Water
Supply and
Sanitation in
Cameroon

Turning Finance into Services for 2015 and Beyond
The first round of Country Status Overviews (CSO1) published in 2006 benchmarked the preparedness of sectors of 16 countries in Africa to meet the WSS MDGs based on their medium-term spending plans and a set of ‘success factors’ selected from regional experience. Combined with a process of national stakeholder consultation, this prompted countries to ask whether they had those ‘success factors’ in place and, if not, whether they should put them in place.

The second round of Country Status Overviews (CSO2) has built on both the method and the process developed in CSO1. The ‘success factors’ have been supplemented with additional factors drawn from country and regional analysis to develop the CSO2 scorecard. Together these reflect the essential steps, functions and results in translating finance into services through government systems – in line with Paris Principles for aid effectiveness. The data and summary assessments have been drawn from local data sources and compared with internationally reported data, and, wherever possible, the assessments have been subject to broad-based consultations with lead government agencies and country sector stakeholders, including donor institutions.

This second set of 32 Country Status Overviews (CSO2) on water supply and sanitation was commissioned by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW). Development of the CSO2 was led by the World Bank administered Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This report was produced in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon and other stakeholders during 2009/10. Some sources cited may be informal documents that are not readily available.

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An AMCOW Country Status Overview

Water Supply and Sanitation in Cameroon

Turning Finance into Services for 2015 and Beyond
Strategic Overview

The water supply and sanitation sector in Cameroon is lagging behind that of many of its economic peer-group countries as, over the last 15 years, funding and hence progress have been sporadic.

More recently, the sector has started to regain the trust of development partners (DPs) through the implementation of reforms that have led to improved governance, the start of decentralization, the establishment of sectoral policies and institutional development.

There is, however, a marked difference between progress made in the water supply and sanitation subsectors. The mandate for sanitation remains dispersed among several stakeholders; the subsector has not been proactive and is far less well resourced than water supply.

The progress between urban and rural water supply subsectors is also quite distinct: access rates are increasing in both subsectors but the progress is slower in rural areas. The rural water supply subsector is also less well-structured and is currently being overlooked by external funders. In contrast, budget allocations to the urban water supply subsector are set to increase significantly once institutional reforms are completed, enabling development partner funding to be absorbed more rapidly.

Whilst the prospects for funding and service development are generally positive for water supply, the backlog experienced in the sanitation subsectors means it is highly unlikely 2015 targets will be met.

This second AMCOW Country Status Overview (CSO2) has been produced in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon and other stakeholders.
Agreed priority actions to tackle these challenges, and ensure finance is effectively turned into services, are:

**Sectorwide**
- Implement the national policy in rural areas (division of roles, coordination).
- Encourage more stakeholders to assume their roles: communes (local authorities), the private sector, and users.
- Provide the sanitation sector with a dedicated directorate with dedicated resources.
- Put in place budget planning tools and improve the effectiveness of expenditure.
- Balance the allocation of finance more equally between the water supply and sanitation subsectors.
- Set up an annual sector review.

**Rural water supply**
- Complete the inventory of facilities and introduce a method for keeping this up-to-date.
- Develop technical capacities (particularly for the construction of small piped systems) by mobilizing the private sector, encouraging competition.
- Accelerate the transfer of contracting authority responsibilities to the communes.
- Increase staffing levels within the Ministry of Energy and Water (MINÉE) (support to stakeholders, programmatic approach).

**Urban water supply**
- Improve financial tracking within the subsector (investment, recurrent costs, subsidies, revenue).
- Streamline Camwater’s public procurement procedures to improve utilization rates of funding committed.

**Rural sanitation and hygiene**
- Within MINÉE, create a structure at directorate level entirely dedicated to sanitation.
- In consultation with subsector stakeholders, set up an operational strategy (approaches to be used to promote hygiene, subsidy levels, types of facility, and technologies used).

**Urban sanitation and hygiene**
- Ensure the completed legal texts differentiate between urban sanitation (wastewater) and drainage (stormwater) so that the former is attached to MINÉE via a specialized directorate that is given full responsibility for the subsector.
- Develop strategic plans for sanitation in urban areas.
- Establish an agreement with the lessee of the concession area to implement the actions set out in the strategic plan.
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFD</td>
<td>French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AfDB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCW</td>
<td>African Ministers’ Council on Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPO</td>
<td>Objective-based Program Budget (Budget Programme par Objectif)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAA</td>
<td>Autonomous Amortization Fund (Caisse Autonomie d’Amortissement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camwater</td>
<td>Cameroon water utilities corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPEX</td>
<td>Capital expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CdE</td>
<td>Private water operator (Camerounaise des Eaux)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO2</td>
<td>Country Status Overview (second round)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Directorate of Water (Direction de l’Eau)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEAU</td>
<td>Sub-Department of Urban Water and Sanitation (Sous-Direction de l’Eau et l’Assainissement Urbains)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHH</td>
<td>Department of Water Supply and Hydrology (Direction de l’Hydraulique et de l’Hydrologie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHR</td>
<td>Sub-Department of Rural Water Supply (Sous-Direction de l’Hydraulique rurale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Development partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIB</td>
<td>European Investment Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross domestic product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross national income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPOBA</td>
<td>Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTZ</td>
<td>Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, a German technical assistance agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH</td>
<td>Household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japanese International Cooperation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMP</td>
<td>WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>Middle income country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINDEH</td>
<td>Ministry of Energy and Water (Ministère de l’Énergie et de l’Eau)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINFI</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance (Ministère des Finances)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINSANTE</td>
<td>Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTEF</td>
<td>Medium-Term Expenditure Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Nongovernmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O&amp;M</td>
<td>Operations and maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBA</td>
<td>Output-Based Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONEP</td>
<td>National Office for Drinking Water (Morocco) (Office National de l’Eau Potable [Maroc])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPEX</td>
<td>Operations expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAEPAR</td>
<td>Water Supply and Sanitation Program in Rural Areas (Programme d’Approvisionnement en Eau Potable et Assainissement en milieu Rural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRSP</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>Polystyrene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSH</td>
<td>Rural sanitation and hygiene subsector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWS</td>
<td>Rural water supply subsector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNEC</td>
<td>National Water Supply Company of Cameroon (Société Nationale des Eaux du Cameroun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSH</td>
<td>Urban sanitation and hygiene subsector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWS</td>
<td>Urban water supply subsector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPE</td>
<td>Water point equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSP</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSS</td>
<td>Water supply and sanitation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Introduction

