

FOREWORD

The government has embarked on the preparation of a Report on Cameroon's Economic Development abbreviated RADEC in French, under the coordination of the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), on an annual basis.

RADEC is a synoptic document on progress made in the course of the year which highlights the potential and inputs of all the divisions and regions of Cameroon in development endeavors. It has as objective to present the main economic achievements made in the course of a year at local and national level, in all sectors while highlighting the different constraints that impeded the achievement of some objectives.

RADEC is a collection of 11 volumes including 10 regional economic reports and a **national summary report**. Regional economic reports are usually prepared by the decentralized services of MINEPAT (Regional and Divisional Delegations), in conjunction with the delegations of sector ministries, while the national summary report is prepared by the central services.

RADEC 2016 is based on regional economic reports and focuses on the initiatives undertaken in every region in 2015 by highlighting the discrepancies between regions. It stands out as a real aid to budget preparation and a decision-making tool notably as concerns the allocation of resources and formulation of economic policy measures.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BC-PME	Cameroon Bank for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
BCS	Business Climate Survey
BMN	Enterprise Upgrade Office
CDE	Camerounaise des Eaux
CEP	<i>Certificat d'Etude Primaire</i> (French equivalent of First School Leaving Certificate)
CFCE	Centre of Business Creation Formalities
CIA	International Handicrafts Centre
CRTV	Cameroon Radio Television
ECAM	Cameroonian Household Survey
EDS	Demographic and Health Survey
ESG	General secondary education
ESTP	Technical and professional secondary education
GESP	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
GTTC	Government Teacher Training College
GTTC	Government Technical Teacher Training College
IPES	Private Higher Institutions of Learning
MINCOM	Ministry of Communication
MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
MINEE	Ministry of Water Resources and Energy
MINEPAT	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINESUP	Ministry of Higher Education
MINFI	Ministry of Finance
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice
MINPMEESA	Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
MINSEC	Ministry of Secondary Education
MINTP	Ministry of Public Works
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NTIC	New information and communication technologies
OMS	World Health Organization
PME	Small and Medium Enterprise
PNLO	National Onchocerciasis Control Programme
RADEC	Cameroon Economic Development Report
WEF	World Economic Forum

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cameroon has been implementing its Growth and Employment Strategy since 2010 which recognizes economic growth as the main factor of development and poverty reduction. Several reforms that seek to improve on public expenditure efficiency and back up private investment have thus been initiated under this strategy since 2013; these include the entry into force of the programme-budget and the setting up of the Ministry in charge of public contracts.

These reforms which are based on performance and results-based management rules can help achieve set objectives only if decision-makers have reliable information and tools for appropriate allocation of resources; notably budgetary resources.

It is against this backdrop that Cameroon 2016 Economic Development Report (RADEC) has been produced. RADEC 2016 is based on regional economic reports and focuses on the initiatives undertaken in every region in 2016 by highlighting the discrepancies between regions. It stands out as a real aid to budget preparation and a decision-making tool notably as concerns the allocation of resources and formulation of economic policy measures.

The purpose of this summarized RADEC is to highlight major indicators of achievements with regard to economic development in the 10 regions of the country as well as persistent discrepancies between these regions in 2016.

The Report thus makes an overview of some specific sectors (according to the breakdown of the budget classification system) in light of available information in relation to current government priorities set out in the GESP. This Report will also present prospects with regard to how to address the shortcomings observed as well as aspects relating to: (i) human capital development; (ii) infrastructure and other factors of production; (iii) productive sector and; (iv) other sectors (general and financial administration).

Consolidation of human capital in progress

Implementation of sector policies and programs that seek to improve the living conditions of the population was materialized by positive trends in the main social indicators notably in education, health, ... This has been further enhanced by the adoption of different programs on the fight against poverty and exclusion, and by the size of the State budget allocated to social sectors.

In **primary education**, the pupil/class ratio and pupil/teacher ratio was virtually stable as compared to 2013-2014. However, there is an inadequate and uneven distribution of

infrastructure and equipment (classrooms...) as well as teaching staff nationwide. Thus, the average number of pupils per class during the 2015/2016 school year (51 pupils/class) stood above the standard set by the Education Sector Strategy (45 pupils/class).

In general and technical **secondary education**, the student population has risen by 5% in 2014-2015 as compared to the previous school year in all the regions.

The greatest number of students are found in the Centre, Littoral, West and North-West regions with 442 134, 376 137, 323 040 and 235 162 students respectively. As concerns guidance in general and technical education, it is observed that students in general education account for close to 78.17 per cent overall, against only 21.83 per cent in technical education.

For this type of education, the Littoral, West and Far-North regions are facing the biggest teacher shortage, with 80, 80 and 68 students per teacher respectively as compared to the national average which was 55 students per teacher during the 2014/2015 school year.

With regard to **higher education and vocational training**, public provision for higher education remained unchanged in Cameroon for the 2015/2016 academic year as compared to the 2014/2015 academic year. As a matter of fact, the number of State universities is still eight (8) (Yaoundé I, Yaoundé II-SOA, Ngaoundéré, Douala, Buea, Bamenda, Dschang, Maroua). However, annexes of these State universities created in Bertoua, Ebolowa and Garoua are already operational.

As concerns private higher institutions of learning, the orientation law and its subsequent instruments relating to their organisation and functioning helped increase their number significantly; rising from less than five (5) institutions of learning in 2001, to 163 in 2014 and 206 in 2016 spread out almost nationwide.

Supervision ratio for the 2015 and 2016 academic years was estimated at 68 students on average per lecturer, which is 2 times bigger than the UNESCO standard which is 30 students per lecturer. Only the University of Maroua meets the standards in terms of supervision ratio (27 students per lecturer) while the University of Yaounde 2, Douala and Dschang record the lowest student supervision ratios with 64, 59 and 59 students per lecturer respectively.

As concerns **health**, the Health Sector Strategy which reasserts public officials' willingness to improve health care delivery to the population seeks to provide quality services in a spirit of equity and social justice. This desire has been materialized by the increase of the budget allocation earmarked for the health sector to 236.167 billion in 2016 up from 207.066 billion in 2015; thereby scaling up activities to control some pandemics like malaria, HIV/AIDS,

tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. However, government efforts need to be stepped up because of persistent gaps in medical staff. In addition, there is an uneven distribution of health care staff in the country. Thus, the largest cities of the regions accounted for 49.31 per cent of health care staff in 2016.

Considerable efforts needed in the area of infrastructure.

The government has embarked on a huge investment program for the development of infrastructure because of their critical role in trade facilitation and improvement of production tools. This program seeks to scale up production factors at national level through the establishment of a territorial network of roads as well as energy and water supply facilities. It also focuses on access to new information and communication technologies.

In the **road sector**, the length of tarred roads in the 10 regions of the country was 6114 Km in 2015 against 5797 km in 2014. From 2014 to 2015, the length of tarred roads increased by 317 km. At the regional level, the length of tarred roads is lower in the East (2.5 per cent), in the North-West (2.6 per cent), in the West (4.3 per cent) and in the Far-North (4.8 per cent). Moreover, the number of km of tarred roads per 1000 inhabitants was 0.28 in 2015 in Cameroon.

As concerns the **air transport sector**, there are 8 airports in Cameroon which are spread over the country in the cities of Douala, Yaoundé, Garoua, Maroua, N’Gaoundéré, Bertoua, Bafoussam and Bamenda, including 4 which meet international standards (Douala, Yaoundé, Maroua and Garoua). Air traffic in the 6 airports operating in Cameroon has been on an upward trend, with a 1.5 million growth in the number of passengers recorded in 2016, up from 1.1 million in 2012. As concerns international traffic, there is a positive flow of passengers in Douala (9.4 per cent) and Yaounde (6.5 per cent) as the result of the change in the national servicing policy applied by the airline company Camair-co on the one hand, and the increase of landing points by some international airlines companies like Ethiopian airlines on the other hand. In contrast, there is low traffic at the Garoua and Maroua airports due to insecurity in the North and Far-North regions coupled with the dilapidated state of facilities.

With regard to **energy infrastructure**, the main energy sources in Cameroon still include water, thermal and gas even though solar energy is gradually being used nationwide. Power generation facilities in 2016 are virtually the same as in 2015 with:

- i. 03 hydroelectric plants (Songloulou 400 MW, Edea, 265 MW and Lagdo, 72 MW) ;

- ii. 03 storage dams to regulate water flow in river Sanaga (Bamendjin, Mbakaou and Lagdo);
- iii. 06 diesel-fired thermal plants linked to interconnected networks (Oyomabang, Bassa, Logbaba, Bafoussam, Limbé, Djamboutou);
- iv. 31 plants isolated from the other plants to avoid overlaps between equipment with an overall generation capacity of about 23 MW;
- v. 04 thermal plants installed in Bamenda (20 MW), Mbalmayo (10 MW), Yaounde (60MW) and Ebolowa (10 MW) as part of the Emergency Thermal Programme to reduce energy gaps in the South interconnected network;
- vi. 02 gas-fired plants (in Kribi and Dibamba with a 216 MW and 80 MW capacity respectively).

However, energy supply is expected to be boosted with the commissioning of the Memve'ele and Lom Pangar dams in the course of the year 2016 with a capacity of 211 MW and 30 MW each. Moreover, the project on electrification via photovoltaic solar system goes a long way to increasing the overall electrification rate which stands at 56.8 per cent against 53.7 per cent in 2014. At the regional level, the Centre region has made a leap, with 36 new villages supplied with electricity, just like the Adamawa region where 23 villages in the localities of Borongo and Gaschiga have been connected to the electricity grid. The number of subscribers in this region has risen to 33,635 in 2016, up from 33,424 in 2015.

As concerns access to energy products, there is an increase in the number of filling stations nationwide. The number of filling stations operating has risen from 708 in 2015 to 742 in 2016. The ratio of filling stations per 100,000 inhabitants is 3.4 at the national level (as against 3.2 in 2015). The Far-North and North regions have the lowest ratios (0.4 and 0.8 respectively) due to the predominance of Nigerian fuel commonly referred to as “zoazoa”. This phenomenon is also common in the Adamawa, North-West and South-West regions, with 2.8, 2.9 and 3.1 ratios recorded. In contrast, ratios of the Centre, East, West and Littoral regions are highly above the national average (5.1, 4.7, 6.4 and 5.1 respectively).

With regard to **access to potable water**, installed water production capacity was estimated at close to 650 000 m³/d in 2016. In Yaounde, the installed capacity is 200,000 m³/d thanks to the production of the Mefou treatment plant at Nkolbisson (50,000 m³/d) and that of Akomnyada (150,000 m³/d). In Douala, the completion of the first phase of the project of reinforcement and improvement of potable water supply helped to increase water production by 50,000 m³/d thereby raising water production capacity to 175,000 m³/d. Apart from these

actions, CAMWATER has devised a matrix of actions for the year 2016 in order to scale up potable water supply provision by 35 per cent (185,000 m³/d); the purpose being to improve infrastructure through rehabilitation, scaling up of production, reinforcement and extension of the system so as to curb potable water deficit especially in big cities. However, despite their significant impact, all these government efforts still fail to meet the domestic demand and bridge the gaps among regions. Overall, unmet demand for water is estimated at over 600 million m³ annually.

Upward trends in agricultural production and improvement of farm and fish product

Overall, production of cash crops and food crops has been on an upward trend in 2016. Livestock production has increased in 2016, except poultry due to the birth flu outbreak in the third quarter of the year 2016. As for fishing, the sector has been on an upward trend in 2016 as compared to 2015 notably in the Littoral and South-West regions with the creation of new agropoles.

However, a number of constraints are still plaguing the production sector, namely:

- difficult access to inputs (seeds, fertilizers, animal feed, fingerling ...);
- low level of development of production areas;
- Constraints in animal feeding (limited grazing land, depleted productivity of grassland, insufficient agro-industrial by-products like cattle-cakes, etc.);

Prospects are bright for the productive sector despite the period of hardship that stems from the drop in commodity prices and the foreign exchange reserves crisis. To strengthen the momentum, some actions need to be carried out, the most urgent consisting in:

- facilitating access to inputs by backing up private initiatives that seek mass production of improved seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, fingerlings, etc.;
- accelerating the implementation of programs on the development of production areas;
- backing up initiatives related to animal feed production (fodder fields, maize, palm, cotton and soybean meals);
- developing marketing channels through the adoption of bundling strategies for agricultural products and possible creation of appropriate bread baskets in the villages.

Improved perception of the business climate.

To date, Cameroon is host to eight (8) CFCE which are operating in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua, Bamenda, Maroua, Limbe and Ebolowa. Statistics from the Ministry of

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economics and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) reveal that as at 31 December 2016, over 15,219 enterprises were created through the CFCE. Besides, Cameroon has seven (7) craft villages located in Bamenda, Limbe, Garoua, Douala, Ebolowa, Foumban and Bafoussam, and one (1) international handicraft centre in Yaounde.

Major achievements in the area of business climate include:

- facilitation of SMEs' access to finance;
- strengthening of security in the northern regions;
- continued implementation of the Cameroon Business Forum's recommendations, notably shortening of file processing time, recourse to e-procedures in some administrations and opening of specialized commercial benches in courts of instance;
- organization of the Business Climate Survey on a regular basis to appraise economic operators' perception of the business environment in Cameroon;

However, it should be recalled that regions that recorded a positive perception in terms of business climate in Cameroon have now become the riskiest especially in the Far-North region as the result of the increase of attacks by the Boko Haram terrorist group.

Thus, despite the last Doing Business report which ranks Cameroon 166 among 190 economies in their level of competitiveness in 2016/2017, representing a move forward as compared to the 2015/2016 ranking, Cameroon still remains at the first stage of development with 45.27 points out of 100 which is characterized by growth driven by the mobilization of production factors instead of efficiency gains, with low skilled and low productive workers. It is thus important for Cameroon to reduce production and transaction costs in order to address the challenge of improving the competitiveness of its economy.

More prisons required

With regard to **governance**, prisons were overcrowded in 2016. This phenomenon has worsened over the years as the result of the fast growing number of accused and convicted prisoners compared to prison's capacity. To address this issue, it is of the essence to proceed to a fair distribution of prisoners in prisons in each region and accelerate initiatives towards the construction of new prisons.

