DEMOGRAPHY IN THE WEST REGION

Diagnosis report

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1. POSITIONING OF THE WEST REGION'S POPULATION WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONAL POPULATION

Covering an area of 13,892 km2, or 3% of Cameroon's surface area, the West Region, according to projections by the Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies (BUCREP)[1], is estimated at 1,985,364 inhabitants in 2017, or 928,026 men and 1,052,243 women. The region's sex ratio is 0.88, or about 88 men per 100 women, compared to a national average of 0.92 (92 boys per 100 girls). There are slightly more women in this Region than at the national level. With an estimated population density of 142.9 inhabitants per km2 compared to a national average of 48.9 km2, the Grassfield Region is slightly less than three times denser than the national territory.

Ranked 6th Region in terms of demographic weight after the Centre, Far North, Coastal, North and North-West Regions, it must be noted that the demographic weight of this Region is constantly decreasing between 1976 and 2017, from 13.5% to 8.5%. This steady decline could be explained by certain factors, such as the economic migration of young people, not to mention the awareness of couples about responsible parenthood.

Table 1: Evolution of the population of the West Region from 1976 to 2017

Region	Baseline period					
West	1976	1987	2005	2010	2015	2017
	1035597	1339791	1720047	1785285	1906831	1 985 364
Cameroon	7663246	10493655	17463836	19406100	21917602	23248044
Change in demographic weight	13.5	12.8	9.9	9.2	8.7	8.5

Source: RGPH 1976, 1987, 2005, Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2. POPULATION OF THE WEST REGION BY MAJOR AGE GROUPS

Data by age and sex of the population are essential for the proper identification and rational assessment of the population's basic social needs. They also make it possible to monitor and evaluate development programmes. The table below shows the population structure of the West Region by major age groups.

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[1] These are projections made by BUCREP for the period 2016 to 2020 pending the results of the fourth General Population and Housing Census (RGPH, 4) instituted by Presidential Decree No. 2015/397 of 15 September 2015.

Table 2: Population structure of the West Region by major age groups

Major age groups	0-14 years old	15-64 years old	65 and more	Group	Average ages	
					Male	Female
West	44.7	49.4	5.9	100	21.6	24.8
Cameroon	42.5	53.9	3.6	100	21.9	21.4

Source : Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

The average age of the West Region population is 21.6 years for males and 24.8 years for females. It is slightly above the national average of 21.65 years for both sexes. It can be seen from the above table that in 2017, about 45% of the West Region's population was under the age of 15[2]. It therefore remains very young, which constitutes an important potential for the development of the Region provided that challenges linked to this strong juvenilization (education, employment, health...) of the population are met.

The active population (15-65 years old) in the West Region represents about 49% of the total population, this percentage is slightly lower than the national average which is estimated at 54%. Conversely, there are more elderly people (65 years and over) in the Region (about 6%) compared to the trend observed at the national level, which is less than (4%). As for the demographic dependency ratio[3], it is 1.025 or 102.5 dependents per 100 workers in the West Region for a national average of 0.885 or 88.5 dependents per 100 workers. As a result, child and elder care by workers in the West Region remains more important than that observed by national workers.

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[2] It is important to warn of the consequences of this high proportion of young people under 15 years of age at the level of the various administrative units (Region, Divisions, Sub-divisions) and administrative authorities in the West Region. Among other things, we can note an increase in the dependency ratio, resulting in a decrease in income per dependent person. In other words, the income that should have been allocated to a dependant will decrease. This also implies at the educational level of supervision, with a consequent increase in the cost of education for primary and secondary education (Cohen and Bloom, 2005). Although it should be noted that in the case of Cameroon, the State partly finances public and some private institutions. New health infrastructure will need to be developed. In the same perspective, the cost of some vaccines and even to treat diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS will be high. In the case of HIV/AIDS, young people at the age of first sexual experimentation will be highly exposed to sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The EDS IV report notes on this last point that only 28.5% of young people and teenagers have been tested for HIV and know their HIV status. These issues are also specific to rural exodus that is increasingly being observed.

[3] The dependency ratio is the ratio between the population size of generally inactive ages (children aged 0-14 years + people aged 65 years and over) and the population size of the working age population (15-64 years). The result is expressed as the number of dependents per 100 "workers".

Table 3: Distribution of the projected population of the West Region by sex by five-year age groups in 2017.

Five-year age groups	Sex				Total population
	Male		Female		
	Numbers	Percentage (%)	Numbers	Percentage (%)	
TOTAL	**928,026**	**47%**	**1,057,338**	**53%**	**1,985,364**
0-4 years old	161,737	51%	156,423	49%	318,160
5-9 years old	150,145	51%	144,031	49%	294,176
10-14 years old	141,242	51%	134,365	49%	275,607
15-19 years old	116,417	49%	121,395	51%	237,812
20-24 years old	66,358	44%	83,603	56%	149,961
25-29 years old	44,026	40%	64,818	60%	108,844
30-34 years old	40,184	41%	58,794	59%	98,978
35-39 years old	36,260	41%	52,790	59%	89,050
40-44 years old	32,419	42%	45,104	58%	77,523
45-49 years old	29,810	42%	40,648	58%	70,458
50-54 years old	27,323	45%	33,781	55%	61,104
55-59 years old	20,225	44%	25,664	56%	45,889
60-64 years old	16,275	40%	24,309	60%	40,584
65-69 years old	15,472	37%	25,945	63%	41,417
70-74 years old	12,166	39%	19,230	61%	31,396
75-79 years old	8,622	41%	12,265	59%	20,887
80-84 years old	4,858	41%	6,895	59%	11,753
85 and more	4,487	38%	7,278	62%	11,765

Source: Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

The above table shows that the population of the West Region is more dominated by women (53% women compared to 47% men). This trend towards feminization is also observed at the national level, even if the gap between both sexes is not significant (49.4% against 50.6%). In detail, it should be noted that this phenomenon is prevalent for the 15 and over age group with considerable discrepancies for the 85 and over age group (just over three out of five people in this age group are women). However, before the age of 15, there are more men than women in the Region. This contrasts with the literature which suggests high male mortality in the early years of life.

