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The UN Country Team in Cameroon made significant strides and leveraged several opportunities to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2023. To that end, I am excited to introduce many achievements done in line with the Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 signed with the Government of Cameroon in support of national development priorities. The United Nations has a responsibility towards sustainable development for the people and Government of Cameroon. The UN is part of this society, with several linkages through the people we serve.

For example, this report will tell you about Adelia, a middle-aged woman who overcame hunger and school dropout, experienced early marriage and obstetric fistula in her younger age, and nonetheless became a leader of a women cassava processing cooperative in the East region of Cameroon.

Her story illustrates how together we can address vulnerabilities and transform peoples' and communities' life through collective action and with the right synergy.

As another example, the UN trained 50 persons with disabilities to candidate in the UN Volunteers talent pool and strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and organization of persons with disabilities on the disability legal framework in Cameroon, the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This annual report highlights noteworthy outcomes achieved in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon and the UN Country Team's partners as part of the Cooperation Framework, and in keeping with our shared commitment to leaving no one behind and ensuring an inclusive participation of all segments of the population.

In support of national efforts and initiatives, the third session of the Structured Political Dialogue between the government and the United Nations held on 8 June 2023, with focus on the contribution of the United

Nations System in Cameroon to recovery and development efforts in the North-West, South-West, and Far North Regions.

Another major area of focus has been our engagement with International Financial Institutions and the private sector on financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Cameroon, including industrialization driven by agriculture and agro-industry, human development, governance, prevention, resilience, food security, climate change, local governance, protection, synergy of cross-border initiatives, joint advocacy on reforms related to the budget support.

This also included the implementation of the Nexus humanitarian-development-peace approach and taking into consideration the various instruments of partnerships.

The outcomes presented in this report were made possible with the kind assistance of the donor community. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to donors, development partners, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations, the Private Sector, and International Financial Institutions for their engagement in supporting the national development

priorities to make Cameroon "an emerging, democratic country, united in its diversity by 2035".

I sincerely thank my colleagues Heads of Agencies and the entire UN team in Cameroon for the fruitful efforts and fantastic collaboration, whose results are highlighted in the next pages, and which have helped position the UN System as a credible and trusted partner of the Government and people of Cameroon.

I would equally wish to reiterate the total commitment of the United Nations System, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator to continue its support to the efforts deployed by the government towards the achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals in line with the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS30) and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Coulibaly Siaka
Resident Coordinator a.i
United Nations System, Cameroon

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN CAMEROON



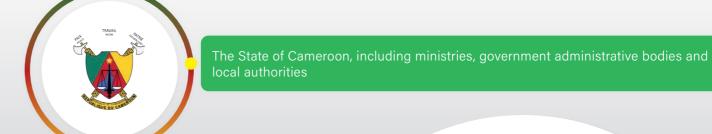
United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is composed of the Representatives of 22 agencies, funds and programmes that signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, including the World Bank, as well as the International Monetary Fund. Three of these entities are nonresidents, and only one of these three does not have a physical presence in the country.

UNCT leads the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF) in close collaboration with the government and technical and financial partners, through the CF Steering Committee, whose collective objective is to implement national development priorities as laid out in the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS30).

The Programme Management Team (PMT), Operations Management Team (OMT), UN Communications Group (UNCG), and Monitoring and Evaluation Group provide support to the UNCT. The UNCT follows the Management Accountability Framework in carrying out its duties and obligation to "Deliver as One".



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY









USAID

International and national non-

governmental organizations, national and local associations, including youth, women's and religious organizations as implementing partners, advocacy and citizen mobilization relays

Incubation center at the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaounde, Meiganga agropastoral training center, Bouam Rural Training Center, Nyambaka Rural training Center, National Digital Agricultural Knowledge Center, Wakwa Zootechnical Station, Maroua and Foumban National Center for Zootechnical and Veterinary Training, Logbaba Intensive Aquaculture Pilot Unit of the Maritime Fisheries Development Fund, Ebolowa Aquaculture Station, Incubation Center Ngaoundere University, Limbe Institute of Nautical Arts and Fishing, Agricultural Technical Vocational School



CAMEROON AT A GLANCE



Demography

27.9 million

Population size



50.12% women



Human development Index (HDI)

0.576

UNDP's HDR (2021-22)



Gender inequality

0.565



Population ages 0-14 (% of total population)

42,21%



Unemployment rate (14 years and above)

6.1 %



7.5% women

INS (2022)

Education



Literacy rate (% of people aged 15-24)

86.24%



Transition rate from primary to secondary



Internally displaced pupils, students and learners

198,319





Proportion of female students in STEM

16.8%

MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP, MINEFOP, MINJEC, UNESCO, WB (2022)

Food security



Population facing acute food insecurity

3 million

OCHA (2023)

Health



Physicians (per 1,000 people)

0.124



Nurses and midwives (per 1,000 people)

WDI (2021)

Economy



US\$42.1 billion World Bank (WB) (2023)

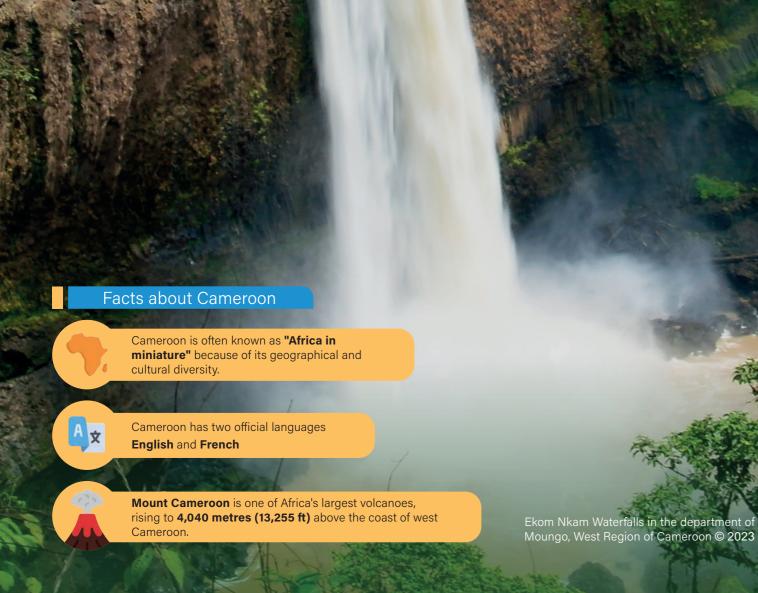


US\$1506.7











KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

In 2023, the Cameroonian economy continued to build momentum from the double external shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 4.3% in 2024, surpassing the pre-pandemic trajectory. However, this is still significantly less than the 8% average annual growth that the nation's 2035 Vision planned for the years 2021 to 2030.

The relatively low unemployment rate is associated with a very high rate of underemployment due to the prevalence of a huge informal sector estimated to employ about 90% of the working population. Debt servicing is a major issue as it is allocated 26% of the 2024 budget, even though the size of the total debt is about 45% of GDP.

Cameroon is ranked 151st out of 191 countries in the Human Development Report (HDR) (2021/22), placing it in the medium human development category with an index of 0.576. Cameroon's ranking is significantly lower than the 0.732 global average. The index drops to 0.393 when inequality is considered, indicating a significant gap in the country's income distribution. Regarding gender equality, Cameroon is ranked 148th out of 191 countries with an index of 0.565, while the global average is 0.465.

Cameroon is one of the most stable countries in central Africa. However, the country is confronted by three major crises: the impact of influx of refugees from the Central African Republic; violent extremist groups in the Far-North Region; and secessionist aspirations in the North-West and South-West regions.

As of December 2023, nearly one million people were internally displaced; this number included about 454,000 in the Far-North region and 517,000 in the North-West, South-West, and neighbouring regions.

A half a million people were refugees from neighbouring countries. In 2023, 2.7 million people in need were targeted by the Humanitarian Response Plan, which included Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees, refugees, host communities and other people affected by shocks. Over 700,000 kids in the Far-North and the crisis-affected North-West and South-West Regions were not able to attend school.

Armed non-state actors still target and force lockdowns on state officials, civilians, teachers, and medical staff. officials, civilians, teachers, and medical personnel and to impose lockdowns.





Cameroon has persisted in accelerating its decentralization agenda in terms of governance. Local development is receiving more momentum as community and regional development plans are put into action.

Decentralized territorial entities, however, need ongoing assistance because their ability to mobilize resources varies greatly.

Nonetheless, Cameroon faced certain human rights issues in 2023, for which several steps were done to find solutions. This includes the full ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 28 September 2023, and the approval at the technical level of a Handover protocol between the Government and the UN system regarding the care and transfer of children purportedly affiliated with armed groups to child protection actors. Efforts to update Cameroon's national action plan for the promotion and defense of Human Rights have begun.

Finally, Cameroon presented its report and discussed progress at the Universal Periodic Review in November 2023.

The second operational phase of the National Vision, which aims to make Cameroon an emerging, democratic country, united in its diversity by 2035, is the National Development Strategy 2020-30 (NDS30), around which the country's development process is centered to support progress and respond to challenges.

This was designed to protect vulnerable people and to preserve the developmental gains made so far, as well as build economic resilience to shocks.

From tears to joy Adelia's Story



Adelia, 11 years old girl, was living with her mother, who was the family head, in small village near the Gado Badjere refugee camp. Getting a daily subsistence was practically impossible as Adelia had to compete with her five siblings. Due to livelihood challenges, she was forced to abandon school while still in class 4. "I had to work on someone's farm or serve as a house-help for food as wage. Most of the village dwellers were refugees with limited resources", remembered Adelia 17 years later.

At the age of 13, she got pregnant by someone she could no longer recognize. Living with pregnancy was a nightmare for Adelia who was too young and knew nothing about antenatal care.

