



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Cameroon

Country Setting

- Cameroon is marked by political stability and geographic and ethnic diversity.
- 56 per cent of population is under 20 years.
- 50 per cent of people live in poverty, with significant regional and sex disparities.
- The primary school enrolment rate is 68 per cent, only 42 per cent in some northern areas.
- HIV/AIDS increased from 0.5 per cent in 1987 to 11 per cent in 2000. It has been devastating for families already weakened by poverty. There are an estimated 45,300 HIV-positive children.

WES Sector Setting

- The north and the far-north provinces are particularly dry. It is common for people and birds to use the same watering hole.
- Most of the schools in the northern provinces have no water points or latrines and the zone has epidemics of cholera and meningitis.
- Only 23 per cent of children under five have a significant intake of fluid during diarrhoea episodes, due to frequent shortages of water and a lack of education on the management of diarrhoea.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	16,018
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	166
Total adult literacy rate (%)	71

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	84	63
Rural	41	33
Total	63	48

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- There is no separate WES Programme.
- The WES component supports clean water and latrines in the Basic Education, IECD and other programmes.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- The Basic Education Programme aims to set up 55 latrines in 40 child-friendly schools by the end of 2003.
- Thirty per cent of community pre-school centres supported by UNICEF have been furnished with drinkable water points and water equipment.