The African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) commissioned the production of a second round of Country Status Overviews (CSOs) to better understand what underpins progress in water supply and sanitation and what its member governments can do to accelerate that progress across countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). AMCOW delegated this task to the World Bank’s Water and Sanitation Program and the African Development Bank who are implementing it in close partnership with UNICEF and WHO in over 30 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. This CSO2 report has been produced in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon and other stakeholders during 2009/10.

The analysis aims to help countries assess their own service delivery pathways for turning finance into water supply and sanitation services in each of four subsectors: rural and urban water supply, and rural and urban sanitation and hygiene. The CSO2 analysis has three main components: a review of past coverage, a costing model to assess the adequacy of future investments, and a scorecard which allows diagnosis of particular bottlenecks along the service delivery pathway. The CSO2’s contribution is to answer not only whether past trends and future finance are sufficient to meet sector targets, but what specific issues need to be addressed to ensure finance is effectively turned into accelerated coverage in water supply and sanitation. In this spirit, specific priority actions have been identified through consultation. A synthesis report, available separately, presents best practice and shared learning to help realize these priority actions.
2. Sector Overview: Coverage and Finance Trends

Coverage: Assessing Past Progress

As there are no statistics available from the technical ministry in charge of the sector, this analysis is based on the data published by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) in 2010. The JMP estimates the number of people with access to the service based on a linear regression of the results of nationally representative household surveys conducted between 1990 and 2008. Based on these estimates, the proportion of people with access to drinking water rose from 50 percent in 1990 to 74 percent in 2008. This means that around 8 million people obtained access to an improved water source over this period. According to the JMP, Cameroon is therefore on-track to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for the drinking water sector of 75 percent by 2015 (see Figure 1).

The situation for sanitation, however, is very different. Only 3.2 million people obtained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2008. This rise was not enough to offset the rapid population growth, which explains why the JMP coverage estimates remained unchanged at 47 percent over the same 1990 to 2008 period. The country is not, therefore, in a position to meet the MDG target of 74 percent.

It is to be noted that Figure 1 is based on combined rural and urban figures. These averages conceal large differences between the situation in the town and in the countryside, as rural areas are clearly lagging behind as far as both water supply and sanitation are concerned (see Sections 7 to 10).

Investment Requirements: Testing the Sufficiency of Finance

The investment requirements for the sector were estimated as part of the CSO2 analysis. The objective was threefold:

1. To calculate the investment required in each subsector for the country to achieve its targets for water supply and sanitation.
2. To compare the results with the estimates made at the national level.
3. To compare total investment requirements with levels of anticipated funding to ascertain the net deficit.

Figure 1
Progress in water supply and sanitation coverage
The CSO2 estimate is based on:

- Population data, the access rate, and 2015 targets from the JMP.
- The distinction between urban and rural areas based on the current administrative boundaries (as opposed to the boundaries of the concession areas for urban water supply and sanitation (WSS) services).
- Unit costs provided by the national authorities and Camwater.4

Table 1 provides a comparison of the CSO2 analysis results with the national estimate given in the Urban Sector Policy (Lettre de Politique Sectorielle Urbaine) and the National Action Plan for the Water Supply and Sanitation Program in Rural Areas (PAEPAR), both drawn up in 2007.5

The government estimate of investment requirements for the water supply sector is nearly double that of the CSO2, while the national estimate for the sanitation sector is extremely low. The discrepancies in these two estimates can be principally explained by the fact that they are based on different baseline access rates and 2015 targets (100 percent in the case of the national estimate).6

The comparison between required investment (CSO2 estimate) and anticipated funding (see Table 2)7 gives rise to two main observations.

First, as far as water supply is concerned, the majority of the funds mobilized are allocated to urban areas, at the expense of rural areas. If this current trend continues, US$90 million per year will have been allocated to the urban water supply subsector between 2009 and 2015, 70 percent of which will have come from development partners (DPs).8 In contrast, only US$10.3 million per year will have been allocated to the rural subsector, with 37 percent coming from DPs. Considering the sector as a whole, the funding gap in the rural water supply subsector is masked by the high level of finance allocated to the urban subsector. This rural water supply funding deficit equates to an average of almost US$11 million per year over the 2009–15 period (see Table 2 and Figure 2). The model also integrates an assumption that public funds will leverage modest contributions from households, equivalent to 10 percent of costs in both subsectors, but whether this is obtained in practice will depend on the efficacy of cost recovery mechanisms.

Second, sanitation is being overlooked, both by the government and by DPs: no financial commitments have so far been made for the next few years. Although a (relatively small) proportion of the funding allocated to water supply is usually designated to sanitation activities—to accompany the construction of drinking water facilities—this is not indicated in the forecasts. Furthermore, for the urban subsector, Camwater confirmed that it has not yet planned any activities relating to the management of wastewater (the only activities planned pertain to stormwater). As a result, the funding deficit stands at an average of US$174.9 million per year for the 2009–15 period.

In addition to the investment requirements presented above, around US$40 million per year (US$23 million according to the national estimates) will be required to finance operation and maintenance (O&M) of current and future infrastructure. This breaks down as US$18 million per year for water supply (US$17 million under the national estimates)—with the implicit assumption that a large part

of this will be recovered from users through the water bill, the remainder being met by the public authorities—and US$22 million per year for sanitation (US$6 million according to the national estimates), almost totally funded by households.

