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Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

The 2021 UN Cameroon’s Country Results Report offers a bird’s eye view of the activities carried out by the United Nations System in Cameroon, in collaboration with the Government and partners. It highlights results and shows how the country works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the 2030 Agenda.

This report emphasizes the results obtained during the last year of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2021, highlighting significant achievements throughout the country’s ten regions in 2021.

2021 was an exceptional year, as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 was finalized and signed on 16 September 2021. This Cooperation Framework opens a new era of collaboration between the Government of Cameroon and the UN system. It embodies the UN’s collective engagement to support Cameroon in achieving the SDGs. The Cooperation framework will drive all the joint efforts of the Government of Cameroon and the UN, from strategic planning to implementation to monitoring, learning, reporting, and evaluation. This framework results from the close collaboration among the UN, the Government of Cameroon, and partners, including the civil society and the private sector.

2021 was also a challenging year with new variants of COVID-19, which continued to affect and disrupt the Cameroonian economy and deepened the existing vulnerabilities in the society. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations supported the Government in accessing vaccines through the COVAX initiative. It also continued contributing to the reinforcement and protection of the health services and systems, social protection and basic services, including employment and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Apart from COVID-19, Cameroon remained affected by significant levels of forced displacement and many vulnerable people are still in need of humanitarian assistance. For instance, Cameroon currently hosts more than 116,000 Nigerian refugees in the Far North region, affected by the Boko Haram crisis. In addition, over 320,000 refugees have fled the conflict from the Central African Republic into the East Region.

These populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, are a major priority for the Government of Cameroon. Therefore, the UN contributed to strengthening social cohesion, community resilience, macroeconomic response, and multilateral collaboration.

The humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach adopted in Cameroon aims to respond to immediate needs while addressing the risks, the root causes of the crises, and the vulnerabilities of affected populations.

We are looking forward to yet another year working hand in hand with extraordinary men and women, finding solutions and tackling new challenges to support this country. We strive to foster the transformative change called for under the 2030 Agenda with all stakeholders and development partners.

On behalf of the United Nations system in Cameroon, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government, international organizations, technical and financial partners and the civil society for their fruitful cooperation and commitment; and reiterate our determination to mobilize more resources through various contributions to achieve together, in a spirit of strong and fruitful partnership, the SDGs in Cameroon for the well-being of Cameroonian.

Matthias Z. NAAB
UN Cameroon, Resident Coordinator
A total of 23 UN entities operate in Cameroon under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, including 19 resident agencies, funds or programs. Six entities operate as regional/sub regional offices. A total of 16 amongst them signed the UNDAF 2018-2021, while 22 signed the UNSDCF 2022-2026. Together they form the family of the United Nations System in Cameroon.
The key partners of the UNCT in Cameroon in the implementation of the UNDAF have been:

- The Government, through its ministries, agencies, and various components;
- The International Financial Institutions (World Bank, IMF, AfDB, etc.);
- The Multilateral or Bilateral Cooperation agencies/organizations (AFD, USAID, KOICA, JICA, GIZ, Japan, Sweden, Canada, USA, Norway, Denmark, France, EU, Germany, China, etc.);
- The International and National NGOs (Plan International, Sightsavers, Catholic Relief Services, NRC, DRC, IFRC, Caritas, SAILD, AHA, etc.);
- Regional Integration Organizations (African Union (AU), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), etc.);
- The Private Sector.

The government through its ministries, agencies, and various components, provide the normative framework and the institutional anchorage necessary to implement the development interventions. As an illustration, the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development played a key role in the implementation of the UNDAF 2018–2021, as well as ensuring the alignment of the upcoming UNSDCF 2022–2026 to the national priorities.

The International Financial Institutions such as World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank (AfDB), etc. play a major role in the UN social and economic development programs in Cameroon. This role includes advising on development projects, funding them, and assisting in their implementation. For instance, the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank supported the UN to strengthen the health system with a respective contribution of USD 4 million and USD 14 million during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Multilateral or Bilateral Cooperation Institutions (AFD, USAID, KOICA, JICA, GIZ, Japan, Sweden, Canada, USA, Norway, Denmark, France, EU, Germany, China, etc.) had a key responsibility in collectively supporting the government’s engagement in Cameroon’s development. They facilitated the linkage between stakeholders and contributed to catalyze, through their normative role, the development of guidelines and standards to support actors to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Those institutions also played an important role to help mobilize resources in several areas such as health, education, resilience, and nutrition. They draw on and provide unlimited networks of experts at the global, regional and national levels. The International and National NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), community organizations, faith-based groups and women’s groups, as cooperating and implementing partners, were responsible of the implementation of the programmes in the field. They played a central role in a sustainable and locally-led response both in crisis contexts and development interventions, due to their relationships with and access to local communities.
Chapter 1: Key developments in the country and the regional context

Despite numerous challenges, the Cameroonian economy remained resilient in 2021 and recovered well from the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. From a GDP growth rate of 0.5% in 2020, the IMF estimated a rate of 3.6% 2021. 4.6 % is expected in 2022, exceeding the pre-COVID-19 average of 4%.

This can be attributed among others to an increase in the price of the country’s main exports, the lower-than-expected rate of COVID-19 infections, increased expenditure related to the African football competition billed for January 2022 and the overall recovery of economic activity.

The favorable trend led the government to modify and increase the 2021 state budget by 12.64% %, from XAF4,865.2 to 5,480.4 billion. Compared to the 2020 budget, this represented an increase of over 18%. An upsurge in COVID-19 infections could reverse most the 2021 gains.