"By chance, although with a lot of pain and wounds, I safely gave birth to a little boy called Bias. As time went by, I realized that raising a child alone was extremely difficult, since I could barely feed myself. I then discovered how I was caught in a pitfall of poverty, remembered Adelia. 10 years later, at the age of 24, she got pregnant with her second child, and delivered a baby girl. But this time around, she got affected by an obstetric fistula. "Because of hardship, I sought assistance from a traditional midwife. The baby was very big, and the labor went for long and was very painful. I finally got incontinence and had to live with it for many years."

One day Adelia was approached by a community health worker who identified her for a free of charge obstetric fistula surgery offered by the Government and the United Nations.

"I never knew that I could recover from that disease known in my native language as "witchcraft disease", due to its social inconveniences. The surgery went well. In addition to healthcare services, I also benefited from psychosocial assistance to regain my self-esteem as well as a consistent amount of money to start my own business of selling cassava flour in the market. Slowly, I felt my life changing for the better even with two children than before."

Adelia benefited from capacity building measures that enabled her to properly raise her children, develop and diversify her business. Owner of a cassava processing unit near Dimako in the East region, Adelia has become a leader of the women cassava processing cooperative supported by the United Nations.

"Today, I am a businesswoman who can take care of herself, her children, her mother and her employees," concluded Adelia, as she prepared to celebrate her 31st birthday.

*Adelia is an assumed name, the image is representative of the person who wished to remain anonymous.

Chapter 2.

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

This section of the report outlines the collective results achieved through the 2022-2026 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) via the Joint Work Plans and the 12 joint programmes. Cameroon is currently dealing with three simultaneous crises: a security crisis, of recurrent Boko Haram attacks in the Far-North region, the influx of refugees due to the crisis in the Central African Republic, and a socio-political crisis with secessionist demands in the North-West and South-West regions. These are exacerbated by the impact of international crises including Ukraine and Palestine.

Progress on the SDGs

With the continuous support and engagement of Government, significant progress was made in five out of the 17 SDGs in 2023. More investment and effort are needed to advance on the other SDGs that seem to have stagnated over the year.

The National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS30) is aligned with the objectives of the 2023 Global Development Agenda. Since its launch, no formal assessment on the progress of the NDS30 has been done, though a mid-term review is planned for 2024. The overall trend, however, indicates there are many more unexploited opportunities in the realisation of the SDGs in Cameroon.



2023 marked the second year of implementation of the Cooperation Framework in Cameroon. Signed in September 2021, the United Nations entities deployed several programmes and interventions to support Government's efforts towards the achievement of national development priorities and the SDGs. Our cooperation framework is therefore fully aligned with the national development strategy (NDS20-30) and the 2030 agenda as illustrated below:



Through targeted interventions, the UN Country Team successfully achieved the following:



mobilized in 2023



USD 3,8 million

dedicated to Youth initiatives in 2023



joint programmes implemented in 2023



USD 3,4 million

saved as part of the Business Operation Strategies efficiencies



Engagement in Human Rights mechanism such as Universal Periodic Review



dedicated to reinforcing capacity and promote supports/grants to 25 women's organizations in the Far North region

2.2 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Inclusive and sustainable growth through a structural and green transformation of the economy that creates decent jobs

OUTCOME 1

By 2026, more people, especially youth, women, and socially and economically vulnerable groups, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), benefit equitably from increased opportunities in a green, diversified, transformative, resilient, and inclusive economy that creates decent jobs in productive sectors.

Target SDGs





















UN Contributing Entities

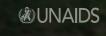












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Key achievements



50+

Small and Medium Enterprises and nearly 7,3000 producers received support to strengthen the value



10,000

kilograms of basic rice seed produced for the 2023 crop year for certified seed production of 214,673 kilograms



Village Savings and Loans Associations were created, composed of 2,000+ members, including 85% women entrepreneurs



producers from 100 rice producers' cooperatives and 25 farmers' organizations produced 18,539 tons of rice and 25,104 tons of onion respectively, in the Far North, North, North-West and West regions



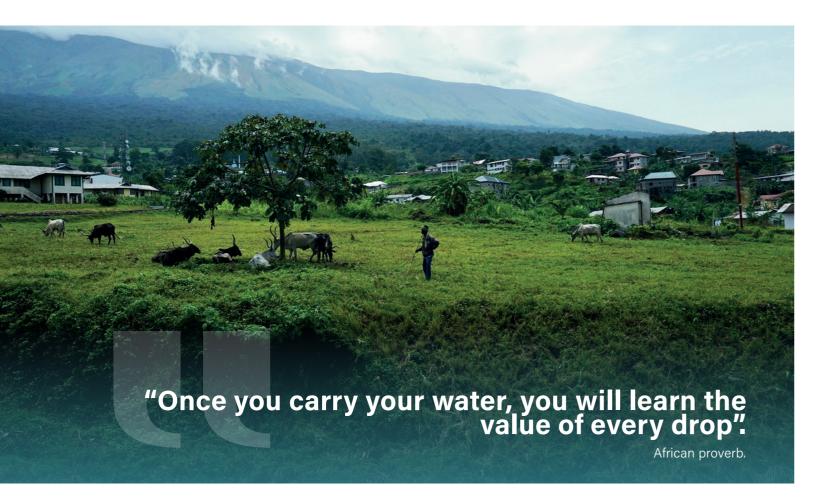
Fish-smoking ovens help displaced fish processors in Cameroon get back on their feet



have depended on the Logone River in Cameroon's Far North region, on the border with Chad, Logoneconflict. Increased conflict over these increasingly

Fadmee recalls: "I lost everything: my business, my equipment for smoking the fish I had to sell. Everything was destroyed, even my house".

When the fighting subsided in early 2022, Fadmee was relieved to return to her hometown of Honkol, despite her personal losses. Thanks to this project, 127 households received fishing inputs, a total of almost 900 people. To support the development of responsible fishing and the reduction of postharvest losses in the areas along the Logone River, UN Cameroon and partners installed Chorkor ovens in the other villages of Logone-Birni and the surrounding communes, to reduce these impacts by supporting the food security and livelihoods of those affected.





Output 1.1

Development and promotion of promising value chains

The UN System continued supporting the government in its sectoral approach to the economy, which now integrates the Inclusive Market Systems Approach (IMSA).

In 2023, the Market Information System (MIS) for Agricultural Inputs and the Market and Climate Information System (SIMC) covering rice and onions were developed in 23 pilot markets in the Center, Far North, West, North and North-West Regions.

The MIS digital platform has been developed and is available at https://simro-cm.com/.

About ten sectors have been retained in agropastoral and mining activities. In partnership with ministries in charge of agriculture, animal husbandry, trade, industries, economy and small and medium seize enterprises, value chains were adapted and extended for cassava, corn, broiler, rice, onion, beef, pork and fish.

The capacity and skills of stakeholders in production techniques, processing, management, postharvest operations, drying and storage, and water management were reinforced to improve their value chain. The stakeholders included 50 SMEs, 169 cooperatives, 25 Farmers' Organizations and nearly 7,378 producers (32% women, 34% young people) benefited from these measures. More than 113 rice and onion seed producers were trained and dispatched in 24 producer field schools in the Adamawa and West Regions.

Following the improved skills and seeds provided, 100 rice producers' cooperatives of over 4,113 producers (1,179 women and 1,411 young people) and 25 farmers' organizations made up of 1,367 members (580 women and 463 young people) produced 18,539 tons of rice and 25,104 tons of onion in the Far North, North, North-West and West regions.

The long-standing humanitarian response, particularly in the Far North and the Eastern regions, increased the need to reinforce people's and communities' resilience. In that perspective, the UN supported projects geared at ensuring the economic empowerment and inclusion of 968 members of 40 mixed cooperatives made up of IDPs, refugees and members of hosts communities.



Output 1.2

Access to inclusive financing mechanisms for TPMEs, startups, cooperatives led by young people and women

Making finance work for the poor in the context of the SDGs is a major strategic issue in Cameroon. In 2023, the UNS supported the government of Cameroon in adopting a National Inclusive Finance Strategy (NIFS) for 2023 - 2027. The aim is to give access to financial products and services to at least 65% of the adult population, with a focus on rural populations, women and youth, socially vulnerable groups and small and medium seize enterprises. A training workshop on "Making Microfinance work for Poor and Refugees" was organized in July 2023 in Douala.

The UN was very instrumental in designing and implementing a large range of inclusive financing mechanisms, which stimulated the buyin and active adhesion of banks, microfinance institutions and technology finance companies (FINTECH). In the Adamawa and East regions, 2 banks, 8 microfinance institutions and 1 FINTECH developed financial products and services targeting refugees, internally displaced persons and members of host communities. In addition, 80 self-managed Village Savings and Credit Groups (VSCGs) with about 2,000 members (85% women) operating income generating activities were set up. These Groups liaised with financial institutions to ease access for their members to the financial products and services made available in their communities. Nationwide, 120 individual entrepreneurs and 27 women's cooperatives were trained in the design of business plans in the beef, pork, fish and agricultural sectors. In the East region, 13 entrepreneurs and 7 cooperatives specialized in the production and processing of corn, cassava and poultry won a business plan contest in the Kadey Division.

Each received a credit worth of 296,000 USD from a microfinance institution, through a subsidized guarantee covering up to 50% of the granted credit. In both the Mayo Tsanaga and the Logone and Chari Divisions in the Far North region, 694 refugees and members of host communities received financing for their income generating activities from the Peace Building Fund (PBF). This sharply improved their earnings and enabled them to take care of the basic health, education and livelihood needs of their families.