With regard to the age pyramid of the West Region, it must be noted that it has a pyramidal shape reflecting the high birth rate in the West Region. The young population observed in the said Region can reflect, on the one hand, the Region's potential in terms of human capital if certain conditions are met (education, training, supervision and integration), and on the other hand, many challenges to be met if these conditions are not observed. In addition, it can be noted that the population size decreases as age increases, reflecting a relatively low life expectancy. This trend is consistent with that observed at the

national level. Just over one in twenty people represent an older person (65 years and over) regardless of gender. For these elderly people, the mortality phenomenon is more pronounced among men than among women. The working population (15 to 64 years old), which is supposed to support development through labour force and massive investments, is struggling to establish itself.

Figure 1: Age pyramid of the West Region's population in 2017
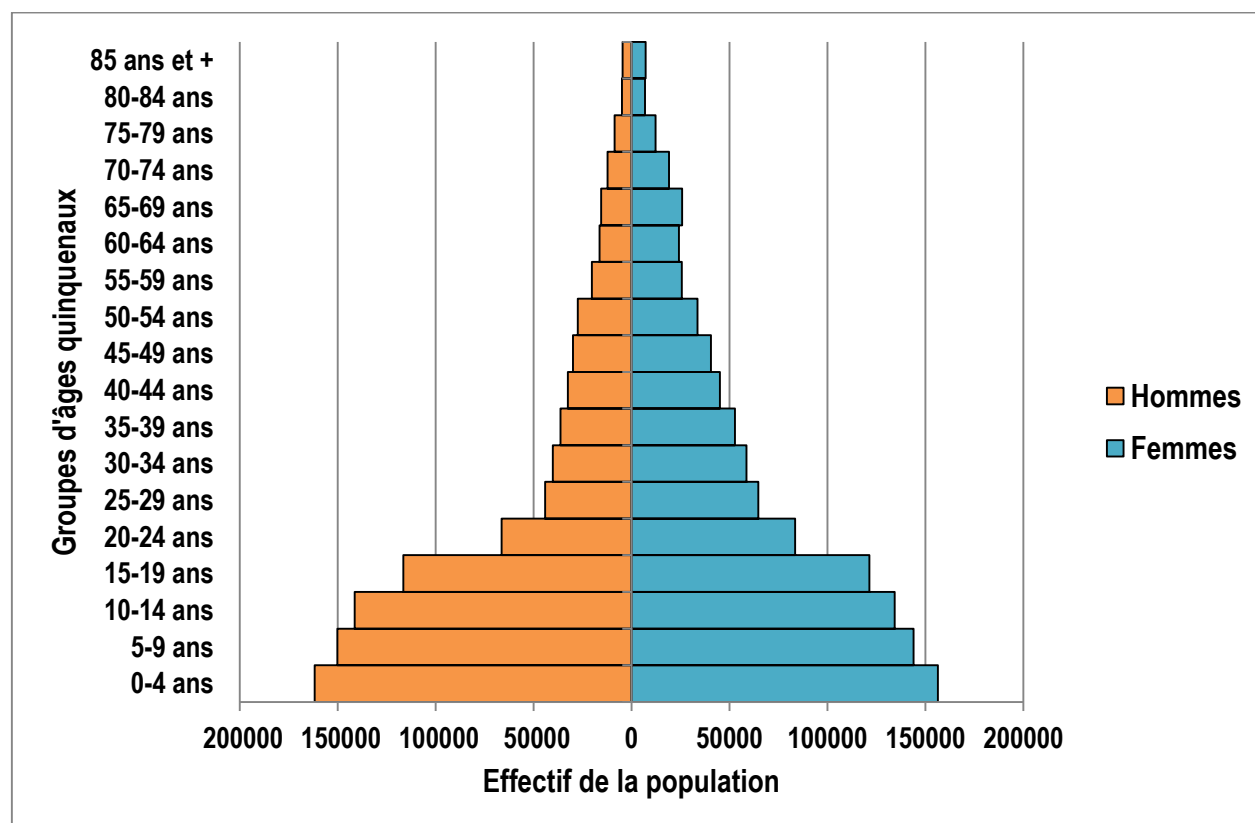
Source : Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1. Population of the West Region by Division

2.1.1. Population of the Bamboutos Division

The Mbouda sub-division, Division's chief town, is the most populated with an estimated population of 139,260 inhabitants or 3.26 times higher than the Babadjou sub-division witn an estimated population of 42,623 inhabitants. The Batcham and Galim sub-divisions are respectively the second and third most populated with 96,746 and 58,883 inhabitants. However, a sex analysis reveals that there are more women in Batcham (58%) than in other sub-divisions, namely Galim (52%) and Babadjou (55%).

Table 4: Distribution of the Bamboutos Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
BABADJOU	42623	19,180	45%	23,443	55%
BATCHAM	96746	40,633	42%	56,113	58%
GALIM	58883	28,264	48%	30,619	52%
MBOUDA	139260	64,060	46%	75,200	54%
BAMBOUTOS	**337512**	**151,880**	**45%**	**185,632**	**55%**

Source: Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.2. Population of the Haut Nkam division

Bafang is the most populated sub-division with an estimated population of 34,421 inhabitants and Bakou the less populated. Bandja and Kekem are close in population, as weel as Banwa and Bana, even if the gap between the latters is more significant than between Bandja and Kekem. Other things being equal, we note that the trend observed at the regional level on the predominance of women in the population is observed in all the Boroughs

Table 5: Distribution of the Haut Nkam Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
Bafang	34421	16,178	47%	18,243	53%
BAKOU	6066	2,912	48%	3,154	52%
BANA	11836	5,563	47%	6,273	53%
BANDJA	35702	16,423	46%	19,279	54%
KEKEM	36407	17,475	48%	18,932	52%
BANWA	13497	6,614	49%	6,883	51%
BANKA	29191	14,012	48%	1,460	5%
Haut-Nkam	**167120**	**78,546**	**47%**	**88,574**	**53%**

Source: Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.3. Population of the Highlands Division

In the Highlands Division, Bamendjou and Baham are the most populated sub-divisions. The Bangou sub-division, estimated at 19055 inhabitants, is 1.64 times more populated than the Batie Division, which is considered to be the "poor relative" in terms of population in this Division. In all sub-divisions, women predominate over men.

