



# Cameroon

## Cameroon: Scenario Comparisons

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Chart 29: GDP per capita in the Current Path and scenarios, 2020-2043

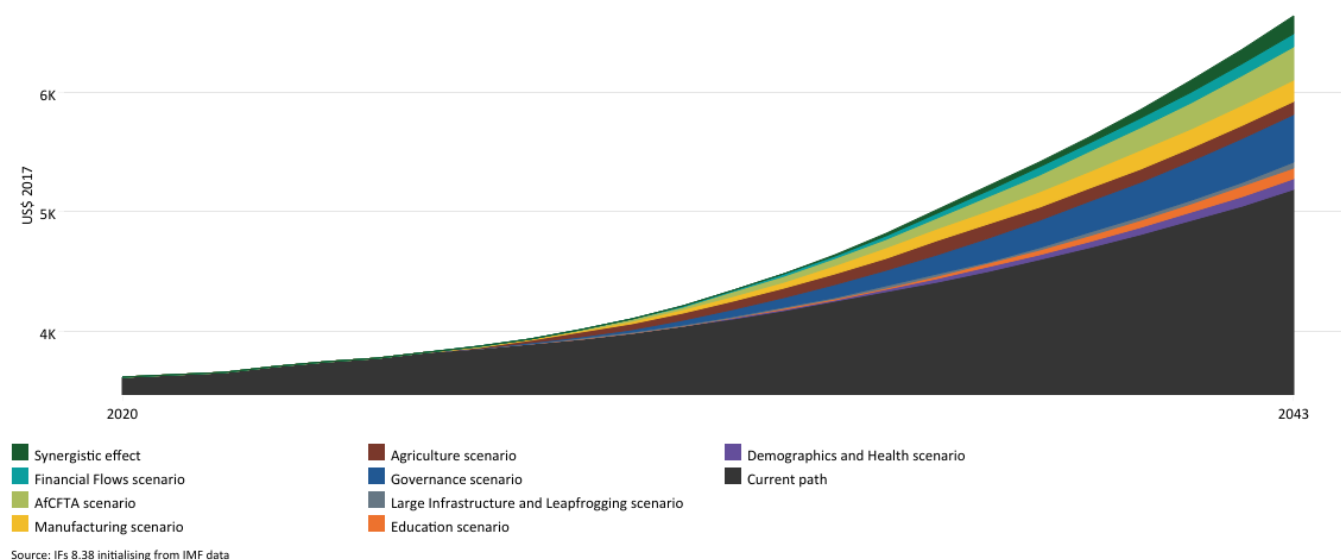


Chart 29 presents GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) in the Current Path and each of the eight sectoral scenarios. The data is from 2020 with a forecast to 2043.

All sectoral scenarios generate improvements in Cameroon's GDP per capita by 2043. The largest gains occur in the Governance scenario, followed by AfCFTA and Manufacturing.

In the Governance scenario, GDP per capita (PPP) will reach US\$5 588, approximately US\$406 above the Current Path. Stronger rule of law, reduced corruption, improved regulatory quality and greater policy credibility enhance investor confidence, increase capital inflows and improve the efficiency of public spending, thereby accelerating growth.

Under the AfCFTA scenario, GDP per capita will rise to US\$5 467, about US\$285 above the Current Path. Deeper regional integration expands market access, stimulates export diversification and facilitates technology transfer, positioning Cameroon more competitively within ECCAS and CEMAC value chains.

In the Manufacturing scenario, GDP per capita will increase to US\$5 361, approximately US\$179 above the Current Path. This confirms the catalytic role of industrial expansion in raising productivity, strengthening domestic value addition and generating higher-quality employment.

Together, these results highlight that institutional reform, trade integration and industrial deepening are central drivers of sustained income growth.

