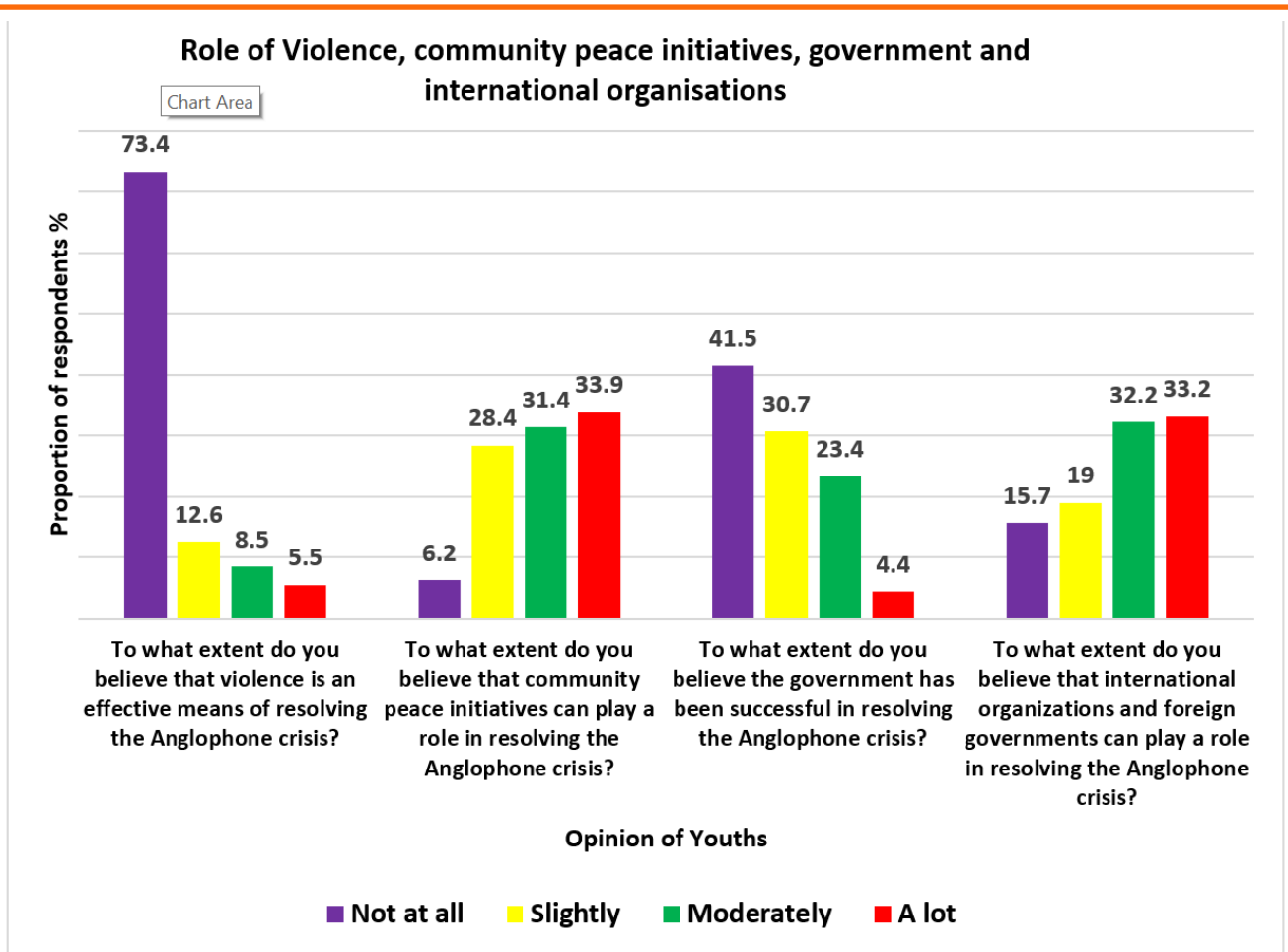
<b>To what extent do you believe that international organizations and foreign governments can play a role in resolving the Anglophone conflict?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not at all	133	15.7
Slightly	161	19.0
Moderately	273	32.2
A lot	282	33.2
Total	849	100.0

<b>How do you feel about the role of international organizations and other countries in addressing the Anglophone conflict?</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Positive	342	40.3
Negative	171	20.1
Neutral	336	39.6
Total	849	100.0

Source: RADA 2023

A comparative analysis of youths' perception of the probable role of violence, community peace initiatives, government, and that of international organizations in addressing the Anglophone conflict depicts that the majority of youths think the government has not been successful in resolving the conflict (41.5%). That violence is not an effective means of resolving it (73.4%). However, they believe that community peace initiatives (33.9%) and international organizations and foreign governments, can play a great role in resolving the ongoing conflict in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon. (Figure 15)



Source: RADA 2023

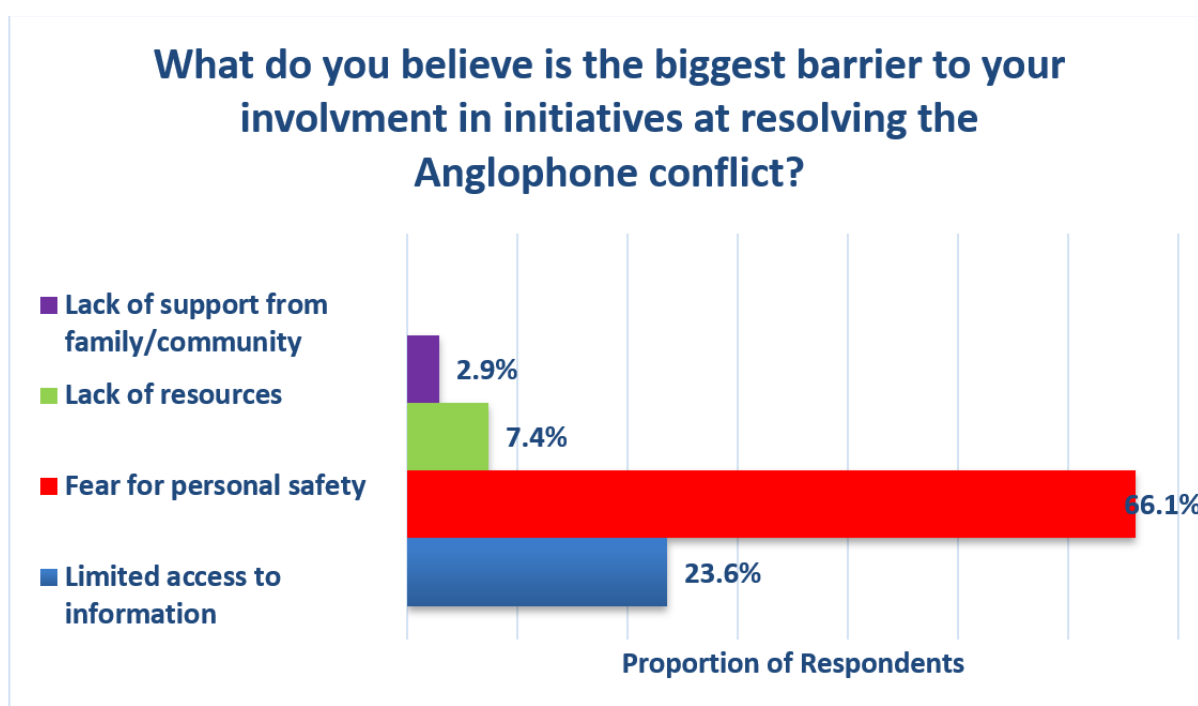
**Figure 15: Comparative analysis the of role of "violence" "community peace initiatives", "government" and the "international organizations**