Improvement of the execution of the 2016 PIB

As concerns financial and general administration, in 2016 Cameroon had 418 approved micro-finance establishments, as against 500 in 2015. This drop is due to the withdrawal of approvals and problems associated with the quality of the portfolio and poor management of some micro-finance establishments. The rate of execution of the 2016 PIB stood at 83.39 per cent, against 73.5 per cent in 2015, representing a +9.87 point increase. This increase in the use of PIB is the result of:

- the availability of projects logbooks before 1st January;
- the effective take-off of the execution of the Public Investment Budget as from 1st January;
- the establishment of a mechanism, as from the beginning of the financial year in all ten regions, to assist in the execution of projects that are facing maturity-related problems;
- the organization, as from the month of January 2016, of capacity building seminars in all ministries and regions for the improvement of the smooth execution of the Public Investment Budget;
- the designation of sector focal points from MINEPAT to follow-up and supervise the execution of the Public Investment Budget in each ministry;
- the organization of a review session on the execution of the Public Investment Budget in MINEPAT in conjunction with MINFI, on a quarterly basis;
- increased involvement of administrative authorities (Governors of regions and SDOs) in the close follow-up of the execution of the Public Investment Budget. This involvement is translated by the conduct of monthly consultation sessions under their chairmanship bringing together stakeholders in order to provide local solutions to problems encountered in the execution of projects.

However, it should be pointed out that these positive trends at national level conceal the performance of regions which are below the said national trends; strategies should thus be devised at regional level to enable the regions consume their PIB more in quantity and quality; meanwhile regions with good performance should work towards improving such performance.

INTRODUCTION

Cameroon has been implementing its Growth and Employment Strategy since 2010 which recognizes economic growth as the main factor of development and poverty reduction. Several reforms that seek to improve on public expenditure efficiency and back up private investment have thus been initiated under this strategy since 2013; including the enforcement of the program-budget, the creation of the Ministry in charge of Public Contracts and the implementation of decentralization. These reforms which are based on the rules of performance and results-based management can help achieve set objectives only if decision-makers have reliable information and tools for appropriate allocation of resources notably budgetary resources.

It is against this backdrop that Cameroon 2016 Economic Development Report (RADEC) has been produced. RADEC 2016 is based on regional economic reports and focuses on the initiatives undertaken in every region in 2015 by highlighting the discrepancies between regions. It stands out as a real aid to budget preparation and a decision-making tool notably as concerns the allocation of resources and formulation of economic policy measures.

In 2016, economic development was marked by (i) security crises in border areas in the East and Far-North regions; (ii) continuation of support to the development of the agricultural sector notably facilitation of farmers' access to inputs (fertilizers, seeds, plant protection products); (iii) continuation of the creation of the agropole programme (Mbalmayo cocoa bean production and processing agropole); (iv) implementation of the emergency three-year plan; (v) continuation of the implementation of major infrastructure projects: roads (second road over river Wouri, east and west entry roads in Douala, Yaounde-Ebolowa, Sangmelima-Djoum-Mintom road), railways (renovation of the Batchenga-Ka'a railway on Transcam II and Esekamkak on Transcam I), ports (Kribi deep sea port), airports (renovation of the Ngaoundere airport, and upgrade of the Maroua airport to handle international flights), water and energy (Memve'ele, Mekin, Lom Pangar dams, and Logbaba gas plant).

RADEC summary thus helps to assess achievements in terms of regional and national development in 2016 based on information provided by MINEPAT regional delegations. This assessment is made through a number of development indicators selected in line with the GESP.

The purpose of this summarised RADEC is thus to highlight the main indicators of achievements with regard to economic development in the 10 regions of the country, make a comparative analysis of regions and present the discrepancies persisting between these regions.

The Report thus makes an overview of some specific sectors (according to the breakdown of the budget classification system) in light of available information in relation to current government priorities set out in the GESP. The report also presents the difficulties encountered in the various sectors assessed, as well as proposed solutions to help address the shortcomings identified in the future years.

This report is divided into six sections:

- Human capital development;
- Infrastructure and other factors of production;
- Production sector;
- Business climate and competitiveness;
- Governance and sovereignty;
- General and financial administration.

I. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Human capital is the stock of productive resources associated with individuals, and comprised of elements such as standard of education, training, professional experience, health conditions and knowledge of the economic system. In other words, human capital refers to any type of ability likely to contribute to economic growth and human development.

1. Employment and vocational training

The two components of human capital are analyzed at three different levels, namely primary education, secondary education, higher education and vocational training. Some indicators on education shall also be used notably related expenditure in relation to the GDP and the net school enrolment ratio.

Table 1: Some indicators on education

Indicator	Value
Expenditure on education (GDP %)	3.5
Drop out ratio in primary schools	33.8
Adult literacy education rate (in % of age group of 15 years and above)	70.7
Average duration of schooling (in years)	5.9
Net schooling rate (%)	78.8

Source: 2013 Human Development Report

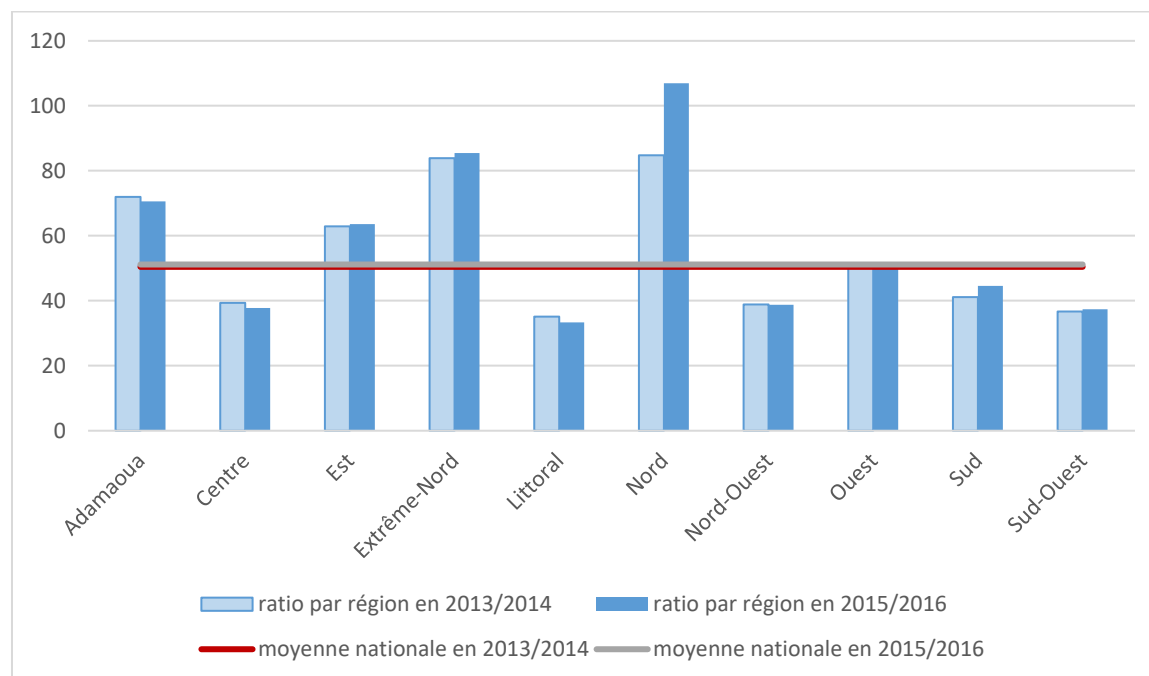
It should be pointed out that public expenditure on education at national level includes expenditure on basic and secondary education. Expenditure on higher education and vocational training is not included.

a. Primary education

At regional level, the regions that respect the standard of 45 students per classroom set by the Education Sector Strategy include the Centre, Littoral, North-West, South-West and South regions. The North, Far-North, Adamawa and East regions account for the highest number of students in a class in the 2015/2016 a school year, with 107, 86, 71 and 64 students respectively, per class on average. The North region accounts for the worst student/class ration with 107 students per class in 2015/2016 against 85 students in 2013/2014.

On average, the student/class ratio nationwide in the 2015-2016 school year was 51 students per class, on a slightly negative trend as compared to the 2013-2014 school year during which this ratio stood at 50 students per class.

Diagram 1: School/student ratio by region in primary school in 2015/2016

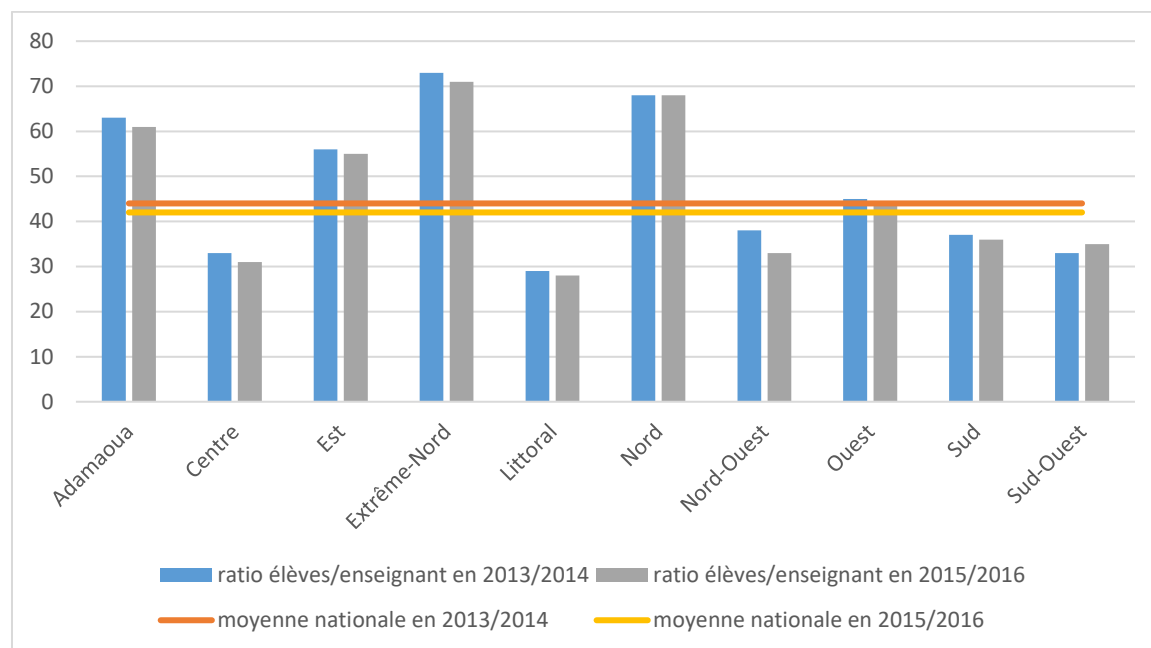


Source: MINEDUB Statistical Yearbook

As concerns the student/teacher ratio, the national average is 42 for the 2015-2016 school year, on a positive trend as compared to the 2013-2014 school year during which this ratio stood at 44 students per teacher. This national average which is below the standard set under the Education Sector Strategy (46 students for one teacher) conceals the discrepancies between regions. Indeed, the situation is disquieting in the Far-North, North, Adamawa and East regions with high student/teacher ratios recorded (71, 68, 61 and 55 respectively).

The Grand north (**Far-North, North and Adamawa**) and **East** regions are the most affected by classroom and teacher shortage in primary school.

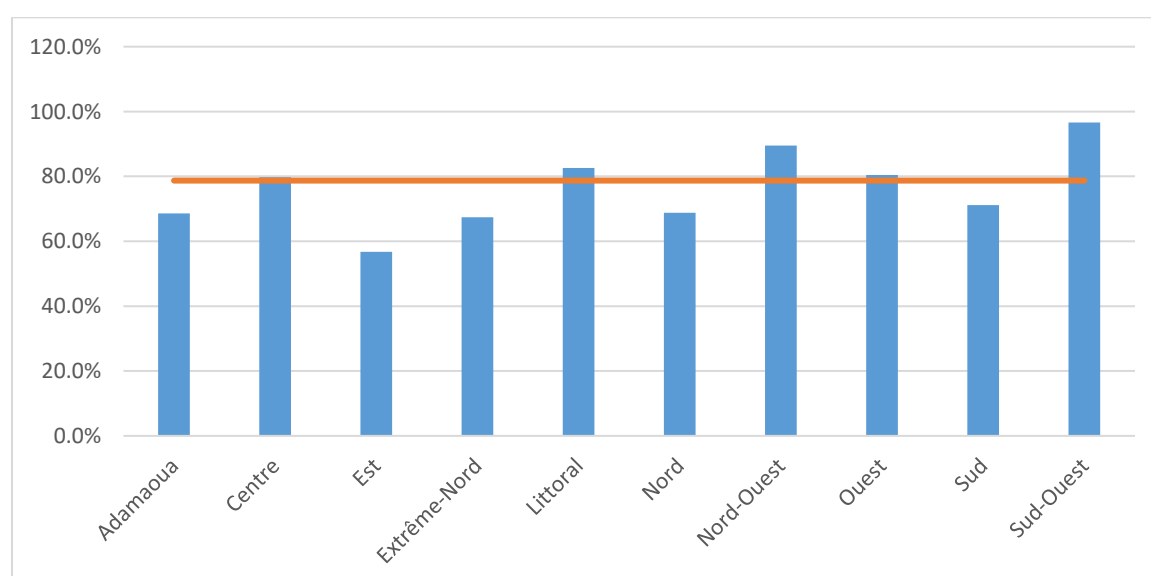
Diagram 2 : Student/teacher ratio by region in primary school in the 2015-2016 school year



Source: MINEDUB Statistical Yearbook

During the 2015-2016 school year, the South-West region stood out with the best pass rates (96.6 per cent) in the *Certificat d'Etude Primaire (CEP)* and First School Leaving School Certificate (FSLC) while the Grand north and East regions stood below the national average of 78.7 per cent. Pass rate in the CEP/FSLC was 68.8 per cent in the North region, 68.6 per cent in the Adamawa, 67.4 per cent in the Far-North and 56.7 per cent in the East. This situation is due to classroom and teacher shortage noticed in these regions as mentioned in the previous sections, coupled with the state of insecurity in the said regions.

Diagram 3: Pass percentage in the CEP/FSLC exams in the 2015-2016 by region



Source: MINEDUB Statistical Yearbook

b. Secondary education

Student population in secondary education has risen by 10 per cent in 2013-2014 and by 5 per cent in 2014-2015, representing 2,108,279 students during the 2014-2015 school year, including 1,226,297 students in the Francophone general education, 421,763 in the Anglophone general education, 161,859 in technical commercial education and 298,360 technical industrial education.

Table 2: Trends in student population in secondary education

		2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Francophone general education		1 023 027	1 075 264	1 163 115	1 226 297
	<i>Public</i>	761 422	795 853	856 456	899 514
	<i>Private</i>	261 605	279 411	306 659	326 783
Anglophone general education		330 912	354 046	392 828	421 763
	<i>Public</i>	229 850	246 956	272 045	288 510
	<i>Private</i>	101 062	107 090	120 783	133 253
Technical commercial education		111 359	128 924	153 653	161 859
	<i>Public</i>	79 316	90 947	105 212	109 243
	<i>Private</i>	32 043	37 977	48 441	52 616
Technical industrial education		248 154	254 615	290 480	298 360
	<i>Public</i>	189 419	190 504	212 827	219 950
	<i>Private</i>	58 735	64 111	77 653	78 410
TOTAL		1 713 452	1 812 849	2 000 076	2 108 279
	<i>Public</i>	1 260 007	1 324 260	1 446 540	1 517 217
	<i>Private</i>	453 445	488 589	553 536	591 062

Source: MINESEC

In addition to the above-mentioned student population, there were 32,798 student-teachers in General and Technical Teacher Training Colleges during the 2014-2015 school year, as against 35,585 student-teachers in 2013-2014. Private GTTC and GTTTC have trained about 20 per cent of student-teachers in 2014-2015 as in 2013-2014 whereas they accounted for only 10 per cent of training provision in 2011-2012.

