

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace –Work –Fatherland

**MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY, PLANNING
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



COUNTRY REPORT ON PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAMAIRCo	Cameroon Airline Company
CAMRAIL	Cameroon Railway
CAMTEL	Cameroon Telecommunication
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CFAF	Communauté Française d'Afrique Franc
ECAM	Cameroonian Households Survey
EDS	Population and Health Survey
EESI	Employment and Informal Sector Survey
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Country
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Office
INS	National Institute of Statistics
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
KPDC	Kribi Power Development Company
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (Enquête par grappes à Indicateurs Multiples)
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
MINESEC	Ministry of Secondary Education
MINESUP	Ministry of Higher Education
MINSANTE	Ministry of Health
NACC	National AIDS Control Committee
NEF	National Employment Fund
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
NSS	National Statistics System
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PTA	Parent/Teachers' Association
SMIG	Minimum Inter-professional Wage
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WC	Water Closet
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Preparation Framework

This report measures and monitors/assesses progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at country level in 2008. It reviews Cameroon's performances since 2001. In fact, after the first country report prepared in 2003 and which concerned the whole country, this issue has two new innovative aspects related to practice and methodology, namely:

- 1) a new format which better reflects indicator trends and analyses;
- 2) infra-national reporting at the level of the 10 regions of the country.

This reporting thus yielded ten regional reports and one country report.

The two workshops organized in Kribi laid the foundations for the preparation of the second report which was richer and more regionalized.

The main recommendation arising from the first workshop was the drafting of 11 reports – one country report and 10 regional reports in which the regional disparities were better apprehended. The second workshop focused particularly on the ownership by the main stakeholders of the national statistical system in terms of MDG monitoring, MDG reporting and especially data collection instruments for the production of indicators and the reporting template.

With the availability of the findings of the Cameroon Households Survey (ECAM3), a third workshop was organized in Limbe. The main outcome thereof was the drafts of 10 regional reports and this country report. A last stage was organized in Douala to finalize the 11 reports.

1.2. Collection Methodology

Information used to measure MDG progress in this report was culled from several documents, mainly the reports of studies conducted by the National Institute of Statistics as well as the reports of the following surveys: MICS (2000 and 2006), ECAM (2001 and 2007), EDS (1991, 1998 and 2004), EESI (2005). We also used the statistical directories prepared by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and a number of ministries like Basic Education (MINEDUB), Secondary Education (MINESEC), Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and Higher Education (MINESUP). Furthermore, other data

was collected directly from certain structures having the desired information with the help of data collection forms designed for that purpose.

The technique used in collecting data for each selected indicator consisted of considering the most recent year mentioned in the previous report (December 2003) as the baseline year. Information gathered was supplemented with data of subsequent years, as and when available. This thus gave an idea of the country's development dynamics in light of the MDG indicators and targets.

1.3. Constraints and Difficulties

Apart from the recurrent problem of the inavailability of some key information needed for monitoring/assessing the eight MDGs, especially environment-related data, it must be said that there was a real problem of harmonization of concepts enabling the production of information in the various publications.

In fact, as the content given to concepts was not systematically harmonized, it became difficult to compare monitoring indicators for certain years.

To resolve this issue, certain targets were readjusted and tailored to the national context.

2. CONTEXT

2.1. Physical Environment

Cameroon stretches between Latitude 2 and 13 North, and Longitude 8 and 16 East. It is shaped like a rectangular triangle whose hypotenuse runs from Lake Chad to the Gulf of Guinea over a distance of 1,500 km and the base from the Atlantic Ocean to the border with the Central African Republic over 800 km. Of a total area of 475,650km², with 466,050km² of continental land and 9,600 km² of territorial waters, Cameroon is bounded to the North by Lake Chad, to the North-East by the Republic of Chad, to the East by the Central African Republic, to the South by the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and to the West by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Its relief is a picture of contrasts: high land regions unevenly distributed throughout the national territory and bounded by narrow plains. In the Far North, the Mandara mountains tower to an average altitude of 1,000 metres while the Adamawa Plains which sit nearly at the centre of the country lie at 1,100 metres. The highlands of the West are formed by plateaus with average altitudes ranges between 1,200 and 1,800 metres, and a mountainous chain rising from the Atlantic coast. The main summits are mostly volcanic mountains like the still active volcano, Cameroon Mountain, 4070 metres; Mount Manenguba, 2,396 metres; Mount Bamboutos, 2,740 metres and; Mount Oku, 3,008 metres. High lands dominate the South Cameroon plateau whose average altitude ranges between 650 and 900 metres.

Coastal plains stretch between the Atlantic Ocean and the South Cameroon plateau, with widths hardly exceeding 150 km. For their part, the plains of the North comprise:

§ the Logone plain;

§ the Diamare plain around Maroua;

§ the Benoue basin.

The Adamawa plateau is the 'watershed' of Cameroon, for the main rivers take their rise from there. These rivers empty themselves in four basins, namely:

- the Atlantic basin which receives: River Sanaga (the longest in the country with 920 km), the Nyong, Ntem, Mungo and Wouri ;

- the Niger basin into which River Benoue empties itself, in low waters or swelled by its tributaries, depending on the season;

- the Lake Chad basin into which River Logone empties itself;

- Lastly, the Congo basin which receives River Sangha, formed by its Cameroonian tributaries, River Kadei and River Ngoko.

Cameroon is divided into three major climatic zones:

- Ø The Equatorial zone which stretches from Latitude 2 to 16 North, and is characterized by abundant rainfall averaging 2,000 mm annually. The average temperature is around 25°C ;

- Ø The Sudanian zone stretches from Latitude 7 to 10 North. Here, the dry season lasts for five to six months. During the year, the average temperature is 22°Celsius, with 1,000 mm of rainfall; and

- Ø The Sudano-Sahelian zone, which lies beyond Latitude 10 North, is characterized by a dry season of seven months and little rainfall.

Cameroon's vegetation is as varied as its climate and relief, shifting from equatorial forest in the South to savannah and then steppe in the North.

2.2. Administrative Data

The national territory is divided into 10 regions, 58 divisions and 323 sub-divisions placed respectively under the authority of governors, senior divisional officers and sub-divisional officers.

As per recent instruments (Decree No. 2008/376 of 12 November 2008 to specify the administrative organization of the Republic of Cameroon), districts will be upgraded to sub-divisions.

The 10 regions may be grouped together under the following three agro-ecological zones:

- the northern regions (Adamawa, North, and Far North) located in the savannah zone with a predominance of agriculture (cotton, groundnuts, onion, cereals), livestock (bovines,

ovine, caprine and porcines) and artistic activities;

- the Centre, South and East regions are situated in the tropical rain forest where cocoa, coffee and many other foodstuffs are cultivated;

- the North-West, South-West, West and Littoral regions where one finds vast industrial plantations of tea, banana, cocoa, coffee, fruits and vegetables and where stockbreeding and fishing are practiced.

The two main towns are Yaounde, the country's political capital and headquarters of the Centre region, and Douala, economic capital and headquarters of the Littoral region. Beside these two major cities can be cited the headquarters of the other 8 regions of the country.

2.3. Socio-economic Features

The 3rd Cameroon Households Survey (ECAM 3) conducted in 2007, estimates that the country's population is at about 18 millions inhabitants for a population density of 37.7 inhabitants/Km². The population's urbanization rate is estimated at 35.3%. Apart from major forestry resources, Cameroon has significant deposits of bauxite in the northern parts. Though on the decline, natural gas reserves and petroleum deposits are exploited off the coast of Douala. Gold is mined in small quantities as well as tin minerals and limestone. The hydrographic network harbours considerable hydro-electricity potentials.

Cameroon's economic development therefore rests on agriculture, livestock, fishery, industry, services, mining and petroleum exploration.

Since 2001, the Government has been implementing a new macro-economic programme backed by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF, 2000-04) and has continued to implement SAC-III with the support of the World Bank. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) was adopted in April 2003 and Cameroon reached the completion point in 2006. Despite the continued decline in oil production (from 10% in 1996 to 4% of GDP in 2008) and the persistence of energy problems which particularly affect industrial production and services development, growth was positive and stood at around 4.5%. Similarly, inflation remained low, at an average of 3.3%, and the fiscal balance improved considerably (accounting for an average of 2.2% of GDP in the last five years). Debt cancellations were substantial which

has made Cameroon's external debt sustainable. However, the advent of the financial crisis which transformed into a global economic crisis raised other challenges and led to the definition of a new economic development policy. The new 2035 vision and the growth and employment development strategy paper being finalized are answers which will enable Cameroon to brace itself for this new institutional environment.

