REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix - Travail - Patrie



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace –Work – Fatherland





PLAN D'ACTION NATIONAL JEUNESSE, PAIX ET SÉCURITÉ 2025-2030

Septembre 2025



















































































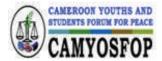


























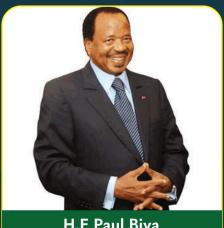












H.E Paul BiyaPresident of the Republic of
Cameroon





Dr Chief Dion Ngute
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► TABLE OF CONTENT

▶ INTRODUCTION	10
▶ BACKGROUND	12
ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS.	18
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE NAP AND METHODOLOGY	22
THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN	29
KEY STRATEGIC AREAS	
MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM	45
▶ BUDGET FRAMEWORK50	
> CONCLUSION	52
APPENDICES	53
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	59



▶ LIST OF ACRONYMS

AYC	African Youth Charter	MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
LYPSC	Local Youth, Peace and Security Committee	MINEFOP	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
CNYC	Cameroon National Youth Council	MINESEC	Ministry of Secondary Education
NYPSC	National Youth, Peace and	MINESUP	Ministry of Higher Education
- INTEGE	Security Commission National Disarmament,	MINJEC	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education
CNDDR	Demobilization and Reintegration Committee	MINPROFF	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
NCPBM	National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and	MINREX	Ministry of External Relations
	Multiculturalism	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCHRD	United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democrac	YLO	Youth-led organization
PSC/AU	Peace and Security Council of the African Union	IOM	International Organisation for Migration
UNSC	United Nations Security Council	ОП	International Labour Organization
CTD	Local Decentralized Entities	UN	United Nations Organisation
DGSN	General Delegation for National Security	UN Women	United Nations Women
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GN	Gendarmerie Nationale	NAP	National Action Plan
	United Nations High	NYP	National Youth Policy
UNHCR	Commissioner for Refugees	TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
NIS	National Institute of Statistics	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YPS	Youth, Peace and Securit	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council
LOYOC	Local Youth Corner Cameroun	UNSCR	Resolution
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	NDS 30	National Development Strategy of Cameroon 2020-2030
MINAS	Ministry of Social Affairs	SNU	Système des Nations Unies
MINAT	Ministry of Territorial Administration	AU	African Union
MINDEF	Ministry of Defence	EU	European Union
MINDDEVEL	Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development		

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOY	United Network of Young Peacebuilders.
UNPBF	Peacebuilding Fund
GBV	Gender Based Violence

LISTE OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Stakeholder commitment to the NAP on YPS

Table 2. Le cadre de mise en œuvre et l'impact voulu

Figure 1. YPS coordination and monitoring structure

FOREWORD

Cameroon, a land of diversity, resilience and opportunities, is currently facing multiple challenges that affect its youth, peace and security. In a world rocked by instability, social divides, climate change, migration flows and geopolitical shifts, it is imperative to give young Cameroonians the tools, spaces and opportunities they need to become not just beneficiaries, but key partners and active builders of lasting peace.

This National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS-NAP) is part of this ambitious and deeply humanistic model. It stems from an intergenerational, inclusive and participatory consultation process, inspired by the transformative actions of youths for peace, the Cameroonian Government's firm commitment to building a Cameroon where youths are recognised as an asset, and the African Union's Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015).

This collective commitment, led by young women and men, youth organisations, community actors, public institutions, and technical and financial partners, embodies the hope for a peaceful, just and equitable future.

May this document mark a turning point in building positive, inclusive and sustainable peace at the heart of our nation and may it serve as a compass, an engagement lever and a symbol of governance based on listening, trust and dignity for present and future generations.



PREFACE



MOUNOUNA FOUTSOU

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND CIVIC EDUCATION

Cameroon has just reached another crucial milestone in her history by adopting her first-ever National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS-NAP). This plan expresses the clear desire of the Government to place young women and young men at the centre of its efforts to preserve social cohesion, prevent conflict, and consolidate lasting peace in our country.

The fruit of a long, inclusive, participatory, and intergenerational process carried out between 2017 and 2025 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, in collaboration with the National Commission on Youth, Peace, and Security, the YPS-NAP is the brain-child of a synergy of contributions from thousands of youths, civil society organizations, traditional rulers and religious authorities, public and private institutions, technical as well as financial partners. These contributions have made it possible to come up with a roadmap that reflects both the aspirations of our youths and the strategic priorities of our Nation.

The YPS-NAP is part of the ongoing quest for ways to preserve and maintain lasting peace, a core value that has always inspired the pioneering policies of the President of the Republic, H.E. Paul BIYA, Vision 2035, the National Development Strategy 2020–2030 (SND30), and the National Youth Policy. It is also rooted in continental and international frameworks, like the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2019), and 2535 (2022) and the African Union

Continental Framework on YPS. This Action Plan also highlights Government's commitment to investing in youth leadership, strengthening national cohesion and inclusive governance, which are guarantees of a prosperous and emerging Cameroon.

Given the complex and multiple challenges facing our country at this time, such as violent extremism, social divides, climate change, and digital transformation, the YPS-NAP positions itself as a strategic tool for transforming these threats into opportunities for the Cameroonian youth. It promotes the emergence of a conscious, resilient, and innovative youth, in the interests of promoting the values of living together in harmony and respect for the symbols and institutions of our country.

As such, I therefore call on all public and private institutions, local decentralized entities, national and international youth organizations, technical and financial partners, as well as all citizens, to take ownership of this Plan, implement and make it a cornerstone for promoting a peaceful, safe, and inclusive Cameroon.

Together, let us make our Youth the spearhead of a strong and prosperous Nation.



> INTRODUCTION

In Cameroon, as in many other nations, youths are important stake for both development and peace. They are often perceived as the most sensitive and vulnerable component of the social fabric^[1]. That is why public policies tend to target their socio-economic and political concerns, in order to resolve the various problems, they face.

The Cameroonian population is predominantly young. In fact, approximately 65% of the country's population is made up of young women and young men under the age of 35. Due to their demographic size, youths occupy a prominent place in Cameroon's sustainable development process. The State understood the importance of youths, as manifested in the creation of a ministry in charge of youth affairs. Official rhetoric reflects this reality by presenting Cameroonian youths as "the spearhead of the nation", "the surest guarantee for the future" or even "the future in the present" [2].

Though rich in culture and natural resources, Cameroon faces significant challenges include; the rise of hate speech and xenophobia, violent extremism and internal conflicts. Youths, who make up the majority of the population, are particularly affected by these challenges notably; the rise in violent extremism (Boko Haram since 2014, the crisis hitting the North-West and South-West regions since 2016), massive population displacement, particularly youths, sexual violence against women and girls, and economic and social challenges (unemployment, poverty, hardship, etc.).

In terms of peace and security, youths are often perceived as perpetrators of violence, but also as victims and key actors of peace. In the face of conflict, they are frequently exposed to radicalisation, which pushes them to engage in violent acts. These conflicts have resulted in the loss of many lives and the forceful displacement of many young people within the country or to neighbouring countries. However, despite these major challenges, Cameroonian youths are showing remarkable resilience and playing an active role in building a safe and peaceful Cameroon.

To fully leverage their essential contribution of youth in peace and security, Cameroonian youths and the government alongside the international community contributed in the drafting the Amman Declaration on Peace and Security in 2015. This international dynamic continued with the adoption by UN Security Council of several landmark resolutions, namely: Resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security; Resolution 2419 (2018) on youth and peace processes; and Resolution 2535 (2020) focusing on the protection of young peacebuilders. To anchor this dynamic within the African continent, Member States of the African Union developed a Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security in 2020, which seeks to promote an approach tailored to the realities of the Continent.

The National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon is a strategic document inspired by normative frameworks and community, national, regional and international initiatives. Its purpose is to actively engage Cameroonian youths in peacebuilding, address the root causes of violence and provide them with platforms and opportunities to actively participate in decision-making processes at the local, national, continental and international levels. It is worth noting that the objectives and activities of this NAP will be guided by vital signs (key impact themes that help shape the implementation framework of the National Action Plan), which will serve as impact indicators for the NAP. During the process of the elaboration of the NAP YPS, five vital signs of peace were identified.

^[2] Achille Mbembé, Les jeunes et l'ordre politique en Afrique noire, Paris, l'harmattan, 1985, p.17.



^[1] Valentin Nga Ndongo, « La jeunesse camerounaise face aux médias, une aventure ambiguë », in Annales de la FSLH, University of Yaoundé, Human Sciences Series, vol 3, No. 1, p.29. aventure ambiguë », in Annales de la FSLH, University of Yaoundé, Human Sciences Series, vol 3, No. 1, p.29.

These include:

- → strengthening youth action for peace;
- → strengthening institutional trust and the legitimacy of the YPS agenda;
- → reducing violence and crime;
- → improving mutual trust among youths;
- → strengthening collaboration between youths, the government, local decentralized entities, traditional and religious authorities, and Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) in the implementation of the YPS agenda.



BACKGROUND

For a comprehensive understanding of youth participation in peace and security issues in Cameroon, it is important to highlight young people's specific perceptions of some concepts as well as, the challenges they face.



A. Clarification of key concepts

Youth



The National Youth Policy defines youths as young women and young men aged 15 to 35 years, an age group corresponding to the transition between childhood and adulthood, a major phase of training, learning and engagement in active life. This definition explains why all youth initiatives in Cameroon target this age group. Considering that youths are not a homogeneous group, this Plan targets young men, young women, young people living with disabilities, internally displaced persons, young refugees living, returning migrants, diaspora youths, young former members of armed groups, youths living in conflict zones and indigenous youths.

