



The World Bank

Cameroon Emergency Food Crisis Response Project (P177782)

Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 28-Mar-2022 | Report No: PIDA33052

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Cameroon	Project ID P177782	Project Name Cameroon Emergency Food Crisis Response Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA WEST	Estimated Appraisal Date 21-Mar-2022	Estimated Board Date 02-May-2022	Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) The Republic of Cameroon	Implementing Agency Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen food and nutrition security and increase resilience to climate shocks of targeted households and producers.

Components

Support for early response food and nutrition stabilization towards early recovery and resilience building
Strengthening productive capacities of smallholders through crop and livestock support for climate and nutritional resilience

Support for strengthening governmental food security crisis monitoring capacity, information systems, and agrometeorological services

Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Contingent Emergency Response Component

The processing of this project is applying the policy requirements exceptions for situations of urgent need of assistance or capacity constraints that are outlined in OP 10.00, paragraph 12.

Yes

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	100.00
Total Financing	100.00
of which IBRD/IDA	100.00
Financing Gap	0.00

**DETAILS****World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	100.00
IDA Credit	100.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

High

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

- 1. Cameroon is a lower-middle income country with significant economic growth potential; yet, it has not capitalized fully on it.** The country is heavily commodity and oil dependent, with high fiscal revenues and export earnings generated from oil and a high vulnerability to global demand and prices. Cameroon represents 45 percent of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community's (CEMAC) Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Serious development challenges that limit the country's growth potential include high risk of debt distress, incomplete implementation of fiscal reforms, climate change issues, and ongoing conflict in some part of the country.
- 2. The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic severely impacted Cameroon's growth and poverty.** During the period 2014-2019 real GDP growth rate averaged 4.5 percent supported by an expansion in services and private consumption and investment.¹ With the onset of COVID-19, however, government-imposed containment measures contributed to job loss and increased vulnerability. In 2020, real GDP growth rate was just 0.7 percent, 3.4 percent in 2021, and projected at 4.4 percent by 2022. At the same time, the pandemic increased poverty for the first time in a decade, worsening both unemployment and inequality. Roughly 400,000 more people in Cameroon were pushed into extreme poverty between 2019 and 2020, and an additional 166,000 in 2021, reducing purchasing power and increasing food insecurity.² In 2022 the extreme poverty rate is likely to remain unchanged from 2021 at 25.3 percent.
- 3. Ongoing conflict have hindered Cameroon's Far North, North-West, and South-West and have**

¹ World Bank [Macro Poverty Outlook datasheet, October 2021](#).

² World Bank [Quarterly Economic Update, April 2021](#).



contributed to rising poverty and food insecurity in the country The Boko Haram linked Lake Chad Basin crisis started in Nigeria and spilled into the Far North of Cameroon 12 years ago. Further, since 2016 the Anglophone North-West and South-West regions have been destabilized by insurgencies. These crises have undermined poverty reduction creating pressure on natural resources and reducing both availability and affordability of food. The poverty map set up by the Government of Cameroon (GoC) in 2019 showed an increase in poverty in the Far North, North-West, and South-West regions since 2014. The poverty rate for these regions was 77 percent, 57 percent, and 21 percent respectively in 2019. In other regions poverty has decreased or remained stagnant. However, the Central African Republic refugee crisis is affecting Adamawa and East regions with the influx of refugees increasing demand for food in host communities.

4. Climate change is a critical force weakening Cameroon's economic outlook and is the primary driver of food insecurity. The country is facing a surge in extreme weather like erratic rainfall causing floods and droughts, high temperatures and violent winds that weaken its macroeconomic outlook. In the last half century average temperatures in Cameroon have increased by 1°C and will increase between 2.5°C and 5.5°C in the next fifty years. Precipitation is expected to increase by 15 percent. Increasing temperatures are causing more frequent and prolonged droughts and flooding, and negatively affecting agricultural productivity in areas with marginal rainfall like the Far North. The impacts of climate change are increasing the levels of water scarcity in the Lake Chad and Niger basins in the North. In addition, environmental degradation of land, soil, and ecosystems are contributing to the food insecurity. Increased competition over scarce resources is the predominant cause of conflict and forced displacement.

Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance

5. Cameroon is currently facing severe (IPC3+) and elevated food insecurity.³ The most recent Cadre Harmonisé (CH) estimates from October – December 2021 show 2.43 million Cameroonians faced IPC3+ conditions with almost a quarter million facing phase 4 conditions (humanitarian emergency). This situation is not expected to ease up and projections from June – August 2022 show a projected 2.38 million people facing IPC3+ (see Annex 3, Map A3.1.).⁴

6. On the supply side, the current food security crisis is driven by low availability and accessibility of food because of extreme weather events. Continued year-over-year depletion of staple stocks like rice, sorghum, and maize, as well as livestock (for milk and meat) are lengthening the lean season that is starting early by two to three months. The last harvest was below-average due to climatic conditions – increasingly frequent - including extreme flooding in the far north that caused crop and livestock losses, food stock destruction and reduced accessibility from destruction of travel routes between Cameroon and Nigeria. Low availability of food, especially in conflict affected regions that are less accessible, necessitates in some cases provision of humanitarian food supply.