Table 6: Distribution of the Highlands Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
BAHAM	22716	9,995	44%	12,721	56%
BAMENDJOU	39555	17,009	43%	22,546	57%
BATIE	12630	5,684	45%	6,947	55%
BANGOU	18222	8,564	47%	9,658	53%
HIGHLANDS	**93123**	**40,974**	**44%**	**52,149**	**56%**

Source: Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.4. Koung-Khi Division

The Koung-Khi Division has three (03) sub-divisions, namely Poumougne, Bayangam and Djebem. The spatial distribution of the population in each sub-division shows that Poumougne is more populated with an estimated population of 46905 inhabitants. The Djebem sub-division is the least populated (12682 inhabitants). A breakdown by gender shows that, overall, women are the most numerous in all sub-divisions. In the case of Poumougne, the gap between both sexes in favour of women is almost 8%.

Table 7: Distribution of the Koung Khi Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
BAYANGAM	15463	7,113	46%	8,350	54%
POUMOUGNE	46905	21,576	46%	25,329	54%
DJEBEM	12682	5,834	46%	6,848	54%
Koung Khi	**75050**	**34,523**	**46%**	**40,527**	**54%**

Source : Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.5. Menoua Division

Spatial distribution of the population in the Menoua division is disproportionate. The Dschang sub-division, with Dschang as its capital, a university and tourist city, accounts for nearly 40% (39.46%) of the Division's population. It is followed by the Penka-Michel and Nkong-Ni sub-divisions. The Fokoué Division with an estimated population of 11053 inhabitants is nearly 10 times less populated than Dschang. As in all other sub-divisions, women predominate.

Table 8: Distribution of the Menoua Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
DSCHANG	117024	55,001	47%	62,023	53%
FOKOUE	11053	4,863	44%	6,190	56%
NKONG-NI	61599	25,872	42%	35,727	58%
PENKA MICHEL	75182	32,328	43%	42,854	57%
SANTCHOU	43260	20,332	47%	22,928	53%

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
FONGO TONGO	21725	9,342	43%	12,383	57%
MENOUA	**329843**	**148,429**	**45%**	**181,414**	**55%**

Source: Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.6. Mfi Division

The Mifi Division, which houses the West Region's regional capital, has a less disproportionate spatial distribution of the population compared to divisions. The Divisions of Bafoussam 1 and 2 have 113508 and 139990 inhabitants respectively. While it is true that these three divisions have similar specificities, the trend observed at the regional level on the predominance of women over men is confirmed in the said divisions. Gaps in favour of women are respectively 51% women (Bafoussam I), 52% women (Bafoussam II) and 53% (Bafoussam III).

Table 9: Distribution of the Mifi Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
BAFOUSSAM 1	113508	55,619	49%	57,889	51%
BAFOUSSAM 2	139990	67,195	48%	72,795	52%
BAFOUSSAM 3	94458	44,395	47%	50,063	53%
MIFI	**347956**	**167,019**	48%	**180,937**	52%

Source : Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.7. Population of the Ndé Division

Overall, Bangangté is the most populated sub-division with an estimated population of 73,405 inhabitants. Bazou and Tonga have populations close to 17212 and 15615 respectively. Bassamba is the least populated district in the region with 3248 inhabitants for 1,527 men and 1,721 women. The significant difference observed between the Division's capital and the sub-divisions is explained by the administrative and university function of the latter.

Table 10: Distribution of the Ndé Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
BANGANGTE	73405	35,968	49%	37,437	51%
BASSAMBA	3248	1,527	47%	1,721	53%
BAZOU	17212	8,262	48%	8,950	52%
TONGA	15615	7,651	49%	7,964	51%
NDE	109480	53,645	49%	55,835	51%

Source : Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.1.8. Noun Division

The Foumban and Foumbot sub-divisions, respectively the capital of the Division and the major production basin in the West Region, concern nearly 40.16% of the Division's population. Like the other sub-divisions, the population is unevenly distributed over the Division. The gender distribution of the population in the Magba sub-division shows that with a gap of 668 women, it is the one where the numbers between sexes are closest. Njimom remains the least populated sub-division in the division with 27682 inhabitants.

Table 11: Distribution of the Noun Division's population by sub-division in 2017

Sub-divisions	Population	Men		Women	
		Number	**Percentage**	**Number**	**Percentage**
BANGOURAIN	35640	16,394	46%	19,246	54%
FOUMBAN	122707	58,899	48%	63,808	52%
FOUMBOT	88284	43,259	49%	45,025	51%
KOUOPTAMO	56295	27,022	48%	29,273	52%
KOUTABA	56756	27,243	48%	29,513	52%
MAGBA	41124	20,151	49%	20,973	51%
MALENTOUEN	52081	24,999	48%	27,082	52%
MASSANGAM	44711	21,908	49%	22,803	51%
NJIMOM	27682	13,011	47%	14,671	53%
NOUN	**525280**	**252,134**	48%	**273,146**	52%