To date, Cameroon has some 50,000 km of roads, barely 10% of which are tarred. Most roads are impassable in the rainy season. The country also has a rail network estimated at 1,016km in 2003. Port traffic is based mainly in Douala, which doubles as the commercial port for landlocked neighbouring countries. Some years ago, the second port, Kribi, played host to the pipeline for the transportation of crude oil from the South of Chad. The main airports are situated in Douala and Yaounde. CAMAIRCo, the new national carrier, which should soon commence operations, will ply domestic and international routes.

The media landscape is characterized by a mushrooming audio-visual sector with the appearance of private television stations and a multiplicity of print media. There are 83 radio stations – 16 State-owned and 67 private; 11 television channels, the main one being the Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV).

In 2008, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications identified 205,502 fixed telephone subscribers and 5 287 322 mobile

subscribers. The same year, 5.36% of households had internet access.

Religious practice is guaranteed by freedom of worship, given that Cameroon is a lay State.

The achievement of the MDGs to which Cameroon adhered during the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000 requires a stable and secured socio-political and economic climate. The global financial crisis that has been raging since September 2008 is a risk for the economic activities of a good number of countries in the world and might negatively impact exports and external financial support to African countries in general and Cameroon in particular. Fears that this crisis will linger on are quite understandable, given the negative social effects that it might have and the commitments countries have taken to achieve the MDGs.

2.4. Highlights of 2008

Throughout 2008, the Cameroonian society was marked by several events resulting from actions taken by the Government to improve the living conditions of the population. Those with a perceptible influence on the attainment of the MDGs include:

- ü On the diplomatic front, the handing back to Cameroon of the Bakassi Peninsular (an area rich in oil and aquatic products), following the just ruling of the International Court of Justice enabled the country to take possession of the territory and launch its development.
- ü In governance, the public finance clean-up drive continued. Operations to audit public investments implementation were intensified and culminated in sanctions against some presumed dishonest authorizing officers.
- ü The reduction of hunger also depends on the improvement of agricultural production. In this perspective, during 2008, the State granted a subsidy of CFAF 500,000 to each of the identified groups of maize farmers. Furthermore, a thrust fund for agro-pastoral production was created and endowed with over CFAF 5 billion. Also, the poultry farming sub-sector was supported to the tune of CFAF 1.2 billion.
- ü At the sanitary level, over 4.5 million children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during a free national immunization campaign. In addition, 13,000 additional HIV/AIDS patients were treated and 15,300 community

relays trained to diagnose and treat simple malaria attacks using artesimine-based therapeutic combinations.

- ü As concerns education, 5,525 primary school teachers were contractualized and 1,500 new classrooms built and equipped with desks. Also, 13 nursery school blocks and 100 latrine blocks were constructed. Furthermore, the town of Maroua hosted the seventh State University.
- ü In terms of energy and water, two new power generation plants were created, notably, the Kribi Power Development Company (KPDC), the launch of works of the Yassa heavy fuel plant (Douala), the electrification of 162 localities in the country, the sinking of 425 new bore holes and the start of construction of a new water treatment station at Ayatto.

Over 9,500 'temporary' workers were contractualized in the Public Service.

Socially, Cameroon witnessed a popular uprising in February 2008 linked to the high cost of living. The President of the Republic responded by taking steps to improve the living conditions of workers: the monthly basic salary and housing allowances of civil and military staff were increased by 15% and 20% respectively. Similarly, the Minimum Inter-professional Wage (SMIG) was raised by 19% from CFAF 23 500 to 28 000. Fuel prices at filling stations were frozen, leading to a State subsidy to SONARA.

Moreover, the effects of the global financial and economic crisis began being felt in the country in the fourth quarter of 2008.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MDG 1: ELIMINATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER



Picture 2: Millet farm in the northern part of Cameroon

Poverty may have three different dimensions namely, income poverty or monetary poverty, poverty arising from insecurity or vulnerability, and exclusion or subjective poverty. Under MDG 1, poverty is perceived and monitored from a monetary standpoint. It is the situation of an individual who lacks the material and financial resources to satisfy his basic needs. The other forms of poverty are dealt with under other MDGs.

In 1990, 45% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa lived in poverty. In light of the efforts made by Governments and development partners, it was planned to reduce this level to 37 percent by 2015.

Hunger, which is a direct consequence of poverty, still affects many in Cameroon, particularly children whose growth requires a balanced and regular diet. Yet, every human being, wherever they are on the national territory, aspires to better living conditions and is entitled thereto.

Aware of this situation and of its responsibilities, Government continues to prioritize actions aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger. The strategies for implementing such actions are contained in the first and second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP).

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the percentage of the population living below the poverty line

Trend and situation

The ECAM3 survey carried out in 2007 estimates that the minimum amount necessary to satisfy the basic needs of an adult individual stands at CFAF 738 per day, that is, about CFAF 22 454 per month. Such amount includes not only the individual's final consumption, but also any other form of consumption in kind.

The poverty rate or incidence, which is the percentage of the population living below the poverty line, virtually remained stable between the two years, thus indicating an increase in the number of poor people, by the simple mechanical fact of population growth. Although the economy has picked up and Government is striving to reduce unemployment through recruitments into the Public Service, 40% of Cameroonians, or 7 million individuals, continue to be poor. This trend however presents major

regional disparities. Indeed, except for the Adamawa, East, Far North and North regions where the number of poor people increased, the situation in all the other regions is different, with markedly significant performances in the two major cities of Douala and Yaounde.

The poverty depth and severity, like its incidence, remained stable during the period under review. The situation however worsened in the North and Far North regions, due to the very limited income of the active working population. In Yaounde and Douala, the city dwellers clearly live under better conditions because of the great wealth generated by formal and informal urban jobs.

Table 1: Trends of the incidence, depth and severity of poverty since 2001

	Poverty rate (in %)		Profoundness of poverty (in %)		Severity of poverty (in %)	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
Yaounde	13.3	5.9	2.7	1.0	0.9	0.2
Douala	10.9	5.5	2.1	0.9	0.7	0.2
Adamawa	48.4	52.9	15.4	14.5	6.4	5.4
Centre	48.2	41.2	15.0	9.5	6.6	3.1
East	44.0	50.4	15.4	15.7	6.7	6.2
Far North	56.3	65.9	18.8	24.6	8.2	11.2
Littoral	35.5	30.8	10.1	7.7	4.2	2.7
North	50.1	63.7	15.5	21.0	6.4	8.6
North West	52.5	51.0	20.9	16.6	10.7	6.8
West	40.3	28.9	11.1	6.6	4.2	2.3
South	31.5	29.3	7.4	7.4	2.4	2.6
South West	33.8	27.5	10.5	6.9	4.5	2.5
Cameroon	40.2	39.9	12.8	12.3	5.6	5.0

Source: ECAM 2(2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

The share of the poorest five percent of the population in total consumption gives us an idea of the inequalities in the distribution of the people's wealth. Except for the South region, this indicator was on the increase between 2001 and 2007, indicating that inequalities tend to reduce. However, much still needs to be done, for, the poorest 20 percent of the population got only 6.4% of national revenue in 2007, which is very low.

Table 2: Share of the poorest five percent of the population in total consumption (%)

	2001	2007
Douala	6.5	7.8
Yaounde	6.3	8.0
Adamawa	7.6	8.1
Centre	7.3	9.6
East	7.1	8.2
Far North	7.9	8.1
Littoral	7.1	8.4
North	7.3	8.3
North-West	5.7	7.1
Ouest	8.3	8.7
South	8.5	7.6
South-West	6.4	7.4
Cameroon	6.2	6.4

Source: ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM 3(2007)

Government has as goal to reduce poverty from 53.5% in 1996 to 25.2% by 2015. Economic growth – the main lever of such efforts – will

have to be quite robust (6 to 7 percent per year) until the target date. At mid-way point, poverty has dropped from 53.5 to 39.9%, representing a drop of 25 points. Attainment of the set goal requires a 15% drop between 2007 and 2015, that is, a little more effort than during the first period.

Attainment of this goal is less likely.

Actions to be undertaken

To attain this goal, Government should undertake the following actions:

- Implement major rural and road infrastructure development projects, with special emphasis on rural roads to enhance economic growth;
- Continue to streamline public finance management ;
- Continue to promote domestic and foreign investments capable of creating new jobs;
- Continue to control the prices of staple goods on the market in order to contain inflation;
- Pursue recruitment into the various corps of the Public Service;
- Pursue the implementation of integration programmes into the mainstream of the economy;
- Significantly raise the salaries of State Employees;
- Raise the minimum inter-professional wage.

Target 2: Halve the percentage of the population suffering from hunger between 1990 and 2015

Trend and situation

The goal of halving the percentage of Cameroonians suffering from hunger came as a response to the difficulties many people had to feed themselves conveniently. With particular regard to children below 5 years, malnutrition may cause serious diseases and portend a high risk of death.

As part of efforts to guarantee food security and self-sufficiency, Government set up several support and guidance bodies for social and development stakeholders. The measures taken have made it possible to provide the people with improved seeds, suitable agricultural equipment and, especially, with appropriate training.