Chart 30: Poverty in the Current Path and scenarios, 2023-2043

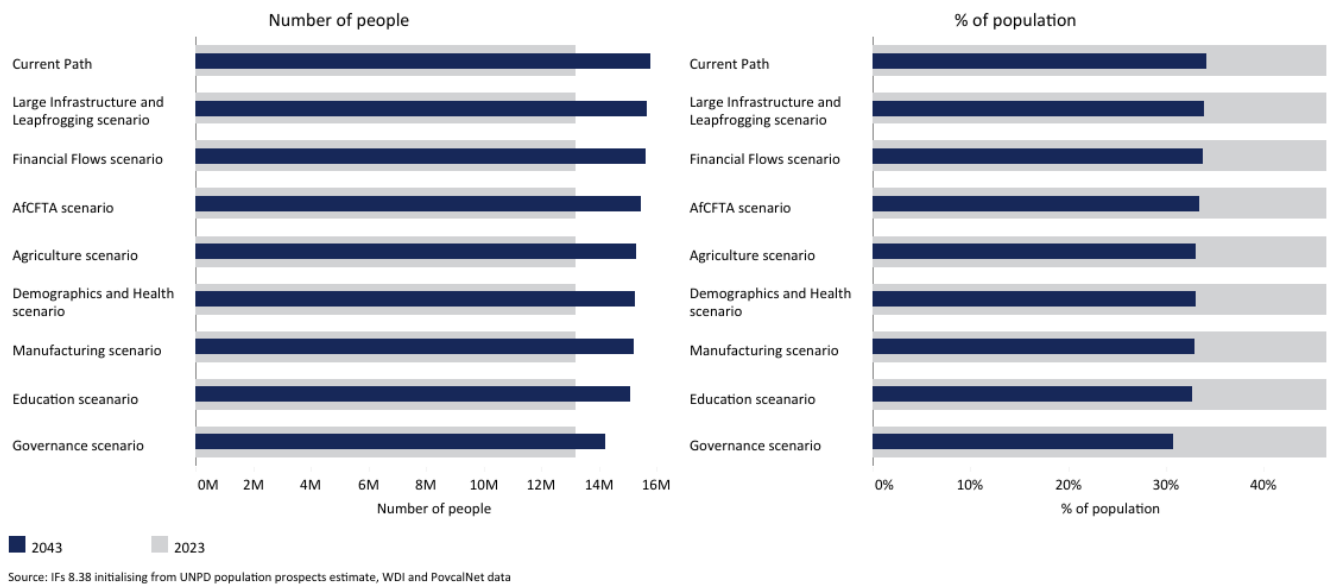


Chart 30 presents poverty in the Current Path and for each scenario, from 2020 to 2043. The user can select the number of extremely poor people or the percentage of the population.

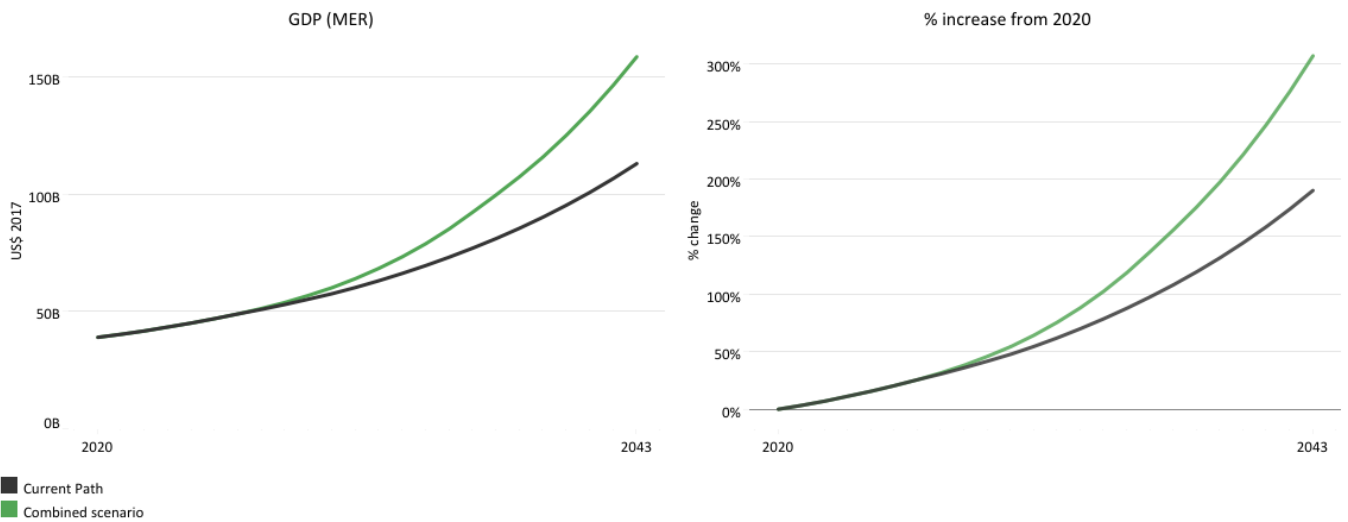
Poverty reduction remains one of Cameroon’s central development challenges. All sectoral scenarios will lower poverty rates by 2043 (measured at US\$3.65 per day), with the strongest effects in the Governance scenario, followed by Education and Manufacturing.

