



ssnup

Smallholder Sustainability
Upscaling Programme

STRENGTHENING A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO SUPPORT RESILIENT FARMING IN CAMEROON



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services delivery



Capacity building for end
beneficiaries



Market access and
product development



Management systems
improvement

CONTEXT

Cameroon is the third most populated country in Central Africa after DRC and Angola. Its agricultural sector strongly contributes to economic growth and poverty reduction efforts. The region's proximity to Nigeria, with its large population, offers significant market prospects for agricultural products. While the Extreme-North region comprises rural zones which have significant economic opportunities, including agricultural and livestock activities, it also faces severe conflicts with high security concerns making it extremely challenging to produce.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Union des Clubs d'Épargne et de Crédit Cameroun (UCEC) is a microfinance institution run by the diocese of Maroua in northern Cameroon. It brings together six cooperative offering financial services to 11,000 clients (30% women) in this rural region. About 70% of UCEC's portfolio is in the agricultural and livestock sectors. UCEC is the only microfinance institution in Cameroon which operates in rural areas of the northern region abandoned due to the level of insecurity. Its structure, operating under the umbrella of local parishes, allows it to be present in the most challenging areas of the country.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of this project is to support UCEC in amplifying its financial services to rural populations in one of the poorest zones of Cameroon. The project aims to revise UCEC's legal status to fully operate and develop its internal structures to conform to the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) Uniform Act on cooperative societies and to support the implementation of a new core banking system.

The expected results of the project are:

- Prepare and deliver the application of conformity to the OHADA Uniform Act, ultimately benefiting to a total of 11,000 clients, including 5,000 smallholder farmers.
- Secure and improve the ability of UCEC's to deliver financial services to its clients.
- Identify the new core banking system to be implemented.

IMPACT INVESTOR

Sidi Solidarité Internationale
pour le Développement
et l'Investissement

BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Union des Clubs d'Épargne et de
Crédit Cameroun (MFI) –
Cameroon

TARGET

5,000 smallholder farmers

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Sorghum, peas, soybeans,
peanuts, goat meat and mutton

STARTING DATE

February 2024

DURATION

19 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€ 44,912
Including € 35,930 (80%)
contribution from SSNUP



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