Despite progress made, the nutritional status of under-5 children remains a source of concern. Indeed, the EDS-II, EDS-III and MICS 2006 surveys reveal that the percentage of underweight under-5 children was 18.1% in 2004 and 19.3% in 2006 ; though this shows an improvement compared to 1998 when this indicator was estimated at 22.2%, great efforts have to be made if we intend to bring down this indicator to 8% by 2015.

Table 3: Percentage of under-5 children suffering from underweight				
	2004		2006	
	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe
Yaounde	5.1	0.0	5.0	0.7
Douala	3.9	0.0	6.4	1.2
Adamawa	15.6	3.0	19.1	3.2
Centre	7.9	1.6	9.6	1.5
East	17.7	3.8	19.1	3.5
Far North	35.7	7.8	36.4	11.0
Littoral	7.9	1.7	8.8	1.2
North	28.2	7.9	35.7	14.6
North-West	13.6	3.2	12.1	3.1
West	11.4	1.4	10.1	1.3
South	12.8	2.5	14.3	3.7
South-West	13.7	3.0	18.1	3.3
Cameroon	18.1	3.9	19.3	5.2

Source: EDS3 (2004) & MICS3 (2006)

Actions to be undertaken

Measures have to be stronger in the three northern regions of the country with the most disturbing results. Though there is very strong pastoral activity in the three regions, their climatic conditions are not always suitable for the cultivation of certain crops, thus necessitating supply of their market with products from the southern part of the country. To reduce the percentage of the population suffering from hunger, Government shall:

- on the one hand, improve agro-pastoral production through provision of assistance to producers in general and especially to peasants as was the case for maize producers in 2008 and, on the other hand, through development of irrigation projects in the northern part of the country similar to the Mtwango in Tanzania that enabled that country to increase its agricultural production;
- Promote access to the main factors of production, particularly to land and good quality agricultural inputs;
- Give parents greater possibilities to better nourish their children, particularly by raising the salaries of those in employment, creating decent and well remunerated jobs.

MDG 2: PROVIDE PRIMARY EDUCATION TO ALL

Primary education is a very important stage in the education of the young child. Any learner who has gone through this cycle correctly should be able to read,

write and count. MDG 2 aims to provide primary education to all children aged 6 – 11 years by 2015.

Target 3: Offer all children, both boys and girls, the means of completing a full cycle of primary education

Trend and situation

Completion of a primary education cycle by all children, both boys and girls, pre-supposes various aspects:

- i) Access to school by all;
- ii) School attendance by the children enrolled;
- iii) Academic performances (assessed for those who reach sixth year of study).

The net attendance rate for children aged 6-11 years remained almost stable between 2001 (75.2%) and 2007 (75.5%). However, it is interesting to note regarding the regions, that except for Adamawa, the northern part of the country recorded significant progress. Such good performance is due in part to targeted policies aimed at improving access through programmes supported by Government and its technical and financial partners. (TFP)

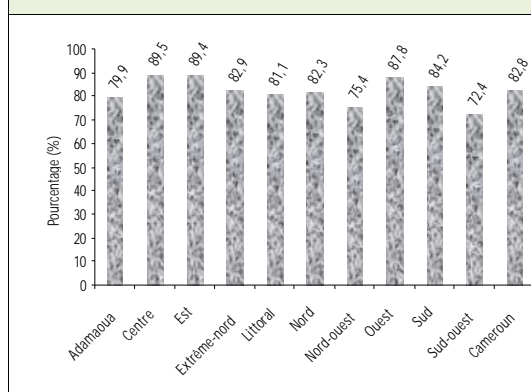
Table 4: Net primary education rate (6-11 years)

	2001	2007
Yaounde	88.9	88.0
Douala	93.7	87.4
Adamawa	57.8	60.0
Centre	87.9	92.4
East	76.4	70.8
Far North	41.4	53.0
Littoral	91.2	90.9
North	50.5	60.2
North West	87.6	83.4
West	91.8	90.2
South	87.2	88.8
South-West	88.4	85.3
Cameroon	75.2	75.5

Source: ECAM2 (2001) and ECAM3 (2007)

It should be noted that this indicator hides a number of disparities in the net school attendance rate, and is unfortunately available only for 2008, as can be seen on the chart below:

Chart 1: Net school attendance rate per region in 2007



Source: School location map 2007 MINEDUB

Considered as the indicator of progress towards achieving the goal of primary education for all, the completion rate presented in the chart below brings out the following trends:

From 2001 to 2007, this rate moved up from 59.1 to 71.5%, representing a growth rate of 21% for the period under consideration.

Table 5: Completion rate in the primary cycle

Academic years		
2000/2001	Girls	-
	Girls and boys	59.1
2003/2004	Girls	49.8
	Girls and boys	57.9
2006/2007	Girls	59.5
	Girls and boys	64.3
2007/2008	Girls	65.3
	Girls and boys	71.5

Sources: School location maps MINEDUC 2001, 2004, MINEDUB 2006 and 2008

However, some gender disparities persist. We see during the 2007/2008 academic year that for every five boys that complete the primary cycle, only four girls do same.

The education system in Cameroon thus provides adequate access to school though with a low completion rate in the primary cycle, particularly in the Francophone sub-system

Table 6: Literacy rate for youths aged 15-24 years

	2001	2007
Yaounde	97.1	98.4
Douala	98.2	97.9
Adamawa	57.3	59.5
Centre	96.0	97.6
East	79.6	72.6
Far North	41.3	47.5
Littoral	95.7	97.4
Nord	46.9	58.4
North West	94.1	93.4
West	97.2	98.0
South	98.8	96.7
South West	94.2	96.7
Cameroon	82.3	83.1

Source : ECAM 2(2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

The literacy rate for youths aged 15-24 years was globally stable between 2001 and 2007. More than 4 youths in 5 are literate. Only the three northern regions of the country and the East region post performances that fall far short of national averages. Many youths in these regions are oriented towards farmwork and animal husbandry, considered as gainful in the short-term. Besides, the periods of high temperatures in the North and Far North regions do not foster regular attendance.

Actions to be undertaken

To improve these trends, Government should:

- Ensure compliance with instruments governing PTAs;
- Identify and implement proximity measures capable of stimulating continued schooling for the girl child in ZEP rural areas and sensitize teachers and other members of the education family;
- Build houses for head teachers in remote rural areas, water points and duty houses;
- Transform teacher training colleges in regional headquarters into further training centres for teachers and local pedagogic educators;
- Systematize initial and continuous training of the 13 500 head teachers and 65 000 teachers under contract in

public and private schools and promote competence-based assessment;

- Recruit more teachers;
- Provide 4 500 000 school textbooks to children in disadvantaged areas ;
- Equip all classrooms with desks ;
- Distribute freely school textbooks to pupils and children of poor parents, in order to improve the quality of education;
- Encourage the development of the private sector by facilitating the creation of new schools and granting sufficient subsidies;
- Encourage teachers to work in rural areas by building them duty houses and improving their working environment;
- Continue non-stop sensitization of the population about the importance of education, particularly in rural areas in the northern part of the country and in the East region;
- Adapt school curricula to the climate in the northern part of the country while at the same time encouraging the planting of trees around school campuses.

MDG 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Increasingly, politicians are striving to promote gender equality as a means of fully tapping from human resources and balance fundamental rights.

Compliance with these universal principles requires, in each region, a specific approach consistent with natural inequality phenomena at birth, on the one hand, and with the traditions and customs of many tribes, on the other hand.

Target 4: Eliminate gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by 2005 if possible and at all levels of education by 2015 at the latest

Trend and situation

Differences in school attendance between boys and girls are quite perceptible in Cameroon. Such situation is due to the fact that many parents continue to give greater priority to the education of boys for their own specific cultural and anthropological reasons. Reversing this trend remains a major challenge for the State that has to take measures to encourage parents to give their daughters the same opportunities they give the boys in terms of education.

Table 7 : Boy/girl parity index in primary and secondary education				
	Primary		Secondary	
	2001	2007	2001	2007
Yaounde	0.99	0.99	1.08	1.02
Douala	1.00	1.07	1.07	1.02
Adamawa	0.84	0.64	0.74	0.45
Centre	1.04	0.98	1.13	0.75
East	1.03	0.99	0.70	0.65
Far North	0.75	0.76	0.40	0.54
Littoral	0.99	1.05	1.02	1.12
North	0.76	0.86	0.53	0.54
North West	0.96	1.00	1.16	1.06
West	1.00	1.00	0.98	0.97
South	0.94	0.96	0.82	0.88
South West	0.94	1.06	0.90	0.91
Cameroon	0.94	0.95	0.95	0.86

Source: ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

The boy/girl parity index in primary education in Cameroon was on the whole stable between 2001 and 2007 for the various regions. Extreme values were recorded in the Adamawa, North and South West regions. At national level, the figures stand at 95 girls for every 100 boys.