7. On the demand side, low affordability driven by higher food prices and low incomes are increasing food insecurity in Cameroon. At present commodity prices are rising despite government

³ IPC3 is classified as at least of households have significant food consumption gaps or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies such liquidating livelihood assets.

⁴ <https://www.food-security.net/en/datas/cameroun/>.



grain export restrictions; wholesale sorghum prices, for example, are 20 to 25 percent above the five-year average. Coupled with high prices, limited livelihood opportunities made worse by the impacts of COVID-19 are major cause of food insecurity. In the far north, in the departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga, and Diamare households lost on average 51 percent of their monthly income due to the pandemic. Currently 48 percent of Cameroonians cannot afford a diet that meets their nutritional requirement, and 24 percent cannot afford a diet that meets their energy needs. The level of unaffordability of a nutritious diet is highest in the Far North (70 percent), East (70 percent), and Adamawa (61 percent), and is lowest in the Littoral region (21 percent).⁵

Sectoral and Institutional Context

8. Agriculture plays a key role in Cameroon's employment, GDP level, and poverty reduction. Agriculture – crops, fisheries, livestock, and forestry – contributes 15 percent to GDP and employs nearly 43 percent of the workforce.⁶ Average annual growth in agriculture in the decade from 2010 to 2019 was 4.7 percent, with growth dipping to 0.1 percent in 2020, owing to COVID-19. A large share of cultivated land – over 50 percent - is dedicated to the production of traditional subsistence food crops like maize, sorghum, cassava, plantains, dry beans, oil palm fruit, rice, and ground nuts, which also dominate in production quantity terms.⁷

9. All five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon support subsistence-based agriculture overlapping strongly with food security. Adamawa through the North and Far North regions – extending into the Sahel as far as Lake Chad – is suited for extensive livestock rearing as well as drought tolerant crops like sorghum, millet, maize, cassava, cowpea critical for food security. The North-West plateau and South-West's rich mono-modal environment also supports an agro-pastoral system where common subsistence crops and cash crops are prevalent. The East region is part of the bimodal forest cropping system with dense tropical forests where Cameroon supports significant, rich, yet disappearing biodiversity. Here food crops like rice, cassava, maize, and fruits and vegetables supporting household consumption are grown.

10. Agricultural and livestock productivity is low and declining despite the strong link of production to food security. Most farms in Cameroon range from 0.5 to 2 hectares and are subsistence based. Productivity in key staples have followed a flat or downward trend for decades. Between 2000 and 2019 yields in rice, sorghum, and maize fell from 1.23 to 0.78, and 1.65 to 1.31, and 2.2 to 1.8, tons/ha respectively.⁸ Farming is characterized by limited mechanization, very low use of fertilizer and drought resistant seeds, low soil conservation and climate smart strategies, and limited access to markets.⁹ Reliance on rain-fed agriculture is also a challenge faced by most farmers in Cameroon. High variability in the availability of rainwater and limited irrigation and water resource management are the main challenges. The livestock sector represents an additional important source of revenue and food security for about 30 percent of the rural population. Due to production conditions and the state of natural rangelands, cattle and small ruminant farming is extensive and largely unsustainable. The processing industry for livestock to produce dairy products is also still underdeveloped. Productivity of livestock is low; while the head of cattle increased from 5,882,000 in

⁵WFP Fill the Nutrition Gap report, 2021 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000135806/download/>

⁶ World Bank Indicators, 2021.

⁷ FAOSTATs data, 2021.

⁸ FAOSTAT data, 2022.

⁹ Climate Smart Investment Plan, 2020, https://www.aaainitiative.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Investment_Report_Cameroon.pdf



2019 to 6,036,467 in 2020, the yield of meat declined from 19kg/head to 13 kg/head and milk from 543 kg/animal to 539 kg/animal. Other small ruminant productivity follows similar trends and are impacted by inputs and climate conditions, such as droughts, floods, temperature fluctuations.

11. Increased rainfall and precipitation variability will remain a major risk in the short-term and long-term threatening crop, livestock, and fishing livelihoods.¹⁰ Under current climate conditions annually about 2 million people, 9 percent of Cameroon's population, are living in drought-affected areas and about 8 percent of GDP contribution from agricultural production is compromised.¹¹ In the future (by 2050) the population living in drought hit areas is expected to increase to 26 percent. In addition, on average every year around 1.2 million of livestock is potentially affected by more than 3 months of drought conditions. Livestock serves as an important asset and contributor to household food and nutrition security. In Cameroon, droughts affect livestock through mortality (depletion of stocks), morbidity, and productivity (weight, milk production). By 2050 more than 2.6 million units of livestock, 71 percent of the current total, will be under drought induced stress conditions annually. The compounded long-term impact is increased crisis and emergency level food insecurity, and rising malnutrition. Based on characteristic of recent seasons, severe weather events are expected to intensify in the short-term and in the long-term. Yields of many key staples will significantly decrease under the high-warming climate projection scenario.¹²