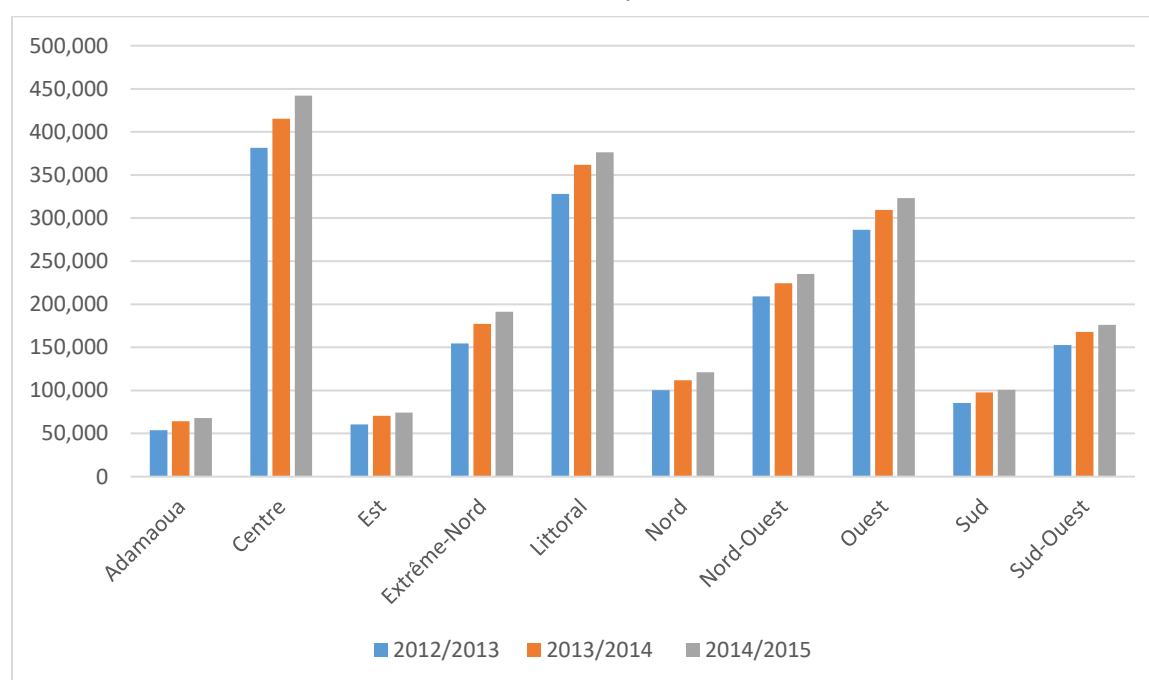
Table 3: Trends in student population in Grade I Teacher Training Colleges

		2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
GTTC		28 479	34 283	30 044	26 326
	<i>Public</i>	25 736	28 332	23 890	20 811
	<i>Private</i>	2 743	5 951	6 154	5 515
GTTTC		2 836	2 977	5 541	6 472
	<i>Public</i>	2 406	2 784	4 275	5 685
	<i>Private</i>	430	348	1 266	787
TOTAL		31 315	37 260	35 585	32 798
	<i>Public</i>	28 142	31 116	28 165	26 496
	<i>Private</i>	3 173	6 299	7 420	6 302

Source: MINESEC

For the 2014-2015 school year, the regions with the highest number of students include the Centre (442,134 students), Littoral (376,137 students), West (323,040 students) and North-West (235,162 students). The East and Adamawa regions were at the bottom of the table with 74,384 students and 67,955 students respectively during the 2014-2015 school year.

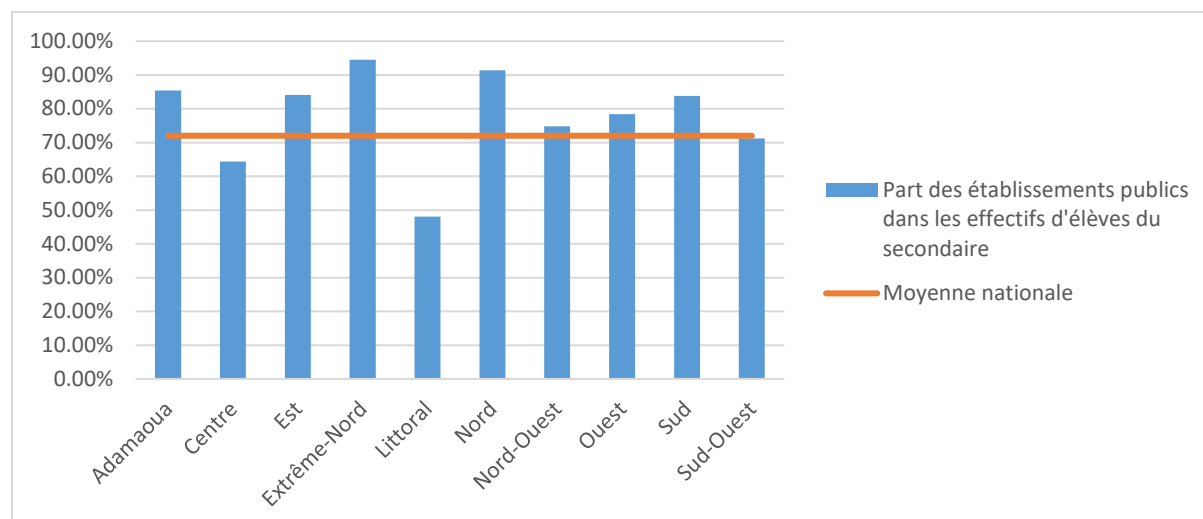
Diagram 4: Trends in student population in secondary schools per region for the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 school years



Source: MINESEC

Government schools account for 72 per cent of secondary school students on average. Regions with a number of students in government school below the national average include Littoral (48.1 per cent), Centre (64.4 per cent) and South-West (71.2 per cent).

Diagram 5: Ratio of secondary school students registered in government schools



Source: MINESEC

A distribution of student population per system of education shows that technical education only accounted for 21.8 per cent of student population in secondary school at the national level during the 2014-2015 school year. The weight of technical education is very low in the Far-North region where students in this field of education only account for 10.7 per cent. However, technical education account for 34.7 per cent and 27 per cent of students in the South and East regions respectively. This situation can be explained by the forest's potential of these regions.

Table 4: Distribution of student population in secondary schools per region and type of education in 2014-2015

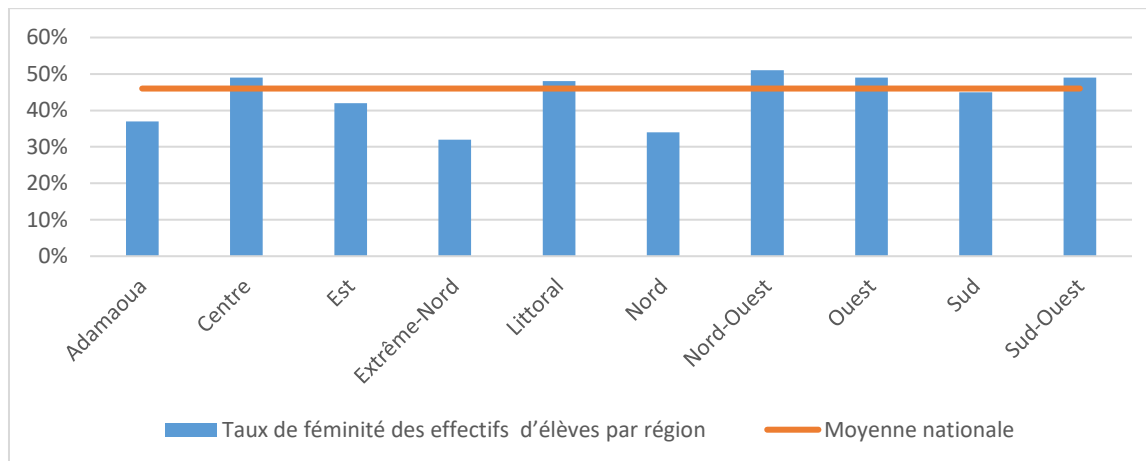
Regions	Student population			Ratio		
	General Education	Technical education	Total	Gen. Educ.	Techn. Educ.	Total
Adamaoua	54,342	13,613	67,955	80.0%	20.0%	100%
Centre	354,006	88,128	442,134	80.1%	19.9%	100%
East	54,297	20,087	74,384	73.0%	27.0%	100%
Far-North	171,039	20,449	191,488	89.3%	10.7%	100%
Littoral	280,907	95,230	376,137	74.7%	25.3%	100%
North	95,289	25,774	121,063	78.7%	21.3%	100%
North-West	181,982	53,180	235,162	77.4%	22.6%	100%
West	246,347	76,693	323,040	76.3%	23.7%	100%
South	65,838	35,035	100,873	65.3%	34.7%	100%
South-West	144,013	32,030	176,043	81.8%	18.2%	100%
National	1,648,060	460,219	2,108,279	78.2%	21.8%	100%

Source: MINESEC

In relation to gender, gender composition of student population in secondary schools overall stands at 46 per cent. Regions with numbers higher than this national standard include the

North-West (51 per cent), the Centre (49 per cent), the West (49 per cent), the South-West (49 per cent) and Littoral (46 per cent). By contrast, the Far-North accounts for the lowest gender composition of student population (32 per cent).

Diagram 6: Gender composition of student population in secondary school by region

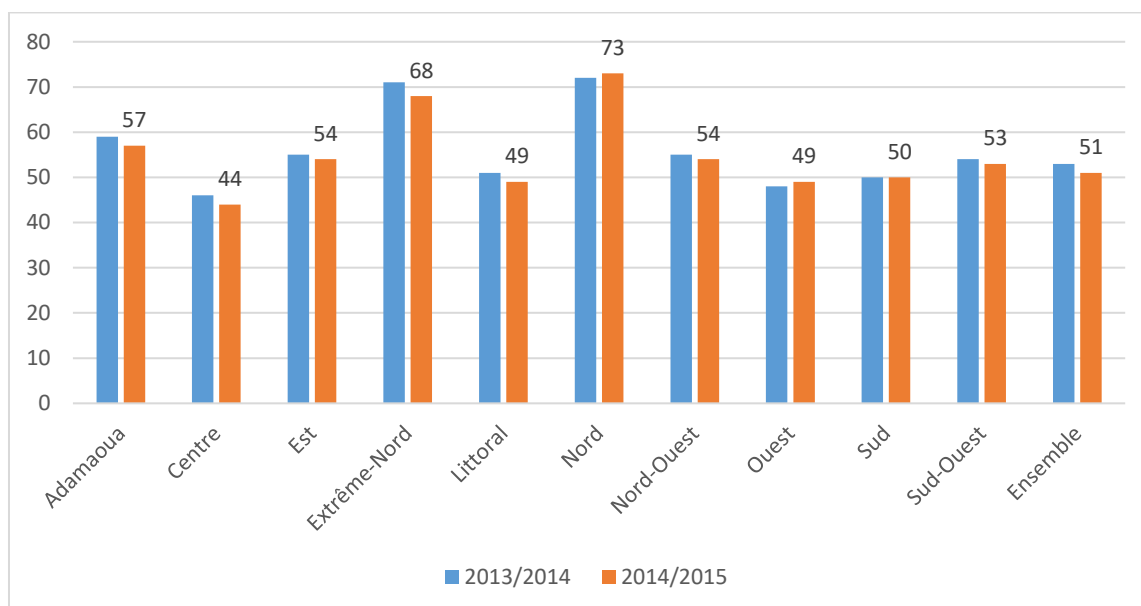


Source: MINESEC

The national average of the number of students per classroom stood at 51 during the 2014-2015 school year, representing a 2-student drop as compared to 2013-2014. Only the Centre, Littoral, West and South regions comply with the standard set by the education sector strategy (60 students per class). The highest number of student population per class is recorded in the North and Far-North regions with 73 and 68 students per class on average.

As observed in primary education, the **Far-North**, **North** and **Adamawa** regions account for the regions with high rates in terms of classroom shortages in the 2014-2015 school year in secondary education. This situation calls for the adoption of a number of measures notably acceleration of the implementation of specific actions in the said regions as prescribed in the Education Sector Strategy.

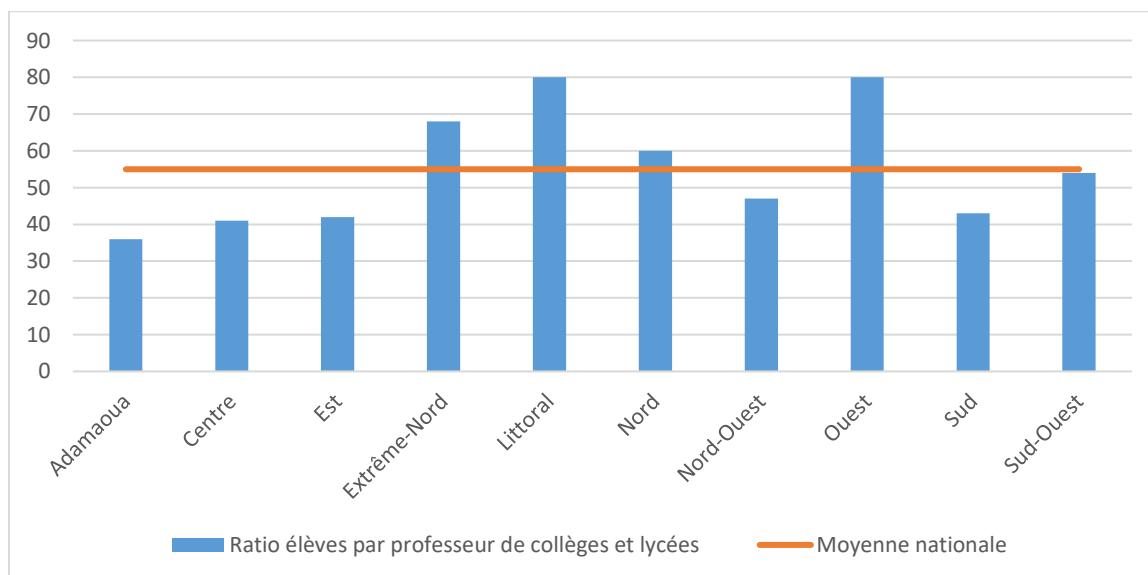
Diagram 7: Student/class ratio during the 2014-2015 school year



Source: MINESEC

The student/teacher ratio in secondary schools and government high schools (PCEG, PCET, PLEG, PLET) was 55 students per teacher during the 2014-2015 school year at the national level. Regions with such ratios above the national average include Littoral (80 students for one teacher), West (80 students for one teacher), Far-North (68 students for one teacher), and North (60 students for one teacher).