At the secondary level, in addition to Douala and Yaounde, one region in every two experienced a drop in the parity index between 2001 and 2007.

Such decline was more pronounced in the Adamawa and Centre regions. The repercussion

at national level is perceptible. A drop of 9.5% in the index was recorded in the period under review.

It is important to point out the good performance of the Far North region which recorded a positive 35% variation in the boy/girl index in secondary education between 2001 and 2007.

Table 8: Literacy rate among women aged 15-24 years compared to the men

	2001	2007
Yaounde	1.00	0.98
Douala	0.98	1.01
Adamawa	0.67	0.61
Centre	1.00	1.01
East	0.85	0.80
Far North	0.45	0.53
Littoral	0.99	0.99
North	0.48	0.55
North West	0.93	0.97
West	0.99	0.99
South	0.99	1.02
South West	0.99	0.97
Cameroon	0.88	0.87

Source: ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

Like for the boy/girl parity index in primary education, no significant change was recorded between 2001 and 2007 in any of the regions in the literacy rate of women aged 15-24 years compared to boys. Efforts made by Government through sensitization of parents about education of their girl children did not yield fruit, especially in the northern part of the country where there is still a high level of illiteracy among girls within the age bracket of 15-24 years compared to the boys.

Table 9: Percentage of women within the age bracket of 15-64 years earning wages in the non-agricultural sector

	2001	2007
Yaounde	40.0	33.4
Douala	30.3	26.3
Adamawa	10.0	6.7
Centre	25.1	20.7
East	37.9	17.6
Far North	4.2	3.5
Littoral	25.3	21.8
North	10.1	7.4
North West	21.2	21.4
West	22.0	22.1
South	22.7	26.4
South West	37.1	20.9
Cameroon	25.3	21.4

Source : ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

The empowerment of women would naturally be achieved through gainful employment in all sectors. In rural areas, women are engaged mostly in agriculture alongside the men.

Concerning those women earning a wage in the secondary and tertiary sectors, one notices that there was only 1 woman in 4 in 2001 and a little less in 2007. The increase in the population of women of working age and the stagnation of staff numbers due to difficulties impeding recruitment of young people, are the main causes of such general decline.

At the political level, notwithstanding some improvements, women's representation remains perceptibly low. This was reflected in the membership of the National Assembly during the last two elections. In the ongoing legislature (2007-2012), there are 25 women out of 180 members of parliament, accounting for 13.9% of the whole house.

We thus note an improvement of nearly 4% between the last two legislative elections. It is worth noting that the efforts made by the latter allowed for improvement of women's representativeness that increased from 5.2% to 10.6%.

Table 10: Percentage of seats held by women at the National Assembly

	Term 2002/2007	Term 2007/2012
Adamawa	0/10	0/10
Centre	4/28	5/28
East	2/11	2/11
Far North	1/29	2/29
Littoral	4/19	3/18
North	0/12	0/12
North West	0/20	1/20
West	3/25	5/25
South	1/11	3/11
South West	4/15	2/15
Total (%)	19/180	25/180

Source : Statistical Directory 2006 and 2007

While the trend remains upward, the goal of equality appears realistic in primary education, likely in secondary education, uncertain in higher education and very remote on the political arena.

Actions to be undertaken

To address the situation, Government must:

- Strengthen the education and training of women at all levels of education, particularly at the secondary and higher levels. Special emphasis shall have to be laid on the three northern regions whose performances fall below the national average;
- Strengthen the legal framework in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women compared to men;
- Step up sensitization of parents on the need to provide equal education opportunities for their boys and girl children;
- Promote women's access to non-agricultural salaried employment in both the public and private sectors;
- Encourage women to participate in political decision-making and management arenas, in particular, by seeking elective positions.

MDG 4: REDUCE MORTALITY AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

Given that a good development strategy is based among other things on human capital, the survival of under-5 children remains a source of worry, especially as the increase in mortality

rate undermines the chances of acquiring education and consequently of emerging from the vicious circle of poverty.



Picture 3: Medical care in Cameroon

Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the mortality rate among under-5 children

Trend and situation

In October 2001, Government adopted the health sector strategy whose goal is to reduce by at least 1/3 by 2010 global morbidity and mortality of the most vulnerable population groups. The strategy was revised in 2007 after a mid-term review that revealed mitigated results. The new strategy is based on the multi-year plan (2008-2013). One of the pillars of the sector strategy is the Extended Programme of Immunization (EPI¹), which gives priority to protection of children aged 0 to 11 months and 1 to 5 years against diseases such as diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, hepatitis, yellow fever, poliomyelitis and measles.

Unfortunately, in every one thousand live births, over a hundred die before the age of five. The value of this indicator dropped from 146 children in one thousand in 1998 to 144 children in one thousand in 2004. By 2015, this rate should rise to 75.8 percent to permit attainment of the target referred to above; which appears very unlikely.

Table 11: Mortality trends among children aged less than 5 (in ‰)			
	1991	1998	2004
Yaounde	103.2	91.3	112.0
Douala	103.2	91.3	75.0
Adamawa	199.2	202.9	136.0
Centre	124.2	146.3	120.0
East	124.2	146.3	187.0
Far North	199.2	202.9	186.0
Littoral	109.3	91.6	113.0
North	199.2	202.9	205.0
North West	88.8	98.4	99.0
West	109.3	91.6	126.0
South	124.2	146.3	154.0
South West	88.8	98.4	144.0
Cameroon	144.1	146.3	144.0

Source: EDS1 (1991), EDS2 (1998) & EDS3 (2004)

Between 1998 and 2004, there was a significant drop in the infant-juvenile mortality rate (under-5 children), which however increased from 16.3 to 66.9 points respectively in the Douala and Adamawa zones. Such improvement is also observable in the Centre and Far North regions.

However, the situation remains preoccupying in other regions, particularly in the East (+40.7 points) and the South West (+45.6).

Analysis of table 11 reveals that there was a slight drop in infant mortality between 1998 and 2004. Indeed, for every 1000 births, there were 80 deaths in 1998 as against 74 in 2004. Such trend remains valid in Douala and in the Adamawa, Centre and Far North regions.

By contrast, we notice an upturn in the mortality of children aged less than 1 year (infant

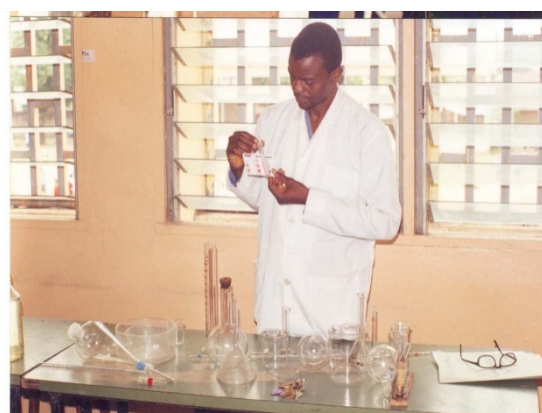
¹ EPI target: Raise routine vaccination coverage rate to 90% at country level, with at least 80% coverage in every district for all EPI antigens and reduce measles-related mortality by 90% globally compared to 2000.

mortality) in Yaounde and in the East, Littoral, North, West and South West regions.

Table 12: Infant mortality trends (less than one year)

	1991	1998	2004
Yaounde	67.2	51.5	63
Douala	67.2	51.5	48
Adamawa	109.4	103.2	79
Centre	75.4	87	77
East	75.4	87	111
Far North	109.4	103.2	91
Littoral	57.6	52.5	63
North	109.4	103.2	106
North West	44.5	55.9	56
West	57.6	52.5	75
South	75.4	87.0	87
South West	44.5	55.9	86
Cameroon	80.5	79.8	74

Source: EDS 1, 2 & 3



Picture 4: Medical Laboratory in Cameroon

Thanks to intensification and regular organization of vaccination campaigns by the Ministry of Public Health for a number of years now, vaccination coverage against measles for children aged below one year improved significantly.

According to the EDS III and MICS II surveys carried out in 2004 and 2006 respectively, the percentage of children vaccinated against measles rose from 64.8 percent in 2004 to 78.8 percent in 2006. Such is the situation in all the regions except in the West where there is near-stability of the percentage of children vaccinated against measles.

Table 13: Percentage of children aged one year (12 to 23 months) vaccinated against measles

	2004	2006
Yaounde	80.4	86.2
Douala	82.4	91.1
Adamawa	60.8	74.2
Centre	57.1	84.9
East	62.3	73.0
Far North	60.1	66.3
Littoral	77.1	88.6
North	27.0	75.7
North West	77.2	96.4
West	80.1	79.3
South	75.8	78.7
South West	63.1	82.2
Cameroon	64.8	78.8

Source : EDS 3 & MICS 2

In light of the results above, significant efforts still have to be made to reach the target in 2015.