The Governance scenario delivers the largest impact: 14.2 million people (30.8% of the population) will remain below the poverty line in 2043, which is 3.4 percentage points lower than the Current Path and about 1.6 million fewer poor people. This reflects the broad-based effects of improved public spending efficiency, stronger institutions and more inclusive growth, which enhance service delivery and income opportunities for vulnerable households.

In the Education scenario, 15.1 million people (32.7% of the population) will remain below the poverty line, which is 1.4 percentage points below the Current Path, equivalent to roughly 660 230 fewer poor people. Strengthening human capital improves productivity, earnings potential and labour market outcomes, reinforcing poverty reduction over time.

In the Manufacturing scenario, poverty will decline to 15.2 million people (32.9% of the population), compared to 34.2% on the Current Path. Industrial expansion raises productivity, absorbs labour from lower-productivity sectors and generates spillovers to services and small enterprises. These results highlight that poverty reduction is closely linked to structural transformation and the creation of productive employment, not only to social policy interventions.

Chart 31: GDP (MER) in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043



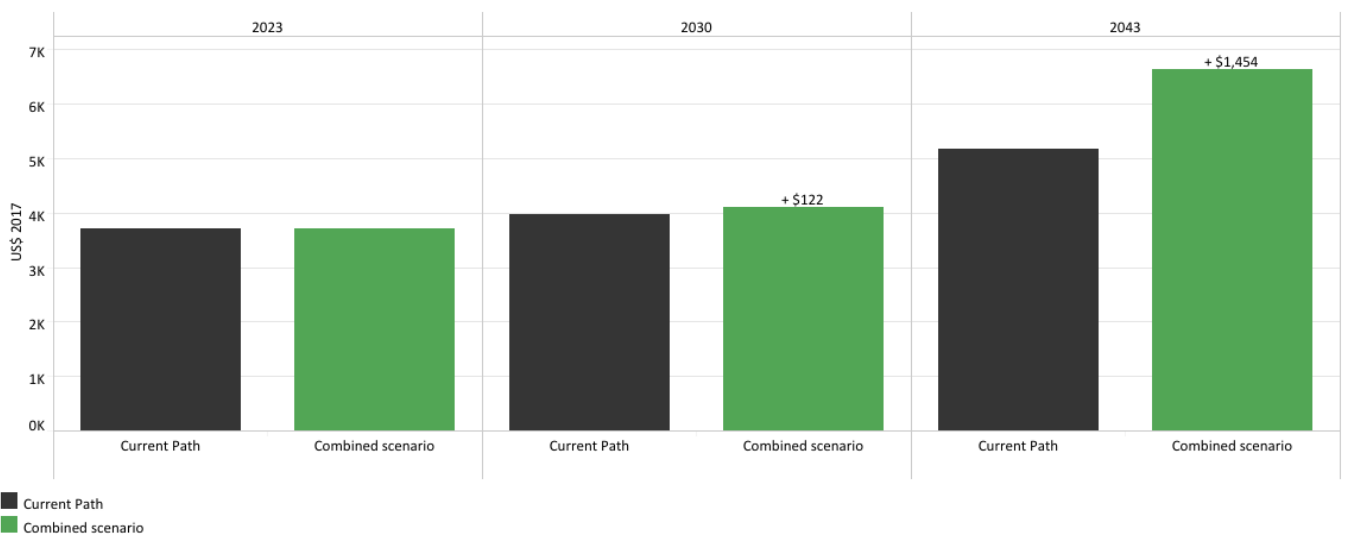
Source: IFs 8.38 initialising from IMF data

Chart 31 presents GDP in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario from 2020 to 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and at market exchange rates (MER).

The Combined scenario combines all eight sectoral scenarios: Governance, Demographics and Health, Education, Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging, Agriculture, Manufacturing, AfCFTA and Financial Flows.