*73% of youths loudly reject that violence should have any role in the resolution of the conflict. This is a loud indication of the interest of youths to foster peaceful resolution of the conflict.*

## SECTION G

### Perceived Barriers to Youths' Engagement in the Conflict Resolution

Majority of youths representing 66.1% of those who participated in this survey, indicated fear for personal safety as a pertinent factor challenging their involvement in initiatives aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict, 23.6%–pointed limited access to information as a barrier; however, a few of them representing 2.9% pointed to lack of support from family/community and lack of resources (7.4%) as factors limiting their involvement in such initiatives. This result indicates that most youths, if not all of them, are faced with challenges that belittle their active involvement in initiatives aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict (Figure 16)



Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 16: Opinion of Youths on barriers to their involvement in initiatives at resolving the Anglophone conflict**

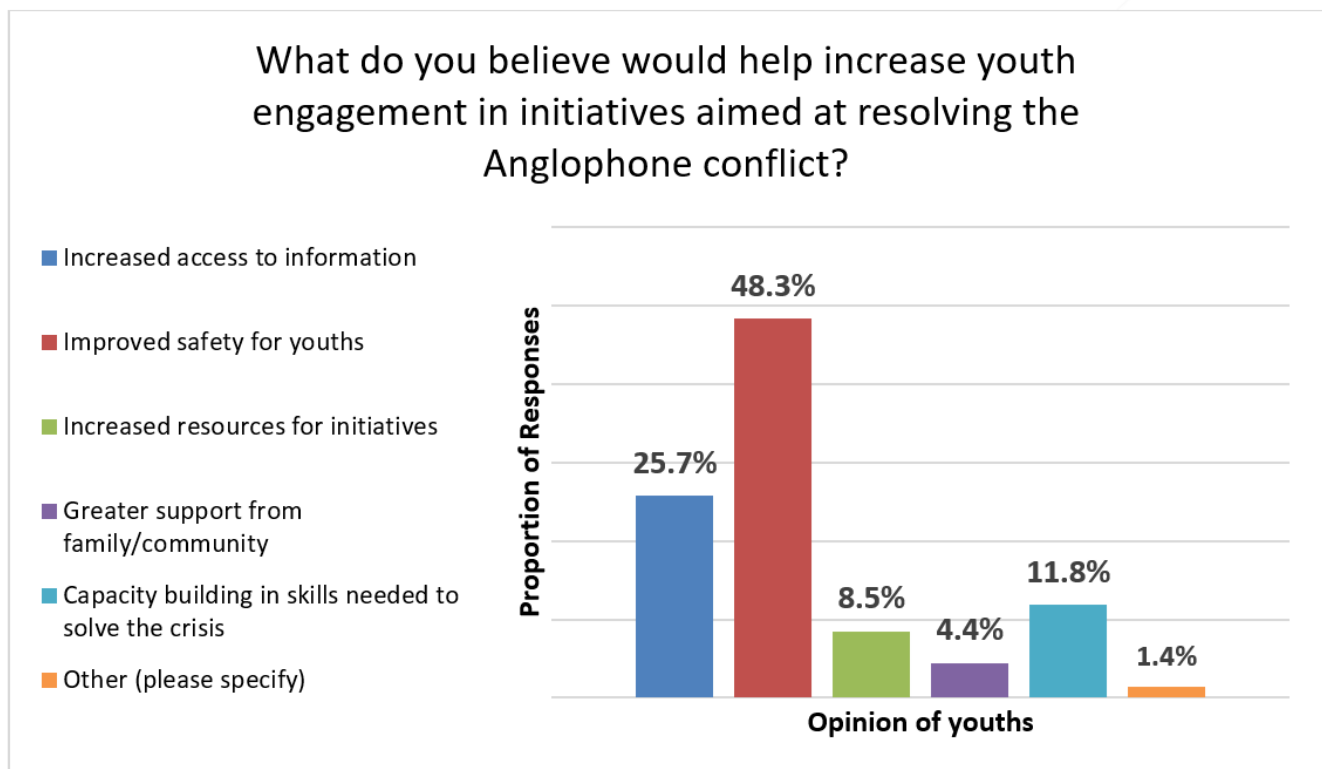
Other reasons advanced by the youths as being barriers to their involvement in initiatives at resolving the conflict included: fear for the unknown, kidnapping, extortion and game of interest; persecution, blackmail, family life at risk killing; no decentralization of peacebuilding orientation workshops at sub-divisional levels; fear of being termed a traitor and black-leg which may lead to loss of life and property; fear of the unknown and fear that their voice will not be heard; "fear of speaking publicly or talking to the government to put an end to the killings of innocent souls and fear of circulating freely"; no freedom of speech, no place to make their voices heard no body to trust corruption everywhere.

