

Support Program for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System (PAMEC II)

For the implementation of an inclusive and reliable system for civil registration and population statistics

The context

Since 2009, Cameroon is implementing a process of modernising its civil registration and vital statistics system. This process has led to a reform of the legal and institutional framework of civil registration, and the development of a strategic plan for the rehabilitation of civil status. The Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) is responsible for civil registration and vital statistics at the central level and the National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC) supports the implementation of the national reform.

According to the competences transferred to the municipalities in the framework of decentralization, they provide civil registration services at local level. Until now, civil registration books have been kept manually and the documents delivered show important quality deficiencies: they are often poorly maintained or cannot be found. The consequences of this situation are perceptible in the rate of civil registration. Almost 40% of children's births are not registered and less than 10% of deaths are recorded in the registers

The standards recommended by the United Nations on civil registration systems, i.e. continuous, mandatory, permanent and universal registration of civil registration data, are not systematically met. The lack of digitization mechanisms hinders the statistical function of vital statistics. MINDDEVEL, BUNEC and the municipalities are still facing numerous challenges in the implementation of an inclusive and reliable system of civil registration and population statistics.

In the response to this situation, the Government of Cameroon, in partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany, has launched the Support Program for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System (PAMEC). After a first phase implemented between July 2018 and June 2021, the two Governments have agreed to implement a second phase over the period July 2021 - September 2023.

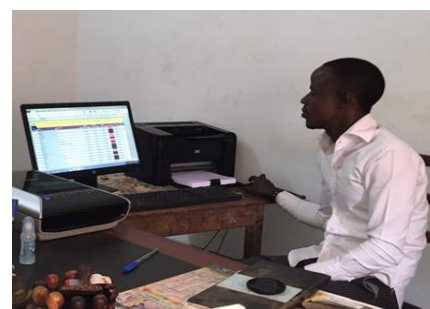
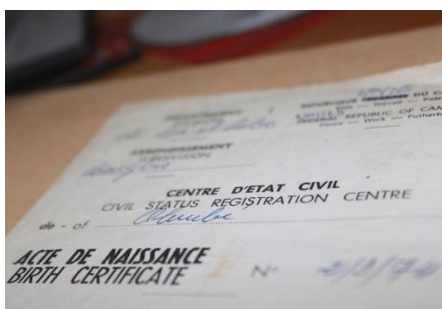
The objective of PAMEC II is as follows: *Citizen-oriented services of the civil registration in Cameroon are improved.*



Project name	Support Program for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System (PAMEC II)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Lead executing partner	Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)
Partners	MINDDEVEL, National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC), National Institute of Statistics (NIS), partner municipalities, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
Regions	North, South-West and Littoral
Duration	2021-2023

The Support Program for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System develops its support through three outputs:

- 1) The competencies and capacities of relevant actors and institutions of civil registration are improved,
- 2) Selected aspects of civil registration are digitised in pilot municipalities,
- 3) Selected aspects of the civil registration system are strengthened in terms of proximity, equality and participation of civil society.





The programme operates under the supervision of MINDDEVEL as a pilot action in selected municipalities of North, South-West and Littoral regions. However, it has an impact at the national level.

Our services

The Support Program for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System supports MINDDEVEL, BUNEC and selected municipalities in the process of implementing a reliable and inclusive civil registration and vital statistics system. It aims to strengthen the capacities of all actors providing civil registration services (supply side), and to increase the use of the services by the population (demand side).

The supply side is supported through strategic consultations and capacity building of key stakeholders. This implies the development of strategies for sustainable ICT solutions.

On demand side, the aim is to ensure equal access to civil registration services for economically disadvantaged populations and other socially disadvantaged groups. It is also a question of creating the conditions for dialogue between the actors of the system at local, regional and national levels, with the aim of improving the quality of the civil registration service provided to the population. This will enable citizens to enjoy their rights in terms of education, services provided by the State and guarantee political participation. In this way, the programme contributes directly and indirectly to poverty reduction.

PAMEC guarantees gender equality by making sure that attention is paid to women and girls about their access to civil registration services, and their education on the rights associated with civil registration, particularly within marriage and the family. The programme also ensures that the concerns of the various civil society groups are considered in the process of restructuring the civil

registration system in Cameroon, so that the needs of each can be addressed.

Our approach

The program uses an approach that focuses on both the national and local levels. It brings together the different actors involved in civil registration and vital statistics to strengthen their collaboration and improve the quality of the civil registration service. To this end, it develops tools and guides to facilitate the implementation of the reform.

The program also develops a learning approach based on tested actions in the field. It supports pilot digitisation processes, in order to generate knowledge from field experience, with a view to scaling up based on good practices. In this approach, PAMEC II promotes synergy with other development partners, other GIZ programmes and national actors developing initiatives in the field of civil registration.

The program intervention is divided into three outputs that reflect this approach:

Output 1 aims to strengthen the capacities and skills of actors and institutions responsible for civil registration. It also aims to create the conditions for effective coordination of actions and initiatives related to civil registration in Cameroon.

Output 2 aims to digitise selected aspects of civil registration in pilot municipalities, in accordance with the guidelines defined by the Cameroonian government and taking into account local conditions.

Output 3 aims to improve the access of civil registration services for the population, in particular for women and girls, by relying on the monitoring role of civil society, whose monitoring of the quality of the service will enable actors to propose services adapted to the needs of the citizens.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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Registration System (PAMEC II)

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As at November 2021

GIZ is responsible of the content of this publication.

In cooperation with Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development
(MINDDEVEL)

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
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