



Cameroon

Sectoral Scenarios for Cameroon

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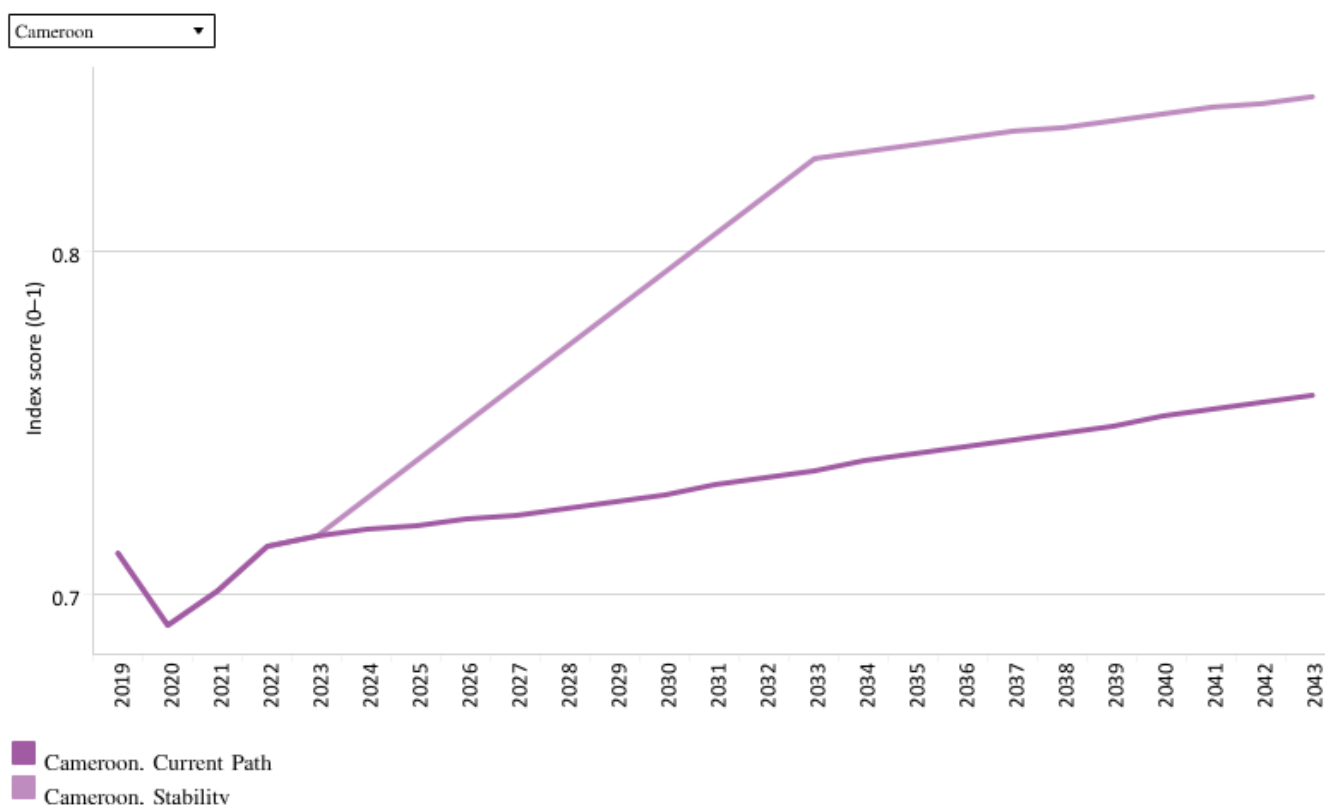
Sectoral Scenarios for Cameroon

- Stability scenario
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- Education scenario
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Stability scenario

Chart 13: Governance security in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
IFs index 0–1



Source: IFs 7.63 governance security index using internal war and government risk

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The Stability scenario represents reasonable but ambitious reductions in risk of regime instability and lower levels of

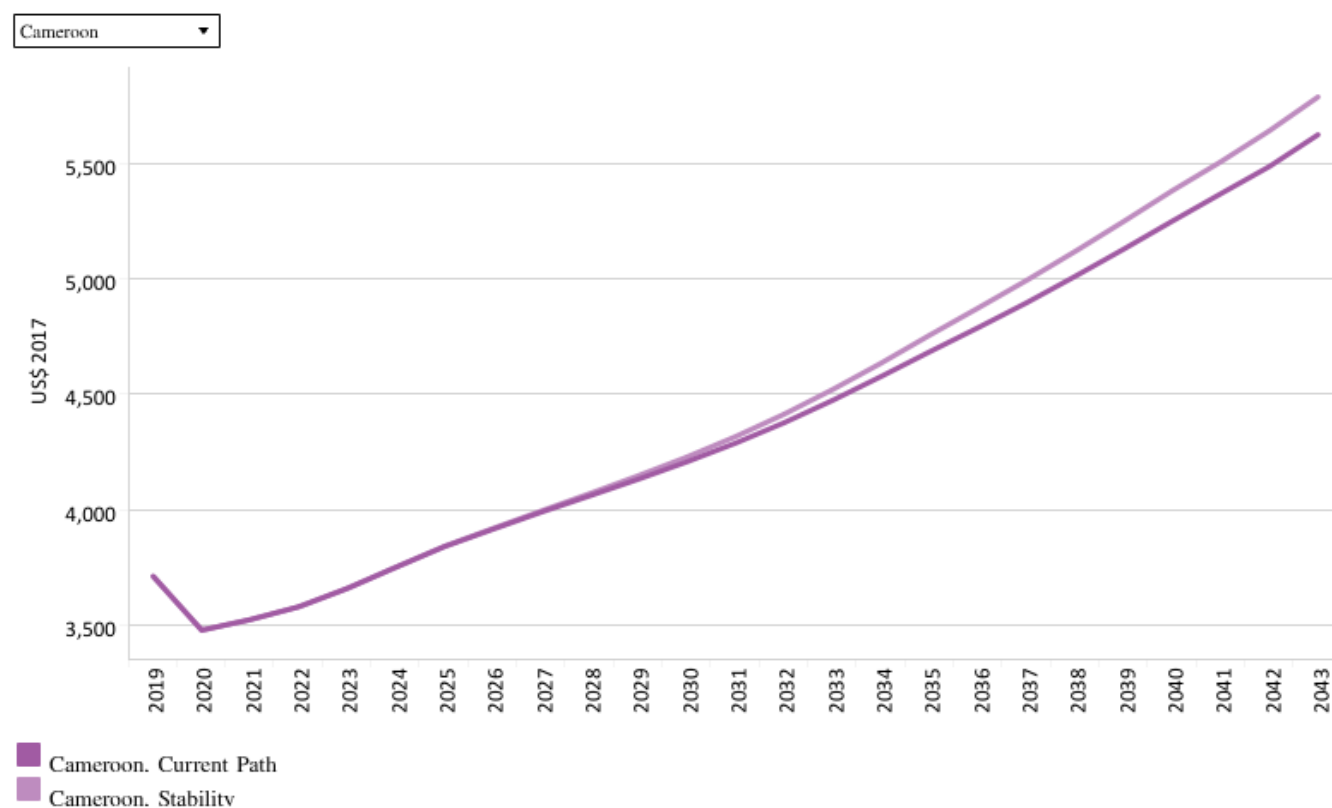
internal conflict. Stability is generally a prerequisite for other aspects of development and this would encourage inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) and improve business confidence. Better governance through the accountability that follows substantive democracy is modelled separately.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The de facto party, Cameroon National Union, established in 1966, was renamed Cameroon People's Democratic Movement in 1985. However, after protests and several violent clashes, a constitutional amendment in 1990 introduced multiparty elections and governance in the country. Consequently, the country adopted multiparty elections and universal suffrage in 1992. The incumbent president, Paul Biya, who has been in office since 1982, and his party (Cameroon People's Democratic Movement), have won every election since 1992 amidst protests and allegations of electoral fraud and intimidation by the opposition. A controversial bill passed in 2008 removed the term limit and ensured that the president could run for an unlimited number of terms. The last senatorial and presidential elections in 2018 further entrenched the reign of Paul Biya by an additional seven years. More than 18 complaints filed by opposition parties to the Constitutional Court were [rejected](#).

The Anglophone crisis in the country is also a continuous threat to the peace, security and stability of the country. Despite the government's efforts at resolving the conflict, it has been unable to do so. In 2019, the government conveyed a major national dialogue with the aim of finding a solution to the conflict, but this was boycotted by some factions of the Anglophone group. In 2019, Cameroon's score on the governance security index was 0.71, which was slightly below the average of 0.72 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Stability scenario, the country's score is projected to rise to 0.85 in 2043, which is 0.09 points above the Current Path forecast and the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa in the same year.

Chart 14: GDP per capita in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



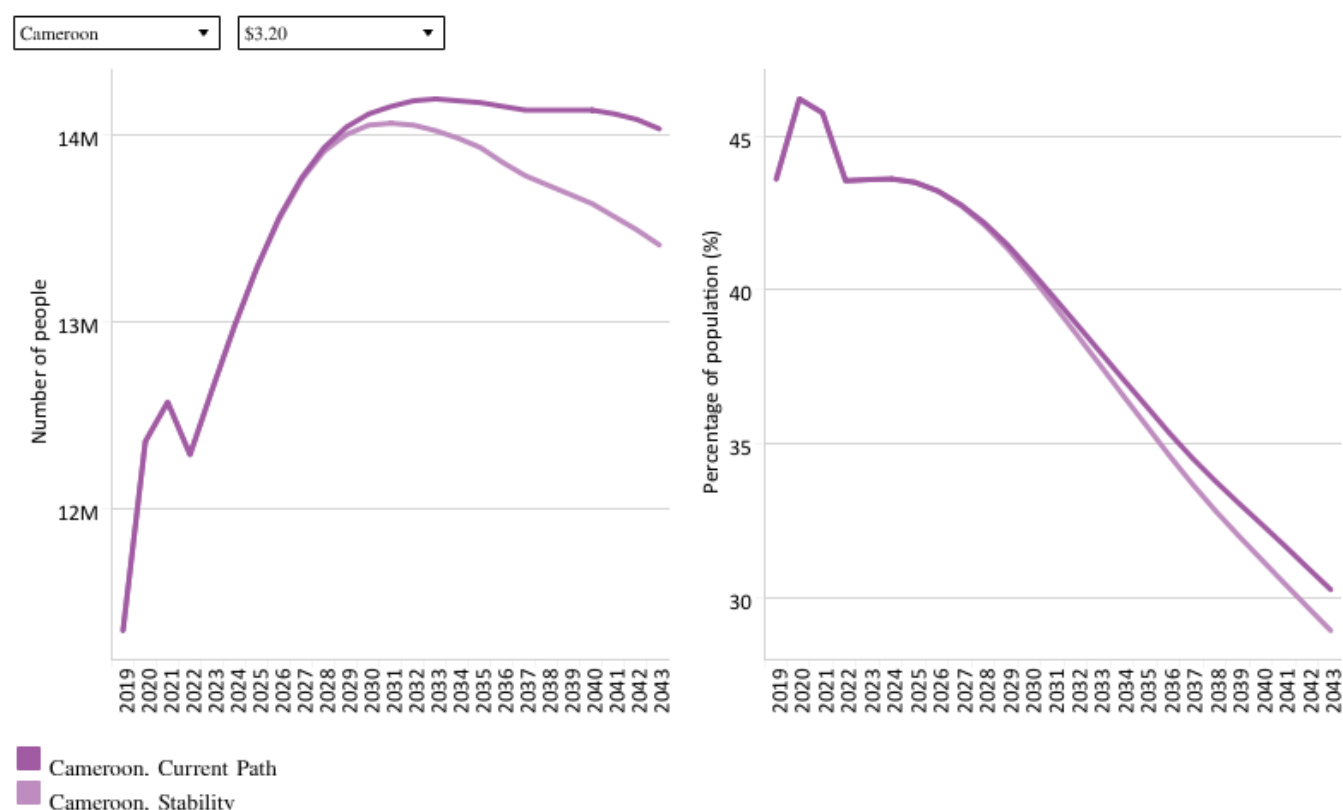
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The GDP per capita for Cameroon in 2019 was US\$3 710, which was less than the average of US\$6 989 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Stability scenario, GDP per capita is projected to increase to US\$5 786 by 2043, representing an increase of 56% over the period. This projection will be US\$164 more than the Current Path forecast in 2043 but US\$3 356 lower than the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The expected growth in GDP can be explained by the fact that regime stability and good governance attract foreign investment which ultimately promotes economic growth.

Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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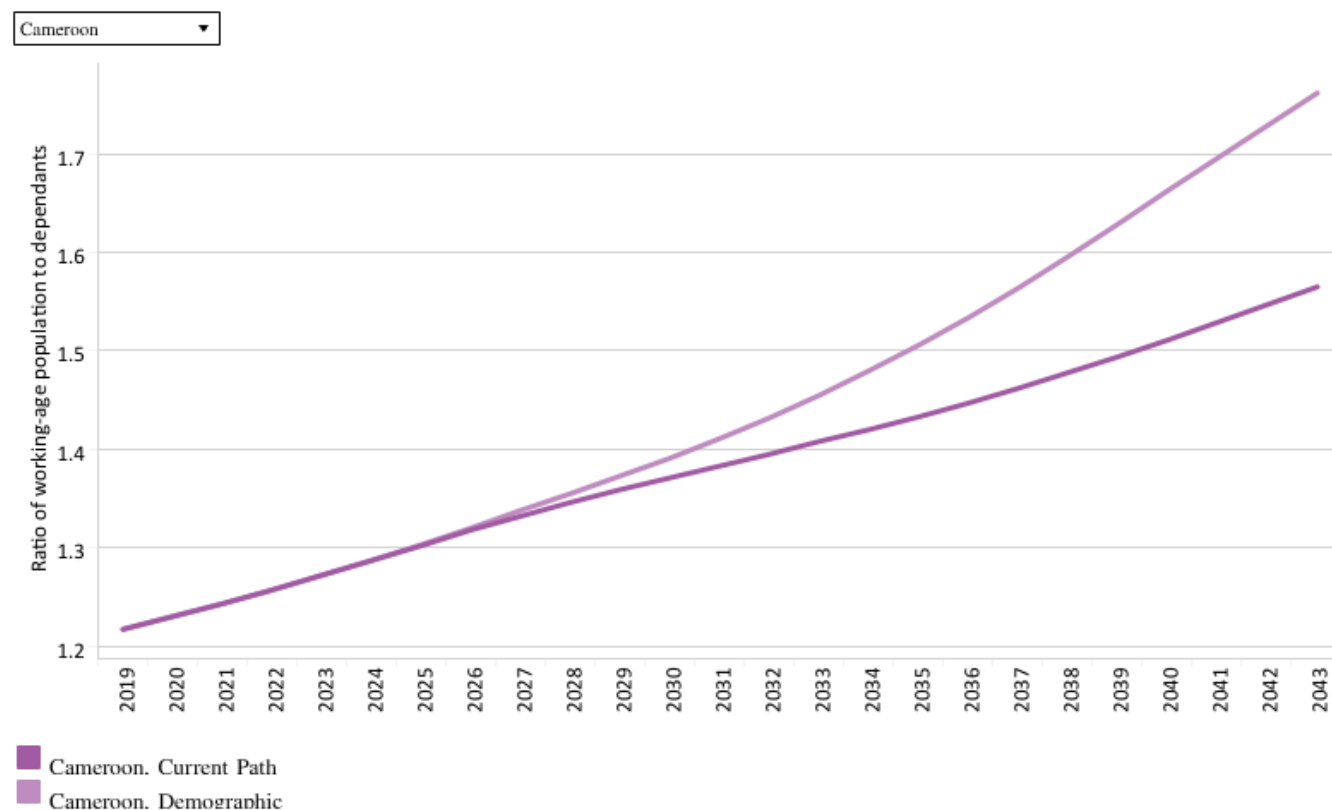
As a lower middle-income country, Cameroon uses the global benchmark of US\$3.20 per person per day for extreme poverty. In 2019, the number of poor people living on less than US\$3.20 was 11.4 million (43.6% of the population). In the Stability scenario, the number of poor people will increase to 13.4 million compared to the Current Path projections of 14 million people in 2043. The proportion of people in extreme poverty will however decline to 28.9% in the Stability scenario, compared to 30.3% in the Current Path forecast in 2043. This means that the Stability scenario leads to a reduction in extreme poverty by 1.3 percentage points equivalent to 620 000 people. The projection in the Stability scenario is also 9.4 percentage points lower than the average of 38.3% for lower middle-income countries in Africa in 2043.



Demographic scenario

Chart 16: Demographic dividend in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043

Ratio of working-age population to dependants



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects

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This section presents the impact of a Demographic scenario that aims to hasten and increase the demographic dividend through reasonable but ambitious reductions in the communicable-disease burden for children under five, the maternal mortality ratio and increased access to modern contraception.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

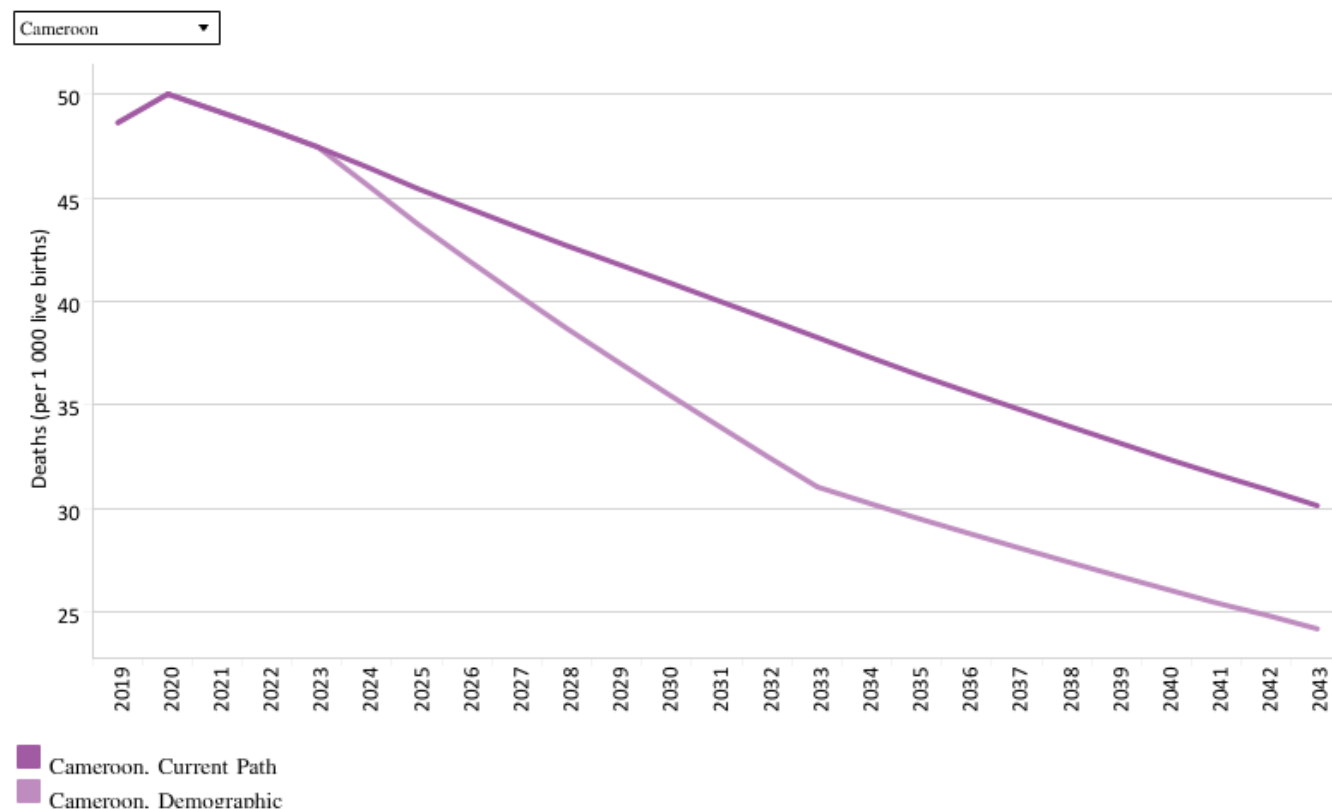
Demographers typically differentiate between a first, second and even a third demographic dividend. We focus here on the contribution of the size of the labour force (between 15 and 64 years of age) relative to dependants (children and the elderly) as part of the first dividend. A window of opportunity opens when the ratio of the working-age population to dependants is equal to or surpasses 1.7.