The fear for personal safety represents the greatest challenge to youth positive contribution to resolution of the anglophone conflict. Seconded by limited access to information. This means two things: That the media, the government and stakeholders need to step up to regular, periodic to keep the youths informed, calm and ready to support initiatives. When youths are not informed in this manner, they lack the power to positively contribute and hence, safely. Hence, provision of information, training and improving safety will help reap positive benefits from

## SECTION H

### Suggestions for Improving Youth Engagement in the Resolution of the Anglophone Conflict

An analysis of suggestions of what can be done to improve youth engagement in the resolution of the Anglophone conflict indicated that 48.3% of youths suggested improvement in the safety of youths, 25.7% and 11.8%, respectively, opted for increased access to information and capacity building skills necessary to resolve the conflict. Notwithstanding, 8.5% and 4.4% of the respondents asserted that increased resources geared towards such initiatives and greater support from family/community, could serve as a positive factor, hence stepping up youth engagement in initiatives aimed at resolving the Anglophone conflict. (Figure 17)



Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 17: Opinion of youths on factors that can improve their engagement in the resolution of Anglophone conflict.**

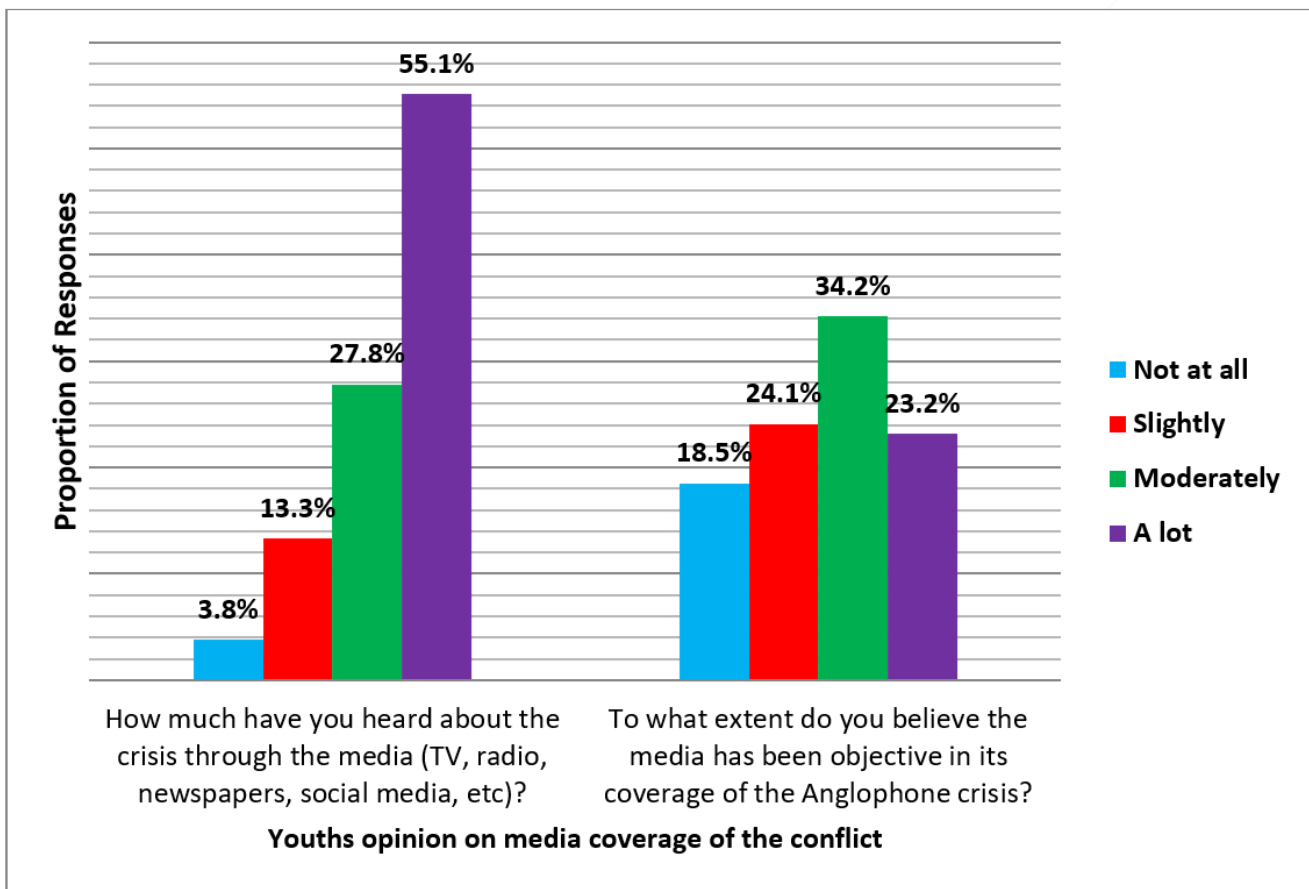
#### Youth Engagement Strategies from Youths:

Other Youth opinions on what they think can be done to engage more young people in the efforts to resolve the Anglophone conflict and promote peace pointed to the directions of engaging more youths in the conflict resolution strategies through the following proposals: More youths should be involved in decision making, Empowerment and assured security. Many youths are afraid for their security. Even if they try to bring in a solution, they are left bare between the two fighting parties. Giving them jobs keep them busy, give them a source of income and they'll do most to protect it. Educate and train them in capacity-building skills needed to solve the conflict and improve their access to information; organize peace-building seminars; Engage more youths in conflict resolution, organize activities such as sports, agriculture etc., where youths can meet and discuss peace, Organizing camps for peacebuilding activities, etc.

# SECTION I

## Perceptions of Media Coverage of the Conflict

Youths who participated in the survey were asked how informed they were on the conflict via the media. The findings revealed that Out of the 849 youths who completed the survey, 468 (82.9%) are well informed about the conflict through media outlets such as TV, radio, social media or either of the medium. 13.3% were less informed, and unfortunately, a few of the youths representing 3.8% had no idea about the conflict, even with the prevalence of different technological tools (Figure 18).

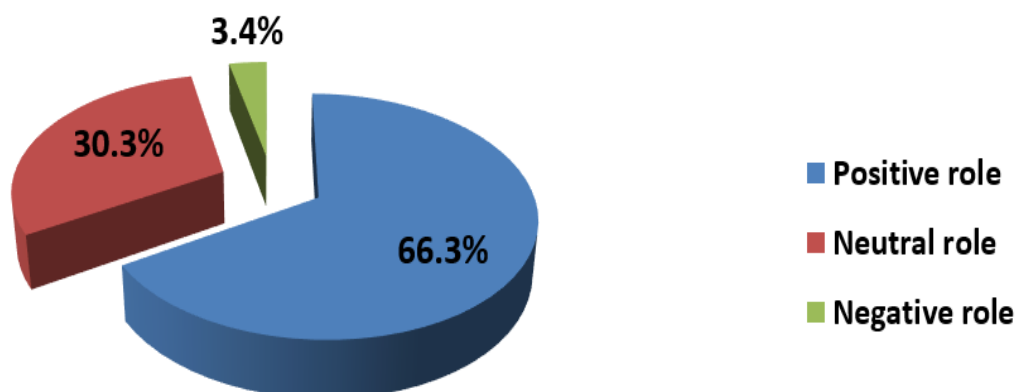


Source: RADA 2023

**Figure 18: Youth perception of media coverage of the Anglophone conflict**

With regards to the objectivity of the media in covering the Anglophone conflict, 34.2% and 23.2% of the youths affirmed that the media have been very objective in its coverage of the Anglophone conflict, where a small proportion shows some degree of dissatisfaction, meanwhile 18.5% of the respondents debunked the objectivity of the media in its coverage of the Anglophone conflict (Figure 18). Concerning the role that media should play in resolving the Anglophone conflict and promoting peace, a greater percentage of youths, comprising 66.3%, succumbed to the fact that the media should play a positive role. 30.3% of the youths were of the opinion that the media should remain neutral or indifferent, while a few of them (3.4%) think that the media should rather play a negative role (Figure 19).