Diagram 8: Average number of students per government high school and private secondary school teacher



Source: MINESEC

c. Higher education

In 2015-2016, the country had ten state universities including 8 which are operational and 2 under construction.

Table 5: list of state universities per region in 2016

Region	Universities
Adamawa	University of Ngaoundéré
Centre	University of Yaoundé I
	University of Yaoundé II
	Pan African University at Nsimalen*
Far-North	University of Maroua
Littoral	University of Douala
North-West	University of Bamenda
West	University of Dschang
South	Cameroon-Congo Interstate University*
Sud-Ouest	University of Buea

(*) : Under construction

Source: MINESUP

Over the same year, there were overall 68 higher institutions of learning supervised by state universities.

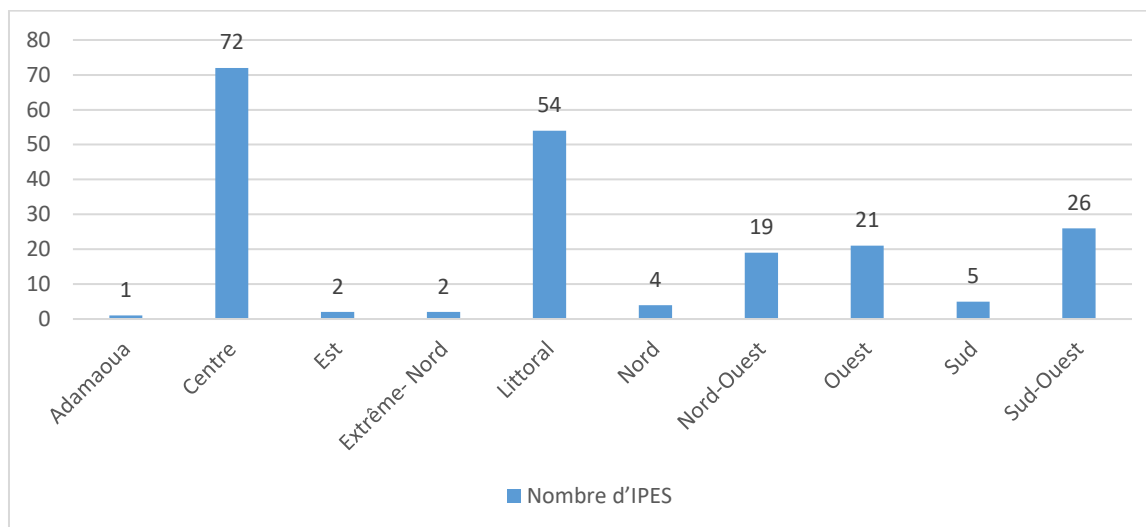
Table 6: Number higher institutions of learning under the supervision of state universities per region

University	Region	Number of institutions under supervision
University of Bamenda	North-West	7
University of Buea	South-West	11
University of Douala	Littoral	11
University of Dschang	West	8
University of Maroua	Far- North	7
University of Ngaoundéré	Adamawa	9
University of Yaoundé I	Centre	7
University of Yaoundé II	Centre	5
Institutions under MINESUP supervision	Centre	3
Total		68

Source: MINESUP

As concerns private higher institutions of learning, the country had 206 of such institutions in the 2015-2016 academic year. The Centre and Littoral regions rank top while the Adamawa, Far-North and East were at the bottom of the table with 2 institutions at most.

Diagram 9: Regional distribution of private higher institutions of learning



Source: MINESUP

The distribution of students and lecturers in higher education per university and private institution is displayed in the following table. In the 2015-2016 academic year, the number of students was estimated at 340,746 as against 306,508 in 2014-2015 representing an 11.2 per cent increase. State Universities account for 258,614 students with 5,022 lecturers, representing an average of 52 students for one lecturer.

Tableau 7 : Distribution of students and lecturers in higher education per university and in private higher institutions of learning

Universities	Students	Lecturers
University of Bamenda	12,714	235
University of Buea	24,526	453
University of Douala	54,965	938
University of Dschang	33,542	570
University of Maroua	12,324	464
University of Ngaoundéré	21,374	472
University of Yaoundé I	57,913	1,248
University of Yaoundé II	41,256	642
Private higher institutions of learning	82,132	n.a
Total	340,746	5,022

Source : MINESUP

2. Health sector

In Cameroon, health is at the forefront of social policies. Given the extent of current challenges; several steps are taken to strengthen the health care system so that it could meet the real needs of the population notably as concerns human, technical and financial resources. In 2014, annual health expenditure of the population stood at CFA F 70,000 per inhabitant according to the WHO, with 28 per cent as government's contribution. The Cameroonian people contribute to close to 70 per cent to their health care expenses. The government should further secure lasting and universal access to quality health care and facilities by scaling up provision and funding the demand for these facilities.

With regard to human resources, the country is characterized by an uneven distribution of health care staff. Indeed, the largest cities of the regions accounted for 49.31 per cent of health care staff in 2016. However, since 2014, there is an ongoing project funded by the C2D to retain health care staff in remote areas in some health facilities selected in the Adamawa, North, Far-North and South-West regions. The purpose is to scale up health care services provision among target population. Over 446 health facilities have already been covered in the said regions.

Table 8 : Distribution of staff per region in 2016

Region	Adamawa	Centre	East	F-N	Littoral	North	N-W	West	South	S-W	Total
Doctors	55	511*	104	64	134	56	102*	114	70	98*	1308
Nurses	413	1012*	222	428	3014	490*	770*	1122*	366	821*	8168

(*) 2015 data

Source: Reports of MINEPAT Regional Delegations

Malaria control

Cameroon is a malaria-endemic country. Malaria is the first leading cause for medical consultation (28 per cent in 2012, against 30 per cent in 2014, 25 per cent in 2015 and 23.6 per cent in 2016) and hospitalization (43.2 per cent to 46 per cent from 2012 to 2016). Malaria is the cause of 41 per cent of consultation and 55 per cent of hospitalization among children less than 5 years. Malaria accounted for 69.7 per cent of deaths among children in this age group. Mortality was 0.17 per cent among pregnant women (*UNICEF*).

According to MINSANTE, in 2016, the North region was the most affected with a morbidity rate of 29.3 per cent while the North-West had the lowest morbidity rate with 13.06 per cent. The coverage rate of mosquito treated net is 70 per cent with a utilization rate of only 56 per cent.

Cameroon has devised a national strategic plan for malaria control that seeks to curb the number of deaths by 75 per cent by 2018. This plan is aligned with the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030. Significant resources have been mobilized by the government and its partners to achieve this goal, thereby enabling the deployment of preventive and curative services for the population.

Aids control

According to the National Aids Control Committee (CNLS), the prevalence rate has dropped from 4.3 per cent in 2011 to 3.9 per cent in 2015; especially among pregnant women with 31,596 tested positive out of 562,473.

With regard to the provision of medical care to people living with HIV, the targets of the national HIV-AIDS-STD control strategic plan for 2011-2015 have not been achieved despite the increase in the number of dedicated sites observed over the years. In 2012, 64 per cent of eligible health centres that is 250 provided medical care to people living with HIV, as against 75 per cent expected. In 2013, 65 per cent of eligible health centres provided medical care, as against 80 per cent expected.

Besides, coverage in Approved Treatment Centre and Medical Care Unit based on the District approach remains low. Indeed, only 60.8 per cent of health districts have an operational health care unit for people living with HIV. This national coverage also conceals huge discrepancies between regions. Lowest coverage rates are recorded in the Far-North, North and West regions, with 39.3 per cent, 45 per cent and 46.6 per cent respectively.

Table 9: Regional distribution of medical care units for persons with HIV

Region	Nber of operational CTA/UPEC	Number of districts with CTA	Number of districts without	Coverage (in %)
ADAMAWA	8	6	2	75.0
CENTRE	39	22	8	73.3
EAST	10	9	5	64.3
FAR-NORTH	12	11	17	39.3
LITTORAL	26	11	8	57.9
NORTH	9	7	8	46.7
NORTH-WEST	18	11	8	57.9
WEST	14	9	11	45.0
SOUTH	11	9	1	90.0
SOUTH-WEST	16	15	3	83.3
CAMEROON	163	110	71	60.8

CTA: Approved Treatment Centre UPE: Medical Care Unit

Source: GTC/CNLS, Annual Report 2013

The Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE) has set itself as objective to provide antiretroviral treatment to 210,000 persons in 2016 and 260,000 persons in 2017. Only 170,000 persons are currently under antiretroviral treatment which does not help in a considerable reduction of this infection.

One of the major challenges in HIV/AIDS control is to curb the epidemic and reverse the trend in the population in general and in specific groups. However, efforts to address these challenges are hampered by insufficient or lack of information necessary to optimize interventions. The number of surveys to monitor trends in the epidemic among the general population and specific groups is insufficient. Estimates and projections based on mathematical models are often used to address these shortcomings.

Tuberculosis (TB)

In 2015, 10.4 million people fell ill with TB and 1.8 million died from the disease (including 0.4 million among people with HIV). Over 95% of TB deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. In Cameroon, in the same year, 260,570 cases of TB were declared, plus 26,117 new cases and relapses, with a lethality rate (estimated mortality/estimated incidence) of 0.28 per cent.

Table 10: Estimated incidence of Tuberculosis by age and sex (in thousand)

Sex	0-14 years	≥ 14 years	Total
Men	3.8	18	21
Women	2.5	26	28
Total	6.2	43	49

Source: WHO 2015

With regard to funding, PNLT budget for the 2016 year was about CFA F 29 billion with 27 per cent of internal funding and 73 per cent of external funding.

Table 11: Funding of tuberculosis control in 2016

Funding of tuberculosis control in 2016	
Budget of the national tuberculosis programme (billion CFA F)	29
Internal funding	27%
External funding	73%
Gap	0%

Source: MINSANTE

The Ministry of Public Health is planning to treat over 25,000 TB cases per year so as to achieve cure rates of over 80 per cent. To this end, it will be important to manage multi-resistant TB, strengthen the input supply system and conduct follow-up and evaluation operations.

The Global Funds is thus planning to grant Cameroon an overall package of 288 million dollars, representing CFA F 144 billion for the 2015-2017 period so as to scale up HIV/AIDS and TB control.

Neglected tropical diseases

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Cameroon include: onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, Geo helminthiasis, lymphatic filariasis, leprosy, framboesia, trachoma, human African trypanosomiasis, Buruli ulcer, Leishmaniasis. Two main strategies are implemented to control these NTDs, namely:

- (i) *integrated preventive chemotherapy* through mass distribution of drugs nationwide depending on the endemicity of NTDs in health districts;
- (ii) *intensive care* of cases of Buruli ulcer, leprosy, framboesia, leishmaniasis, human African trypanosomiasis.

In 2016, the national schistosomiasis and intestinal helminthiasis control programme adopted by the Ministry of Public Health was overall effective. Indeed, there is a sharp drop in the prevalence of these diseases: 0 per cent in most centres in Yaounde; in the South-West region, the prevalence rate has dropped from 62 per cent to about 3 per cent thanks to water supply, treatment and health education available in facilities. By contrast, the transmission rate has been maintained below 5 per cent in the Edea centres.

In July 2016, the German Development Bank (KfW) and the Coordination for the Control of Endemic Diseases in Central Africa (OCEAC) signed a funding agreement worth CFA F 6.877 billion in this regard. In perspective, a new Master Plan (2016-2020) is expected to lead to the elimination of some diseases in Cameroon by 2020.

3. Difficulties encountered in the education and health sectors

In the education sector

The main difficulties pinpointed by actors in the sector include:

- Lack of staff or in insufficient number mainly in remote areas;
- Lack of school facilities (classrooms) or in insufficient number in remote areas;

- Uneven distribution of teachers throughout the territory ;
- Low pass rates in the northern and East regions;
- Lack of equipment for workshops and dilapidated state of buildings in SAR/SM;
- Insufficient financial resources;
- Lack of coercive and deterrent means of entrepreneurs to produce data relating to employment and vocational training;
- Remoteness of some localities of the region;
- Insufficient office supplies (computers, laser printers, photocopying machines) and office furniture (chairs, tables);
- The budget for basic education examinations is essentially a deficit budget.

In the health sector

The main difficulty in the health sector is the shortage of human, financial, material and logistics resources.

Major hospitals are mainly faced with the problem of maintenance of equipment and upgrade of technical wherewithal. In some hospitals, the technical wherewithal available for surgeries is obsolete, just like radiography and ultrasound equipment.

In remote areas, Integrated Health Centres lack staff and are often abandoned. Complete remoteness of these areas where there is no electricity, no potable water is a cause of demotivation for medical personnel posted in these areas. This leads to a situation where health centres whose construction has cost millions of francs to the State are abandoned and in a state of dilapidation. This is the case of the Nkolodou Integrated Health Centre in the Okola sub-division, which has been abandoned since 2005.

4. Solutions proposed

In the education sector

Measures that can be taken to address the difficulties encountered in the education sector include:

- Construction of classrooms, especially in remote areas;
- Posting of teachers to remote areas and adoption of a strategy to reduce the desertion of positions in these areas;

- Establishment of a coercive legal mechanism to prompt entrepreneurs to provide information on employment and vocational training;
- Recruitment and posting of trainers to SAR/SM;
- Provision of equipment to SAR/SM and rehabilitation of buildings.

In the health sector

Measures proposed in this sector include:

- Recruitment and posting of skilled staff especially to remote areas;
- Upgrade of the technical wherewithal of health care centres;
- Provision of vehicles adapted to remote areas;
- Rehabilitation and construction of buildings.

II. PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

Analysis of this sector is based on two sub-sectors: *rural development* and *Industries and Services*. *Rural development* includes "Agriculture", "Livestock" and Fisheries ", "Forestry and Wildlife", "Environment and Sustainable Development". *Industries and Services* include "Industry and mines", "Tourism", "Economy and trade".

1. Rural development sub-sector

a. Agriculture

Agriculture is based on three (3) types of crops: cash crops, food crops and vegetable crops.

Production of main export and food crops

- *Export crops*

Analysis shall focus on cocoa, coffee, palm oil, banana, rubber and cotton.

Cocoa is for the main export crop of the country after oil. Cocoa production was estimated at 269,495 tonnes in 2015/2016, representing a 16.2 per cent increase as compared to the previous season. It is mainly grown in the South-West, Centre and South regions.

As for **coffee**, its production reached 24,500 tonnes during the 2015/2016 season. It has increased by 3 per cent as compared to last period. The main production areas include West, South-West and Littoral.

With an estimated production of 248,000 tonnes in 2016/2017, **cotton** production has dropped by 9 per cent as compared to the previous season. It is grown in the three northern regions.