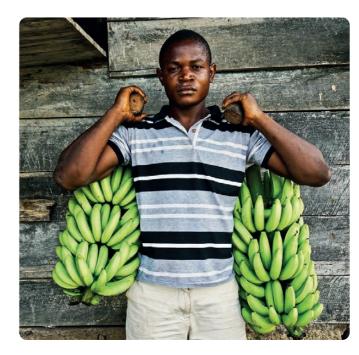


Output 1.3

Contribution of young people, women and vulnerable groups to economic transformation

Consistently with its sectoral approach of economic development, Cameroon adopted in 2023 a Small and Medium seize Enterprises Development and Competitiveness Plan for the Agropastoral Sector, aligned to the SDSR 2020-2030. This plan, supported by the UNS is endowed with a preliminary draft law on agropastoral business and a competition and competitiveness observatory within the newly rebranded Cameroonian Entrepreneurs Group (GeCAM).

Thanks to these reforms, training and information dissemination services were set up to fuel the improvement of the business environment in the agropastoral sector. Training standards for business incubators, as well as integrating entrepreneurship training approaches and tools were developed and approved. Forty-three financial and non-financial service providers were established alongside the government-led SME Promotion Agency (APME). More than 138 accredited trainers received training and mastered most of UN System's entrepreneurship training tools such as GERME, GET Ahead, Think.COOP, Start.Coop and My.Coop, these service providers have the required capacity to help Cameroon transform its productive economy. 16 Financial Service Providers and Non-Financial Providers developed more gender-sensitive services, including gender inclusion action plans.



The Government developed a National Plan for the Development of Economic and Environmental Accounting (NPDEEA). This is a sustainable financing model that integrates natural capital into national accounts. In collaboration with the National Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR), quality standards and norms were developed and adopted to increase economic productivity. More than 3,000 draft standards were selected, including 35 draft standards on rice and onions.

Innovation was applied to increase productivity and mitigate post-harvest losses. Solar-powered Mobile KITs were developed for street traders who sell perishable foods.

Two pilot kits were distributed to allow small street traders to preserve their food and increase their turnover. In the Far North Region, 40 producers and 15 technical guides were trained in good harvest practices, storage and handling standards, and phytosanitary treatment. 10 storage units were constructed in the Far North, North, West and North-West regions.

Many youths and women benefited from a range of socio-economic activities that contributed to their development and the achievement of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 and the SDGs. Activities include training in individual and collective entrepreneurship, financial education, agro-ecological production, agri-food processing with emphasis on the value chains of cassava and corn, valorization of agricultural waste, and quality management, benefiting 4,542 people, including 77% of the most vulnerable people (including street children). The capacity of 06 youth-led associations was strengthened to facilitate market access in road maintenance contracts. The interventions carried out to strengthen value chains significantly contributed to improving productivity and favored the creation of more than 1,817 jobs for women (49%) and young people.



Output 1.4

Market integration through regional economic communities and promotion of continental free trade

The UN system continued its assistance to the Government of Cameroon in operationalizing its 2020 - 2035 National Strategy for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) adopted in 2020. A capacity building session was carried out in Douala with fifty professionals from public and private sectors as well as the civil society. They came from Cameroon and the Central African Republic to get information and share knowledge and practices on common commercial and industrial strategies to implement the AfCFTA.

Within the same perspective, more than 500 women entrepreneurs in the cassava sector, representing 04 pilot agricultural cooperatives from the Center (Ayos and Mbalmayo), the East (Belabo), and the West (Foumbot) Regions, benefited from capacitybuilding sessions to master both technical and procedural requirements for better access to AfCFTA market opportunities. .

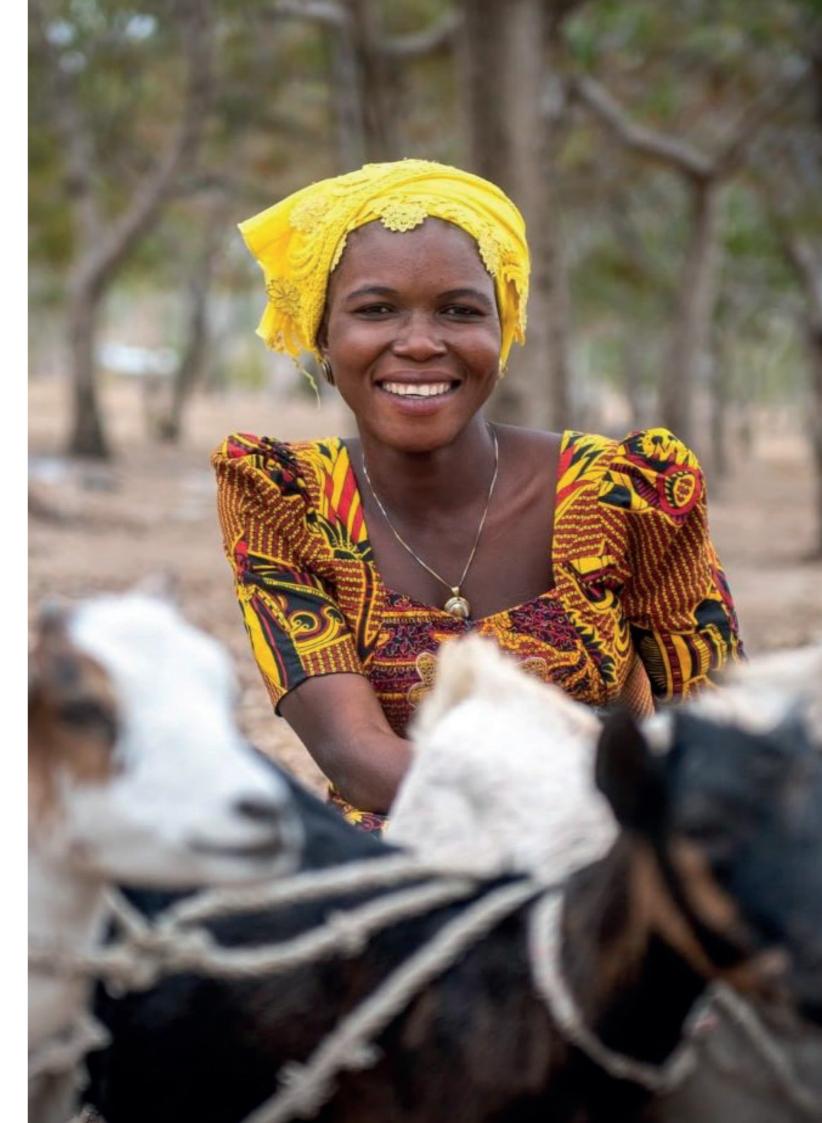


Output 1.5

Implementation of the Industrialization Master Plan

The UN supported the Government's commitment to implementing its new industrialization master plan. A key action was the partnership with the Government to organize the official celebration of Africa Industrialization Day in Cameroon.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Quality, Inclusive and Equitable Human Development

OUTCOME 2.1

By 2026, more people, by age group, especially the most vulnerable, including refugees and IDPs, use quality basic social services in an equitable and sustainable manner to realize their full human potential and enhance their social and economic well-being.

Target SDGs



















UN Contributing Entities









































Key achievements



national Data in Emergencies (DIEM) studies were carried out and disseminated to the humanitarian community for information and advocacy



850,000

vaccination cards and 1,000 vaccination registers made available thanks to the production and distribution of data management tools



refugees were enrolled in universal health coverage, which enabled them to access free treatment for malaria, HIV and tuberculosis



Reduction in cases of severe acute malnutrition at Minawao



A rare sight in Cameroon's Northern region to see received Vitamin A supplements an 'Alhadji' with a baby on his back. For Alhadji, however, gender stereotypes are not strong enough to prevent him from giving his child the care

Engaging Men as Champions for child nutrition



necessary for a healthy growth and for helping his

wife when he can. In this community, Nandeke, located some eight kilometers from Meiganga in the Adamawa region of Cameroon, 7% of children suffer from moderate acute malnutrition. This is according to a community screening survey in September 2021 by the International Medical Corps, IMC. The exercise equally revealed that childcare is sometimes left exclusively to the woman who has to cater for every other member of the family.

As part of commemorative activities of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence campaign, parents of beneficiaries of its Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) wee engaged to be more complimentary in the execution of house roles. A total of 30 men and 55 women were present at the food distribution site where roles were reversed and men for the first time carried their babies while listening to educative talks on child nutrition.













Output 2.1.1

Prevention and treatment of diseases and malnutrition

The national Penta 3 coverage increased from 79 percent in 2022 to 82.5 percent in 2023. Four out of six selected priority Regions (Adamawa, East, Far-North, and North) performed above the planned 85 percent. The percentage reached includes Adamawa: 87.7 percent, East: 100.3 %, Far-North: 87.7 %, North: 86.8 %.

The national coverage for the Penta 3 vaccine, according to the EPI national Programme, increased from 79.2% to 82.5%, nearing the annual target of 86%.

In the Minawao camp, 2,572 children out of 2,159 under the age of one were vaccinated against measles, giving a vaccination coverage rate of 119%. The exceeded target could be a result of the over 10,000 new influx of refugees in the area. In the refugee camps in the East Region, 2,106 children out of 2,417 were vaccinated against measles, marking 87% vaccination coverage. Overall, the measles vaccination coverage rate for 2023 stands at 98.4% (standard \geq 95%),

a slight improvement from 2022. These vaccinations have provided protection against measles epidemics in refugee camps and sites, even though several of the country's health districts were affected.



Output 2.1.2

Reinforcement of the national health system

Concerning the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) in 61 priority health districts, 1.83 percent (46 out of 2,254) of HIVexposed babies tested at 6-8 weeks were found to be HIV+. This is far below the planned target of less than 3 percent in 2023.