These considerations are only part of the picture. Bottlenecks can in fact occur throughout the service delivery pathway—all the institutions, processes and actors that translate sector funding into sustainable services. Where the pathway is well developed, sector funding should turn into services at the estimated unit costs. Where it is not, the above investment requirements may be gross underestimates. The rest of this report evaluates the service delivery pathway in its entirety, locating the bottlenecks and presenting the agreed priority actions to help address them.

Table 3
Annual OPEX requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsector</th>
<th>OPEX US$ million/year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural water supply</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban water supply</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water supply total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural sanitation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban sanitation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanitation total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO2 costing.

An AMCOW Country Status Overview

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**Table 2**
Coverage and investment figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage Target Population requiring access</th>
<th>CAPEX requirements</th>
<th>Anticipated public CAPEX</th>
<th>Assumed HH CAPEX</th>
<th>Total deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural water supply</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban water supply</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water supply total</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural sanitation</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban sanitation</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanitation total</strong></td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>1,153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: JMP 2010 report and CSO2 costing.

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**Figure 2**
Required vs. anticipated (public) and assumed (household) expenditure for water

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**Figure 2**
Required vs. anticipated (public) and assumed (household) expenditure for sanitation

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3. Reform Context: Introducing the CSO2 Scorecard

As in many countries in SSA, the WSS sector in Cameroon has developed considerably over the course of the last few years as a result of the reforms that have been put in place (the key dates are provided in Table 4). In 2003, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) included the rural water supply subsector as one of its priority intervention sectors. It provided a brief status update and set a 2015 target for coverage. In contrast, neither the urban water supply

Table 4
Key dates in the reform of the sector in Cameroon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Creation of the Ministry of Agriculture’s Agricultural Engineering Department (Service du Génie Rural), supplying the rural population of the north of the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Creation of the Office of Water within the Ministry of Transport, Mines and Telecommunications (Ministère des Transports, des Mines et des Télécommunications), responsible for ground water exploration and conducting inventories of water points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Creation of the National Water Supply Company of Cameroon (SNEC: Société Nationale des Eaux du Cameroun) to whom the state granted the operation of public water supply networks in the towns for a period of 40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Creation of the Ministry of Mines and Energy (Ministère des Mines et de l’Énergie), responsible for WSS in urban centers, whilst rural areas remained under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Law No. 084/013 pertaining to water regulations (but with no implementing provisions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Law No. 92-002 pertaining to the creation of communes (local authorities) (this had no immediate impact on the sector)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Merger of DHR and DEAU into the Directorate of Water (DE: Direction de l’Eau) in charge of WSS in rural and urban towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Prior to this, legal texts were only concerned with the protection of resources. A new law (No. 98/005) pertaining to water regulations is supplemented by implementing provisions, as of 2001, that also pertain to the management of the service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Start of the SNEC privatization process (limited Invitation to Tender for 51 percent of shares)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Provisional acquisition of SNEC by the French utility company, ‘Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux’ (ONDEO Services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Nomination of a temporary administrator to oversee the privatization process and ensure continuity of the public water service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Admission that acquisition of SNEC by ONDEO Services has failed, announcement of a new means of privatization that is still being defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Law No. 2004/18 setting out the rules applicable to communes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Decree No. 2005/493 setting out the means of delegation of WSS public services in urban and peri-urban areas. Decree No. 2005/494 pertaining to the creation of the Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Conclusion of the SNEC privatization process with the establishment of a leasing contract for the management and operation of urban facilities between the state, Camwater, and Camerounaise des Eaux (subsidiary of ONEP, national water supply company of Morocco)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Decree No. 2010/0239/PM transferring the competencies for the construction and management of wells and boreholes to communes (the drinking water networks remain with the state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To come</td>
<td>Water Law (by 2013) Provisions to implement the transfer of competencies to communes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
subsector nor the sanitation subsector were mentioned. Over the course of the following years, the WSS sector has become more structured. In urban areas, the institutional context was reshaped with the introduction of private sector participation. The National Water Supply Company of Cameroon (SNEC), the old state-owned water distribution company, was restructured leading to the creation of Camwater (asset-holding company) in December 2005 and to the signing of a leasing contract in April 2008 between Camwater and Camerounaise des Eaux (CdE) a private operating company that manages the water supply facilities covered by its lease. In 2007, meanwhile, the Urban Sector Policy was adopted. In rural areas, it was the implementation of a sector program, PAEPAR, which led to the definition of a new national policy in 2007 and a 2008–15 action plan.

This brief introduction puts the service delivery pathway in context, which can then be explored in detail using the CSO2 scorecard, an assessment tool providing a snapshot of reform progress along the service delivery pathway. This scorecard looks at nine building blocks of the service delivery pathway, which correspond to specific functions classified in three categories: three functions that refer to enabling conditions for putting services in place (policy development, planning new undertakings, budgeting); three actions that relate to developing the service (expenditure of funds, equity in the use of these funds, service output); and three functions that relate to sustaining these services (facility maintenance, expansion of infrastructure, use of the service). Each building block is assessed against specific indicators and scored from 1 to 3 accordingly.

Despite the restructuring of the sector that has taken place in Cameroon over the course of the last few years, the CSO2 scorecard results for enabling conditions are below the average for Cameroon’s economic peer group, comprising middle-income countries (MIC) participating in the CSO211 (see Figure 3). Although the rural water supply subsector is based on solid foundations in terms of sector context (there is a policy, an action plan, soon a water law, and a draft programmatic approach), it still lacks a sector mechanism for bringing together stakeholders that share the same priorities (there is no sector review, few stakeholders have any contact with the ministry). Furthermore, the extremely hesitant implementation of decentralization is hindering the clear redistribution of roles between stakeholders. The ministry no longer has sufficient resources to act as the main contracting authority for the sector and the communes are not yet operational as far as this aspect is concerned. Lastly, there is little organization within the sanitation sector; it has no set targets to be met, no subsector strategy, and no dedicated institutional body.