In the Combined scenario, Cameroon’s GDP will reach US\$158.5 billion by 2043, about US\$45.5 billion above the Current Path, corresponding to an average annual growth rate of 6.7%, compared to 4.9% under the Current Path. These results demonstrate that coordinated reforms across governance, trade, infrastructure, education and industrial policy generate significantly stronger growth outcomes than isolated interventions. An integrated, multisector development strategy therefore offers the most credible pathway to sustained and inclusive economic transformation.

Chart 32: GDP per capita (PPP) in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2023-2043

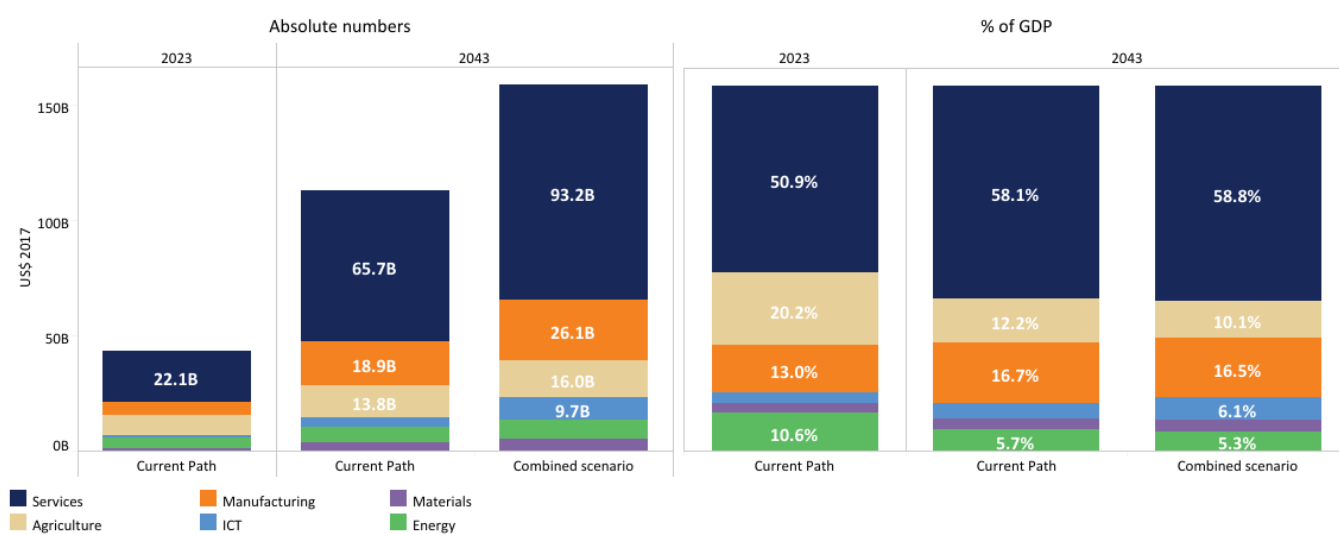


Source: IFs 8.38 initialising from IMF data

Chart 32 presents GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) in the Current Path and the Combined scenario. The data is from 2023 with a forecast to 2043.

In the Combined scenario, Cameroon’s GDP per capita will rise to US\$6 630 by 2043, approximately US\$1 450 higher than the US\$5 180 projected under the Current Path. This substantial income gain indicates meaningful improvements in average living standards. The results underscore the importance of a coordinated, multisector reform agenda to accelerate income growth and ensure that structural transformation translates into broader welfare gains.

Chart 33: Value added by sector in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2023-2043



Source: IFs 8.38 initialising from IMF World Economic Outlook data

Chart 33 presents the value-add by sector in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, for 2023 and 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and as a percentage of GDP.

Our modelling provides forecasts for six economic sectors, namely agriculture, energy, materials (including mining), manufactures, services and ICTech.

In the Combined scenario, agriculture will record the largest increase in its share of GDP, 2.11 percentage points above the Current Path in 2043, followed by energy (0.46 percentage points) and manufacturing (0.23 percentage points). Other sectors will experience relative declines in their GDP shares, reflecting structural rebalancing toward more productive sectors.

In absolute terms, however, all sectors will expand due to strong cross-sector spillovers. The services sector will record the largest gain, US\$27.51 billion above the Current Path, followed by manufacturing (US\$7.24 billion), ICT (US\$5.13 billion), agriculture (US\$2.22 billion), energy (US\$1.88 billion) and materials (US\$1.57 billion).

These results demonstrate that strengthening agriculture, energy and manufacturing can catalyse economy-wide expansion, reinforcing productivity growth and accelerating structural transformation.