Actions to be undertaken within the framework of the health sector strategy

The actions undertaken so far by public authorities have to be strengthened.

- Intensify the Extended Programme of Immunization;
- Improve vaccination coverage for pregnant women;
- Supply hospitals with vaccines;
- Step up the distribution of treated bed-nets;
- Encourage breast feeding;
- Strengthen the technical support unit of hospitals;
- Encourage specialization in paediatrics;
- Enhance the staffing situation of hospitals and health centres by recruiting qualified staff;
- Permanently sensitize health personnel about the need to comply with professional ethics;
- Facilitate access to pharmaceutical products;
- Improve hygienic conditions in households.

MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Improvement of maternal health is a major thrust of the reproductive health programme, which is one of the pillars of the health sector strategy.

This indeed entails, as the message says, avoiding loss of life during child-birth.

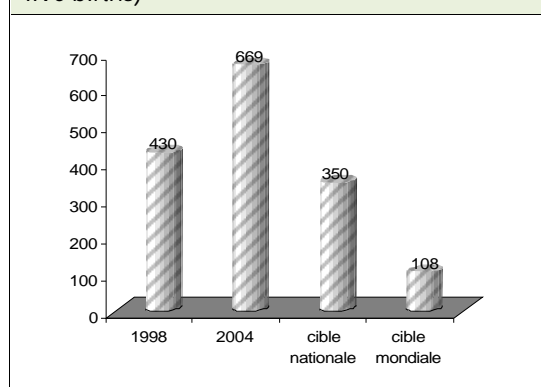
Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate

Trend and situation

Maternal mortality englobes all deaths related to pregnancy, child birth and its aftermath. Government launched the "reproductive health" programme which lays special emphasis on the health of mothers, adolescents and the elderly. Maternal health is still affected at the national level by complications related to numerous or closely spaced pregnancies, limited acces to reproductive healthcare and marginal use of contraceptive methods.

To date, many women continue to die in child birth. Between 1998 and 2004, the maternal mortality rate for the entire country increased from 430 to 669 deaths per 100,000 live births. Similarly, in 2006, MICS3 revealed that nearly 75% of maternal deaths occurred during child birth and during the postpartum period.

Chart 2: Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)



Source: EDS2 (1998) & EDS3 (2004)

This situation could be explained by the shortage of qualified healthcare personnel, the emergence of numerous diseases such as AIDS, and the state of poverty of the people. Indeed, table 13 reveals that the proportion of deliveries attended by a qualified health personnel declined between 2004 and 2006. At country level, it dropped by almost 3 points, from 61.8% in 2004 to 58.9% in 2006. This situation again highlights the fact that pregnant women continued to receive delivery assistance in 2006 either from traditional birth attendants (10%)

or from parents/friends (21%). This phenomenon is observed more in the northern and East regions, where it is explained by the burden of traditions and sparsely populated nature of the area.

Table 14: Proportion of deliveries attended by skilled healthcare personnel

	2004	2006
Yaounde	94.2	96.5
Douala	97.1	93.6
Adamawa	37.1	40.9
Centre	74.2	71.9
East	47.7	27.5
Far-North	26.5	19.4
Littoral	93.8	92.1
North	22.3	29.3
North-West	87.5	79.7
West	93.3	94.7
South	70.6	57.9
South-West	77.8	69.6
Cameroon	61.8	58.9

Source: EDS3 (2004) & MICS3 (2006)

Given this trend and the reasons put forward, the chances of achieving this goal are compromised.

Actions to be taken as part of reproductive health

For the situation to be improved upon, efforts still need to be made, mostly in terms of sensitizing men and women on the risks of unmonitored pregnancy. Furthermore,

- health centres should be brought closer to the people in order to facilitate women's access to prenatal care during pregnancy and to emergency care in case of complications;
- health centres should be provided with means of transport to evacuate pregnant women to obstetrical care centres in case of emergency;
- IEC activities should be strengthened with a view to raising public awareness on the risks of unwanted and early pregnancies as well as abortions.

MDG 6: FIGHT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER MAJOR DISEASES

The fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases is Government's priority. In fact, the Government created the National AIDS Control Committee (NACC) to fight this scourge, and in 2001, embarked on formulating the first AIDS control sector plans. Partnership conventions were

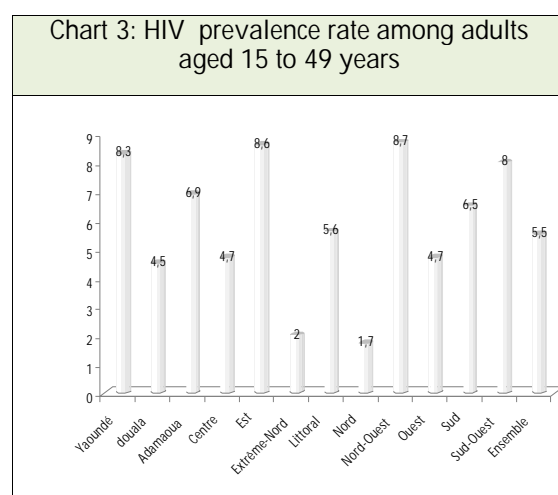
signed with the private sector. Other structures also exist that accompany Government in this fight, notably the Circle of Friends of Cameroon (CERAC) through the Chantal Biya International Reference Centre for Research on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment (CBIRC).

Target 7: Stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, by 2015, and start reversing the trend

Trend and situation

In Cameroon, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among adults aged 15-49 years was estimated at 5.5% in 2004, of which 6.8% among women and 4.1% among men. The HIV infection ratio of 170 women to 100 men reveals that sexually active women are more vulnerable than men.

This prevalence rate is higher in Yaoundé and the Adamawa, East, North-West, South and South-West regions. Nevertheless, two regions (Far-North and North) stand out from the others with a low seroprevalence rate.



Source: EDS3 (2004)

The major source of HIV/AIDS transmission identified is unprotected sex. The Population and Health Survey conducted in 2004 shows that on the whole, and regardless of regions, women take less risks than men in sexual intercourse. Indeed, about one woman in three had unprotected sex during the 2003-2004 period, compared to about two in three men.

Table 15: Proportion of persons who had unprotected sexual intercourse during the 2003-2004 period		
	Women	Men
Yaounde	47.8	75.9
douala	46.0	75.2
Adamawa	11.8	51.4
Centre	41.1	69.3
East	32.9	68.1
Far-North	3.4	29.8
Littoral	43.5	76.9
North	3.0	31.1
North-West	30.7	67.4
West	30.0	64.4
South	40.9	76.0
South-West	41.1	62.6
Cameroon	28.7	61.9

Source: EDS3 (2004)

With regard to prevention, the use of condoms during sex is the most popularized practice, in the absence of abstinence and fidelity to one partner. The proportion of men aged 15-24 years who used condom during their first sexual intercourse is higher than that of women (27% compared to 18%).

Furthermore, despite awareness-raising efforts between 2004 and 2006, the rate of condom use by women and men during unsafe sexual intercourse was low. Among young persons who had unsafe sexual intercourse, 47% of women used condom, compared to 57% of men. Moreover, the risk of infection is higher in rural than in urban areas. In fact, there is less use of condoms during high-risk sex.

Table 16: Proportion of young persons aged 15-24 who had high-risk sexual intercourse and who used a condom during the 2003-2004 period		
	Women	Men
Yaounde/ Douala	58.1	73.8
Urban	53.6	65.7
Rural	27.1	39.9
Cameroon	46.5	57.4

Source: EDS3 (2004)

Pending subsequent assessment of the seroprevalence rate at the national level, hopes for reversing the trend observed in 2004 are founded on sensitization actions undertaken by government, NGOs and associations, with the support of partners.

Actions to be carried out

- Promote less risky sexual behaviour through abstinence, fidelity to one's partner or the use of condoms and other contraceptives;

Target 8: Having halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Trend and situation

Despite enormous human and material resources invested in malaria control, this disease remains the major cause of morbidity and mortality, notably among women and children. However, measures implemented by government as from 2001 have helped to curb the disease in the greater North and East regions.

Globally, the malaria prevalence rate dropped from 40% in 2004 to 15% in 2005, that is, a net drop of 25 points. This outcome should not however overshadow the poor results recorded, especially in the Littoral (50% to 21%), West (44.5% to 28%) and the South (31% to 21%).

	2004	2005
Adamawa	44.7	11.0
Centre	37.3	/
East	35.0	4.0
Far-North	36.4	11.0
Littoral	50.0	21.0
North	35.5	6.0
North-West	44.3	20.0
West	44.5	28.0
South	31.0	21.0
South-West	41.6	15.0
National	40.0	15.0

Source: MINSANTE

To reverse this trend, Government has taken measures, especially at the institutional and infrastructural levels.