**In your opinion, what role should the media play in resolving the Anglophone crisis and promoting peace?**



Source: RADA 2023 **Figure 19: Youths opinion on the probable role of the media in resolving the Anglophone conflict**

Table 13 below thematically summarizes the opinions of youths on how the media can better cover the Anglophone conflict to promote peace and resolution. The majority of the Youths gave proposals centered on the themes of Honesty and truth (31%), the neutrality of the media in reporting (12%) and for the media to avoid hate speech (11%). A commendable proportion of respondents also gave proposals relating to the media organizing programs to discuss the conflict and proposed solutions (9%), programs focused on peace and reconciliation (7%). For some youths, the government should reduce grip/control of media houses/information (4%), while media houses ensure that they censor some images and news (4%) and verify the information before publishing (2%).

**Table 13: Opinion of youths on how the media can better cover the Anglophone conflict to promote peace and resolution**

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	QUOTES
No Responses	145	17%	
HONESTY/Speaking the Truth	267	31%	<p>"No misinformation, No hidden facts. Let the people know actually what is happening and reduce lies."</p> <p>"By reporting the truth, especially CRTV"</p>
Do not be bias and try to be neutral	98	12%	<p>"By researching on the root cause of the Conflict and reporting the truth without any bias, irrespective of whether you are Anglophone or not."</p>

Avoid hate speech	94	11%	<p>“The media should stop propagating hate speech and rather advocate for peace by educating youths on peacemaking, peace keeping, and peace building and how they can get involved.”</p> <p>“Select and verify information relating to the conflict before publishing and avoid using hate speech in presentations”</p>
Organize programs to talk about the conflict and proposed solutions	76	9%	<p>“Organize programs where people can freely talk about the conflict and propose solutions”</p>
Focus on peace and reconciliation	56	7%	<p>“By reporting and preaching about peace,</p> <p>Posting videos and pictures about the crises and explaining how it affects people and why it should stop”</p>
Reduce Government grip/control of media houses/ information	37	4%	<p>“The state oversees all media activities this must not be so.”</p>
Censor some images and news	37	4%	<p>“They should stop posting negative videos or pictures concerning the conflict</p> <p>Present only the good actions done by the government.”</p> <p>“Avoid showing images of victims.”</p>
Make good use of social media	26	3%	<p>“Use social media handles since it has reached to many people”</p> <p>“Be present online and produce up-to-date news articles.”</p>
Verify information	13	2%	<p>“Journalist should always verify information before they post”</p> <p>“Verify their information”</p>

Source: RADA 2023

***Youths indicate that the Media needs to remain neutral in the conflict and play a positive rather than a negative role in facilitating the resolution of the conflict.***

# SECTION J

## Other Final Comments from the Youths

When asked if there is anything else they would like to share regarding their thoughts and opinions on the Anglophone conflict and the various peace processes in Cameroon, some of the respondents expressed general opinions relating to themes and quotations expressed below:

"These peace processes are very critical and are long overdue. They are wasting our time and our lives when they have lived theirs. We don't want war. We want peace and growth, and development. We want collaboration. We want a place to call home with security. We want love in our communities. We want the right regulations to govern us and we want honesty and honest leaders to lead us who are accountable to us. Not to themselves."

"Inasmuch as Cameroon government has made some gestures to seek solutions to the Conflict, they still lack good faith to handle the problem from the roots. I believe that if government hasn't got something to hide or fear, they should go in for a referendum to decide the fate of British Southern Cameroons (The Anglophones). As far as I'm concerned, I do not see the Conflict being resolved by the Biya regime. It will take someone with a totally different mindset and of good faith to achieve that."

"Well, I believe it is time to make the environment safe for media personalities, artists, and other cultural actors to express their genuine opinions on the matter without any fear of persecution. If people begin to tell their own stories and experiences with the Anglophone conflict, maybe it will serve as a better wake up call to Cameroon, Africa and the world over."

"All I ask for is that, Youths should be educated in a way that we see and reason in one direction regarding the conflict, is we all stand in one voice, reason in one direction, see things in the same way, there will be a great change in the society"

"Youth empowerment because I believe when youths are empowered, they will be busy doing what will add value to their lives"

"Youths should be more involved in conflict resolution and peace building initiatives."

The Anglophone crises has also been language and culturally oriented. In effect these aspects should not be disregarded during any peace talks because these are the things that motivated the conflict. Through respecting plurality rather than "glottophobia" especially with regards to language would be a major helping factor to solving the current Anglophone conflict."

"Any Association aim at handling the so call Anglophone Conflict must focus in the Children and Youths and know that it will take the next 25 years for the Conflict to truly come to an end for this is now a matter of the mind not just Political"

**"Soldiers should retreat from the town and community should fight against armed robbery"**

"The conflict has thought us a lesson and the lesson has been learnt enough it is time no longer for learning but for action to solve the root cause of the problem by leaving no one behind in the various processes. Let the voices of everyone be heard and let the lives of all matter and in such a way, we shall experience peaceful peace processes to have a complete end of the conflict."



# DISCUSSION

In this section of the report, we shall take the time to provide detailed analysis, interpreting sections of the report and guiding its way towards the recommendations to different stakeholders.

## A. Demographics:

The study followed the definition of youths according to the Cameroon National Youth Council of 15–35 years of age. It is also important to note that this report was focused on obtaining a sample size of respondents from the affected regions so that the views of youths involved in this report are the views of those affected. Some respondents, from other regions were noted. However, the numbers were not significant. According to residence of origin and current resident analysis, it is clear that respondents represent youths who fall between the sample population and those that are going through the lived experience of the conflict. Hence, regardless of region of origin in the study, the current residence which is distributed across the divisions and regions almost equally depict that the challenges represented and the voices and views in the study reflect the experience, concerns and wishes of the study population. The study also went far above the sample size to its advantage leading to the solidness and reliability of the results. It is also important to note the fact that the study took into consideration youths with disabilities and their opinions.

## B. Youth Awareness, Perception and Effect.

Despite the nomenclature of the conflict in the survey, the respondents understated and indicated their awareness of the conflict. Normally called the “anglophone crisis”, for the purposes of accuracy as well as understanding, the words “crisis” and “conflict” was both used in the survey and were understood as the same thing.