In 2019, there were 1.22 working-age persons to dependants in Cameroon. This is less than the average of 1.32 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The materialisation of the demographic dividend occurs when a country reaches a minimum ratio of 1.7 working-age persons for each dependant. In the Current Path forecast, the country will not be able to reach its demographic dividend even by 2043. However, in the Demographic scenario, Cameroon will attain this minimum ratio by 2041 and by 2043, the ratio of working-age people to dependants will be 1.76. This will be higher than the

projection of 1.57 in the Current Path and the 1.59 projected average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The realisation of the demographic dividend in Cameroon in the Demographic scenario could be as a result of the projected decline in fertility emanating from improved access to modern contraceptives.

Chart 17: Infant mortality in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043

Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

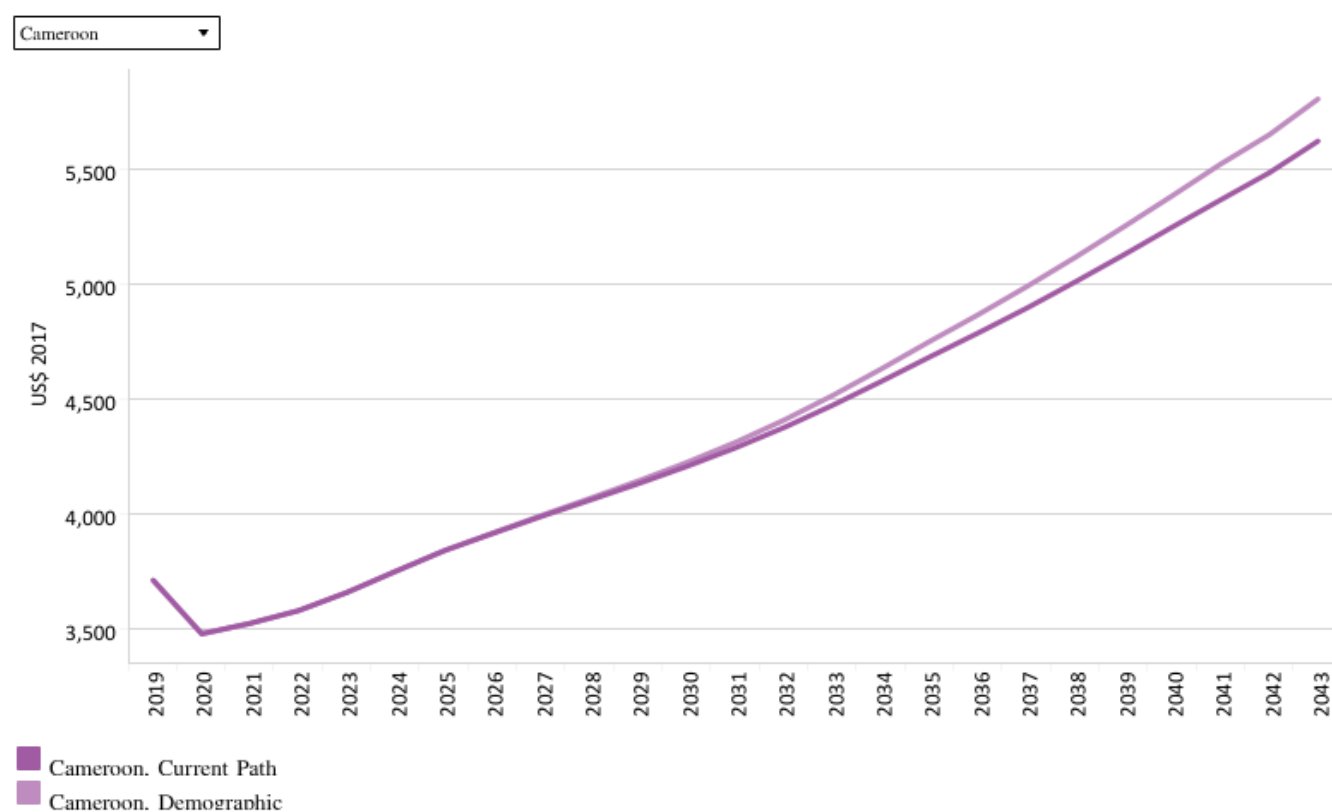
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The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

The infant mortality rate in Cameroon in 2019 was 48.6 deaths per 1 000 live births. This was higher than the average of 46.4 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Some of the main sources of infant mortality in the country include neonatal infections, prematurity, neonatal asphyxia and congenital malformations. In the Demographic scenario, it is projected that infant mortality in Cameroon will decline to 24.2 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2043. This will be six deaths fewer than both the Current Path forecast and the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 18: GDP per capita in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

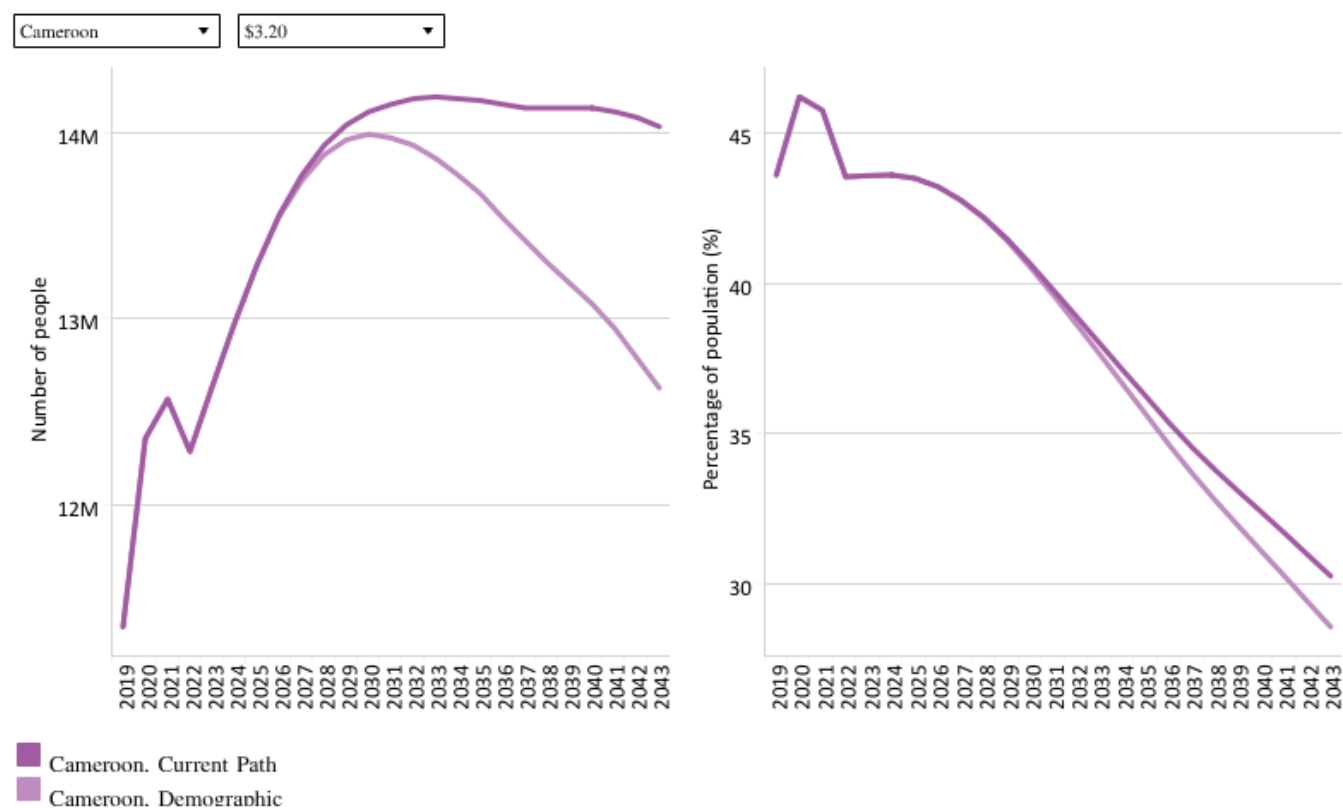
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In 2019, the GDP per capita for Cameroon was US\$3 710 — far below the US\$6 989 average of lower middle-income African countries. In the Demographic scenario, GDP per capita is estimated to increase to US\$5 805, which is US\$183 more than the projected US\$5 622 on the Current Path in the same year. The additional GDP per capita arising from the Demographic scenario can be attributed to a projected decline in population growth coupled with the economic growth that is anticipated to occur in the future. However, the projected GDP per capita in the Demographic scenario will be US\$3 337 less than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 19: Poverty in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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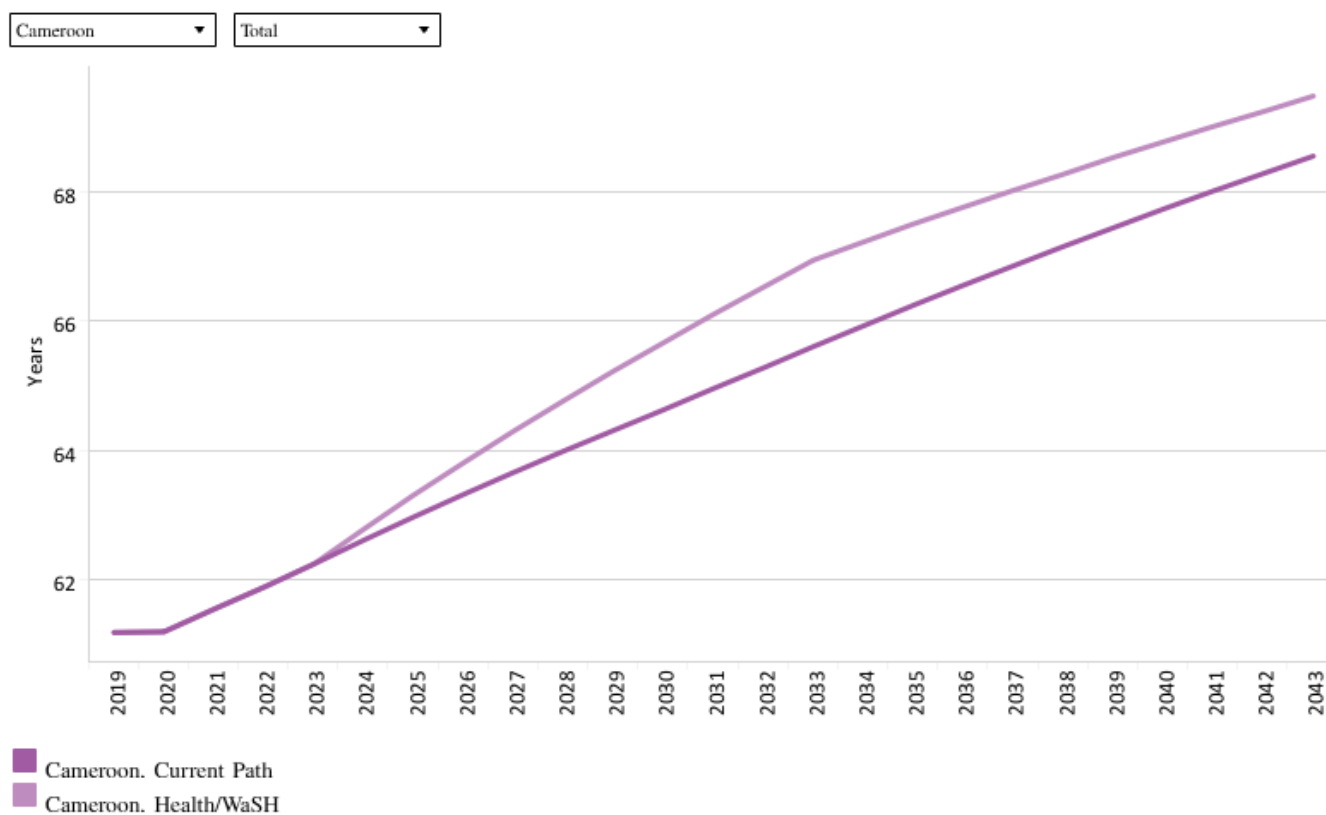
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Based on the Demographic scenario, the number of poor people in Cameroon by 2043 is projected to be 12.6 million people. This means that the Demographic scenario could reduce extreme poverty in Cameroon by 1.4 million people by 2043. Likewise, the proportion of the poor population can be reduced to 28.6% in the Demographic scenario, which is about 1.7 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast and 18.9 percentage points lower than the average of lower middle-income countries in Africa in 2043. The reduction in both the number and proportion of poor people in the Demographic scenario compared to the Current Path forecast depicts the expected decline in the population size as a result of reduced fertility rates.



Health/WaSH scenario

Chart 20: Life expectancy in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation GBD Foresight Tool data

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This section presents reasonable but ambitious improvements in the Health/WaSH scenario, which include reductions in the mortality rate associated with both communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (e.g. diabetes), as well as improvements in access to safe water and better sanitation. The acronym WaSH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene.

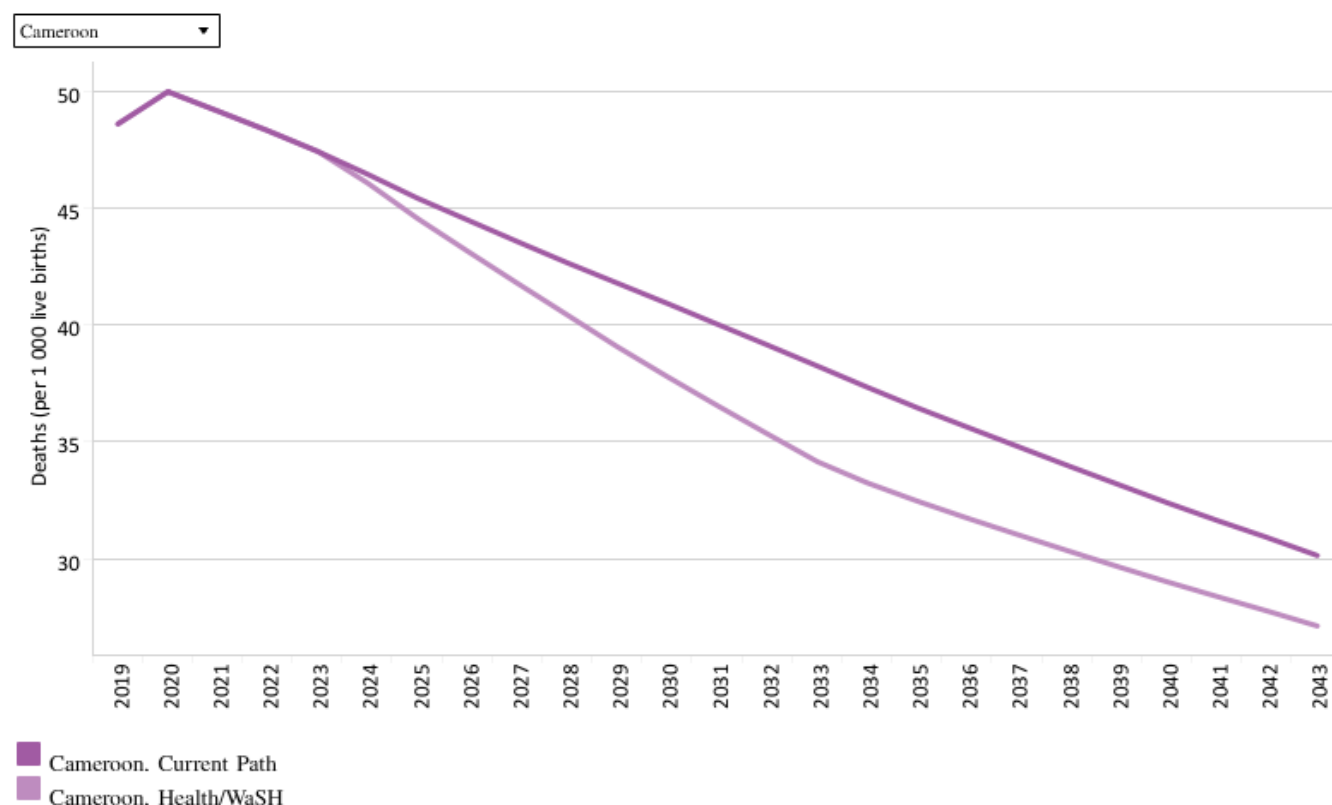
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

There is large inequality in access to healthcare delivery in Cameroon. Although the Cameroonian government spends huge amounts of money on healthcare, it usually focuses on wealthy regions and neglects poorer regions. Also, access to decent healthcare is the preserve of the rich, such that most people are unable to afford proper medical treatment. One of the major health challenges facing the [country](#) is the inequality of the distribution of health workers. Rural areas and the regions of Nord, Adamaoua and Sud all have few health workers compared to the cities of Yaoundé and Douala.

The average life expectancy at birth in Cameroon in 2019 was 61.2 years, which was lower than the average of 67.5 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. This relatively lower life expectancy in Cameroon is a result of the high rate of deaths emanating from communicable diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and lower respiratory infections. In 2019, the total number of people who died from communicable diseases was estimated to be about 126 000 compared to the 77 000 for non-communicable diseases and 19 000 from injuries.

On average, females have a higher life expectancy at birth (63.3 years) males (59.1 years). In the Health/WaSH scenario, life expectancy is estimated to increase to about 69.5 years by 2043, which is above the Current Path forecast of 68.6 but lower than the average of 73.3 for lower middle-income African countries. In both the Current Path forecast and the Health/WaSH scenario, females will continue to have a higher life expectancy compared to males. By 2043, it is projected that females will have a higher life expectancy by about six additional years in both the Current Path and the Health/WaSH scenario.

Chart 21: Infant mortality in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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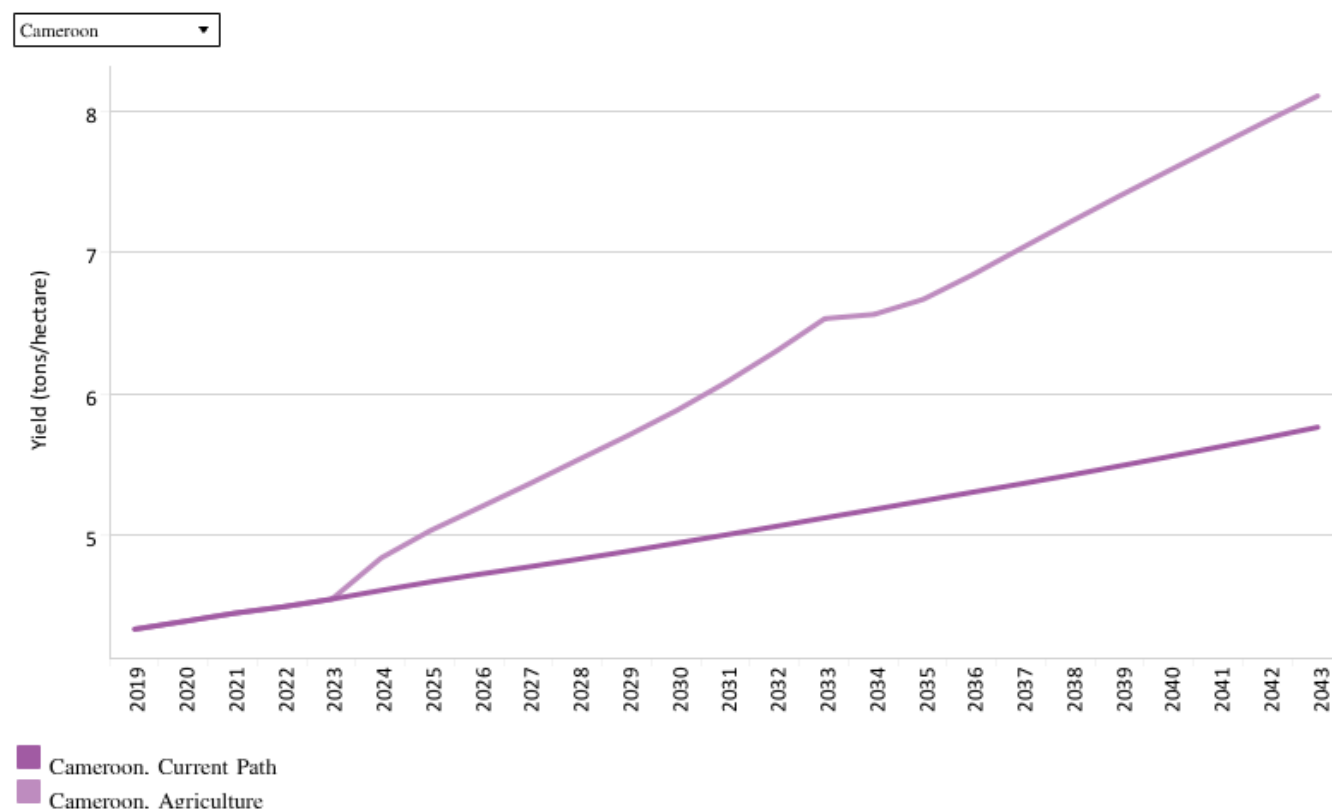
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As stated earlier, the infant mortality rate per 1 000 live births in 2019 was 48.6, above the average of 46.4 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. By 2043, infant mortality per 1 000 live births in the country will be 30.1 in the Current Path forecast and 27.1 in the Health/WaSH scenario. This suggests that the Health/WaSH scenario will lead to a decrease in infant mortality by three fewer deaths compared to the Current Path forecast. Also, the projections for infant mortality in the Health/WaSH scenario will be lower than the average of 29.7 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. However, the Demographic scenario leads to a much quicker reduction in infant mortality compared to the Health/WaSH scenario.