12. To address these challenges, the GoC has adopted a coherent set of political and strategic documents giving due consideration to the agriculture sector. Its long-term vision 'Cameroon Vision 2035' operationalized through the National Development Strategy (SND30, *Stratégie Nationale de Développement du Cameroun*) for the period 2020 – 2030 envisages average agriculture growth of 8.5 percent from 2021 – 2030. This foresees significant productivity increases in agriculture and livestock farming through modernization, intensification, and a better supply of agricultural inputs. It also dovetails into the recently prepared National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA II, *Plan National d'Investissement Agricole II*) which integrated priorities identified in Cameroon's Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (CSAIP, 2020)¹³ into national agricultural planning moving towards sustainable agriculture production. The proposed project: (i) responds to the priorities identified in the SND30, the CSAIP and to those of the National Pastoral Contingency Plan (PNCP, *Plan National de Contingence Pastorale*). The PNCP focuses on increasing climate-smart production in livestock and fishing, and prioritizing participation of women and youth, especially in the North-West, South-West and Far-North region; and (ii) is also a direct response to support several of the GoC's agriculture and livestock programs and mandates.¹⁴

¹⁰ [IFAD Cameroon Country Strategic Opportunities Program 2019-2024](#)

¹¹ UNDRR and CIMA Cameroon Disaster Risk Profile (2019)

¹² The rainfed crops that will be most affected include, maize and rice for which yields could fall by 7 to 9 percent by 2040. Even irrigated rice and maize could experience significant yield declines of up to 6 or 7 percent.

¹³ Cameroon's CSA Investment Plan, World Bank, 2020:
https://www.aainitiative.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Investment_Report_Cameroun.pdf

¹⁴ These include the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MINADER) National Program for monitoring and strengthening food security (PNVRSA, *Projet National de Veille et de Renforcement de la Sécurité Alimentaire*), the Information and Early Warning Unit (CIAR) within the Directorate of Surveys and Agricultural Statistics (DESA), and the Division of Studies, Planning, Cooperation and Statistics (DEPCS) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA). The objective of the PNVRSA is to fight against hunger and combat food insecurity at the national level by 2030, through a sustainable increase in productivity, while conserving basic natural resources. The PNVRSA coordinates a Food Security Working Group (GTSA) that includes WFP and FAO advisers. The GTSA is responsible for the collection and analysis of food security related data. DESA's CIAR, for its part, is responsible for carrying out the activities of the national rapid alert system in the context of food security, among others. The DEPCS carries out similar functions as DESA's CIAR for MINEPIA.



13. Cameroon's CSAIP identifies priority Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) investments that can generate climate Co-Benefits and impact both agriculture growth and food security. Recommended investments at the national level are: (i) providing integrated support for the development and sustainable use of agricultural resources (soil, water, biodiversity); (ii) investing in sustainable CSA production practices especially at the small-scale in horticulture and livestock to increase access to nutritious food and income generation especially for vulnerable populations (especially women); (iii) providing agro-climatic information services (agrometeorological, CSA advice, technical support) in support of CSA building capacity of stakeholders to adapt to climatic hazards. By design, this project will be aligned with several of the recommendations of the CSAIP thereby allowing for sustainability of project outcomes.

14. The project builds upon and complements on-going interventions being undertaken by the WBG. These initiatives include, in social protection the *Social Safety Net Project* (P128534); and the *Adaptive Safety Nets and Economic Inclusion Project* (P175363) that offer income support to households to protect and increase resilience to conflict and climate related shocks. In conjunction with the safety net teams the project will ensure no overlap of immediate assistance to beneficiaries in the provision of conditional cash transfers for asset building.¹⁵ Agriculture projects are the *Livestock Development Project* (P154908); the *Valorization of Investment in the Valley of the Benue Project* (P166072); and the *Valorization of Investment in the Valley of the Logone Project* (P168772). The livestock development project implemented by Ministry of Livestock, Fishing and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) will be a vehicle for scaling up project investments in livestock. An ongoing technical assessment is also mapping all other ongoing projects and initiatives in the selected regions, to ensure there is no duplication of investments.

15. Gender inequality and lack of women's empowerment are significant drivers of vulnerability and food insecurity; the 2020 Gender Inequality Index places Cameroon 141st of 189 countries. In Cameroon, around 69 percent of women work in agriculture, whereas only 59 percent of employed men remain in agriculture.¹⁶ Nevertheless, women operating land tend to be disadvantaged in terms of non-random selection of plot types; for example, plots are typically smaller, and have less fertile soils.¹⁷ Further, access to inputs (especially fertilizer), irrigation, credit, and extension services is also weaker for women. Importantly, women also tend to cultivate more food crops like rice, maize, and home-grown vegetables than cash crops which are the most important for food security. While men are primarily responsible for fishing and livestock, women oversee fish processing and marketing, raising poultry and small livestock. Despite the higher proportion of women working on farms, women managed plots typically have lower productivity and sustainability even when the same crops are grown. Women also lack the skills, knowledge and equipment required for post-harvest management and processing and have limited access to markets to sell their products.

16. Three critical gender gaps faced by women in Cameroon are the lower access to inputs, value-addition equipment, and markets. These gaps can be attributed largely to gender-based social norms and cultural biases in allocation within households. In addition to gender norms that favor men,

¹⁵ The adaptive safety net project typically offers unconditional cash transfers.

¹⁶ WFP Country Strategic Plan 2021.