Source : Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

2.2. Population density of the West Region by division

Figure 2: West Region's density by Division
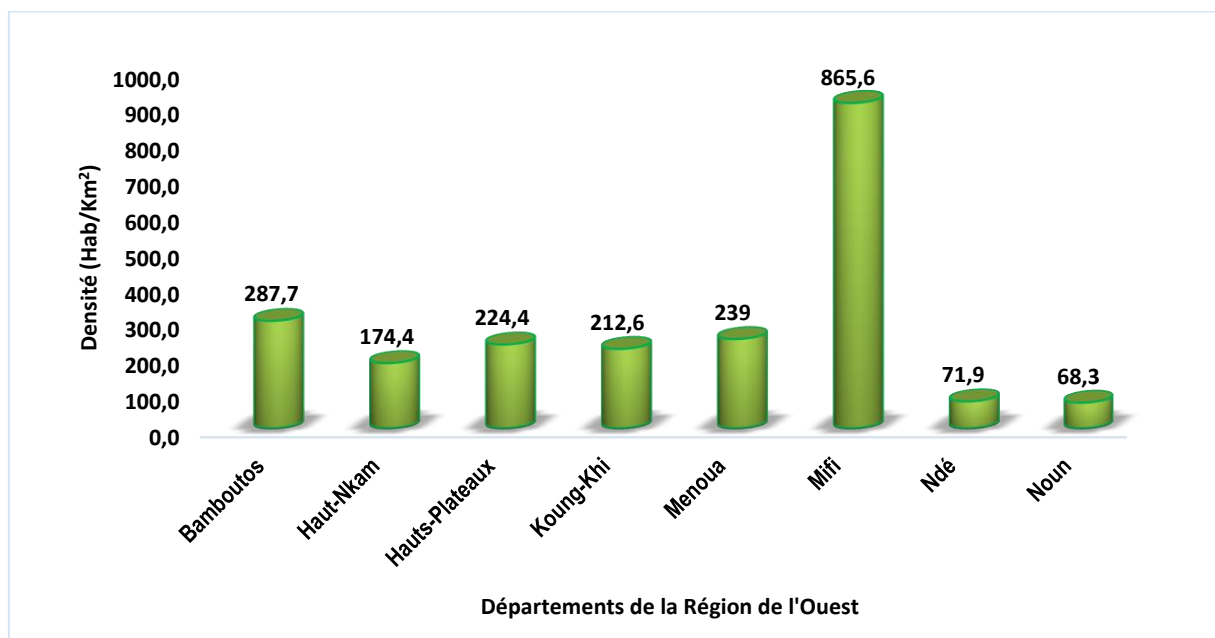
Source: Exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

The population densities of divisions of the West Region are among the highest in the country, at 142.91 inhabitants per km2. In all divisions, densities are higher than 65 inhabitants per km². This situation could be explained on the one hand by favourable natural conditions (Arab lands, temperate and mild climate, opening up of the Departments); and on the other hand by strong demographic pressure on the available land. Mifi has a density three times higher than the second most densely populated department (Bamboutos). Indeed, this Division houses the regional capital, headquarters of institutions (Bafoussam). Noun has the lowest population density. It should be noted that this Division, which represents more than half of the surface area of the West Region (55.33%), therefore has vast open spaces generally dedicated to agriculture[4].

[4] One could question the fact that the low density of Noun does not always attract the influx of people from riparian divisions. Some explanations could be provided. These elements are partly related to land access and land ownership in the said Division. The sultan and his notables play a leading role in it, and it is not at all obvious, as it is everywhere, to complete all the formalities to have a title to property. However, from experience, people prefer to settle where they are confident that they will not run any risk of leaving when they undertake. In addition, people prefer to rent their land for agro-pastoral activities rather than hand it over to "foreigners". This is the case in Foumbot considered as one of the production basins in the West Region where many farmers reside outside the city and come by season to develop their activities. Finally, we could also mention the strong rural exodus of young people from the Noun Divisions to neighbouring countries (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo...), in major cities (Douala, Yaoundé, Bafoussam) and even in emerging cities such as Kye-Ossie and for job search.

***Figure 3**: Population density in sub-divisions in the West Region*
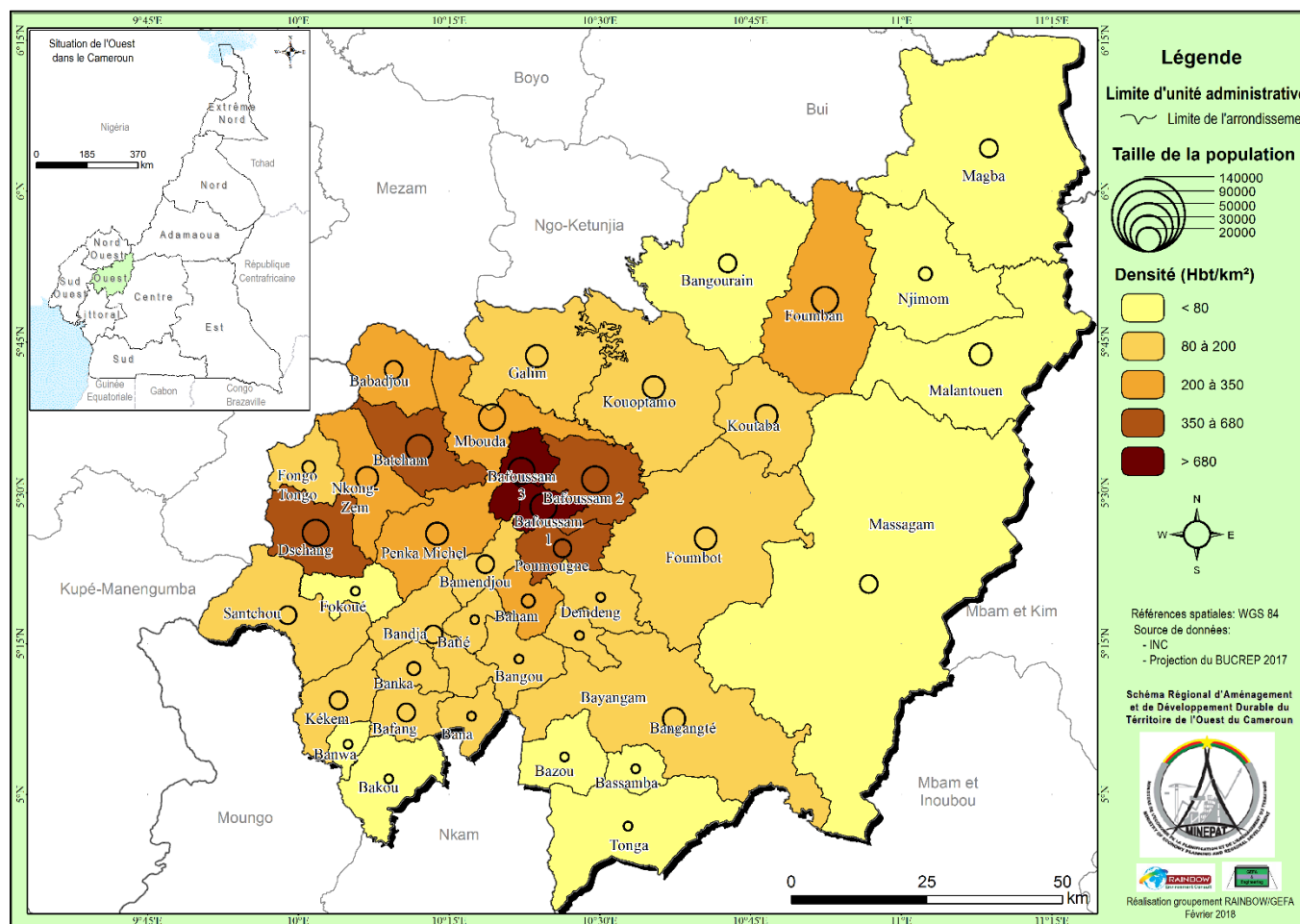
2.3. Population distribution of the West Region by division and sub-division according to the place of residence