Thus, it has created within the Ministry of Public Health, a programme with regional units, aimed at the efficient organisation of malaria control.

At the level of infrastructure, the State undertook to rehabilitate and build and equip health districts, and provide them with skilled health personnel to enable them render better community services.

- Open more AIDS patients treatment centres;
- Reduce the cost of treatment by stepping up access to drugs for the poorest segments of the population;
- Encourage medical research with a view to halting the renewed outbreak of deadly diseases such as AIDS and malaria.

As concerns malaria control, notably prevention, the State will continue distributing insecticide-treated bed nets to pregnant women and under-five children. Moreover, campaigns shall be organized to raise public awareness on sanitation in their living environment. Special emphasis shall be laid on monitoring pregnant women during pregnancy and after delivery, to protect them against malaria.

The re-emergence of tuberculosis sources has preoccupied public authorities for quite some time now. This disease, to which an entire national programme has been devoted, is part of government's public health priorities.

Other erstwhile eradicated diseases like leprosy and cholera are now re-emerging. In light of these trends, the attainment of MDG 6 seems to be highly jeopardized.

Actions to be undertaken

Without departing from the public health goals, Government should:

- Continue to spur the people - through periodic campaigns - to demand for insecticide-treated mosquito nets, ;
- Continue to distribute mosquito nets to the most vulnerable segments, in particular, pregnant women and under-five children;
- Institute intra-house spraying campaign especially in high risk areas;
- Create more centres to train the community on the use of mosquito nets;
- Encourage preventive treatment through the taking of malaria drugs, especially among pregnant women;

- Intensify immunization campaigns for children against meningitis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, tuberculosis, etc.;
- Reduce treatment cost by promoting access to drugs for the poorest segment of the population;
- Encourage medical research with a view to halting the re-emergence of the most deadly diseases such as malaria and AIDS.

MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Picture 5: Tropical rainforest in Cameroon

The protection and promotion of a sound and sustainable environment remains a major concern of the Cameroon government. The creation of a ministry specifically in charge of the environment and nature protection in 2004 attests to this. The notion of environmental sustainability hinges on the improvement of the people's living environment through the proper management of biodiversity.

The proper management of biodiversity can be achieved through a reduction in the loss of

environmental resources, the constant supply of potable water to the people, sanitation in their living environment and secure housing. It is important, at this juncture, to state the difference between green environment, which refers to the forest and biodiversity, and grey environment, which refers to infrastructure (potable water supply, providing sanitation services in the living environment and ensuring secure housing).

Target 9: Incorporate sustainable development principles into country policies and reverse the loss of environmental resources**Trend and situation**

In the organization of the Government in 2004, environmental management was prioritized through the creation of the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, one of whose main duties is to contribute to fighting against environmental resources loss. To discharge these duties, Government adhered to several international legal instruments on the environment, notably the Biodiversity Convention and the United Nations Framework

Convention on climate change, as well as its protocol adopted in Kyoto (signed on 28 August 2002). In 2006, Government also reviewed the organization and functioning of the Committee charged with validating all environmental studies on major projects. Furthermore, any development project to be implemented in the national territory must henceforth incorporate environmental assessment to ensure sustainability.

Table 18: Proportion of protected areas to protect biodiversity

	2000	2007
Adamawa	0.0	2.4
Centre	0.0	13.4
East	4.8	31.4
Far-North	5.4	5.1
Littoral	8.1	8.1
North	47.0	49.7
North-West	0.3	0.5
West	0.5	0.5
South	7.0	13.0
South-West	7.8	8.8
Total	13.0	18.8

Source: Statistical Yearbook 2000 and 2008

Protected areas, which include zoological gardens, national parks, wildlife reserves, hunting areas or sanctuaries were increased between 2000 and 2007 by ministerial decisions. Estimated at 61,750 Km² and accounting for 13% of the national territory in 2000, protected areas in 2007 were evaluated at about 89,300 km², that is, about one-fifth (1/5) of the national surface area.

Though the proportion of protected areas is on the increase, the use of biomass and charcoal in households did not increase during the 2001-2007 period. The target set for 2015 is 42.2%, but about 83% of the population use solid fuels and are found mostly in rural areas (94%). Yet, the use of solid fuels (biomass and charcoal) has a destructive effect on environmental resources and contributes to pollution.

Actions to be undertaken

- Set up a coordination framework on environment and climate change;
- Provide the people with the means to enable them reduce the use of solid fuels, by giving priority to new forms of energy, especially cooking gas and improved hearths;

This means an increase in tourist and leisure spaces and portrays efforts made to maintain ecological balance.

New protected areas are found mostly in the East, Centre and South regions.

Table 19: Proportion of the population using solid fuels

	2001	2007
Yaoundé	32.7	32.2
Douala	40.1	46.9
Adamawa	92.3	94.8
Centre	92.4	91.7
East	95.4	95.7
Far-North	99.5	97.2
Littoral	81.5	84.8
North	94.9	97.8
North-West	95.7	94.4
West	93.8	92.3
South	83.4	88.3
South-West	79.1	84.4
Cameroon	82.4	82.9

Source: ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

Based on certain global indicators, Cameroon remains a major reserve of global biodiversity. Various projects on the rational management of its tropical forest through certification increasingly form part of the daily lives of its citizens. The attainment of this target doesn't seem to be a distant possibility.

- Implement the environmental management and nature protection policy through the classification of certain sites, in keeping with the implementation principles of the RAMSAR Convention on wetlands, notably the Ebogo site (towards Mbalmayo) and the Cameroonian section of Lake Chad;

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Trend and situation

The following can be considered as (improved) potable water sources: taps and standpipes, pump-operated wells (boreholes), protected wells or springs.

Table 20: Proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water		
	2001	2007
Yaounde	50.7	80.8
Douala	63.1	82.7
Adamawa	33.5	38.8
Centre	16.2	35.7
East	11.7	19.6
Far-North	40.6	29.4
Littoral	49.9	55.9
North	27.2	23.1
North-West	47.6	50.4
West	24.0	29.6
South	27.0	34.7
South-West	63.6	43.8
Cameroon	40.6	43.9

Source: ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

In Cameroon, it is hoped that at least 72% of the population will have access to drinking water by 2015. In 2001, 40.6% of the population had access to drinking water, that is, 31.5% behind that goal. In 2007, only 44 in every 100 persons had access to these sources, that is, an increased coverage rate of 3.3 points, compared to 2001, for a period of 6 years. To meet the set target, Cameroon must make yearly efforts to step up the figure to 3.5 points, which is unlikely, if the current trend is not reversed.

Excluding the cities of Douala and Yaoundé, wherein only 20% of the population lack access

Country target: By 2020, significantly improve the housing situation of Cameroonians

Trend and situation

Improving the housing situation presupposes ensuring the legal (ownership certificate) and physical security of houses occupied in terms of

to an improved water source, all the other regions require rapid intervention from the State and its development partners. Special attention must be paid to the East, North, Far-North and West regions where there is considerable lack of access to drinking water. In fact, 70 to 80% of the population of these regions fetch water from streams, unprotected wells and springs, and other unimproved water sources.



Photo 6: A borehole in Cameroon

Actions to be taken

- Check surface water pollution;
- Build and rehabilitate potable water points (standpipes and boreholes) in the country and bring them closer to the people;
- Implement a public housing construction programme;
- Implement the National Integrated Water and Soils Management Strategy;
- Make operational the Environmental Information System (IES), through the construction of an interconnexion network in the ten Regions.

building materials. Sanitation and environmental conditions are also a factor.

Table 21: Proportion of the population with access to a decent toilet

	2001	2007
Yaoundé	79.8	76.0
Douala	76.7	78.0
Adamawa	47.2	24.4
Centre	31.4	37.1
East	33.1	13.7
Far-North	27.2	5.3
Littoral	58.4	53.8
North	27.4	6.0
North-West	27.1	22.4
West	43.5	28.0
South	57.5	30.9
South-West	55.3	29.3
Cameroon	44.7	31.7

Source: ECAM2 (2001) & ECAM3 (2007)

A decent toilet is any modern toilet and any developed latrine. There was a considerable downward trend in the proportion of the population with access to a decent toilet between 2001 and 2007. At the national level, it declined from 44.7% to 31.7%, that is, a 13-point drop. In reality, the population with access to a decent toilet did not vary during the period under review, but due to the population growth recorded between 2001 and 2007, one can understand the general drop in the various proportions. Meanwhile, the target of 17.0% by 2015 has been exceeded considerably.