As concerns **palm oil**, it was estimated at 57,117 tonnes during the 2015/2016 season. It is generally grown in the Centre, Littoral and South regions.

Banana production reached 309,376 tonnes in 2015/2016, representing a 6.1 per cent drop, as compared with the previous season. It is grown in the Littoral and South-West regions.

Rubber production was estimated at 130,935 tonnes in 2015/2016. It has decreased by 6.4 per cent as compared to the previous season. It is mainly grown in the South, Littoral and South-West regions.

- **Food crops**

The main food crops include rice, maize, millet/sorghum, cassava, plantain.

Rice is grown in the Far-North, North-West and West regions. Local production was estimated at 221,700 tonnes in 2016.

As concerns **maize** production, it was estimated at 2,460,400 tonnes in 2016, representing a 9 per cent increase as compared to 2015. It is mainly grown in the Adamawa, North, West and Centre regions.

Plantain production was estimated at 4,128,400 tonnes in 2016. It has increased by 4 per cent as compared to 2015. The main production areas are located in the Centre, South-West, Littoral and East regions.

Table 12: Food crops

Food crops	2011	2012	2013	2014*	2015*	2016*
Cereals						
Maize	1572.1	1750.0	1948.0	2063.0	2259.2	2460.4
Rice	174.1	181.8	189.9	201.1	211.0	221.7
Millet/Sorghum	1241.0	1425.9	1638.4	1735.0	1941.5	2153.2
Roots and tubers						
Cassava	4082.9	4287.2	4501.7	4600.7	4787.9	4967.8
Starchy food and others						
Plantain	3425.8	3569.3	3718.9	3834.2	3980.9	4128.4

Source: MINEPAT/DAPE

b. Livestock and fisheries

Livestock

Livestock in Cameroon is characterized by short cycle and long cycle breeding. Short cycle breeding includes Poultry (hens, ducks, geese), Pork (boars, sows, piglets), and non-conventional breeding (dogs, rabbits, guinea-pigs, snails, great cane rats, etc.) while long cycle breeding refers to Sheep (rams, lambs, sheep), goats (goats), Cattle (oxen, cows, heifers, bulls, calves); and the Camelidae and the Equidae (horses, donkeys and camels).

- **Short cycle breeding**

The year 2016 was characterised by a significant increase (+5.1 per cent) in pig stocks. This increase is mainly observed in the Far-North, Littoral, North, West and South Regions thanks to the establishment of agropoles in the West (Bafoussam), Littoral and South (Kribi).

Also despite the bird flu that hit the poultry sector in 2016, Production is higher in the Centre Region, with stocks estimated at 29,060,320 heads. In contrast, the Littoral Region accounted for the highest number of non-conventional livestock products (366,040 heads) with a high rise of 150% as compared to 2015.

Table 13: Production of short-cycle breeding per region in 2016 (in number of heads)

Regions	Pigs	Poultry	Non conventional breeding
Adamawa	22,777	531,984	2,495
Centre	112,435	29,060,320	n.a
East	100,056	1,836,301	75,500
Far-North	74,223	1,242,029	2,419
Littoral	44,717	1,976,938	366,040
North	55,578	320,423	n.a
North-West	25,958	2,309,267	302,550
West	91,726	3,130,550	26,807
South	n.a	n.a	n.a
South-West	39,622	198,811	47,930

Source: Regional Delegations/ MINEPAT (RADEC: 2016 Regional Delegations)

- *Long cycle breeding*

Long cycle breeding is mainly practised in the three northern regions, in the East and in the North-West.

In 2016, production was estimated at 8,073 heads. Cattle population was higher in the East (834,236 heads), in the Far-North (454,698 heads) and in the North (345,555 heads) than in the other regions.

As for goat population, it was estimated at 6,331 thousand heads in 2016. Production was higher in the Far-North (795,919 heads representing a 22.85% increase compared to 2015), in the East (339,081 heads) and in the North (211,941 heads).

As concerns the sheep population, it was estimated at 3,559 thousand heads in 2016. It is higher in the East region (834,236 heads), in the Far-North (454,698 heads) and in the North (345,555).

Table 14 : Production of long-cycle breeding per region in 2016 (in number of heads)

Regions	Sheep	Goats	Cattle
Adamawa	149,937	113,574	137,908
Centre	n.a	146,734	83,774
East	355,000	339,081	834,236
Far-North	675,215	795,919	454,698
Littoral	25,038 ¹	n.a	3,902
North	164,247	211,941	345,555
North-West	86,940	n.a	203,370
West	70,436	93,395	117,622
South	n.a	n.a	n.a
South-West	5,633	31,428	28,338

Source: Regional Delegations/ MINEPAT (RADEC: 2016 Regional Reports)

Fisheries

Fishing in Cameroon is based on small-scale fishing, large-scale fishing and aquaculture. Local fish production was estimated at 295,274 tonnes in 2015/2016, representing a 10.2 per cent increase as compared to the previous year. The main production areas include the Littoral, South-West, North and Far-North Regions. Small-scale fishing (sea and river fishing) is the most developed form. The most common equipment used include hooks, lines, cast gillnets and dugout canoes, and the facilities include fish nursery areas, fish ponds, slaughter slabs, fish markets and fishing centres. Government's efforts focus on the promotion and development of aquaculture through the Agropole programme and rehabilitation of fish farms.

c. Forestry and wildlife

Forestry

In 2016, Cameroon forest potential accounted for a surface area of 12,758,856.07 hectares, against 7.3 million hectares in 2015, representing a 57.48 per cent increase. This trend is the mainly the result of the classification of thirty-one (31) council forest covering a surface area of 887,082 ha.

Government actions in this sub-sector focused essentially on:

- (i) development and renewal of forest resources;
- (ii) security and enhancement of wildlife resources and protected areas;
- (iii) enhancement of timber and non-timber forest resources.

¹ This figure includes sheep and goat production for the year 2016

The East Region has the biggest exploitable forest potential in Cameroon, followed by the South Region. However, reforestation is more expanded in the West Region with 2546 ha reforested in 2016, representing a 6.04 per cent increase compared to 2015.

The Adamawa Region is a fragile ecological area. Conventional logging is therefore prohibited in this area.

Table 15: Situation of logging per region from 2015 to 2016

	Exploitable forest potential (in ha)		Exploited surface areas (in ha)		Total reforested area (in ha)	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Centre	11 4976.8	11 4976.8	45959.4	45 959.4	85	85
East	490,459 ²	540,734³	260,975	263,296	50	50
Littoral	395,530 ⁴	370,000⁵	39,953	50,612	15	4
North	n.a	n.a	115	147.5	n.a	n.a
West	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2,401	2,546
South	1,487,484	n.a	245,018	n.a	3	n.a
South-West	453,165	n.a	16,651	n.a	155	n.a

Source: Regional Delegations / MINEPAT (RADEC: 2016 Regional Reports)

Overall, the main production forests in Cameroon include forest management units, followed by council forests. In 2015, forest management units alone accounted for a surface area of 5,720,443 ha, that is 85 per cent of the total production forests. The East Region has the highest production forest surface (3,795,238 ha), followed by the South Region (1,726,634 ha) and the Centre Region (826,272 ha).

Table 16: Distribution of production forests per region in 2015

	Forest management units		Sale of standing volume		Council forests		Total production forests
	Nbr	Surface area (in ha)	Nbr	Surface area (in ha)	Nbr	Surface area (in ha)	Surface area (ha)
Centre	10	587,173	40	90,436	6	148,663	826,272
East	51	3,443,782	33	68,534	9	282,922	3,795,238
Littoral	2	111,522	8	19,036	1	20,395	150,953
South	26	1,349,026	83	107,676	10	269,932	1,726,634
South-West	6	228,940	7	15,028	0	0	243,968
NATIONAL	95	5,720,443	171	300,710	26	721,912	6,743,065

Source: MINFOF (2015 Statistical Yearbook)

The number of logging licences granted in the East Region is still higher than that granted in the other regions. 218 logging licences were granted in 2016, against 200 in 2015. As concerns

² In number of trees

³ In number of trees

⁴ In m³

⁵ In m³

the volume of trees cut, it is estimated at 1,362,215 m³, representing a 16.2 per cent drop as compared to 2015.

Table 17: Number of logging and hunting licences, volume of logs cut per region from 2015 to 2016

	Number of logging licences		Number of hunting licences		Volume of logs cut (in m ³)	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Centre	33	n.a	n.a	n.a	377,312	n.a
East	200	218	17	21	1,625,721	1,362,215
Littoral	42	19	2	n.a	80,378	102,574
West	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	16,494.13	26,394,969
South	31	n.a	n.a	n.a	774,298	n.a
South-West	27	n.a	0	n.a	213 462	n.a

Source: MINFOF (2015 Statistical Yearbook); Regional Delegations / MINFOF (RADEC: 2016 Regional Reports)

As concerns Timber Processing Units, the Centre Region had more than the other regions in 2015, that is 50 units identified against 49 in 2014, followed by the East Region (40 units), the Littoral (29) and the South (18).

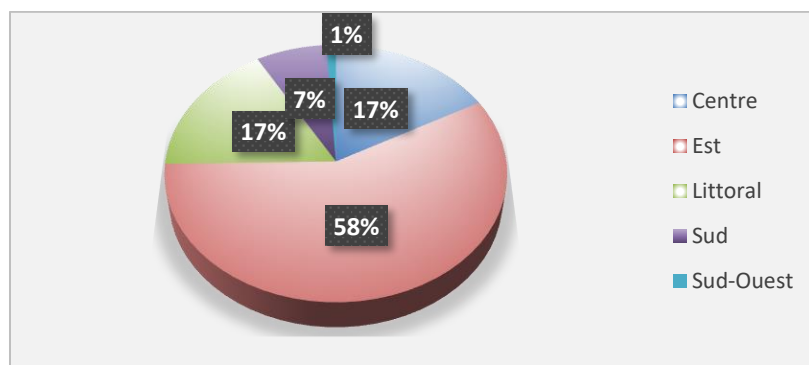
Table 18: Number of timber processing units per region in 2015

	2014	2015
Centre	49	50
East	40	40
Littoral	25	29
South	12	18
South-West	1	2
NATIONAL	127	139
Processed volume (in m³)	132,761	838,734

Source: MINFOF (2015 Statistical Yearbook)

The volume of processed timber in 2015 at national level stood at 839734 m³, representing a 532 per cent increase as compared to 2014. Processing is more expanded in the East Region, with a volume of processed timber of 58 per cent. By contrast, processing is marginal in the South-West Region (1 per cent) due to the very limited number of timber processing units established and operational (2 units identified in 2015 against 1 in 2014).

Diagram 10: Volume of processed timber per region in 2015 (in %)



Source: MINFOF (2015 Statistical Yearbook)

d. Environment and sustainable development

The government is embarked on many initiatives to control desertification, including the revival of "Sahel Vert" operation (Green Sahel) with 25,000 ha of land reforested, 3,000,000 of trees planted, about 60 reforestation sites created since 2008 in the Far-North. The Benoue watershed development programme and the great wall initiative backed by the European Union should also be added to the list.

2. Industry and service sub-sector

One of the priority of the government today is to foster the development of industries and related services for steady and job-creating growth. A National Industrialization Plan was prepared in 2016 with focus on new investments (national and foreign) to develop this sector.

a. Industries and Mines

For mines, the products exploited are essentially gold, diamond, laterite, sapphire, tin and sand. Mining activities are basically carried out in the East and Adamawa Regions. The execution rate of activities planned in 2016 is above 50 per cent; activities are carried out mostly by small-scale industries and some regions stand out by the activities carried out.

The amount of diamond extracted from 2015 to 2016 has been on the rise, with 2,045.27 carats extracted up from 1,768.54, representing a 15.64 per cent increase. The amount of gold extracted in 2016 was 374,024.9 grams. Apart from gold and diamond, the East Region also accounts for a few alluvial gold indexes, iron ore, material (sand, gravels, laterite, clay, limestone). These ores and materials are subject to numerous valid exploration licences.

With regard to industry and technological development, the year 2016 was marked by the start of production on the cement plant in the Littoral Region (MEDCEM with a capacity of

50,000 tonnes), of two cocoa processing plants in the West Region (Producam with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes per an) and in the Centre Region (Fapam Industry with a capacity of 35,000 tonnes per an), extension of Nestlé Cameroun in the Littoral with the beginning of the nescafé coffee-brand. In addition, many industries were upgraded by the BMN with the technical support of UNIDO.

Besides, a gravel production plant (CHINA LONGTENG) was set up in the West Region (Bafoussam), leading to a significant increase in gravel production: from 349 m³ to 62,857.1 m³. A few basalt (43.182,5 m³) and kaolin (765 m³) deposits were identified in the North-West region.

b. Tourism

The tourist potential of all the regions is not adequately exploited to satisfy the curiosity of visitors. However, there was a move towards the construction of new hotels notably in the South-West Regions as part of the organisation of the women's AFCON 2016, as well as in the West, Littoral and Centre Regions even though 4 and 5 star-hotels and high standard restaurants are found only in the Centre, Littoral and South-West Regions. However, efforts are made to scale up in-take capacity of hotels throughout the national territory in 2016, with extension projects under way and construction of new tourist sites and attraction parks as part of the organisation of the AFCONs.

c. Economy and trade

With a 0.9 per cent increase in 2016, price pressure on household goods is on a downward trend as compared to 2015 where there was a 2.7 per cent increase.

This relatively low rise in the general price level can be explained by the increase in restaurant and hotel service prices (3.5 per cent), in alcoholic beverage and tobacco (3.0 per cent), in food produce and soft drinks due to beer prices that were raised from CFA F 50 to 100.

The entry into force of the EPA in August 2016 facilitated trade with the European Union notably with farm inputs, capital equipment favourable to the development of local SMEs.

3. Difficulties encountered in the production sector

Agriculture

Agriculture is faced with major difficulties, notably:

- Difficult access to farm inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.);

- Low level of development of production areas;
- Isolation of farm-to-market roads;
- Lack of organisation of marketing channels for the various crops (information asymmetry, absence of markets, etc.);
- Difficulties in reporting and consolidating statistics on the production of different crops.

Livestock and fisheries

Livestock and fishing are faced with major difficulties, notably:

- Health issues (swine fever and bird flu, etc.);
- Difficult access to inputs (day old chicks, young fishes, piglets, chicken and fish feed, etc.);
- Constraints in animal feeding (limited grazing land, depleted productivity of grassland, insufficient agro-industrial by-products like cattle-cakes, etc.);
- Inappropriate use of veterinary medicines;
- Low funding of production and marketing activities;
- Low supervision of breeders and fishermen;
- Difficulties in reporting and consolidating statistics on livestock and fish production.