All other things being equal, it can be observed that, overall, the rural resident population remains high compared to the urban resident population over the period 2005 to 2017. This predominance of rural over urban areas is not observed throughout the Region. Indeed, some cities because of their economic, administrative (Bafoussam) and academic (Dschang, Bangangté) functions have a strong urbanization. Other cities (Foumban and Foumbot), on the other hand, are characterized by agro-pastoral activities.

Table 12: Population distribution of the West Region by division and sub-division according to the place of residence over the period 2005 to 2017.

Administrative districts	Urban population		Rural Population		Total Population	
	2005	2017	2005	2017	2005	2017
WEST REGION	732561	845558	987486	1139806	1720047	1985364
Bamboutos Division	60294	69594	232116	267918	292410	337512
BABADJOU	5243	6051	31686	36572	36929	42623
BATCHAM	3301	3810	80516	92936	83817	96746
GALIM	5679	6555	45335	52328	51014	58883
MBOUDA	46071	53177	74579	86083	120650	139260
HAUT-NKAM division	64504	74454	80282	92666	144786	167120
Bafang	21915	21823	7906	12598	29821	34421
BAKOU	1153	1331	4102	4735	5255	6066
BANA	2878	3322	7376	8514	10254	11836
BANDJA	6167	7118	24764	28584	30931	35702
KEKEM	17333	20006	14209	16401	31542	36407
BANWA	2032	2345	9661	11152	11693	13497
BANKA	13026	15035	12264	14156	25290	29191
Highlands Division	13534	15622	67144	77501	80678	93123
BAHAM	3627	4187	16053	18529	19680	22716
BAMENDJOU	5351	6176	28918	33379	34269	39555
BATIE	1762	2034	9180	10596	10942	12630
BANGOU	2794	3225	12993	14997	15787	18222
KOUNGKHI Division	24019	27724	41002	47326	65021	75050
BAYANGAM	1201	1386	12196	14077	13397	15463
POUMOUGNE	**20354**	**23493**	**20283**	**23412**	**40637**	**46905**

Administrative districts	Urban population		Rural Population		Total Population	
	2005	2017	2005	2017	2005	2017
DJEBEM	2464	2844	8523	9838	10987	12682
Menoua Division	80475	92888	205289	236955	285764	329843
DSCHANG	63161	62148	38224	54876	101385	117024
FOKOUE	1127	1301	8449	9752	9576	11053
NKONG-NI	824	951	52543	60648	53367	61599
PENKA MICHEL	5258	6069	59877	69113	65135	75182
SANTCHOU	9428	10882	28051	32378	37479	43260
FONGO TONGO	671	774	18151	20951	18822	21725
Mifi Division	239287	276197	62169	71759	301456	347956
BAFOUSSAM I	81611	94200	16728	19308	98339	113508
BAFOUSSAM II	99524	114876	21758	25114	121282	139990
BAFOUSSAM III	58252	67155	23683	27303	81935	94458
Ndé Division	47555	54891	47294	54589	94849	109480
BANGANGTE	28011	32332	35584	41073	63595	73405
BASSAMBA	2814	3248		0	2814	3248
BAZOU	5923	6837	8989	10375	14912	17212
TONGA	10807	12474	2721	3141	13528	15615
Noun Division	202893	234189	252190	291091	455083	525280
BANGOURAIN	14582	16831	16295	18809	30877	35640
FOUMBAN	83522	78660	22787	44047	106309	122707
FOUMBOT	47643	54992	28843	33292	76486	88284
KOUOPTAMO	8009	9244	40763	47051	48772	56295
KOUTABA	9410	10862	39761	45894	49171	56756
MAGBA	19829	22888	15799	18236	35628	41124
MALANTOUEN	11661	13460	33460	38621	45121	52081
MASSANGAM	8237	9508	30499	35203	38736	44711
NJIMOM	8702	10044	15281	17638	23983	27682

Source: 3rd RGPH 2005, exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

3. URBAN DYNAMICS IN THE WEST REGION

It is difficult to identify urban dynamics in the West Region given the significant development of the Co-urbanization phenomenon, but also and especially the open debate on the definition of the concept of city. The administrative criterion and the number of inhabitants reside in the city (cities with at least 20, 000 inhabitants) are indicators that have enabled us to classify cities.

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It can be seen that urban hierarchy is organized around Bafoussam, the regional capital (347956 inhabitants), the main city. Some secondary cities emerging there as well as small towns or villages with less than 20,000 inhabitants that are developing in the Region. Bafoussam's macrocephaly is confirmed since the size of the second city (Mbouda) is 2.5 times smaller than that of Bafoussam. The city of Dschang with its university function ranks fourth. Almost half of its population is students. Urban hierarchy based on the administrative hierarchy is disrupted by several sub-divisional cities. The cases of Foumban and Foumbot are particularly striking since these sub-divisional capitals come respectively in third and fifth position in the urban hierarchy of the West. For these two cities, urban functions outside the administrative functions are structured around trade and agricultural activities. Their dynamism could therefore be justified by their function as cities with large agricultural production basins. At the same time, this leads to intense mobility of people and goods towards the supply centres of urban metropolises such as Bafoussam, Douala and Yaoundé and even towards certain neighbouring countries (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, etc.).