¹⁷ Araar, A., 2021. *The Gender Gap in Smallholder Agricultural Productivity: The Case of Cameroon*.



household and childcare responsibilities that constrain women's time and mobility, and inequality in education outcomes (wherein 65 percent of women are literate compared with 78 percent of men) play a role in driving gender gaps in Cameroon. From a policy perspective, if women had access to the same productive resources as men, they could increase yields by 20 to 30 percent, raising overall agricultural production.¹⁸ Furthermore, because women farmers have higher exposure to climate risk, they require more support for producing in a climate resilient manner to close the differences in productivity. Women typically work the fields for long hours in off- and on- seasons, to supply homes, markets, and communities with food. Profitability on women run plots are more impacted by climate variability (rainfall, temperature).¹⁹ Women need more access to drought resistant seeds, water management resources, and small-scale irrigation to enhance their climate resilience and close productivity gaps. Women typically benefit from improved access to markets if working through women's cooperatives.²⁰

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

17. **The Project Development Objective (PDO)** is to strengthen food and nutrition security and increase resilience to climate shocks of targeted households and producers.²¹

Key Results

18. **PDO Level Indicators.** The following key indicators will be used to track progress towards the PDO: (i) share of households with Food Consumption Score (FCS) >35 or considered acceptable²², (percentage); (ii) farmers reached with agricultural assets or services²³, disaggregated by gender (Corporate Results Indicator (CRI), number); and (iii) beneficiaries accessing market information and climate advisories via digital tools, disaggregated by gender (number). PDO level indicators (i) and (ii) are directly linked to the first objective outcome of strengthening food and nutrition security while (iii) is linked to increasing resilience to climate shocks of the target population.

D. Project Description

19. **The aim of the project is to contribute to mitigating short-term impacts of food and nutrition insecurity in targeted areas, while simultaneously building long-term economic, climate, and community resilience.** The project will target crisis affected (IPC3+) communities in the Far North,

¹⁸ Tchinda, G.M., Kamdem, C.B. and Andrianarison, F., 2021. *Gender, Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability in Cameroon. Sustainable Development in Africa: Fostering Sustainability in One of the World's Most Promising Continents*, p.319.

¹⁹ Molua, E.L., 2011. *Farm income, gender differentials and climate risk in Cameroon: typology of male and female adaptation options across agroecologies*. *Sustainability Science*, 6(1), pp.21-35.

²⁰ Agricultural Value Chains and Gender in Northern Cameroon, 2016 – 2017, WFP study <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000022430/download/>

²¹ Food and nutrition security is strengthened via increased access to food, availability, utilization, and nutritional quality of diets. Producers encompass farmers, pastoralists, and fishermen.

²² This WFP indicator intends to measure food and nutrition security for households of beneficiaries of component 1 -urgent food and nutrition assistance (CCTs, malnutrition treatment and prevention, school feeding programs, and public works programs) The indicator captures both access/quantity and the quality of the foods, and is highly correlated with the dietary diversity score (another indicator that captures food and nutrition security).

²³ Farmers refers to crop farmers, pastoralists, and fishermen in this case. Assets and services are defined as production inputs (fertilizer, seeds, animal or fish feed, farming equipment etc.).



North-West, South-West, Adamawa, and East regions (see Annex 3, Map A4.2). To maximize the impact, activities will be anchored in a complementary way where beneficiaries will progressively graduate to resilience-building activities.²⁴ To the extent possible, this implies convergence (co-location) of project activities in IPC3+ food insecure communities for sustainability of development outcomes. Conditional cash transfers will be entry activities complemented by nutrition support and linked to livelihood/resilience enhancing activities such as support to agriculture production, value chain development, and market access. Selection of targeted communities and prioritization activities will be done in consultation with the GoC, at both the central and local level, and with local communities using community-based participatory planning (CBPP). The project will be organized around three main technical components as summarized below.

Component 1: Support for early response food and nutrition stabilization towards early recovery and resilience building (US\$ 35 million).

20. The objective of Component 1 is to address immediate food and nutrition insecurity needs in project targeted areas in response to climate stresses and shocks such as droughts, floods, or uncertainty in rainfall patterns that are a primary driver of food insecurity. It will finance a program of activities, including: (i) conditional cash transfers (CCTs) for early recovery activities; (ii) in-kind assistance of fortified and specialized nutritious food for treatment and prevention of malnutrition; (iii) home grown school feeding (HGSF) meals; and (iv) public works programs (PWP).

21. The expected outcomes of this component are (i) improved access to food (quantity and quality); (ii) increased household and community economic resilience; and (iii) reduced vulnerability to climate shocks through public works programs (PWP) with a strong conservation, climate adaptation and mitigation focus. The component contribute to sustainable development outcomes by promoting recovery to resilience pathways, supporting nutrition that promotes long term human capital development (especially of children), and focusing on community works that protect against climate variability. Component 1 is structured around the following two main interventions:

Sub-component 1.1: Provision of emergency food and nutrition assistance (US\$ 23.6 million)

22. Sub-component 1.1 will finance a set of activities to support poor and vulnerable households in project targeted areas. First, *CCTs to extremely vulnerable households for early recovery activities*. This activity will focus on rapid deployment of food assistance through CCTs. A total of 33,490 beneficiaries will be covered with CCTs (of which 60 percent women). Vulnerable refugees, returnees, Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs), and host communities will be targeted. Cash transfers will be linked to participation in economic empowerment activities.²⁵ These include micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) and petty food trade. Also, establishment of backyard/home garden and small household livestock and fishing units adapting climate smart practices (composting, production of

²⁴ To begin, at present through the project preparation resources, identification of critical IPC3+ departments and communities with a geographic coverage gap or significant project scale up needs are being carried out in a technical assessment. This is based on food security, nutrition, and essential needs assessments. The ongoing technical assessment will also identify projects – outside the World Bank – and stakeholders engaged in these communities including partner NGOs with whom the GoC and WFP work.