Chart 34: Informal sector in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

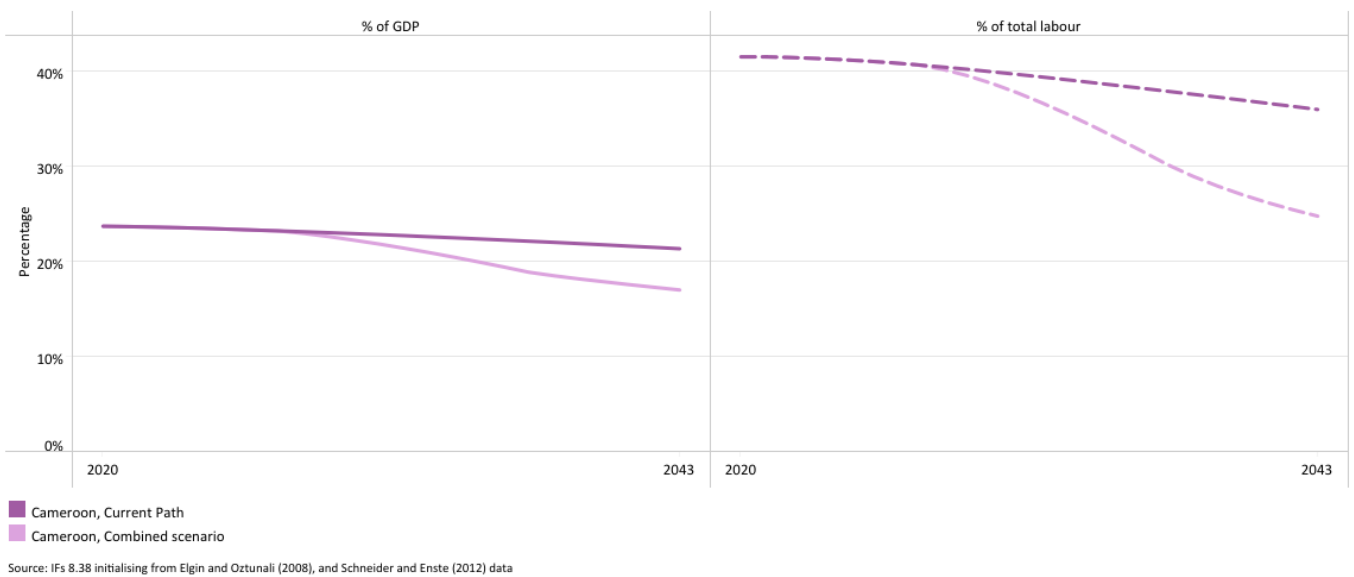


Chart 34 presents the size of the informal sector in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, from 2020 to 2043.

By 2043, the informal sector will decline to 17% of GDP in the Combined scenario, compared to 21.3% in the Current Path. Informal employment will similarly fall to 24.8% of total labour, significantly below the 36.0% projected under the baseline. This shift reflects stronger formal job creation, particularly in manufacturing and modernised agriculture, supported by improved governance, regulatory reform and economic liberalisation. Expanding formal employment would enhance productivity, broaden the tax base and improve income security, contributing to more inclusive and sustainable growth.