In terms of developing access to water supply and sanitation services, here again Cameroon is lagging behind its peer group countries, with the exception of the urban water supply subsector. Cameroon is a country with very few WSS DPs: ever since the contested 1992 elections, bilateral and multilateral donors have been small in number, although they are now slowly returning (particularly to urban areas); international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are virtually absent (only one NGO is noticeably active in the water supply sector). The capacity to mobilize and absorb funds remains limited, particularly in relation to the level of investment that has actually been made over the course of the last few years. The reasons for this...
include the fact that there is a technical ministry that is understaffed and still too centralized, plus administrative procedures are cumbersome (obtaining signatures for financing agreements, public procurement procedures, recruitment, and the reorganization of local offices) which severely hampers the transformation of funding obtained into operational facilities.

Finally, the capacity for sustaining WSS services is very low: there is little maintenance in rural areas; the tariff is insufficient to cover O&M; there are no spare part distributors; the inventory of facilities and their functionality is not up-to-date; there are not enough local private operators; improvements in hygiene practices are taking place very slowly; and there are very few stakeholders driving innovation.

Sections 4 to 6 highlight progress and challenges within the WSS sector across three thematic areas—the institutional framework, finance and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)—benchmarking Cameroon against its peer countries based on a grouping by gross national income. The related indicators are extracted from the scorecard and presented in charts at the beginning of each section. The scorecards for each subsector are presented in their entirety in Sections 7 to 10.
4. Institutional Framework

The implementation of a favorable policy framework is one of the three factors used to assess the enabling conditions for sector development. Whilst this is a step that Cameroon appears to have completed, the results relating to the institutional framework are still below the average of its peer-group countries (see Figure 4). The results for the sanitation sector, both urban and rural, are low due to a lack of an institutional structure in these two subsectors. Although the existence of a national policy and action plan for the rural water supply subsector is a step in the right direction, it is only the reform of the urban water supply subsector that has enabled Cameroon to achieve results close to the average of its economic peer group.

For rural areas, the Ministère de l’Énergie et de l’Eau (MINÉE) is the main stakeholder, through its Directorate of Water Supply and Hydrology (DHH: Direction de l’Hydraulique et de l’Hydrologie). With no policy or national guidelines in place specifically targeting sanitation, DHH activities are mainly geared towards constructing water facilities and organizing the supply of drinking water in rural areas.

In urban areas, the Sub-Directorate of Urban Water Supply (Sous-Directorate de l’Hydraulique Urbaine) undertakes supervision of Camwater’s area of concession, and thus that of the operator, Camerounaise des Eaux (CdE). The organization of this subsector, its targets, resources, and strategies, are essentially determined by the terms of the contract between the state and Camwater, and by the terms of the lease contract between Camwater and CdE. The contract also specifies several norms and standards pertaining to service provision and there is a joint investment plan, shared between the operator and the asset-holding company that defines the use of the lease fee. For the present, however, the contractual obligations of the lease are not being entirely respected (particularly as regards the investment program and sanitation activities) as they require a more favorable context (financing, national policy, operational strategy).

Despite the building blocks required for the institutional framework of the sector being in place (see Figure 5), there is still no operational programmatic approach. Such an approach would enable a more refined needs assessment to be conducted; would enable a plan to be established based on priority criteria; and would lead to countrywide harmonization in the way finance is utilized. The number of stakeholders involved in the sector is limited

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**Priority actions for institutional framework**

- Implement the national policy in rural areas (division of roles, coordination).
- Encourage more stakeholders to assume their roles: communes, the private sector, and users.
- Provide the sanitation sector with a dedicated directorate with dedicated resources.

**Figure 4**

Scorecard indicator scores relating to institutional framework compared to peer group

- Cameron average scores
- Averages, MICs

Source: CSO2 scorecard.
and the lack of coordination means that the ministry is isolated, absorbed in the implementation of the national investment programs, regardless of whether the funds for these come out of the national budget or are external (from JICA [Japan], the African Development Bank [AfDB], GTZ [Germany], AFD [France], and so on).

The issue of who owns the facilities, and is responsible for their maintenance and renewal, is yet to be resolved as the decentralization process in Cameroon is still in its early stages and the communes’ role in the sector remains largely theoretical. This particularly limits the possibilities for implementing a demand-responsive approach, despite the fact that this is the type of approach promoted in the national WSS policy for rural areas.

The private sector is not particularly active in rural areas (the handpump care and maintenance system is very poor) and there are only two national borehole companies of note who have a dominant position in an uncompetitive market (the unit cost for boreholes is set by the administration). There are also few NGOs active in the water supply and sanitation sector. Only one large-scale project was undertaken in 2009–10: this was the ‘Water is Life’ project based in Otélé that essentially involved the construction of wells.
5. Financing and its Implementation

Priority actions for financing and its implementation

- Put in place budget planning tools at ministerial level.
- Improve the effectiveness of expenditure (abandon the pricing information system, increase competition).
- Balance the allocation of finance more equally between the water supply and sanitation subsectors.

The processes for planning, budgeting, and utilization of finance allocated to the WSS sector have been erratic over the past decade. Only some of the necessary tools are in place or operational which renders the monitoring of financial performance very difficult and could lead to the scorecard results ultimately being revised down (see Figure 6).

First of all, the fact that the sector still does not have appropriate budget planning tools is cause for concern. Whilst there has been a national MTEF (Medium-Term Expenditure Framework) in place since 2006, there is neither an MTEF nor a performance budget at ministerial or sector level. This means that the budget preparation process remains highly centralized at Ministry of Finance (MINFI) level, providing the sector ministries little opportunity to translate their strategy into budget-lines or to ensure there is a balance between subsector allocations.