²⁵ Priority will be placed on ensuring rapid access to cash transfers for food. Conditions will be placed simultaneously to build resilience but will not be strict to limit access to cash benefit. The types of resilience activities will be carefully selected by vulnerable beneficiary group. Refugees, IDPs and other vulnerable groups will not be excluded due to conditionality.



organic, low-carbon food, school woodlots/windbreaks, recycling of waste, solar power as a source of energy, promoting energy efficient equipment and cooking stoves known as *foyer amélioré au Cameroun*²⁶). Other empowerment activities considered are attendance in trainings sessions like nutrition sensitive messaging and training on infant and young child feeding, vocational training for the youth, and introduction to CSA practices. Activities will especially benefit women who are the main producers of food crops that are highly impacted by climate stressors.

23. Second, the sub-component will finance *emergency and home-grown school feeding (HGSF)*. Through this activity the scale up of HGSF will be supported to benefit 50 schools and 35,000 children in IPC3+ communities. Schools will be matched with smallholder farmers – mostly women cultivating communal gardens and small breeding (table eggs) – to provide safe, diverse, and nutritious local food. These farmers will be introduced to CSA practices/technologies to increase their resilience to climate change.

24. Third, *support for prevention of acute malnutrition*. This activity will target 30,000 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) beneficiaries and will focus on a dual approach: (a) emergency nutrition response to address acute malnutrition in conflict-affected areas; and (b) resilience nutrition response delivering integrated malnutrition preventive package while promoting locally owned solutions for addressing undernutrition particularly stunting. All nutrition interventions will integrate social behavior change communication for promotion of essential nutrition and other family practices.

25. Activities under Sub-component 1.1 will be implemented by World Food Program (WFP) under the oversight of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), MINEPIA, Ministry of Basic Education (MINDUB), and Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE).

Sub-component 1.2: Labor-intensive public works for resilience (US\$ 11.4 million)

26. Sub-component 1.2 will support 33,400 beneficiary able-bodied laborers (167,000 household members of which 60 percent women)²⁷ mobilized to participate in high labor intensity community public works programs. This will build resilience in response to droughts and floods that degrade soils, creates run off, and severely reduces availability of water. Also, in response to loss of tree cover and forest degradation. The combination of impacts contributes strongly to loss of agricultural livelihoods and food sources. Beneficiaries will receive income transfers for work done based on defined outputs. Communities are supplied with tools, equipment, and raw materials to build assets.

27. Planned community activities will aim to reduce vulnerability to climate shocks including variability in precipitation patterns through support for water harvesting, soil enhancement, moisture

²⁶ Cook stoves are designed and produced locally. The use of energy efficient cook stoves also generates avoided deforestation benefits from the reduced use of fire wood. On average a Cameroonian household uses more than 3 tons of wood fuel per year. Cameroon is the 29th largest consumer of household wood fuel and ranks 15th in terms of its non-sustainable consumption. Providing alternative cook energy efficient cookstoves can reduce over 4 tons of CO₂ per year and is seen as a country in which cookstove interventions should be prioritized.

Parker, C., Keenlyside, P., Galt, H., Haupt, F. and Varns, T., 2015. Linkages between cookstoves and REDD:

<https://www.climatefocus.com/sites/default/files/Linkages%20between%20cookstoves%20and%20REDD%2B.pdf>

²⁷ Assumes one laborer per household supports 5 family members with the assistance received through the cash-for-work.



retention, reforestation, watershed protection, and flood preparedness. Foreseen investments would include construction of small infrastructure like warehouses or storage facilities, rehabilitation of feeder roads, and shelter mills. Investments in soil conservation and climate adaptation could include community level tree planting (wooded areas of moringa plants, fodder plants, reforestation), the development of fodder fields, the restoration of fodder routes, digging compost pits, and building protective dikes. Improved water management and resilience will focus on rehabilitation/construction of irrigation canals, micro dams, and water ponds and pastoral hydraulics, tiered water retainers, and open pit wells, and fish ponds. All these investments will be demand driven based on a system of CBPP at the local level to ensure sustainability. Beyond simply building infrastructure, targeted communities will rehabilitate local environments. This will be achieved through afforestation and reforestation to rehabilitate agricultural lands and increase carbon sequestration. Further, cultivated land will be treated with physical soil and water conservation measures, biological stabilization, and agroforestry techniques. In turn, halting or reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss and contributing directly to food security outcomes.

28. Activities under Sub-component 1.2 will be implemented by WFP under the oversight of the PIU, and in partnership with MINADER, MINEPIA, Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE), and Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT).

Component 2: Strengthening productive capacities of smallholders through crop and livestock support for climate and nutritional resilience (US\$ 42 million).