Chart 35: Poverty in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

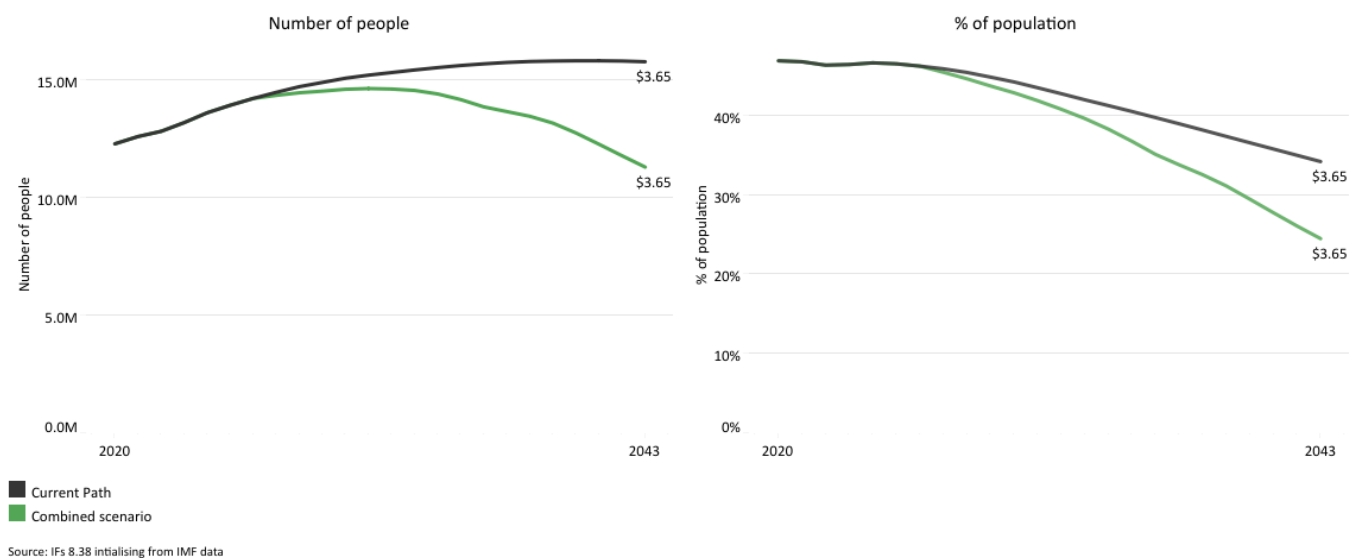


Chart 35 presents poverty in the Current Path and the Combined scenario, for 2023 and 2043.

In the Combined scenario, approximately 11.28 million people (25.1% of the population) are projected to live below the

US\$3.65 per day poverty line by 2043, compared to 15.79 million people (34.2%) under the Current Path. This implies that about 4.51 million additional Cameroonians could be lifted out of poverty through coordinated, multisector reforms. The reduction in poverty, alongside improvements in income distribution, highlights the inclusive potential of an integrated development strategy that simultaneously advances governance, industrialisation, human capital and structural transformation.

Chart 36: Life expectancy in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

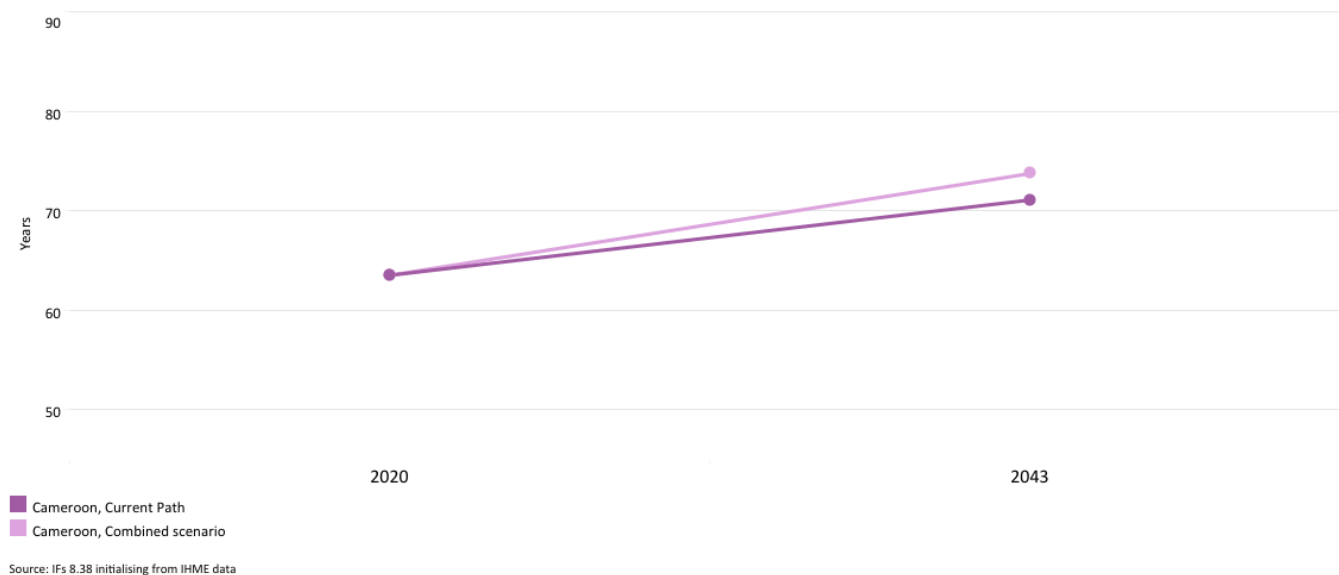


Chart 36 compares life expectancy in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2020 to 2043.