Agriculture scenario

Chart 22: Yield/hectare in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Pre-loss levels



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from FAOSTAT on-line statistical service data

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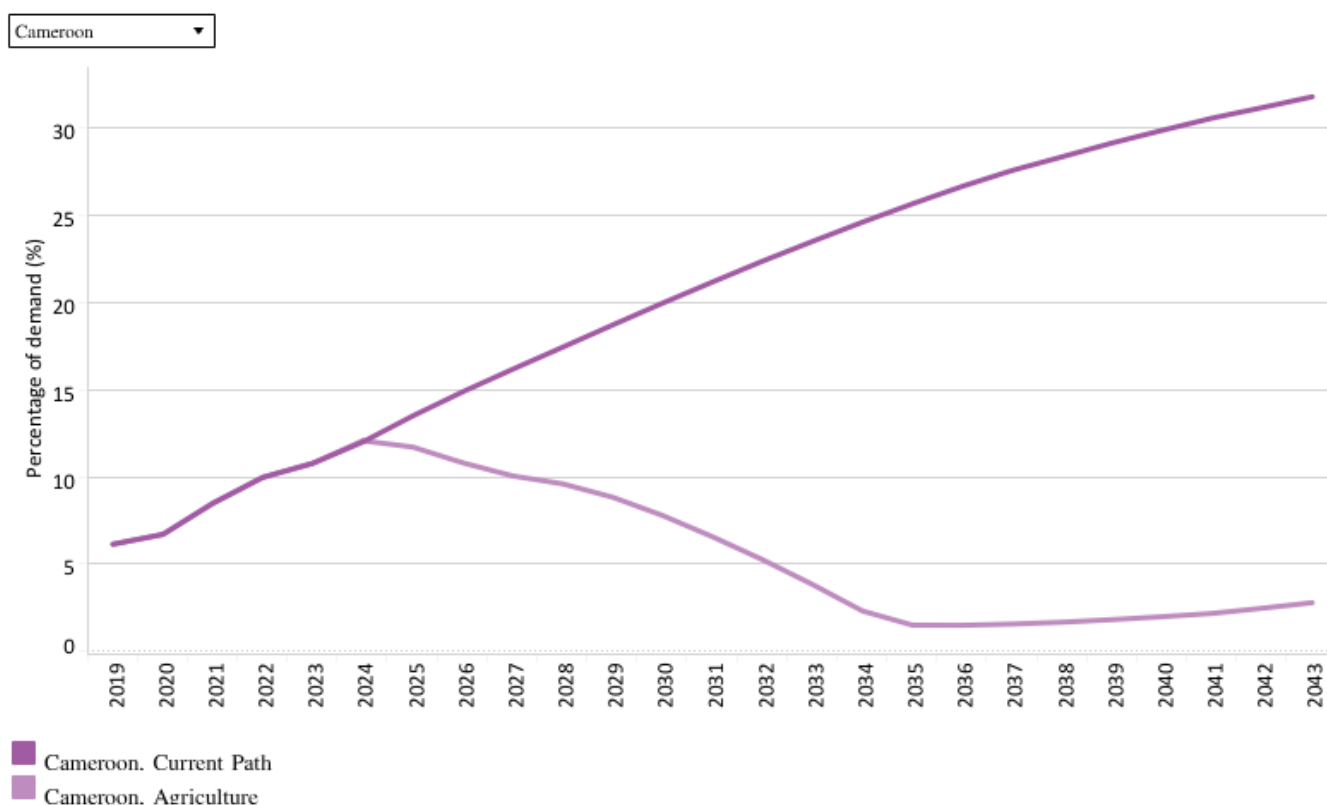
The Agriculture scenario represents reasonable but ambitious increases in yields per hectare (reflecting better management and seed and fertiliser technology), increased land under irrigation and reduced loss and waste. Where appropriate, it includes an increase in calorie consumption, reflecting the prioritisation of food self-sufficiency above food exports as a desirable policy objective.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The data on yield per hectare (in metric tons) is for crops but does not distinguish between different categories of crops.

In 2019, the average yield per hectare for crops in Cameroon was 4.3 metric tons, which was lower than the average of 5.1 metric tons per hectare for lower middle-income countries in Africa, suggesting that compared to other lower middle-income African countries, Cameroon has not been able to develop its agriculture yield per hectare. However, agriculture yield per hectare is projected to increase in both the Current Path forecast and in the Agriculture scenario, although the increase is quicker in the latter. By 2043, the Agriculture scenario forecast will lead to an increase in yield per hectare of 8.1 tons, which will be 2.3 tons higher than the Current Path estimate of 5.8 tons per hectare. The projections in the Agriculture scenario will be higher than the 6.1 tons projected average for lower middle-income African countries.

Chart 23: Agriculture imports in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Net imports for meat, crops and fish, % of demand



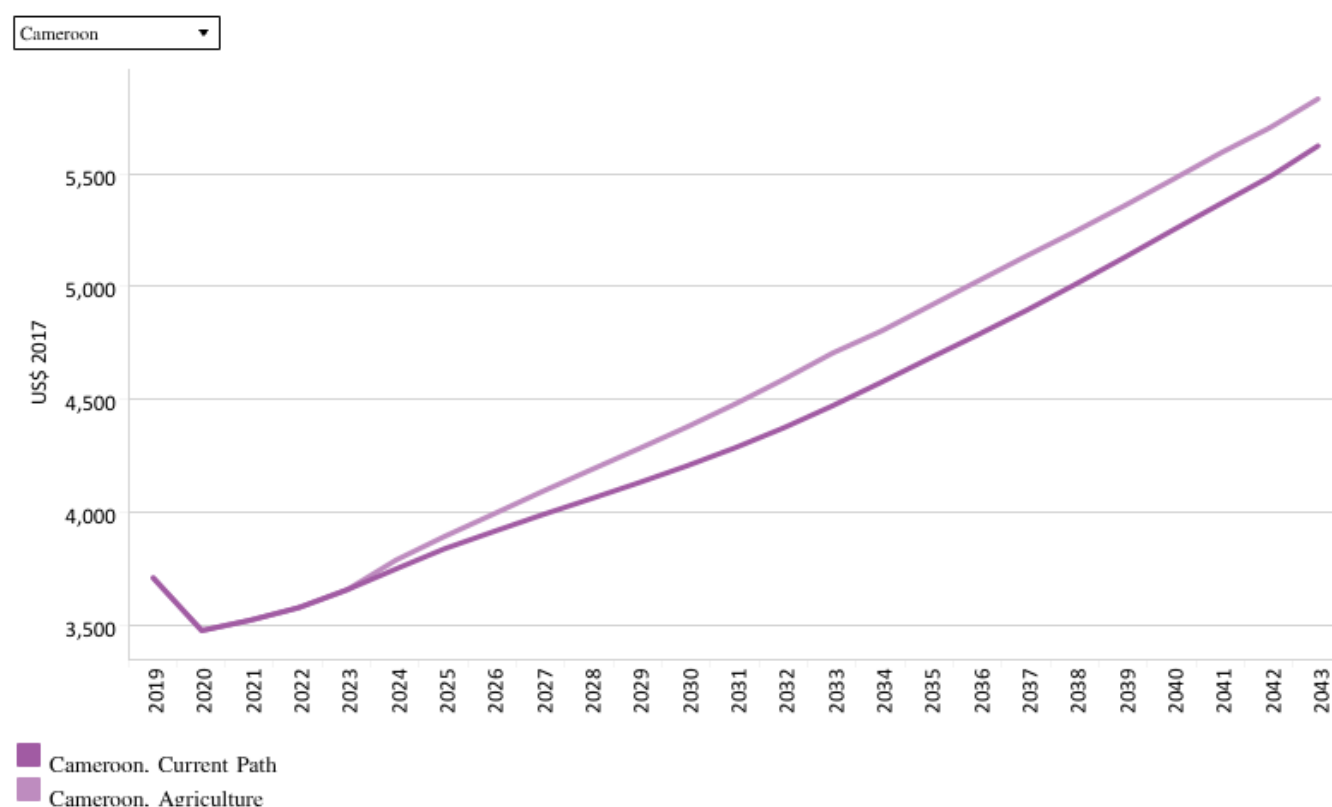
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets data

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The major agricultural imports of Cameroon include rice, wheat, fish, malt, and beet sugar, among others. The country also exports agricultural commodities such as cocoa, cotton, coffee, bananas, rubber and palm oil. The net agricultural import for Cameroon in 2019 was 6.2% of agricultural demand in the country, which was lower than the average of 13.3% for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Based on the Current Path forecast, import dependence will grow to 31.7% of total demand by 2043. However, this situation is reversed in the Agriculture scenario such that net agricultural import deficit declines until it reaches a minimum of 1.5% in 2035. By 2043, the country's net import of agricultural products will be 2.8% of total agricultural demand. This will be far lower than the projected average of 36.8% for lower middle-income countries in Africa, suggesting that in terms of food sufficiency, Cameroon will have outperformed its income peers on the continent.

Chart 24: GDP per capita in the CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



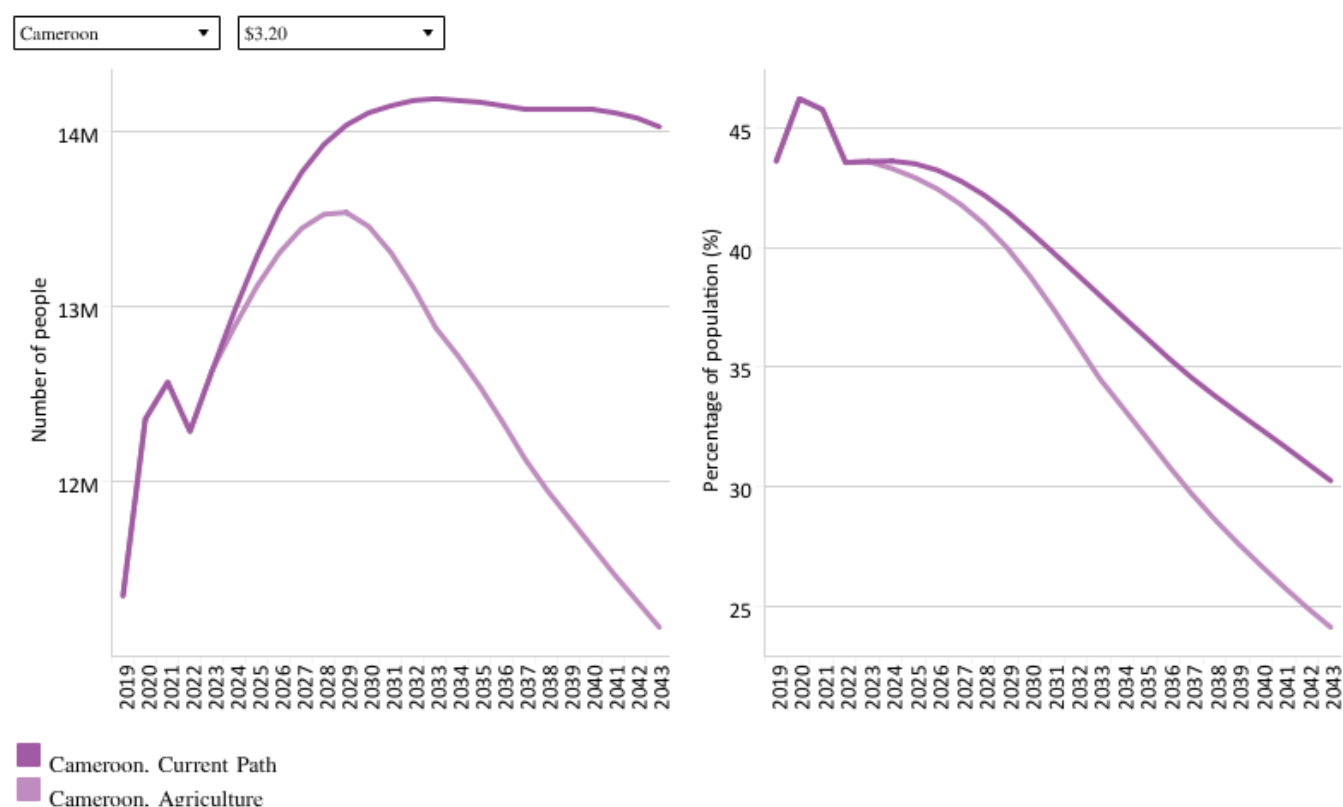
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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By 2043, the GDP per capita as a result of the Agriculture scenario will increase from US\$3 710 in 2019 to US\$5 830, constituting about a 57.1% increase over the period. This is US\$208 more than the Current Path estimates of US\$5 622. In the Agriculture scenario, Cameroon's GDP per capita will still be far lower than the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 25: Poverty in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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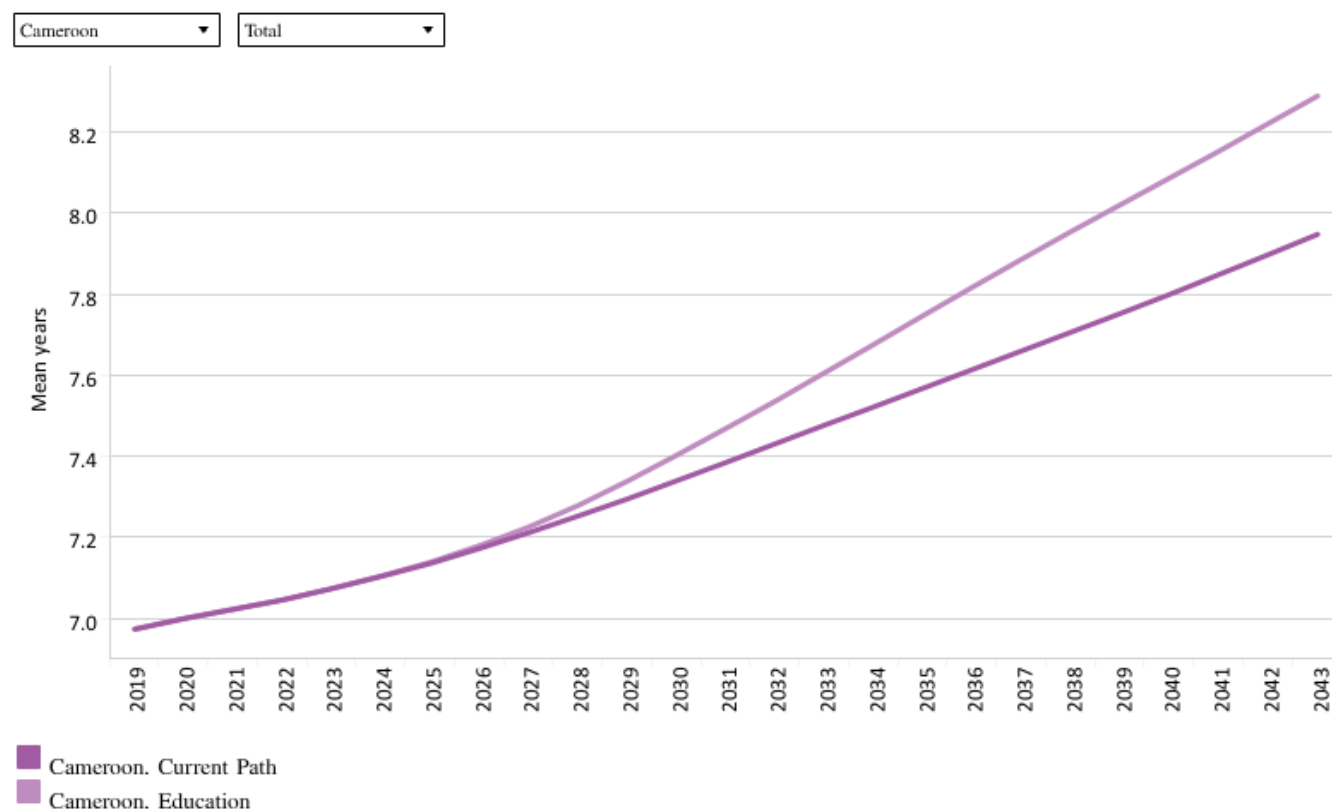
In the Agriculture scenario, extreme poverty in Cameroon is forecast to decline to 11.2 million people (24.1% of the population) by 2043. This is 6.1 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast in the same year and 14.2 percentage points below the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. It also means that the Agriculture scenario could lift 2.9 million more Cameroonians out of extreme poverty by 2043. With the majority of poor citizens especially in the rural areas of Cameroon heavily dependent on agriculture for livelihood, it is not surprising that the Agriculture scenario has such a huge impact on poverty reduction in the country.



Education scenario

Chart 26: Mean years of education in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043

Mean years of adult (+15) education



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Barro-Lee data

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The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

In 2019, the mean years of education in Cameroon of 7 years was slightly below the average of 7.2 for lower middle-income countries on the continent. Regarding gender, the mean years of education for males was 7.5, which was 1.1 years more than the average for females of 6.4 years, meaning that on average, men are more likely to attain an additional 1.1 years of higher education compared to women. This gap in favour of men for mean years of education in Cameroon is lower than the average of 1.3 years for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Some of the major concerns about the educational system in Cameroon are the declining quality of education and allegations of corruption, especially at the higher education level. The Anglophone crisis, which began in 2016, has also affected the [educational system](#) in Cameroon, and there have been teacher strikes due to the crisis as most teachers in the region are concerned about their safety. There are also problems of inadequately trained teachers as well as the lack of teaching and learning materials for the schools.