29. The objective of Component 2 is to improve sustainable, CSA production including postharvest management, processing, and market access of producers to improve food security. This will be achieved through the provision of climate smart inputs and equipment for primary production (farmers, herders, and fishermen) and off-farm sustainable use small-scale processing equipment and storage. A soft component knowledge building entirely dedicated to promoting climate smart agricultural practices will be associated with all physical investments.

30. The expected outcomes are increased food security through sustainable production that reduces climate vulnerability, and enhanced value-addition and producers' access to markets. Component 2 is structured around the following two main interventions:

Sub-component 2.1: Support for food production for farmers and agri-food processors (US\$ 24.5 million)

31. Sub-component 2.1 will contribute to increasing the sustainable productive capacity of 100,000 eligible farming and agri-food processing beneficiaries (of which 60 percent women). It will finance the following activities: (i) the multiplication and provision of inputs such as improved drought resistant seed varieties²⁸, fertilizer, and basic tools for primary production; including small scale-irrigation; (ii) supply of post-harvest and value-addition equipment with a focus on solar powered equipment; and (iii) infrastructure development (i.e., community storage facilities). Reducing post-

²⁸ Seed multiplication sites will concentrate on drought resistant crops including sorghum, millet, cow peas, cassava, and sweet potatoes.



harvest losses contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation while promoting food security.²⁹ This sub-component will include technical assistance to promote CSA techniques to strengthen producers' resilience to climate change; for instance, optimal use of improved seeds and other inputs, sustainable irrigation and water harvesting, bio-intensive vegetable and fruit farming, and post-harvest management to reduce production/food losses. A significant portion of investment in this sub-component will focus on supporting women in communal gardening systems, an important area of women's engagement, to meet the needs of own households and markets – including HGSF included in the component 1.

32. The project will facilitate market access by fostering farmers' organization (cooperatives) capacities for aggregation, storage, processing, value addition, and development of business for supplying local markets and schools (through HGSF). When market demand is insufficient to meet production, WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) located in Cameroon will purchase cereal and pulses, without distorting local markets. A special emphasis will be placed on identifying and supporting women's groups and networks for investments from production to markets. Activities that meet women's specific demands like organization of finances, administration and leadership, methods for increasing harvests, management of harvests during lean seasons, using climate smart practices in food crops, earning a profit in markets will all be promoted. Women are less likely in Cameroon to sell their produce in wholesale, large retail, school, and super markets, and are less familiar with selling at fair prices to earn profits. The project will support women to have greater access to bigger markets while increasing profitability. At the same time, the project will support community resilience by promoting the integration of refugee and IDP women in women's cooperatives, to work alongside host community women.

33. Activities under Sub-component 2.1 will be implemented by MINADER under the oversight of the PIU, and in partnership with the WFP and The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Sub-component 2.2 Support to pastoralists and fishermen, and related processing (US\$ 17.5 million).

34. Sub-component 2.2 will support the development of livestock and aquaculture sub-sectors through climate resilient and sustainable practices. Support will be provided to 50,000 small-scale pastoral and fishing beneficiaries for primary production activities, as well as to 9,000 beneficiaries for post-harvest management and related processing (of which 60 percent women). It will finance first, the acquisition and distribution of climate-smart inputs, equipment, and infrastructure specific to the two sub-sectors. Second, support for the development of pastoral and fisheries postharvest management and processing. Third, technical assistance that will focus on sustainable management practices for improving rangeland/grassland quality, reducing deforestation, and sustainable aquaculture.

35. Resources in pastoral activities will increase climate smart production and access to fodder to improve sustainable livestock feeding practices. It will also support provision of cows and small

²⁹ Post-harvest losses in Cameroon are estimated at 25 percent of production, the bulk of which occurs during drying and storage. Such losses are likely to be much higher in IPC3+ communities. Reducing post-harvest losses contributes to mitigating environmental impacts linked to water utilization, soil degradation, deforestation, and energy losses. The project will promote grinding machines, weighing scales, pallets, empty sacks (hermetic), tarpaulin, solar powered small-scale storage for perishable produce. Farmer cooperatives will be supported with construction of warehouse facilities to support aggregation and storage.



animals (like piglets and day-old chicks) and support services for animal health including vaccination, deworming and disease management. Support will also be provided for the establishment of a milk collection cold chain network with energy efficient storage and distribution. Inputs, support services, and off-farm activities will increase climate resilience and reduce GHG emissions in addition to increasing meat and dairy production for improved food and nutrition security. In artisanal maritime and inland fishing, support will be provided for fishing materials, inputs and equipment, and rehabilitation of small fishponds. Women fishmongers and processors will be supported with small fish processing and marketing equipment. For all activities capacity building on good and sustainable fishing practices, environmentally friendly fish processing and conservation techniques will accompany the investment.

36. Activities under Sub-component 2.2 will be implemented by MINEPIA under the oversight of the PIU, and in partnership with WFP and FAO.

Component 3: Support for strengthening government food security crisis monitoring capacity, information systems, and agrometeorological services (US\$ 13 million)

37. The aim of this component is to strengthen food security early warning and information systems and preparedness capacity such that Cameroon could minimize both humanitarian and climate vulnerability linked costs of future food security crises. The expected outcomes are increased resilience to climate shocks through provision of climate services and alerts, increased food crisis preparedness planning, and intergovernmental coordination.

