

Draft Strategic Orientation for 2023 - 2025

CAMEROON NETWORK FOR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS (CAM-NAS)

A not for profit organisation since September 2019 registered in Bamenda under law No.90/053 of 19 December 1990

Name of Organization	CAMEROON NETWORK FOR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS (CAM-NAS),
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Status of Organization	Not for Profit and Non-Governmental Private Organization
Vision of CAM-NAS	<i>To work with poor communities to guarantee a healthy Cameroonian society that enhances nation building through the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals</i>
Mission of CAMNAS	<i>To empower under privileged poor people through advocacy, education and capacity development for social, economic and cultural improvement of the wellbeing and welfare of all peoples in the communities.</i>

A. Local Context

Cameroon is blessed with a rich and diverse natural vegetation endowed with enormous resources capable of sustaining its about 25 million inhabitants. The country is bordered in the south by the Atlantic Ocean and shares its other borders with Chad, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Nigeria.¹ The country has a forest belt in the Centre, East and South West of Cameroon which provides a gamut of both timber and non-timber resources. In fact Cameroon is also part of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem, the world's second largest contiguous block of tropical forest on the planet.² It is covered by grass field

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cameroon/overview>

² See Document of the World Bank Group, Report No 107896-CM

belts in the Western and North Western highlands, the arid and semi-arid vegetation of the Northern parts of Cameroon which simply makes the country Africa in miniature. The main economic resources include oil, timber, agricultural products such as cocoa, coffee and groundnuts. Although the population witnessed and aggregate increase in scholarization, since the mid 1980's, the country has witnessed high rates of unemployment, emigration, poverty and low standards of living. The agricultural sector employs 70% of the working population and there is over centralization in the decision making process.³ Presently, the country faces five major challenges which includes, the consolidation of democracy and the need to enhance national unity (especially in the face of the socio political crisis in the NW and SW regions with a call for separation, the Boko Haram insurgencies in the Northern regions, and the refugee crisis in the East Region), high dependence of the economy on the informal sector stagnates economic growth and enhances high levels of unemployment, there is a population explosion made up of a dependent population (the young and old) which is not productive, the rapid change of settlement patterns with the population settlement trend moving towards urban centres and raising questions on food security (see World Food Program Country Brief, March 2018), urban and regional development, and finally there is the major challenge of governance which is highly centralised with the challenge of effective and efficient use of the country's potentials to enhance growth.⁴

The above mentioned challenges faced by the government of Cameroon has contributed to marked levels of corruption and embezzlement by high government authorities which led to an economic crisis and increase in poverty levels. In an attempt to resolve the crisis, the government engaged in huge international loans and review of public service reforms which were very unpopular and highly criticised by the population.⁵ A cursory review of the situation in Cameroon shows that alternative solutions to the mounting problems remain an urgent need. The Cameroon Network for Alternative Solutions (CAM-NAS) anticipates to provide solutions through an agenda that includes a gender inclusive participatory approach in the areas of advocacy, education and empowerment of especially vulnerable groups of people and these include but not limited to Internally displaced persons, the aged, disabled, women and youths towards alternative opportunities to fill the gaps in public life.

B. Basic steps towards Positive Change

We believe that the framework for peace and justice is clearly dependent on some basic steps that empower people to liberate themselves from the poverty trap, enjoy wellness and gain new understanding about themselves and their realities. It is in this context that CAM-NAS anticipates to focus on three key areas that align to the Sustainable Development Goals for the

³ African Economic Outlook, OECD/AfDB Report, 2002, Pg. 74

⁴ Cameroon Vision 2035, Working Paper, Government of Cameroon, February 2009

⁵ <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/cameroon>

next 3 years, 2023 – 2025, namely: poverty alleviation (SDG I), Health care and wellness (SDG III) and improved Gender relations (SDG V).