Table 22: Proportion of the population living in houses built with permanent materials

	2001	2007
Yaoundé	38.7	58.5
Douala	63.7	69.3
Adamawa	7.2	6.4
Centre	14.1	20.2
East	10.9	12.0
Far-North	6.3	6.8
Littoral	32.0	37.0
North	12.1	7.1
North-West	15.1	15.9
West	22.9	25.0
South	12.5	27.0
South-West	35.8	29.2
Cameroon	22.7	25.5

Source: ECAM3 (2007)

Between 2001 and 2007, Cameroon witnessed an improvement in the proportion of the population with access to an improved

sanitation system. One can also note an increase of 23.1% of individuals who have access thereto, that is, about 26 in 100 households.

Three regions in ten are above the national average of the proportion of the population with access to an improved sanitation system, with the best progress recorded in the South-West, North-West and Littoral (45.8%, 34.2% and 32.7%). The Far-North and Centre regions recorded the least progress (11.3% and 12.8% respectively).

Given that the target of 17% by 2015 has already been exceeded, current efforts should be sustained.

Actions to be taken

- Forward plan urbanisation by formulating development plans for cities and towns;
- Implement programmes on: (i) raising awareness on the domestic treatment of water and (ii) civic education;
- Sensitise the people on what has to be done to ensure environmental sustainability;
- Formulate implementing provisions for the framework law on environmental management, notably on pollution and all the other harmful environmental practices;
- Draw up an anti-pollution strategy;
- Strengthen partnership with Regional and Local Authorities (RLA) with a view to promoting a sound environment in towns, by intervening in "operation green towns";
- Monitor the process to create and set up a Climate Change Observatory, a capital imperative in light of the commitment taken by the Head of State at the 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations that convened in September 2007;
- The implementation of the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) through the realization of an "Environment Programme";
- Intensify environmental control and inspection in all sectors of economic activities (industries, trade, industrial, agricultural and forest production ...) in order to ensure mastery of environmental impact.

MDG 8: FORGE A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Cameroon is in partnership with several countries in the world and numerous international bodies. It is a member of CEMAC, ECCAS, the Francophonie and the Commonwealth, among other bodies. As part of this partnership, and through treaties and conventions, it receives

multi-faceted assistance to support its economic and social development efforts. However, this cooperation needs to be strengthened and diversified in a bid to make Cameroon an emerging country by 2035.

Target 16: Formulate and implement strategies that enable young people to find decent work



Picture 7: Yaoundé main market

Trend and situation

	2005	2007
Yaoundé	25.3	27.1
Douala	15.9	26.1
Adamawa	4.1	2.5
Centre	11.7	10.0
East	7.1	2.9
Far-North	0.7	3.5
Littoral	10.6	5.5
North	0.7	3.7
North-West	6.2	3.0
West	3.6	4.1
South	11.7	10.8
South-West	13.9	4.1
National	7.6	8.2

Source: EESI1 (2005) & ECAM3 (2007)

The unemployment rate of young persons of the 15-24 age group in Cameroon increased during the 2005-2007 period, from 7.6% to 8.2%. This unemployment rate reflects the difficulties encountered by young people in finding work, despite Government's efforts to alleviate their

plight. But the definition of unemployment as recommended by ILO seems to be out of step with the reality of the job market in developing countries, and in particular, in Cameroon. Firstly, from the standpoint of activity, the period in reference considered (past 7 days) seems to be too short for temporary activities. In addition, there is no structure that manages jobless persons. It is for this reason that to monitor target 16, it is preferable to focus on underemployment, which takes into account work intensity (weekly duration) and remuneration. The following table shows that averagely, the underemployment rate increased between 2005 and 2007 by more than 10 points. In 2007, more than 8 active young persons in 10 were underemployed. This deplorable situation finds explanation in the survival instinct and the availability of young people to accept any type of job, either motivated by the survival instinct and/or the desire to glean some professional experience which could be used to acquire a decent job in the future.

On the whole, the employment situation of young persons is preoccupying and it seems evident that all objectives related to the improvement of households' living conditions cannot be achieved if the employment problem is not resolved.

Table 24: Global unemployment rate of young persons aged 15-24 years		
	2005	2007
Yaoundé	53.4	81.6
Douala	52.8	68.9
Adamawa	78.1	78.1
Centre	62.1	71.9
East	82.5	82.1
Far-North	89.0	93.4
Littoral	63.9	78.2
North	82.6	93.7
North-West	82.1	93.7
West	79.0	83.5
South	61.2	75.3
South-West	66.2	83.4
National	73.3	84.3

Source: EESI1 (2005), ECAM3 (2007)

Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies to all, especially information and communication technologies

Trend and situation

Between 2001 and 2007, the telecommunications sector, which includes information and communication technologies (ICT), witnessed remarkable development as a result of brisk business done by telephony operators such as CAMTEL, ORANGE and MTN, Internet access providers and enterprises that sell access terminal equipment, as well as ICT training structures. The sector's contribution to Cameroon's GDP increased by 2.9 points, from 1.3% in 2003 to 4.2% in 2007².

The country's third household survey (ECAM3) shows that in 2007, the number of telephone lines was still largely insufficient to meet the people's demand. Apart from the cities of Douala and Yaoundé with about one telephone line per 100 inhabitants, one observes that all the other regions do not have sufficient telephone lines, that is, less than one line per 100 inhabitants.

Table 25: Cameroon media landscape from 2004 to 2008			
	2004	2006	2008
Number of fixed telephone subscribers	78 719	130 694	205 502
Number of mobile telephone subscribers	1 554 836	2 725 043	5 287 322
Proportion of households with a mobile telephone and active SIM card (%)	/	40	64.9
Proportion of households with internet access (%)	1.6	3.98	5.2
Proportion of households with a TV set (%)	/	29	38
Total number of radio stations	37	62	83
public	12	14	16
private	25	48	67

Source: MINPOSTEL, MINCOM, ART, ITU-31 Dec. 2008

²NIS : National provisional accounts, 2007

Table 26: ICT access indicators in 2007

	Number of fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	Number of portable telephones per 100 inhabitants	Number of personal computers per 100 inhabitants
Yaoundé	1.0	44.0	2.4
Douala	0.8	41.9	1.9
Adamawa	0.2	8.4	0.2
Centre	0.1	13.7	0.2
East	0.0	8.1	0.2
Far-North	0.1	3.8	0.0
Littoral	0.1	22.8	0.3
North	0.1	4.9	0.2
North-West	0.1	11.7	0.4
West	0.1	18.3	0.4
South	0.3	15.4	0.3
South-West	0.4	15.9	0.3
National	1	17.1	0.6

Source: ECAM 2007

The same survey reveals that about 17 persons in 100 own a cell phone. People in cities such as Douala and Yaoundé who carry out intense economic activities are well furnished with portable phones: about one inhabitant in 2 has a cell phone. Despite the drop in communication costs, people of the northern and East regions of the country still have limited access to portable telephones. There are about 8 portable telephones per 100 inhabitants in the Adamawa and the East, and 4 to 5 cell phones per 100 inhabitants in the North and Far-North regions.

Meanwhile, it is important to note that, compared to other less affluent African countries, the cost of telephone access is still very high for the average citizen in Cameroon.

Globally, the development of the mobile telephony sector is underpinned by the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector. However, difficulties in having access to the fixed telephone (delays in the process of allocating and installing telephone lines) explain the insufficient supply capacity of the transmission network and the high demand expressed by the people.

Ownership of computers per household, for its part, is relatively low. Indeed, the computer has for a long time been considered as a luxury. The people's growing interest in the use of computers, mostly young workers and students, and the steady fall in prices on the market are an

advantage to be exploited to ultimately improve the people's access to computer technology.

The proportion of households with internet connection increased slightly at the national level. What accounts for this significant trend is really, internet network extension through the actuation of Internet points of presence, the digitization of telephone exchange, and the increase in the number of Internet access providers.

Furthermore, the construction of fibre optics links has helped to increase Internet bandwidth considerably.

Regarding the provision of Internet services, one observes that its development was marked, on the one hand, by an increase in the number of access providers between 2001 and 2007, and on the other hand, by the drop in installation prices and especially the reduction in the tariff per hour of Internet connection in cybercafés. In regional headquarters, tariffs dropped from CFAF500/hour in 2001 to less than CFAF300 in 2007. However, the low proportion of computer ownership and household network connection quality hinder progress in Internet access.

In light of the trend and considering the starting point which was practically nil, the attainment of the target is still very much a distant possibility, though there is remarkable progress.

