



Cameroon

Cameroon: Conclusion and Recommendations

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Chart 39: Policy recommendations

Recommendations:

- **Enhance governance and efficiency of public finances:** Implement commitments in terms of tax reform, transparent management of public finances, improved governance and political stability.
- **Invest in education and infrastructure:** Improve the education system, offer vocational training and increase research and development. Further, improve transport and communication infrastructures.
- **Diversify the economy:** Develop more sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, renewable energies and services, including livestock, natural resources and the private sector.
- **Enhancing the finance access:** to improve finance access in Cameroon, the government and partner organizations are focusing on several key strategies, including promoting digital financial services, strengthening microfinance institutions, and formalizing businesses.
- **Strengthen resilience to climate shocks:** Implement measures to respond to climate shocks and develop adaptation strategies. This implies responsible use of natural resources, environmental protection and efficient hydrocarbon management.

Chart 39 summarises the policy recommendations.

A forward-looking analysis of Cameroon's development trajectory through 2043 reveals a country with strong potential, but whose current momentum remains insufficient to ensure rapid and inclusive structural transformation. On the Current Path, Cameroon is making gradual progress in terms of economic growth, poverty reduction and improvement in social indicators. However, this progress remains limited by a persistent dependence on primary and extractive sectors, a high level of informality, infrastructure deficits and institutional and governance weaknesses.

Sectoral scenarios clearly show that targeted policies—particularly in governance, trade integration (AfCFTA), manufacturing and education—can generate significant gains in terms of per capita income and poverty reduction. The Combined scenario convincingly illustrates that an integrated and coherent approach to reforms would accelerate economic growth, significantly reduce poverty and informality, while maintaining a growth trajectory compatible with relatively low carbon emissions.

Cameroon can seize several specific opportunities to make the most of its economic potential:

- **Agricultural transformation:** If the country improves agricultural efficiency, it can free up capital for domestic investment and ensure economic stability for its economy and population.
- **A youthful population:** Cameroon's population is predominantly young, with around 60% aged under 35 and a high dependency rate. This offers significant potential for economic growth and social development. Indeed, the young are a driving force for innovation, creativity and labour-market contribution when supported.
- **Trade potential:** Cameroon's geographic position on the Gulf of Guinea and its shared borders with six countries make it a potential trade corridor and gateway for the Central African subregion, given greater integration with its neighbours.
- **Resource endowment:** Cameroon's substantial natural resources, notably oil, gas, minerals, forests and hydropower, could provide growth potential if increasingly harnessed responsibly and transparently.
- **Renewables capacity:** Cameroon has considerable hydroelectric and solar capacity that could position it as a future

regional energy hub in Central Africa.

Thus, the main challenge for Cameroon is not so much the lack of opportunities, but rather the ability to coordinate, prioritise and effectively implement the necessary structural reforms, in line with the SND30, Vision 2035 and the African Union's Agenda 2063:

Boosting the manufacturing sector: investing in high-quality education and infrastructure is a matter of urgency:

Developing human capital and modernising infrastructure are essential to sustain long-term economic growth. This involves improving the education system, vocational training and increasing research and development. Thus, improving the education system involves implementing reforms to guarantee equitable access to quality education and to promote the skills needed for the professions of the future. The ongoing reforms under the NDS30 already mark a first step, but the government should ensure their effectiveness, especially by reinforcing their gender component. It should also facilitate and encourage the creation of and access to vocational training. In other words, it should set up training programs tailored to the needs of the job market, target emerging sectors, and provide the necessary infrastructure. Finally, incentives to increase research and development should be put in place to facilitate innovation. This can be achieved through award programs for outstanding innovations and direct integration of the best innovators, which is necessary to boost the country's competitiveness. Added to this are improved roads, ports, airports and communication infrastructures, particularly digital ones, to facilitate trade and attract investment.

Diversifying the economy:

Cameroon faces significant challenges in diversification, particularly its reliance on raw materials, limited access to finance, structural weaknesses in agriculture and a fragile business climate. To address these challenges, it is necessary to invest in higher-value-added sectors such as industry and services, improve agricultural productivity, facilitate access to capital for businesses and strengthen the institutional and policy environment. For example, if the aim is to intensify agricultural production, develop local value chains and encourage agro-industrial processing to improve food security and create jobs: investment in farming technology, irrigation efforts, digitisation of the sector and data-driven farming decisions are needed to reduce reliance on imports. In addition, using planning tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can help to better plan resource use and transform existing infrastructure into development corridors. Creating a business-friendly environment, with clear and stable regulations, easy access to financing and infrastructure is important. Administrative procedures need to be simplified to facilitate market access and reduce red tape.

Enhanced governance and efficiency of public finances:

Tackling corruption and improving governance and public financial management are essential to creating a more favourable environment for investment and economic development. This involves government commitments to tax reform, transparent management of public finances, improved governance and political stability. The aim is to simplify the tax system and improve the efficiency of tax collection to finance development projects. The government should encourage tax compliance by rationalising the use of collected taxes and, above all, reinforcing communication around how they are used, by putting in place rigorous control and audit mechanisms to guarantee sound management of public finances. In addition, the government should accentuate the production of public goods via infrastructure to facilitate the operation of the country's markets and income-generating activities. Finally, the government should guarantee effective governance by improving the business climate through the reduction of corruption and a more transparent judicial system, which are important for reassuring and boosting the confidence of both investors and citizens.

Strengthening resilience to climate shocks:

Strengthening resilience in Cameroon involves a multi-sector approach, including promoting climate-smart agriculture through local knowledge and new techniques, improving urban infrastructure by building green spaces and resilient transport networks, and building the capacity of local communities to manage climate risks. Key initiatives include the [Local Governance and Community Resilience Project](#) and the "Green and Resilient North" project, which uses approaches like Climate Smart Villages to enhance adaptation strategies. It is important to implement climate-smart agriculture, i.e. introduce techniques such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry and participatory integrated climate services for agriculture (PICSA) to improve yields and soil health. In addition, there is a need to distribute climate-resilient crop varieties and to provide access to higher-quality seeds and other inputs, while implementing soil and water management practices such as cover crops and small dams to improve water retention and soil fertility. It is also important to improve market access by supporting agricultural cooperatives to enhance producers' bargaining power and access to markets, inputs and credit. Finally, the country should mainstream climate considerations into public investment cycles and support public-private partnerships for resilience-building activities.

Enhancing access to finance:

To improve financial access in Cameroon, the government and partner organisations should focus on several key strategies, including embracing digital finance and mobile money, enhancing the microfinance sector, strengthening consumer protection and financial literacy, supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and modernising financial infrastructure. These efforts are designed to expand the availability of financial products for underserved populations, such as those in rural areas, women, and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Maximising the potential of the AfCFTA:

To fully leverage the AfCFTA, Cameroon should focus on reducing trade barriers through modernised and digitalised customs procedures, strengthening the competitiveness of local firms (especially SMEs) by supporting access to finance and compliance with quality standards, and aligning trade liberalisation with a targeted industrial policy centred on agro-industry and light manufacturing. At the same time, deeper regional integration within CEMAC and investments in cross-border transport and logistics infrastructure are essential to integrating Cameroonian firms into regional value chains and to translating trade openness into sustainable, inclusive growth.

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