Sub-component 3.1: Strengthening of government capacity and information on food security, agrometeorological conditions, market prices (US\$ 7 million).

38. Sub-component 3.2 will strengthen inter-institutional coordination capacity for monitoring of food security/climate risk for early warning and early action. The target includes at least 510 government officials trained at national and regional levels on food security planning, monitoring, and surveying capacity. This sub-component will finance, first, intergovernmental coordination and capacity building within MINADER (PNVRSA and DESA), MINEPIA (DEPCS and Cameroon Epidemiological Surveillance Network (RESCAM)), and other government institutions. Second, the preparation of the Food Security Crisis Response Plan (FSCPP) (national and regional). Third, collection, processing, and publication of agrometeorological information will be supported. Lastly, the sub-component will finance survey data collection and analysis, with a focus on the Cadre Harmonisé (CH), the Food Security Monitoring Survey (FSMS), National Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (ENSAN), and market price information. The FSCPP supported by the World Bank Crisis Response Window (CRW) coordination team will be prepared within six months of project effectiveness. Survey data collection will include a strong emphasis on government capacity building and ownership.

39. Activities under sub-component 3.1 will be implemented by MINADER and MINEPIA under the oversight of the PIU in partnership with the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC), the



Information System on Markets and Climate (SIMC), WFP and FAO.

Sub-component 3.2: Development of digital tools to support food security response and climate resilience (US\$ 6.0 million).

40. Subcomponent 3.2 will support digital technologies to optimize access to relevant information on risks related to climate change, food security and markets that would increase climate adaptation. At least 60,200 producers are expected to benefit from access to information through digital applications, SMS, and radio coverage. Around 50 schools and at least 400 producers will benefit from the digital platform linked to the HGSF program. The subcomponent will finance, first, the development of an information system that centralizes all data from food security surveys, agricultural market prices, agrometeorological data. This includes provisions for system maintenance. Second, development/financing of digital tools that allow diffusion of information to producers and households including climate services and alerts and market price information. Third, development of a digital platform (with mobile and tablet applications) to link food demand and supply (as part of HGSF). The central data repository will be the hub used to disseminate timely and meaningful information and alerts. This will enable at-risk individuals, communities, and institutions to prepare and respond appropriately to shocks. Providing information to producers to make better informed planting, harvesting, and animal rearing decisions can reduce vulnerability to climate stressors as noted in the CSAIP. This in turn would ensure improved food security.

41. Sub-component 3.2 will also invest in a matching grant program (\$1,000,000 benefiting 10,000 farmers and herders – of the 60,200 expected to receive information via digital tools) to acquire cellular phones to be able to facilitate access to information from the system developed under this project. The project will ensure coordination with the Acceleration of the Digital Transformation of Cameroon Project - (P173240). The third component of the digital project, *Facilitating the Implementation of Data-Driven Solutions in the Agricultural Sector*, foresees the establishment of a Digital information system for agropastoral statistics in Cameroon.

42. Activities under sub-component 3.2 will be implemented by MINADER under the oversight of the PIU, and partnership with MINEPIA, ONACC, SIMC, WFP and FAO.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$ 10 million).

43. The aim of this component is to support the PIU in facilitating efficient implementation of project activities and tracking of results. The component will finance activities related to project coordination and management, including developing annual work plans and budgets, financial management (FM) and procurement, safeguards compliance, project monitoring and evaluation (M&E), citizen engagement as well as a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). This component will finance a project impact evaluation (IE) that will be a quasi-experimental design, with a baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys fielded during implementation at the community, household, and producer levels.

Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$ 0 million)

44. A Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) is included to allow for quick disbursement of uncommitted balances to respond to unanticipated future crisis. This component



may be financed during the implementation of the project to allow for an agile and rapid reallocation of project funds in the event of a natural or man-made crisis or emergency during project implementation.³⁰

45. Gender. The project will ensure pathways to reducing gender gaps in Cameroon's agriculture for food security by building on existing success stories. Women in Cameroon face the following gaps or barriers in agriculture and food security including (i) lower access to inputs like seeds and fertilizer than men; (ii) less access to resources and information for agri-processing and agro SME development; (iii) lower technical assistance for adapting CSA technologies in production especially in food crops; (iv) lower levels of farmer organization and access to markets. Building on GoC and partner experience, best practice examples have been identified and will be incorporated into project design and investments for reducing the gaps mentioned above. The following are some *selected* examples that will be implemented. First, CCTs will encourage asset building for women to produce food for sale in local markets.³¹ Second, HGSF will provide a unique platform for connecting women producers to schools to supply food crop and livestock products.³² Third, working to promote and support women's cooperative for sustainable production, processing, and market access.³³

Legal Operational Policies

Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

46. The project will be implemented under the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and is rated High for Social Risks and Substantial for Environmental Risks. Therefore, the overall Environmental and Social (E&S) Risk of the project is classified as High. The relevant Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) are: ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts); ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions); ESS3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management); ESS4 (Community Health and Safety); ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement); ESS6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources); ESS7: Indigenous Peoples (IPs)/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities; ESS8 (Cultural Heritage); and ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). The only ESS that is not relevant for this project is ESS9: Financial Intermediaries.

