

Support Programme for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System (PAMEC)

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

The context

Cameroon initiated the process of modernising the civil registration system in 2009, and continued it from 2011 as part of the Cameroon Civil Status Registration Programme (PRE2C).

In Cameroon, the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) is responsible for civil registration at the central level. The National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC), a national institution subordinate to MINDDEVEL and established in 2015, supports the implementation of the national civil registration reform. Municipalities are essential actors in the provision of civil registration services at the 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. Few people and important life events are documented.

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 digitalisation 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 demographic statistics.

In response to this situation, the Government of Cameroon, in partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany, has launched the Support Programme for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System (PAMEC).

The objective of PAMEC is as follows: *MINDDEVEL, the National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC), and target municipalities are able to ensure the implementation of an inclusive and reliable system of civil registration and demographic statistics.*



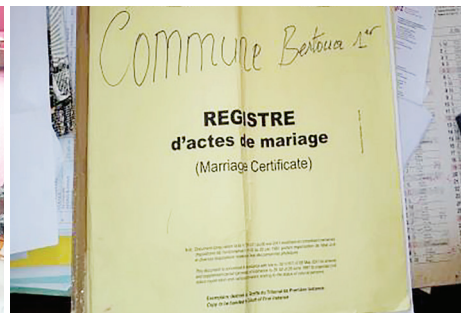
Project name	Support Programme for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System (PAMEC)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Lead executing partner	Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)
Partners	MINDDEVEL, National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC), Councils, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
Regions	North, South-West, and other regions
Duration	2018-2020

The Support Programme for the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System develops its support through three fields of action:

1. Strengthening BUNEC's capacity to implement a reliable civil registration and population statistics system at the central level,
2. Piloting reforms in the selected partner regions,
3. Promoting the dialogue with civil society and raising public awareness on the rights and obligations linked to civil registration.

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





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Our services

The Support Programme 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 demographic statistics system. It aims to strengthen the capacities of all actors providing civil registration services (supply side), and to increase the use of these 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 the 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 about raising public awareness on the need to have civil registration certificates to access education, to benefit the services provided by the State and to 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

A multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach aimed mainly at improving the national civil registration policy and the development of instruments and guidelines for future implementation of the reform is used.

At the policy development level, a systemic approach based on field-tested reform actions is recommended. The programme's intervention is therefore divided into three fields of action to reflect its systemic approach: field of action 1 defines the strategic framework and aims to strengthen BUNEC's capacity to establish a reliable civil registration and population statistics system at the central level. It also aims to create the framework for establishing a capacity building system for civil registration staff.

The strategic options developed in field 1 will be tested and developed in selected municipalities across field of action 2, to achieve their rapid and sustainable implementation.

Field of action 3, lastly, aims to promote dialogue with civil society and to raise public awareness on the rights and duties related to civil registration.

The three fields of action are consequently linked together in the form of iterative processes.

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