Table 13: Some cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants in the West Region

Towns	Type	2005 Population	2017 Population
Bafoussam	Divisional chief town	301,456	347,956
Foumban	Sub-divisional chief town	106,309	122,707
Dschang	Sub-divisional chief town	101,385	117,024
Foumbot	Sub-divisional chief town	76,486	88,284
Mbouda	Sub-divisional chief town	120,650	139,260
Bafang	Sub-divisional chief town	29,821	34,421
Bagangté	Sub-divisional chief town	63,595	73,405
Bandjoun	Sub-divisional chief town	40,637	46,905
Santchou	Sub-divisional chief town	37,416	43,260
Penka-Michel	Sub-divisional chief town	65,135	75,182
Nkong-ni	Sub-divisional chief town	53,367	61,599
Magba	Sub-divisional chief town	35,628	41,124
Kekem	Sub-divisional chief town	31,542	36,407

Source: RGPH 2005, exploitation of forecasts from BUCREP 2017

4. POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE WEST REGION

In general, population dynamics are assessed through demographic phenomena such as fertility, mortality and migration.

4.1. Fertility level and trend

The results of MICS 5 (2014) show that the Synthetic Fertility Index in the West Region remains high (5.6) compared to a national average of 4.9 for the same period. On the other hand, adolescent fertility remains low at the regional level (99) compared to the national trend (119), the 20-point gap shows that adolescent girls resident in the West Region do not enter fertile life quickly. However, it is difficult to say whether this trend of rising fertility will continue in the long term, given the policies that are being implemented to limit

births (demographic dividends[5]) or at least to encourage responsible parenthood. It should also be borne in mind that socio-cultural factors (level of education, religious affiliation) and women's economic activity status are factors that could strongly influence fertility (Arthur Haupt and Thomas T. Kane, 2004).

Table 14: Fertility indicators in the West Region

Indicators	West	Cameroon
ISF (Synthetic Fertility Index)	5.6	4.9
Adolescent fertility rate (15-19 years) per thousand	99	119

Source: MICS 5 (2014)

Table 15: Gross Birth Rate and Total Fertility Rate in the West Region by Place of Residence

Indicators	West			Cameroon		
	Urban	Rural	Group	Urban	Rural	Group
TBN (per thousand)	25.1	24.3	24.6	20.8	24.0	22.5
ISF[6]	4	4.9	4.5	3.6	4.7	4.1

Source: BUCREP 2005

Results of the previous table show that the place of residence is a determining factor in fertility differences. It reveals the differentiated reproductive behaviours between urban and rural areas. In the case of the West Region, as well as at the national level, fertility remains high in rural areas as in urban areas. This difference could be explained on the one hand by different sexual and matrimonial behaviours, characterized by differences in the age of entry into a union and on the other hand by inequalities in access to education and the use of modern and traditional contraceptive methods.

4.2. Mortality level and trend

Mortality is a demographic phenomenon that is important for development planning. From the table below, it can be seen that overall, mortality indicators in the West Region are all lower than those observed at the national level. This means that the risk of mortality for a child born living in the West Region is lower than at the national level. However, there are disparities between different mortality rates in the Region. With an estimated death rate of 83 deaths per thousand live births, infant and child mortality remains the highest, while neonatal mortality is the lowest (14 deaths per thousand live births). With regard to infant and child mortality, it can be seen that the risk for a live born child aged one year to die before reaching his fifth birthday is the same as that of a live born child to die before his first birthday (42‰ for each). When we relate the neonatal mortality quotient to the infant and child mortality quotient, we find that just over one-sixth of deaths under five years of age survive in the first month of life. Infant mortality rate is one of the best indicators of a country's economic and social development. Although more boys are born

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[5] Demographic dividends refers to the economic gain that a country could derive from a change in the age structure of its population, followed by massive new investments in the health, education and economic sectors.

[6] The Synthetic Fertility Index (SFI) represents the number of live births a woman would have if she were subject to current age-specific fertility rates during her childbearing years (15-49 years).

than girls, they are more likely to die before reaching their first birthday than their sisters regardless of where they live. Indeed, at the national level, the risk of death for a boy is (81.0‰) compared to (73.3‰) for a girl.

Table 16: Mortality indicators in the West Region

Mortality indicators	West	Cameroon
Neonatal mortality quotient[7] (NN)	14	31
Post-neonatal mortality quotient[8] (PNN)	28	34
Infant mortality quotient[9] ($_1Q_0$)	42	66
Child mortality quotient[10] ($_4Q_1$)	42	50
Infant and child mortality rate[11] ($_5Q_0$)	83	112

Source: Report of MICS 2014

When analysing mortality indicators by residence, it must be noted that mortality is more prevalent in rural areas (9.9 ‰) than in urban areas (8.8 ‰) in the West Region. This is consistent with the trend observed at the national level (11.6‰) for rural areas compared to (9.9 ‰). This mortality differential between urban and rural areas could be explained by the presence of health facilities in urban areas (denser technical facilities, qualified personnel, etc.), compared to rural areas where infant mortality is very sensitive to parents' living conditions, characterized by poor access to social and health facilities, low vaccination use, low levels of education, poor hygiene and sanitation conditions and very low purchasing power.