Concerning the prevalence COVID-19, and as of 5 December 2021, the Ministry of Health reported 107,633 cases, 1,824 deaths and 105,027 recovered patients. This was much better than expected, given the devastating effect of the Delta variant in some countries. In the year, the government revised upward the budget allocated for the fight against COVID-19 and its repercussion from XAF150 billion to XAF200 billion.

These resources were expected to support the continued implementation of government’s Response Plan drawn up in 2020 which revolves around (i) reinforcing the health response; (ii) economic and financial resilience; (iii) strategic supplies; (iv) strengthening research and innovation; and (v) social resilience. The United Nations continues to provide support to the government in its fight against the pandemic and its socioeconomic effects.

The approval in July of a new three-year arrangement with IMF worth about US$ 689.5 million to support the Cameroon’s economic and financial reform programme has added more impetus to the recovery. The IMF immediately disbursed about US$ 177.2 million to Cameroon as budget support following the approval. The agreement with the IMF is also very important as it facilitates engagements with other technical and financial partners who use ongoing and successful IMF programmes as basis for their own engagement with the government – disbursements often tied to satisfactory biannual IMF reviews.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF-2022-2026) between the Government of Cameroon and the United Nations was completed and signed during the year. The UNSDCF is aligned to the development priorities of Cameroon as expressed in the National Development Strategy (SND30), the reference document for all development partners. The SDN30 aligns with the UN’s 2030 Agenda and the African Union’s Agenda 2063.
In addition to the pandemic’s impact, Cameroon’s context remained marked by lingering security and humanitarian crises. In the Far North, Boko Haram attacks against civilians and security and defence forces continue to fuel displacement. 2021 also saw an increase in intercommunal violence.

These incidents were mainly clustered in border areas and led to massive population movements across the Chadian and Nigerian borders. Similarly, in the North-West and South-West regions, indiscriminate violence continued to affect civilians, including attacks against students and school premises and staff. Finally, in Eastern Cameroon, communities saw an influx of refugees from Central African Refugees fleeing violent clashes between Government forces and the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC), a coalition of armed groups opposing President Touadéra’s re-election. The insecurity hampered the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving assistance.

Despite these challenges, 2021 saw encouraging trends. For instance, scores of former Boko Haram associates and combatants surrendered in northern Cameroon.

These surrenders could signal a positive shift, especially for trends in attacks against civilian populations. Furthermore, in the North-West and South-West regions, the Government appointed the first Public Independent Conciliators, ombudspersons tasked with hearing community grievances against local authorities. Another positive trend was the heightened mobilization of peace actors in the face of peace and security challenges. Women groups held a national peace convention in July. The Prime Minister visited the North-West and South-West regions in September and October, conveying peace messages.
Cameroon continued to be affected by three protection crises and concurrent, complex humanitarian situations: displacement caused by continuous violence in the Lake Chad Basin and in the North-West (NW) and South-West (SW) regions and the presence of over 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) in the eastern regions (East, Adamawa and North).

In the Far North region, the civilian population continued to be subjected to armed attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAGs), kidnappings, including of children, looting and destruction of property and infrastructure. A continuous trend of high frequency NSAGs attacks was also observed since July 2020. As of February 2021, violence has uprooted 560,000 people (322,000 IDPs; 116,000 Nigerian refugees; and 123,000 returnees) in the Far North region. Tension and violence in the North-West and South-West regions deteriorated drastically in 2020, disrupting the normal livelihood and production activities, and resulting in the displacement of more than 1.1 million people.

Insecurity and violence, coupled with poor climate conditions resulting in droughts and floods, inadequate infrastructural development, and a fragile socio-economic situation, continued to exacerbate the humanitarian situation in Cameroon.

In addition, the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated those fragilities.

As part of the effort to address the root causes of those crises, the UN collaborated with several stakeholders, including the Government, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) donors, private sector, local actors, and civil society. This collaboration enabled the provision of technical assistance to strengthen the national capacities on a broad portfolio of development needs.

Figures from the UNDAF Resource Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development of decent job opportunities and social inclusion</th>
<th>Health and Nutrition</th>
<th>Education and Vocational Training</th>
<th>Resilience, early recovery and food security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
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</table>
Cooperation Framework Priority Areas

Since 2010, Cameroon’s National Development Strategy as outlined in its Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) articulates phase one of a long-term development vision with a shared ambition by all stakeholders to transform Cameroon into a democratic and emerging country, united in its diversity by 2035. Despite several internal and external shocks, implementation of the GESP translated into significant progress from an economic and social standpoint especially in the education and health sectors.

Although the United Nations System (UNS) had supported the Government’s efforts in the frame of UNDAF 2013-2017, particularly in terms of promoting strong and inclusive growth, job creation, and State governance and strategic management, both institutions had agreed to design a new cooperation framework aligned with the country’s National Strategic Reference Framework, the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP).

The numerous changes that have occurred in the meantime and especially the security and humanitarian crises affecting the country in its East, Adamawa, North and the Far-North regions have led the Government and UN to redefine the guidelines of their main cooperation framework which is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The UNDAF 2018-2021 has been aligned with the horizon and priorities of the GESP, which was the reference framework for all UNS actions in Cameroon for the duration of the cooperation cycle.

The UNDAF duration has therefore been extended to 2021, to enable a smooth transition of UN interventions to the upcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and better reflect a robust alignment with the national priorities.

Thus, the analysis of the structural development challenges of the country and some key considerations which constitute the strategic position of the System remained the fundamentals of the UNDAF 2018-2021 and guided the design of the UNSDCF 2022-2026.

These considerations mainly involved highlighting the principles of Agenda 2030, appropriately targeting vulnerable groups and geographical zones, building the capacities of duty-bearers and rights holders, propelling the country towards the attainment of the SDGs and COP 21 and 22 commitments as well as ensuring a healthy balance and synergies between humanitarian action and development.