Peace



The concept of peace does not only refer to the absence of war, as most militaristic approaches tend to advocate. It is based on the existence of mechanisms that promote social justice, equity and cohesion^[3]. During national consultations on youth, peace and security, youths often described peace as the presence of social cohesion and harmonious living together. They perceived peace as the sum of efforts to address the root causes of violence, crime and conflict, and to strengthen social cohesion at both the community and national levels. For them, peace is the cornerstone that will enable them to fulfil all their aspirations in a peaceful and secure existence, letting them project the future with great expectation.

Security



The concept of security has a number of different meanings. Among the many interpretations are the absence of armed conflict, the defence of national interests, the safeguarding of fundamental principles, the capacity for survival, resistance to aggression, resilience in the face of violence and injustice, the improvement of living conditions, and the strengthening or weakening of state defence structures. Other aspects include the removal of threats, freedom of expression, and individual emancipation^[4].

During consultations as part of the process of developing this NAP, young people also emphasised that security is an inclusive process involving both civil and military actions. They see themselves as key players in promoting security, not through military means, but through civil community actions. Security issues in Cameroon cover a wide spectrum, ranging from community violence, drug abuse, attacks on roads, the phenomenon of "microbes" maritime piracy, the Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad region, and the crisis in the North West and South West regions, not to mention insecurity in the border areas with the Central African Republic.

Among the various forms of security cited by young people, including physical, economic and social security, cultural security^[6], is also considered just as essential. This seeks to ensure that each people and civilization are recognized and respected for their cultural identity by other human groups, for harmonious living together and the preservation of diverse cultural heritages.

^[6] Barry Buzan, People, States and fear. An agenda for international security studies in the post- cold war era, boulder (Colorado), Lynne Rienner, 2e éd. 1991, pp. 16-17.



^[3] Johan Galtung, « Violence, peace, and peace research », Journal of peace research, vol.6, No. 3, 1969.

^[4] Charles-Philippe David, La guerre et la paix. Approches contemporaines de la sécurité et de la stratégie, Paris, Presses de Sciences po, 2000, p.31.

^[5] Gang of youths equipped with bladed weapons who perpetrate attacks and violence in neigbourhood of mayor cities notablely Douala and Yaounde

B. Challenges facing young people

During consultations as part of this process, it was noted that young people in Cameroon face several challenges that justify the need for a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security. Although not exhaustive, and despite the fact that there are many challenges and difficulties faced by young people (ref. appendix 2), the main are as follows:

Unemployment and economic insecurity



The rate of unemployment among youth in Cameroon remain high due to diverse reasons among which; a clear discrepancy between the education and university training received on one hand, and the demands of the labour market on the other. As a result, most young people who have completed their education do not have the skills required to meet the demands of the job market. Without a doubt, the issue of youth unemployment is a fundamental concern in Cameroon's development process^[7]. During consultations, young people were unanimous: «If there is one social phenomenon that is reaching alarming proportions in contemporary Cameroonian society, it is unemployment.» Young people need more opportunities and unfailing support from public authorities. Despite relevant initiatives aimed at facilitating the employability of young Cameroonians, the unemployment rate for young people under 35 as per the International Labour Office (ILO) is still high (10.4%), at 13.8% for girls and 8.1% for boys. During the review of the National Youth Policy in 2024, nearly 80% of young people consulted pinpointed access to employment as the main challenge to their personal development and socio-economic inclusion.

Violence and insecurity



Young Cameroonians, especially in the Far North, North West and South West regions, face increased exposure to violence and insecurity due to armed conflicts linked to the Boko Haram insurgency and the Anglophone crisis, respectively. These fragile contexts foster radicalisation, forced displacement and deep trauma within communities. Furthermore, the phenomenon of abduction is growing at an alarming rate, as evidenced by many young people, who see it as a direct consequence of structural poverty and endemic unemployment.

Furthermore, gender-based violence (GBV) is a key dimension of the security challenges mostly affecting young girls and women. To this, the security crisis has amplified this violence, with increased cases of physical and sexual abuse, forced marriages and psychological abuse. Gender-based violence is often rooted in patriarchal social norms and reinforced by impunity. In addition, Conflict-related disruptions reduce access to essential services (health care, psychological support), which exacerbates the situation for survivors. Also, armed groups use rape as a means of radicalising and recruiting women into their ranks. In schools, young girls are particularly vulnerable, suffering sexual and psychological violence^[8], while boys are more exposed to physical violence legitimised by masculine stereotypes. Most young people's ignorance of legal provisions exposes them to these types of violence.

^[8] Lire Jean-Emmanuel Pondi, Harcèlement sexuel et déontologie en milieu universitaire, Yaoundé, Clé, 2e édition, 2011.



^[7] Samuel-Béni Ella Ella, Wendelin Arnaud Ateba Ondoua, et al., L'insertion socio-professionnelle des jeunes au Cameroun en question. Contribution à la sociologie de la jeunesse, Paris, l'harmattan Cameroun, 2025.

Limited access to education



Although education is a fundamental right, many young people still don't have access to quality education, a situation made worse by conflict, poverty, and poor or dilapidated school infrastructure. In conflict-affected areas, access to education is severely threatened by armed groups who attack schools and prohibit access to them. According to UNICEF figures, more than 1.5 million school-age children are in need of educational assistance in the North-West, South-West, Far-North, West, and Littoral regions by reason of the crises. Furthermore, certain socio-cultural beliefs severely hamper girls' access to education, with some parents believing it is preferable for them to stay at home to do domestic chores or prepare for marriage.

This exclusion from education creates a vicious circle among youth. Young people without access to appropriate education lack essential information about peace, security and their rights, making them vulnerable to radicalisation or illegal activities. In addition, opportunities for employment and personal empowerment are limited, fuelling marginalisation and social exclusion. These inequalities often encourage internal migration or migration to other countries, where young people seek better educational and living conditions but face new challenges of integration and access to services.

Migration issues



Young Cameroonians today face a complex migration reality, largely fuelled by violent conflicts, socio-economic challenges and natural disasters. In 2024, an estimated 2 million people were forcibly displaced in Cameroon, among which were more than 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 460,000 refugees and asylum seekers, and approximately 658,000 returnees. These figures, provided by UNHCR and IOM, highlight the scale of displacement and the pressure on host communities.

Conflicts in the North West and South West regions, combined with ongoing violence linked to Boko Haram in the Far North, have severely disrupted education and health systems, while reducing economic opportunities. This situation has exacerbated youth unemployment, weakened trust in institutions, and prompted many young people to consider irregular migration or displacement to other communities for safety reasons. Most displaced persons are children, young women and young men, meaning that the burden of violence and displacement falls disproportionately on young people, threatening both their safety and their future.

Furthermore, according to figures provided by UNHCR and IOM, Cameroon is hosting approximately 126,000 Nigerians and more than 355,000 nationals of the Central African Republic, of whom more than 37% are young people. These displaced young people often face additional tensions when trying to integrate into host communities, namely discrimination and limited access to opportunities and basic services. These tensions undermine social cohesion between displaced persons and local populations, making peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence particularly difficult.

Without sustainable peace, respect for fundamental rights, prospects for education and livelihoods, migration risks becoming not a choice but a necessity for survival.



Discrimination and inequality



The persistent exclusion of young people from political life, peacebuilding processes and the socio-economic sphere is a major challenge to Cameroon's stability and development. Even though nearly 60% of Cameroon's population is under the age of 35, young people remain largely under-represented in decision-making bodies: less than 2% of parliamentary seats and barely 3% of mayors' positions are held by individuals in this age group.

This marginalisation is aggravated by deep socio-economic inequalities, including youth unemployment and underemployment, which are particularly severe in rural areas and regions affected by conflict. Young women suffer even greater exclusion due to persistent patriarchal attitudes in some communities, which hinder their effective access to civic and economic spaces. Similarly, young people with disabilities and indigenous groups face multiple forms of discrimination, restricting their access to opportunities and social recognition.

These disparities to access representation and opportunities weaken social cohesion, erode trust in institutions, fuel frustration and increase the risk of political violence, radicalisation and recruitment into armed groups.

Therefore, addressing peace and security issues in Cameroon requires much more than conflict resolution: it involves tackling structural inequalities and creating inclusive mechanisms that enable young people to participate effectively in governance, reconciliation and sustainable development.

Consumption of drugs and narcotics



The consumption of drugs and narcotics among young men and women in Cameroon poses a growing threat to national peace and security. It undermines the foundation of social stability and is increasingly becoming a vehicle for radicalisation and a tool used for recruitment into violent movements, particularly in times of crisis. This phenomenon, which is constantly growing, fuels the vulnerabilities of young people, compromises their future and increases the risk of social breakdown, particularly in areas exposed to insecurity.

In Cameroon, available data indicate that annual prevalence rates are 72.4% for smoked cigarettes and cannabis, 79.3% for alcoholic beverages and 50.5% for tramadol. In conflict-affected areas, rates of alcohol, tobacco, tramadol, marijuana and other hard drugs use are rising at an alarming rate. A study conducted in Buea found that 15.3% of secondary school students reported non-medical use of prescription drugs, particularly tramadol^[9], stimulants and sleeping pills, with most initiating in the consumption of these drugs between the ages of 15 and 17^[10].