In the Education scenario, by 2043 it is expected that the mean years of education will rise to 8.3 years, which will be 0.4 years more than the Current Path estimates of 8.1, and 0.2 years less than the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Education scenario, the gender gap regarding mean years of education will be in favour of men of 0.6 years in 2043, compared to the 0.7 and 0.9 years in favour of men on the Current Path and average lower middle-income countries in Africa, respectively, within the same period. Thus, the gender gap narrows quicker in the Education scenario than in the Current Path forecast. The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

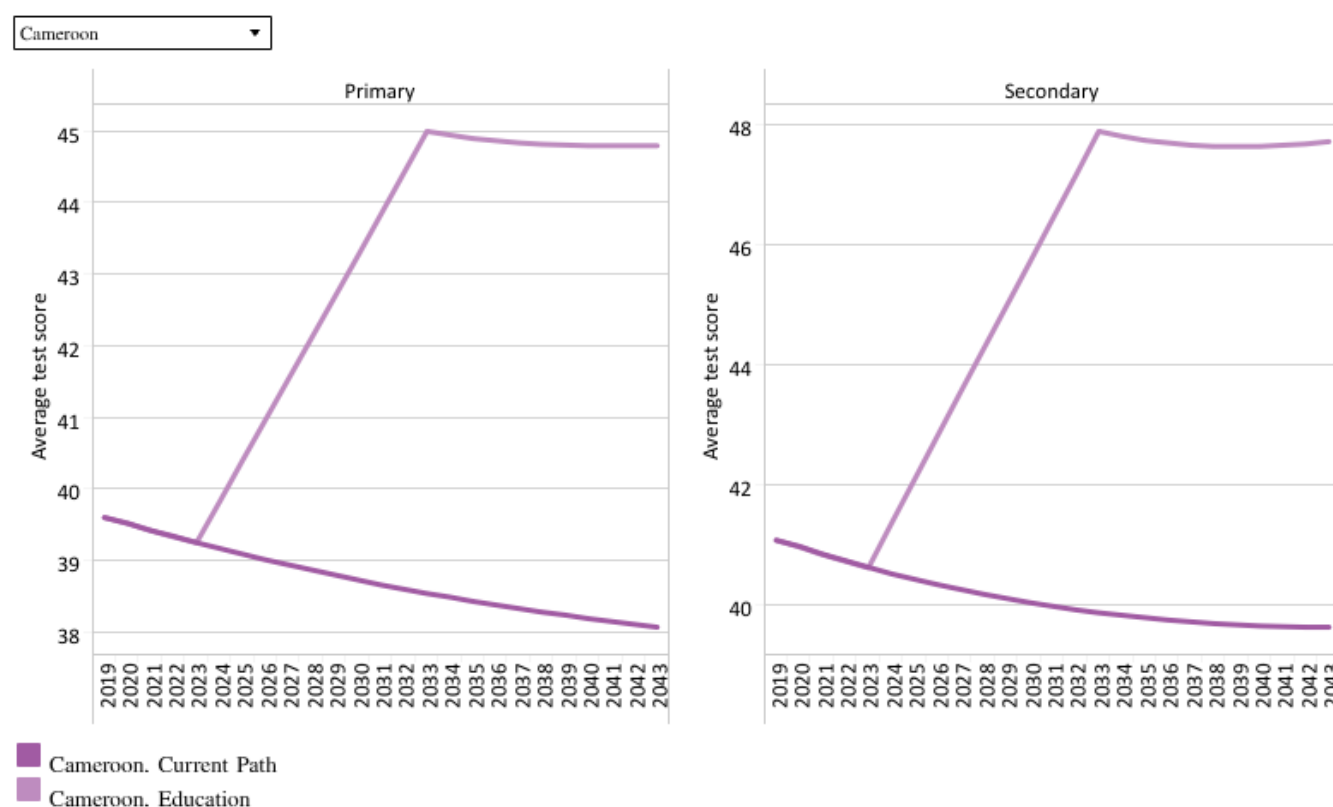
The intervention is explained <here> in the thematic part of the website.

In 2019, the mean years of education in Cameroon of 7 years was slightly below the average of 7.2 for lower middle-income countries on the continent. Regarding gender, the mean years of education for males was 7.5, which was 1.1 years more than the average for females of 6.4 years, meaning that on average, men are more likely to attain an additional 1.1 years of higher education compared to women. This gap in favour of men for mean years of education in Cameroon is lower than the average of 1.3 years for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Some of the major concerns about the educational system in Cameroon are the declining quality of education and allegations of corruption, especially at the higher education level. The Anglophone crisis, which began in 2016, has also affected the educational system in Cameroon, and there have been teacher strikes due to the crisis as most teachers in the region are concerned about their safety. There are also problems of inadequately trained teachers as well as the lack of teaching and learning materials for the schools.

In the Education scenario, by 2043 it is expected that the mean years of education will rise to 8.3 years, which will be 0.4 years more than the Current Path estimates of 8.1, and 0.2 years less than the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Education scenario, the gender gap regarding mean years of education will be in favour of men of 0.6 years in 2043, compared to the 0.7 and 0.9 years in favour of men on the Current Path and average lower middle-income countries in Africa, respectively, within the same period. Thus, the gender gap narrows quicker in the Education scenario than in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 27: Education quality in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043

Average test scores for primary and secondary learners



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank EDSTATS

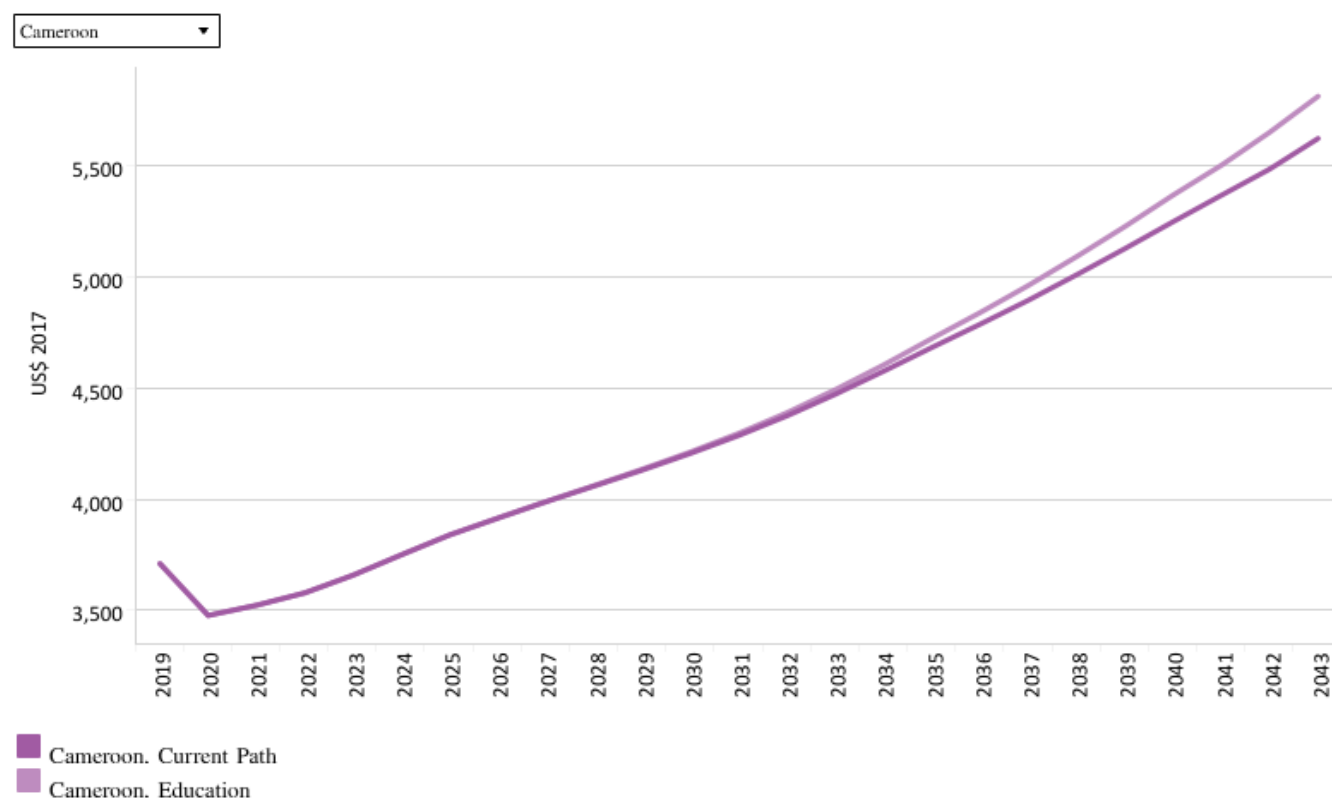
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The average test score for primary learners in Cameroon in 2019 was 39.5%, which was higher than the average of 33.6% for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The Education scenario increases the average test scores for primary learners peaking at 45% in 2033, so that by 2043, the average test score for primary learners is projected to be 44.8%. This represents an increase in scores of 6.7 percentage points compared to the Current Path forecast of 38.1 in the same year. Moreover, the Education scenario for 2043 will be 9.5 percentage points more than the average for lower middle-income African countries.

The average secondary learner test score for Cameroon in 2019 was 41.1% — slightly below the average of 41.7% for lower middle-income African countries. Cameroon performs relatively better at secondary level than at primary level. By 2043, the average test score for secondary learners in the Education scenario is projected to rise to 47.7%, which is 8.1 percentage points above the Current Path estimates and 5.1 percentage points above the average of 41.8% for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 28: GDP per capita in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



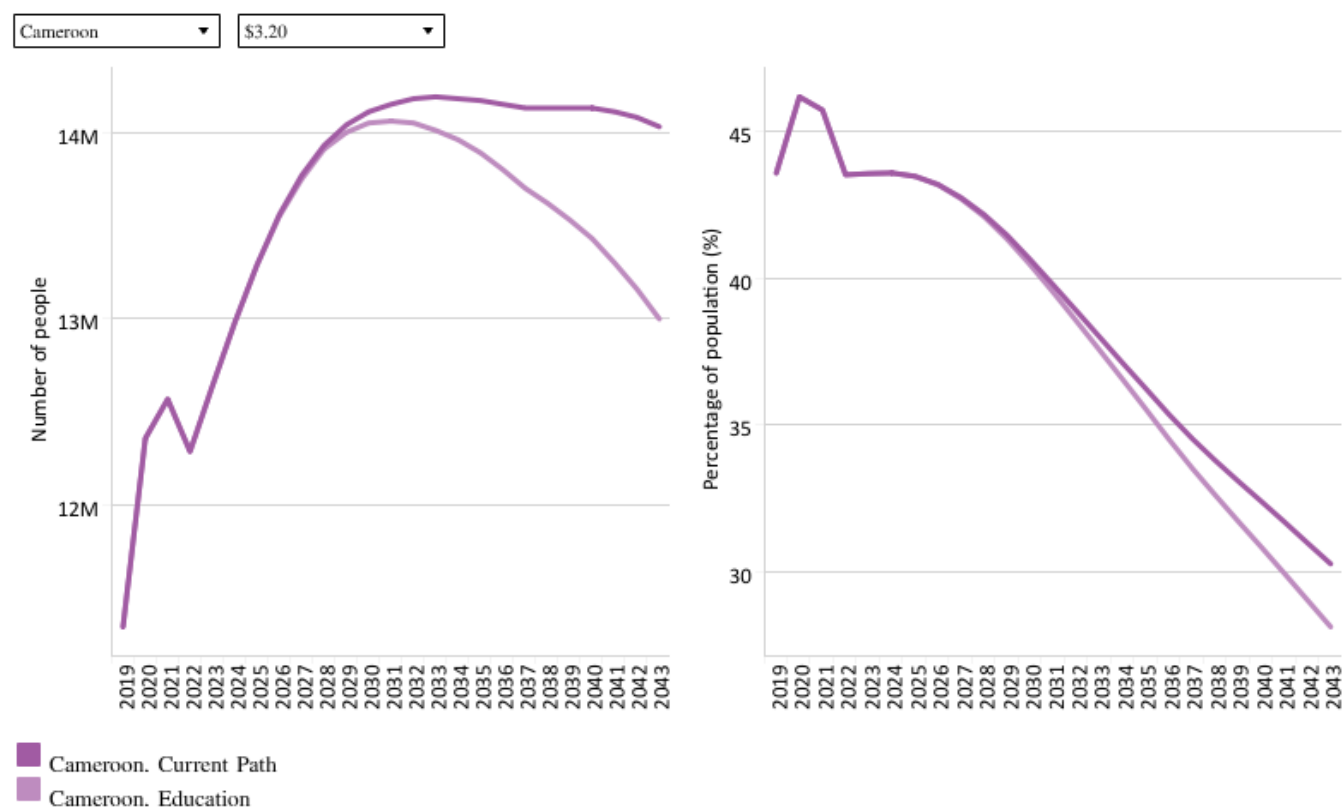
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The GDP per capita as a result of the Education scenario is estimated to be US\$5 812 by 2043, which is US\$190 more than the projected US\$5 622 in the Current Path forecast. Education is the surest way of improving the human capital formation of a country and it is essential for achieving economic growth. However, returns from education take decades to materialise. The projected GDP per capita in the Education scenario is still below the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 29: Poverty in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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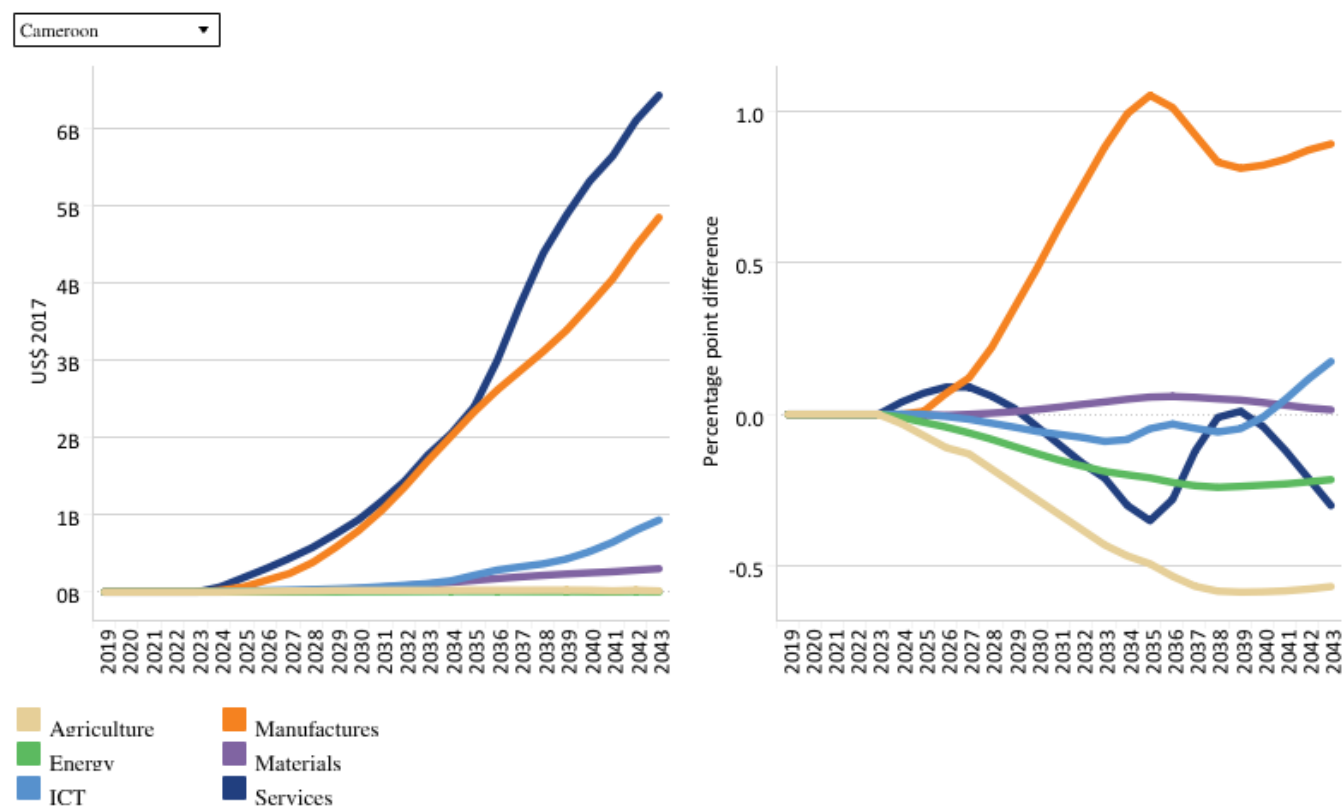
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By 2043, the number of poor people in the Education scenario will be about 13 million (28.1% of the population), meaning that this scenario will contribute to reducing the number of poor people by 1 million people in 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. Education equips people with skills and knowledge to acquire jobs or to improve their entrepreneurial capacity, which is essential for poverty reduction. The proportion of poor people based on the Education scenario in Cameroon will be 10.2 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



Manufacturing scenario

Chart 30: Value added by sector in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Absolute and % point difference GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario represents reasonable but ambitious manufacturing growth through greater investment in the economy, investments in research and development, and promotion of the export of manufactured goods. It is accompanied by an increase in welfare transfers (social grants) to moderate the initial increases in inequality that are typically associated with a manufacturing transition. To this end, the scenario improves tax administration and increases government revenues.

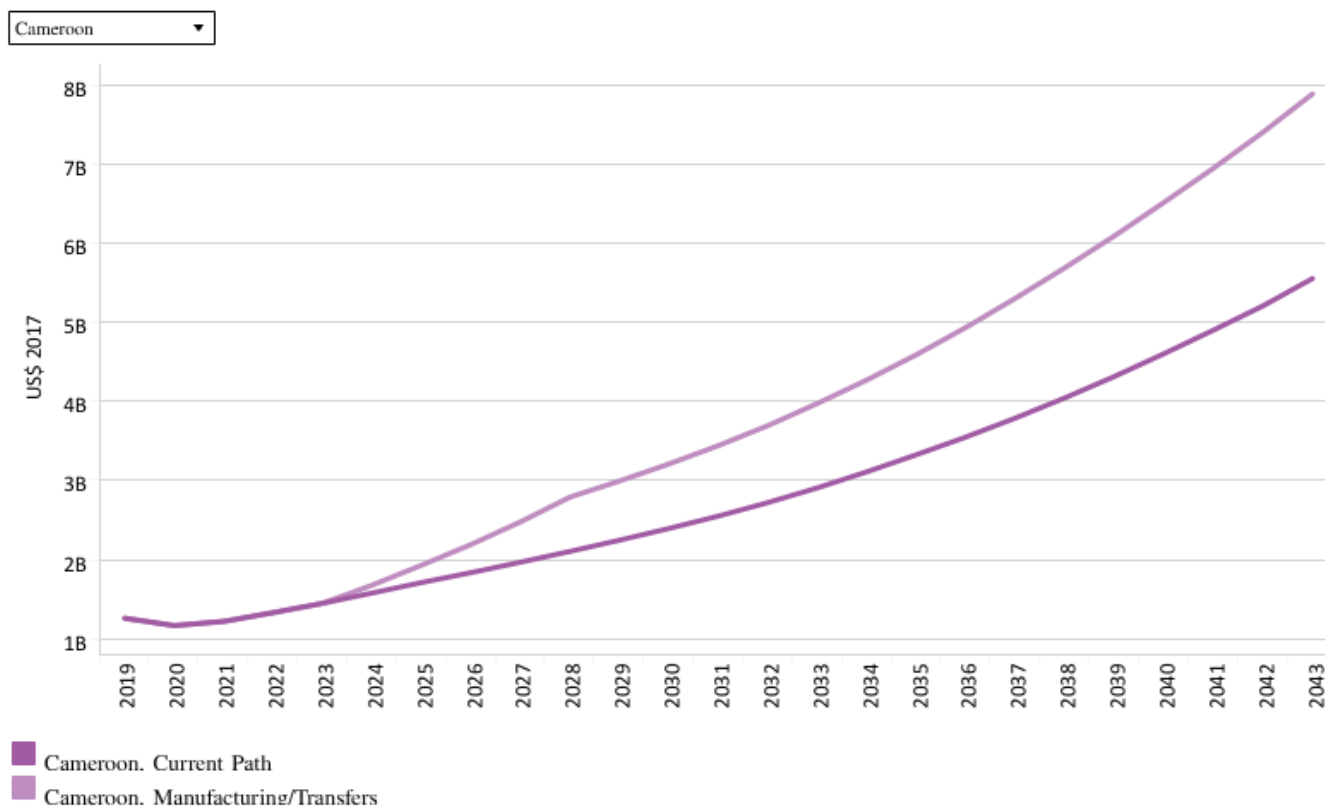
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 30 should be read with [Chart 8](#) that presents a stacked area graph on the contribution to GDP and size, in billion US\$, of the Current Path economy for each of the sectors.

In the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, the service sector will be the largest contributor to GDP with an absolute contribution of US\$6.4 billion more by 2043 compared to the Current Path, although this will correspond to a rate of contribution of -0.30 percentage points difference. The manufacturing sector, which is the second largest contributor, is also projected to contribute an additional US\$4.9 billion to GDP by 2043. However, its rate of contribution will increase and peak at a 1.05 percentage point difference in 2035 and decline afterwards to a 0.89 percentage point difference to GDP based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario in 2043. The third largest contributor to GDP in Cameroon is ICT, with an absolute contribution of US\$0.9 billion, equivalent to a rate of contribution of -0.02 percentage point difference by

2043. The rate of contribution by agriculture to GDP is negative and declining throughout the period, such that by 2043, its rate of contribution will be -0.58 percentage points difference.