To achieve this result, 81% (243,666/337,540) expecting pregnant women (PWs) received antenatal care or delivered in a health facility, increasing enrolment in the PMTCT protocol. During the year, 98% of PW were tested for HIV and received results, exceeding the target of 95 percent. 93 percent of HIV+ PWs were put on antiretroviral treatment (ART), beyond the annual planned target of 88%.

Moreover, 76 percent (3,575 out of 4,705) HIV+ PWs delivered in a health facility and received the package of care to prevent the transmission of HIV to their babies; 73% (3,446) HIV-exposed babies were put on ART, exceeding the annual planned CPD target of 51%. Providing an integrated package to PWs and newborns (with immunization, birth registration..) along with community mobilizations, contributed to this improvement.

The health center in the Minawao refugee camp was integrated into a district medical center by the Ministry of Public Health. To strengthen the community system and community-based surveillance, 80 multipurpose community health workers were trained and equipped in the Minawao camp as well as the communities of Gado, Borgop, and Lolo. In terms of reproductive health and the fight against HIV and STIs, 16,227 antenatal consultations were carried out, and 4,166 births were attended, including 1,836 Nigerian refugees and 2,330 Central African refugees. The rate of births attended by qualified personnel is 96.3% (standard >95%), a slight improvement compared to 2022 (95.71%). 12,336 people were tested for HIV; 98 new people (14 men and 84 women, including 22 pregnant women) tested positive and were put on ARV treatment, making a total of 1169 HIV+ refugees registered and on ARV treatment by the Government and partners. 84% out of 92% of the registered people recorded an undetectable viral load after carrying out the viral load test. 47,091 refugees were enrolled in universal health coverage, which enabled them to access free treatment for malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis,



Output 2.1.3

Healthy nutrition and prevention of malnutrition

In 2023, about 5,340,167 children (95%) under 5 years received vitamin A supplements; 47% of infants aged 0-5 months were fed exclusively with breast milk; and 39% of children aged 6-23 months received food groups. The developed 2024-2030 National Nutrition Development Plan is set for government endorsement and targets millions of beneficiaries in humanitarian and development settings.

Various strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have been pivotal in gathering first-child anthropometric data since 2018 during the 2023 National Food Security and Nutrition Survey. The survey identified that child wasting prevalence rates in the North-West (2.8%) and South-West (3.7%) were below the 5% emergency threshold.





Output 2.1.4

Strengthening the food and nutrition security monitoring and coordination

Four national early warning bulletins on risk factors affecting food security and agriculture in Cameroon were produced and disseminated.

Six regional pre-HC (Harmonized Framework on Food Security and Nutrition) analyses of contributing factors were implemented in the Far-North (2), East (2), and NW/SW Regions. Two national CH analysis sessions were carried out with civil society organizations.

Two national DIEM (Data in Emergencies) studies were carried out and distributed to the humanitarian community for information, advocacy, and possible adjustments to their emergency programming.

Two national food and nutrition security assessments (ENSAN in September and FSMS in February) were done.







Output 2.1.5

Improving the national social protection system

Constructed and equipped 1 secured space for mental health activities, psychosocial support, and empowerment of women and girls in the North-West and South-West Regions.

In the Far-North and South-West regions, 48,348 vulnerable/poor households received cash transfers to effectively meet their needs before being supported in developing income-generating activities.



Output 2.1.6

Inclusive quality education and literacy

To contribute to improved access to quality education in Cameroon, including in areas affected by humanitarian and security crises (Far-Noth, East, North-West, and SW regions), the UN System supported access to education for 159,682 out-ofschool children (55% girls), which is 46% of the programme cycle target. About 231,684 children (48% girls) benefited from the distribution of school materials (46% of the Programme cycle target), and 597,871 children (240,285 girls) benefited from psychosocial support through trained teachers (60% of the Programme cycle target). At least 2,063 teachers, including 823 women, were trained (23% of Programme cycle target).

The 'Connect My School' initiative, covering the Center and West regions, was extended to the Littoral and East Regions, exposing over 20,000 children (with a significant proportion of girls) and 284 teachers to digital literacy. Trainers, mostly females, supported primary and secondary school teachers in incorporating technology into teaching through regular in-service training.

Within the framework of the Multi-Year Resilience Program, UN entities reinforced the capacity of facilitators and supervisors from 13 local NGOs in the NW/SW Regions through the training of over 869 persons (597 females) on the supervision of e-learning for disadvantaged children in Temporal Learning Spaces (TLS). This training and other activities contributed to improving the quality of teaching in the community learning spaces and thus facilitated access to learning for at least 13,199 children (7,141 girls), including 7,851 IDPs (4,162 girls) and 120 children with disabilities (52 girls).



Output 2.1.7

Vocational training and learning opportunities

Young people aged 15 to 35 were trained in the manufacturing of low-carbon materials and housing construction techniques in the municipalities of Loum, Bafoussam 3 and Dschang.



Peace through Health: Peacebuilding and Violence Reduction in **Communities in the Far-North Region, Through Inclusive Health** and Social Interventions





community dialogue sessions were organized by 15 health committees, covering health (77%), social cohesion (17%), and other needs (6%), with an inclusion rate of 73%



people benefited from medical and psychosocial activities. 65% of beneficiaries are under 5 years old, 58% are women



kits for pediatric care, acute malnutrition, various infections, emergency traumatology and surgery, emergency sanitation, and cholera

This Nexus project contributed to the reinforcement of social cohesion through health services for communities affected by the spillovers of the violent conflict in the Far-North Region.



Rehabilitation and renovation of community infrastructures

- The UN team rehabilitated and constructed buildings Constructed as well as rehabilitated and electrified in the intergrated health centers of Fotokol and Kossa; rehabilitated and installed sanitary facilities in the water tower of the Madiako integrated health facility in Logone Birni; electrified the Amchide integrated health center with solar energy; and equipped it with a tricycle ambulance.
 - (solar-powered) boreholes in the integrated health centers of Mémé, Waza, and Dabanga and provided the centers with tricycle ambulances. The team also rehabilitated a community hut in the Bodo Intergrated Health Centre.



Key challenges

- the need to intensify resource mobilization actions to support joint initiatives.
- Need to reinforce synergy with other interventions for scaled-up impact.
- · Lack of resources to cover existing gaps, creating · Lack of adequate human capacity to support the implementation of activities. Designate focal points to strengthen working capacity and output.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Reducing gender inequalities and empowering youths, women and girls and other vulnerable groups

OUTCOME 2.2

By 2026, gaps in key socio-economic indicators are reduced, reflecting greater gender equality and progress in the empowerment of youth, women and girls, and other vulnerable groups including those in humanitarian settings.

Target SDGs























Mobilized resources(USD): 0 Available resources (USD): 400,137 Expenditures(USD): 400,137 2023 Financial overview

UN Contributing Entities













unesco UNFPA























people were sensitized to the types of GBV and their prevention and response services



public administration implementing partners were trained on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)



GBV survivors benefitted from the holistic care system (safe spaces, women's cohesion spaces, onestop centers, gender desks, etc.)



women and girls received training in income-generating activities in the Far-North, West, and Center Regions



service providers (373 women) from civil society and government actors from the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, police, gendarmerie, and magistrates were trained on skills to manage GBV cases and to provide services to survivors as per international standards and do no harm principles



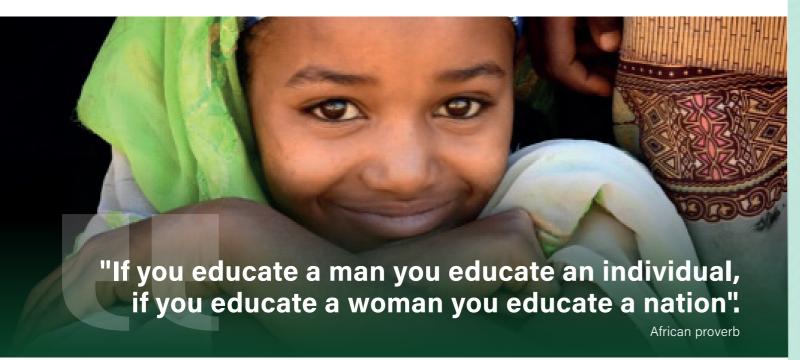
Giving a voice to teenage girls in turmoil



Fifteen-year-old Nafissatou's fight is against child marriage, one of the causes of school dropouts for girls, while Brenda denounces violence within the school environment, and the use of drugs and narcotics by young people.

In Cameroon as in other areas of the world, Girls are more likely to be excluded from school (26.6% vs. 7.8% for boys16), and for those who don't go to school, the worst alternative is often marriage: almost 10% of girls under 15 are married, and 24% of girls aged 15 to 19 have begun their reproductive lives, handicapping their future empowerment and health.

To support the empowerment and participation of girls, UN Cameroon, through AGAB groups; Adolescent Girls Advisory Group, are empowering young girls through knowledge, and life skills of adolescent girls, and to facilitate their participation in the decision-making processes of UN programs, especially in education. This initiative, which is an integral part of United Nations interventions in favor of girls' education, supports the government's efforts to improve the school environment and eliminate obstacles to girls' access to and retention in school.





Output 2.2.1

Enhancing the potential of women and girls to participate in development

In the Far-North region, the UN system facilitated income-generating activities for 50 women and girls and provided bookkeeping and accounting training for 300 women in the Littoral and West regions. Nearly 120 people were supported in fish farming, and 25 women trained in drip irrigation in the Far-North. In the Center Region, 70 women were trained in urban agriculture and 111 in emergency food production. The training contributed to enhancing the technical and vocational skills of 5,000 women in the Women's Empowerment Center administered by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF). UN entities also supported the inclusion of unpaid domestic work in the MICS survey by the National Institute of Statistics.