The UN has therefore continued to provide a strategic and operational support to the government through the four following pillars:

- **Pillar 1. Development of decent job opportunities and social inclusion**
- **Pillar 2. Health and Nutrition**
- **Pillar 3. Education and Vocational Training**
- **Pillar 4. Resilience, early recovery.**

In November 2020, Cameroon Government has officially presented its new National Development Strategy named NDS30.

The 2018-2021 UNDAF pillars remained consistent with the heart of the National Development Strategy (NDS30) and ensured a smooth transition towards the implementation of the upcoming cooperation framework, that will mark the new partnership agreement with the Government, and will constitute a commitment towards the population, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable.

**Pilar 1: Development of decent job opportunities and social inclusion**

Underemployment appears as the main challenge of the labor market in Cameroon. Therefore, the UNCT in Cameroon pursued the efforts to support to government policies for promoting decent jobs, improving the institutional and regulatory environment, promoting self-employment and improving working conditions for the benefit of young people, women, men, and refugees.

The UN System support has facilitated the alignment of the National Employment policy to the National Development Strategy (SND2030) in order to better contribute to address the underemployment of the labour force issue and improve the functioning of the labour market in Cameroon.
Moreover, the UN System has accompanied the pilot extension and digitalization of the Public employment service led by the National Employment fund at the level of the municipalities of Yaounde and Douala, in order to tackle the challenge of the mismatch between labour supply and demand for a better social inclusion.

Technical staff from local administrations have seen their capacities strengthened for employment creation. Young women continued benefiting from microcredits to develop sustainable, income generating activities.

Gender was mainstreamed in major strategic processes including the CCA and the UNSDCF in order to support the Government. The new Cooperation Framework includes a stand-alone Gender Outcome that will ensure concrete interventions to promote gender equality and women empowerment.

**Pilar 2: Health and Nutrition**

In Cameroon, significant milestones have been achieved over the past years in the health domain, especially in terms of disease control. In 2021, the UN achieved several key results in the various support areas by providing both technical and financial support to the Cameroonian Ministry of Health through the national priorities defined in the 2020-2021 budget program. These results concern both health emergencies, particularly in the fight against Covid-19, as well as the fight against communicable diseases, the health of mothers, children, adolescents and the elderly, vaccination.

On vaccination, the UN support concerned the deployment of the anti-Covid-19 vaccination which started on April 12, 2019, with daily vaccination in 244 vaccination posts spread over the entire national territory and 3 national vaccination campaigns organized.

In the fight against HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, 4,628 people infected with HIV have been diagnosed, 4,327 put on ART (95%) and 5,314 PLHIV on ART for more than 12 months.

On nutrition, the UN support to the government remained focused on breastfeeding improvement, IYCF practices' promotion, complementary feeding for the toddlers, micronutrient deficiencies control (iron, vitamin A, iodine, etc.), and nutrition-related chronic diseases' control.

**Pilar 3: Education and Vocational Training**

The UN interventions remained focused on supporting the Government towards the implementation of development strategies to encourage literacy and non-formal education, childhood and preschool development, primary and secondary cycles as well as vocational training.

Thus, efforts were maintained to bridge persistent gaps, especially literacy levels for women in rural areas of the Far North, the North, the East, and the Adamawa Regions, as well as the North-West and South-West regions. Despite the operational challenges, mainly the lack of facilities, extracurricular education equipment, persistent insecurity as well as lack of qualified teachers and trainers in some of those intervention areas, the UN actions continued to strengthen national capacities.

The focus remained on addressing disparities, especially those involving the enrollment of young girls, reinforcing staff training for preschool and caring for children with special needs, developing infrastructure, improving access to school textbooks, and improving curricula.

The UN assisted to develop a national bilingual education digital platform (online/offline) and alternative education programmes (radios and TV broadcasts), to improve access and quality of education. Access to education for children with disabilities has also been strengthened.

**Pilar 4: Resilience, early recovery and food security**

The UN promotes the use of renewable energies in households in rural areas of the North and the Far North of Cameroon to provide 1,000 households of alternative energy solutions and economic resources for their empowerment, in parallel with the promotion of the fight against environmental degradation and increased human protection against the risks of gender-based violence.

The UN pursued to strengthen government capacities through the implementation of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS). Through a participatory approach including UN and non-UN entities (fewsnet, CILSS), the system allows compiling both primary data (household surveys) and secondary data, provides data for the annual monitoring of food and nutrition security by identifying the most vulnerable areas in Cameroon with a detailed mapping covering 10 regions and 58 divisions.
### 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

**Pillar 1 of the UNDAF 2018-2021** focuses on increasing decent job opportunities and social inclusion. It aims to make young people, women and vulnerable groups more autonomous by implementing interventions aimed at increasing decent employment opportunities, on the one hand (outcome 1) and on the other hand, to reduce the inequalities and violence suffered by young people, women, children and marginalized people (outcome 2).

**UNDAF Pillar 2** aims to improve access and use of health services for the most vulnerable populations. The UN support the Government focusing on: (i) increased and equitable use of health services, prevention and treatment of malnutrition; (ii) strengthening the supply and the demand for services for preventive, curative and promotional quality care in Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Infant and Adolescent Health.

**UNDAF pillar 3** aims to support the government to enable all Cameroonians to benefit without discrimination from education and lifelong learning opportunities so that they are socially productive. Education includes the acquisition of fundamental, technical, or professional knowledge. The purpose also includes improving the quality of teaching and training, enhancing the educational sector’s inclusion, especially ensuring correlation between vocational training and economic needs.