Chart 31: Gov welfare transfers in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US\$ 2017



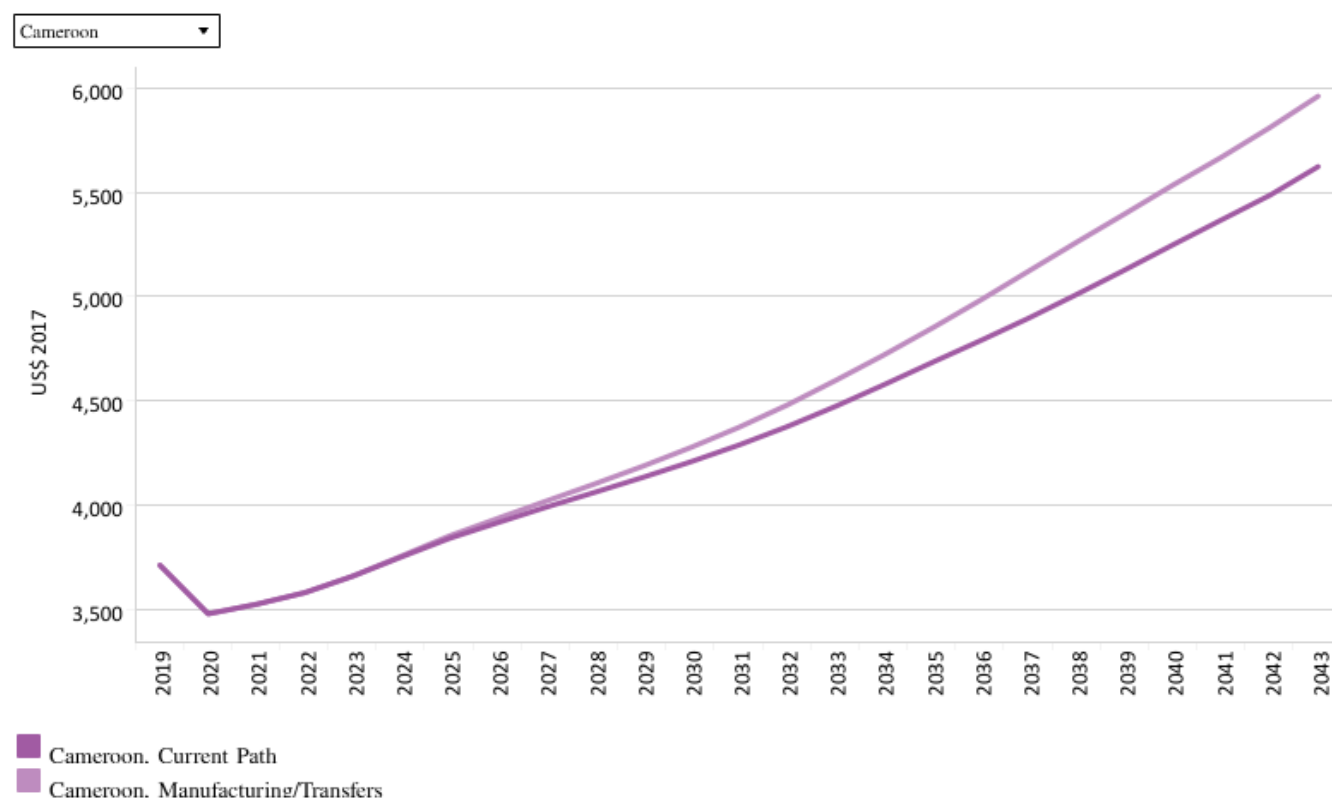
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The total welfare transfers to households in Cameroon for 2019 amounted to US\$1.3 billion. In the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, this amount is projected to rise to US\$7.9 billion by 2043, representing an increase of about 526.2%. This is higher than the projected US\$5.6 billion in the Current Path forecast, meaning that the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will result in an improvement in government welfare transfers by an extra US\$2.3 billion compared to the Current Path in 2043.

Chart 32: GDP per capita in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



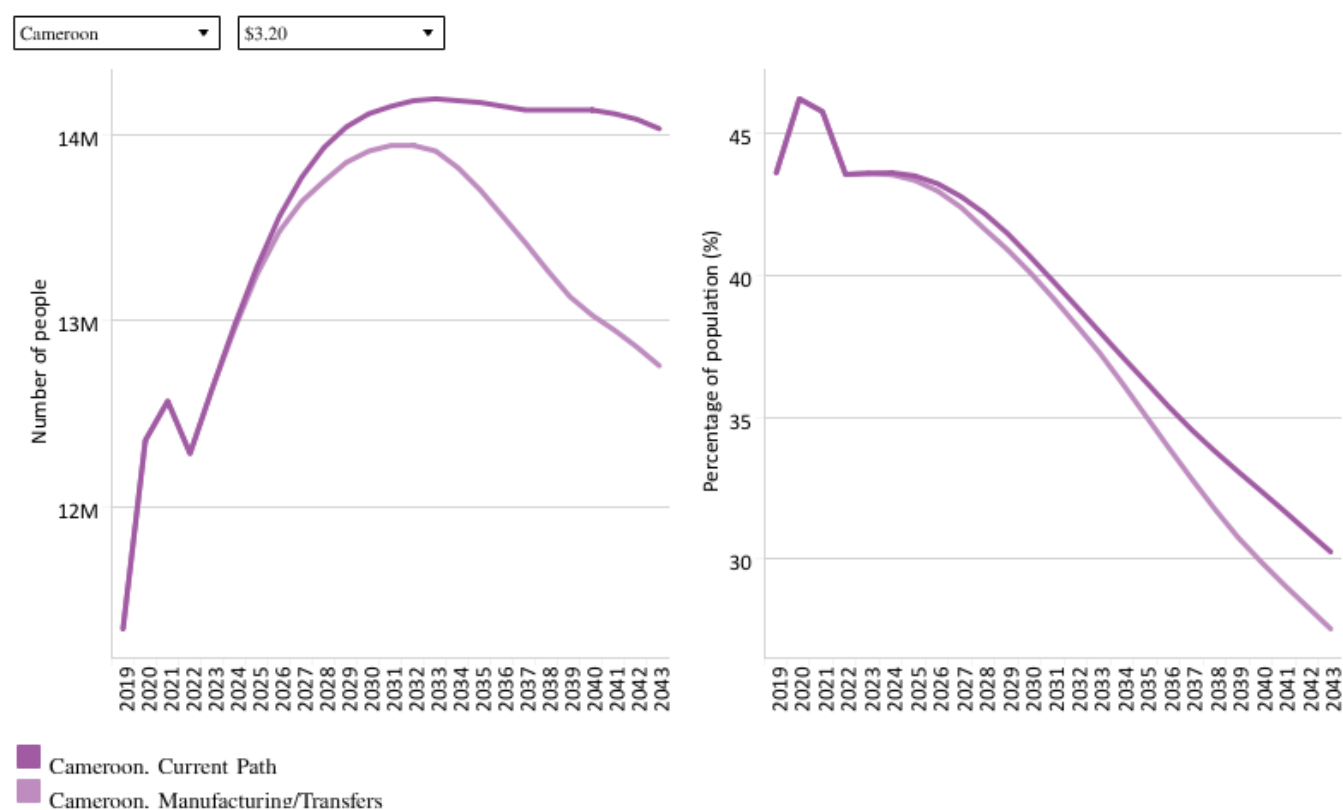
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The GDP per capita in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario is projected to rise to US\$5 960 in 2043. This estimate will be greater than the projections in the Current Path forecast so that by 2043, the additional gains from the GDP per capita as a result of the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will be US\$338. By 2043, the GDP per capita for Cameroon in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will however still be below the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 33: Poverty in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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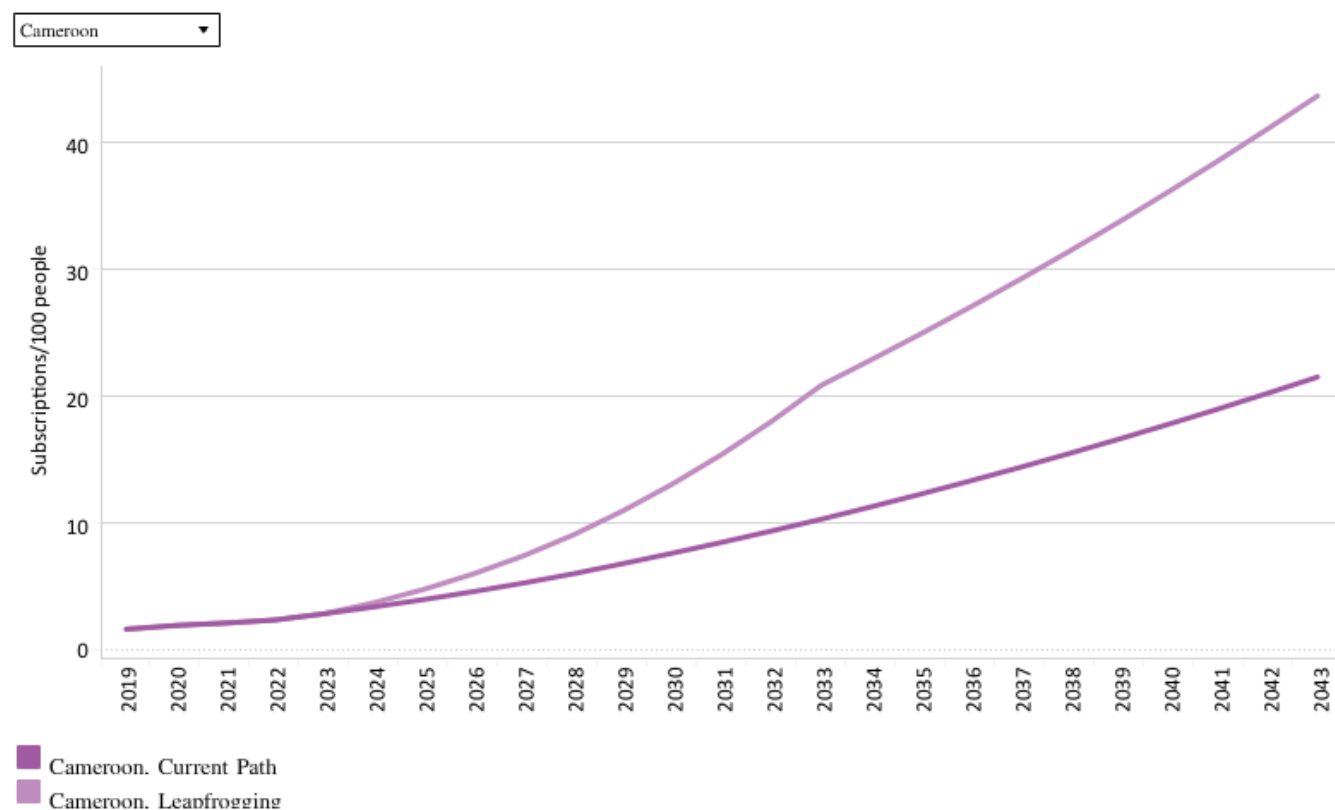
By 2043, the total number of poor people projected in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will be 12.8 million (59.1% of the population). This is below the projected 14 million people (30.3%) on the Current Path, suggesting that the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario can result in 1.3 million additional people lifted above the poverty line of US\$3.20 a day. Cameroon can make significant gains in poverty reduction by investing in research and development as well as promoting export and improving welfare transfers. The proportion of poor people in Cameroon based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario in 2043 will be about 10.8 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



Leapfrogging scenario

Chart 34: Fixed broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043

Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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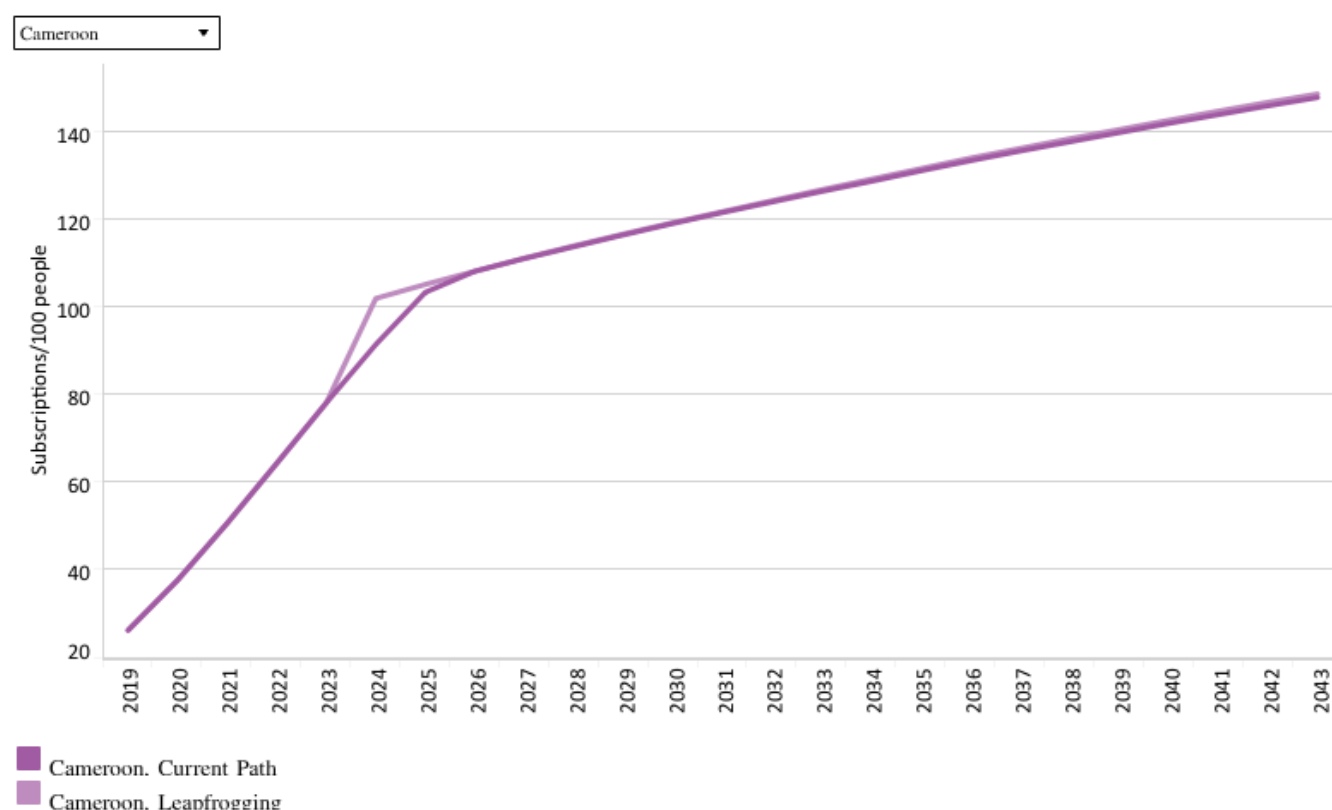
The Leapfrogging scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious adoption of and investment in renewable energy technologies, resulting in better access to electricity in urban and rural areas. The scenario includes accelerated access to mobile and fixed broadband and the adoption of modern technology that improves government efficiency and allows for the more rapid formalisation of the informal sector.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Fixed broadband includes cable modem Internet connections, DSL Internet connections of at least 256 KB/s, fibre and other fixed broadband technology connections (such as satellite broadband Internet, ethernet local area networks, fixed-wireless access, wireless local area networks, WiMAX, etc.).

In 2019, the total number of fixed broadband subscriptions in Cameroon was 1.7 per 100 people, which was lower than the average of 3.7 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Current Path forecast, fixed broadband subscriptions are projected to rise to 21.5 per 100 people. However, the Leapfrogging scenario will lead to a much greater increase in fixed broadband subscriptions of 43.6 subscriptions per 100 people. By 2043, in comparison to the Current Path forecast, the Leapfrogging scenario will result in the rise of an additional 21.1 subscriptions per 100 people, and fixed broadband subscriptions in Cameroon will be 17.1 greater than the average of 26.5 subscriptions per 100 people for lower middle-income African countries.

Chart 35: Mobile broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

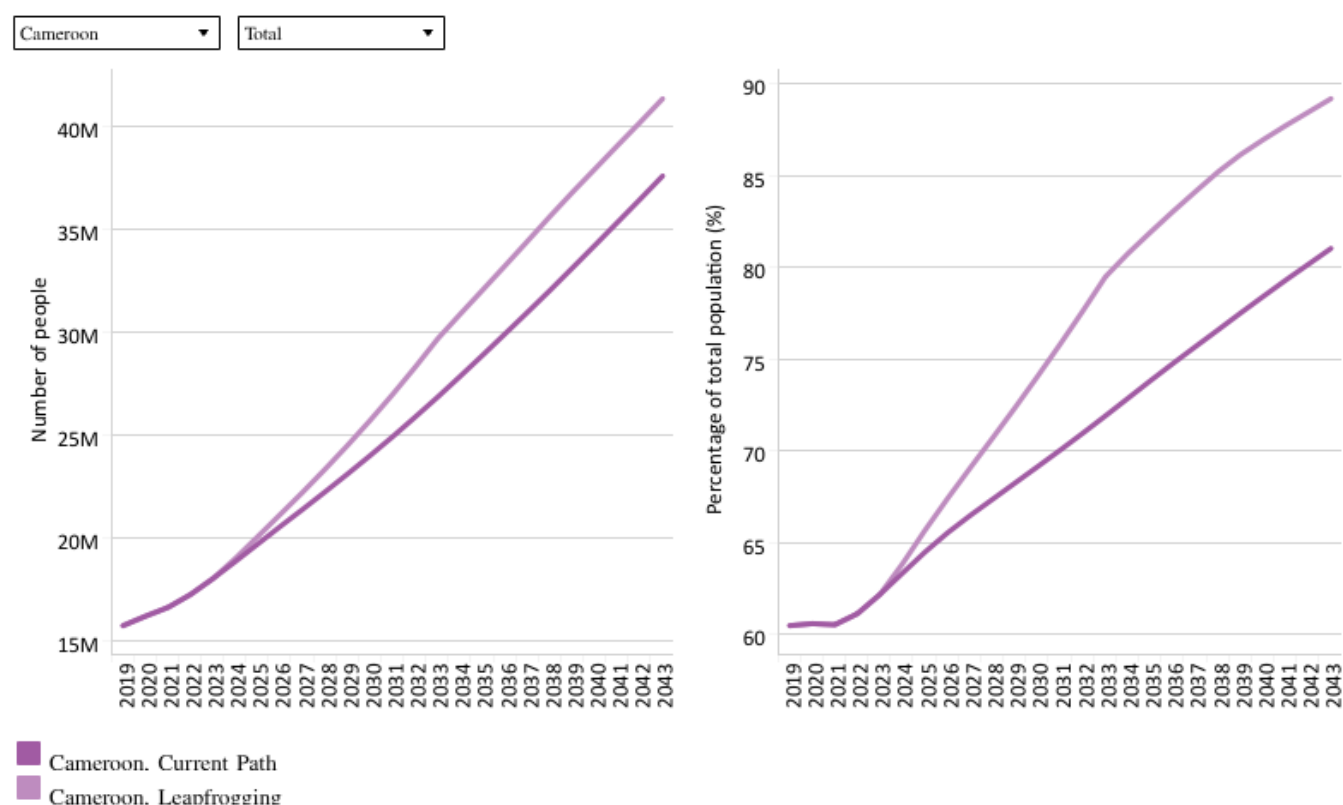
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Mobile broadband refers to wireless Internet access delivered through cellular towers to computers and other digital devices.

Cameroon had 26.2 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people in 2019 — well below the average of 49.1 for lower middle-income countries on the continent. With the exception of the period between 2024 and 2037 where mobile broadband subscriptions in the Leapfrogging scenario will be higher than the Current Path forecast, the forecasts converge. By 2043, both the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast will lead to 148 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people, which is almost equal to the average of 147.6 for Africa's lower middle-income countries.