Forestry and wildlife

Forestry is faced with huge difficulties, notably:

- Non-involvement of some actors (logging companies, the population) in the performance of reforestation conventions and lack of sensitization of the local population on forest regulation;
- Illegal logging due to the non-existence of regular control in logging areas;
- Human encroachment on forest cover for farm and housing purposes.

Industry and service sub-sector

The industry and service sectors faced some persistent challenges in 2016. In the mine area, there is lack of cooperation between companies holding exploration licenses, CAPAM and decentralized services of MINMIDT.

In the industrial sector, the constraints include:

- Difficult access to energy due to energy deficit as evidenced by the constant power failures;

- Difficulties in mobilizing the resources needed to fund industries' investments;
- Lack of transport and marketing facilities in industrial zones.

4. Solutions proposed

Agriculture

To address the above-mentioned difficulties, the following actions should be taken:

- facilitating access to inputs by backing up private initiatives that seek mass production of improved seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides);
- accelerating the implementation of programmes on the development of production areas;
- backing up private initiatives in the establishment of large-scale farms;
- developing marketing channels through the adoption of bundling strategies for agricultural products and possible creation of appropriate bread baskets in the villages;
- accelerating the conduct of the agricultural census and backing up MINADER statistical system so as to render it operational.

Livestock and fisheries

The following measures could be taken to address the issues faced by this sub-sector:

- enhancing vaccination coverage and plant surveillance;
- backing up private initiative concerning input production (day old chicks, young fishes, piglets, chicken feed, fish feed) so as to make them available in the various sales outlets in the territory;
- backing up initiatives related to animal feed production (fodder fields, maize, palm, cotton and soy bean meals);
- Directing project promoters to the special funding structures set up for this purpose (BC-PME, Agropole Programme, Special Youth Programme, etc.);
- Enhancing the organisation of fishermen into cooperatives;
- Accelerating the conduct of the agricultural census and backing up MINADER statistical system so as to render it operational.

Forestry and wildlife

The following steps should be taken:

- Involve all stakeholders notably local populations, logging companies, mayors in the process of reforestation and scaling up sensitization campaigns for these stakeholders on forest regulation;
- Enhance control in logging zones by scaling up crackdown operations and joint patrols so as to stop illegal logging;
- Systematically prohibit anarchic occupation of forests by the riparian population.

Industry and service sub-sector

To address the difficulties pinpointed in the industry and service sector, it is advisable to:

- Strengthen cooperation and synergy between the various stakeholders in mining activities (decentralized services, CAPAM, mining operators, local populations);
- Accelerate the rehabilitation of the electric power transmission and distribution system which will reduce energy loss during electricity transmission and ensure supply of power to production areas;
- Promote the use of industrial gas in companies' production. It will thus be necessary to foster the construction of pipelines linking gas plants with industrial zones.
- Continue ongoing actions in the construction and rehabilitation of transport infrastructure (roads, railways) and marketing facilities (markets, warehouses, storage facilities).

III. INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER FACTORS OF PRODUCTION

1. Energy facilities and access to electricity

The main sources of energy in Cameroon still include water, thermal and gas even solar energy is gradually being used nationwide.

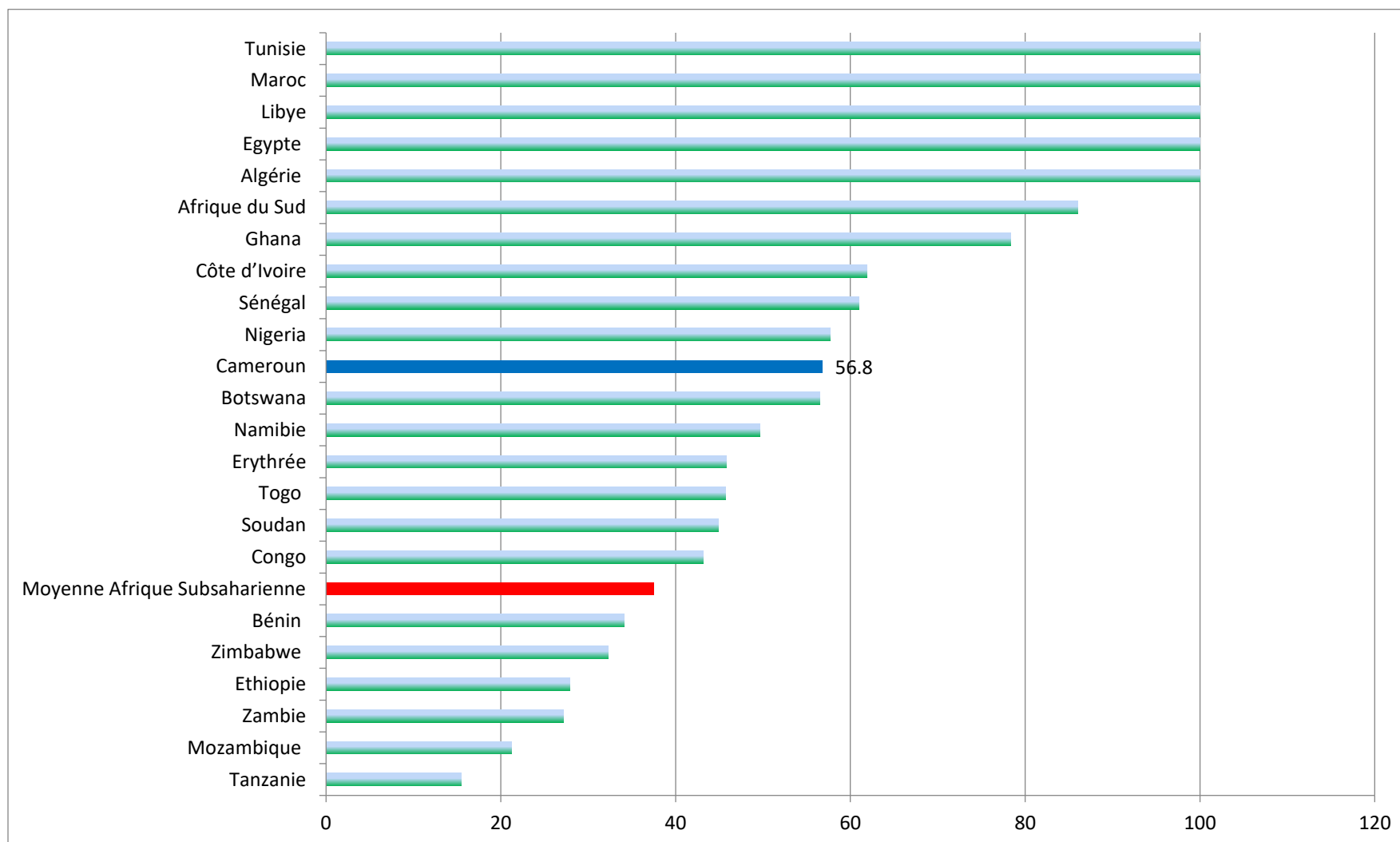
Power generation facilities in 2016 are virtually the same as in 2015 with:

- i. 03 hydroelectric plants (Songloulou 400 MW, Edea, 265 MW and Lagdo, 72 MW);
- ii. 03 storage dams to regulate water flow in river Sanaga (Bamendjin, Mbakaou and Lagdo);
- iii. 06 diesel-fired thermal plants linked to interconnected networks (Oyomabang, Bassa, Logbaba, Bafoussam, Limbé, Djamboutou);
- iv. 31 plants isolated from the other plants to avoid overlaps between equipment with an overall generation capacity of about 23 MW;
- v. 04 thermal plants installed in Bamenda (20 MW), Mbalmayo (10 MW), Yaounde (60MW) and Ebolowa (10 MW) as part of the Emergency Thermal Programme to reduce energy gaps in the South interconnected network;
- vi. 02 gas-fired plants (in Kribi and Dibamba with a 216 MW and 80 MW capacity respectively).

However, energy supply is expected to be boosted with the commissioning of the Memve'ele and Lom Pangar dams in the course of the year 2016 with a capacity of 211 MW and 30 MW each. Moreover, the project on electrification via photovoltaic solar system goes a long way to increase the overall electrification rate which stands at 56.8 per cent against 53.7 per cent in 2014.

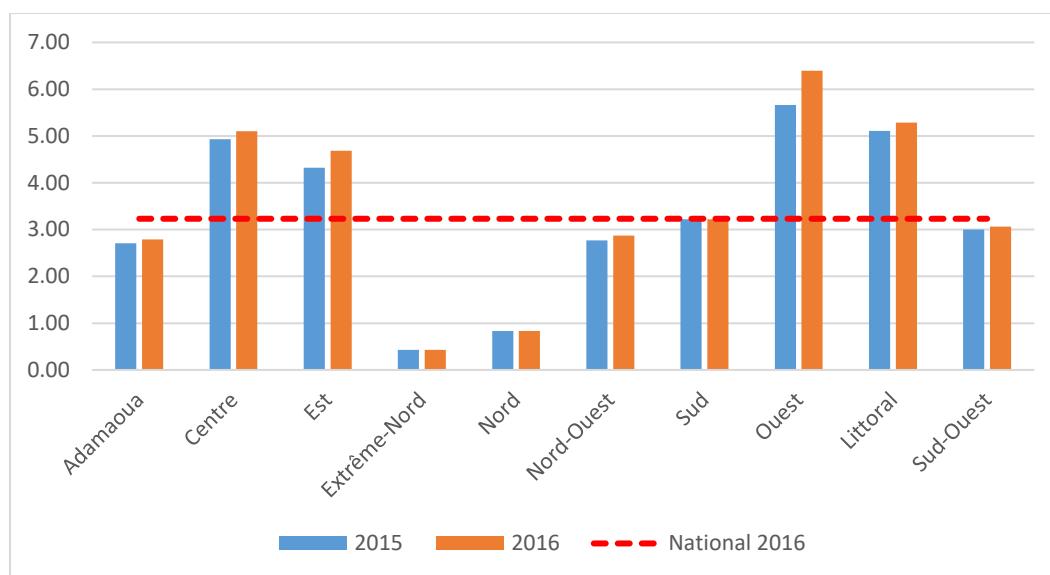
At the regional level, the Centre region has made a leap, with 36 new villages supplied with electricity, just like the Adamawa region where 23 villages in the localities of Borongo and Gaschiga have been connected to the electricity grid. The number of subscribers in this last region has risen to 33,635 in 2016, up from 33,424 in 2015.

Diagram 11: Access rate to electricity in a few African countries



Source: World Bank Group, 2017

Diagram 12: Access to energy products



Source: calculations by MINEPAT based on BUCREP and MINEE data

As concerns access to energy products, there is an increase in the number of filling stations nationwide. The number of filling stations operating has risen from 708 in 2015 to 742 in 2016. The ratio of filling stations per 100,000 inhabitants is 3.4 at the national level (as against 3.2 in 2015). The Far-North and North regions have the lowest ratios (0.4 and 0.8 respectively) due to the predominance of Nigerian fuel commonly referred to as "zoazoa". This phenomenon is also common in the Adamawa, North-West and South-West regions, with 2.8, 2.9 and 3.1 ratios recorded). By contrast, ratios of the Centre, East, West and Littoral regions are highly above the national average (5.1, 4.7, 6.4 and 5.1 respectively).

2. Roads

In 2015, the number of tarred roads on the total length was only 5 per cent. Actually, the length has moved from 5250 km in 2010 to 6114 km in 2015. If this annual increase rate is maintained (3.1 per cent), then the target of 8,500 km of tarred roads by 2020 will not be achieved.

At the regional level, the length of tarred roads is lower in the East (2.5 per cent), in the North-West (2.6 per cent), in the West (4.3 per cent) and in the Far-North (4.8 per cent). Moreover, the number of km of tarred roads per 1000 inhabitants was 0.28 in 2015 in Cameroon.

As concerns the number of km of roads per 1000 inhabitants, the East, South and Adamawa Regions have a relatively high index with 27.0, 14.5 and 7.6 respectively. Despite these regional discrepancies, there is need to improve the standards of the national road network particularly tarred roads.

Table 19 : Table 1: Length of roads per category and region in 2015

REGION	Length of tarred roads (km)	Earth roads (km)	Network	Ratio of tarred roads on the road network	Population 2015	Road network/population	Ratio length/pop.
WEST	462	1,088	7,800	5.9%	1,906,831	2.4	0.14
FAR-NORTH	599	1,777	12,452	4.8%	3,945,168	3.2	0.15
SOUTH	616	2,084	5,434	11.3%	745,198	3.5	0.40
NORTH-WEST	277	770	10,890	2.5%	1,950,667	4.5	0.11
NORTH	704	1,607	21,493	3.3%	2,410,936	5.2	0.17
CENTRE	1,288	2,546	10,543	12.2%	4,098,592	5.4	0.66
EAST	569	2,474	10,762	5.3%	832,869	5.6	0.30
SOUTH-WEST	385	1,123	9,045	4.3%	1,534,232	7.6	0.33
LITTORAL	517	932	10,810	4.8%	3,309,558	14.5	0.69
ADAMAWA	698	1,464	22,994	3.0%	1,183,551	27.6	0.84
CAMEROON	6,114	15,865	122,222	5.0%	21,917,602	5.6	0.28

Source : MINTP

Apart from tarred roads, only 24 per cent of earth roads are maintained. The bad road conditions induce considerable costs for the transportation of goods and persons. This phenomenon is more acute in the East (14.9 per cent), in the North-West (19.6 per cent) and in the Littoral (22.5 per cent).

In light of the results displayed in the tables above, there is a road shortage nationwide both in terms of tarred roads and maintained roads.

Table 20: Length of roads per network in Cameroon and per region in 2015

REGIONS	Earth roads (km)	Priority roads	Non priority roads	Total maintained roads	Total earth roads	Ratio of maintained earth roads
EAST	2,474	868	19,083	3,342	22,425	14.9%
NORTH-WEST	770	1,238	8,258	2,008	10,266	19.6%
LITTORAL	932	708	5,643	1,640	7,283	22.5%
NORTH	1,607	867	7,712	2,474	10,186	24.3%
ADAMAWA	1,464	605	6,278	2,069	8,347	24.8%
WEST	1,088	1,473	7,739	2,561	10,300	24.9%
FAR-NORTH	1,777	1,195	8,881	2,972	11,853	25.1%
SOUTH	2,084	698	7,412	2,782	10,194	27.3%
CENTRE	2,546	3,657	14,002	6,203	20,205	30.7%
SOUTH-WEST	1,123	746	3,180	1,869	5,049	37.0%
CAMEROON	15,865	12,055	88,188	27,920	116,108	24.0%

Source : MINTP

In light of these observations, it is advisable to consider the following measures:

- Comply with the schedule of execution of projects already committed;
- Increase the life span of tarred roads through: (i) better programming of interventions (maintenance/rehabilitation); (ii) re-introduction of maintenance works under state-controlled mode which would go a long way to considerably shortening road maintenance deadlines and costs;
- Strengthen the mechanisms concerning the selection of roads to be tarred (by laying emphasis on traffic and connection of producing areas to markets), the most landlocked regions, and service providers (taking into account their experience in similar projects, their financial capacity and their categories ...).