The situation regarding budget allocations is equally concerning. In its review of public expenditure undertaken in April 2009, the World Bank noted that, for the rural WSS sector: ‘Neither the Autonomous Amortization Fund (CAA: Caisse Autonome d’Amortissement), nor finance departments, nor the technical departments were able to provide data pertaining to the allocation and utilization of external resources, year on year, for the 2002–07 period’. The best estimates of budget allocations to the WSS sector over the period 2002–07 period show a steady decrease until 2006 (a year with no external financing), with water supply and sanitation being accorded only a very small proportion of the national budget—0.1 percent on average over the period (see table 5).

![Figure 6](image)

Scorecard indicator scores relating to financing, compared to peer group

Table 5

| Budget allocated to the WSS sector (urban and rural) in US$ million |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 2002            | 24.1| 14.7| 11.2| 20.0| 9.6| 23.5| 17.2|
| Of which external funding | 21.6% | 39.7% | 48.5% | 50.9% | 0.0% | 13.6% | 29.0% |
| Proportion of MINÉE budget | 97.4% | 43.5% | 51.5% | 55.6% | 32.0% | 57.6% | 61.5% |
| Proportion of national budget | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% |

Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget allocated to the WSS sector</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which external funding</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of MINÉE budget</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of national budget</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: The World Bank, MINÉE, MINFI.
This decline in allocations has now been reversed with a total of over US$100 million committed to the WSS sector over the 2010–12 period. Cameroon now faces a challenge in terms of its absorption capacity, as this budget is four times higher than that received during the any year in the last decade. This challenge depends largely on the ability of Camwater and its lessee to implement the projects planned within urban areas.

The prospects for financing are a lot less positive for the rural water supply subsector (RWS) than they are for urban water supply (UWS). And for sanitation, the prospects for funding are of even greater concern (see Figure 7).

Overall, the utilization rate is good: 98.6 percent of domestic finance and nearly 80 percent of external funding was disbursed during the 2002–07 period. The effectiveness of expenditure remains fairly poor, however: control mechanisms are either incomplete or ineffective; unit costs are higher than in peer group countries; the market lacks sufficient competition (too few drilling companies, with prices set by the administration) and the number of facilities built is relatively low: around 700 water points (or their equivalent) on average per year (see Figure 8). This current low effectiveness of expenditure not only means that there is a certain level of finance being wasted, but also that the target set out in the national action plan (of between 3,000 and 3,500 water points per year) is unrealistic, particularly as this involves constructing more small piped systems that are more complex and take longer to implement than boreholes with handpumps.

There is one activity taking place in urban areas that should help improve the effectiveness of expenditure: the implementation of an Output-Based Aid (OBA) program for the construction of social connections.

Figure 8
Pace of water point creation in rural areas

Source: MINEE, action plan for WSS in rural areas.

Figure 7
Overall annual and per capita investment requirements and contribution of anticipated financing by source

Rural water supply:
Total: $20,900,000
Per capita (new): $48

Urban water supply:
Total: $31,200,000
Per capita (new): $45

Rural sanitation:
Total: $55,100,000
Per capita (new): $43

Urban sanitation:
Total: $120,000,000
Per capita (new): $72

Source: CSO2 estimates based on JMP data.
6. Sector Monitoring and Evaluation

Priority actions for sector monitoring and evaluation

- Complete the inventory of facilities and establish a baseline for sanitation.
- Put in place budget planning tools.
- Set up an annual sector review.
- Establish a baseline for sanitation.
- Define verifiable activity and performance indicators to measure progress both in access rates to WSS services and in hygiene and sanitation practices, and define the means of collecting data from the actors in the field.
- Put a performance budget in place for the different MINÉE directorates, as well as a sector MTEF.
- Define a coordinated programmatic framework at ministerial level to take account of interventions by other ministerial departments, DPs, NGOs and, soon, notably, communes.
- With DPs, put in place an annual sector review.

Whilst the establishment of a programmatic framework appears ambitious given the current situation (the limited number of stakeholders in the sector), setting up a Sector-Wide Approach at this stage will help coordinate existing sector actors and be a sound basis for coordinating new entrants into the sector.

As far as financial monitoring is concerned, the review of public expenditure undertaken by the World Bank in 2009 highlighted the lack of budget transparency including: up to 10 percent of expenditure off-budget, 50 percent of external donations bypassing the Autonomous Amortization Fund (CAA), budget documents difficult to access, and the Chamber of Accounts (Chambre des Comptes) report not made public. There were also weak or absent control mechanisms in place including: excessive use of simplified procedures, expenditure exceeding commitments, uncompetitive markets, and a lack of control over finance officers by the Chamber of Accounts. The monitoring, management, and control of expenditure should be improved once the law of December 26, 2007, is enacted that pertains to state financial regulations.
7. Subsector: Rural Water Supply

Priority actions for rural water supply

- Complete the inventory of facilities and introduce a method for keeping this up-to-date.
- Develop technical capacities (particularly for the construction of small piped systems) by mobilizing the private sector, encouraging competition.
- Accelerate the transfer of contracting authority responsibilities to the communes.
- Increase staffing levels within MINÉE (support to stakeholders, programmatic approach).

The PAEPAR diagnostic of the ministry in charge of water estimated the access rate to drinking water in rural areas to be 45 percent in 2007, meaning that 3.7 million people had access to an improved source of drinking water. At this pace, the access rate will have reached 61 percent for rural areas by 2015, which is below the target of 75 percent set by the government in the 2003 PRSP.  