Output 2.2.2

Reducing disparities between men and women

In the reporting period, the UN team supported initiatives that promote women's empowerment and activities with persons living with disabilities. The team collaborated with ELECAM and Members of Parliament to organize activities that promote women's participation in politics. The team also organized trainings and workshops on gender budgeting and GBV data collection for 32 Government

partners and caseworkers of the Women Empowerment Center. Further, through the WOMEN COUNT project, the UN team enhanced knowledge and capacities among government partners, journalists, and the National Institute of Statistics for better production, analysis, and dissemination of gender statistics and gender-sensitive budgeting.



Output 2.2.3

Protecting women and girls against violence and discrimination

UN agencies and partners collaborated on key initiatives to address gender-based violence (GBV) in Cameroon. Efforts included establishing men and boys' platforms to promote positive masculinity, conducting safety audits, updating GBV referral pathways, and organizing community awareness campaigns. Over 147,000 individuals were reached through sensitization activities, leading to a reduction in intimate partner violence in certain regions.

Additionally, 5,184 dignity kits were distributed to GBV survivors, and over 53,000 individuals were referred to GBV service providers. The capacities of over 724 public service providers were strengthened for their active contribution to fighting GBV; gender desks were established in police and gendarmerie stations to support case management. Psychosocial support, legal counseling, and other assistance were provided to over 2,600 GBV survivors, including facilitating their access to legal aid. These collaborative efforts significantly supported the comprehensive approach to addressing GBV in Cameroon.



Salient programme; promotion of women and youth security through small arms control





A study including the gender picture of SALW in Cameroon is available and a project document taking into account its recommendations has been elaborated.



Additionally, training and sensitization campaigns have targeted a minimum of 70% of women and Youth and media across the country for prevention. With 240 people trained and sensitized, these activities targeted youth and women's CSOs, journalists and media, government officials



Activities of the project led to an engagement of the government which, in accordance with the directives from its hierarchy in the letter N°480 / SG / PR of September 28, 2022, decided on the beginning of reflections on the creation of a national body on control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Cameroon. Civil society organizations and media involved in the project have also organized sensitization campaigns and shared message /knowledge on this salient issue.

Key challenges

lack of data on SALW



Currently, some other joint programmes are being implemented under PBF: DDR and gender (IOM with UNWOMEN), Local governance (UN-Habitat with UNWOMEN) and Support to PRONEC (UNESCO N with UNWOMEN, BIT and UNFPA).



Key challenges of Result Group 2.2

- Accelerating progress towards gender equality targets Setting up a joint UNS gender program
- Operationalizing gender-responsive budgeting
- Capacity-building for gender focal points in national

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Institutional support and citizen engagement

OUTCOME 3

By 2026, youth, women, the most vulnerable groups, and people living with disabilities, including refugees and IDPs actively contribute to the efficiency of policies and the performance of public institutions at national, regional, and council levels, and fully enjoy their rights.

Target SDGs















UN Contributing Entities





























Key achivements



30

decision-making committees for inclusive dialogue in the Far North, Littoral, and West regions



15

shock-affected councils assisted to set up early warning and planning mechanisms to prevent conflicts over land, markets and housing in the Far North, West and Littoral regions



1,500+

IDPs and people in the host communities benefited from psychosocial and psychological support services



10,000+

Government, private sector, and CSO actors were trained on civic and human rights values and duties, including the use of information and communication technology (ICT), to scale up their work output.



actors of various institutions have sound knowledge on integrating gender in official statistics







Output 3.1

Participation in decision-making processes at community, municipal, regional and national levels

In 2023, the United Nations system contributed to promoting people's participation in decisionmaking in local constituencies. Key stakeholders, such as young people, women, and other vulnerable social groups, including persons with disabilities and elders or internally displaced persons, were empowered to ensure better decision-making and smooth social-cohesion conditions. 30 committees were set up and revitalized in the Far-North, Littoral, and West regions. These include traditional dispute settlement mechanisms on issues such as land tenure and agropastoral activities in 20 municipal councils in the Far North, 05 inclusive dialogue frameworks on conflict prevention and resolution in marketplaces in the West, and 03 in the Littoral.

The UN also supported workers' organizations by strengthening their social dialogue capacities. Twenty trade union confederations (32% womenled associations) were capacitated to use digital communication in advocacy and policymaking. The team also supported the harmonization of the pension system in line with the pay-as-you-go system, which was part of the UN contribution to social dialogue in the workplace. In the same vein, the UN team supported the Cameroon Workers Forum to adopt a document that harmonizes the calculation of old-age pensions in Cameroon.



Output 3.2

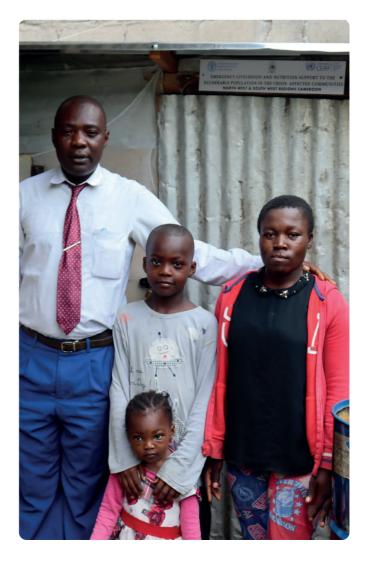
Coordination, foresighting and response to shocks and policy effectiveness

In response to the various shocks people are confronted with, the UN strengthened the resilience of communities and institutions, particularly in conflict- and health-emergency-affected areas. Over 1,500 IDPs and host communities in the West, Littoral, and Far North regions benefited from psychosocial and psychological support services. Nearly 500 people benefited from incomegenerating schemes.

They were trained in small business management and subsequently received in-kind and cash vouchers to start or develop their economic activities.

The UN contributed to the construction of shelters and the distribution of NFIs to 10,319 IDPs in the Far-North region. Other community infrastructure, including a cereal storage warehouse, solarpowered agricultural boreholes, and an agricultural perimeter, were constructed, and the youth centers were electrified with solar energy in Logone Birni, affected by violent conflicts between community groups.

In the conflict-affected areas of the North-West, South-West, and Far-North Regions, the UN supported the rehabilitation and construction of 100 basic social and security infrastructures. These include health centers, schools, and administrative and security facilities. This contributes to restoring state authority, public services, peace, and law enforcement, particularly in the Far North. To ensure sustainability, 10 early warning mechanisms were set up in 10 different municipalities in the Far-North Region.





Output 3.3

Decentralization and efficient use of transferred competencies, including resources

Cameroon's 2006 constitution introduced a decentralized state system. Like in previous years, the UN continued to support decentralized constituencies to make efficient use of the competencies and resources transferred to them. In 2023, the focus was on enhancing digitization to promote decentralization. Two municipalities in Yaoundé were supported to digitalize their local employment services, and eight in the Far-North region digitalized their civil registry services. As a result of the empowerment of these 8 municipalities, they are now able to produce and issue birth certificates in less than 24 hours, a move that other regions are adopting to ease access to birth certificates for millions of children and persons in need.

The UN system has provided equipment and materials to 08 municipalities and 20 local branches of youth multipurpose promotional centers, the National Youth Council, and centers for the promotion of women and the family in the Littoral and West regions. Also, the UN team strengthened the Mokolo and Fotokol councils in the Far North region with skills in integrated spatial planning and urban management.

Decentralized constituencies, including traditional rulers in the North-West, South-West, and Littoral regions, were trained in local governance with a focus on management accountability and human rights as integral parts of the development process. In that perspective, the UN collaborated with the Ministry of Local Development and Decentralization (MINDDEVEL) to issue the first report on the state of local development (RANEDL) in Cameroon.



Output 3.4

Administration of justice, respect for rights and public participation

Promoting human rights to establish the rule of law and prevent gender-based violence are key priorities of the UN's agenda in Cameroon, confronted by humanitarian crises and committed to modernizing the functioning of the country. In 2023, the capacities of 110 government officers were strengthened on legal standards and principles and transitional justice in the implementation of the DDRR.

About 10, 000 people were trained in UN instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights and other relevant topics of democratic rule and international humanitarian law. These included legal professionals, judicial officers, human rights defenders, journalists, members of the defense and security forces, and parliamentarians. Guidelines and tools for integrating social protection and the fight against HIV and GBV into the operations of municipalities were developed.

In accordance with the principle of leaving no one behind, the UN trained 25 members of organizations of persons with disabilities (17 females) to gain a better understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities and the principles of inclusion set out in the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in the 83 Orientation Act.





Output 3.5

Strengthening the National Statistical Information System

In line with the important value the UN places on using reliable data to optimize, better manage, and coordinate its support for the government for the populations' benefit, the UN Agencies

made technical and financial (over USD 200,000) contributions to the national statistical information system for the production and promotion of the use of data, especially in the context of the MICS survey, which collects data to measure the progress made by Cameroon on the SDGs relating to women and children. The UN's contribution also supported data collection for the Cameroon Household Survey (ECAM), for the preparation of the report on the SDG indicators, for the development of the gender module of the national statistics strategy, and for the preparation of the official statistics user guide.

In order to guarantee effective stakeholder participation in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of development policies, the United Nations system supported the Government in setting up an efficient and effective national statistical information system.

In terms of employment-related statistics, in 2023, the UN upgraded the skills of 25 National Employment Fund (NEF) managers on the contextualized data and information to be compiled in the employment terminals. Data on the National Employment Fund's programmes and agencies was collected and used to produce the NEF's "note de constitution".

In addition, the UN organized a strategic reflection seminar on the harmonization of the methodology for collecting and analyzing labor market data in Cameroon. The capacities of 40 institutional actors (INS, ONEFOP, ONT, MINADER, University of Yaounde 2, MINEFOP, MINEPAT, GICAM, UGTC, etc.) producing and using employment and labor market data were strengthened in the field of socioeconomic resilience. Also, the UN reinforced its partnership with the National Statistics Institute to gather data on community security, access to basic services, and livelihood, this includes a perception survey carried out within the framework of the stabilization initiatives in the Far-North Region.