This phenomenon is closely linked to an increase in violent behaviour, juvenile delinquency and a deterioration in mental health among young people. For many, drug consumption has become a survival mechanism in the face of persistent insecurity: it numbs trauma and provides psychological armour for committing violent acts, but it also fuels growing mistrust of public institutions.

^[10] Nkouonlack, C., Shifu, I.N., Atchou, J.G.B. et al. Prevalence and associated factors of non-medical use of prescription drugs among adolescents in secondary schools in Buea, Cameroon: a cross-sectional study. BMC Psychiatry 23, 695 (2023)



^[9] Secteursante.com: cameroun-41-des-consommateurs-de-drogues-en-2023-sont-des-handicapees-trop-c-est-trop-le-ministre-de-la-sante-prend-des-mesures-fortes

The repercussions of this dynamic are very alarming: they result in an upsurge in violence in schools, a weakening of community cohesion, and increased vulnerability in already fragile areas. Faced with this multi-dimensional threat, it is becoming urgent for Cameroon to strengthen its public policies and intervention programmes. It is not just a question of prevention and punishment, but above all, tackling the structural causes of drug addiction, such as untreated trauma, social exclusion and lack of economic prospects. Wider and more appropriate access to rehabilitation services is also a key factor for offering young people viable alternatives to self-destruction.

Hate speech and digital incivility



Cameroon is facing a concerning rise in hate speech, fuelled by ethnic, political and social tensions. Young Cameroonians are increasingly exposed to major risks linked to hate speech, misinformation, cyberbullying and other forms of digital violence, thereby compromising peace, security and social cohesion. This discourse, widely disseminated online through social media and community spaces, fuels division, mistrust, hatred and violence between ethnic groups, between students, teachers and communities. Young people are both vectors and victims of this discourse, which undermines social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and sustainable peace. Young people in the North West and South West regions reported that social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Telegram and WhatsApp were used to spread both information and disinformation. In many cases, unverified reports and falsified images of killings and abuses circulated rapidly, exacerbating grievances, inciting reprisals and undermining local reconciliation initiatives. In some parts of the country, since 2022, hate speech has led to open clashes between ethnic groups.

The misuse of digital tools also has a detrimental effect on peace efforts. Increasingly, the digital space is conducive for the spread of disinformation, misinformation, harassment and cybercrime. In 2023, Cameroon's National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) noted that young people accounted for a significant proportion of the more than 12,000 reported cases of cybercrime (online fraud, '419' scams, identity theft and computer hacking). These offences have contributed to undermining citizens' trust in the digital platforms used for civic engagement and commercial activities, spreading fear and exacerbating tensions in an already fragile security context.



Although the State of Cameroon is determined to fight hate speech and digital incivility through, among others, the adoption of Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime; considerable efforts are still needed to step up action against hate speech on the ground and online.



ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security is aligned with existing policies and legal frameworks.

A. National policies



Cameroon Vision 2035

Cameroon's Vision 2035, which aims to transform the country into an emerging economy characterised by sustainable growth, social equity and good governance, places particular emphasis on young people as key players in national development. It highlights the importance of providing young people with quality education, vocational training and employment opportunities in order to harness their potential as drivers of innovation and social change. At the same time, this vision considers peace and stability to be essential conditions for economic transformation, recognising that young people's aspirations cannot be achieved without an environment free from violence, insecurity and social fragmentation. It therefore provides for increased investment in peacebuilding, civic engagement and inclusive governance; creating spaces for young people to contribute to conflict prevention, national unity and the consolidation of a sustainable culture of peace, which is the foundation for Cameroon's long-term development.

The National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (SND30)

Cameroon's National Development Strategy (SND30) establishes that s ustainable development and peace are intrinsically linked, placing young people at the centre of national transformation. With more than 60% of the population under the age of 35, it identifies young women and men as key drivers of economic growth, innovation and social cohesion. The strategy calls for increased investment in education, skills development and entrepreneurship as a prerequisite to reap the demographic dividend, while promoting civic participation and resilience in the face of violence, radicalisation and exclusion. By integrating peacebuilding and conflict prevention into its pillars, the SND30 highlights the importance of empowering young women and men as agents of peace, so that their aspirations and energy can contribute to building a more inclusive, stable and prosperous Cameroon.







The National Youth Policy (NYP 2006)

Cameroon's first National Youth Policy (2006) presented youths as key players in nation building and social cohesion, closely linked to their participation in peacebuilding. It emphasised civic education, volunteering and leadership development as tools for strengthening democratic values and peaceful coexistence. By encouraging youth involvement in local governance and community development initiatives, this policy aimed to reduce marginalisation, which was seen as a key factor in conflict. It also promoted partnerships between government, civil society and international organisations to support youth-led peace initiatives. Its focus on training, dialogue and entrepreneurship provided young people with the means to express their demands in a non-violent manner. Overall, this policy paved the drafting for the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, which was subsequently reinforced by global frameworks such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250.

National institutions: the CNYC

The Cameroon National Youth Council, created in 2009, aims to serve as a unifying platform for youth associations and movements, with a view to promote youth leadership in the development of the nation. It provides a unified platform enabling young people to engage in the socio-economic and political life of the country. One of its main commitments since its creation has been to raise awareness among young people in building a peaceful Cameroon. In addition, the CNYC serves as a platform for exchange, consultation and dialogue to promote youth participation in building a united and prosperous Cameroon. Finally, it acts as an interface between public authorities, development partners and young people.





B. African continental frameworks

Adoptée par l'Union Africaine, cette charte engage les États membres à promouvoir les droits des jeunes, leur participation active au développement et leur accès aux services essentiels.



The African Youth Charter (2006)

Adopted by the African Union, this charter commits member states to promoting the rights of young people, their active participation in development and their access to essential services.

The African Union Continental Framework on YPS

The African Union Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) provides a roadmap for contextualising the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Africa, recognising young people as key actors in peacebuilding. It promotes the institutionalisation of their participation in conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict reconstruction. This framework focuses on five essential pillars: protection; prevention; participation; partnerships and coordination; disengagement and reintegration. It also encourages Member States to develop National Action Plans and invest in youth-led initiatives aimed at promoting peace, security and sustainable development on the continent.





The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

APSA is a set of African Union mechanisms aimed at preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. It includes the Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force, the Peace Fund and the Panel of the Wise. APS places young people at the heart of these dynamics.

The African Union's Agenda 2063

This strategic agenda envisions an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, led by its citizens, especially young people. It emphasises the empowerment of young people and their role in transforming the continent.





The Kinshasa Convention (2010)

This regional convention aims to prevent and eliminate the illicit trade in small arms in Central Africa, thereby contributing to the safety of young people and communities.



The Malabo Convention (2014)

It establishes a framework for cybersecurity and personal data protection in Africa, protecting young people in the digital space and promoting a safe environment for their development.





The Bujumbura Declaration (2022)

This Declaration calls for the establishment of National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security, aligned with the African Union's continental framework, to institutionalise the meaningful participation of young people in all aspects of peacebuilding.

C. International Frameworks

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)



This historic resolution recognises the essential role of young people in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. It is based on five pillars: participation, protection, prevention, partnership and disengagement/reintegration.

Resolutions 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020)



These reinforce Resolution 2250 by calling for greater inclusion of young people in peace processes and emphasising the need to implement national action plans on youth, peace and security.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The SDGs, particularly Goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), provide a comprehensive framework for empowering young people and promoting peaceful societies.

THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

This Pact adopted at the United Nations Future Summit in September 2024, is an ambitious roadmap aimed at reforming global governance and responding to contemporary challenges. The pact focuses on several key areas, including peace, security, sustainable development, social justice and digital transformation. A unique commitment of the pact is to listen to young people and involve them in decision-making at the national and global levels. It is accompanied by the Declaration on Future Generations, which

urges governments to consider the long-term impacts of their decisions on future generations.

All these policies and legal frameworks, although necessary and important, do not fully address the problems faced by young people due to insufficient financial resources. In other words, though much has already been done by public authorities and development partners, young people still face many different challenges that vary according to context, which itself changes over time.



DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE NAP AND METHODOLOGY

Cameroon's commitment to strengthening youth participation in peacebuilding dates back to its 2006 National Youth Policy, which recognised young people as key actors in strengthening democratic values and promoting peaceful coexistence. This commitment was further consolidated following the participation of the Cameroonian government and youth representatives in the Global Youth Forum on Peace and Security in 2015. In addition, the active involvement of young Cameroonians in the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), which advocated for the adoption and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250), underscored the country's determination to advance the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. Since the adoption of UNSCR 2250 in 2015, young Cameroonians, development partners and the government have launched numerous initiatives to contextualise international normative frameworks and respond to the call by the African Union and the United Nations for the development of a national strategy to promote the meaningful participation of young people in peace and security.

This section focuses on the NAP development process and the methodology adopted for this study.

History of Cameroon's NAP on YPS



Inspired by the participation of young Cameroonians and the government in the development of global normative frameworks on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), Cameroon's process towards the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) on YPS began following an urgent call by young Cameroonians during the celebration of the second anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 in Yaoundé in 2017[11]. This appeal called for the development of a national strategy to advance the objectives of the resolution.

In response, a capacity-building training course on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2250, funded by the British High Commission in Cameroon, was organised for 30 representatives of youth CSOs from across the country^[12]. This training led to the creation of a pilot youth coalition on YPS, tasked with advocating for the contextualisation of the resolution in Cameroon.



^[11] Facebook.com/LoYoc

^[12] Facbook.com/LoYoc

Following the adoption of Resolution 2419 (2018) on youth and peace processes, Cameroon hosted a National Symposium on Youth and Peace Processes in November 2019. The event mobilised more than 600 young people from all regions and brought together representatives from the government, diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, international NGOs and youth organisations to reflect on the implementation of the YPS agenda. It also led to the creation of the Cameroon Youth Mediators Network to promote the contextualisation of Resolution 2419^[13].