List of engineering structures constructed in 2015 and projected in 2016

In 2015, two structures were constructed for a length of 16.5 m while projections for 2016 provide for 4 projects for a length of 73m.

Table 21: List of engineering structures constructed in 2015 and projected in 2016

ENGINEERING STRUCTURES TO BE COMPLETED IN 2016			
No.	PROJECT TITLE	SOURCE OF FUNDING	LENGTH (m)
1	Construction of a bridge over river Ntem in Kakar on the Kakar-Sabongari road	PIB-MINTP	15
2	Construction of some structures of the classified network in six lots Lot 2	PIB-MINTP	30
3	Construction of some structures of the classified network in six lots Lot 3	PIB-MINTP	18
4	Construction of some structures of the classified network in six lots Lot 1	PIB-MINTP	10
LENGTH WHOSE ACCEPTANCE IS SLATED FOR 2016			73

Source: MINTP/DPPN

3. Railways

Overall, railway infrastructure (equipment and rolling stock) is in a dilapidated state, especially in terms of quality. And this accounted for the derailment of the intercity train of Camrail in October last year. In particular, there are huge failures in the braking system of passenger coaches and tracks.

Evolution of the equipment fleet and rolling stock of the railway sector

The table below shows that there has not been a major change in the railway fleet from 2012 to 2014. Even though the number of coaches, locomotives and km of tracks effectively renewed has slightly increased, the other equipment remains same or even non-existent; such as rehabilitated and constructed railways.

Table 22 : Evolution of the rail equipment fleet

Items	Years				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of coaches	1,174	1,224	1,234		
Number of locomotives	57	61	60		
Number of railway stations	37	37	37		
Number of km of railways effectively rehabilitated	0	0	0		
Number of km of railways effectively renewed	4	9	25		
Number of km of railways constructed	0	0	0		
Number of level crossings existing	151	152	153		

Source: CAMRAIL

From 2012 to 2014, the major achievements in terms of fleet of rolling stocks include acquisition of new coaches (10) and new passenger carriages (40), as well as the rehabilitation of old coaches (25). These indicators show the dilapidated state of Camrail fleet of rolling stock and highlight the need for the renewal of these infrastructure.

Table 23: Fleet of rolling stock

Items	Years				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ACQUIRED					
Number of passenger coaches	0	0	40		
Number of carriages	0	50	10		
Main-line locomotives and shunters	0	6	...		
REHABILITATED					
Number of passenger coaches	6	2	2		
Number of carriages	58	69	25		
Main-line locomotives and shunters	1	2	1		

Source: CAMRAIL

Service satisfaction

From 2012 to 2014, the survey on CAMTEL service satisfaction reveals an increase of incidents and accidents on the railway with indicators such as the number of derailments and incidents per level crossing.

Table 24: Service satisfaction

Items	Years				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of derailments of passenger traffic	3	0	4		
Number of derailments of freight traffic	15	12	16		
Number of locomotive failures	318	412	421		
Number of level crossings with safety installations	2	3	3		
Number of incidents recorded per level crossing	23	2	7		

Source: CAMRAIL

Tangible and intangible damage recorded per year

It is difficult to make an in-depth analysis of this issue because of lack of information on certain items. However, it is observed that the number of accidents recorded on the railway remains high including the number of persons injured and/or dead. This may be due to the poor standards or even the lack of safety facilities on the railway. For instance, in 2014, only 3 level crossings had safety installations out of the existing 153.

Table 25: Number of tangible and intangible damage recorded per year

Items	Years				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents and persons injured	102	50	51		
Accidents and persons dead		
Collision, including collisions with obstacles within the clearance gauge	23	2	7		
Accidents to persons caused by rolling stocks in motion	78	89	59		
Fire in rolling stock		

Source: CAMRAIL

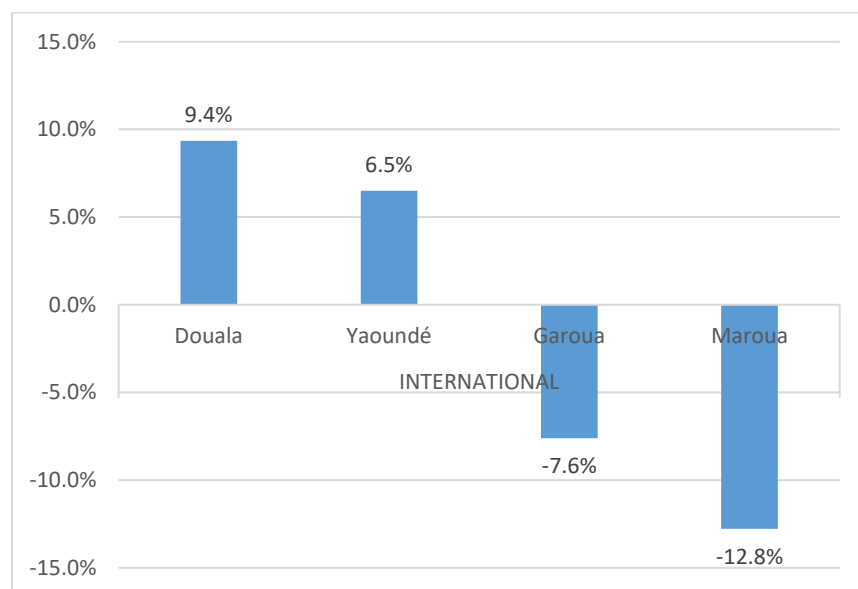
4. Airport facilities

There are 8 airports in Cameroon which are spread over the country in the cities of Douala, Yaoundé, Garoua, Maroua, NGaoundéré, Bertoua, Bafoussam and Bamenda, including 4 which meet international standards (Douala, Yaoundé, Maroua and Garoua). Air traffic in the 6 operational airports has witnessed a significant rise with 1.5 million passengers recorded in 2016, up from 1.1 million in 2012.

As concerns international traffic, there is a positive flow of passengers in Douala (9.4 per cent) and Yaounde (6.5 per cent) as the result of the change in the national servicing policy applied by the airline company Camair-co on the one hand, and the increase of landing points by some international airlines companies like Ethiopian airlines on the other hand.

By contrast, there is low traffic at the Garoua and Maroua airports due to insecurity in the North and Far-North regions coupled with the dilapidated state of facilities.

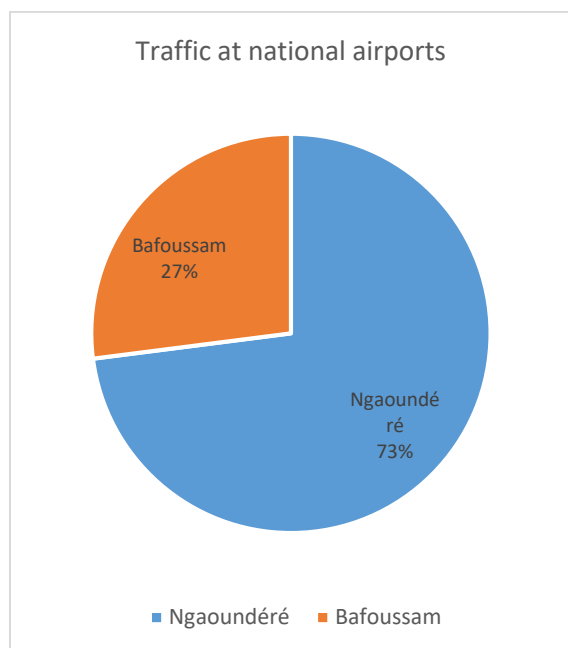
Diagram 13: Air traffic trends at international airports from 2012 to 2016



Source: 2015 Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Transport

As concerns national airports, only 2 out of 4 are operational, and traffic is higher at the Ngaoundere airport (73 per cent).

Diagram 14: Air traffic trends at international airports from 2012 to 2016



Source: 2015 Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Transport

Besides, it would be wise to accelerate the rehabilitation of airports and render them operational on the one hand, and facilitate access to air transport by reducing fares on the other hand.

5. Water systems and access to water

Access to water

From 2007 to 2016, the government took a number of measures which led to a significant rise in the ratio of the population with access to drinking water moving from 43.9 per cent to 61 per cent. However, it should be pointed out that the objective of reducing the ratio of people that do not have access to drinking water to 30 per cent in 2015 has not been achieved. If efforts made to fill the gap are pursued at the same pace, it would be difficult to achieve the target set forth in the strategy paper by 2020 (25 per cent).

Water systems

The installed water production capacity was estimated at close to 650,000 m³/d in 2016. In Yaounde, the installed capacity is 200,000 m³/d thanks to the production of the Mefou treatment plant at Nkolbisson (50,000 m³/d) and that of Akomnyada (150,000 m³/d). In Douala, the completion of the first phase of the project of reinforcement and improvement of potable water supply helped to increase water production by 50,000 m³/d thereby raising water production capacity to 175,000 m³/d.

Apart from these actions, CAMWATER has devised a matrix of actions for the year 2016 in order to scale up potable water supply provision by 35 per cent (185,000 m³/d); the purpose being to improve infrastructure through rehabilitation, scaling up of production, reinforcement and extension of the system so as to curb potable water deficit especially in the largest cities.

Table 26: Distribution of water systems per region

Regions	Localities	Actions	Expected results
Centre	Yaoundé	Commissioning of the first extension of the Akomnyada plant, with a capacity of 35,000m/d	representing a 35 per cent increase
		Commissioning of the second extension of the Akomnyada plant, with a capacity of 55,000m/d	
		Take-off of rehabilitation, reinforcement and extension works on primary, secondary and tertiary systems over 400 km	
		Extension works on 50 km of the tertiary system	
Littoral	Douala	Commissioning of 11 urban boreholes of 50,000 m ³ /d	Coverage rate of 80 per cent, representing a 6.1 per cent increase
		Commissioning of 72 km of extension on tertiary systems	
West	Bafoussam	Potable water supply and commissioning for an additional capacity of 10,000m/d and 108 km of the system	
	Bandjoun-Bayangam-Bahouang	Commissioning of 108 km of the system and 17 km of extension of the tertiary systems	
North	Garoua	Construction of a water borehole with a capacity of 2000m/d	1000 households will be connected to the distribution system, representing a 5.5 point increase in the connection rate and 10.8 of coverage rate
		Commissioning of 20 km of the system and 17 km of extension of the tertiary systems	
Far-North	Maroua	Construction of a water borehole with a capacity of 3,600m/d	500 households will be connected to the distribution system, representing a 3.2 point increase in the connection rate and 13 per cent of coverage rate
		Commissioning of 10 km of extension on the tertiary system	
North-West	Bamenda	Continuation of potable water supply works for an additional capacity of 10,000m/d	Work progress is over 50 per cent
		Extension of 88 km of the distribution system	
South-West	Buea	Commissioning of 10 km of extension on the distribution system	400 households will be connected to the distribution system, representing a 7.2 point increase in the connection rate
	Limbe	Commissioning of 7.5 km of extension on the tertiary system	600 households will be connected to the distribution system, representing a 5.4 point increase in the connection rate

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East	Bertoua	Take-off of works to supply an extra 300m/d water to the city	
		Extension of 132 km of the system	Work progress is 30 per cent
South	Ebolowa	Upgrade of the production capacity to 5000m/d	1000 households will be connected to the water distribution system, representing a 2 point increase in the connection rate
		Extension of the 20 km system	
	Sangmélima	Rehabilitation of the existing production facilities with a capacity of 1200m/d	600 households will be connected to the distribution system, representing a 1.6 point increase in the connection rate. Status of rehabilitation works is over 60 per cent
		Continuation of rehabilitation and extension works on the production and distribution system for an additional capacity of 7000m/d	
		Extension of the 64,600 km system	
		Commissioning of 12 km of extension on the tertiary system	
	Kribi	Continuation of rehabilitation and extension works on the production and distribution system for an additional capacity of 7000m/d	Status of rehabilitation works is over 60 per cent
		Extension of the 64,600 km system	
		Commissioning of 22.8 km of extension on the system	1140 households will be connected to the distribution system, representing a 14.5 point increase in the connection rate and 58 of coverage rate
		Extension of the production capacity to 3,200 m/d	
Adamawa	N’Gaoundéré	Additional capacity of 6000m/d	Work progress is 30 per cent
		Extension of the 85 km system	

IV. COMPETITIVENESS AND BUSINESS CLIMATE

The main achievements in relation to competitiveness and business climate concern the continuation of efforts to facilitate business creation through the establishment of the Centre of Business Creation Formalities (CFCE), as well as facilitation of access to SMEs funding and creation of craft villages.

1. Business climate

As concerns the process to starting a business, Cameroon has eight (8) operational CFCE in the cities of Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua, Bamenda, Maroua, Limbe and Ebolowa) within which over 15,219 businesses were set up as at 31 December 2016.

Table 27: Trends in the setting up of SMEs in CFCE as at 31 December 2016

Towns	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Yaounde	235	1700	3545	5140	6478	5845	7862
Douala	477	1936	3210	4032	4155	5515	5352
Bafoussam	-	14	177	143	238	426	486
Garoua		8	82	182	191	316	301
Bamenda	-	10	175	209	204	362	295
Ebolowa	-	-	-	-	60	168	137
Limbe	-	-	-	-	111	531	550
Maroua	-	-	-	-	61	211	236
NATIONAL	712	3 668	7 189	9 706	11 498	13 374	15 219

Source: MINPMEESA (2016 Statistical Yearbook); / = unavailable on that date

One of the persistent difficulties is the lack of updated information notably on the number of jobs created. Moreover, follow-up/evaluation and supervision of new SMEs created pose a real challenge because their locations are not clearly indicated.

SMEs access to funding has improved thanks to the creation of the SMEs Promotion Agency and the SMEs bank.

As concerns the creation of craft villages, Cameroon has seven (7) craft villages and one International Handicraft Centre (CIA). These craft villages are located in the towns of Bamenda, Limbe, Garoua, Douala, Ebolowa, Foumban and Bafoussam; while the CIA is in Yaounde.

However, it should be mentioned that many other initiatives are conducted at central level and equally contribute to the improvement of the business climate. In 2015, such initiatives consisted in proceeding with the implementation of the Cameroon Business Forum's

recommendations, notably shortening of file processing time, recourse to e-procedures in some administrations and setting up of specialized commercial benches in courts of instance.

Besides, the government organises the Business Climate Survey (BCS) on a regular basis to appraise economic operators' perception of the business environment in Cameroon which is a tool for the preparation of related reforms.

According to the findings of the last edition of the BCS conducted in 2014, about 7 business leaders out of 10 feel that the business climate is overall risky (less attractive and/or discouraging). This negative perception which has not changed from the 2011 edition is even worse in the West and South-West regions, and for SMEs.