In the Combined scenario, life expectancy will increase to 74 years by 2043, 2.9 years higher than under the Current Path. In both scenarios, women are projected to live approximately 2.6 years longer than men. These gains underscore the importance of sustained investment in healthcare systems, preventive services, nutrition, sanitation and basic infrastructure. Strengthening health system resilience and expanding equitable access to quality care will be essential to consolidate improvements in longevity and overall human development.

**Chart 37: Carbon emissions in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043**  
 Million tons of carbon (note, not CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)

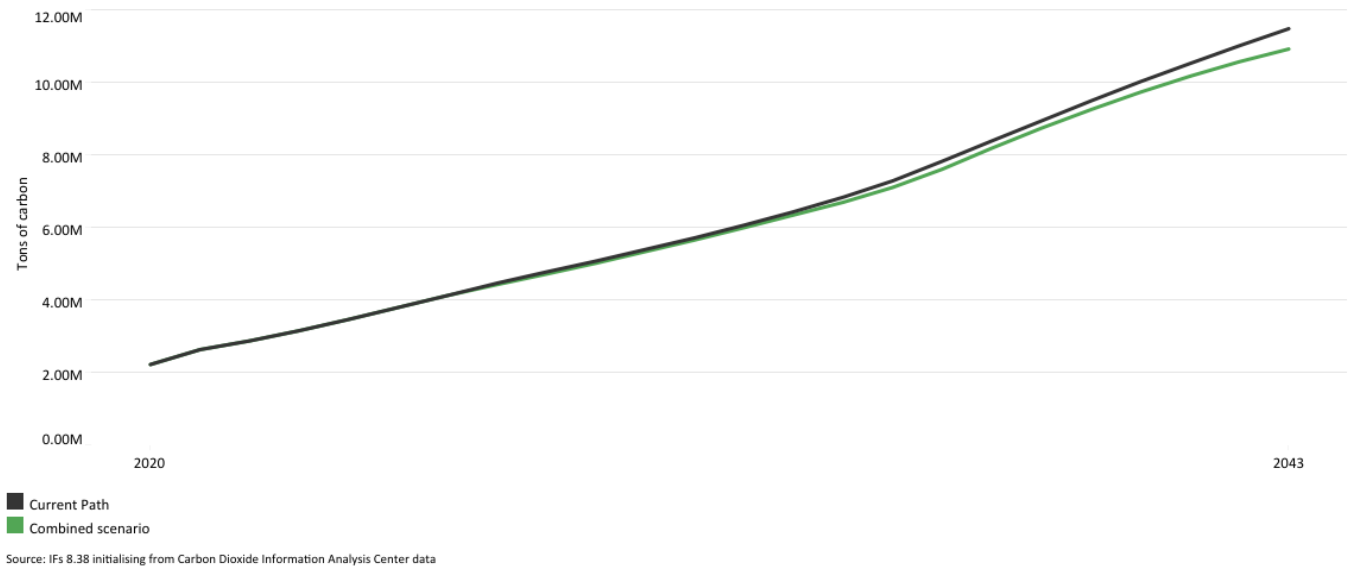


Chart 37 compares carbon emissions in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2020 to 2043. Note that the data is in million tons of carbon, not CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

In 2023, Cameroon ranked 79th out of 184 countries in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The main sources of pollution in Cameroon are household fuel combustion (biomass for cooking), industrial activities (mining, oil and gas, manufacturing) and waste mismanagement (especially plastic waste). Vehicle emissions also contribute significantly to air pollution, particularly in urban areas like Douala and Yaoundé.

In the Current Path, carbon emissions from fossil fuels will increase from 3.14 million tons to 11.46 million tons by 2043, reflecting rising energy demand associated with economic and population growth. This trajectory underscores the urgency of strengthening environmental governance and integrating climate considerations into development planning.

In the Combined scenario, emissions will reach 10.9 million tons, approximately 560 000 tons lower than the Current Path, demonstrating that stronger growth can be partially decoupled from carbon intensity.

To sustain this balance, the government should prioritise renewable energy expansion, energy efficiency measures and sustainable land-use management. Such investments would help mitigate environmental pressures, enhance climate resilience and align economic transformation with Cameroon’s long-term sustainability and global climate commitments.