In the context of the gradual return to normalcy following the COVID-19 pandemic, Cameroon organised a major national symposium in November 2021, aimed at contextualising the African Union's Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). This initiative marked the very first national consultation dedicated to the effective implementation of this strategic agenda in Cameroon. This process, led by Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC), chaired by the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC), and supported by UNFPA Cameroon, the African Union and the Office of the High Commissioner of Canada, gathered the perspectives of 500 participants (34.5% girls, 58.6% boys and 6.9% adults) across the country's ten regions^[14]. With the support of UNOY in 2022, youth associations working for peace in Cameroon conducted a baseline study on the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Cameroon. The study collected data from 28 civil society organisations (CSOs) and 108 households (75 women and 52 men) from the four geographical areas of the country. The study revealed that 92.9% of organisations work on the pillar of participation, 78.6% on partnerships, 75% on prevention, 57.1% on protection, and 50% on certain aspects of disengagement and reintegration^[15].

To strengthen capacities and deepen knowledge on global processes for developing NAPs on YPS, Cameroon joined the Global Coalition on YPS Community of Practice in 2022. This involvement inspired the integration of YPS initiatives into the Youth Connekt Cameroon program, through which more than 1,715 young people were consulted and trained as peace ambassadors and YPS champions. Participation in this Community of Practice also motivated MINJEC to create, in July 2023, the National Commission on Youth, Peace and Security (NCYPS), tasked with coordinating the efforts of the government, youth, civil society and technical and financial partners with a view to developing a national strategy. To ensure national ownership, this commission has mobilised various ministries, public institutions, United Nations agencies, international NGOs, diplomatic missions, CSOs, youth movements, faith-based and traditional organisations, as well as other development actors in Cameroon.



In the same year, MINJEC supported the YOUNG Cameroon project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Search for Common Ground and LOYOC. This project aimed to popularise the YPS agenda, strengthen the capacities of 50 youth-led organisations, create a Network of Youth-Led Peacebuilding Organisations and a YPS Resource Centre, develop a national implementation plan for the YPS NAP, and consult 500 young people in the ten regions on their priorities for Cameroon's NAP.

^[15] UNOY Peacebuilders and Mother of Hope Cameroon, « Baseline Study on the Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Cameroon», 2022.



^[13] Facebook.com/LoYoc

^[14] Local Youth Corner Cameroon, « Nation-wide Consultation and Restitution on the AU Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security », 2021.



To mark National Youth Day in 2023, UNFPA Cameroon and Plan International organised a capacity-building workshop for young leaders on 7th – 8th February, followed by an intergenerational dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. Chaired by the Minister of Youth and Civic Education, the meeting brought together around 100 representatives of youth movements, as well as representatives from ministries, Parliament and other national institutions. In October of the same year, the Government of Cameroon hosted a regional training-of-trainers workshop on national YPS frameworks in Yaoundé, bringing together 40 young people, ministerial representatives and United Nations agencies with the support of the UNFPA Regional Office for West and Central Africa to discuss the implementation of YPS NAPs^[16].

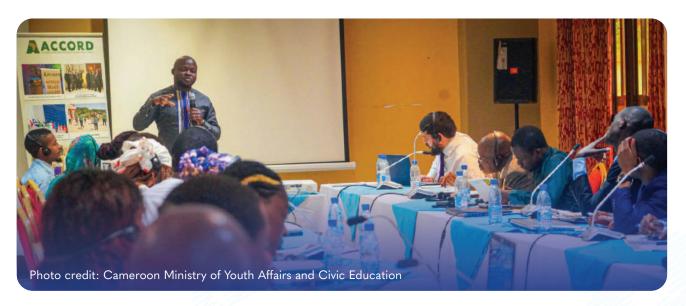
This workshop resulted in the validation of a national roadmap for the development of the YPS NAP. In order to move beyond the action plan, advocacy meetings and capacity-building sessions, supported by GIZ, were organised with 15 parliamentarians from the Youth Advocacy Network, strengthening their understanding of the YPS agenda and highlighting the need for legislation to support the NAP. Similarly, at the invitation of the National Commission on Youth, Peace and Security, ACCORD and GIZ-UA organised a national workshop to raise awareness among young people about the development of a National Action Plan on the YPS agenda. This initiative strengthened the capacities of 20 young people from the country's 10 regions on issues related to youth, peace and security, while highlighting their active and meaningful participation in the NAP development process at the national level^[17].

^[17] Adam Randera «ACCORD partners with young people in Cameroon to promote the development of a youth, peace and security national action plan».

Novembre 2023



^[16] Cameroon Tribune, « West, Central Africa Youth Develop Peace, Security Action Plan», Octobre 2023.



The momentum accelerated in 2024 with the recruitment of consultants and the establishment of a technical committee of experts within the National YPS Commission to compile existing data, gather new perspectives and draft the NAP. A distinctive feature of this process was its intergenerational approach: a senior consultant (adult) worked alongside two young consultants (a young man and a young woman) and the committee of experts (made up mainly of young people) to ensure inclusivity and knowledge transfer.

To present the initial findings, gather further opinions and raise awareness of the NAP development process, a National Colloquium on YPS was organised in Cameroon by Local Youth Corner Cameroon, in collaboration with Search for Common Ground and the CNYC, with the support of the European Union in Cameroon, UNFPA Cameroon and MINJEC^[18]. It brought together more than 700 participants from across the country. The Colloquium aimed to finalise and implement the National Action Plan's inception report and brought together MINJEC officials, the team of consultants, members of the NCYPS and CNYC, the technical expert group, representatives of CSOs, youth groups and technical and financial partners.

To validate the data collected since 2017, a final national consultation was organised, involving 200 young people and adults from Cameroon's main cultural areas: Sawa, Grassfield, Fang-Beti and Sudano-Sahelian in December 2024. This stage was followed by three technical review meetings and a validation workshop in May 2025 to finalise the NAP under the coordination of the National Youth Council, the supervision of MINJEC and with the support of UNESCO and UN Women and financed by the UNPBF.

In total, approximately 4,570 young people, adults and community members were consulted and trained throughout the process of developing this National Action Plan between 2017 and 2025. This journey, inspired by communities, led by young people and supported by international partners and the government, illustrates Cameroon's inclusive and collaborative approach to advancing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

^[18] News Watch Cameroon, at Yaoundé Colloquium: SFCG Cameroon, LOYOC rally stakeholders to advance youth, peace and security scheme. Novembre 2024.



Table 1. Stakeholder commitment to the NAP on YPS

\rightarrow Summary of Key Activities - Development of Cameroon's NAP on YPS

Date/ Year	Activity/Event	Key Results/Actions	Participants Reached
2017	2nd Anniversary of UNSCR 2250 in Yaoundé	Call by young Cameroonians for the development of a national strategy on YPS	N/A
2017	Capacity-building training on UNSCR 2250	Creation of a pilot youth coalition on YPS	30 youth CSO representatives
2019	National Symposium on Youth and Peace Processes	Reflection on the YPS agenda, creation of the Cameroon Youth Mediators Network	600+ young people
2021	2021 Symposium on contextualising the AU Continental Framework on YPS	First national consultation on the implementation of YPS	500 (34.5% girls, 58.6% boys, 6.9% adults)
2022	2022 Membership in the Global Community of Practice on YPS; Integration into Youth Connekt Cameroon	Capacity building on YPS NAP processes	1,715 young people trained
2022	2022 Baseline study on the implementation of the YPS agenda in Cameroon	Data was collected across Cameroon's four geographical zones, with interviews focusing on the implementation of the YPS agenda. 25 youth-led civil society organisations took part.	150 young people were interviewed.
2023	Creation of the National Commission on YPS	Coordination of multi-stakeholder efforts towards the NAP	N/A
2023	YOUNG Cameroon project (funded by the EU)	Promotion of the YPS agenda, strengthening of 50 CSOs, creation of a YPS Network and Resource Centre, youth consultations	50 CSOs; 500 young people
2023	2023 Capacity- building workshop for young leaders and intergenerational dialogue on YPS	An international YPS expert trained young people and facilitated dialogue between young people and adults	100 young people and adults
2023	2023 Regional Training Workshop for Trainers on the YPS NAP Frameworks in Yaoundé	Validation of the National Roadmap for the Development of the YPS NAP	40 young people, ministries, UN representatives
2023	Advocacy and capacity- building meetings with parliamentarians	Advocacy for a law to support the NAP	15 parliamentarians



2023	National workshop to raise awareness among young people on the development of the YPS NAP in Cameroon	This workshop strengthened the capacities of young Cameroonians on YPS issues, while highlighting and optimising their meaningful participation in the NAP development process.	20 young participants
2024	Recruitment of consultants and creation of a technical committee	Data compilation, collection of perspectives, development of the NAP (intergenerational team)	N/A
2024	National Colloquium on YPS	Presentation of results, collection of perspectives, dissemination of the NAP process	700+ participants
2024– 2025	Final national consultation and validation workshops	Data validation and finalisation of the NAP	200 participants (Sawa, Grassfield, Fang-Beti, Sudano- Sahelian)
2025	2025 Three technical committee review sessions and one validation meeting	To review and validate the draft NAP.	participants for validation, 26 participants for review sessions
2017– 2025	Total scope of all activities	Consultation and capacity building during the development of the NAP	4,570 people

Methodology

The methodology used for this process was based on four key areas: large-scale community and national awareness-raising, capacity building for young people and other stakeholders, consultation and interviews with young people and adults from diverse backgrounds, and review of reports from previous Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) initiatives.