The UN country team also contributed to strengthening the statistical system to produce quality gender-specific data. As a result, 28 actors from various institutions were empowered to take gender into account in the production of official statistics in their respective organizations. Thanks to the support of the UN in 2023, the MICS survey devotes an important section to violence against women. In addition, with a view to gender-sensitive budgeting, 32 governmental actors were actively involved in the validation of gender marker tools. Also, to improve the dissemination of gender statistics, a network of journalists was trained and now has enhanced skills in the dissemination and use of official statistics, in particular gender statistics.

Far North Cameroon: A Female Judicial Police Officer is Breaking the Odds and Restoring Hope to GVB Survivors



"The crisis has contributed to the increase of gender-based violence (GBV) cases in the Mokolo council. We receive about nine or more cases of GBV per month, especially during festive periods. My key role as the judiciary police GBV focal point person is to investigate cases of GBV and connect victims and perpetrators with the law. This falls in line with my role as a police officer to maintain peace and order. Managing GBV cases, especially in a crisis context like ours, is very demanding and sometimes very risky, making the task very challenging." Explains Ms. Noumbissi Alvine, sub-lieutenant in the Mokolo Judiciary Police of the Far-North Region of Cameroon.

Ms. Noumbissi has been working with the Judiciary Police in Far-North Cameroon for the past four years. She is the police focal point for the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in the Mokolo Council and covers the Mayo-Tsanaga Division, one of the areas most affected by the armed crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. She is an active member of the area's GBV Case Management Group, composed of social affairs workers, UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs, lawyers, and community leaders, amongst others.

As a woman in an environment where respect for women is a concern, she braves numerous challenges, including the volatile security context, extreme climates, and hard-to-reach communities in the area, to play her role in the effective management of GBV cases. She has significantly contributed to ongoing efforts to eradicate the practice in the area.

"We receive direct complaints from victims, their relatives, and institutions such as the Delegation of Social Affairs, Organizations, and CSOs. When I receive a complaint, I lead the investigation to gather the necessary information and transfer the case to the court for judgment. Also, we discuss the case in the case management meetings with partners, and based on the context, we refer the survivors for care, including medical, psychosocial, material, and livelihood support." Ms Noumbissi.

According to the police officer, one of the most touching cases she managed included the rape of a 9-year-old vulnerable girl. One of her happiest moments is when a case she handles is successfully resolved, though she is concerned with the fact that most victims and their families do not accept to speak out or slow down the case management process.

In some cases, she receives threats to discontinue the investigation process.

"Two touching cases I have handled include that of a 9-year-old girl who was being forced into marriage by her father for livelihood gains. Following her resistance, the 27-year-old supposed husband drugged and raped her repeatedly. Another case was that of a partially demented girl who was regularly raped and impregnated by young men in her community. I received the complaints, referred the survivors to specialized social affairs services and NGOs for psychosocial care, then led investigations on the suspected perpetrators and transferred the cases to the court for prosecution. We manage cases according to the Cameroon penal code, the penal procedure code, and the laws that protect victims of GBV," Ms. Noumbissi recalls.

To improve and facilitate the work of Ms. Noumbissi and the judiciary and law enforcement workers in the crisis context of the Far-North Region, the Cameroon Window of the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) organized training workshops to reinforce their capacities on the appropriate use of the penal code and the legal guidelines for professional ethics and deontology, with a focus on the rules of criminal procedures in a crisis context. The facility also trained the security and judiciary systems on human rights, and provided them with solar-powered infrastructure and equipment, including administrative buildings, gendarmeries, police stations, conflict resolution centers, vehicles, and power motorbikes.



"I learned a lot from the capacity-building workshop organized by the UNDP. The workshop enabled us to identify our areas of need and provided us with skills to improve them, especially the observance of the penal code, the flow of procedures in handling cases, the enhancement of safety management, and the maintenance of administrative and judicial order in the context of extremism. These have been very helpful in the management of the GVB cases that I handle." Ms. Noumbissi, Sb-lieutenant, Mokolo Judiciary Police.

To continue scaling up the quality of her work and that of her colleagues, Ms. Noumbissi highlights the increasing need for working facilities and support for the direct needs of GBV survivors

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Environmental sustainability, climate and natural disaster risk management

OUTCOME 4

By 2026, populations, in different agro-ecological zones, including youth, women and socially vulnerable groups, live in a healthier environment, sustainably manage environmental resources, including biodiversity, and are more resilient to disaster and climate change shocks.

Target SDGs



8



Mobilized resources(USD): 36,750,200 Available resources (USD): 36,009,716

Expenditures(USD): 4,766,040

(31st Dec. 2023)

Financial overview

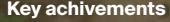














Introduction of drones in three national parks (Bénoué, Kimbi-Fungom and Waza) for ecosystem monitoring to better track the impact of climate change.



people (communities and schools)sensitized on environmental protection and recycling



Establishment of the Green and Sustainable Debt Platform to leverage green, resilient and blue

UN Contributing Entities













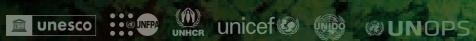
















In the Far North region of Cameroon, refugees and host communities in northern Cameroon have planted over 540,000 seedlings, transforming the environment in and around Minawao refugee camp. The arrival of tens of thousands of refugees raised the need for lifesaving support such as cooking that led to cut of trees for firewood. This activity has impacted the already fragile environment in a region that chronically suffers from desertification,

increasing the pressure on the availability of natural resources and generating tensions with local populations.

In 2023, within the context of refugee settlements, UNS and implementing partners helped reducedeforestation as 21 percent of the Minawao population used renewal sources as their primary source of energy. This greatly contributed to the protection of women as they have been free from the burden of fuel collection, could pursue education and income-generating activities, leading to economic empowerment and reduction in genderbased violence.

A total of 5,570 fruit plants have been planted on 36.85 Ha for the creation of 15 green spaces in the Minawao camp and outside the camp. 11,770 seedlings planted to replenish and replace dead plants in green spaces. 38,975 seedlings distributed to households in and outside Minawao camp. In sum, from 2017 to 2023, the total number of seedlings planted so far in the Minawao camp and outside the camps is 546,315 trees.





Output 4.1

Improving institutional and regulatory frameworks

Cameroon was supported to develop policy instruments needed to enhance the uptake of climate solutions for food and livelihood security and SDGs. A policy paper on Sustainable Budgeting to finance climate solutions uptake and a policy coherence committee for enhancing the implementation of key national strategies - NDCs, NDS30 - in a manner that fast-tracks investment in climate solutions were established.

The UN contributed to the implementation of the national strategy for long-term low-carbon development. To this end, a cross-sectoral working group has been set up to improve implementation of the Cameroon component in line with climate agreements. Within this framework, the capacities of 30 institutional actors from various sectoral administrations were strengthened in programming for resource mobilization.

The system also made progress in establishing climate insurance facilities for local farmer groups and enabling access to climate financing.

On another note, a Readiness project proposal to support FEICOM's accreditation to the GCF was developed and the UN initiated the development of a concept note to be submitted to GEF 8 and other climate windows...



Output 4.2

Improving the environment and biodiversity and combating climate change

Local stakeholders adopted innovative climate/ environmental solutions and generated data on the impact of how climate action solutions of solar dryers and nature-based solutions can enhance food and livelihood security and the SDGs. This data, coordinated through the Ministry of Environment, was shared for policy uptake to enhance investment in expanding these solutions. Application of solar dryers resulted in post-harvest

losses (PHLs) decreasing from 90% to less than 5% of the initial product, while shelf life has increased by at least 50%. The application of biofertilizers and biopesticides increased the area under nature solutions by 920 hectares. Up to 30 green jobs were created, while the increase in earning opportunities resulted in membership in local cooperatives increasing from 0 to 15 to enhance SDG1. Biodigester uptake by the community for waste recovery to biogas and biofertilizer in line with Cameroon NDC priorities resulted in over 2000 kilograms of organic waste intercepted monthly and up to 1700 tones equivalent of methane avoided. Over 2000 liters of biofertilizer and 144 cubic meters of biogas are generated every month, earning between CFA 2000 - CFA 8000 weekly.

The UNS also supported the Maroua Center for Appropriate Technologies (a specialized MINPROFF structure with a regional vocation) in setting up a semi-industrial micro unit for the manufacture of ecological coal. UN entities focusing on Education supported the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education in drawing up the Cameroonian Youth Declaration on Climate, which was presented at COP28 in Dubai. The Youth Conference on Climate Change, under the theme "Promoting youth engagement for sustainable climate action and a resilient future in Cameroon", was attended by some 200 youth, as well as representatives of sectoral administrations, international organizations and civil society.

A partnership agreement was signed with CIFOR/ ICRAF to promote environmental conservation and improved livelihoods for sustainable management of environmental and forest resources in forced displacement situations in 2023.

As an extension of the "Green Sahel" project, the reforestation project "Make Minawao Green Again" aimed to improve the living conditions of refugees and residents in Minawao, Gawar, Gadala, Zamai, Sirak, and Zamalva in the Far North by strengthening community capacity in environmental protection, reforestation, and the promotion of alternative energy sources. On an area of 36,85 hectares, 15 green spaces (08 regular and 07 with cocoon) were made, totaling 5670 fruit and forest plants. A total of 6,702 households have participated in 23 environmental education programs covering subjects like Cameroonian environmental legislation, the dangers of wood cutting, and vandalism in public areas.

