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Evaluation of Cameroon WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Evaluation Report
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World Food
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Executive summary

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation features

1. The evaluation of the Cameroon country strategic plan (CSP) assessed WFP's strategic positioning and role; the extent and quality of WFP's specific contributions to CSP strategic outcomes; WFP's efficiency; the factors that explain WFP's performance and the extent to which WFP made the strategic shift expected, over the period 2017 to mid-2019.¹ It provides evidence from which conclusions regarding WFP's performance and lessons to inform the development of the next CSP may be drawn. It also facilitates accountability to WFP stakeholders. Commissioned by WFP's independent Office of Evaluation, the evaluation was conducted by an external team, with field work in Cameroon from 29 August to 13 September 2019. The evaluation follows a 2017 country portfolio evaluation that provided recommendations that informed CSP operationalization.

2. The evaluation relied on the review of secondary data, complemented by 147 key informant interviews, 13 focus group discussions with beneficiaries and direct observation during site visits to communities and refugee camps. It applied a gender-sensitive methodology covering CSP activities from 2018 onward and related operations in 2017. The evaluation team encountered some local access restrictions, but they did not affect the validity of the findings because the team was able to triangulate information sources.

Context

3. With a population of 25 million, Cameroon is a lower-middle-income country with a low rank on the Human Development Index (150th of 189 countries in 2019)² and growing income inequality (table 1).³ Economic development policy is guided by the Government's Vision 2035 and growth and employment strategy for the period 2010–2020. Cameroon has experienced instability as a result of Boko Haram activity in the Far-North region since 2014; conflict in the North-West and South-West regions between state forces and Anglophone groups seeking greater autonomy since 2017; and the influx of 250,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in the East and Adamaoua regions since 2013. In 2019, Cameroon participated in a voluntary national review that showed modest progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ The evaluation reviewed activities from 2017 that continued into 2018.

² United Nations Development Programme country classification.
http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/CMR.pdf.

³ The Gini index went from 0.39 in 2007 to 0.44 in 2014.

TABLE 1: SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS			
	Indicator	2017	2019
1	Total population ^a	24 566 045	25 216 237 (2018)
2	GDP per capita (USD PPP) ^a	3 645	3 785 (2018)
3	Percentage of urban population ^b	54.4 (2016)	55.8 (2018)
4	Human Development Index score ^b	0.556 (151 out of 189)	0.563 (150 out of 189)
5	Population living below the poverty line of PPP USD 1.90 a day (percentage) ^b	24 (2016)	23.8
6	Population in severe multidimensional poverty (percentage) ^b	25.8 (2016)	25.6
7	Life expectancy at birth ^b	58.6 years (2016)	58.9 years
8	Percentage of children under 5 with stunting ^b	31.7 (2010–2015) ^c	31.7 (2010–2016) ^c
9	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) ^b	596 (2016)	596
10	Prevalence of HIV, total (percentage of population age 15-49 years)	3.7	3.6 (2018)
11	Gender Inequality Index ^b	0.569 (141 out of 160)	0.566 (140 out of 160)
12	Population with at least secondary education (percentage of population aged 25 years or older) ^b	Female: 32.5 Male: 39.2 (2016)	Female: 32.7 Male: 40.9
13	Labour force participation rate, total (percentage of total population aged 15+ years) ^b	Female: 71.2 Male: 81.2 (2016)	Female: 71.2 Male: 81.4

Abbreviations: GDP = gross domestic product; PPP = purchasing power parity.

^a World Bank. World Development Indicators.

^b United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Reports for 2016, 2018 and 2019. Data extracted on 18 May 2020.

^c Data refer to the most recent year.

4. According to the national gender policy for 2011–2020, sociocultural gender norms are a major hurdle for the achievement of equal rights and opportunities. From 2017 to 2019, Cameroon's Gender Inequality Index score declined from 0.569 to 0.566 (from 140th to 141 out of 160 countries).⁴

5. The main donors of official development assistance include the European Union, France, Germany, the International Monetary Fund, the United States of America and the World Bank.⁵ For humanitarian assistance, the main donors are the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission (ECHO), Germany, Japan, Sweden, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and the United States.⁶

⁴ United Nations Development Programme. 2017–2019. Gender Inequality Index. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/>.