Table 17: Gross Mortality Rate in the West Region by Place of Residence

Indicator	West			Cameroon		
	Urban	Rural	Group	Urban	Rural	Group
TBM[12] (per thousand)	8.8	9.9	9.4	9.9	11.6	10.8

Source: BUCREP 2005

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[7]; the neonatal mortality ratio measures the probability that a live born child will die in the first month of life per thousand live births during the same period;

[8] the post-neonatal mortality ratio measures the probability that a live born child will die between the first month and one year of life per thousand live births during the same period;

[9] the post-neonatal mortality ratio measures the probability that a live born child will die between the first month and one year of life per thousand live births during the same period;

[10] child mortality quotient measures the probability that a child surviving his or her first birthday will die before reaching the fifth birthday per thousand live births;

[11] the infant and child mortality rate is the probability that a child will die before the fifth birthday per thousand live births

[12] the Gross Mortality Rate (GMD) is the ratio of the number of deaths in the year to the average total population in the year per thousand inhabitants;

4.3. Migration level and trend

Internal migration[13] is generally different from international migration[14]. For a regional study, internal migration will be examined in depth. It is possible to characterize the extent of changes in place of residence, and therefore migration, by the residential mobility index (table below), which measures the proportion of the population that has changed place of residence at least once in its lifetime. In addition, the mobility index thus defined highlights the proportion of the population involved in the process of spatial redistribution of the population. This is in fact the minimum scale of migration. Based on results of the table below, residential mobility in the Region is quite high.

Of the 1,720,047 inhabitants registered in the West Region in November 2005, 1,277,342 were non-migrants. The residential mobility index, which is 25.74%, can be qualified as moderate, one in four inhabitants of this Region has changed their place of residence at least once during their lifetime. This residential mobility index is slightly higher for men (26.16%) than for women (25.37%). The Regional average masks significant divisional disparities: the highest value of the index is observed in the Mifi division (42.21%) and the lowest in Bamboutos (15.93%).

The relatively high residential mobility index in Mifi is justified by the presence of Bafoussam, capital of the West Region and 4th largest city in Cameroon by its demographic weight. In the Divisions of the Highlands, Koung Khi, Menoua and Noun, residential mobility concerns about one in five inhabitants: the residential mobility indices are 20.54%, 20.17%, 19.88% and 21.75% respectively. Divisions of Haut Nkam and Ndé have residential mobility indexes of 31.28% and 40.15% respectively.

Table 18: Residential mobility indexes of residents[15] of the West Region by Division of Residence

Migration status	Division of residence								
	Bamboutos	Haut-Nkam	Highlands	Koung Khi	Menoua	Mifi	Ndé	Noun	Total
Total									
Total	292410	144786	80678	65021	285764	301456	94849	455083	1720047
Non migrants	245824	99490	64109	51905	228956	174211	56764	356083	1277342
Migrants	46586	45296	16569	13116	56808	127245	38085	99000	442705

[13] Internal migration is that which takes place within a country. It can be either between sub-divisions, divisions or regions;

[14] International migration is the one that occurs from one country to another.

[15] We specify here that residential mobility of residents refers to intra-regional mobility (that which takes place within a Region between Divisions of that Region or between Sub-divisions of that Region). It was collected during the 2005 General Population and Housing Census. With regard to inter-Regional mobility (which refers to mobility between one Region and another, incoming and outgoing flows go from one Region to another.). It is impossible to put forward a few figures because they are difficult to understand.

Migration status	Division of residence								
	Bamboutos	**Haut-Nkam**	**Highlands**	**Koung Khi**	**Menoua**	**Mifi**	**Ndé**	**Noun**	**Total**
Residential mobility index	15.93	31.28	20.54	20.17	19.88	42.21	40.15	21.75	25.74
Male									
Total	131902	68730	35648	30128	128919	144488	46088	219575	805478
Non migrants	110863	47634	27958	23777	101628	83151	27289	172482	594782
Migrants	21039	21096	7690	6351	27291	61337	18799	47093	210696
Residential mobility index	15.95	30.09	21.57	21.08	21.17	42.45	40.79	21.45	26.16
Female									
Total	160508	76056	45030	34893	156845	156968	48761	235508	914569
Non migrants	134961	51856	36151	28128	127328	91060	29475	183601	682560
Migrants	25547	24200	8879	6765	29517	65908	19286	51907	232009
Residential mobility index	15.92	31.82	19.72	19.39	18.82	41.99	39.55	22.04	25.37

Source: RGPH (2005)

Another lesson that emerges from indicators presented in the previous table is the differentiation of migration behaviour between both genders in the West Region. Indeed, it can be observed that at the regional level, men have greater mobility (26.16%) than women (25.37%). Haut-Nkam is the exception, as women seem to be more migrating than men (31.82% against 30.09%). This strong involvement of men in the migration process is generally due to economic and employment movements.

4.4. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the West Region and refugees following the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions

The crisis that began in October 2016 in the English-speaking regions (North-West and South-West) of Cameroon with corporatist demands from teachers and lawyers turned into an armed insurrection in 2017, and gradually degenerated into a civil war. It is now very difficult to give any reliable figures on the situation of IDPs and refugees affected by this crisis. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the conflict has killed at least 1,850 people since September 2017, a majority of schools have been closed for two years, more than 170 villages destroyed, 530,000 IDPs and 35,000 refugees in Nigeria, mostly women and children. French-speaking regions of the country and more specifically the West Region bordering on the English-speaking regions are suffering effects of this crisis.

While Menoua, considered both as a shelter for the displaced of the Anglophone crisis and a collateral victim, is the most affected, those of the Bamboutos and the Noun are not to be outdone through recurrent attacks that have destroyed lives and destroyed any hope of a better tomorrow in some countries. Of the six Sub-divisions in the most affected administrative unit, four border the South-West Region. These are

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Nkong-Ni (Bafou) bordering Wabane, Fongo-Tongo (Fongo-tongo) bordering Alou, Dschang (Fongo-Ndeng) and Sancthou (Fondonnera) bordering Fontem.

According to Cameroon Red Cross statistics, Menoua recorded 4,652 displaced persons belonging to 589 families until December 2018. This figure is distributed as follows:

- 245 families house 2364 people in the commune of Dschang;
- 175 families house 1160 people in the commune of Santchou;
- 104 families house 690 people in the commune of Fongo -Tongo;
- 42 families house 216 people in the commune of Nkong-Zem;
- 23 families house 222 people in the commune of Penka-Michel.