To monitor and preserve green spaces in each village, seven 40-member green alert groups were established in Kidam, Logone Birni, Kalakafra, Dilga, Elbirke, Ndjamena Sabla, and Kabo. For the purpose

of reforestation, 500 plants were donated to five schools: Elbirke, Ndjamena sable, Kidam, Kalakafra, and Logone Birni. A group of sixty Minawao women produced 2582 kg of briguettes in 2023.



Output 4.3

Environmental data collection, analysis, management, use and dissemination

Elaboration of spatial planning tools integrated environmental management, mapping of areas at risk of exposure to climate change. Achieved results include 2 prefectoral decrees, 2 land use plan documents of Mokolo and Fotokol.

Based on a cross-sectoral approach, a roadmap has been approved by key institutional stakeholders through the Cameroon component of the national long-term low-carbon development strategy.





Output 4.4

Adapted responses to health and climate risks and disasters

Setting up a community radio station in the Waza biosphere reserve. In 2023, selected communes were equipped with 10 solar water systems (7 communes, East Region), 07 boreholes equipped with hand pumps (1 commune, East Region), 16 blocks of inclusive latrines (1 commune, East Region), Solar electrification of 13 health facilities (Regions East and Adamawa).



2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda



The UN in Cameroon and key International Financial Institutions, including the African Development Bank (AfDB) held regular dialogues and agreed to strengthen partnerships at two key levels:

Strategic level: Plan joint advocacies related to some specific reforms and dialogues with Private sector and Government,

Operational level: Ensure synergies of UN projects financed by the AfDB and find opportunities to better coordinate joint interventions and t technical collaboration in the framework of AfDB call of proposals.

The UN in Cameroon and the World Bank (WB) partnered to enhance social protection and resilience programmes, food security, local governance, protection, synergy of cross-border initiatives and joint advocacies on reforms related to the budget support in consideration of different instruments and modalities of partnership with the WB.

A strong partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) continued to ensure reconstruction in areas affected by crises. In the health sector, the ISDB financed blood transfusion systems and operations. It also supported women and youth empowerment projects through the development of very small, small and medium size enterprises. The partnership with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) was strengthened.



Policy and strategy on development financing

The UN in Cameroon continued to be engaged in the update of the national integrated financing strategy and the improvement of the development cooperation coordination.

The UN accompanied the Government to elaborate an acceleration plan for the implementation of the SDGs. This plan was presented to development partners to prioritize sectors with catalytic effects, considering the six transitions that the Government presented during the last SDG Summit.



Non-Resident Agencies

Under the lead of the Resident Coordinator system, three non-resident agencies, namely the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) joined the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to hold specific coordination sessions in order to improve the synergy of their interventions and the mechanisms to share information related to statistics on the environment, climate change and disasters. This was in support to the government on national adaptation plan through an access to Green Climate Fund Readiness grant.



Private sector

UN agencies were very active to support the access of the private sector to the AfCFTA markets. This targeted youth and women entrepreneurships, employment creation, youth and women participation. The UN equally strengthened advocacies to improve business climate, relations between small and big enterprises, the migration of the informal to the formal sector. The partnership with the civil society was improved through the localization process, youth, women, persons with disabilities, LNOB support, interventions in zones affected by security crises.



Innovative finance

The elaboration of a blue economy strategy to mobilize blue bonds, the financing of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, Green Transition, Green Taxes continued to be supported by the UN.

The UN supported two national financial institutions: the the special council support fund for municipal assistance known by its French acronym FEICOM and the "CAISSE AUTONOME D'AMORTISSEMENT" (CAA) in their accreditation process at the Green Climate Fund. Additionally, UN agencies contributed to the reinforcement of access to the Climate Adaptation Fund and implementing the national strategy aimed at developing the sustainable bond framework, building capacity in sustainable, green and carbon market finance and establishing the Green and Sustainable Debt Platform to leverage green, resilient, and blue bonds. A Green and Innovative Finance Mobilization Plan is now available and under implementation.

Furthermore, the UN is engaged in the establishment of climate insurance mechanisms for local farmers' groups, the operationalization of micro and

macro-insurance schemes for farmers through the African Risk Capacity group. Particular attention is paid in translating Cameroon's National Determined Contributions' priorities into investment plans that attract enterprise financing/ capital and establishing a blended finance derisking tools to derisk enterprises actions and thereby attract low-cost capital for climate action implementation.

Dialogues with the IMF were held in the framework of the deployment of the new IMF mechanism: the resilience and sustainability facility to better support the Government in the implementation of attenuation and adaptation climate change measures.

Since Cameroon still lacks regulatory policy framework to access to certain innovative funds, UN agencies has been supporting the Government to improve this policy framework. The Global Environment Facility channelled through UN agencies also contributed to the partnership and financing of the Agenda 2030.

Finally, the UN accompanied a regional process to operationalize inclusive bonds for very small, small, and medium size enterprises at regional level, with a strong involvement of the financial sector. It will be an innovative mechanism for sustainable development as such enterprises constitute around 80 % of the private sector in Cameroon.

The Global Environment Facility channeled through UN agencies also contributed to the partnership and financing of the Agenda 2030.

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2.4 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

The year 2023 was critical for the UN in Cameroon since it was marked by the stabilization of the five Result Groups. In addition to that, there was the review and implementation of the Joint Work Plan 2022-2023, the engagement with the government for a more coordinated approach to development and to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, and the strengthened engagement with International Finance Institutions and other partners to accelerate SDGs including a focus on addressing vulnerabilities. Thus, coherence, effectiveness and efficiencies were at the heart of the UN Country Team's commitments, and this was sustained throughout the year through the implementation of the Cooperation Framework and the derived Country Programmes.



joint programming and resource mobilization

The Cooperation Framework steering committee held in June 2023, co-chaired by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Regional Development and the UN Resident Coordinator, reiterated the importance of strong and systematic UN agency joint, coordinated programming, implementation and resources mobilization. The steering committee praised the efforts and progress made in that regard and confirmed its commitment to reinforce the government's participation in the Result Groups.

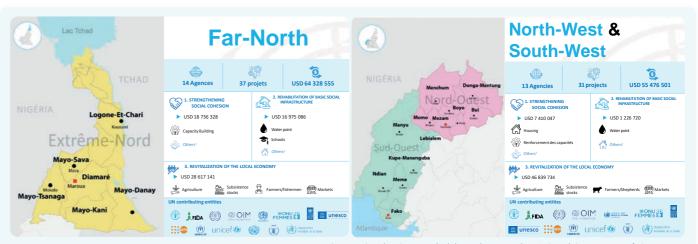
Cross border and regional cooperation



In 2023, the UN in Cameroon also reinforced its collective engagement for cross-border and regional cooperation and interventions.

Examples of results include: 1) the access of very small and middle enterprises to markets in the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is reinforced; in collaboration with MINPMEESA, over 500 women entrepreneurs in the cassava sector from at least four agricultural cooperatives in pilot localities in the Centre (Ayos, Mbalmayo), East (Belabo) and West (Foumbot) regions have improved their technical skills on opportunities and procedures for accessing the AfCFTA market. The next stages of this activity include the setting up of semimodern production units, the acquisition of AfCFTA certification and support in a value chain approach; 2) the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Industrialization is strengthened; 3) youth in borders' areas were not only trained to peacebuilding, social cohesion and entrepreneurship, but also supported to establish businesses and Income Generating Activities; in addition, transhumance was monitored through the Transhumance Tracking Tool and roads were marked and initiatives on cross-border movements tracking enabled the identification of the priority needs on health, education, food security, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation, shelters, and protection.

In 2023, in an always more challenging financial context, specific attention was paid to resource mobilisation, especially in the area of environment and climate change (Strategic Priority 4) through for example the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and its African Development Fund Climate Action Window, the International Climate Initiative call, and the global Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) fund.



Source: Session Structued Dialogue between the UNS and Government of Cameroon

In their structured political dialogue held in June 2023 and co-chaired by the Minister of External Relations and the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN and the Government took stock of the UN's collective achievements in the crisis-affected regions of South-West, North-West and Far North, in line with the country's social cohesion, infrastructure and economic development priorities.



Policy support

In addition, the UN initiated collective engagement with and policy support to the government and partners on sustainable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), on Universal Health Coverage as well as on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). On the latter, the support included: 1) the development of a procedural manual for the DDR programme, 2) contributing to the issue of care and transfer of children associated with armed forces and groups to the civil/social authorities, 3) enhancing women's

meaningful involvement in DDR Policy design and implementation through income-generating projects. Similarly, in preparation for the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in November 2023, to help Cameroon meet its major human rights challenges, the United Nations Country Team offered coordinated technical support to state and non-state actors, including relevant line ministries and departments, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations.



Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): a collective priority



In 2023, the PSEA Network in support of the efforts of the UN on PSEA, prioritized sexual exploitation and abuse prevention interventions in crisis-affected regions of Cameroon.

This led to 131 frontline workers and 950 local community members being trainetrained in basic concepts and the survivor-centered approach. In addition, 5,287 staff from NGOs and UN agencies were trained in PSEA and SEA referral procedures throughout the year. As a result of these trainings, staff from NGOs and UN agencies supporting crisis affected people, became aware of the acceptable standard of conduct and handling of SEA allegations. This greatly improved the protection situation in crisisaffected regions with regards SEA and indirectly contributed to the government's actions on goal 5 of the SDGs. To further strengthen existing SEA reporting channels, the PSEA Network organized the roll-out of the PSEA Standard Operating Procedures in 2023, during which 2,748 awareness-raising materials were distributed to partners. The PSEA Network, in line with goal 17 of the SDGs, worked in collaboration with some key actors on community engagement and accountability.