In the context of developing the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon, the PESTEL^[19] analysis proved to be extremely useful in that it made it possible t:

- → identify opportunities and threats to peace;
- → adapting overall strategies to the realities on the ground in order to meet the specific needs of young people in the country;
- ightarrow anticipating change; mobilising resources and strengthening the coherence of public policies..

^[19] The PESTEL model is a strategic analysis tool regularly used to assess external factors that may influence an organization or project. The acronym PESTEL breaks down into six methodological fields of research, which are as follows: political; economic; social; technological; environmental; and legal. Read François Aguilar, Scanning the Business Environment, MacMillan Co., New York, 1967.





THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

A. Justification

The establishment of a National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) illustrates Cameroon's deep commitment to actively supporting its youth as actors and partners in the areas of peace and security. The Cameroon NAP-YPS aligns with the objectives of the existing normative frameworks on Youth, Peace and Security. It presents strategies aimed at strengthening the meaningful participation of young people in all aspects related to peace and security, while proposing solutions to the challenges identified by young Cameroonians during consultations conducted in the country's four cultural areas (see appendices 2 and 3). The plan presents five vital signs of peace and links them to the five key areas of the YPS agenda: Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnership and Coordination, and Disengagement and Reintegration. The adoption of a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security represents a strategic opportunity for Cameroon to ensure a peaceful and inclusive future for its youth while strengthening social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and national stability.

B. Vision and problem

→ Vision

A peaceful, secure and inclusive Cameroon, where empowered young people actively participate and co-lead efforts (with their adult counterparts) towards lasting peace, social cohesion, enhanced coexistence and harmonious national sustainable development.

→ Statement of the problem^[20]

Young people in Cameroon face several challenges. These challenges are political, legal, socio-cultural, economic, digital and environmental. Indeed, young people experience limited socio-economic opportunities, are exposed to violence and discrimination, and lack the resources and platforms to participate meaningfully in political and decision-making processes. Young people also find that policies and agendas do not always reflect their needs. These factors contribute to youth disaffection and vulnerability to violent manipulation, reduced trust in institutions, and intergenerational conflicts that prevent Cameroon from progressing socio-politically and economically.





C. The theory of change

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- → Young Cameroonians are constructively integrated into decision-making processes and see their leadership potential strengthened through skills development, socio-economic empowerment and protection from violence and exploitation.;
- → Institutions at all levels (governmental, traditional, community and international partners) collaborate proactively, inclusively, responsibly and responsively to the needs of young people, while addressing systemic barriers such as unemployment, inequality, poor governance, mental health issues and limited access to education;
- → Concerted efforts are made to promote intergenerational dialogue, mutual trust and social cohesion between young people, institutions and communities through evidence-based peace initiatives;
- → Adequate financial, technical and human resources are mobilised and managed effectively to provide sustainable support for youth-led peace initiatives;

Then

- → Young Cameroonians will gain autonomy, resilience and motivation to actively engage in peace, security and governance processes, thereby reducing their vulnerability to violence, crime and radicalisation;
- → Institutions working with young people will strengthen their legitimacy, public trust and effectiveness in responding to their needs and demands, promoting more effective governance and conflict prevention;
- → Greater social cohesion and harmonious living together, based on collaboration and trust between young people, communities and institutions, will help to reduce divisions and encourage lasting peace.



KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

To put this theory of change into practice, Cameroon's National Action Plan (NAP) will focus on the following areas: :

Capacity building and youth leadership



- → Train young people in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, civic engagement, leadership and advocacy skills.
- → Strengthening socio-economic empowerment programmes (education, employment, entrepreneurship).

Institutional strengthening and accountability



- → Raise awareness and train government officials, security forces, traditional and community leaders, and civil society on inclusive approaches to youth.
- → Strengthen institutional response, including policies that encourage youth co-leadership and partnership opportunities.
- → Establish transparent and accountable mechanisms for youth participation in policy design, implementation and monitoring.

Protection and safety of young people



- → Create and strengthen a culture of safety for young women and young men and develop protection mechanisms so that they can participate safely in leadership opportunities.
- → Strengthen protection mechanisms against violence, exploitation, recruitment by armed groups and radicalisation.
- → Provide psychosocial support and reintegration programmes for young people affected by conflict.

Mobilisation of resources and strategic partnership



- → Forge multi-stakeholder partnerships (national, regional, international) to ensure sustainable funding and technical and material support.
- → Set up national and local coordination mechanisms to make sure programmes are consistent and effective.

Social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue



- → Promote initiatives for dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between young people, institutions and communities.
- → Fight against misinformation, hate speech and digital incivility through education, awareness campaigns and youth-led projects.



Key hypotheses

The effectiveness of the theory of change depends on the fulfilment of a number of key conditions, including:

- → young people, given adequate resources and opportunities, will voluntarily engage in civic and peace initiatives;
- → community institutions and leaders recognise the value of their participation and are open to constructive collaboration;
- → the fight against socio-economic exclusion, unemployment and inequality will reduce the factors that make young people vulnerable;
- → intergenerational dialogue and mutual trust can overcome mistrust and polarisation;
- → coordinated resource mobilisation will ensure sustainable funding for the implementation of the NAP.

Indicators of success

The indicators of success reflect a significant transformation of the desired socio-political landscape, where the voice of young people is recognised as an essential vector for peace, security and development. They are:

- → increased participation of young people in local and national decision-making and peace processes;
- → increased satisfaction among young people with the responsiveness and accountability of institutions:
- → reduction in violent systems that target young people and provide incentives for youth involvement in violence, radicalisation and armed conflict;
- → strengthened collaboration and trust between young people and institutions;
- → increased and sustainable national, regional and international investment in youth-led peace initiatives.

► IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AND DESIRED IMPACT

The table below provides an analysis of the NAP implementation framework and the desired impact. This implementation framework is based on the five vital signs of peace mentioned above. It is broken down as follows: specific objective; outcome; key actions; indicators; sources of verification; responsible institutions/organisations; budget; the link to the pillars of UNSC Resolution 2250; link to the main obstacles identified; and timeline. It is important to note that the activities selected are fully in line with the solutions formulated by the young people themselves, following consultations conducted as part of this process.



Table 2. Implementation framework and desired impact

Impact areas: Vital sign 1: Strengthening youth action for peace

Specific objective: Strengthen and amplify the leadership of young people and vulnerable groups in particular (young women and men, young people with disabilities, indigenous youth, young refugees, etc.) in social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and sustainable peace.

Result: At least 50% of trained youth leaders are involved in local peace initiatives (peace clubs, community dialogues, awareness campaigns) in the 10 regions of Cameroon by 2029.

Key actions	Indicators	Sources of verification	Responsible institutions/organisation s	Budget (CFAF)	Link to the pillars of UNSC Resolution 2250	Link to main obstacles Political/institutional/security, socio-economic, cultural/gender/psychosocial/digital .
capacities in leadership, peacebuilding and	trained), Number of operational	Training and activity reports from partner organizations; Action plans developed by youth platforms;	MINAS, MINESEC,	4,250,000,000	Participation, Prevention, Reintegratio	Policy: Low participation of young people in formal political spaces; popular consideration of youth age (7 to 77 years old) Socio-cultural: Prejudices about young people's ability to take on leadership roles.
Support for community initiatives led by young people (inter-community dialogue projects, awareness campaigns).	and implemented	Reports on surveys conducted among young people; Reports on initiatives led by young people and on platforms;	MINJEC, MINPROFF, MINAS, MINESEC, MINESUP, MINEFOP, MINSEP, MINAC, CNPBM, CNDDR, CTD	3,600,000,000	Participation, Prevention, Protection, Reintegratio	Economic: Limited access for young people to resources to finance their initiatives.



Total Vital Signs Budget 1	7,850,000,000	7		M _{MA} .
Timeline	2026-2030	/		7970

Impact areas: Vital sign 2: Strengthening institutional confidence and the legitimacy of the YPS Agenda

Specific objective: Improve the perception and participation of young women and men in public decision-making processes related to peace and security

Result: Creation of youth peace and security committees in 50% of CTDs and integration of a youth representative in 70% of local participatory governance bodies by 2030.

Key actions	Indicators	Sources of verification	Responsible institutions/organisations	Budget (CFAF)	Link to the pillars of UNSC Resolution 2250	Link to main obstacles Political/institutional/security, socio-economic, cultural/gender/psychosocial/di gital
THIAIDYNES DELWEEN	organised (target:	ministries	MINAT, MINDDVL, MINJEC, CTD, MINCOM, CNYCCNYC	1,330,000,000	Participation, Prevention, Partnership,	Policy/Institutional



Dissemination of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda	(community, media, digital) Target:	Campaign reports, Youth survey report, Press book, statistics on digital platforms and traditional media content disseminated.	MINCOM, MINPOSTEL, MINJEC, CNYC	50,000,000	Participation, Prevention	All obstacles
Strengthening effective legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure that young people's aspirations are taken into account.	Act; Number of Youth, Peace	Security Act; Acts establishing	PRC, MINJEC, National Assembly, SENATE, CNYC, RLAs, ELECAM	200,000,000	Participation, Prevention, Protection	All obstacles
Total Vital Signs		1,580,000,000				
Budget 2 Timeline		2026-2030				





Impact areas: Vital sign 3: Reduction of violence and crime

Specific objective 1: Reduce the dynamics of youth vulnerability

Result: By 2028, at least 60% of at-risk youth identified in priority areas are engaged in programmes for socio-economic reintegration, psychosocial support, and violence and crime prevention.