The JMP uses the results of various household surveys to estimate the proportion of people using an improved source of drinking water. The rate calculated by the JMP for rural water supply is higher than the PAEPAR estimate: it stood at 51 percent in 2008, 20 points higher than in 1990. The annual increase is still too small for the subsector to attain its contribution to meeting the MDG target for drinking water (see Figure 10). For the MDG target to be achieved, it would be necessary for the access rate—as reported by the JMP—to increase by 2.1 percent per year between 2009 and 2015, as opposed to the 1.1 percent annual increase seen between 1990 and 2008. In other words, Cameroon will have to double its current effort. Given the amount of financing that has so far been committed to the subsector for the next few years, it seems highly unlikely that this challenge will be met.

The current budget allocation (2010) stands at US$3.58 million in the MINÉE central departments’ budget (rural WSS); to which the forecast expenditure of the decentralized departments (68 boreholes with handpumps and 15 small piped systems), standing at US$2.67 million, needs to be added. A small amount (US$240,000) has been decentralized, as a pilot, to commune level for the
construction of 21 handpump-equipped wells. Once the US$3.8 million committed by external stakeholders (notably through the ‘Water is Life’ project in Otélé) is added to this, the total allocation stands at US$10.3 million per year for the subsector (not including user contributions), compared to an average annual requirement of US$22.5 million over the 2009–15 period (see Figure 11). O&M costs (US$4 million per year), which are not currently being taken on effectively by users, also need to be added to this deficit.

The scorecard uses a simple color code to indicate: building blocks that are largely in place, acting as a driver on service delivery (score >2, green); building blocks that are a drag on service delivery and require attention (score 1–2, yellow); and building blocks that are inadequate, constituting a barrier to service delivery and a priority for reform (score <1, red). Although there have been some positive recent developments in the institutional context of rural water supply (the 2007 policy, action plan, and subsector budget headings) that have strengthened results for Cameroon’s enabling conditions (see Figure 12), it is clear that the process for transforming funding into sustainable services is currently being hampered by the lack of expenditure effectiveness, the low mobilization and absorption capacity of the technical ministry, which is understaffed and overcentralized, and by the lack of sustainability. For the rural water supply subsector, all of these factors culminate in results that are below the average of other middle-income African countries, as can be seen in Figure 13.

Building blocks relating to the development of new services are currently creating a bottleneck as there is no coordinated programmatic approach and there is also a lack of technical capacity (for design, procurement, and contract management) required for the creation of 3,000 new water points per year. Lastly, the lack of a maintenance support services is endangering the sustainability of facilities being built.

Nevertheless, although the absorption capacity of the subsector is a cause for concern, there are several factors that give rise to a positive outlook for the years to come:

1. The introduction of small piped systems, which (a) could increase the number of water points constructed per year, and (b) provide a level of service would improve willingness to pay management costs among users. These systems are stipulated in the national
policy; around 15 have already been budgeted for in the 2010 budget—Budget d’Investissement Public. At the moment, the proportion of small piped systems developed in rural areas is very low compared to the average of Cameroon’s economic peer group. The failure of the Scan-Water program which built small piped systems (87 percent of which are not functioning) has probably set Cameroon back in its transition to this technological option, despite this being a more effective option in terms of access and sustainability than handpumps (provided that, in contrast to Scan-Water, the population and an operator are properly mobilized to manage the facility17).

2. Decentralization should ultimately increase the absorption capacity of the subsector by increasing the number of contracting authorities and by facilitating the mobilization of users and the local private sector.

3. The continuation of the inventory taking place across the country may also reveal the existence of previously unlisted facilities built by stakeholders who have little contact with the ministry.

Nonetheless, the two first points constitute challenges that need to be met and that will require large-scale changes in the sector: improvements in study and construction capacities (using the private sector and not only the two main drilling companies) and the transfer of responsibilities to, and capacity-building of, local stakeholders (which requires further decentralization of MINÉE to ensure back-up support is available at local level). Strong political will is necessary to undertake these changes as quickly as possible.
8. Subsector: Urban Water Supply

One of the distinctive characteristics of UWS in Cameroon is the fact that the networks built in Yaoundé and Douala succeed in satisfactorily covering these two large agglomerations (which represent the majority of the urban sector in terms of population), despite the fact that there is a very low rate of individual connections (the World Bank has estimated a rate of 22 percent for Yaoundé and 25 percent for Douala) and the fact that there is insufficient production capacity in Yaoundé. The JMP estimated that 92 percent of the urban population had access to an improved water source in 2008, compared to 77 percent in 1990 (see Figure 14). This high rate places the whole sector (urban and rural) on the right track for exceeding the MDG target for drinking water.

This positive situation is reinforced by the prospects for funding: the allocations forecast over the next three years are very high, with an average of over US$90 million per year already acquired. If this trend continues, all investment requirements will be met by 2015, including: the development of individual connections to the network (Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid, or GPOBA, funds for social connections are available up to 2012), maintenance of existing infrastructure that had lacked investment during the SNEC privatization period (AfDB, EIB funds), capacity-building for production, especially for Yaoundé where there is a chronic deficit (AfDB, AFD, EIB), and improvements in access in the secondary towns that come within the scope of Camwater (AfDB). The O&M costs of the facilities will also need to be met, which are estimated at US$13 million per year (see Figure 15).

The explanation for this progress in the UWS subsector lies in the completion of the sector reform that led to the UWS operations being delegated to a private operator, CdE, under a lease contract with the asset-holding

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**Priority actions for urban water supply**

- Improve financial tracking within the subsector (investment, recurring costs, subsidies, revenue).
- Improve Camwater’s public procurement procedures to enable a high utilization rate of the different funding committed.

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Figure 14
Urban water supply coverage

Figure 15
Urban water investment requirements

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Source: JMP 2010 report.

Source: CSO2 costing.
company, Camwater. Several external support agencies suspended their funding whilst waiting for this reform to be concluded.

Households in urban areas contribute to the subsector’s funding through the water tariff (although any reallocation of this contribution towards investment is difficult to track) and through payments for individual connections. For the next three years, this latter contribution by households will be lower being instead covered by OBA subsidies for social connections.