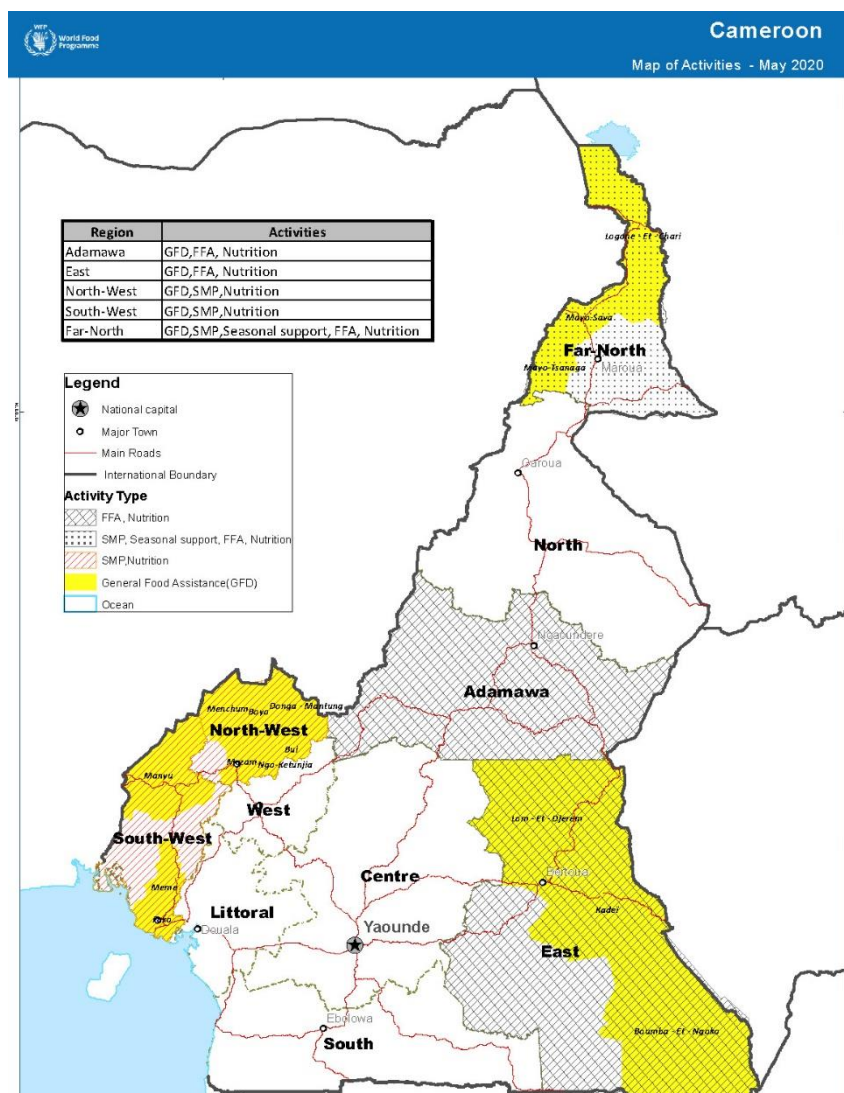
⁵ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee. <https://www.oecd.org/countries/cameroon/>

⁶ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2019. Cameroon country study. <https://www.alnap.org/help-library/cameroon-country-study-humanitarian-financing-task-team-output-iv>.

WFP in Cameroon

6. WFP's support for Cameroon started in the 1970s. During the review period, Cameroon experienced multiple crises, both internal and spilling over from neighbouring countries. In January 2019 the United Nations humanitarian response plan for the country estimated that there were 665,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 385,000 refugees, mainly from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, and 92,000 returnees. Figure 1 shows WFP activities in Cameroon in 2020.

Figure 1: WFP in Cameroon in 2020



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