Key actions	Indicators	Sources of verification	Responsible institutions/organisations	Budget (CFAF)	Link to the pillars of UNSC Resolution 2250	Link to main obstacles Political/institutional/secur ity, socio-economic, cultural/gender/psychosoci al/digital
Training and support for young people in social, cultural, digital and environmental entrepreneurship	people)	Annual activity reports from sectoral ministries	MINJEC, MINAS, MINPROFF, MINADER, MINPMEESA, MINEFOP, MINPOSTEL, MINESUP, MINTOUL, MINFOF, MINEPDED, CNDDR, CTD	20,000,000,000	Prevention, protection, reintegration	Socio-economic Cultural and digital



Prevention of irregular migration and forced displacement linked to conflict, climate change and fragility	the risks of irregular migration, adaptation to climate change and local opportunities.	IOM and DGSN reports, national statistics, case studies, project reports, youth	MINJEC, MINEPAT, MINAS, MINAT, local civil society and youth organisations, TFPs	250,000,000	Prevention, protection,	Socio-economic
harnessing the youth	consultation meetings with young people from the diaspora (target: 10) Number of visits to the digital platform connecting with the youth diaspora. Number of youth festivals organised by the diaspora	meetings with young people from the diaspora, data from the digital platform connecting with young people from the diaspora, report on the festival organised by young people from the diaspora; Number of businesses created by young people returning from the		250,000,000	Participation, Prevention	Political/Institutional/Securit y, Socio-economic/Digital



	Number of support measures granted to young people returning from the diaspora (target: 100)	pecific objective 2: Re	educe youth involvement in	acts of violence and	l crime	
Result: Reduce the number of cases involving young people in acts of violence or crime by at least 40% by 2030. Number of						
Intensify the fight against drug use among young people	awareness campaigns held (Target: National 10, Regional 20, Local 5000); number of	Activity reports from various organizations; Ministerial decrees establishing detoxification centres; Follow-up reports	MINJEC, MINSANTE, MINAS, DGSN,	2,400,000,000	Prevention, protection, reintegration	All obstacles

	(target: 75% of detected cases) number of young people cured and reintegrated (Target: 50% of those who have completed the treatment process)					
Implementation of the national strategy to combat violent extremism and radicalisation.	awareness	Activity reports from various organisations; MINAT reports, CNDDR reports, MINJUSTICE reports	MINJEC, MINJUSTICE, CNDDR, DGSN, SED, CNYCCNYC, CSOs and TFPs	2,500,000,000	Prevention, protection,	All obstacles



Creation of special units to secure schools and universities in the 10 regions.	and operational	the units,	DGSN; SED; MINAT;	500,000,000	Prevention, protection,	Social, Psychosocial
Total Vital Signs Budget 3		25,900,000,000	'Y///////			4//////////////////////////////////////
Timeline		2026-2030				

Impact areas: Vital sign for peace 4: Improving mutual trust among young people								
Specific objection	Specific objective: Strengthen social cohesion, reconciliation and mutual trust among young people, their families and communities							
Result: Young people from the ten regions of the country have developed positive and trusting relationships with each other, their families and their communities								
Key actions	Indicators		Responsible institutions/organisations	Budget (CFAF)	77/77/77/7/7/	Link to main obstacles Political/institutional/secur ity, socio-economic, cultural/gender/psychosoci al/digital		



Promotion of peace education	Adoption of peace education curricula in schools (Target: Number of primary and secondary school teachers trained in peace education; (Target 1,000) Number of schools that have delivered peace education modules; (Target 60% of primary and secondary schools)	reports	MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP, MINJEC, MINPOSTEL	400,000,000	Prevention	All obstacles
Combating hate speech and stigmatisation	Number of online content creators trained (1,000) Number of youth associations formed and leading caravans (target: 50) Number of platform declarations published (target: 10)	Reports from youth associations and movements,	CNPBM, CNYC, MINJEC, MINPOSTEL, ANTIC	935,000,000	Participation, Prevention, Protection,	Social, Cultural/Gender/Psychosocia l/Digital



Promoting youth-led and inter-community dialogue and mechanisms for non-violent conflict transformation ma pro 50 Nu int me curve or; (5) Nu curve or; (7) Strain or; (8) Nu int me or; (8) Nu pe aw	Regional 20, community/Ident y 100); cumber of electrons	100) CSO reports, regional council reports, community development committee reports; Reports from inter-youth dialogues	CNPBM, MINAC, CNYC	2,650,000,000	Participation, Prevention, Protection, Partnership	Social, Cultural/Gender/Psychosocia l/Digital
Total vital sign budget 4 Timeline		3,985,000,000 2026-2030				

Impact areas: Vital sign for peace 5: Strengthening collaboration between young people, the government, RLAs, traditional and religious authorities, and technical and financial partners in the implementation of the YPS Agenda

Specific objective: Strengthen inclusive governance and stakeholder coordination for coherent, sustainable and shared implementation of the YPS Agenda



Result: Establishment of a national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for the YPS Agenda, operational in all 10 regions, with an annual plan

and a youth accountability mechanism in place by 2026.

Key actions	Indicators	Sources of verification	Responsible institutions/organisations	Budget (CFAF)	Link to the pillars of UNSC Resolution 2250	Link to main obstacles Political/institutional/secur ity, socio-economic, cultural/gender/psychosoci al/digital
operationalisation of national and local coordination mechanisms to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of the	restructured and operational; Number of actors identified;	Reports on meetings	PRC, PMO, MINJEC,	2,500,000,000	Partnership	All obstacles



Strengthening smulti-stakeholder partnerships (national, regional and international) to ensure the sustainability of funding and technical support.	signed with national, regional and international stakeholders (target: 20); percentage of the YPS-NAP annual budget covered by	conventions; YPS-NAP annual implementation reports; Tables tracking partners' commitments and contributions	MINJEC, MINREX, MINEPAT, CNYC	500,000,000	Partnership	All obstacles
Total vital sign budget 5		3,000,000,000				
Timeline		2026-2030				



MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism of Cameroon's National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (NAP-YPS) is a fundamental pillar for ensuring accountability, measuring progress, strengthening the effectiveness of interventions and ensuring strategic, participatory and inclusive management of the Plan. This mechanism is based on a multi-level and multi-sectoral approach, integrating mechanisms for feedback, institutional coordination, learning, accountability and active youth participation.

A. Monitoring and evaluation instruments and tools

The M&E system is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative tools, including:

- → a structured results framework, with SMART indicators disaggregated by sex, age and vulnerability;
- → standardised activity sheets, completed by the implementing actors;
- → a participatory digital monitoring platform, accessible via the web and a mobile application, enabling young people to actively contribute to data collection and monitoring;
- → periodic reviews:
 - Quarterly (technical reviews),
 - Half-yearly (operational reviews),
 - Annual (strategic reviews),
 - Mid-term (2028) and final (2030) evaluations
- → qualitative studies (focus groups, change narratives, social mapping) to supplement statistical data.
- → the Peace Impact Framework (PIF) will be used to understand and measure the impact of actions taken in line with the identified vital signs.

B. Participatory approach and guiding principles

The mechanism is guided by the following principles::

- → meaningful participation of young people at all stages: data collection, validation, analysis and dissemination;
- → two-way accountability: sharing results with young people and taking their feedback into account to reorient actions;
- → transparency: annual publication of a report on the implementation of the NAP, accompanied by an official ceremony to present the report.

C. Reporting, learning and adaptation

- → quarterly monitoring reports and annual evaluation reports documenting progress, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations;
- → systematic use of results to adjust strategies, ensure the flexibility of the NAP and strengthen its contextual anchoring;
- → continuous capacity building for stakeholders through training sessions on results-based monitoring and evaluation.



D. Monitoring plan

This consists of two elements: data collection tools and the evaluation schedule.

Data collection tools and methods

- Satisfaction surveys

 Feedback forms (to assess the effectiveness of training and youth participation)
- Event attendance registers Legislative and policy documents (to monitor reforms and new legislation)

Evaluation schedule

- Quarterly monitoring Annual performance Mid-term evaluation of the Plan evaluations
- Final evaluation of the Plan to measure long-term impact (e.g. reduction of conflicts and increased youth engagement in governance)

E. Dedicated resources

M&E will represent 10% of the overall budget of the YPS NAP. These resources will be used to:

- → finance monitoring tools and activities;
- → support activity supervision missions;
- → support evaluation missions;
- → ensure the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the system.

F. Coordination mechanisms

This section describes how the development and implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) will be coordinated at the national and local levels.

The M&E system is structured around the following bodies:

Institutional steering framework

i. National Commission on Youth, Peace and Security (YPSNC)

As the national strategic coordination structure for the PAN JPS, it plays a central role in the strategic supervision of monitoring and evaluation. The Government of Cameroon, through MINJEC, has established a National Commission on Youth, Peace and Security. This commission is operational and its members have benefited from capacity building in preparation for intergenerational dialogue, a major step in the process of developing the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security. The commission, created by decision of MINJEC, brings together focal points from other ministerial departments in charge of youth issues, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and youth-led and youth-serving organisations, and civil society organisations (CSOs).



The present Plan aims to make the YPSNC an autonomous and independent institution on the same footing as the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism. Regular meetings, quarterly meetings (using digital means where possible) will be organised to assess progress, share best practices and adjust strategies where necessary. The YPSNC will work closely with all stakeholders in the process, such as the MINJEC, ministerial institutions promoting initiatives for youth, peace and security, the CNYC, CSOs, NGOs and development partners.