It is worth recalling that these regions that had a better perception in terms of business climate in Cameroon have now become the most risky especially in the Far-North region, as the result of the increase of attacks by the Boko Haram terrorist group.

Table 28: Overall perception (in %) of the business climate in Cameroon by enterprises per region in 2014

		Overall perception of the business climate in Cameroon				Total
		Very attractive	Attractive	Less attractive	Discouraging	
Region	Douala	0.6	21.7	47.6	30.1	100.0
	Yaoundé	3.3	13.0	44.6	39.1	100.0
	Adamaoua	2.0	21.4	38.8	37.8	100.0
	Centre excluding Yaoundé	4.8	17.3	41.3	36.5	100.0
	East	1.0	16.3	42.3	40.4	100.0
	Far-North	.9	24.1	51.9	23.1	100.0
	Littoral excluding Douala	.0	13.0	53.7	33.3	100.0
	North	3.0	24.8	34.7	37.6	100.0
	North-West	1.4	17.3	43.9	37.4	100.0
	West	1.8	14.5	42.8	41.0	100.0
	South	.9	13.9	51.9	33.3	100.0
	South-West	1.5	16.1	33.6	48.9	100.0
Total		1.8	17.5	43.9	36.8	100.0

Source: MINEPAT (BCS 2014)

The main difficulties for enterprises remain tax pressure and hassles, corruption, lack of funding, and insufficient electric energy.

In the light of the above elements, efforts needed to streamline the business climate should be directed towards:

- Enhancement of security in the northern regions in general, and in the Far-North region in particular;
- Acceleration of the execution of hydroelectric dam projects;
- Improvement of communication on reforms implemented by the government.

2. Competitiveness of the economy

Cameroon is ranked 166th out of 190 countries on the ease of doing business in 2016/2017 in the World Bank's Doing Business Report, representing one position gained as compared to the 2015/2016 ranking. However, with its 45.27 points out of one hundred, Cameroon is still at the first stage of development which is characterised by growth led by the mobilization of production factors and not by efficiency gains, with unskilled and low productivity labour.

Table 29 : Progress in Cameroon's ranking according to the Doing Business Report

	2016	2017	Changes
Global ranking	167	166	+1
Starting a business	140	149	-9
Dealing with construction permits	145	141	+4
Getting electricity	114	89	+25
Registering property	176	177	-1
Getting credits	127	133	-6
Protecting minority investors	136	137	-1
Paying taxes	177	180	-3
Trading across borders	186	186	0
Enforcing contracts	160	160	0
Resolving insolvency	120	122	-2

Source: World Bank (Doing Business 2017)

The challenge to overcome in order to improve the competitiveness of the economy remains that of reducing the costs of production factors and transaction costs.

Table 30: Trends in macroeconomic indicators of competitiveness from 2010 to 2015

Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Observations/ Interpretations

Cameroon Economic Development Report 2016

GDP growth rate (in %)	3.3	4.1	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.9	4.7	The GESP projects a 5.5% growth on average over the period 2010-2015
Per capita GDP (in US dollar/day)	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.8	4.1	3.8		Poverty line by the World Bank is 1.25 dollar/day. But it should be noted that 39 per cent of the population lives below this line.
Investment rate (in GDP %)	19.0	20.6	19.2	19.4	20.5	21.0		The GESP projects an investment rate of 20.3% in 2015 and 23.4% by 2020.
Opening rate (share of external trade to economic activities)	20.2 %	22.4%	22.2%	21.3%	38.7%	35.2%		In Sub-Saharan countries, the opening rate is around 35.5%. In the world, it is 30% on average.
Import/export risk coverage rate	75.0 %	66.5%	70.4%	65.0%	65.8%	66.1%		This rate is around 90% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 98% on average in the world.
Index of concentration of exports and imports (1=high concentration in a category of goods; 0=diversification)	0.37	0.36	0.41	0.42	0.44			In developing economies in Africa, this rate is around 0.4 whereas it stands around 0.11 in developing economies in Asia. In the world, it stands at 0.08.
Trade balance (in GDP %)	-5.67	-8.09		-8.25	-9.42	-12.01		The GESP projects a deficit balance of -1.3% over the period 2010-2012 and a positive balance of 1.46% on average over the period 2013-2020.

V. GOVERNANCE AND SOVEREIGNTY

As at 31 December 2016, the prison population accounted for close to 30 thousand accused and convicted. The in-take capacity was 17,817, representing a gap of 12,160 cells. Apart from prisons in the North-West and West regions, all the other prisons in the country are overcrowded. Indeed, the total number of prisoners is 7% (East) and 66% (Littoral) higher than the in-take capacity of prisons. This highlights a sharp deficit of facilities.

However, it is important to note that at infra-regional level, prisoners are unevenly distributed in prisons. This holds true in the two (2) regions with high rankings which results in a situation where some divisional prisons are overcrowded whereas others have idle capacity.

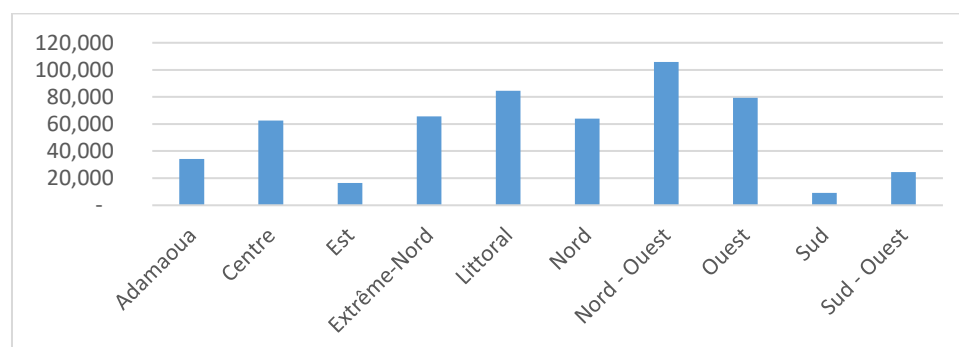
Tableau 31 : Existing situation per region in terms of courts in regions in 2016

Regions	Nber of prisons	Total of accused and convicted	In-take capacity	Population in 2015	Positive ranking
Adamawa	5	1,920	1,070	1,183,551	5
Centre	16	7,779	4,270	4,098,592	6
East	9	1,588	1,475	832,869	3
Far-North	10	3,750	1,970	3,945,168	7
Littoral	7	4,577	1,550	3,309,558	10
North	6	2,937	1,300	2,410,936	9
North - West	9	1,562	1,650	1,950,667	2
West	11	2,441	2,720	1,906,831	1
South	6	1,225	800	745,198	4
South - West	9	2,196	1,010	1,534,232	8
Cameroon	88	29,975	17,815	21,917,602	-

Source: MINJUSTICE

It should be pointed out that the in-take capacity of prisons in Cameroon from 2015 to 2016 has risen by 1992 cells over the period owing to the creation of new prison in the South-West and South regions.

Diagram 15: Distribution of the number of inhabitant per court and per region in 2016*



Source: MINJUSTICE

VI. GENERAL AND FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

1. Finance services

In 2016, Cameroon has 418 authorized micro-finance establishments as against 500 in 2015. This drop is due to the revocation of authorizations and problems associated with the quality of the portfolio and poor management of some establishments. It should be noted that Yaounde (Centre region) and Douala (Littoral region) are the cities that are most affected by the bankruptcy of these micro-finance establishments. Indeed, after the bankruptcy of Cofinest, Crédit du Golfe and Fiffa some years ago, Crédit Mutuel and Comeci are running the risk of closure; Société Financière Africaine (SFA) is under liquidation while the authorizations of Binum Tintine, Djagui du Cameroun and Mutuelle de développement et d'investissement du Cameroun (MDIC) have been revoked.

2. Follow-up of PIB execution

Table 32: Water systems

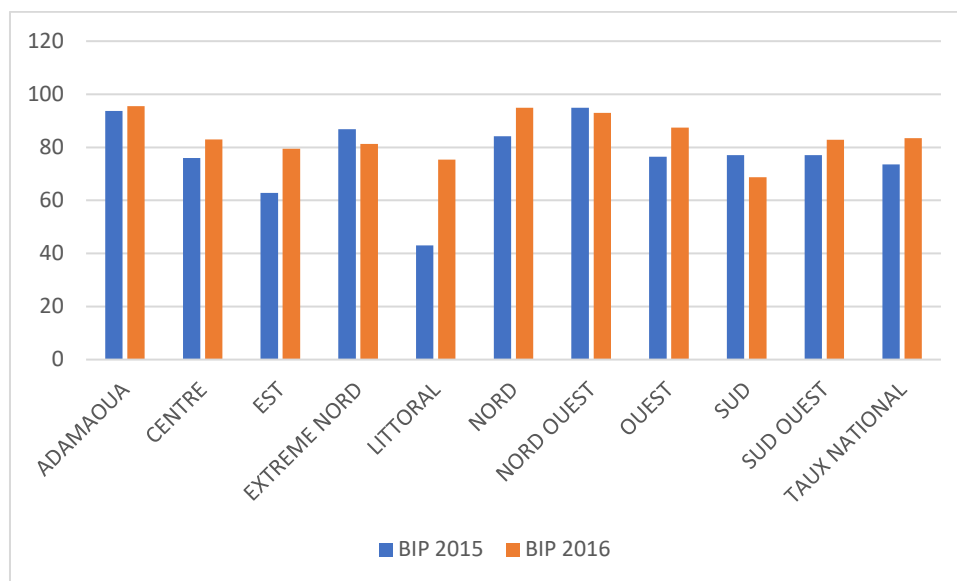
REGIONS	2016 PIB	2015 PIB	PROGRESS
Adamawa	95.57%	93.67%	+1.9 point
Centre	83.01%	75.94	+7.07 points
East	79.51%	62.84%	16.67 points
Far-North	81.28%	86.78%	-5.5 points
Littoral	75.34%	43.08%	32.26 points
North	94.88%	84.18%	10.7 points
North-West	93.02%	94.95%	-1.93 point
West	87.41%	76.43%	+10.98 points
South	68.67%	77.06%	-8.74 points
South-West	82.81%	77.06%	+5.75 points
National rate	83.39%	73.5%	+9.87 points

Source: MINEPAT 2017

The table above shows that there has been a substantial improvement in the execution of votes held at decentralized level. 2016 PIB execution rate has gained 9.87 points to stand at 83.39%.

The best performance in terms of physical execution of the PIB is thus recorded in the Adamawa, North and North-West Regions with 95.5%, 94.88% and 93.02% respectively. The Littoral, East and West record the best positions in terms of progress with +32.26 points, +16.67 points and +10.98 points respectively. The South and Far-North regions have recorded significant drops with -0.8 point and -5.5 points respectively.

Diagram 16: 2015 and 2016 PIB execution rates



Source: MINEPAT 2017

This upward trend in the use of the PIB in 2016 is due to:

- the availability of projects logbooks before 1st January;
- the effective take-off of the execution of the Public Investment Budget as from 1st January;
- the establishment of a mechanism, as from the beginning of the financial year in all the ten regions, to assist in the execution of projects that are facing maturity-related problems;
- the organisation, as from the month of January 2016, of capacity building seminars in all ministries and regions for the improvement of the smooth execution of the Public Investment Budget;
- the designation of sector focal points from MINEPAT to follow-up and supervise the execution of the Public Investment Budget in each ministry;
- the organisation of a review session on the execution of the Public Investment Budget in MINEPAT in conjunction with MINFI, on a quarterly basis;
- increased involvement of administrative authorities (Governors of regions and SDOs) in the close follow-up of the execution of the Public Investment Budget. This involvement is translated by the conduct of monthly consultation sessions under their chairmanship bringing together stakeholders in order to provide local solutions to problems encountered in the execution of projects.

List of risk-prone areas per region

Table 33: Risk-prone areas in the East region

Risk-prone areas	Types of risks
Border with the CAR	Influx of refugees, presence of high way robbers, health-related risks (epidemics, epizootic diseases)
Gold-bearing zones (Betare Oya, Batouri, Ngoura...)	Landslides, drownings, collapses
Marshland and lowlands	Floods
Markets	Fire
Forests, savannah, parks and reserves	Poaching, bush fire

Source: Regional Delegation

CONCLUSION

Consolidation of human capital in progress

Implementation of sector policies and programmes that seek to improve the living conditions of the population was materialized by positive trends in the main social indicators notably in education, health, ... This has been further enhanced by the adoption of different programmes on the fight against poverty and exclusion, and by the size of the State budget allocated to social sectors.

As concerns **health**, the Health Sector Strategy which reasserts public officials' willingness to improve health care delivery to the population seeks to provide quality services in a spirit of equity and social justice. This desire has been materialized by the increase of the budget allocation earmarked for the health sector to 236.167 billion in 2016 up from 207.066 billion in 2015; thereby scaling up activities to control some pandemics like malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. However, government efforts need to be stepped up because of persistent gaps in medical staff. In addition, there is an uneven distribution of health care staff in the country. Thus, the largest cities of the regions accounted for 49.31 per cent of health care staff in 2016.

Considerable efforts needed in the area of infrastructure.

The government has embarked on a huge investment programme for the development of infrastructure because of their critical role in trade facilitation and improvement of production tools. This programme seeks to scale up production factors at national level through the establishment of a territorial network of roads as well as energy and water supply facilities. It also focuses on access to new information and communication technologies.

Upward trends in agricultural production and improvement of farm and fish product

Overall, production of cash crops and food crops has been on an upward trend in 2016. Livestock production has increased in 2016, except poultry due to the birth flu outbreak in the third quarter of the year 2016. As for fishing, the sector has been on an upward trend in 2016 as compared to 2015 notably in the Littoral and South-West regions with the creation of new agropoles.

Improved perception of the business climate.

To date, Cameroon is host to eight (8) CFCE which are operating in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua, Bamenda, Maroua, Limbe and Ebolowa. Statistics from the Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economics and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) reveal that as at 31 December 2016, over 15,219 enterprises were created through the CFCE. Besides, Cameroon has seven (7) craft villages located in Bamenda, Limbe, Garoua, Douala, Ebolowa, Foumban and Bafoussam, and one (1) international handicraft centre in Yaounde.

More prisons required

With regard to **governance**, prisons were overcrowded in 2016. This phenomenon has worsen over the years as the result of the fast growing number of accused and convicted prisoners compared to prison's capacity. To address this issue, it is of the essence to proceed to a fair distribution of prisoners in prisons in each region and accelerate initiatives towards the construction of new prisons.

Improvement of the execution of the 2016 PIB

As concerns financial and general administration, in 2016 Cameroon had 418 approved micro-finance establishments, as against 500 in 2015. This drop is due to the withdrawal of approvals and problems associated with the quality of the portfolio and poor management of some micro-finance establishments. The rate of execution of the 2016 PIB stood at 83.39 per cent, against 73.5 per cent in 2015, representing a +9.87 point increase.