In terms of the root causes, from the survey findings, young people understand the root causes of the conflict which stems from political, historical, economic and cultural differences to a range of other themes, such as greed, marginalization, poor governance and personal motives. The interesting thing is that majority of the youths felt that the conflict was political. While this means that the political actors need to step up their game and their politics in the interest of the population, their level of action as political actors demonstrates whether they are aware of the causes of the conflict or not, or if they are willing to engage in its resolution. Also, an even greater majority of youths indicated that all the options including political, historical, economic and cultural differences were responsible. This is significant as it shows that the conflict is rooted and buried in multifaceted root causes. This perception of young people indicates the need to re-evaluate, understand and re-define resolution based on the ascension to the multifaceted causes. If the root causes are well understood, agreed upon by all stakeholders to the conflict, adequate steps towards resolution would be speedy in coordination with the relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders should thus, not focus only on the political causes but they should look into the other causes of the crisis and proceed with actions that mitigate these areas of challenge.

Effect of the Conflict on Youths: As evidently seen in the findings, young people have suffered in varying areas, with the major effects on their education, health, ability to make earns

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meet, destruction of their properties, frequent kidnapping, harassment, rape, and in worst scenarios, death. This only emphasizes the negative consequences of the conflict on the youthful population in the long run. Youth continue to live in acute suffering as a result of this conflict. The majority of consequences are impacting on their productivity and negatively retarding economic and community development as a whole. There is therefore an urgent need for all stakeholders to the conflict to put humanity first, look at the suffering of young people and take adequate and efficient measures towards resolving the conflict now by re-assigning themselves towards different aspects of resolution actions.

### **C. Peace Processes: Awareness, Perception and Participation in Peace Initiatives.**

It was amazing to see that 51.2% were aware or had at least heard of such initiatives. Our message to stakeholders is to understand that youths are seeing what they are doing. Despite the fact that over 40% claimed ignorance of peacebuilding initiatives, an indication of how much more education to youths is needed, they should keep on taking the initiatives that they are taking to ensure that people become stable and that peace and stability is built. These initiatives are not going in vain. Perception on feelings about Current Peace Initiatives also shows that there is hope if the efforts do not only continue but rather intensify. The non response of 35% should also be an indication of the level of freedom of speech that youths perceive they have or don't have in the context. It is important for youths to understand the importance of voicing out their opinions respectfully and to the appropriate quarters, or fora, as part of building the national fabric of peace, security and joint prosperity.

### **D. Perceptions of Government Efforts to Resolve the Anglophone Conflict:**

The perception of government efforts is a very important indicator in the interest of the government to evaluate its role and how its current efforts have been perceived by the youths. At the start, the government sent out a delegation to the NW and SW as well as diaspora to learn about the exact needs, concerns and challenges of the people. Other efforts including the Major National Dialogue which resulted to acceleration of the implementation of decentralization with NW and SWRs having a Special status, have hardly reflected a well collated and presented opinion of the youth population to the government. This survey is an incredible opportunity for the understanding, perception, opinions and needs, challenges and concerns of youths to be handy for the government and other stakeholders. According to the survey, majority of youths feel that the government has indicated that the government has NOT AT ALL succeeded in resolving the conflict and is not doing enough. 28.4% of youths expressed negative feelings towards the government, closely followed by 26.0% of youths who positively esteem the government and a surprising significant percentage of youths, constituting a greater proportion of the respondents (45.6%) indicated their neutrality, an indication that most youths do not believe in or are lukewarm towards the government's efforts in resolving the Anglophone conflict (see Figure 14). These are very disturbing findings and indicate the government's coordination mechanism towards youths in response to

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the conflict needs to leverage these results to advance immediate and urgent solutions according to the resulting recommendations or better. These results align with the 2017 results of the Afrobarometer.

## **E. Perceptions of the Role of External Actors in Resolving the Anglophone Conflict:**

Examining youth perceptions on the role of the external factors including foreign governments and organizations, youths feel positive about the role of the international community and that the international community can do a lot to solve the anglophone crisis. This aligns with the perceived role of the international community in the genesis of the conflict as well, where youths feel that the international community has played a role in the genesis of the conflict. Based on the expectations from the international community, the balance of sovereignty of the country is a serious factor in determining whether or not and to what extent should the international community, regarded part of the problem or parties of the solution can actually be part of the solution. In general, it is likely to be perceived as rude, insensitive and unlike the international community if it does not act with urgency in playing its own role in ending the conflict. Like the national community, it has its own role to play.

## **F. Perceptions of Media Coverage of the Anglophone Conflict:**

The media from the findings have unarguably been playing a positive role at resolving the current crisis. A vast majority of youths have heard of the crisis through media. They also think the media should play a more professional and positive role in the resolution of this conflict. They further suggested how better the media can get involved in this conflict. This was done across certain thematic areas that included, honesty and truth, neutrality in reporting, government should reduce censorship and avoidance of hate speech. The media can also put in more efforts in resolving this crisis by organizing talk shows on the conflict, programs on peace and reconciliation, censoring their images, and proper verification of information before publishing. The media therefore have a great role to play in resolving this conflict. They should however leverage on the good practices to ensure that they preach peace and justice in relation to resolving this conflict.

## **G. Youth Engagement in the Resolution of the Anglophone Conflict:**

Violence is not an option: As deduced from the findings above, young people do not want violence as an attempt to end the ongoing conflict. All stakeholders in the conflict have to bring forth more peaceful methods to resolve this conflict. Violence has been the main method to resolve the conflict till date, but the conflict still goes on in circles with more devastating effects being felt by innocent civilians, and most especially on the youths. It is about time a different approach is taken, thus, a need to bring up different peaceful conflict resolution methods to resolve this conflict. The continued violence that is resulting to the loss of human life, dignity and regression in community development should be discouraged.

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**Use of Community Dialogues:** If we need to increase community dialogues, then we need to learn them and increase security for them. What are community dialogues? How do they work to build peace and resolve conflict? What communities are we talking about? This means that we also need community mobilization specialists to be involved in the life of the state. Community organization is critical. In the US, for instance, leaders like President Barack Obama were community mobilizers before they went into politics fully.

Universities need to start programs, community organizations need to engage and the government needs to engage in community mobilization and intensify research, as well as attractions to students and the community to do relevant studies and dialogues at the community level that can be leveraged by stakeholders for continuous relevant action to build and sustain the resolution of community conflicts as well as continued contribution to the resolution of the anglophone crisis. It is not only the anglophone crisis that needs attention to benefit from community dialogues, as there is other inter-community and interreligious conflicts that are emerging in certain communities as a result of the Anglophone crisis that need community dialogue strategy to resolve the conflicts and rebuild peace.