Through **Pillar 4**, the UN intends to support Government efforts to give institutions and people a better capacity to cope with economic and social shocks caused by crises and extreme natural events, to adapt and recover quickly without compromising the future in the medium- and long-term.

#### Outcome 1.1: Access to decent employment opportunities

The UNCT pursued the efforts to support the government policies for promoting decent jobs, improving the institutional and regulatory environment, promoting self-employment and improving working conditions for the benefit of young people, women, men, migrants and refugees. Thanks to the UN support, technical staff from local administrations have seen their capacities strengthened for employment creation. Young women continued benefiting from microcredits to develop sustainable, income-generating activities. More than 3,000 self employment opportunities were generated in agrobusiness, digitization, ICT and media development, creative industries, green economy, renewable energy and minerals with the support of the UN system. Nine community radios were established, 140 journalists, technicians and radio program managers, and 100 university students were trained in several domains (e.g. security and fight against impunity).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment of a permanent framework for bipartite social dialogue between employers’ organizations and workers’ organizations</th>
<th>Media personnel and dialogue structures (including 10 women), trained on the principles of Universal Health Coverage in Cameroon</th>
<th>Young entrepreneurs trained (including 40 %women) in agriculture, agribusiness, green economy, minerals and digitization etc</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>850</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>860 health personnel (40% of the target) trained on site in the use of normative malaria documents in the North-West and South-West regions</th>
<th>55% of 15-19 aged adolescent both in East and Adamawa regions have the correct knowledge to protect themselves against HIV infection</th>
<th>5,000 out-of-school children resumed learning thanks to the construction of 100 classrooms in priority education areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
<td><strong>55%</strong></td>
<td><strong>5K</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>300 'tisserands de la paix from South and North Cameroon received training on Income-Generating activities</th>
<th>200,000 young people in and out of school sensitized on early and unwanted pregnancies, prevention of STIs/HIV-AIDS, and effects of drug use in schools.</th>
<th>320,587 students (including 53% girls), 8,506 headteachers (including 37% women) use online teaching platforms throughout the whole national territory</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>200K</strong></td>
<td><strong>321K</strong></td>
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<th>Empowerment of 1,000 households (6,000 beneficiaries) on 3 pilot sites (Bibemi, Poli and Zina) through the provision of alternative energy solutions and economic resources</th>
<th>108,000 beneficiaries, including 40% women and 10% people with disabilities, improve their livelihoods through the implementation of income-generating activities</th>
<th>721,000 beneficiaries representing 60% of the overall beneficiaries received unconditional food assistance (through cash-based and in-kind transfers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1K</strong></td>
<td><strong>108K</strong></td>
<td><strong>721K</strong></td>
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Outcome 1.2: Social inclusion of women, youths, children and vulnerable persons

The UN interventions aimed to support the Government in mainstreaming Gender in the main reforms and response plans carried out in response to COVID-19. Gender was also mainstreamed in major strategic processes including the CCA and the UNSDCF. The new Cooperation Framework includes a stand-alone Gender Outcome that will ensure concrete interventions to promote gender equality and women empowerment. One of the results of the commitment by the UN with the Government is the ratification by Cameroon of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (December 2021).

Outcome 2.1: Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health

The UN provided capacity building to 110 health personnel on emergency obstetric care and integrated management of newborn and childhood illness, to 30 reproductive health focal persons from the 10 regions on quality of care evaluation in SRH. In addition, 141 health facilities were equipped, and 130 maternity wards in the emergency obstetric care network were provided in order to strengthen the health system and enable a rapid response at the central level to all maternal and neonatal preventable deaths during the COVID-19 period. The UN also equipped targeted Health Districts with 165 motor ambulances for community referral of pregnant women to health facilities. In 2021, the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response System - Incident Management System (MPDSR / IMS) was also officially operationalized.

Outcome 2.2: Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Government and the UN have set the ambition of supporting the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria by emphasizing the quality of the services offered. 200,000 young people in school and out of school were sensitized on early and unwanted pregnancies, prevention of HIV-AIDS and the effects of drug use in schools.

Outcome 2.3: Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition

The Government and the UN have joined forces to improve access and the use of malnutrition prevention and treatment services for children under five and women of reproductive age. The UN continued to support the Government in implementing the National Nutrition Policy (2018-2030).

Outcome 3.1: Development of inclusive preschool, primary and non-formal education

The UN strengthened government capacity to provide online primary education services to schools nationwide, considering French and English education sub-systems applied in Cameroon, increasing utilization by up to 320,587 students. 8,506 female headteachers have been using online teaching platforms throughout the country.

Outcome 3.2: Vocational Training

Thanks to UN interventions, 200,000 young people in school and out of school were sensitized on early and unwanted pregnancies, prevention of STIs, and the drug use effects in schools, using social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and Twitter). These activities helped empower young men and women through assertiveness, a strong ability to negotiate and protect their convictions and control their impulses. The UN also focused on youth skills development through vocational training. For example, 500 young people were trained in ICT and entrepreneurship; 100 have been technologically empowered and vulnerable young people strengthened in 3D modeling and robotics. Also, 95 women and young girls victims of violence were trained in coconut processing and received start-up kits for their installation.

Outcome 4.1: Resilience to environmental, social and economic shocks

The UN interventions helped to restore the environment and climate resilience to the social and economic conditions of women. The UN supported the Ministry of Trade in setting up a Market Information System (CAMIS), operational in the Far North region, to prevent and manage economic shocks related to supply and demand of agricultural products.