As the national coordinating body for initiatives in support of the youth, peace and security agenda, the YPSNC will:

- → Validates monitoring tools and methodologies (results framework, data collection sheets, indicators, etc.);
- → Coordinates annual reviews and mid-term reviews of the NAP;
- → Ensures coordination between the different levels of implementation (national, regional, local);
- → Facilitates dialogue between ministries, young people and partners;
- → Convenes quarterly and annual technical meetings.

ii. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC)

As the state administration responsible for youth issues and the technical focal point for the PAN YPS, MINJEC is responsible for:

- → Operational coordination of activity monitoring, in conjunction with focal points in other ministries;
- → Consolidating periodic reports;
- → Maintaining a national dashboard for monitoring the NAP;

iii. Sectoral ministerial institutions

Each ministry involved (MINPROFF, MINAS, MINAT, MINEFOP, etc.) shall designate a focal point responsible for:

- → Providing information on indicators related to its sector;
- → Contributing to data analysis and results evaluation;
- → Actively participating in technical monitoring committees.

Role of other actors in participatory monitoring

i. Conseil National de la Jeunesse du Cameroun (CNJC)

As the umbrella body for youth associations and movements, the CNYC acts as an interface between young beneficiaries and national and international public institutions. In the implementation of this PAN JPS.

- → it coordinates the selection of youth organisations and movements authorised to carry out activities under this Plan;
- → It contributes to the collection of field data through its regional and municipal branches;
- → It organises feedback from young people through discussion groups, surveys and digital platforms;
- → It coordinates the implementation of youth activities and participates in committees to validate results.



ii. Youth civil society organisations/NGOs

CSOs play a key role in:

- → Co-implementing NAP activities and community monitoring of commitments;
- → Documenting good practices and identifying obstacles;
- → Producing qualitative analyses to complement quantitative indicators.

iii. Technical and financial partners (TFPs)

TFPs support the M&E system through:

- → Financing data collection tools and digital platforms;
- → Capacity building for stakeholders in results-based monitoring and evaluation;
- → Participating in biannual reviews, joint missions and the final evaluation of the NAP.

Creation and mobilisation of Local Youth, Peace and Security Committees (LYPSC)

Local Youth, Peace and Security Committees (LYPSC) will be set up in each region in order to disseminate the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security throughout the national territory and anchoring participatory monitoring at the local level, These committees are intended to serve as local relays for the national monitoring and implementation mechanism.

The YPSLC will be composed of:

- Local youth representatives, notably from the regional branches of the CNYC and youth organisations;
- Local authorities (municipal elected officials, decentralised services of the MINJEC and relevant sectoral ministries);
- Non-governmental organisations and civil society actors involved in youth, peace and social cohesion issues.

The YPSLC will be responsible for:

- Monitor the local implementation of the PAN JPS, in line with regional priorities;
- Organise awareness-raising, community dialogue and capacity-building activities on peace, conflict prevention and youth participation;
- Regularly report to the YPSNC on activities, challenges encountered, specific needs and local successes.

These committees will also help to strengthen consultation between young people and public authorities in the territories, while promoting local ownership of the NAP.

In addition, the YPSNC will be able to gradually evolve towards the creation of Youth, Peace and Security Clubs in schools, universities and vocational training establishments, similar to the UNESCO Clubs, which are well known in Cameroonian educational circles. These clubs will help to embed education for peace, coexistence and citizenship in learning environments by providing young people with a formal framework for engagement and initiative.



Feedback mechanism

The YPSLC will be required to report to the YPSNC on the activities carried out and the challenges encountered.

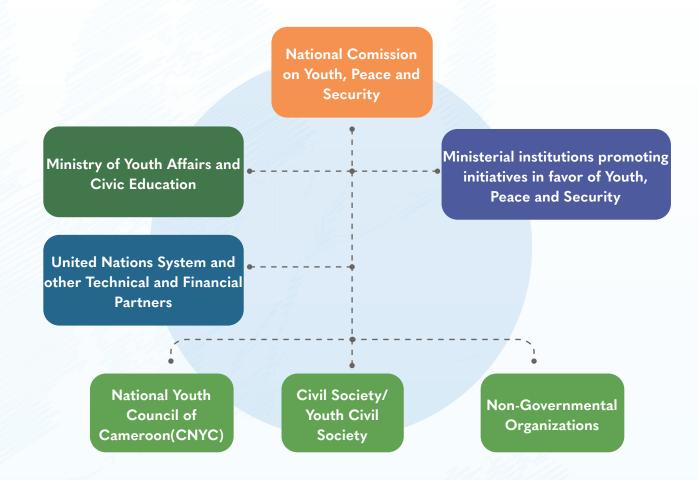
Annual evaluation

A comprehensive evaluation will be conducted each year to measure progress against set objectives.

These mechanisms will ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon, while guaranteeing clear accountability and continuous evaluation of results.

Figure 1. YPS coordination and monitoring structure

The draft text will describe the steering committee, its members, its term of office and the body providing secretariat services.





BUDGET FRAMEWORK

The total cost of the activities planned under the current NAP-YPS 2026-2030 is estimated at XAF 49 046 500 000 (forty-nine billion, forty-six million, five hundred thousand CFA francs).

Actions	Vital Sign	Cost in CF	Period
Sign Vital s	e vital 1 Strengthening youth action for peace		
Action 1	Strengthening youth capacities in leadership, peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the 10 regions of Cameroon	→ 4,250,000,000	
Action 2	Support for community initiatives led by young people (inter-community dialogue projects, awareness campaigns).	→ 3,600,000,000	2026-2030
	Total Vital sign 1: 7,850,000	0.000	
	Total Vital sign 1. 7,000,000	3,000	
Sign Vital s	e vital 2 Strengthening institutional confidence an	d the legitimacy of th	e YPS Agenda
Action 1	Organisation of public dialogues between young people and administrations at national, regional and local level	→ 1,330,000,000	2026-2030
Action 2	Dissemination of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda	→ 50,000,000	2026-2027
Action 3	Strengthening effective legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure that young people's aspirations are taken into account.	→ 200,000,000	2026-2030
	Total Vital sign 2: 1,580,000	,000	
Sign Vital s	e vital 3 Reduction of violence and crime		
Action 1	Training and support for young people in social, cultural, digital and environmental entrepreneurship	→ 20,000,000,000	
Action 2	Prevention of irregular migration and forced displacement linked to conflict, climate change and fragility	→ 250,000,000	2026-2030
Action 3	Mobilising and harnessing the youth diaspora for development and peace.	→ 250,000,000	
Action 4	Implémentation de la stratégie nationale de lutte contre l'extrémisme violent et la radicalisation	→ 2,500,000,000	



Action 5	Stepping up the fight against drug use among young people	→ 2,400,000,000	2026-2030
Action 6	Creation of special units to secure schools and universities in the 10 regions	→ 500,000,000	
	/ital sign 4 Total Vital sign 3: 25,900,000	0,000	
Ser me	e vital 4 Improving mutual trust among young peo	ple	
Action 1	Promotion of peace education	→ 400,000,000	
Action 2	Fight against hate speech and stigmatization	→ 935,000,000	
Action 3	Promoting youth-led and inter-community dialogue and mechanisms for non-violent conflict transformation	→ 2,650,000,000	2026-2030

Vital sign 5

Total Vital 4: 3 985 000 000

Signe vital 5 Strengthening collaboration between young people, the government, RLAs, traditional and religious authorities, and technical and financial partners in the implementation of the YPS Agenda

Action 1	Establishment and operationalisation of national and local coordination mechanisms to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of the YPS Agenda programmes	→ 2,500,000,000	2024 2020
Action 2	Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships (national, regional and international) to ensure the sustainability of funding and technical support.	→ 500,000,000	2026-2030

Total signe Vital 5: 3,000,000,000

Grand total 1: 38,390,000,000 Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Action 1 Operation of the National Commission on Youth, \rightarrow 2,500,000,000 Peace and Security 2026-2030 Action 2 \rightarrow 4,231,500,000 Monitoring and evaluation activities

Grand total 2: 6,731,500,000

Grand total of the Cameroon National Action Plan on YPS Cameroon 49,046,500,000



CONCLUSION

In a context of multiple and widespread conflicts in Cameroon, it appears imperative to examine the dynamics at play and the geopolitical issues underlying these situations. The analysis highlights the resurgence of tensions in specific regions of the country, notably the Far North, which is facing the actions of Boko Haram, the North-West and South-West, which are in the throes of a sociopolitical crisis, and the East, which is facing several security challenges due to armed conflicts in the Central African Republic. In this context, the development of a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security for Cameroon appears not only as a necessity, but also as an opportunity to integrate young people into a process of social and cultural transformation, enabling them to move from being victims of various conflicts to key actors in peacebuilding. This transformation is also relevant for the seven other regions of the country, whose economic and social situation is also subject to major challenges. Investing in young people is not just about betting on the future: it is about choosing, today, to consolidate the foundations of a stable, prosperous and reconciled Cameroon.

There is an urgent need to make this generation the beating heart of a profound and lasting national transformation^[21]. May this strategic document serve as a compass for present and future generations, a lever for engagement and a symbol of governance based on listening, trust and dignity. Ultimately, the success of the NAP-WPS in Cameroon will depend largely on strong political commitment, effective coordination between contemporary and traditional key actors, and adequate financial support from national and international sources.