**Optimism about resolution of this conflict:** A majority of young people opined according to the findings above that, they are optimistic about the resolution of the conflict. This optimism is driven by positive change, hope, believe in God's peace, dialogue, intervention by the international community and the award of a special status to the North West and South West regions. However, a good number of youths are not at all optimistic about the resolution of the crisis. Their opinions are based on, negative change, poor governance and marginalization. If a vast majority of young people are optimistic about the resolution of this crisis, what can stakeholders do to bring this optimism to realization? If on the other hand a significant number of youths are not at all optimistic about the resolution of the conflict, what can be done to change this mindset? It is therefore of great importance to build more on the positive aspects that influences their optimism. For instance, since they are influenced by their hope and belief in God, the role of religious institutions in praying and seeking God's will, ways and moral stance on advancing and building on this hope is critical. Also, dialogue which is hoped in as a positive theme, should be considered with the qualifications that the desired dialogue is being qualified with, as well as the role of the international community and the current special status, all should be capitalized on. Building on this optimism will help at resolving this crisis. The negative aspects that young people have identified which makes them not at all optimistic about the resolution of this conflict should be addressed and worked upon. If all these efforts are made, it will be a step closer to resolving this conflict and ending the suffering of young people and every other inhabitant of these regions, as a result of the ongoing conflict. We can give youths hope by addressing why they are not optimistic about resolution of the conflict and building on the areas where they see a glimmer of hope.

**Steps to the Solution: Dialogue- What type of dialogue:** On the steps towards ending the conflict, youths overwhelmingly recommended words like dialogue, advocacy and peace talks which are similar in nature and essentially depict talks. It is clear that over 50% of respondents subscribe to ending the conflict through peace talks or dialogue and advocacy. The rest of the percentages indicate systemic responses that are ongoing and should be intensified. Understandably and interestingly, cease fire also comes at the top of

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the list among steps to ending the conflict as well as youth engagement. This shows that apart from 'ending the conflict' as a top priority for youths, through dialogue, a cease fire, and their engagement remains key strategic perspectives that stakeholders should take into consideration in efforts towards resolution. The survey has also asked how youths can be better engaged. See suggestions in section "H" in the report above and more discussions in the discussion below on "I".

A major question remains about dialogue. Given that dialogue was again, overwhelmingly proposed by youth as the adequate and main method to resolve this crisis. Curiosity remains as to why there should be another dialogue sequel to the Major National Dialogue which has been one of the main governments efforts to resolving the conflict. Is it that the Major National dialogue was insufficient? Inadequate? What fell short, or what needs to be added to it? A Clue is buried in the adjectives that the survey shows youths bringing on board to show what type of dialogue that are referring to: In examining these adjectives, we can get a clue into what might mean a positive step if a dialogue that takes into consideration these adjectives is held. Thus, if that which has to be done to resolve the conflict is dialogue, qualified per youth opinions with adjectives like genuine, sincere, honest, inclusive, etc., this means that such a dialogue has either not yet taken place and is still expected or simply that the first one did not reflect these adjectives. Therefore, stakeholders to dialogue have to consider the right form of dialogue.

**Desired Outcomes of Peace Processes:** Regardless of their desired outcome of peace initiatives, 22% desiring the end of the conflict is an indication of how ending the conflict is a priority to young people. Also, 35% of respondents were mute on their desired outcome. The reasons for their muteness were not asked. While political outcomes were low on the scales, systemic outcomes were high and thus, require urgent attention. They are an indication of the political outcomes if a political outcome if the political actors engage positively towards meeting the needs of the youthful population, and ending their frustrations. The desired outcomes are an important reflect of what pre-conditions could be involved in conflict resolution initiatives. It is important for stakeholders to take note of these outcomes as experts in conflict resolution should be able to listen in to what the grey areas are and how to deal with the same in resolution efforts.

## **H. Perceived Barriers to Youths Engagement in the Resolution of the Anglophone Conflict:**

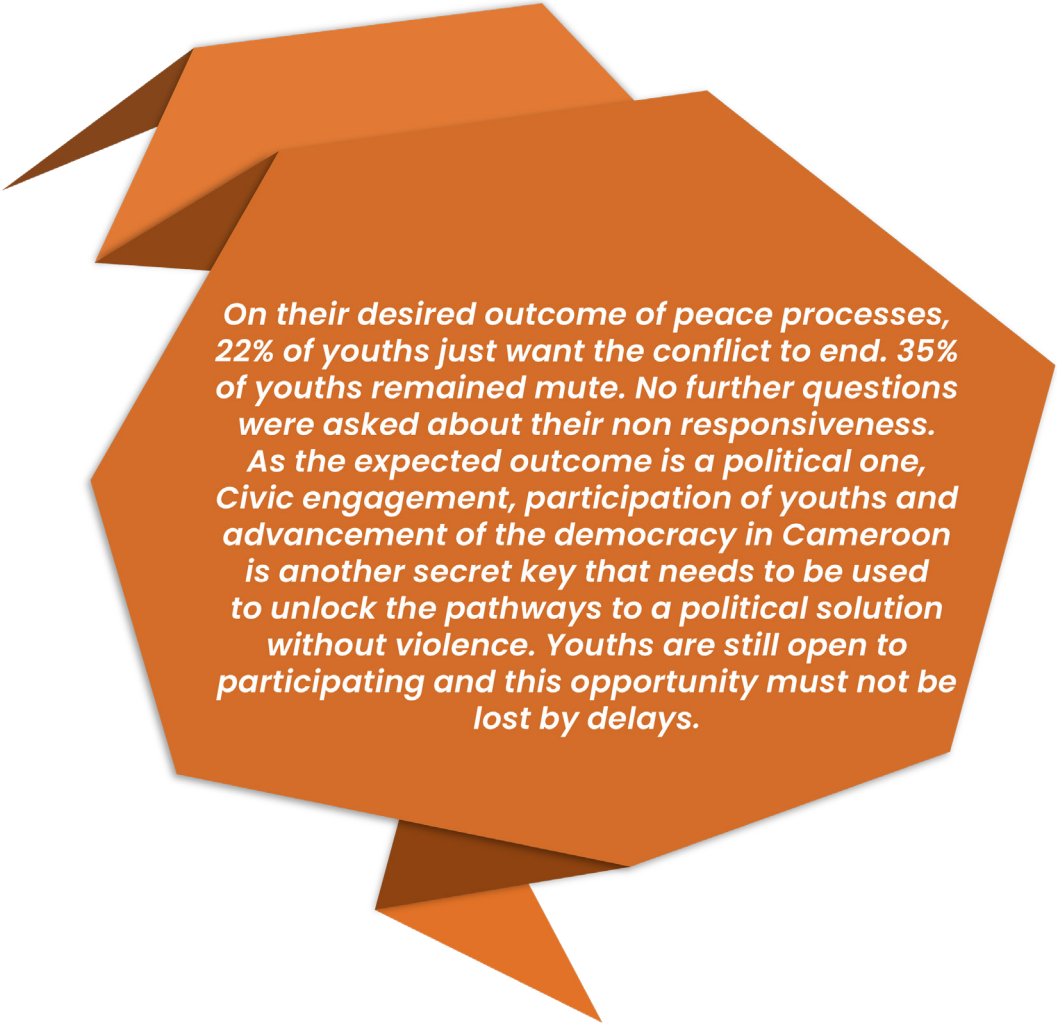
Youths generally want to be engaged and positively involved in solving the conflict now. They have moved from desire of violence to desire of dialogue. What is stopping the youths from positively contributing to the resolving the conflict and making them rather contribute negatively such as picking up arms and non-involvement has also been outlined in terms of the barriers, they face in positively being involved. These barriers have to be evaluated and addressed to ensure the full engagement of young people in resolving this crisis. The number one factor that stands as a barrier to youth engagement in resolving the conflict is fear. What so ever is causing this fear in youths needs to be looked at careful and properly addressed. In terms of recommendations for overcoming such barriers, recommendations such as increasing safety, capacity building, and access to the right have been proposed.