Chart 36: Electricity access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population



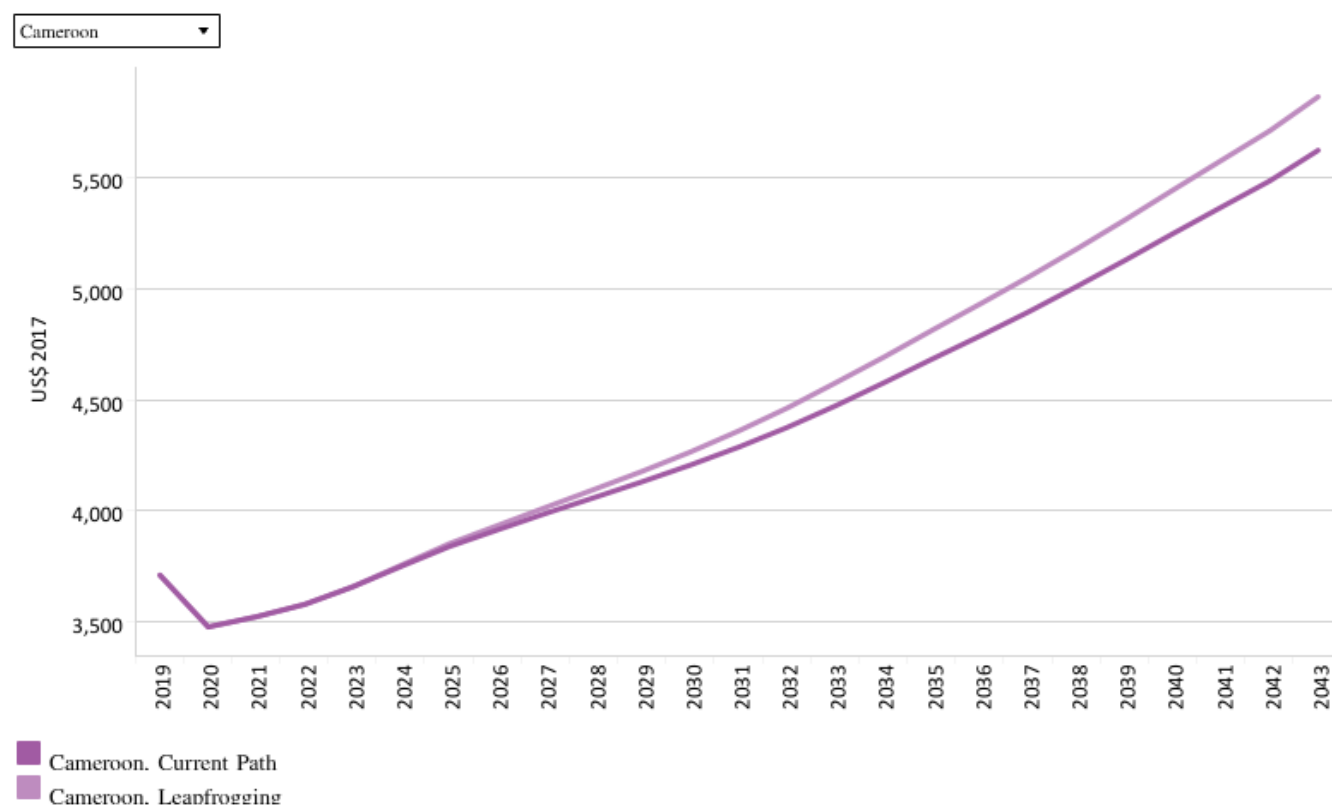
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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In 2019, 15.8 million people in Cameroon (60.5% of the total population) had access to electricity. This is lower than the average of 66.3% for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The proportion of urban residents who had access to electricity in 2019 was 88.3% compared to the low figure of 25% of rural dwellers. This shows a disparity in access to electricity per 100 people in favour of urban residents in the country. By 2043 in the Leapfrogging scenario, access to electricity is projected to increase to 40.2 million people (89.2% of the population). This is higher than the 37.6 million people (81%) projected on the Current Path, showing that the Leapfrogging scenario could increase access to electricity for 3.7 million more people in the country. The projections in the Leapfrogging scenario in 2043 are higher than the projected average of 81.7% for lower middle-income countries in Africa. By 2043, 99.4% and 95.8% of all urban residents in Cameroon will have access to electricity in the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast, respectively. In the case of rural dwellers, 69.8% and 52.9% will have access to electricity by 2043 based on the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast, respectively, showing that locational disparity in access to electricity will reduce quicker in the Leapfrogging scenario than in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 37: GDP per capita in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



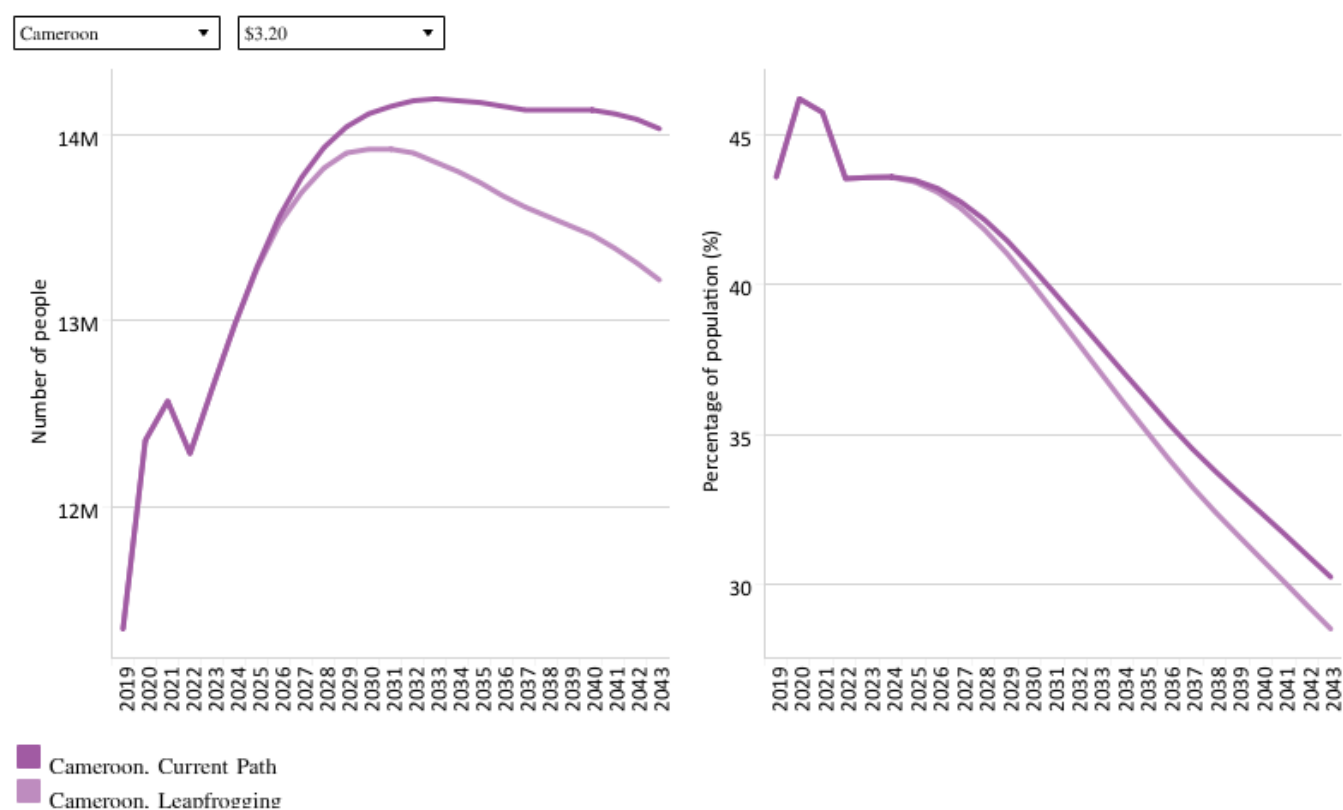
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Increased accessibility to technology has the potential to increase GDP by reducing transaction cost for businesses. Cameroon's GDP per capita is estimated to increase to US\$5 863 in 2043 in the Leapfrogging scenario, representing an increase of US\$241 compared to the Current Path forecast of US\$5 622. This will still be US\$3 279 below the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 38: Poverty in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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In the Leapfrogging scenario, the number of poor people in 2043 is projected to be 13.2 million (28.5% of the population). This projection is below the 14 million people estimated in the Current Path forecast in the same year, meaning that the number of poor people in the Leapfrogging scenario is about 800 000 fewer than the Current Path forecast for 2043. The number of poor people projected in the Leapfrogging scenario is also 1.7 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast and 9.8 percentage points below the average for lower middle-income African countries in 2043. Extension of electricity access especially to rural areas and the adoption of modern technology can help in poverty reduction by increasing productivity and improving the output of micro and small businesses, especially in the informal sector. It can also help in the digitisation and formalisation of the economy that provide improved welfare packages to a labour force which hitherto worked in the informal sector.



Free Trade scenario

Chart 39: Trade balance in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Free Trade scenario represents the impact of the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 2034 through increases in exports, improved productivity and increased trade and economic freedom.

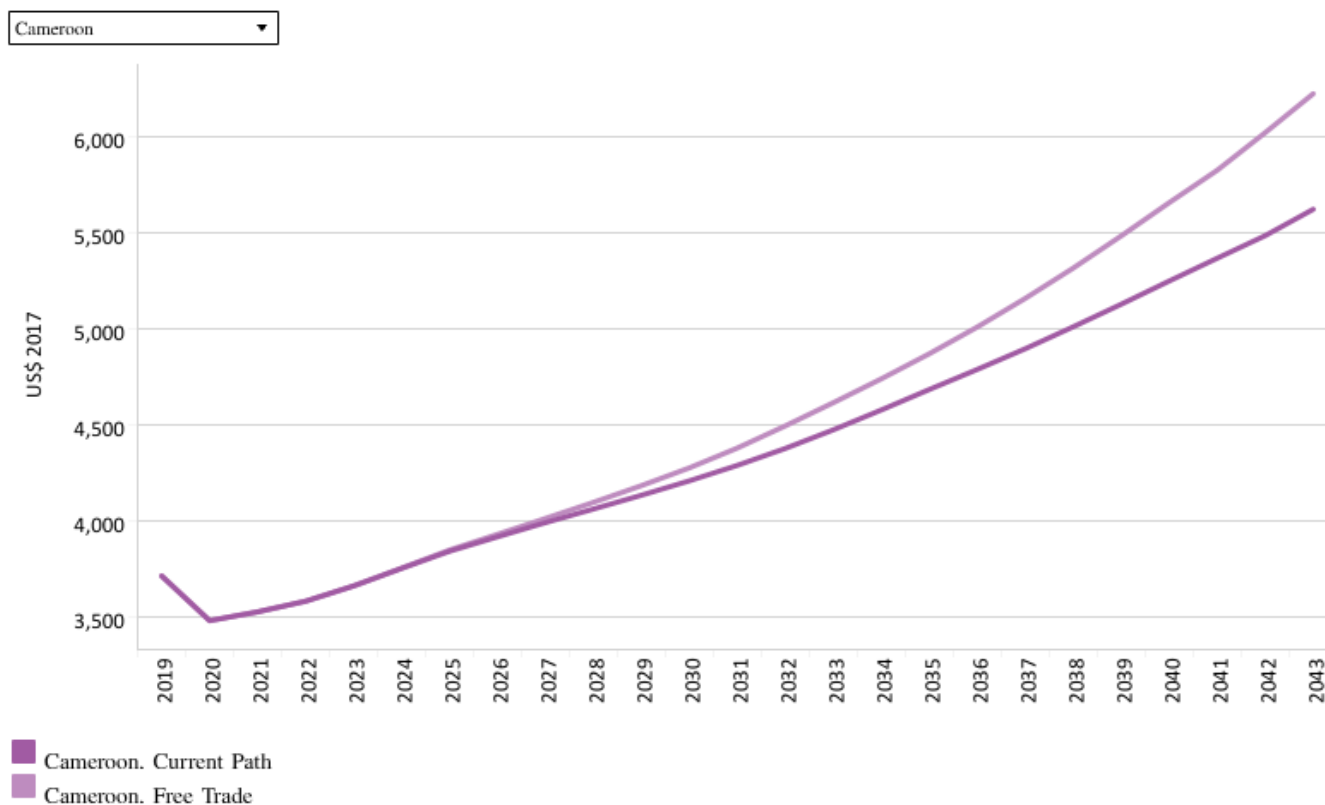
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The trade balance is the difference between the value of a country's exports and its imports. A country that imports more goods and services than it exports in terms of value has a trade deficit, while a country that exports more goods and services than it imports has a trade surplus.

Cameroon is a net importer of goods and services and therefore operates a trade deficit. In 2019, Cameroon's trade deficit represented 6.1% of GDP, which was below the average of 6.6% of GDP for lower middle-income African countries. The major exports of Cameroon include crude petroleum, cocoa beans, sawn wood, gold and petroleum gas, while its major imports include scrap vessels, rice, special purpose ships and packaged medicaments. The country's export destinations are China, Netherlands, Italy, the United Arab Emirates and India, and its imports are mainly sourced from Nigeria, China, Thailand, France and Belgium. Between 2024 and 2039, the Free Trade scenario leads to a quicker improvement in trade balance compared to the Current Path forecast, reaching a peak of a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2033. In the same year, the Current Path forecast leads to a trade deficit of 5%. From 2040, the trend reverses so that by 2043, the Current Path forecast leads to a lower deficit of 1.7% while the Free Trade scenario leads to a deficit of 4.1%. The projected trade deficit

in the Free Trade scenario by 2043 will also be 0.8 percentage points higher than the average of 3.3% for lower middle-income African countries in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 40: GDP per capita in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The GDP per capita for Cameroon is estimated to increase to US\$6 225 by 2043 in the Free Trade scenario, which is US\$603 more than the projections on the Current Path in the same year. The full implementation of the AfCFTA will enhance intra-Africa trade which will provide a huge market for Cameroon to sell commodities in which it has comparative advantage. This will lead to increased employment in those sectors and ultimately economic growth. However, the average GDP per capita for Cameroon in the Free Trade scenario will still be lower than the projected US\$9 142 for lower middle-income African countries.

Chart 41: Poverty in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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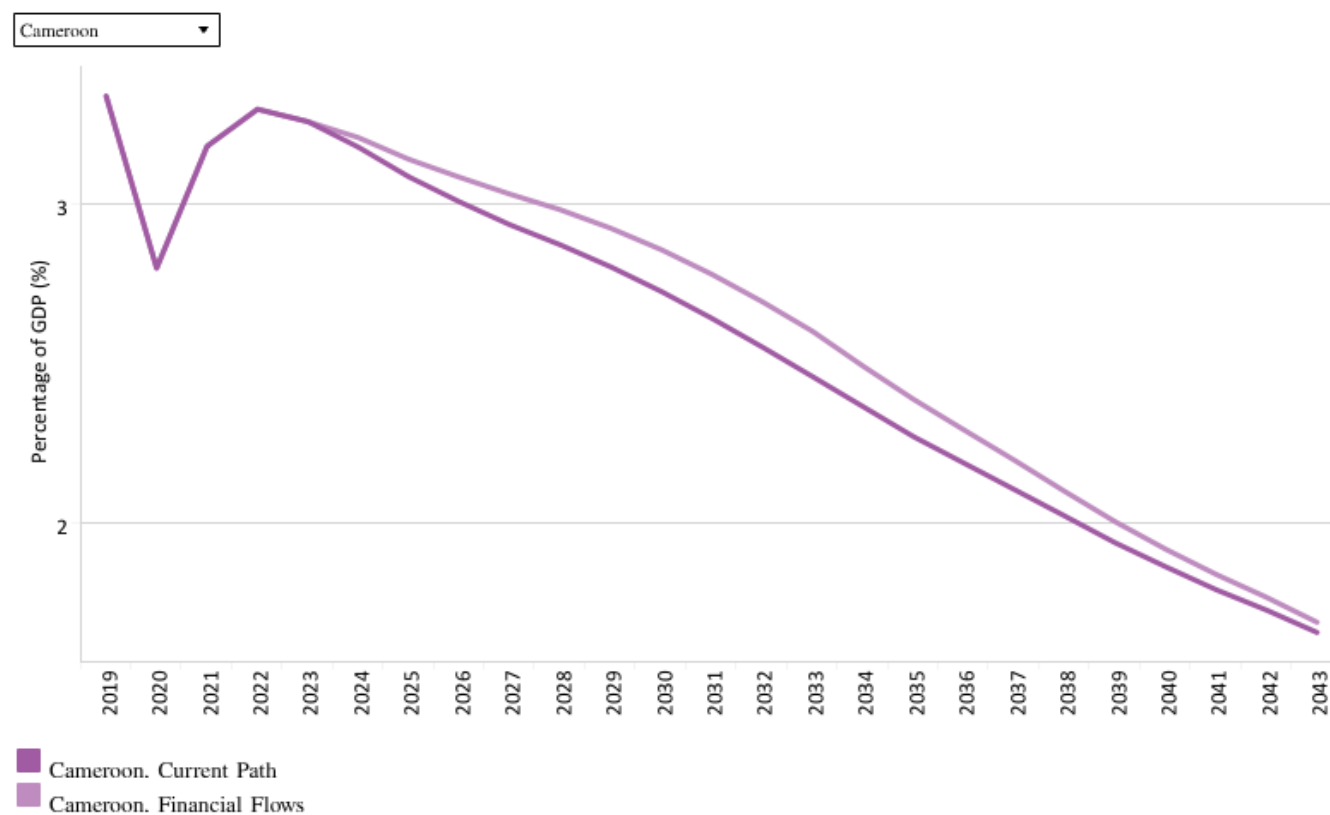
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From 2028 to 2034, the Current Path forecast leads to a much quicker reduction in poverty compared to the Free Trade scenario. This can be attributed to the redistribution and displacement effect of trade in the short term. However, from 2037, the Free Trade scenario will lead to a greater reduction in both the number and proportion of poor people compared to the Current Path. By 2043, the number of people living in extreme poverty in the Free Trade scenario will be 11.8 million people (25.4% of the population). This is 4.8 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast, meaning that the Free Trade scenario has the potential to reduce extreme poverty in Cameroon for as many as 2.3 million people by 2043. The proportion of poor people projected in the Free Trade scenario will be lower than the average of 38.3% for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



Financial Flows scenario

Chart 42: Foreign aid in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Development Assistance Committee of the OECD data, and World Bank and OECD GNI estimates.

