

Country Name: Cameroon

Address **CABTAL**
B P 1299
Yaounde, Cameroon
Email address: dls_cabtal@sil.org
Moïse Yonta

Introduction

The country introduction can be the same from one year to the next. *Please indicate to me in a cover note if there have been any changes.*

The Republic of Cameroon is situated at the depth of the Gulf of Guinea in Central Africa. Cameroon is triangular in shape; it stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Chad. The neighboring countries: Nigeria (to the North and North-West), Chad (to the North and North-East), Central African Republic (to the East), Republic of Congo (to the South-East), Gabon and Equatorial Guinea (to the South)

It covers an area of 475,422 Km². With an annual population growth rate of 2,7%, and a population estimated at 17.500.000 (March 2005), Cameroon's population density is 33,2 inhabitants/ Km².

Administratively, Cameroon is divided into 10 provinces, 58 divisions, 269 subdivisions and 53 districts. Its capital is Yaounde. Its official languages are English and French. However, around 279 languages are spoken in Cameroon.

Cooperation in literacy activities with other entities

These also may not change from one year to the next. *Please indicate any changes in an accompanying note.*

- SIL Cameroon provides training for literacy teachers as well as a print shop for reading materials.
- The National Literacy Program (NLP) that is a government run program, through its Ministry of Youths, encourages the creation of functional literacy centers by NGOs in every subdivision and, in turn, provides monthly stipends for literacy teachers. CABTAL is now one of its major partners following a cooperative agreement between the NLP and CABTAL in 2006.
- The National Association for Cameroonian Language Committees (NACALCO) is one of our partners in the literacy work. In some of our projects, we all work to promote literacy in Schools. Together with the local language committee, we promote literacy among adult population.

Literacy-related courses offered by SIL, October 2005 – September 2006

Language (Organizer)	Course	Participants
Aghem; Bakossi; Babanki; Bafut; Bum; Kenyang; Lamnso; Mbembe; Meta; Pinyin	HIV/AIDS Brochure Production workshop – 03/06	25
Kenyang; Nomaande	Scripture Memory Booklet Workshop – 05/06	3
Babanki; Pinyin; Bum; Meta	Primer Workshop – 07/06	10
Oku	Literacy Management Course – Kenya 06/06	1
Babanki; Pinyin; Bum; Meta	Literacy Teacher Training Course – 07/06	10
Denya; Kenyang	Chronological Bible Storying 12/05	2
Trainings offered by trainees		
Mbembe; Oku; Kenyang; Bakossi	Literacy Teacher training Course 11/05; 06/06	106
Mbembe; Meta	Multi-strategy Teacher Training Workshop 04/06	28

The next chart shows the number of literacy classes running in language communities as of the end of September 2006.

Language	School based literacy classes	Adult Literacy classes
Aghem		4
Awing		2
Babanki		6
Bakossi	17	26
Bum		10
Denya	6	11
Kenyang	11	11
Mbembe		11
Meta'		20
Mundani	10	
Ngiemboon		26
Nso		20
Oku	25	40
Pinyin		6
Tunen		2
Total	69	195

Other literacy events

International Mother Tongue Day- 21st February 2006.

The International Mother Tongue Day was observed in several villages where our projects are active. The reports indicated that many people are getting more acquainted with this celebration that started in the community last year. Many were sensitized about the progress in literacy so far through demonstrations made by students. These resulted from several competitions that comprised of reading, spelling, writing, singing, recitation, sketches etc.

At the CABTAL Head office in Yaoundé, a celebration was equally organized by the Literacy at CABTAL CHAPMAN Centre Project in which representatives of the Government, SIL, NACALCO (National Association for Cameroon Language Committees) and other entities were present. An impressive show was put up by literacy students of Ngiemboon and Ghomala particularly. More than 70 people were at this celebration.

International Literacy Day- 8th September, 2006.

During the International Literacy Day, a variety of events took place in around 23 villages of the Pinyin, Aghem, Babanki, Mbembe, Lamnso, Oku, Ngiemboon, Kenyang, Denya, Bakossi and Tunen communities to commemorate the Day. Reports indicate that the turn out this year was higher than last year particularly with the participation of various local municipal councils and the presence of some Fons (Paramount Chiefs). An estimate of about 4000 people were sensitized on the importance of literacy

For the first time, CABTAL was invited by the Government of Cameroon as a partner in efforts made to eradicate illiteracy in Cameroon. The Minister of Youths, custodian of the National Literacy Program for the Government, launched activities for the celebrations of this Day at Monatele, a town in the Centre Province in Cameroon.

Still, Literacy at CABTAL CHAPMAN Centre Project organized celebrations at the CABTAL Head Office in Yaoundé on the 23rd of September to commemorate this Day. Representatives of the Government (National Literacy Program), SIL, NACALCO (National Association for Cameroon Language Committees) were present. Language groups that demonstrated their newly acquired literacy skills were Ngiemboon, Ghomala, Meta, Koonzime, Kom, and Oku. Certificates were also distributed to the successful candidates for the year. More than 100 people were present at this celebration

Bibliography, October 2005-September 2006

Please indicate who the publisher is—SIL or a partner organization. Because books of the Bible are reported through the translation department, we do not include them in the literacy report. Any materials of a religious nature should not list SIL as the publisher.

Language name

Name of author/editor. (year). *Title in italics (translation of title in italics and parentheses)*. City, Country: publisher.

- 1- Mbembe Reading And Writing book,
- 2- Aghem Primer 2
- 3- Aghem Reading and Writing book
- 4- Pinyin Reading and Writing Book
- 5- Kenyang Primer

Requested bibliography style: Paragraph: indent = 0.25, 1st line hanging indent = 0.25, single line spacing with 0.6 after.