Actions to be taken

To be able to keep pace sustainably with the popularization of ICTs, Government should:

- Put in place institutions specialised in the funding of profitable projects initiated by young persons with a view to boosting self-employment;
- Encourage public and private enterprises to grant training courses on ICT ownership each year to a greater number of young job seekers to enable them gain experience;
- Develop public access points;
- Create high-tech business zones in towns;
- Continue recruiting into the public service through competitive entrance exams and the signing of contracts for temporary workers;
- Improve the social and financial situation of the people through better education, increase in salary, increase in the Minimum Interprofessional Wage (SMIG) ;
- Further reduce the cost of telephone communication and equipment.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Overview of the situation in terms of progress made towards achieving the MDGs

NO.	Goals	Global and country targets	Will the goal or target be attained?	State of enabling environment
1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day	Unlikely	Average
		Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Unlikely	Average
2	Achieve primary education for all	Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Potentially	Strong
3	Promote gender equality and empower women	Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2015, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Potentially	Strong
4	Reduce child mortality	Target 5: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Unlikely	Weak
5	Improve maternal health	Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate	Unlikely	Weak
6	Fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Target 7: Having halted by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Unlikely	Weak
		Target 8: Having halted by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria	Potentially	Weak
7	Achieve environmental sustainability	Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Unlikely	Average
		Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the percentage of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water	Unlikely	Average
		Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Unlikely	Weak
8	Develop a global partnership for development	Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, formulate and implement strategies that enable young persons to have decent employment	Probably	Weak
		Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	?	?
		Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies to all, especially information and communication technologies	Probably	Strong

Annex 2: Summary of indicators

N0.	Indicators	Source	Value	Source	Value	Source	Value
1	Proportion of the population with less than one dollar a day, based on purchasing power parity (1993 PPP), World Bank						
1A	Percentage of the population living below the poverty line	ECAM 2	40.2% (2001)	ECAM 3	39.9% (2007)		
1. B	Depth of poverty	ECAM 2	12.8% (2001)	ECAM 3	12.3% (2007)		
2.	Severity of poverty	ECAM 2	5.6% (2001)	ECAM 3	5.0% (2007)		
3.	Poverty index differential [incidence of poverty*, degree of poverty]						
4.	Share of the poorest quintile (fifth) of the population in national consumption	ECAM 2	7.2% (2001)	ECAM 3	8.1% (2007)		
5.	Percentage of under-five children who are underweight	Moderate	EDS 2004	18.1% (2004)	MICS 2006	19.3% (2006)	
		Severe		3.9% (2004)		5.2% (2006)	
6.	Proportion of the population below the minimum calories intake level						
7.	Net enrolment rate in primary schooling (6-11 years)						
8.	Net primary school attendance rate (6-11 years)	ECAM 2	75.2% (2001)	MICS 2006	79.6% (2006)	ECAM 3	75.5% (2007)
9.	Proportion of pupils who start class one in primary education and end in class five	MICS 2000	59.1%	2002 school map	58.8% (2002)	MICS 3	90.2% (2006)
9A	Proportion of pupils who complete the full primary cycle			MICS 3	22.5% (2006)		
10.	Literacy rate of young people aged 5 to 24	ECAM 2	82.3% (2001)	ECAM 3	83.1% (2007)		
11.	Girl/boy ratio in primary education	ECAM 2	89% (2001)	2006/2007 Yearbook, MINEDUB	98.9% (2005)	2006/2007 Yearbook, MINEDUB	94.1% (2007)
12.	Girl/boy ratio in secondary education	2006 Statistical Directory	77.9 (2002)	MINESEC Directory 2005/2006	78.7 (2005)		
13.	Girl/boy parity index in primary education	ECAM 2	0.94 (2001)	ECAM 3	0.95 (2007)		
14.	Girl/boy parity index in secondary education	ECAM 2	0.95 (2001)	ECAM 3	0.86 (2007)		

N0.	Indicators	Source	Value	Source	Value	Source	Value
15.	Literacy rate of women aged 15 to 24, in relation to men	ECAM 2	0.88 (2001)	ECAM 3	0.87 (2007)		
16.	Percentage of women aged 15-64 who end a salary in the non-agricultural sector	ECAM 2	25.3% (2001)	ECAM 3	21.4% (2007)		
17.	Proportion of seats occupied by women at the National Assembly	MINCOF	5.5% (1997-2002)	2006 Statistical Yearbook	10.6% (2002-2007)	2007 Yearbook	13.9% (2007-2012)
18.	Mortality rate of under-five children (in ‰)	EDS 1991	144.1 (1991)	EDS 1998	146.3 (1998)	EDS 2004	144 (2004)
19.	Infant mortality rate (in ‰)	EDS 1991	80.5 (1991)	EDS 1998	79.8 (1998)	EDS 2004	74 (2004)
20.	Proportion of one-year-olds (12 to 23 months) vaccinated against measles	MICS 2000	61.2% (2000)	EDS 2004	64.8% (2000)	MICS 2006	78.8% (2006)
21.	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	EDS 1998	430 (1998)	EDS 2004	669 (2004)		
22.	Proportion of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel	EDS 2004	61.8% (2000-2004)	MICS 2006	58.9% (2005-2006)		
23.	HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women aged 15 to 24	NACC, Keep watch 2000	11.0% (2000)				
	HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among men and women aged 15-49 years	EDS 2004	5.5% (2004)				
24.	Use of condoms on the prevalence rate of contraceptives						
24A	Rate of condom use during the last unsafe sexual intercourse	MICS 2006	61.8% (2006)				
24B	Percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 with good knowledge on HIV/AIDS						
24C	Rate of use of any contraceptive method by women of the 15-49 age group	EDS 2004	26.0% (2004)	MICS 2006	29.2% (2006)		
25.	Rate of condom use during the last unsafe sexual intercourse						
26.	Percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 with good knowledge on HIV/AIDS	MICS 2006	29 (2006)				
27.	Rate of condom use						
28.	Number of children orphaned by AIDS						

N0.	Indicators		Source	Value	Source	Value	Source	Value
29.	Proportion of persons who had unsafe sex during the 2003-2004 period	Men	EDS 2004	28.7% (2004)				
		Women		61.9% (2004)				
30.	Malaria prevalence rate and mortality rate of this disease		MINSANTE	40.0% (2004)	MINSANTE	15.0% (2005)		
31.	Proportion of the population living in risk-prone areas who resort to means of protection and effective treatment against malaria							
32.	Proportion of the population living in risky areas and using means of protection against malaria		MICS 2006	13.1% (2006)				
33.	Proportion of the population living in risk-prone areas who resort to means of protection against malaria		MICS 2006	38.9% (2006)				
34.	Tuberculosis prevalence rate and mortality rate related to this disease							
35.	Proportion of tuberculosis cases diagnosed and treated as part of short-term treatment under direct surveillance							
36.	Proportion of forest areas							
37.	Proportion of areas protected to preserve biodiversity (in relation to the total surface area)		2000 Statistical Yearbook	13.0% (2000)	2008 Statistical Yearbook	18.8% (2007)		
38.	Energy consumption (in kilogrammes of fuel equivalent) per dollar of GDP (PPP)							
39.	Carbon dioxide emission (per inhabitant) and consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFC)							
40.	Proportion of the population using solid fuels		ECAM 2	82.4% (2001)	ECAM 3	82.9% (2007)		
41.	Proportion of the population with access to a safe drinking water source (potable water)				ECAM 3	43.9% (2007)		
42.	Proportion of the population with access to a better sanitation system (indicator on habitat and the environment, housing characteristics)							
43.	Proportion of the population with access to a modern toilet		ECAM 2	44.7% (2001)	ECAM 3	31.7% (2007)		
44.	Proportion of the population with access to occupying safe houses (houses built with solid materials)		ECAM 2	22.7% (2001)	ECAM 3	25.5% (2007)		
45.	Net ODA, in percentage of gross national product of donor countries (targets :0.7% in all and 0.15 % for LDCs)							

N0.	Indicators	Source	Value	Source	Value	Source	Value
46.	Proportion of ODA devoted to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation)						
47.	Proportion of unconditional bilateral ODA provided by OECD/CAD donor countries						
48.	ODA received by landlocked countries						
49.	ODA received by small developing island-states						
50.	Developed countries' import from cameroon exempted from customs duties						
51.	Average rate of customs duties and quotas applicable to farm produce, textiles and clothing						
52.	National agricultural and export subsidies to OECD countries						
53.	Proportion of ODA allocated to build trade capacities						
54.	Number of countries having reached the decision and completion points of the HIPC initiative						
55.	Debt servicing, in percentage of export of goods and services						
56.	Unemployment rate of young people aged 15 to 24	ECAM 2	14.3% (2001)	ECAM 3	8.2% (2007)		
57.	Global under-employment rate of young people aged 15-24	ECAM 2	73.3% (2001)	ECAM 3	69.0% (2007)		
58.	Proportion of the population with sustainable access to essential drugs at affordable costs						
59.	Number of telephone lines and mobile telephopone subscribers per 100 inhabitants						
60.	Number of telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	ECAM 3	0.3 (2007)				
61.	Number of mobile phones per 100 inhabitants	ECAM 3	17.1 (2007)				
62.	Number of personal computers per 100 inhabitants	ECAM 3	0.6 (2007)				
63.	Number of Internet users per100 inhabitants						

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