Chart 38: Energy demand and production by type in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

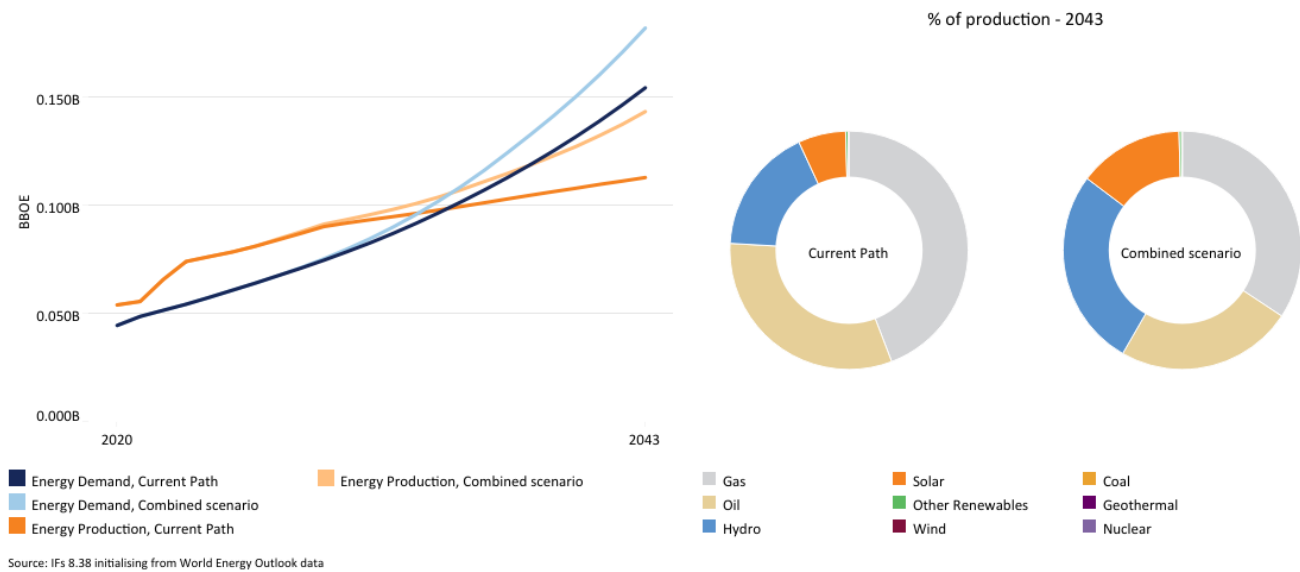


Chart 38 compares energy demand and production in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2020 to 2043. Production is done in nine types, namely oil, gas, coal, hydro, nuclear, solar, wind, geothermal and other renewables. The data is converted into billion barrels of oil equivalent (BBOE) to allow for comparisons. Note that energy production could be for domestic use or for export.

The energy sector is central to Cameroon’s structural transformation, with gas, oil and hydropower forming the backbone of supply. In 2023, total energy production amounted to approximately 74 million barrels of oil equivalent (BOE), exceeding total demand of 54.2 million BOE, resulting in a surplus of 19.8 million BOE.

In the Current Path, however, demand will outpace production around 2034/35, leading to an energy deficit of approximately 41.5 million BOE by 2043. Rising demand reflects expanding economic activity and population growth, highlighting the growing pressure on domestic supply capacity.

In the Combined scenario, the deficit will narrow to 38.7 million BOE, 2.8 million BOE below the Current Path. Energy production will increase substantially to 143.4 million BOE by 2043 (compared to 112.9 million BOE under the baseline), largely driven by expanded hydro and solar generation. At the same time, demand will rise to 182.1 million BOE, compared to 154.4 million in the Current Path.

These projections underscore the need for accelerated investment in renewable energy, grid expansion and energy efficiency to sustain growth, reduce supply vulnerabilities and support long-term energy security.

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Dr Pierre Christian Tsopmo is a Research Consultant at AFI. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Yaounde II-Soa. He is a Development Economist with keen interest in political economy analysis, African governance and politics of development, natural resource management, social cohesion, climate vulnerability, climate mitigation, climate governance, sectorial forecasting analysis, FDI, growth, institutions compliance, state fragility, illicit flows and tax literacy, among others.

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