

Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

Cameroon

April 2019

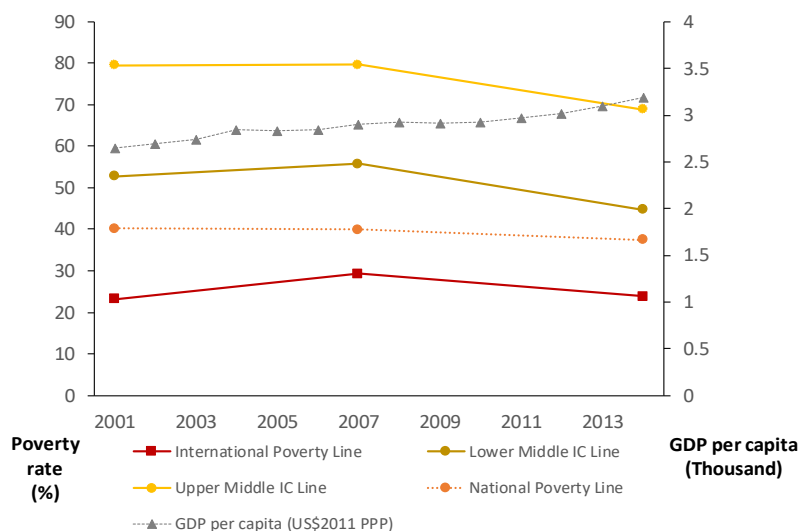
Despite the low level of oil prices during the past three years and serious insecurity in the northern part of the country, the economy of Cameroon has proved to be resilient thanks to its relative diversity compared to other countries in Central Africa. However, despite an acceleration in growth over the past decade poverty remains high at 37.5 percent in 2014 (using the national poverty line), only a slight reduction from 39.9 percent in 2007 and 40.2 percent in 2001. The slow progress results from the fact that the considerable drop in the incidence of poverty experienced in the eastern, western, central and littoral regions, has been neutralized by the increase in poverty in the northern regions. The growing gap is due to a clustering of investments in the two most populated urban cities and eruption of insecurity concerns in the north. With fast population growth, the number of poor individuals increased between 2007 and 2014 by 12 percent to 8.3 million people, of which 90% live in rural areas and 69.1% in the North regions.

The low impact of growth on poverty reduction is due to increased Inequality, with the Gini index increasing considerably between 2007 and 2014 (from 42.8 to 46.6). Growing economic disparities between rural and urban areas and between the northern regions and the rest of the country account for much of this increase. Progress on poverty and equity may be undermined if the Boko Haram-related insecurity issues in the Far North Region, and the ongoing crisis in the two Anglophone regions, are not addressed quickly.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	8.3	37.5	2014
International Poverty Line 467.4 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	5.3	23.8	2014
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 787.2 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	9.9	44.7	2014
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1353.1 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	15.3	68.9	2014
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		1.41	2007-2014
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		46.6	2014
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		-2.43	2007-2014
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		1.4	2007-2014
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		3.84	2007-2014

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of March 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

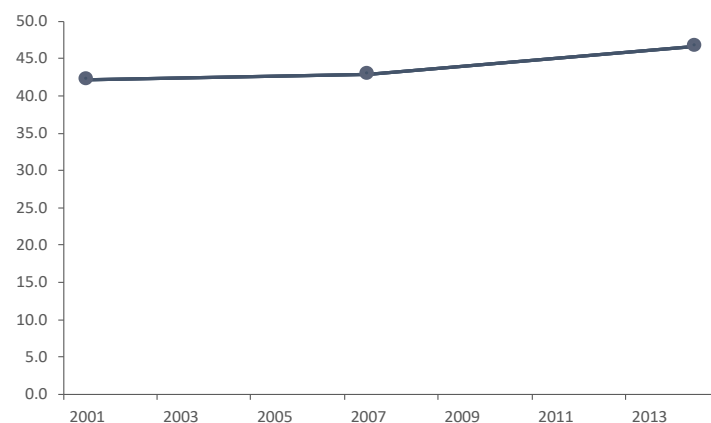
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2001-2014



Source: World Bank using ECAM-IV/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2001-2014

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using ECAM-IV/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	98	2	10	90	2014
Rural population	61	39	61	39	2014
Males	76	24	41	59	2014
Females	77	23	39	61	2014
0 to 14 years old	70	30	49	51	2014
15 to 64 years old	82	18	32	68	2014
65 and older	76	24	46	54	2014
Without education (age 16 and older)	58	42	63	37	2014
Primary education (age 16 and older)	81	19	37	63	2014
Secondary education (age 16 and older)	92	8	19	81	2014
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)	99	1	3	97	2014

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Cameroon Household Survey (ECAM) series provide a strong basis for identifying the poor through poverty profiles and for analyzing the dynamics and dimensions of poverty. The three household surveys (2001, 2007, and 2014) used for these estimates were conducted with the objective of producing sound data for poverty analysis. The sample size of these surveys is between 10,000 and 12,000 households, and the samples are designed to be representative at the regional level (10 regions and the two biggest cities: Douala and Yaounde). The design of the three surveys, the questionnaires, and the methodology of data collection are very similar, making the results easily comparable. However, these surveys are not implemented frequently, with a gap of at least six years between two surveys during the past 15 years. In addition, there is a need to improve the design of the surveys to better consider issues of public policy (labor market, gender, social protection, agriculture, conflict and vulnerability, etc.). The next household survey is planned for 2019 and will be financed through a World Bank project.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 44 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.