Our strategic Orientation for 2023 – 2025 will be on:

- The fight against Youth unemployment as a means towards “No to Poverty”
- Primary Health Care campaigns to enhance “Health and Well-being”
- Improved Gender relations to promote “Gender Equity”

C. Strategic Approach

Sector	Goal	Strategy	Observations
Poverty	At least 100 youths are gainfully employed by 2025	Identify, train, educate, orientate and placement after career orientation and vocational training,	Underprivileged youths between the ages of 20 – 35 are taken out of the poverty cycle
Health	At least 7 communities in the NW and SW regions experience at least 75% drop in Malaria, STIs and water borne diseases	Annual Primary Health Care campaigns using socialization institutions in rural poor communities. Free screening for HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer	Over 40,000 rural poor households experience improved wellness through a drastic reduction in ill health and common preventable sicknesses
Gender	At least 250 boys and girls have equal access to social justice through social inclusion in all socialization institutions	Empowerment and capacity development workshops and training	Civil Status registration certificates and free family planning sessions for IDPs especially for girls who become vulnerable due to difficult access to documents and information

D. Quality Control, Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to guarantee the desired objectives and impact, a quality control, M&E unit shall examine and follow-up on the different sectors and interventions of the programme. From Planning, implementation and reporting, emphasis will be placed on documentary evidence of lessons learnt, planning process and processes, procedures for implementation, challenges faced and methodology utilized. This is because the program anticipates a multiplication of the impact through small but decisive actions taken in the course of implementation. Regular planning sessions, field visits for monitoring and lessons learnt shall be carefully documented. To facilitate this, a special quality control, monitoring and evaluation unit shall be put in place to enhance quality, document process and procedures for replication.

E. Mid Term Evaluation

To ascertain the impact of the programme, a mid-term evaluation shall be anticipated. The mid-term evaluation shall be carried out by an external consultant to ensure for objective analysis of the activities and intervention of CAMNAS in the community. The Consultant shall be selected through an ad-hoc tender board set up exclusively for the purpose with a defined terms of reference that takes into accounts the objectives and anticipations of partner organizations of the project. The mid-term evaluation shall examine the objectives of the project, the procedures for implementation, the lessons learnt, the challenges and the external environment that guarantees for success or failure of the project and or programme.

F. Draft Budgetary Allocation

Sector	Year I: 2023 FCFA	Year II: 2024 FCFA	Year III: 2025 FCFA	Year IV 2026 FCFA	Year V 2027 FCFA
Poverty	13,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000	13,650,000	13,650,000
Health	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,500,000	10,500,000
Gender	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,350,000	7,350,000
Quality Control, M&E	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,675,000	3,675,000
Mid-Term Evaluation				5,000,000	
Total	33,500,000	33,500,000	33,500,000	40,175,000	35,175,000

NB. From the 4th year, a 5% increase is added to take care of inflation in prices.

G. Conclusion

CAM-NAS has experience working with rural poor persons and has contributed significantly to bring positive changes in the lives and livelihoods of many internally displaced persons who are trapped by poverty, ridiculed by disease and discriminated upon by cultural values that undermine and exacerbate gender differences. Through the next 5 years, we plan to focus our energies towards the three key areas of poverty, health and gender as a means towards enhancing social justice, peace and development. To do this we anticipate to educate, empower and enlighten our target group that will predominantly be young people between the ages of 20 and 35 year old.

To fully ensure that the objectives of CAMNAS are met, a Quality Control, monitoring and evaluation unit will accompany the programme and ensure that standards are met in the process and processes of planning and implementation. Lessons learnt, successes and failures shall be duly documented. Furthermore, there shall be a mid-term evaluation at the end of the third year by an external consultant to analyze and assess the impact of the project and to gain new insights from an objective review of the activities of the project and programme for better adaptability to the environment.

With an annual budget of FCFA 33,500,000 (thirty three million, five hundred thousand francs) for the first three years we are confident that our work will greatly contribute to move the sustainable development goals a step forward in Cameroon. After the third year, we anticipate a five percent increase to take care of inflation in prices. We have also featured the sum of FCFA 5,000,000 (five million francs) in the fourth year to cover the cost of a mid-term evaluation of the projects and programme which shall assess the impact of our projects and programmes.

With a team of dedicated and experienced Board and staff members, we are confident in our ability to contribute to the achievement of the millennium development goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, health care and improved gender relations.