The UN promoted the use of renewable energies in households in rural areas of the North and the Far North of Cameroon to provide 1,000 households with alternative energy solutions and economic resources, in parallel to the promotion of the fight against environmental degradation. The United Nations also accompanied the government to redefine its new climate ambitions aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement, which has been raised to 35%.

Outcome 4.2: Food Security

UN pursued to strengthen government capacities through the implementation of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS). Through a participatory approach including UN and non-UN entities (fewsnet, CILSS), the system allows compiling both primary data (household surveys) and secondary data, provides data for the annual monitoring of food and nutrition security by identifying the most vulnerable areas in Cameroon with a detailed mapping covering 10 regions and 58 divisions.
National progress in reaching those left Behind in Health

The number of children aged 6-23 months reached with micronutrient powders in 17 health districts reached 118,728. To reinforce a comprehensive life cycle approach and better address malnutrition in all its forms, maternal nutrition activities and adolescent nutrition activities have been introduced in the existing child-centered intervention package. A total of 30,850 pregnant women were supplemented with iron and folic acid for at least three months and 25,170 were dewormed.

National progress in building resilience and food security of those left behind

Nearly 721,000 beneficiaries representing 60% of the overall number of beneficiaries received unconditional food assistance (through cash-based and in-kind transfers). Beneficiaries were progressively transitioned from unconditional support to resilience building focusing on livelihood activities to strengthen local food systems through technical support to smallholder farmers. Resilience building support activities targeted nearly 97,000 beneficiaries. Nutrition support covered 127,425 individuals (children 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and other nutritionally-vulnerable groups providing adequate specialised nutritious food).

National progress in reaching those left behind in education

Thanks to the joint efforts of the UN and the Government, a bilingual (French/English) online teaching platform has been developed, considering the 2 educational sub-systems (French-speaking and English-speaking) in Cameroon. The capacities of the actors in the pedagogical oversight chain have been strengthened in the pedagogical engineering of distance education; including 1,071 teachers and 115 pedagogical inspectors.
2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

To achieve this objective, the UNCT multiplied the initiatives aimed to strengthen the partnership for achieving SDGs.

One of the pillars of this approach is the multi-partners committee. This platform brings together Development Technical and Financial Partners (Government, UN, World Bank, African Development Bank, IMF, etc). The mechanism enables the stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges related to supporting the National Development Strategy (SND30), as well as the 2030 Agenda.

Under the Coordination of the MINEPAT and the support of the SDG Fund, the UN implemented the initiative aimed at setting up the National Integrated Financing Framework. The objective is to mobilize resources for the financing of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 so that it contributes significantly to the achievement of the SDGs. The approach is inclusive, with the government bodies (MINEPAT, INS, MINFI, MINDDEVEL, etc.), the civil society (CSO platform for the SDGs, etc.), the private sector (Cameroon Business Forum, GICAM, ECAM) and the UN.

The UN contributed to the establishment of this financing framework through the realization of a diagnosis study, the consultation with private sector and public sector in Cameroon, through the realization of the mapping of the opportunities for affairs of the forest-wood sector in Cameroon and the production of seven sectoral reports on the performance of the development partnership.

The UN System’s commitment involves making a more coherent and harmonized contribution under the jointly developed, implemented and evaluated programs in the spirit of partnership based on existing institutional facilities and mechanisms.

A key UNCT’s priority: reinforcing resource mobilization for advancing 2030 Agenda.
The UN has identified the building of a successful tripartite relationships with IFIs and government as a key success factor for leveraging every opportunity to support the implementation of Government-led and IFI-funded activities. In this regard, the UN has developed successful partnerships with the relevant government counterparts and inter-governmental donors including the US, UK, Germany, EU, DG-ECHO, Japan, China, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, France.

The UN initiated and supported partnership with the National Association of Mayors and with all its regional representations. This partnership intends to engage mayors in investment and advocacy for the improvement of key pillars of the Human Capital development.

In the same line, the UN engaged a partnership with FEICOM to support efforts to advance education and nutrition notably in remoted and deprived rural areas.

The UN engaged with youth associations to facilitate the introduction of digital solutions to improve the quality of learning activities.

A partnership was also initiated with the Local Association of African Union of parliamentarians for evaluation. This collaboration led to set an advocacy session with members of both chambers of the national parliament to support the institutionalization of Public Policies Evaluations. Cameroon will therefore enjoy the benefits of evaluation as a powerful tool for Government accountability to the population.

**Partnerships towards achieving SDGs:**

in 2021, the Government and the UN continued strengthening and diversifying their partnerships in multiple areas towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The UN, alongside the government, has mobilized more than USD 60 million through national support projects for youth entrepreneurship in the agropastoral sector (PEA-jeunes), development of the rice and onion sectors.

The adoption of the Nexus approach, aiming to create synergies between humanitarian, development and peace actors to respond better to protracted crises, brought together the State, UN agencies, the World Bank, members states and donors, international and national NGOs and the private sector.
The United Nations system leadership in Cameroon is based on mutual accountability for the results achieved by the United Nations in the country. The coordination function is strengthened and overseen by the UN Resident Coordinator in Cameroon, the designated representative of the Secretary-General for development operations.

Joint Programming/Joint Programs: in 2021, the UN pursued with the implementation of the four main joint programmes elaborated from UNDAF 2018-2021, as well as other joint initiatives.

The UN Country Team works together, based on the “Delivering as One” approach to respond more effectively to Cameroon’s development priorities and humanitarian needs, in line with the United Nations mandate.

Currently, the United Nations system in Cameroon is made up of 23 resident and non-resident agencies, funds, and programmes. To improve teamwork, joint programmes have been implemented in the northern and eastern regions of the country. These programmes have been developed by Result Groups, in partnership with the relevant public administrations.