In addition to Menoua, the Bamboutos Division, which borders the South-West and North-West, is the victim of some attacks by secessionists. According to the Divisional Officer Bamboutos, official figures indicate that 20,000 English-speaking displaced persons have settled in the Bamboutos Division. "Babadjou, the closest village to Bamenda, located only about ten kilometres from the North-West Region, alone receives more than 7,000 displaced people"[16]. People are on the alert just like those in Bangang near Lebialem or the fear of seeing the incursion of secessionist attacks paralyses their economic and development activities. We remember the attack on 26 June 2018 on the Babadjou Gendarmerie Brigade by a group of armed men described as "Amba boys[17]" and the bilingual zavion high school which was set on fire.

In the Noun Division, IDPs flow mainly in Malentouen, Foumban, Koutaba, Njimon and Kouoptamo. Separatists have repeatedly made punitive incursions into the Bangourain sub-division bordering a river about three metres wide from Bangolan (North-West). More than 60 houses were burned, two deaths recorded, vehicles burned, many wounded and some 40 national fishermen kidnapped, thus accentuating the phenomenon of kidnapping for ransom, which had become more widespread. Some attacks in Galim (in the Bagam and Bamenyam groups), bordering the Ngokentudja Division, were also attributed to the separatists, causing deaths.

The educational, social and economic impact of this crisis is significant in the West Region: In terms of education, there is overcrowding in the school and university population in schools, colleges, lycées and universities. This overcrowding is said to be due to a high educational demand from high school students from crisis regions, as the majority of children and students have not been in school for two to three years despite the Government's commendable efforts. According to actors of the education system, this overcrowding of school and university population has a negative impact on the management of pupils and

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[16]Excerpt from the newspaper Mutations of 23 April 2019, during an interview with the Divisional officer of Bamboutos, which focused on consequences of the Anglophone crisis in the West Region, which borders the North-West and South-West.

[17]This is the name given to the secessionist fighters.

students at the pedagogical level. Classrooms and lecture halls accommodate more learners than expected, teachers are overloaded, which could jeopardize the quality of supervision and teaching.

On the social level, there is a strong demand for social housing, which was already in deficit before the crisis, the development of girls' prostitution in metropolitan cities (Dschang, Bafoussam, Mbouda, Foumban and Foumbot), due in part to school drop-out and the lack of financial resources to survive, as well as early pregnancies. It is also devastating for the national and local economy. According to the Groupement inter patronal du Cameroun (GICAM), in July 2018, the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West regions had already resulted in a loss of CFAF 269 billion, destroyed 6,434 formal jobs, and threatened another 8,000 jobs. Commercial activities are at a standstill due to the ghost town dead days decreed in the North-West and South-West Regions by the secessionists, which prevent some traders from obtaining supplies, and to the fact that several entrepreneurs from the Regions have converted to other activities or have simply stopped their activities.

5. SWOT MATRIX OF THE DIAGNOSIS OF DEMOGRAPHY IN THE WEST REGION

Table 19: SWOT Analysis of the West Region Demographic Diagnosis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
- Young population that can constitute food workforce	- Increasing rural exodus to other regions; - Lack of data at the Regional level on demographic aspects, both at the Division and sub-division level on indicators such as ISF, life expectancy, mortality for planning purposes - Very high population density in some Divisions (Mifi, Menoua, Bamboutos) leading to high pressure on the land, while other Divisions are practically empty (Noun, Ndé) - Infant and child mortality rate is still high.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
- Active diasporas participating in the Region's development	- Economic migration of young people - Uncontrolled migration flows; - Influence of Western culture on the Region's customs

In conclusion, the Demography of the West Region, beyond a certain number of specific characteristics, has characteristics similar to those observed at the national level. The population dominated by women remains predominantly young, with an estimated average age of 23.2 years at the regional level compared to 21.65 years at the national level. Adult fertility remains high (ISF=5.6), although it is difficult to say whether this trend will continue in the long term given policies to raise awareness about responsible parenthood and the promotion of the Demographic Dividend concept. In addition, mortality indicators in the West Region are all lower than those observed at the national level. This means that the risk of mortality for a child born and living in the West Region is lower than for a child born and living nationally. For economic and welfare reasons, men are more involved in the migration process than women.

However, the Region has been suffering (both in educational, social and economic terms) for more than two years from effects of the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions.

6. METHODOLOGY MEMO

Given the growing need for planning, monitoring and evaluation of economic and social development programmes in Cameroon in general and the West Region in particular, it was urgent to make population projections from the last census in November 2005 to estimate the current resident population in that Region.

The literature on sub-national population projections (entities below the national level) offers two main methodological approaches. The first (bottom-up) is based on the non-existence of national projections and/or a good understanding of population dynamics within the various geographical entities that make up the country. It proposes for each geographical unit concerned to use the component method and the results obtained are then compiled to form the national projections. The second (top-down) approach proposes to distribute the available national projections among the different geographical entities.

Faced with the absence of certain indicators that are not provided at the level of the different geographical scales (Region, Division and Sub-didision), it is difficult for us to use the component method that is commonly used. It is based on taking into account the components of population movement separately (mortality, fertility and migration), the application of survival probabilities, and the fertility rate to the population by age and sex to obtain population changes.

The methodology used for national and regional projections is polynomial interpolation using data from the 1976, 1987 and 2005 censuses. For projections at the divisional or municipal level, the constant reporting method was used starting from the largest administrative unit to the most basic. It requires field visits in addition to the socio-demographic and socio-economic data available. For these projections, adjustments were made to propose fixed staffing levels.

It is important to stress that results obtained by BUCREP or any other structure cannot be "real numbers", they simply provide an approximate picture of the population of the Region and at each geographical scale over a given period. But it is difficult to be sure that the strong hypotheses formulated will be confirmed over time. These assumptions may also constitute a point of weakness in these projections because the constant reporting method from the largest administrative unit (Division) to the most basic unit (Sub-division) may not always be the most appropriate since the reports vary over time. In a context where the fourth General Census of Population and Housing instituted by Presidential Decree No. 2015/397 of 15 September 2015 is not yet effective, this method appears to be the most appropriate. It should be noted, as in any other field and moreover in the social sciences, that the lack of consensus on the formulation of hypotheses that has always existed between actors when such an exercise is carried out. The most important thing is to propose some likely figures for planning purposes.

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