

Facts –CAMEROON

- Primary school Net Enrolment Rate: 82.85% (boys 88.34%; girls 77.31%) - Significant disparities remain especially in the three Northern Provinces (North, Far North and Adamawa), where over 50% of primary school age girls have no access to primary education
- Students/teacher ratio in primary schools: 53: 1
- Preschool Gross Enrolment Rate for ages 3-5: 20.71% (boys: 21.22% and girls 21.22%)

Main achievements in 2008:

Early stimulation and pre-primary

- Identifying and training community-based intermediaries and service providers on developing capacities of 5000 families through orientation on early stimulation and parenting skills in the Programme intervention zones (PIZ) in Adamawa, North, Far North, Yaoundé, and Douala.
- Access to community-based preschool education increased in PIZs slightly from 17% GER in 2007, with an additional 16,500 new students, representing a 18.2% GER in 2008 with an edge for girls (G:18.6% - B: 17.8%) and access to primary school education has made a progress of 4.7¹

Access to education and girls' enrolment in school

- Development and promotion of strategies for improving access and maintaining girl at schools, through permanent mobilization of parents and of communities, especially where the enrollments are low and can increase with more involvement from the National Network of Mothers' Association for Girls' Education (RECAMEF) around Cameroon.
- Through 1,140 family visits in Adamawa region, over 12,672 children without birth certificates identified, and 215 dropout children registered in school through sensitization of parents, school registration drives and monitoring of school attendance by girls, resulting in an increase in girls' enrolment.
- 1200 working children in Yaoundé and Douala were given basic education training and / or technical

Quality Education

- An effective partnership with UNESCO resulted in the harmonization and adoption of the HIV and AIDS primary and secondary education curricula for the six CEMAC countries (Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville and Equatorial Guinea). Life skills education materials were provided to students in the 300 Schools supported via a partnership with *Planète Enfants*. 30 000 pedagogical manual and curricula were distributed to teachers in the areas of intervention of the Programme
- 900 members of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) trained on community management of schools.

- 600 teachers were trained on Child Friendly Schools Approach
- Ensuring that the Ministry of Education adopts and scales up the Child Friendly School model around the country (advocacy ongoing)
- Providing training tools on the New Pedagogical Approach and the competency-based approach to teaching (Trainer's and Participants' Manuals).

WASH

- 10,403 pupils from 10 schools, have access to safe drinking water, gender-separated sanitary facilities and hand washing stations.
- 8 hand drilled boreholes dug in 8 schools and 2 blocks of latrines built.

Emergencies

Refugee children -1000 Chadian (source:Action Aid) and 8,000 CAR (source:UNHCR) were able to continue with their primary education with support from UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR and NGOs

Priority actions for 2009-2010

- Strong support will continue for the Girls Education agenda through support to RECAMEF and advocacy for the establishment and attendant government budget support for a girls education unit in the Ministry; as well as joint leadership with UNESCO and education partners to establish a National Girls' Education Coalition tasked with advocacy and resource mobilization/leveraging
- The expansion of Child Friendly School models with focus on elaboration, implementation and monitoring of Schools Improvement plans will give to opportunity to rally the Government and its partners and to leverage resources for this initiative
- In partnership with other UN agencies advocacy activities will be continued with the MoE for the adoption of the conceptual and institutional framework for non-formal education
- Emergency education of refugee children will be continued and will reinforce synergies created with other sections to address cross-cutting issues such as Life Skills and the provision of educational opportunities for refugee children from Chad and CAR.

¹ Data Sources: "*Rapport d'analyse des données scolaires dans les zones d'Intervention du Programme de Coopération UNICEF-Cameroun 2006/2007, 2007/2008*" -MINEDUB, *Annuaire Statistique 2007/2008* – MINEDUB, *L'Education de Base en chiffres, Edition 2008*