They provided an opportunity for UN entities to pool their expertise based on their comparative advantage to collectively contribute to national development priorities and strategies.

The joint programmes include:
- The Joint Programme on Food Security
- The Joint Programme on Economic Revitalization of Young People and Women
- The Joint Health and Nutrition Programme
- The Joint Programme on Resilience.
- In addition to these joint programmes, other activities were also implemented, based on joint work plans.

Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization

The Lake Chad Basin region is experiencing one of the largest security and humanitarian crises in the world. In Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria, people are being killed and injured, and many others are forced to flee their homes due to the violent insurgency of Boko Haram. The Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) is a five-year strategy comprising nine pillars of action distilled into strategic objectives. It adopts a balanced approach to addressing the multidimensional crisis in the region including military actions and building the resilience of local communities.

The RSS was endorsed in 2019 by the Governors’ forum. From the 4-5 October 2021, Cameroon hosted the third meeting of the Governors’ Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development. The meeting was convened by the Lake Chad Basin Commission with the technical support of the United Nations and the African Union Commission. Some key action points arising from this meeting include the urgent requirement to increase resources to support the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), better operational coordination among military forces, improving livelihoods, and the greater inclusion of women, youth and civil society.
Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The Cameroon PSEA Network was rolled out in 2020 and the 2021 Action Plan focuses on three outcomes:

- Strengthening PSEA networks through Coordination Task Forces and ensuring the mainstreaming of PSEA in strategic documents such as the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Common Country Analysis (CCA).
- Training and dissemination of existing guidance and policies on PSEA.
- Development of an Inter-Agency Community Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM).

Humanitarian actors in Cameroon agreed therefore to use the WFP complaint mechanism (hotline) as a joint mechanism. Training was carried out for the staff in charge to enable them to appropriately collect and solve sensitive PSEA complaints.

In 2022, the process will be finalized by the signing of the SOP and then the popularization of the hotline whose first results are very satisfactory.

In 2021, the network also developed an action plan with the aim of preparing a strategy for a period of 5 years from 2022. The strategy will provide guidance on addressing PSEA in Cameroon. Efforts will therefore focus on the establishment of a Common tool for the assessment of PSEA Implementing Partners.

Peacebuilding Fund

PBF investments during this period aimed to support the Government and the people of Cameroon with addressing peace-building needs, with a particular focus on i) DDR, ii) decentralization, iii) bilingualism, and multiculturalism. Two projects were funded in 2017 for a total amount of USD 3.2 million. In 2019 the PBF funded four projects in line with the eligibility granted to Cameroon, to coordinate the upcoming portfolio, to tackle the security crisis in the far North, to prevent conflicts related to natural resources and transhumance movements, to support social cohesion, for a total amount of USD 7.3 million. In 2020 two cross-border projects with CAR on human trafficking, and with Gabon and Chad on support to youth peace weavers, for a total amount of USD 7.1 million, and an initiative under the PBF-GYPI 2020 window in support to Human Rights Defenders in North-West/South-West regions for an amount of USD 1.5 million were approved, bringing the total active portfolio in 2021 to USD 15.9 million.

In 2021, two projects ended and two additional projects on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and public health, and on spillover effects of the anglophone crisis were approved, for a total amount of USD 4.5 million.

Gender Equality and Empowerment

In 2021, interventions were aimed at supporting the Government of Cameroon to mainstream gender in the main reforms and response plans to COVID-19. Gender was also mainstreamed in the Common Country Analysis CCA and the new UNSCDF 2022-2026 officially adopted in September 2021. The new Cooperation Framework includes a stand-alone Gender Outcome that will ensure concrete interventions to promote gender equality and women Empowerment. The 36th Edition of International Women’s Day was celebrated with a focus on relocating activities to the local level. The sixteen days of activism campaign was commemorated in the same spirit of relocation of celebrations at the local level including through the organization of trainings, sensitization campaigns, the engagement of men and boys and targeting IDPs and refugees, ensuring no one is left behind. Several concrete initiatives to end gender-based violence were implemented by the UN System in Cameroon, both in humanitarian and development contexts.

Cameroon participated in the Generation Equality Forum organized in Paris in July 2021 with the announcement of Revolutionary Commitments and Global Acceleration Plan to advance gender equality by 2026, including USD 40 Billion in financial commitments. This new inspirational feminist agenda for women and girls comes at a critical moment as the world assesses the disproportionate and negative impact of COVID-19.

In terms of the UNCT-SWAP gender equality scorecard, the UNCT Cameroon endorsed in 2021 its 2020 Annual Progress Assessment Report and Action Plan Report. The UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard is a globally standardized monitoring and accountability framework that promotes adherence with minimum gender mainstreaming requirements in the work of the UN system at the country level. The UNCT assessment is structured around seven dimensions and assessed against 15 Performance Indicators (PIs) that address key gender equality and empowerment of women and girls’ components as agreed by the UNSDG setting related benchmarks for gender mainstreaming minimum requirements. Out the 15 performance indicators, the UN in Cameroon exceeded four minimum requirements, meets five minimum requirements, approaches five minimum requirements, and misses one minimum requirement related to gender parity. The UNCT will endeavor to overcome these shortcomings in the coming years.
Disability Inclusion Taskforce

The Disability Inclusion Task Force is an interagency group made of representatives from 21 UN entities, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institute of Statistics and Christian Blind Mission. In 2021, the UN Disability Inclusion Task Force continued to play a key role in enabling the UNCT to support the government by implementing the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Task Force presented its ToRS to the UNCT in April 2021 and elaborated an annual work plan cutting across all the four core areas responsibility as outlined in the UNCT accountability scorecard for disability inclusion: leadership, strategic planning and management, inclusiveness, programming and organizational culture. In October 2021, four non-UN experts from organizations of persons with disability conducted a two-week baseline assessment on accessibility in 22 UN entities based in Yaoundé. This assessment aimed to gather policies, strategies and actions for each UN entity to enhance accessibility as per the CRPD and UNDIS. The assessment highlighted some good practices to enhance accessibility for PWDs, and the initiative will be extended to Indicator 7 (inclusive procurement of goods and services, accessibility of external venues and in procurement) in the next two years and assess UN Field Offices throughout the country.