³⁰ Procedures for implementing the contingency emergency response will be detailed in the Immediate Response Mechanism Operations Manual (IRM-OM) to be prepared and adopted by GoC.

³¹ <https://cameroon.un.org/en/170545-cash-based-transfers-build-small-businesses-internally-displaced-women>

<https://wfpwestafrica.medium.com/cameroon-wfp-cash-assistance-powers-womens-business-dreams-7240fcacf58c0>

³² <https://www.weltohnehunger.org/full-article/school-feeding.html>

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/school-feeding-programme-women%20%99s-empowerment-nigeria>

³³ <https://www.wfp.org/stories/cameroon-women-hunger-family-cooperatives-resilience-development-un-world-food-programme>



47. Overall, the project is expected to have positive impacts given that planned activities aim to enhance food security and improve livelihoods for vulnerable populations including refugees and IDPs in targeted areas in the Far North, North-West, South-West, Adamawa, and East regions. However, the project is anticipated to have E&S risks and impacts:

48. **Environmental Risks:** The project will include a set of activities to increase the resilience of vulnerable households to future food security crises, as well as the country's resilience and preparedness for such crises. Some project activities present potential risks and impacts on the environment that are not expected to be irreversible. Activities under subcomponents 2.1. and 2.2 related to the financing of investments to promote CSA undoubtedly contribute to reduce the effects of climate change by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. However, in component 1.2, the construction of investments for the creation of community assets for water harvesting, soil improvement, moisture retention, reforestation could lead to (i) occupational health and safety risks for workers, including beneficiaries from cash-for-work programs, as well as safety risks related to the works for surrounding communities, (ii) encroachment on crops in the vicinity of work sites, (iii) Noise pollution, construction site waste, etc. These risks, although manageable, will be exacerbated by the security context already existing in the project implementation areas.

49. **Social Risks:** Key social risks that contribute to the risk classification of the project include (i) high risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) given the weak capacity and vacant regulatory framework at country level, exacerbated by the very high prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Cameroon, and considering project objectives related to supporting increased food crop production, rehabilitation of critical infrastructures and improving household nutrition for the most vulnerable women, including girls, disabled, and adolescent boys and girls in the rural communities; (ii) limited capacity and experience of the client for effective stakeholder engagement including engagement of stakeholders in zones with identified security risk (North-West, South-West, and Far North regions); (iii) risks of exclusion of marginalized and vulnerable social groups, and other agricultural practicing minority groups such as the indigenous people of the East region; (iv) security risks for project workers and beneficiaries given the high presence of non-state armed groups, particularly in the North-West and South-West regions; (v) New waves of COVID-19 and risk of human immunodeficiency virus HIV/AIDS transmission; and (vi) the Recipient's low capacity to manage project-related E&S risks and impacts in a manner consistent with the ESSs.

50. World Bank's due diligence assessment of the project's potential E&S risks and impacts is detailed in the Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) which has been prepared and will be disclosed by appraisal. To mitigate the E&S risks, the project will prepare drafts of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Indigenous Peoples Participation Framework (IPPF) before negotiations (to be finalized two months after the effectiveness date). The project implementation Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) shall be prepared and disclosed before project appraisal, while site-specific plans (Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)) shall be prepared before any request for proposals is issued for any projects that include in part or in full civil works. The Labor Management Plan (LMP), and SEA/SH assessment and SEA/SH plan shall be prepared and disclosed no later than one month after project effectiveness. The SRA/SMP shall be prepared no later than three months after the project effectiveness.



51. Institutional capacity. The GoC has experience in managing the E&S risks and impacts of WB-financed projects implemented under the Safeguards Policies. The country can also rely on an established legal framework and on established institutions for E&S management. The Project will work with three main service providers (WFP, FAO, and Cameroon's Public Works Implementation Agency) who have acquired some experience in the implementation and monitoring of safeguard instruments. However, there is limited experience in implementing projects under the ESF and experience from other Bank financed projects highlight that the capacity to manage E&S risks and impacts still requires considerable improvement in areas of supervision, monitoring and reporting. The acting PIU's current E&S team includes one social specialist. During project implementation a PIU would be put in place that will recruit an Environmental and OHS specialist, a social specialist, and a GBV specialist. In addition, the PIU's E&S team will receive regular capacity building from the Bank ESF team throughout the implementation of the project, in the form of clinics on specific issues.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

52. The institutional and implementation arrangements of the project are summarized are as follows. The project will be implemented by a PIU established and housed within MINADER. The PIU will have overall administrative, fiduciary, and safeguards responsibility for project implementation. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) will be signed with the PIU with MINEPIA, WFP, and FAO to support implementation. WFP and FAO will be contracted as specialized service providers on a single-source selection basis. The PIU will monitor and supervise the performance of the specialized service providers and report to the Bank. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by MINADER, with MINEPIA as vice chair, will be established to provide general oversight of the project. The PSC will be responsible for defining, guiding the general policy, and evaluating the project, within the limits set by the development objective, in accordance with the legislation in effect. The PSC will include members from MINADER, MINEPIA, MINEPAT, Prime Minister's Services, Ministry of Commerce (MINCOMMERCE), Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE), Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forests (CAPEF), Autonomous Amortization Fund, and other entities deemed relevant. The PIU will be responsible for preparing the meetings of the Steering Committee.

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