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Thus, all stakeholders that are causing these barriers should work toward removing them, so that youth can gain full confidence and adequately engage in resolving this conflict.

## **I. Suggestions for Improving Youth Engagement in the Resolution of the Anglophone Conflict:**

The belief that their involvement in the conflict resolution initiatives has not at all made a positive impact is consistent with the fact that they feel that their voices have not been heard and are not being heard. In order to hear the voices of youths, we need to improve the meaningful youth engagement in resolution of conflicts by securing youths, engaging them in conflict resolution platforms, decision making, training on skills that will enable them to engage positively, such as advocacy, conflict resolution, effective communication, and engaging them in sports and community events that allow them to discuss issues affecting them and how to engage in solving them.



*On their desired outcome of peace processes, 22% of youths just want the conflict to end. 35% of youths remained mute. No further questions were asked about their non responsiveness.*

*As the expected outcome is a political one, Civic engagement, participation of youths and advancement of the democracy in Cameroon is another secret key that needs to be used to unlock the pathways to a political solution without violence. Youths are still open to participating and this opportunity must not be lost by delays.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this study are directed generally to all stakeholders of the conflict and then, specifically, by stakeholder to the Youths, to the Government, to the Media and to the international Community as follows:

## A. General Recommendations:

- Violence is not the way of Choice for the Conflict's Resolution.
- The Way of Conflict solution is Dialogue. The Type of Dialogue has been qualified as genuine, inclusive, sincere, honest dialogue.
- Community Dialogues should be promoted with trained facilitators as a way of growing free speech, understanding and developing community-based solutions and promoting peace building.

## B. To the Government:

1. The overwhelming and first recommendation of youths to the government is to Engage in Dialogue.
2. Ensure greater efforts towards civility in military relations with the citizens to avoid preventable casualties of innocent civilians in the process of conflict resolution.
3. The government should make more efforts as it is still being perceived as insufficient.
4. Also, efforts to guarantee the safety of youths in their positive engagement in the resolution of the conflicts.
5. Government should Increase access to information about the crisis and its resolutions to keep the population informed of progress, and able to positively respond with accurate contributions to its efforts.
6. The government should increase capacity building for youths on skills necessary to resolve the conflict for youths as a way of supporting meaningful youth involvement and patriotic participation.
7. Government should engage in a rapid Job creation mechanisms as economic deprivations will negatively affect youth positive involvement.
8. Involve youths or sample their opinions visibly in decision making in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
9. Engage youths in peacebuilding activities and dialogue circles such as sports, consultations, seminars, conferences, etc., where they can meet and dialogue about advancing peace building and conflict resolution in their communities and in the country.
10. The government should strengthen its relationship with media positively so as not to be perceived in terms of grip/control of media houses/information.
11. Nonetheless, government should progress with its efforts in the fight against hate speech, and ensure that the justice system holds to account those found guilty of perpetrating hate speech that tends towards destroying the purpose of freedom of speech.

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## **C. Recommendations to the International Community (International Organizations and Foreign Governments)**

- i. Play a positive role in the resolution of the conflict and community peace building.
- ii. Support Capacity building of youths in skills necessary for their effective positive contribution to an end to the conflict. This can be done through training and exchange programs as well as support of relevant capacity building initiatives.
- iii. Play their role based on historical, political, and cultural, economic interests with genuine, honest and inclusive leaning at the heart of conflict resolution through dialogue.
- iv. Support the guaranteeing of the safety of youths working genuinely to end the crisis. This includes leveraging their observer and other status to support investigations and encouragement of positive action by actors in the interest of the country and its citizens.

## **D. Recommendations to the Youths:**

- Develop your capacity in areas needed for positive engagement
- Be curious, research, ask questions and educate yourselves about the country, policies and how you can contribute to its democracy, development and growth.
- No to Violence but yes to and pursue till the end, alternative conflict resolution strategies.
- Engage in Community Peace Initiatives at the level of your community and national levels .
- Support the safety of fellow youths working to end the conflict by supporting peacebuilding causes by fellow youths that do not have.

## **E. Recommendations to the Media:**

- Increase access to information to youths on the conflict, and its resolution efforts.
- Report what is true and helpful - The majority of the Youths gave proposals centered on the themes of Honesty and truth.
- Maintain neutrality in reporting and stand up against hate speech
- Engage healthy debates: the media is encouraged to organize programs to discuss the conflict and proposed solutions encouraging the tenets of healthy debates. The media should also create programs focused on peace building and reconciliation.
- Media houses should ensure that they censor some images and news and also verify the information before publishing.



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## **F. Recommendations to Political Parties:**

- i. Political parties should understand that the conflict is rooted in political issues and so, are encouraged to step up their political inclinations towards accelerating an end to the Anglophone conflict.
- ii. Politicians are encouraged to serve the people and not themselves, and to leverage their public office to promote national and community development so as to mitigate other causes related to the persisting conflict.
- iii. We call on political parties in the senate, parliament and new ones to take the resolution of the conflict as a major area of their political achievement ensuring not only follow up of a political solution but the rapid evolution of new ones for the sake of restoring peace and defending their public office as being for the people.