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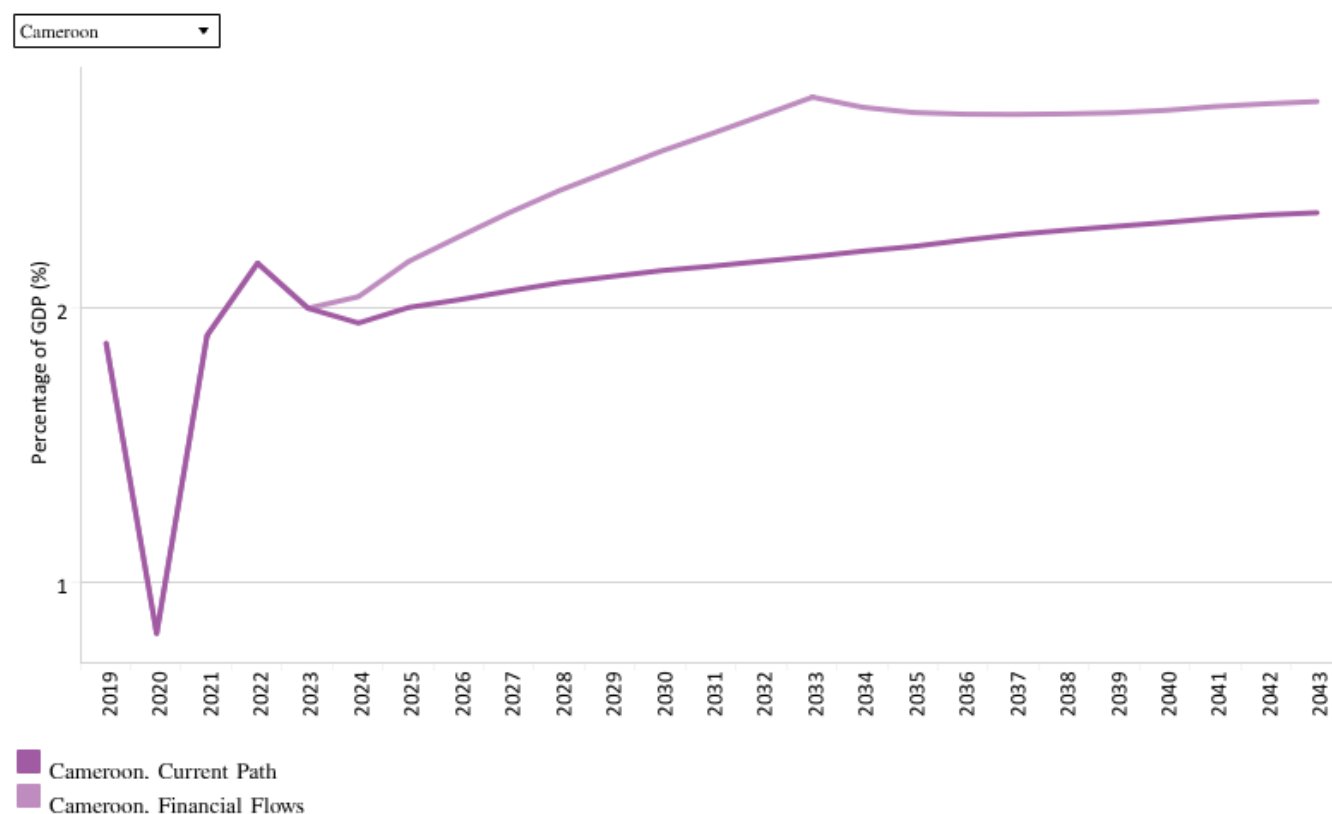
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The Financial Flows scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in worker remittances and aid flows to poor countries, and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows to middle-income countries. We also reduced outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The government of Cameroon depends heavily on donor assistance to support its budget especially in paying for capital goods. Based on data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), it is estimated that 5%–10% of the Cameroonian national budget comes from donor support, mostly from the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and OECD. The European Union and France are the leading donors of aid to Cameroon. From 2008 to 2013, the European Development Fund donated €239 million to Cameroon. The total amount of foreign aid received by Cameroon in 2019 was equivalent to 3.3% of GDP, about US\$1.3 billion, which is higher than the average of 1.7% for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Although the absolute value of foreign aid is projected to increase to US\$2.2 billion and US\$2.1 billion in the Financial Flows scenario and Current Path forecast, respectively, aid as a percentage to GDP will decline. By 2043, total aid as a percentage of GDP in the Financial Flows scenario will amount to 1.69% of GDP, which is slightly above the Current Path forecast of 1.66% of GDP. It is also higher than the projected 0.54% for average lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 43: Inflow of FDI in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



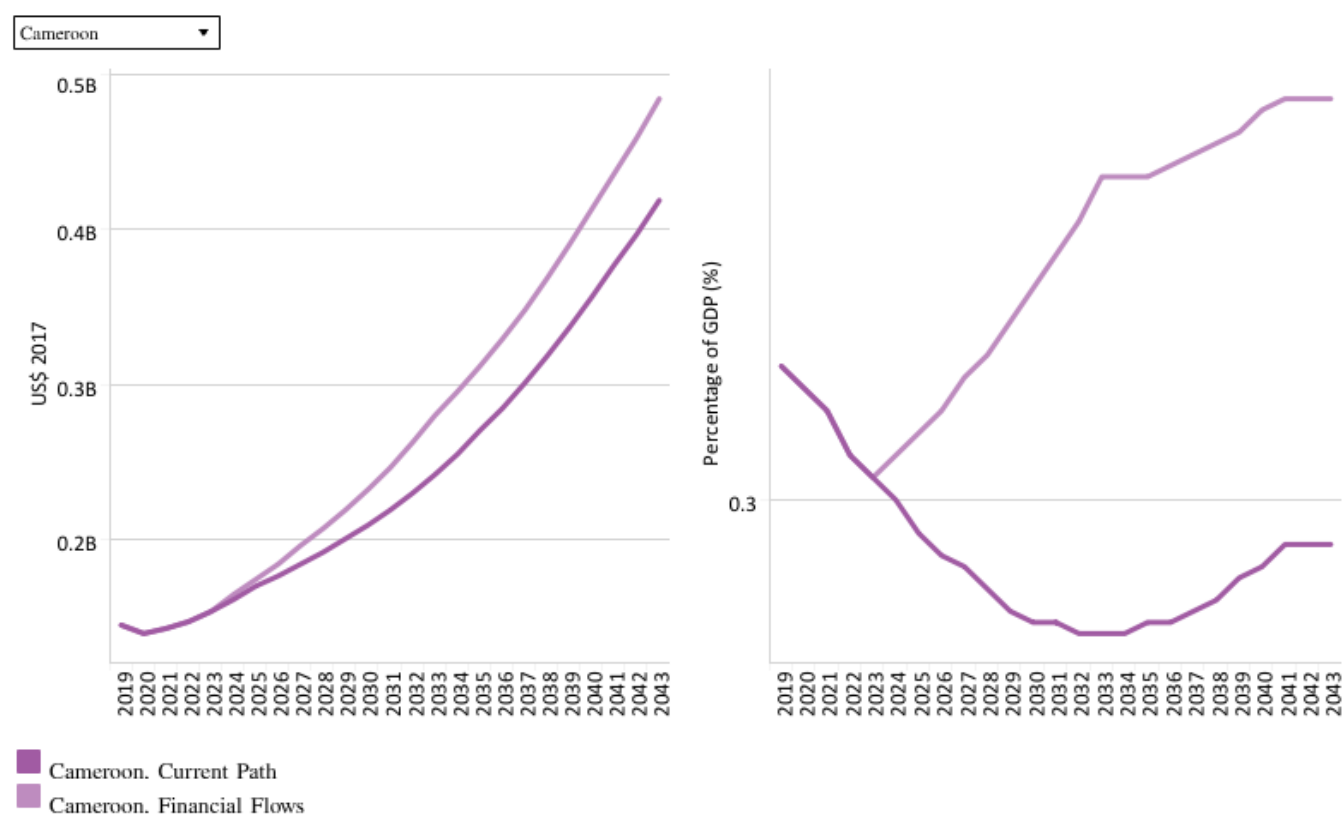
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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The total amount of FDI received by Cameroon in 2019 was equivalent to 1.9% of GDP, which was lower than the average of 2.6% for lower middle-income African countries. Compared to its income peer group, Cameroon receives relatively lower FDI inflows. Since 2014, FDI inflows have remained between US\$600 million and US\$815 million, with a total estimated total FDI inflow in 2019 of US\$782 million. Most FDI goes into the oil and gas sectors in Cameroon. FDI has traditionally come from Europe in particular, with China also investing significantly in the Cameroonian economy in recent years. By 2043, it is projected that the total FDI in the Financial Flows scenario will increase to 2.8% of GDP. This is higher than the estimate of 2.3% of GDP on the Current Path but lower than the projected average of 3.5% for lower middle-income countries on the continent.

Chart 44: Remittances in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



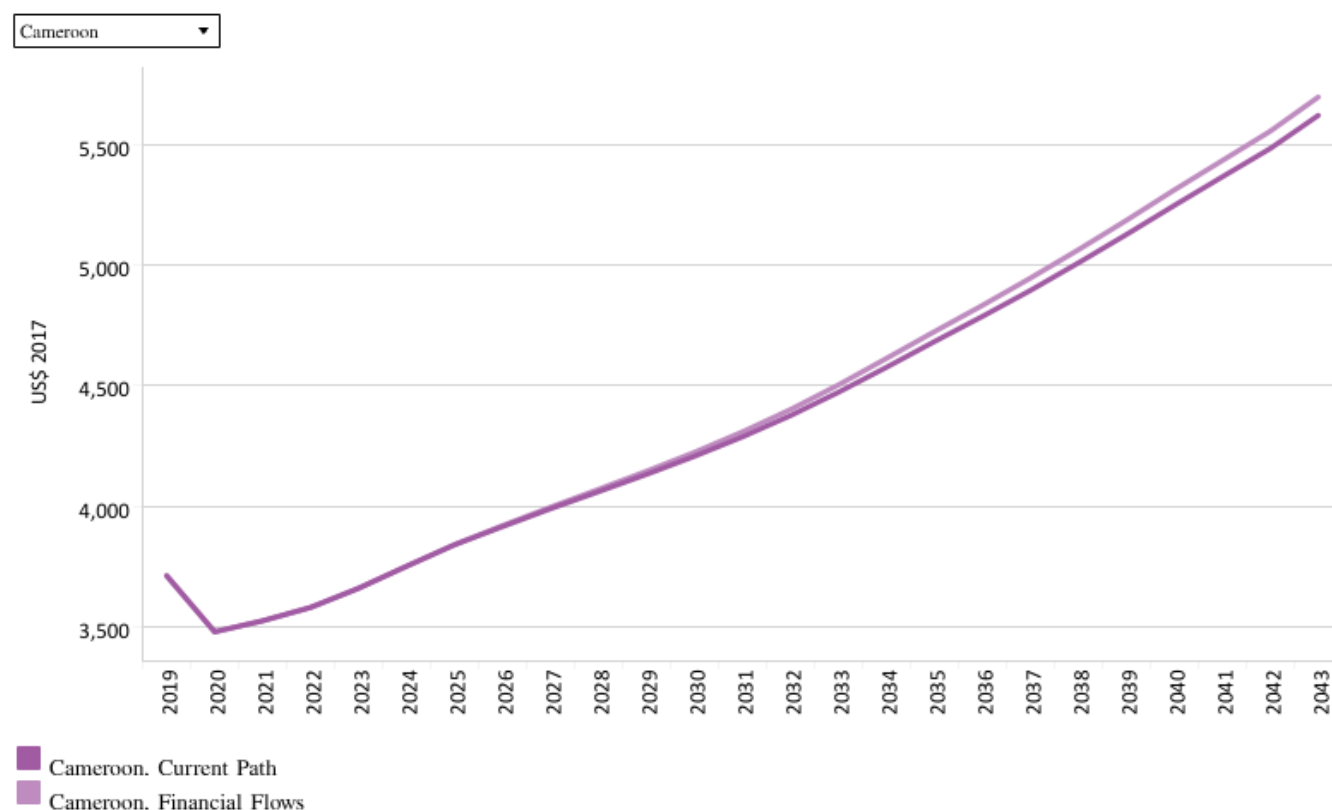
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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In 2019, the total value of remittances that Cameroon received amounted to US\$100 million, which constituted 0.3% of GDP. This is below the average of 2.6% for lower middle-income African countries, meaning that Cameroon receives relatively lower levels of remittances compared to its income peer group on the continent. Both the absolute value of remittances and remittances as a percentage of GDP are projected to increase in the Financial Flows scenario. By 2043, the projected value of total remittances will be US\$500 million in the Financial Flows scenario, US\$100 million more than estimated on the Current Path. Likewise, remittances as a percentage of GDP are projected to increase to 0.34% of GDP in the Financial Flows scenario while remaining at 0.30% of GDP on the Current Path by 2043. However, these projections will still be lower than the average of 2% of GDP for the average lower middle-income country.

Chart 45: GDP per capita in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

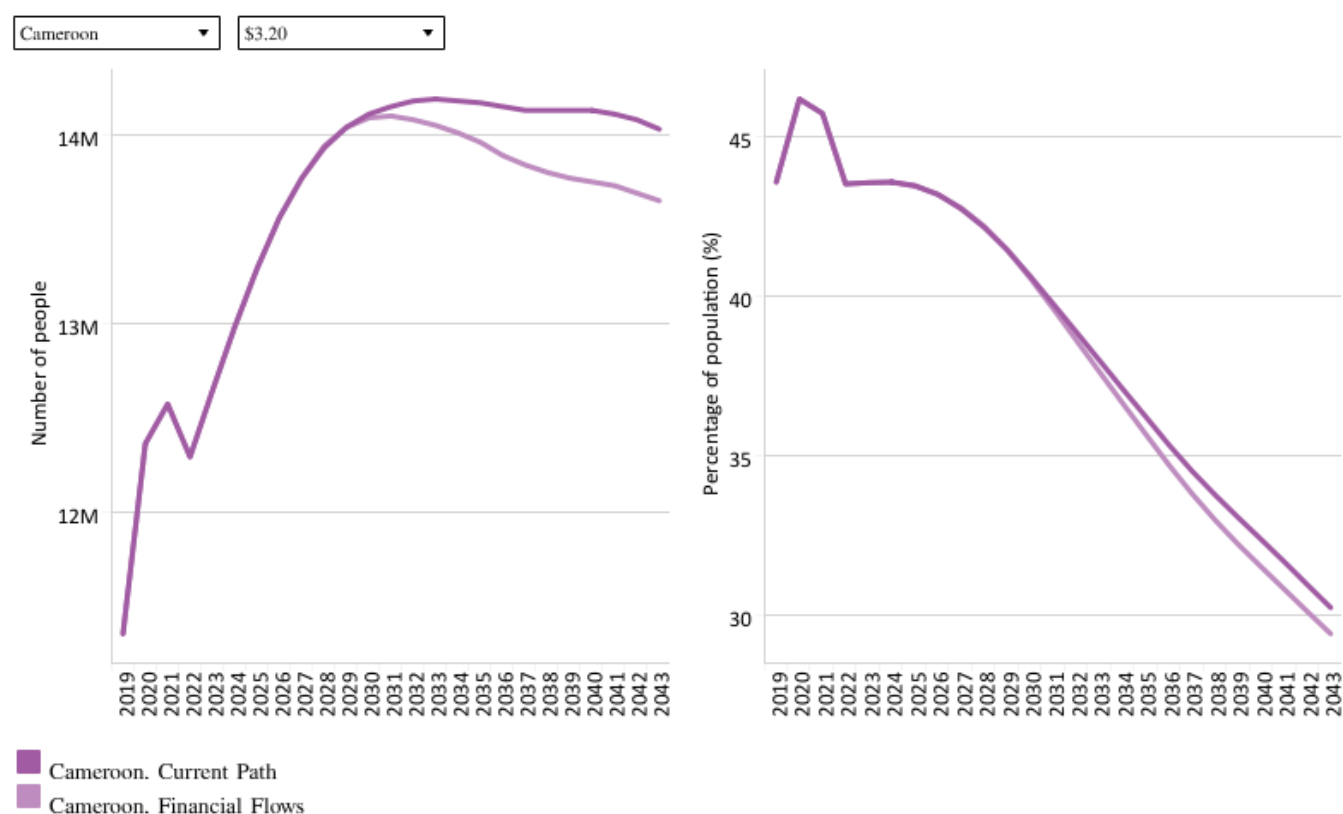
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The GDP per capita in Cameroon is estimated to rise to US\$5 699 by 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario representing an increase of US\$77 over the Current Path projection in the same year. This estimate is below the average of lower middle-income countries in Africa, which is projected to be US\$9 142 by 2043. Remittances, aid and FDI inflow are positively associated with economic growth through the multiplier effect on businesses and household expenditure.

Chart 46: Poverty in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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Trade openness will reduce poverty in the long term after initially increasing it due to the redistributive effects of trade. Most African countries export primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing products, and therefore a continental free trade agreement (AfCFTA) that reduces tariffs and non-tariff barriers across Africa will increase competition among countries in primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing exports. Countries with inefficient, high-cost manufacturing sectors might be displaced as the AfCFTA is implemented, thereby pushing up poverty rates. In the long term, as the economy adjusts and produces and exports its comparatively advantaged (lower relative cost) goods and services, poverty rates will decline.

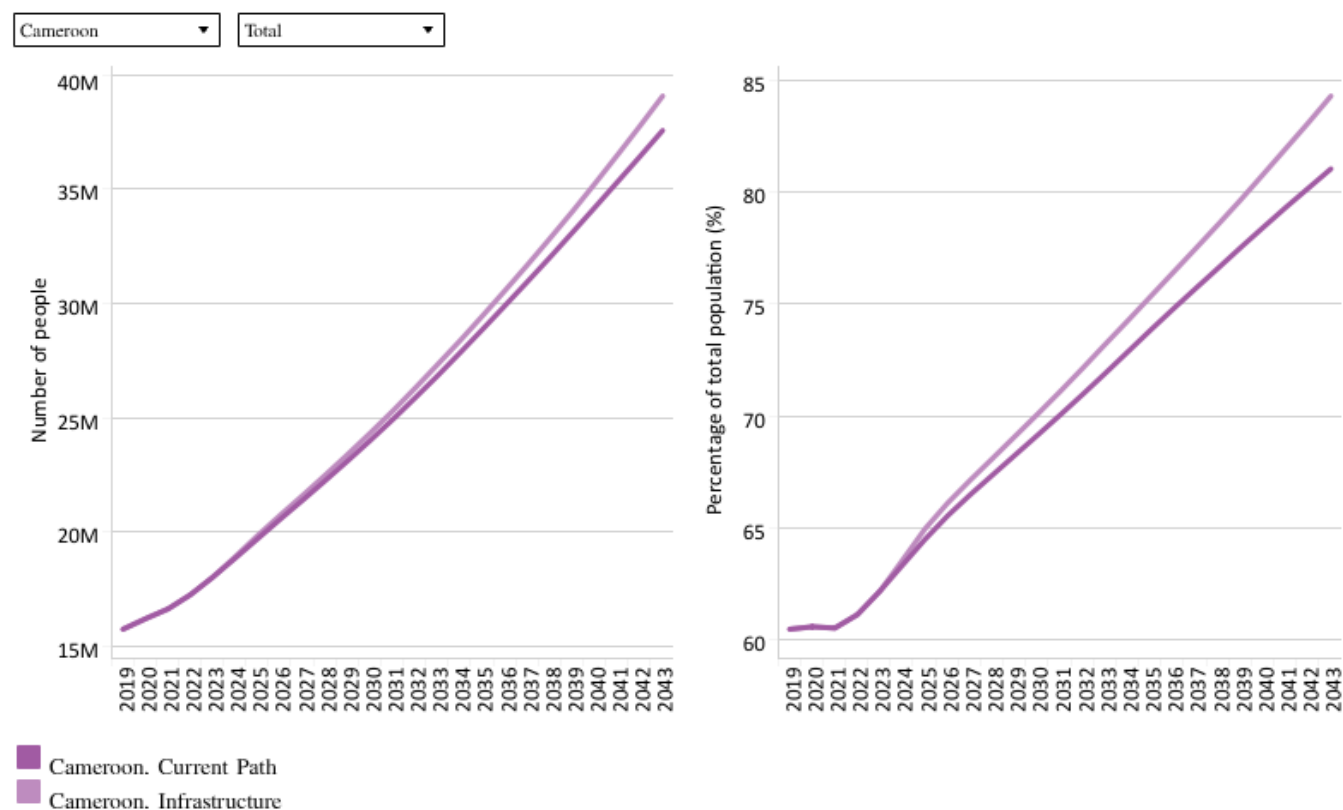
In the Financial Flows scenario, the total number of people projected to live below the poverty line of US\$3.20 will be about 13.7 million (29.4% of the total population) in 2043. This projection represents a reduction of about 400 000, people equivalent to 0.8 percentage points compared to the Current Path forecast in the same year. It is also lower than the projected average of 38.3% for lower middle-income countries in Africa in 2043.



Infrastructure scenario

Chart 47: Electricity access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Infrastructure scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in infrastructure spending across Africa, focusing on basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, electricity access and ICT) in low-income countries and increasing emphasis on advanced infrastructure (such as ports, airports, railway and electricity generation) in higher-income countries.

