



# UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

## CAMEROON

because everyone counts

### OUR MISSION

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

### BACKGROUND

The United Nations Fund for Population and Development became operational in Cameroon in 1969 under the administration of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bearing the name United Nations Fund for population Activities. In 1987, the name was changed from United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the United Nations Population Fund but the acronym UNFPA was maintained.

UNFPA is the UN system which leads operational activities in the field of population, using population data for sustainable development. It assists governments of developing countries and economies in transition (at their request), to formulate policies and strategies for poverty reduction in support of sustainable development.

1969—Start of cooperation between UNFPA and Cameroon  
1969 to 1976—UNFPA supports Cameroon in conducting its first population census  
1979—Opening of a sub-regional office in Yaounde  
Since 1987 UNFPA has assisted Cameroon in the execution of four Country Programmes: 1987—1990; 1992—1997; 1998—2002; 2003—2007

UNFPA's assistance to Cameroon in terms of the 4th Country programme, draws inspiration from the Common Country Assessment (CCA), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Programme Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These agreements seek to achieve;

- Universal access to reproductive health services by 2015
- Universal primary education and closing of the gender gap in education by 2015
- Reduce maternal mortality by 75% by 2015
- Reduce infant mortality
- Increase life expectancy
- Reduce HIV/AIDS infection rates by 25%

This 4th Country Programme (2003—2007), is being executed in six out of the ten provinces namely: Littoral, Centre, East, Far-North, North and South. The assistance focuses on two major areas or sub-programmes;

The **Sub-Programme on Reproductive Health** is lodged at the Ministry of Public Health. This programme seeks to offer high quality health services in 11 districts out of 170. Its principal outputs include;

- A) improving access to and availability of high-quality reproductive health services
- B) strengthening management of reproductive health service at all levels
- C) increasing demand for reproductive health services.

The **Sub-Programme on Population and Development** is lodged at the Ministry of Planning, Programming and Regional Development. Its outputs include;

- A) implementing the national population policy
- B) improving knowledge on population issues among decision-makers, leaders and the general public
- C) strengthening the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population programme.

Gender, Equity and Culture is one of the main highlights of this sub-programme. This project has as objective to;

- mainstream gender in policies and programmes and
- conduct advocacy and sensitisation on the reduction of gender based discrimination with a focus on girl's education and the enjoyment of their rights.

At the end of 2007, UNFPA-Cameroon and the government will be rounding up the 4th Country Programme. Drawing from past cooperation and lessons learnt, preparations are already on the way for the 5th Country Programme.

The main objective of the 5th Country Programme will be to improve both the quality of life and welfare of the people by achieving a delicate balance between socio-economic development and population growth. The components outlined will cover

- a) Reproductive Health
- b) Population and Development and
- c) Gender

This time around and with further assistance from the African Development Bank (BAD), UNFPA and the government will extend reproductive health services to 11 new districts.

### UNFPA Key Dates

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|----------------|--|
| 08 March       | - International women's Day  |
| 07 April       | - World Health Day   |
| <b>27 June</b> | <b>- Launch of the World Population Report</b> (subject to change) |
| <b>11 July</b> | <b>- World Population Day</b>                                      |
| 12 August      | - International Youth Day  |
| 24 October     | - UN Day   |
| 25 November    | - International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women  |
| 01 December    | - World AIDS Day   |
| 09 December    | - Human Rights Day   |