## **G. Recommendation to Religious Entities:**

A positive theme that emerged was reliance on God for an end to the conflict. The religious organizations should leverage the hope and reliance on God showed by the youths to engage in interreligious Dialogues, Conflict resolution and peace building initiatives and prayers as this is in line with prevalent mainstream religious beliefs.

## **H. To Civil Society Organizations:**

Youths continue to show hope in the role of Civil Society organizations as seen in the ones led by youths, as well as women. CSOs are encouraged to promote conflict resolution, skills building as well as advocacy to enable youths to positively contribute to peace.

## **Conclusion:**

The study highlights the perception that young people's voices are being overlooked in the resolution of the Anglophone Conflict and strongly recommends the immediate meaningful engagement of youths. RADA suggests that the government and stakeholders should use methods like surveys and direct representation for involving youths in resolving crises. Failing to include young people could lead to even more negative outcomes both for the youths and for the state. The study has recommended that stakeholders should leverage positive themes associated with the solution to ending the conflict such as faith, dialogue and talks, to improve their optimism. The key skills that youth have identified that they need to positively contribute to peacebuilding are conflict resolution, advocacy, and communication. Many youths now reject violence as a solution to conflicts, and stakeholders are encouraged to enhance these skills to foster nonviolent conflict resolution. Future studies with the same methodology can help measure progress in youth perceptions and levels of engagement in democracy, peacebuilding and security for timely, strategic and meaningful involvement of this critical demographic.

This study like every other research was not without its challenges and limitations. It also has specific strengths we would like to highlight. As presented below:

## A. CHALLENGES

1. Access to core conflict areas: For security concerns and limited access to certain regions divisions, we had to reply online version to reach the sample population in each region.
2. Limited internet access in some areas: Some people could not take the survey simply because the internet as not good and they were not able to respond. RADA worked hard to share the survey as widely as possible and to get far beyond the sample size so that we can be reduce the changes of the results being biased due to lack of access to the survey itself. If the internet was strong, we could have had more responses.
3. Representativeness of the study: The population of youth is diverse including underreached or most vulnerable populations such as IDPs, People with disabilities etc. WE worked together with the Coordinating Unit of Associations of People with Disabilities with whom RADA has an MoU, to reach people with impartments. We also shared the survey widely online and administered physically through members of the Youth Council who had access to associations of youths in villages a well as who could brave it to certain churches, schools and community gatherings in different locations around the environs of Bamenda and Buea. Many of the youths who took the physical survey were also IDPs, from different villages and sub divisions, supporting our achievement of representativeness.
4. Trust and Security Issues: Many people would have seen the survey and assumed that her information is being gathered for targeting and refuse to take it. WE handled his by ensuing hat the purpose was clear, and it was anonymous. WE also worked through rusted leader sources to reach communities of youths who then took the survey overwhelmingly and with rust, shared their opinions. This helped mitigate the fear of repercussions for sharing their opinions. This has made the survey strong and capable of indeed reflecting the desired opinions of youths in the region.
5. Self-Reported data accuracy and validity: The accuracy of self-reported data can sometimes be a challenge, as participants may provide socially desirable responses or may not accurately recall their engagement in certain activities. A large sample size was chosen and surpassed to mitigate this challenge. Several youths for example were conspicuously silent on certain questions, yet the key general opinions came out clearly in the responses that came in from numbs above the sample size.

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## B. LIMITATIONS:

1. **Self-Selection Bias:** Participants responded to the survey by their own decision as the survey was online. Surely based on their interest to contribute to the study and its purpose. So, participants who choose to respond to the survey may have different characteristics or perspectives from those who do not, leading to potential self-selection bias. This has been mitigated with a large sample size that was surpassed.
2. **Cross-Sectional Nature of the survey:** The survey being cross sectional, provides a snapshot of opinions and engagement at a specific point in time and may not capture changes or trends over time. Hence, it will be important to redo this survey after 2 or 3 years when efforts to mitigate the conflict might have intensified.

## C. STRENGTHS:

1. **Valuable Youth based Insights:** The study provides valuable insights into the perceptions and engagement of young people in a complex conflict situation, which can inform policies and interventions by the government and other stakeholders involved in the conflict.
2. **Potential for Policy Impact:** The findings of this study have the potential to influence policies and programs aimed at addressing the needs and aspirations of young people in the restive regions. These needs, opinions and aspirations have not been sought, discussed or urgently considered. This survey opens up the door to the youth voice on the issues affecting everyone. Policies related to ending of the conflict, strategic engagement and other areas of action indicated are the responsibility of policy makers to make positive policies.
3. **Youth-Centered:** The study is youth-centered, giving a voice to young people in the resolution of the Anglophone crisis. A relevant voice.
4. **Data for Advocacy:** The data collected can be used for advocacy efforts to raise awareness about youth issues in conflict-affected areas and to run workshops, webinars, training programs to enable youths effectively and positively participate in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and in creating the future they want.
5. **Collaboration with Multiple Stakeholders:** The approach RADA tool to involve multiple stakeholders, including the National Endowment for Democracy, National Youth Council, Delegations of Youth Affairs, other CSOs, and academicians, experts on the conflict, demonstrates a collaborative approach to addressing complex issues and increases chances of success in resolution of the conflict if the recommendations are taken.

# CONCLUSION

The study highlights the perception that young people's voices are being overlooked in the resolution of the Anglophone Conflict and strongly recommends the immediate meaningful engagement of youths. RADA suggests that the government and stakeholders should use methods like surveys and direct representation for involving youths in resolving crises. Failing to include young people could lead to even more negative outcomes both for the youths and for the state. The study has recommended stakeholders should leverage positive themes associated with the solution to ending the conflict such as faith, dialogue and talks, to improve their optimism. The key skills that youth have identified that they need to positively contribute to peacebuilding are conflict resolution, advocacy, and communication. Many youths now reject violence as a solution to conflicts, and stakeholders are encouraged to enhance these skills to foster nonviolent conflict resolution. The study has also discussed how most youths view the crisis's root causes as political and suggests collaborative efforts among government, community, and international entities for resolution, while violence is strongly discouraged by the majority of youths. There is little enthusiasm among youths with respect to the current state of resolving the crisis is concerned. A strong gap of 22% of youths want the crisis to end immediately. Several still think of dialogue but the big question what kind of dialogue. Many youths gave ideas on the type of dialogue they want; as follows: Sincere, genuine, inclusive, real, etc. A lot of effort is needed at this point and stakeholder actions are needed to achieve a follow up dialogue. If stakeholders take the recommendations provide and implement them, this survey can be repeated in 3-5 years to measure the changes.

THE END



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