

Help Optimize Educational Opportunities – Cameroon



Summary

Education in the West African country of Cameroon is compulsory through to age 14 when 6 years of primary schooling are complete. Unfortunately, parents are expected to pay for uniforms and book fees, which no doubt contributes to a 67% literacy rate that's skewed in favor of males. In partnership with the Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC), this project provides education facilities to underprivileged rural children in Cameroon. The region has a low literacy rate, because parents put their children to work in farms instead of sending them to school.

Challenge

Nkolfoulou lies within a Subdivision (Soa), 12km from the capital Yaounde. It is a village at the outskirts of Yaounde in *Centre Province* of Cameroon with about 6000 inhabitants, mostly women and children. Their main economic activity is small farming. This area is mainly rural and children face a lot of difficulties to obtain basic education. Even though the government created a school in Nkolfoulou, it has not supported it with adequate infrastructure and teachers. Parents have therefore preferred to use their children in farms. The school is serving more than 1,000 poor and orphan children from Nkolfoulou village, and children from other neighboring villages of Baaba, Ntinga, Nkabo, Eboko, and Essebi Villages - where there is no school.

Solution

Project goal: provision of a decent education. The project activities comprise the construction of classrooms, a library, a staff room, a hall and volunteer hostel. It includes the provision of scholarships, books and school supplies for pupils. The importance of primary education has been recognized by international and national agencies and scholars. Investment in the early education benefits the individual, society and the world at large and it is among the most effective apparatus known to reduce poverty and inequity. It is for these reasons that CAPEC Education Project is providing low cost education for children in the Nkolfoulou and other neighboring villages.

Long-Term Impact

More than 1,000 orphan and underprivileged children will get a decent education - transforming their lives and providing opportunities for growth, and contribution to national development. The school will benefit the entire community for life. In the long term, the project aims to provide education to the children of the rural area of Nkolfoulou, so they would not be deprived of education based on their locality or family financial circumstances. Most of the foster families and guardians, who already have limited resources as it is, are often not equipped to assist the growing number of these children. Therefore, the project will go a long way to rectify the situation.



Resources

<http://www.nkolfoulou.org>

Develop Africa / CAPEC Partnership

Project Site

CAPEC Site

Cameroon UNICEF Statistics

<http://www.nkolfoulou.org/>

<http://www.capecam.org/projects/education>



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YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/developafrica>

Empowering lives in Africa so that they can better themselves, their communities and their nations

Develop Africa was established in 2006 and is a 501c3 non-profit organization is working to establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa. Develop Africa was birthed out of the vision that human resource development is the key to improving nation building capacity in

Africa. Develop Africa is involved in a range of programs in Africa supporting education, microfinance and small businesses, job skills / leadership development training etc.

Through training, scholarship, investment and partnerships Develop Africa is helping to develop Africa's people through the promotion of transformational education, resource development, investment training and strategic empowerment. Our premise is based on the notion that in order to change one's personal, national or organizational status there must necessarily be a "change in the thinking and processing pattern of the mind."

We envision an African continent fully developed in terms of its human and resource capacity, free from poverty; ignorance, and civil conflict and where the poorest and most vulnerable people become "leaders" and effectively manage their national resources.

We are involved in the following targeted activities:

- care for orphans
- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment for health workers etc.

Examples of specific activity: We provide -

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms etc.

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Cameroon- Full Country Profile available at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon>

Cameroon (/ˌkæməˈruːn/; French: *Cameroun*), officially the **Republic of Cameroon** (French: *République du Cameroun*), is a country in West Africa. It is bordered by Nigeria to the west; Chad to the northeast; the Central African Republic to the east; and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Bonny, part of the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Cameroon is home to more than 1738 different linguistic groups. French and English are the official languages. The country is often referred to as "Africa in miniature" for its geological and cultural diversity. Natural features include beaches, deserts, mountains, rainforests, and savannas. The highest point at almost 4,100 metres (13,500 ft) is Mount Cameroon in the Southwest Region of the country, and the largest cities in population-terms are Douala on the Wouri river, its economical capital and main seaport, Yaoundé, its political capital, and Garoua. After independence, the newly united nation joined the Commonwealth of Nations, although the vast majority of its territories had previously been a German colony and, after World War I, a French mandate. The country is well known for its native styles of music, particularly makossa and bikutsi, and for its successful national football team.

Early inhabitants of the territory included the Sao civilisation around Lake Chad and the Baka hunter-gatherers in the southeastern rainforest. Portuguese explorers reached the coast in the 15th century and named the area *Rio dos Camarões* (*Shrimp River*), which became *Cameroon* in English. Fulani soldiers founded the Adamawa Emirate in the north in the 19th century, and various ethnic groups of the west and northwest established powerful chiefdoms and fondoms. Cameroon became a German colony in 1884 known as Kamerun.

After World War I, the territory was divided between France and the United Kingdom as League of Nations mandates. The Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) political party advocated independence, but was outlawed by France in the 1950s. It waged war on French and UPC militant forces until 1971. In 1960, the French-administered part of Cameroon became independent as the Republic of Cameroun under President Ahmadou Ahidjo. The southern part of British Cameroons merged with it in 1961 to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon. The country was renamed the United Republic of Cameroon in 1972 and the Republic of Cameroon in 1984.

Cameroon enjoys relatively high political and social stability. This has permitted the development of agriculture, roads, railways, and large petroleum and timber industries. Nevertheless, large numbers of Cameroonians live in poverty as subsistence farmers. Power lies firmly in the hands of the authoritarian president since 1982, Paul Biya, and his Cameroon People's Democratic Movement party. The English-speaking territories of Cameroon have grown increasingly alienated from the government, and politicians from those regions have called for

greater decentralization and even secession (for example: the Southern Cameroons National Council) of the former British-governed territories.