In December 2021, a member of the UNCT Disability Inclusion Task Force went to Accra, Ghana, to attend a UNFPA training of trainer's workshop, on addressing the needs of people with disabilities. Under the name of "We Decide - Young Persons with Disabilities", the Programme aims to design and implement a model of intervention based on human rights, to tackle the discrimination against persons with disabilities and to promote gender equality, including prevention of sexual violence and the sexual and reproductive health of women and young persons with disabilities.

Finally, as a result of the UNDIS Task Force advocacy for the ratification of the CRPD, both chambers of Parliament (Senate and National Assembly) authorized in November 2021, the President of the Republic to ratify the CRPD along with the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa. This was also supported through advocacy and commitment within the UNPRPD project.

Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus

Cameroon is a priority country of the UN Joint Steering Committee (JSC) to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration, together with a few other African countries (Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Somalia). A Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Taskforce has been created under the RC/HC leadership, with the support of a Humanitarian Development Peace Coordinator. Moreover, a UNCT signature issue working group has been set to enhance advocacy on the HDP Nexus. The Taskforce includes more than eighty representatives from Government, UN Agencies, the World Bank, member states and donors, international and national NGOs, and the private sector.

The Taskforce developed the HDP nexus approach in Cameroon, based on a joint analysis, a vulnerability-based targeting with a common approach to understand and determine vulnerability, a coherent joint strategic planning and one collective outcome, a common prioritization across humanitarian and development actors, and ensure the operationalization of the HDP nexus at community level.

The HDP nexus approach rolled out in Cameroon aims at attaining the collective outcome by 2026 through the creation of synergies between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding interventions in areas of convergence at municipality level.

Business Operations Strategy

2021 marked the fourth year of the BOS implementation, through which after a successful migration towards BOS 2.0 in 2020, OMT provided leadership, implementation of a common operational support agenda in Cameroon in a more coordinated, efficient, and effective way.

The aim of having a common agenda of operations in Cameroon is to ensure that programs implementation benefits in as effective and efficient a manner as possible, of high quality and timely operational support for the agencies involved.
2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

**Lessons Learnt:** Collaboration with all stakeholders, including government counterparts, civil society, the private sector, communities, donors is key and should be pursued to achieve the SDGs.

The participative approach was also improved operationally with the full involvement of the decentralized institutions (regional and local councils) and traditional authorities alongside the administrations. This was a major asset for the implementation of community and institutional interventions.

Community participation has been essential to the strategy of stabilization, recovery and promotion of social cohesion, with, among other things, the success of the referral system and the community counter, and support for income-generating activities developed by young people. Returnees, migrants, refugees, internally displaced and ex-associates have benefited from cash-based intervention (CBI) to support economic recovery through income generation, while being strongly oriented towards recovery of their legal identity. In addition, the implementation of community violence reduction activities, the support and psychosocial assistance of vulnerable people from the disaster areas brought more social cohesion and resilience to the field.

Using its technical and operational capacities to build basic social infrastructure (health centres, schools, shelters, water points/boreholes, etc.), the United Nations system has sought the involvement of religious authorities in reconstruction of areas affected by conflict and peace consolidation; this approach was necessary and effective because they are perceived as neutral by the population and have a strong community roots.

This approach has enabled the agencies of the United Nations system to plan, implement and monitor interventions in close collaboration with these authorities, promote resource mobilization and strengthen national ownership. These partnerships, which provided proximity assistance and facilitated data collection including the use of various online platforms, have enabled the United Nations to effectively operate despite the prevailing insecurity.

The involvement of civil society as well has remained in the United Nations engagements, in areas related to development, migration management, peace, culture and social cohesion. This has been fundamental, especially in terms of advocacy for a culture of peace and behaviour change.

The planning, implementation and monitoring of the UN interventions in close collaboration with local authorities, decentralized territorial communities and traditional leaders promote resource mobilization, national ownership and the sustainability of interventions.

According to the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the recommendations from multi-stakeholder consultations, the Government of Cameroon and the United Nations System have identified four strategic priorities for the UNSDCF 2022-2026. These four strategic priorities are in line with the NDS30 and take into account the comparative advantages of the UN system agencies. The UN, in order to remain effective, relevant and efficient, has retained the key lessons learned from the implementation of the Development Strategy Document (DSCE), and the UNDAF results groups. The challenges for the implementation of this new cooperation framework are, among others, (i) the humanitarian and security crises; (ii) the changes in the international environment, both in the resources sector and in geostrategic interests; (iii) and the delays in the government’s efforts to achieve emergence.

The resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified these challenges. In response to that, in this year the close links between health and other key areas, such as reducing inequalities, human rights, gender equality, social protection, Borders Management (IBM) and economic growth, were maintained.

Strategically, the UN adopted a participatory approach to various initiatives such as the Multi-partners Committee and governance of the Peacebuilding Fund. This approach combined with a stronger HDP nexus lens has helped mobilise resources further to advance the 2030 Agenda.