^[21] Jean Armand Nkoetam Zambo, NKOETAM ZAMBO Jean Armand, 'The Cameroonian youth and peacebuilding: stakes, opportunities, and political prospects' paper presented at the International Symposium on Youth, Peace, and Security in the Sahel, June 16, 2025, at the Institute of International Relations of Cameroon (IRIC), p.1.





APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire for youths on the development of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon

Appendix 2: The main obstacles faced by young people in Cameroon

Appendix 3: Solutions proposed by young people during consultations in the four cultural areas



Appendix 1: Questionnaire for youths on the development of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon

- 1- How are peace and security referred to in your geographical and cultural area, and in the most widely spoken language in your region?
- 2- What is the main cause of conflict(s) and insecurity in your cultural area?
- 3- What processes are used to restore peace and security in your region? Is the input of traditional authorities also used?
- 4- What role do youths play in the outbreak of conflicts in your region on the one hand, and in the resolution of these conflicts on the other?
- 5- In your specific region, what methods are used to restore peace and security?

NB: Please ask young people to answer these questions in as much detail as possible. During these consultations, please take into account the following elements (date, place, actors, and references where applicable).

Thank you in advance for taking the time out of your busy schedule to answer these important questions.

The Lead Consultant

Prof. Jean-Emmanuel PONDI



Appendix 2: The main obstacles faced by young people in Cameroon

Category of obstacle	Identified obstacle	Areas affected	Impact on youths
Political/institutional/security	Low representation of young people in decision-making bodies Lack of youth involvement in local decision-making	All cultural areas	Feeling of exclusion, disinterest in peace processes Discouragement, withdrawal from civic spaces
	Violent extremism, increase in acts of violence	Far-Nort h North-W est and South-W est regions	Forced displacement Psychological trauma Risk of radicalisation and armed recruitment Loss of trust in institutions School dropout and interruption of educational pathways Economic exclusion
Socio-economic	High unemployment and lack		Increased
	of economic opportunities	All	vulnerability to manipulation and radicalisation
	Unequal access to resources and vocational training	cultural areas	Increased frustration and rising intergenerational tensions
	Migration issues		Social and identity tensions with local populations, particularly over access to resources (water, land, jobs). Risk of exploitation and precariousness.
	Limited access to education		Destabilisation of families and communities



			Social exclusion and
			marginalisation
			Vulnerability to
			abuse and manipulation
			Barriers to
			innovation and
			development
			Intergenerational cycles of poverty
Cultural/Gender/Psychosocial/Digital	Gender discrimination, weight of tradition in young women's participation		Self-exclusion of girls and women Invisibility of their specific needs
	Conflict-related trauma, untreated post-traumatic stress		2F 22222 110000
	-	All	Social isolation, loss
	Intergenerational conflicts and lack of trust between young people and authorities	cultural areas	of confidence, risky behaviour
	Addiction and drug use		Broken dialogue, hindrance to the joint construction of peace
			School dropout, delinquency, social isolation,
	Hate speech		vulnerability to armed violence
	Digital incivility		Community fragmentation, identity withdrawal, radicalisation,
			weakening of social cohesion
			Exposure to hatred and violence,
			manipulation of
			information, radicalisation and
			violence, weakening of social cohesion,
			undermining of
			digital citizenship



Appendix 3: Solutions proposed by young people during consultations in the four cultural areas

Proposals from young people	Type of solution	Inclusion in the NAP	Potential responsible parties
Genuinely promote good governance	Institutional policy Security Digital	Inclusive and transparent governance	Presidency of the Republic, Prime Minister's Office, MINJEC, CONSUPE, Parliament, CSOs involved in citizen monitoring
Greater involvement of young people in the management of public affairs at local and national levels	Political and institutional Security	Political and civic participation of young people	Presidency of the Republic, Prime Minister's Office, MINJEC, municipal councils, Parliament Youth, CTD
Creation of decentralised vocational training centres	Socio-economic	Economic empowerment of young people	MINJEC, MINEFOP, RLAs
Integration of young people into local conflict resolution mechanisms	Politics Institutional Security	Youth participation and inclusion	MINAT, MINDDVL, Regional Councils, Traditional Authorities
Psychosocial support for young victims of conflict	Psychosocial	Resilience and social cohesion	MINAS, Ministry of Public Health, local CSOs/NGOs
Creation of intergenerational platforms for dialogue	Cultural and institutional	Strengthening social and intergenerational ties	MINAC, traditional authorities, youth platforms
Strengthening microcredit programmes tailored to youth projects	Economic	Access to economic opportunities	MINPMEESA, MINJEC, partner financial institutions
Adopt specific laws in favour of young people	Legal	Legal and policy framework responsive to the needs of young people	MINJEC, MINJUSTICE, National Assembly, Senate
Prioritise vocational training and promote a culture of youth entrepreneurship	Socio-economic / Education	Economic empowerment and professional integration	MINJEC, MINPMEESA, MINEFOP, NEF, development partners
Improving basic infrastructure provision (schools, roads, hospitals)	Socio-economic/Infrastru cture	Equitable access to basic social services	MINEPAT, MINDUH, MINTP, MINFI, MINSANTE,



		T		
			MINEDUB,	
			MINESEC, RLAs	
Promotion of meritocracy	Ethics/Governance	Strengthening civic	Presidency of the	
		and meritocratic	Republic and all	
		values	administrations	
Strengthening civic	Politics	Peace education	MINEDUB,	
education and the culture	Institutional		MINESEC,	
of peace, as well as	Security		MINESUP, MINJEC,	
education on digital	Digital		MINSPOTEL,	
citizenship	8		ANTIC, CNYC	
Promoting young leaders	Politics/Digital	Digital citizenship	MINPOSTEL,	
as 'Ambassadors of	\mathcal{E}	education	MINJEC, ANTÍC,	
digital citizenship'			TFPs	
Promoting education for	Political, institutional,	Promoting peace	MINEDUB,	
tolerance, peace and	social, digital, gender,	and social cohesion	MINESEC,	
diversity	cultural		MINESUP, MINJEC,	
			MINSPOTEL, TFPs,	
			CNYC	
Building and	Political, institutional,	Strengthening	MINEDUB,	
rehabilitating school	social, digital, gender,	equitable access to	MINESEC,	
infrastructure	cultural	education for peace	MINESUP	
		1	TFPs	
Creating local economic	Socio-economic	Youth, mobility and	MINPMEESA,	
opportunities,		resilience	MINEFOP, IOM,	
strengthening protection			UNHCR, MINJEC	
for internally displaced			ĺ	
youth, and supporting				
projects led by young				
people from host and				
displaced communities				



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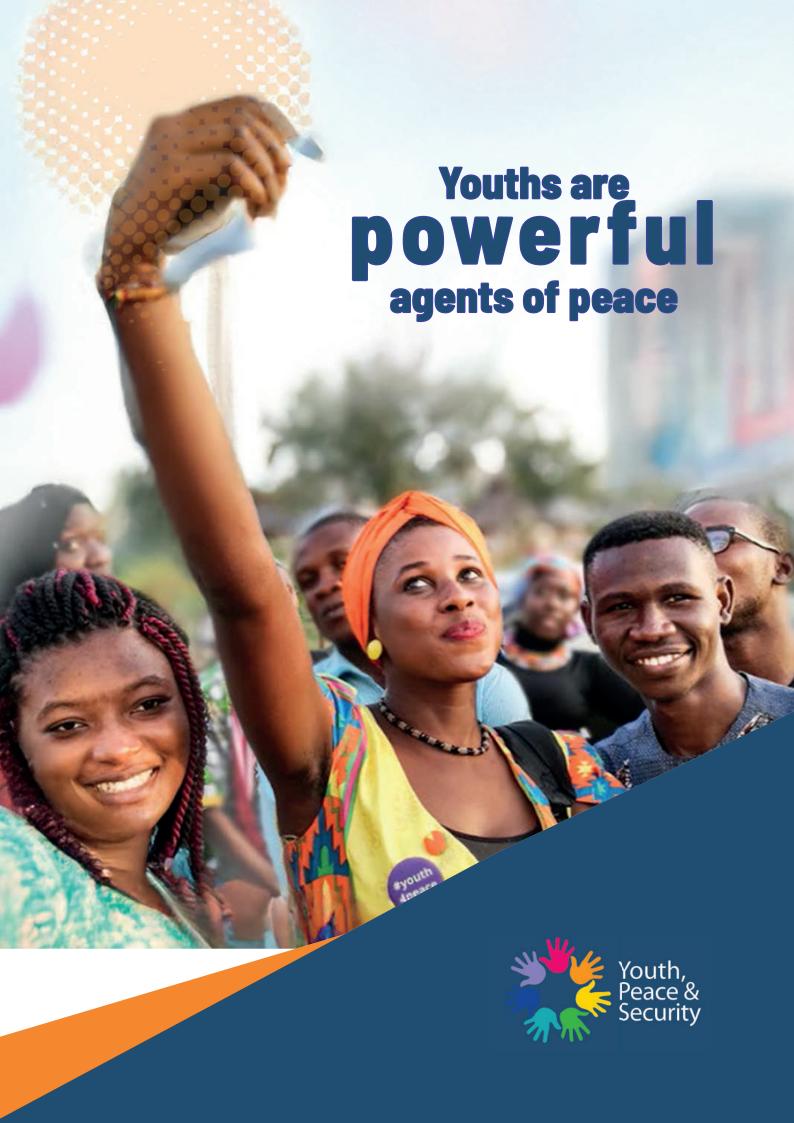
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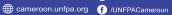
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