The robust UWS service delivery pathway—the way in which available funding is transformed into sustainable services—only has one serious bottleneck: that of budgeting (see Figure 16). Until recently, the national budget did not enable funding streams from the state for investment or recurrent costs to be identified satisfactorily. Less than half of funding, domestic or external, allocated to UWS was listed correctly. This situation should improve with the progressive implementation of tools to accompany the reorganization of the sector, particularly the financial tools contained within the Camwater contract terms and the investment program planned as part of the lease contract.

Overall, the scorecard performance of the subsector is still slightly below that of Cameroon’s economic peer countries (see Figure 17).

**Figure 16**

Urban water supply scorecard

**Figure 17**

Average UWS scorecard scores for enabling, developing, and sustaining service delivery, and peer-group comparison

Source: CSO2 scorecard.
9. Subsector: Rural Sanitation and Hygiene

Priority actions for rural sanitation and hygiene

- Within MINÉE, create a directorate level structure entirely dedicated to sanitation and with its own staff.
- In consultation with subsector stakeholders, set up an operational strategy (approaches to be used to promote hygiene, subsidy levels, types of facility, and technologies used).
- Accelerate the transfer of contracting authority responsibilities to communes.

JMP data indicates that the access rate to improved sanitation in rural areas has not changed since 1990 (35 percent, see Figure 18). This means that the number of new facilities built each year does not exceed the rate of population growth. Therefore, in relative terms the subsector has not progressed.

This stagnation is not surprising as there is no large-scale program in place for sanitation in rural areas. UNICEF, WHO, the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé), and the Ministry of Basic Education (Ministère de l’Éducation de Base) do build facilities, however, these are not enough to have an impact on the access rate. Virtually all the latrines constructed have been built by households themselves, without external support and with only the resources available to them. Fortunately, the lack of progress observed in access to services has nonetheless been accompanied by a sharp reduction in the open defecation rate, which stood at 21 percent in 1990 and at 10 percent in 2008. It can only be assumed that this is a result of households choosing traditional latrines, only 50 percent of which are estimated to be improved, according to the JMP.

To rectify the situation, investment of US$55 million per year will be required up to 2015, plus US$4 million per year from households for the upkeep and maintenance of their latrines (see Figure 19).

It will also be necessary to set up a ministerial directorate dedicated specifically to sanitation. At the moment, there is no structure in charge of developing interventions (as

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**Figure 18**

Rural sanitation coverage

- **JMP, improved**
- **JMP, improved + shared**

Source: JMP 2010 report.

**Figure 19**

Rural sanitation investment requirements

- **Required CAPEX**
- **Required OPEX**

Source: CSO2 costing.
stipulated in the policy and WSS action plan for rural areas), neither is there a body responsible for mobilizing finance and ensuring the realization of programs. Lastly, a baseline needs to be better identified and the standards and definitions used in household surveys need to be harmonized and brought into line with those used by the JMP.

There is very little experience of construction, which prevents practices being shared; this means that lessons for improving unit cost estimates and levels of required subsidy are not learnt; and makes it difficult to gain a better understanding of which technologies and promotion strategies are most appropriate. Within the rural sanitation subsector there is a great deal yet to be done to strengthen the service delivery pathway depicted in Figures 20 and 21.

In Cameroon, an increased awareness of the importance of rural sanitation, as well as a more dynamic coordination of all the stakeholders concerned, is required. These stakeholders include those within the government in the technical ministries (MINÉE, Ministry of Urban Development and Habitat – Ministère du Développement Urban et de l’Habitat) and in the strategic ministries (the ministries of health and of education). UNICEF’s WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) initiative should enable better coordination of public authority efforts through its national and local consultation platforms.

**Figure 20**
Rural sanitation and hygiene scorecard

![Scorecard](source: CSO2 scorecard)

**Figure 21**
Average RSH scorecard scores for enabling, developing, and sustaining service delivery, and peer-group comparison

![Scorecard](Cameroon average scores, MICs)

Source: CSO2 scorecard.
10. Subsector: Urban Sanitation and Hygiene

Priority actions for urban sanitation and hygiene

• Ensure the completed texts differentiate between urban sanitation (wastewater) and drainage (stormwater) so that the former is attached to MINÉE via a specialized directorate that is given full responsibility for the subsector.
• Develop strategic plans for sanitation in urban areas.
• Establish an agreement with the lessee of the concession area to implement the actions set out in the strategic plan.

According to the JMP, access to improved sanitation in urban areas regressed between 1990 and 2008, moving from 65 percent down to 56 percent. As a result of this and the lack of progress in urban sanitation, Cameroon is certain not to reach the sanitation MDG target (see Figure 22).

This worrying situation can be explained by the very high population growth experienced in the two main towns, Douala and Yaoundé, and by the virtual absence of funding allocated to the subsector. Due to a lack of maintenance and rehabilitation, the sewerage systems in the town centers, which date from the colonial era, are blocked, whereas newer PVC systems in the new neighborhoods cannot be used as there is no operational treatment plant. The majority of the population therefore rely on traditional latrines with a slab and, perhaps, a septic tank, or even unimproved latrines (which are then not included in the JMP access rate calculation).

In contrast to rural areas, urban sanitation comes under the remit of two well-defined structures. The lease contract signed between the state, Camwater, and Camerounaise des Eaux entrusts the operation of wastewater sewerage systems to the latter, in the same way as for stormwater drainage. However, at the moment, the two entities (Camwater and CdE) are not active in this area. They have neither carried out an inventory of existing facilities nor monitor the access rate. In addition, the term ‘sanitation’ (though probably referring more to stormwater drainage) is also present in the texts allocating responsibilities to the Ministry of Urban Development and Habitat; this

Figure 22
Urban sanitation coverage

Source: JMP 2010 report.

Figure 23
Urban sanitation investment requirements

Source: CSO2 costing.
potentially creates a conflict of responsibilities. An urban sanitation policy, which is currently being prepared, should resolve this issue.