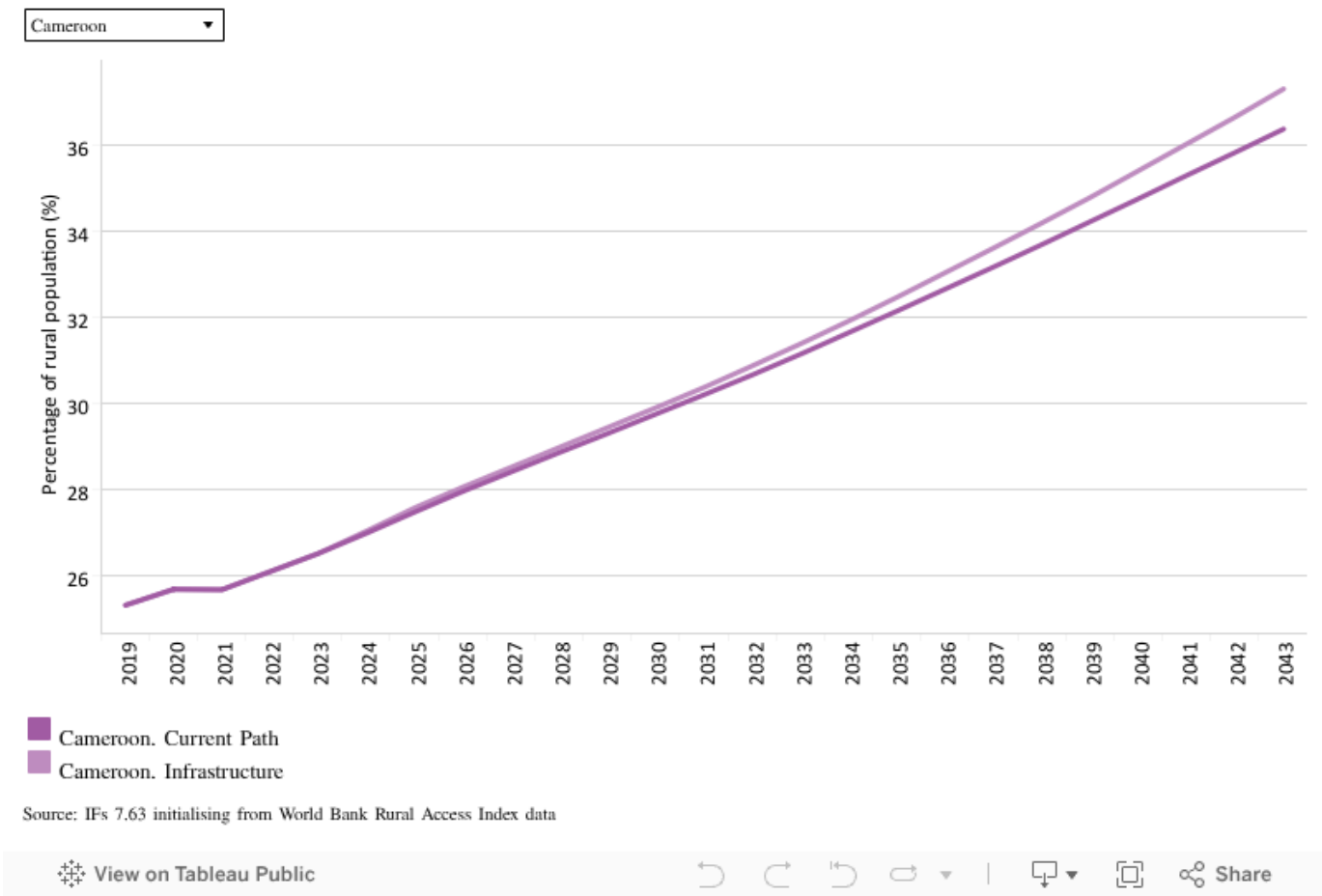
Note that health and sanitation infrastructure is included as part of the Health/WaSH scenario and that ICT infrastructure and more rapid uptake of renewables are part of the Leapfrogging scenario. The interventions there push directly on outcomes, whereas those modelled in this scenario increase infrastructure spending, indirectly boosting other forms of infrastructure, including that supporting health, sanitation and ICT.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

In 2019, 15.8 million people in Cameroon (60.5% of the population) had access to electricity, and it is projected to increase to 39.1 million people (84.3%) in 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This will be higher than the 37.6 million people (81%) estimated in the Current Path forecast but lower than the 81.7% forecast for average lower middle-income countries in Africa. By 2043, electricity access for urban residents in the Infrastructure scenario will constitute 97.6% of the urban

population compared to only 58.9% of rural dwellers. On the Current Path, electricity access to urban residents will constitute 95.8% of its population compared to the 52.9% access to rural population. This suggests that the Infrastructure scenario will reduce the disparity in access to electricity in favour of the urban population.

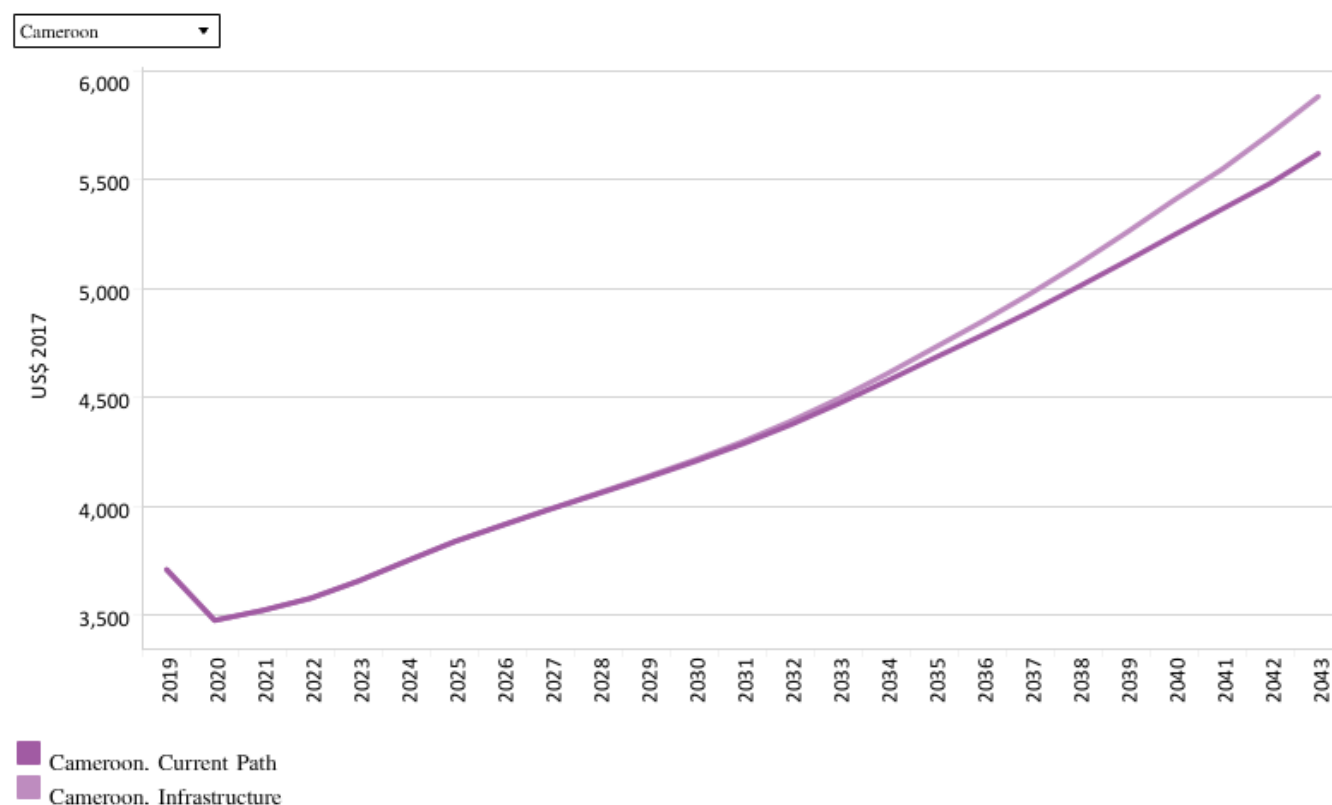
Chart 48: Rural road access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
% of rural population within 2 km of an all-weather road



Indicator 9.1.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road and is captured in the Rural Access Index.

The number of rural dwellers residing within 2 km of an all-weather road in 2019 was 25.3% — far below the average of 61.4% for lower middle-income African countries. This suggests that people living in rural areas accessibility to roads is low in Cameroon compared to its income peers on the continent. In the Infrastructure scenario, this is expected to rise to 37.3% by 2043, which is slightly higher than the projected 36.4% in the Current Path forecast. It is, however, still below the average of 67.8% projected for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Accessibility to rural areas is important in linking and integrating the rural economy into the urban economy. For instance, it provides rural farmers with access to urban markets, which are a major source of livelihood to rural people.

Chart 49: GDP per capita in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Access to basic infrastructure such as electricity is essential for stimulating economic growth as it can be a catalyst for industrial growth, improve worker productivity and create more job opportunities. Cameroon's GDP per capita is estimated to rise to US\$5 884 by 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario, which is US\$262 more than the projection of US\$5 622 in the Current Path forecast in the same year. It is, however, lower than the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 50: Poverty in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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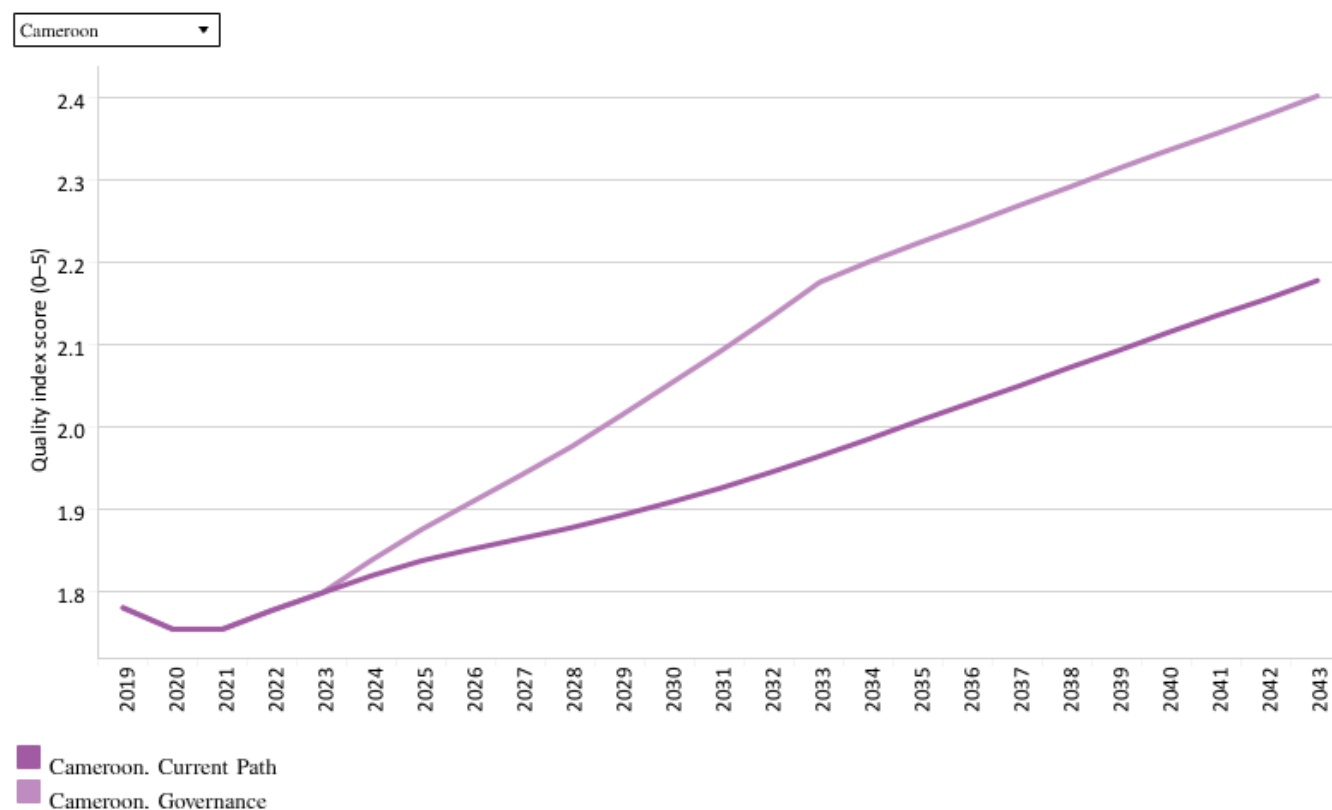
The proportion of the poor population is expected to decline from 43.6% in 2019 to 28.5% in 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario, corresponding to 13.2 million people living in extreme poverty. Comparing this with the projections in the Current Path forecast suggests that there will be 800 000 fewer poor people in the Infrastructure scenario than in the Current Path forecast for the same year. The poverty rate in the scenario in 2043 will still be higher than the estimated average of 38.3% for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



Governance scenario

Chart 51: Gov effectiveness in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043

World Bank quality index score for government effectiveness



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010) data

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The Governance scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious improvement in accountability and reduces corruption, and hence improves the quality of service delivery by government.

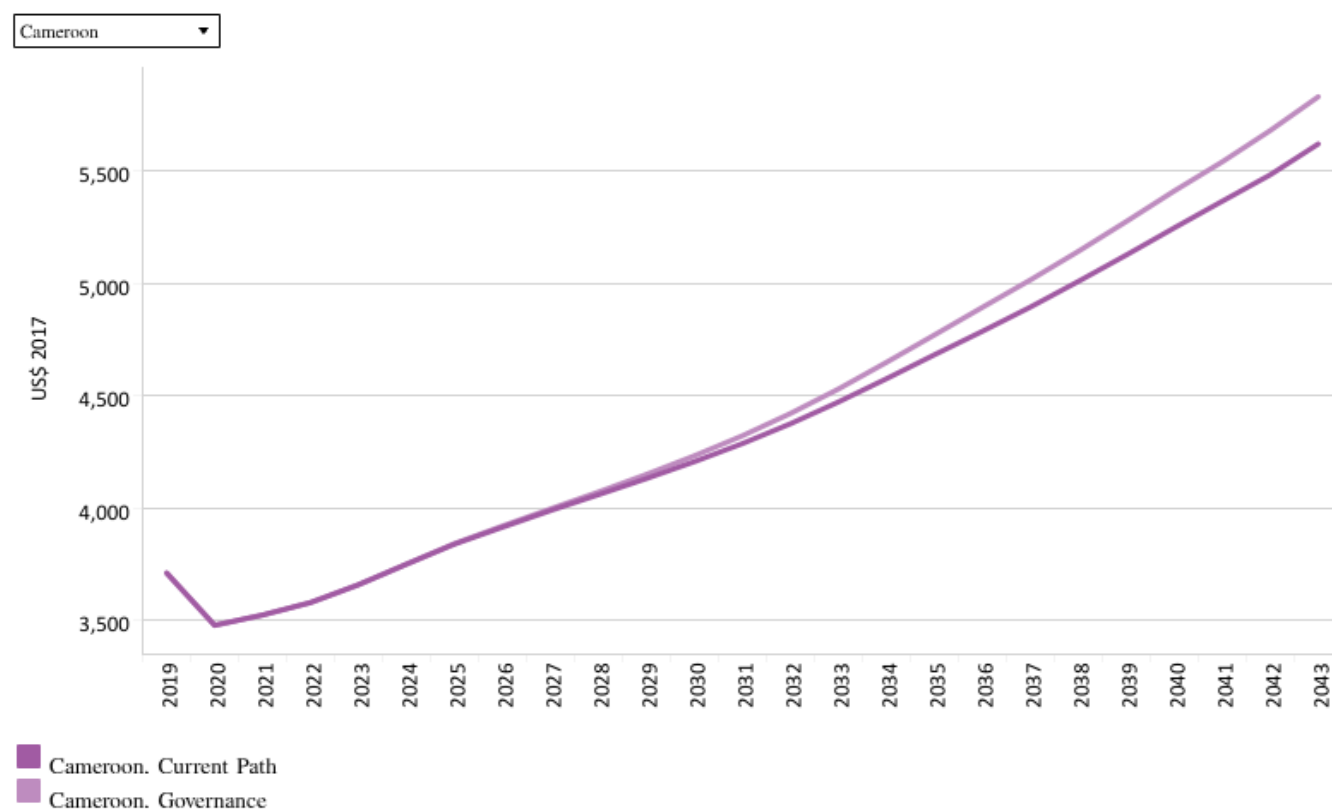
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

As defined by the World Bank, government effectiveness 'captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies'.

Chart 51 presents the impact of the interventions in the Governance scenario on government effectiveness.

In 2019, Cameroon's score for government effectiveness was 1.78, which was lower than the average of 1.89 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Government effectiveness is estimated to increase in both the Current Path forecast and in the Governance scenario, although the increase is much quicker in the latter. By 2043, Cameroon's government effectiveness score is projected to reach 2.4, which is 0.12 points higher than the projected 2.18 in the Current Path forecast. The projected score for government effectiveness in the Governance scenario will also be 0.08 higher than the average of 2.32 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

Chart 52: GDP per capita in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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In the Governance scenario, Cameroon's GDP per capita is set to increase to US\$5 833 in 2043, representing an increase of US\$211 compared to the Current Path. However, this projection is still below the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries on the continent in the same year suggesting that promoting good governance in Cameroon by reducing corruption and upholding the rule of law, transparency and accountability could lead to economic growth. As such, authorities in Cameroon should prioritise good governance in the country.

Chart 53: Poverty in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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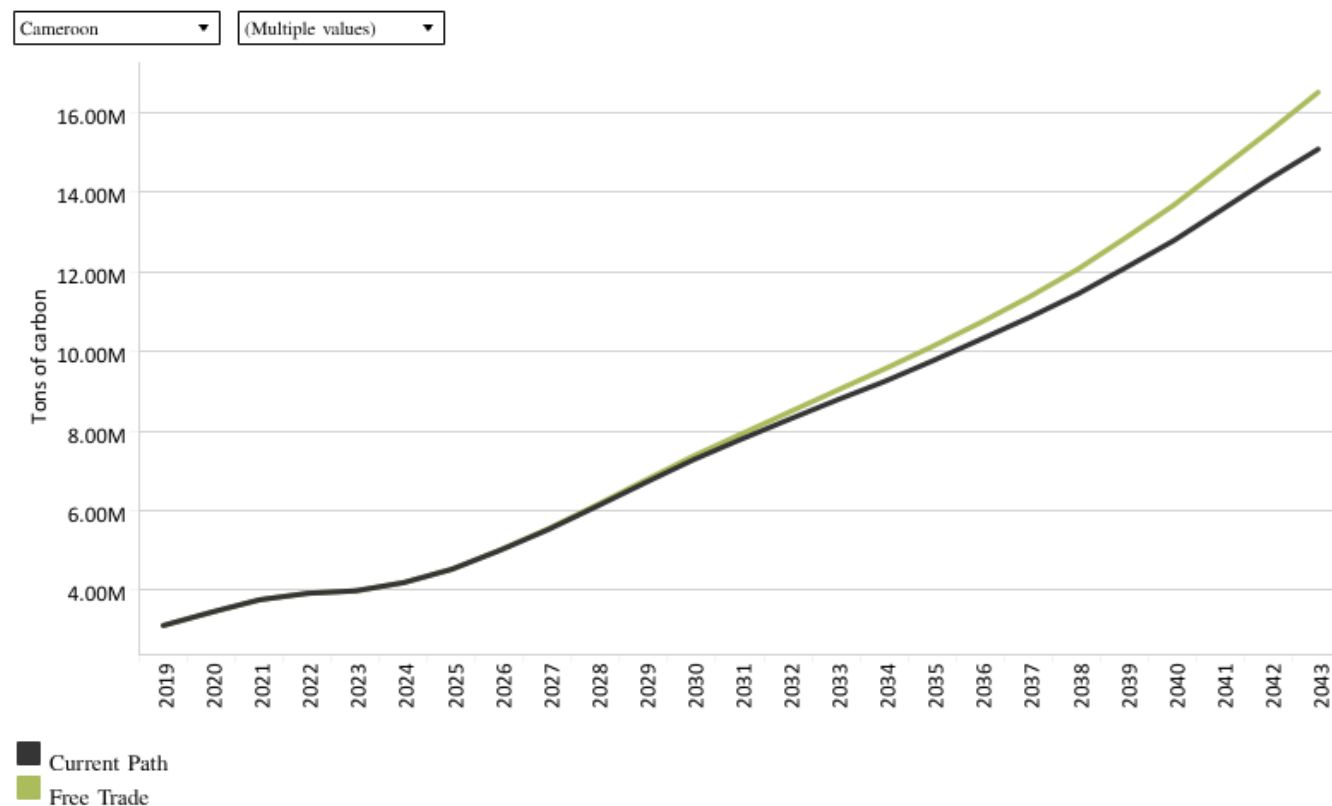
The proportion of people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 is expected to decline from the 43.6% in 2019 to 28.6% (13.3 million people) in 2043 in the Governance scenario. This is higher than the 38.3% average for lower middle-income African countries and corresponds to about 780 000 fewer people compared to the 14 million poor people projected in the Current Path forecast for 2043.



Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions

Chart 54: Carbon emissions in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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This section presents projections for carbon emissions in the Current Path for Cameroon and the 11 scenarios. Note that IFs uses carbon equivalents rather than CO₂ equivalents.

The total amount of carbon emitted by Cameroon in 2019 was 3.1 million tons. Cameroon's carbon emissions are projected to increase in all the scenarios. The intervention with the greatest impact on carbon emissions is the Free Trade scenario which will lead to a total emission of 16.5 million tons, followed by the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario which will result in carbon emissions of 15.9 million tons. The intervention with the least impact on carbon emissions is the Demographic scenario.

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About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021 as a Researcher. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra in charge of local governance reforms, poverty and inequality and public sector reforms. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. Enoch is a Young African Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute in Florence and has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.