Operationalizing the HDP Nexus

The UN system keeps looking at effective ways to enhancing efficiencies at the very local level, for example in Logone Birni, in the Far North Region, where UN agencies established a local monitoring and coordination committee to measure the progress of their joint interventions in convergence zones. This committee includes local authorities, project implementing partners, and a wide range of development and humanitarian partners and has for mandate to strengthen the delivery of integrated interventions as one outcome, through the HDP Nexus approach.

The operationalization of the HDP Nexus has greatly benefited from a consistent dialogue among UN actors on one hand, and an efficient collaboration with relevant external partners on the other, due to a strengthened participation in the existing coordination platforms. Thus, in December 2023, with the UN's support, the Prime Minister's Office conveyed a partner's consultation, resulting in a shared understanding of the conceptual approach of the triple nexus and its advancement in the country.



Increasing UN's efficiencies

Investments in system-wide efficiency through business operation strategies (BOS) and shared premises are bearing fruit. In Cameroon, 25 entities have adopted the BOS, and the expected savings over five years should amount to nearly USD 5.7 million. By 2023, USD 3.4 million have already been saved. The Operations Management Team (OMT) builds on the BOS which is a results-based framework that emphasizes joint operations with the aim of reducing duplication by leveraging joint negotiations power and maximizing economies of scale. Thus, in 2023, more than twenty-

five common Long-Term Agreements (LTA) were either established or renewed: Mobile Money, Cash Transfer, Dignity Kit, Office Supplies, Internet, Communication, Garage, Warehouses, Insurance Brokerage, Common Premises, etc. The partnership with the Ministry of External Relations, administrations of customs, transports and taxation directorates has been reinforced to enable speedy treatment of UN cases and discussions continue for a better and common understanding of duties and issues.



Communicating and advocating as one



In 2023, the United Nations (through its Communications Group) strengthened its collective and unified communication and advocacy on the implementation of the Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 in support of the national priorities, thus improving the general public's understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, the UN Press Club, which pools together over 45 journalists to reflect on UN-Cameroon relations and major development themes, contributed to wellinformed narratives on UN's achievements and UN agencies' mandates in Cameroon. The One-UN stands at the Ngaoundere University games and at the Douala

International Economic Trade Fair allowed the UN to reach out to and sensitize over 1,000 students, youth, women, entrepreneurs with booklets, flyers, discussions and videos on topics such as the importance of environmental protection, transformation of plastic wastes, climate action, etc. X (formerly Twitter) with over 96,500 followers, as well as Facebook with over 21,000 followers, the electronic "Monthly Highlights" boosted with the quarterly newsletter "UN in Action in Cameroon" showcased UN's achievements in Cameroon to the government, partners and public at large.

2.5 Lessons Learned

2023 marked the second year of implementation of the Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 in Cameroon. The year was marked by significant progresses, challenges and opportunities, which offered valuable lessons for the 2024 UN's planning and implementation work.

The UN System is committed to prioritizing joint initiatives and scaling up interventions that have yielded positive results in terms of accelerating the Agenda 2030.

With that in mind, some key elements to be considered to reach set objectives are inter-team coordination (Delivery as One), collaboration with Government, resources mobilization efforts, support to the statistical systems and available tools (such as UN INFO).



UN Coordination

The UN joint programming and coordination efforts remain a great area of improvement, to be better equipped to collectively support Government's efforts. There is a strong potential for greater synergies and higher impact on beneficiaries.



Statistical systems

The lack of official statistics still represents a handicap to support advocacy and proper decision making to advance national priorities. While various single entities supported the National Statistics Institute in 2023, a better coordinated, collective commitment and support to the National Statistics Institute, with a clearly defined roadmap and expected results would present more opportunities for the system.



Available tools (UN INFO platform)

Looking at the 2023 results and achievements, it appears that delivering as one (communications, programming, budgeting, etc.) still needs substantial improvements. A stronger engagement is needed for the usage of the UN INFO platform to demonstrate concrete results from our joint work plans.



Collaboration with the Government

In 2023, the UN and the Government further strengthened their collaboration and relationship of trust, through important milestones such as: the participation of the Government in the UNCT retreat's first day, the successful third session of the Government-UN Structured Political Dialogue, the first session of the Cooperation Framework Steering Committee. The recommendations and resolutions resulting from these events serve as a compass for both parties in their strategic and technical engagement.



Resources mobilization effort

In 2023, the UN developed and launched its joint resources mobilization strategy which aims to complete the individual resources mobilization of the UN agencies, to fill the funding gaps identified in the common budget framework. The joint resources mobilization realized in 2023 highlighted that a strong joint-programming and results-based competence are needed to showcase the role of each UN participating agencies when elaborating joint-proposals, the involvement of the national counterpart was also very important, and the need to master the steps, criteria, target of each opportunity was fundamental. Efforts have been made and will continue to be made to reinforce engagement with international financial institutions and the private sector, on financing the SDGs in



2.6 Multi-year resource mobilization

Multi-annual resource mobilization



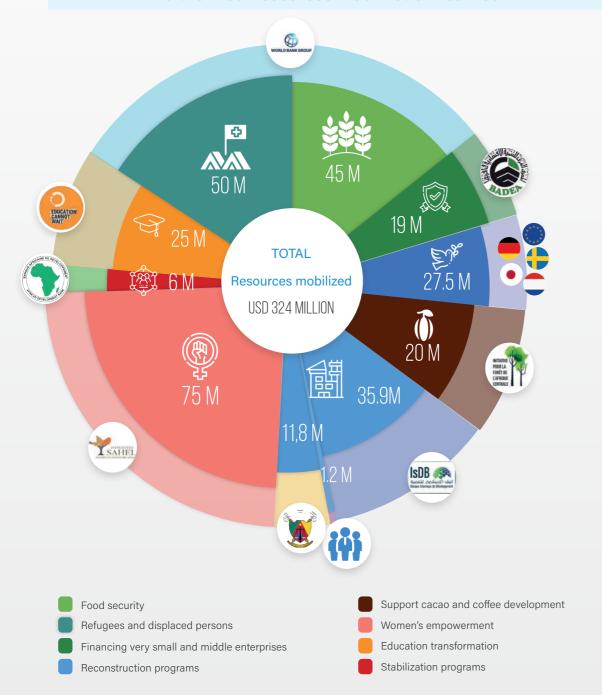
Planned financial resources for 2022-2026 for the Cooperation Framework

USD 1,152,563,453

MOBILIZED USD 324,000,000

GAP USD 828,563,453

Multi-annual resources mobilization realized



Within the framework of the Joint UN response and SDG fund, the localization component was submitted for dialogue with the Government and the Spotlight Secretariat Initiative Fund was introduced under the lead of the Resident Coordinator and result group 2.2 in charge of gender, to prepare the next phase of the country for the Spotlight Initiative.

The Resident Coordinator continued to work on the PBF eligibility to advocate for the importance of PBF conflict prevention role, as well as to identify specific strategic priorities such as; climate security and sustainable management of natural resources.

Finally, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, discussions related to the operationalization of a regional nexus facility funding, with a Cameroon window, were engaged with Germany.





Chapter 3.

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

The Cooperation Framework (CF) 2022-2026, executed through Joint Work Plans which combine collaborative programmes and agencies' projects, is entering its third year of implementation.

It stands as UN Country Team's compass to support national priorities, around its four strategic priorities that mainstreams the **Leave No-One Behind** principle:



An inclusive and sustainable growth through a structural and green transformation of the economy that creates decent jobs



Quality, inclusive and equitable human and social development



Institutional support and citizen engagement



Environmental sustainability, management of climate risks and disasters

Based on the dialogues between the Government of Cameroon and the United Nations (SDG Summit, CF Steering Committee, Structured Political Dialogue, UNCT retreat), the 2024 priorities for the UN Country Team will be articulated around the following pillars:



Support the government in achieving the three development accelerators which have been identified, and to be presented at the SDG Summit in September 2024, namely: i) full employment and decent work with equal pay; ii) inclusive and sustainable industrialisation driven by import-substitution; and iii) effective, accountable and transparent institutions.



Address vulnerabilities through strengthened inclusion of women, youth, refugees, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, through the activation of the UN Country Team's pledges and commitments to durable solutions.



Support the country in climate change adaptation and climate finance access.



Accelerate the operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach, articulated with stabilization and recovery plans and with the decentralization process.



Support the SDG mid-term review process as well as data availability and modernization in Cameroon, through a stronger statistics infrastructure.

ACRONYMS



AF	Adaptation Fund	IMSA	Inclusive Market Systems Approach
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank	LNoB	Leave No One Behind
ANOR	National Standards and Quality Agency	LTA	Long-Term Agreements
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment	MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
BADEA	Bank of Arab Economic Development in Africa	MINEFOP	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
BOS	Business operation strategies	MINEPAT	Ministry of the Economy, planning and
CAA	Autonomous Sinking Fund of Cameroon	WIII V E I / (I	Regional Development
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative	MINDDEVEL	Ministry of Decentralization and Local
CAR	Central African Republic		Development
CAW	African Development Fund Climate Action Window	MINPMEESA	Ministry of Small and Medium sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
CF	Cooperation Framework	MIS	Market Information System
CHRC	Cameroon Human Rights Commission	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry	NDS 30	National Development Strategy 2020-30
000	Research	NEF	National Employment Fund
CSO	Civil society organization Central	NFIs	Non-food items
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration	NIFS	National Inclusive Finance Strategy
DIEM	Data in Emergencies	PNDCEE	National Plan for the Development
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	TNDOLL	of Economic and Environmental
ECAM	Cameroon Household Survey		Accounting
ELECAM	Elections Cameroon	OMT	Operations Management Team
ELECAM FINTECH	Elections Cameroon Technology Finance Companies	OMT	National Employment and Vocational
FINTECH FEICOM	Technology Finance Companies Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council	ONEFOP	National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory
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