However, there is still a need to maintain information sharing on cooperation programmes as well as synergies, complementarities and coordination of interventions within agencies, with donors and with Technical and Financial Partners.
The UN interventions in Cameroon were funded by a large range of donors, including Governments (Cameroon, USA, UK, Germany, Sweden, Japan, France, Canada, Norway, Netherlands, Italy, China, etc.), the European Commission, the Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF), the Multi Partner Trust Funds (MPTF), etc.

**Through the MPTF, the UN provided support to jobs, and supported the resilience of small enterprises and informal workers during and beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

In 2021, the development and humanitarian situation in Cameroon continued to deteriorate, resulting in increased requirements and budget forecasts for UN Cameroon. As observed in the previous years, the main part of the funding requirements (approximately 60%) was oriented to Sustainable Development Goal 2. Thanks to the strong support of the donor community, the United Nations mobilized resources that cover 35 per cent of all operational needs, enabling the Organization and its partners to provide emergency assistance in nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation, food and agriculture, health, protection, and gender-based violence to people affected by the crisis in the crisis-affected regions of Cameroon.

Furthermore, Cameroon has benefited from contributions from international financial institutions, notably the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, which contributed to resilience building, nutrition, education and social inclusion of children and women.

In the frame of COVID-19 Response Plan, the MPTF enabled the UN to support vulnerable women, youth, and informal workers in the two municipalities of Yaoundé and Douala through the:

1. promotion of rapid and sustainable jobs based on high labour intensive activities (HLIA) and related support for cooperatives, micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises (MSMEs) and employment services;

2. strengthening technical and professional skills that underwrite self-employment and the socio-professional integration of vulnerable women and youth affected by the pandemic; and;

3. strengthening life skills and protections that empower vulnerable women and youth living in pandemic-affected, peri-urban areas. The initiative also supports vulnerable women and youth in the five municipalities of Maroua, Ngaoundéré, Bertoua, Bamenda and Buea by enhancing their self-employment skills, professional integration, and protection.

4. strengthening financial inclusion of 30 artists and cultural managers from Maroua, Garoua, Douala, Buea, Bertoua and Ngaoundéré.
The joint programme supported the Government of Cameroon in rolling out the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), which is critical to identifying integrated financing solutions to support its National Development Strategy 2020-2030 and the Decade of Action. A particular focus has been placed on the tracking of public expenditures in the social sectors with the Equity for Development initiative to better estimate and quantify the proportion that actually reaches the final providers. Through the improved collection and use of gender data, the programme intended also to promote the national Gender Responsive Budgeting.

Public and private resources are currently not channelled to support the SDGs and public investment is often insufficiently effective, while slower and non-inclusive growth is another bigger challenge in Cameroon. The new National Development Strategy 2020-2030 is fully aligned to the SDGs and envisages actions to promote inclusive growth. It aims to place Cameroon on the path of Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) and this joint programme is to contribute to SDG 17 by mobilizing resources to advance the rest of the 16 Goals. Beyond the approach of being the financing strategy of the National Development Strategy, the underlying approach of INFF is to mobilize substantial resources into SDG accelerators for Cameroon.

The United Nations Secretary-General launched the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund (the Fund) to help low- and middle-income programme countries overcome the health and development crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Aligned to the 2030 Agenda and to the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19, the Fund brought the UN system together to support country responses to the health and development emergency caused by the pandemic. The Fund is comprised of 5 main pillars, including: (1) Health First; (2) Protecting People; (3) Economic Response and Recovery; (4) Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration; (5) Social Cohesion and Community Resilience. The Fund also includes cross-pillar programmes such as Gender Equality, Leaving No One Behind, and Innovation.

Amongst the emerging results, the following can be highlighted: the procurement of technical equipment (sewing, secretarial, office, and restaurant) to support 16 youth activities; in addition, 30 artists were trained on cultural and creative entrepreneurship and on aspects inherent to copyright and neighbouring rights, intellectual property and digital rights, digital broadcasting and social networks.


Chapter 3: UNCT key focus for next year

Heading towards UNSDCF 2022 – 2026: the year 2022 will mark the start of the UNSDCF 2022-2026 implementation. This framework intends to be the core instrument for articulating, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the United Nations’ role in achieving collectively-owned development results under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Cameroon.

The UNSDCF is the main outcome of a joint preparation process between the UN and all stakeholders, including the Government, Donors, Civil Society Organisations, and the Private Sector, throughout 2020-2021. Beyond a partnership agreement with the Government, the UNSDCF constitutes a commitment towards the population, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable.

The Cooperation Framework has been designed according to the national development’s priorities, the 2030 agenda, the imperative of Leave No One Behind –LNOB- and in the human rights and other standards and international obligations.

The Cooperation Framework is comprised of four strategic priorities, namely:

- **SP1**: Inclusive and sustainable growth through a structural and green transformation of the economy that creates decent jobs;
- **SP2**: Quality, inclusive and equitable human and social development;
- **SP3**: Institutional support and civic engagement;
- **SP4**: Environmental sustainability, management of climate risks and disaster.
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AfDB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>BOS</td>
<td>Business Operations Strategy</td>
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<td>CAMIS</td>
<td>Cameroon Market Information System</td>
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<td>CAR</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
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<td>CBCM</td>
<td>Community Based Complaints Mechanism</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>Common Country Analysis</td>
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<td>CEMAC</td>
<td>Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa</td>
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<td>CERF</td>
<td>Central Emergency Response Funds</td>
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<td>CRPD</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
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<td>DDR</td>
<td>Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration</td>
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<td>ECAM</td>
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<td>ECCAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of Central African States</td>
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<td>EFA</td>
<td>Family Agricultural Training Schools</td>
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<td>EmONC</td>
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<td>ESCR</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
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<td>FEICOM</td>
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<td>INFF</td>
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