The unit costs observed in former projects in the two large cities are extremely high in comparison to other countries in the subregion, revealing a highly uncompetitive market that is, in fact, practically nonexistent. This has resulted in a very high investment requirement estimate to make up the shortfall. The estimate of investment requirements for the subsector stands at US$119.7 million per year on average for the 2009–15 period, plus the O&M costs, evaluated to be US$19 million per year (see Figure 23). This entire amount still needs to be mobilized over the coming years. Part of this investment can be taken on by the users, depending on the subsidy policy that is put in place. As a prerequisite to this, however, there will need to be huge efforts made to increase the willingness of users to pay for improved sanitation.

As for rural sanitation, the urban sanitation subsector performance is very poor. The results for the subsector are considerably below the average of other low-income African countries (Figure 25). The difference between Cameroon and its peer countries is particularly noticeable for the enabling conditions due to the fact that most other middle-income countries have at least one institution responsible for urban sanitation along with some basic elements of the enabling environment in place (policy, strategy, standards, planning, and budget tools).

With no programmatic approach and with no sufficiently advanced investment program, planning in the subsector is limited to project studies such as those of the World Bank.18 The ultimate objective is to launch a sanitation program in Douala and Yaoundé, but the prerequisites for this are not yet in place: current initiatives are therefore aimed at reinforcing the basic framework before (clarification of institutional responsibilities, definition of a policy and strategic guidelines, followed by the development of strategic plans for sanitation). Later, the presence of an effective private operator, such as Cde, may interest donors and act as a starting point for the establishment of a maintenance-emptying-treatment chain. However, at the moment there is no investment planned; scorecard results recorded for several components of the service delivery pathway are very low (Figure 24).

It should also be noted that in the absence of treatment plants to treat the wastewater and sludge from the pits, this is all discharged by the households into the local environment, drainage channels in the town, rivers, and storm-drains.
Notes and References

2 The first round of CSOs was carried out in 2006 covering 16 countries and is summarized in the report, ‘Getting Africa on Track to meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation’.
3 UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (2010), Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2010 Update. The same source is used throughout this report.
4 There are two things worth mentioning in relation to unit costs: first, the cost of boreholes is artificially set by the administration, so there is no competitive market price; second, it is also difficult to establish the proportion of infrastructure cost included in the cost of connection to the network in urban areas given the very low number of extensions realized over the last five years (the operator in urban areas has even carried out a large part of its connections campaign without realizing any extensions). The cost of infrastructure is likely to be high in Yaoundé as a lot of investment is needed to increase production capacity, as well as in the provincial towns under concession where the networks are not up to standard.
6 For example, for RWS, PAEPAR established an access rate of 45 percent in 2007, based on a partial inventory of water supply facilities and their condition, extrapolated over the entire national territory. Its financial model sets the facility requirements for each region using the Water-Point-Equivalent (WPE) method. It starts from the assumption of total coverage in rural areas (100 percent access rate in 2015), and calculates the number of water points necessary per 300 inhabitants (200 in certain regions where settlements are dispersed). The action plan thus lists 22,000 WPE to be created between 2008 and 2015, plus 6,000 WPE to be rehabilitated. The WPE method applied at regional level significantly understimates the number of water points required, notably because it does not give enough consideration to population dispersion. Another model (Hydroconseil, 2007) conducted village by village taking into account the type of equipment (small piped system or handpump) but targeting 80 percent access in 2015 (MDG) resulted in a requirement for nearly 33,000 WPE (of which 16 percent required rehabilitation only), for a total budget of US$473 (around US$60 million per year).
7 Sources: Camwater, MINÉE budget, and interview with the sector’s development partners.
8 These estimates are extrapolated from the amounts provided by the state in its Public Investment Budget for 2010 (domestic commitments), and from the average annual amounts committed by DPs over the 2010–12 period.
9 Due to rounding, subsector figures may not sum to totals.
10 The CSQ2 scorecard methodology and its structure are detailed in the regional synthesis report.
12 The relevant indicators are as follows. All subsectors: targets in national development plans/PRSP; subsector policy agreed and approved (gazetted as part of national policy or as standalone policy); RWS/UWS: institutional roles defined; RSH/UWS: institutional lead appointed.
13 The relevant indicators are as follows: All subsectors: programmatic Sector-Wide Approach; investment program based on MDG needs assessment; sufficient finance to meet MDG (subsidy policy for sanitation); percent of official donor commitments utilized; percent of domestic commitments utilized.
14 State body responsible for managing study and works contracts financed by donor commitments.
15 The relevant indicators are as follows. All subsectors: annual review setting new undertakings; subsector spend identifiable in budget (UWS: inc. recurrent subsidies); budget comprehensively covers domestic/donor finance; RWS, RSH, UWS: domestic/donor expenditure reported; UWS: audited accounts and balance sheets from utilities; RWS, RSH, UWS: periodic analysis of equity criteria by CSOs and government; UWS: pro-poor plans developed and implemented by utilities; RWS/UWS: nationally consolidated reporting of output; RSH/UWS: monitoring of quantity and quality of uptake relative to promotion and subsidy efforts; All subsectors: questions and choice options in household surveys consistent with MDG definitions.
16 The new 2010 PRSP has extended the target of 75 percent to drinking water in general (rural and urban areas) but has moved the deadline back to 2020. No target has been set for sanitation.
17 The Danish cooperation has been considering a second generation of Scan-Water, with attendant measures for sustainable management, although no financial schedule has so far been made available. If funding becomes available soon, it could have a significant impact on the level of financing forecast for the rural subsector.
18 ‘Revue de la situation de l’assainissement a Yaoundé et Douala et propositions pour un projet assainissement des eaux usées (2009)’ on the one hand; on the other hand support for the preparation of a complete strategy for the sanitation sector planned for the beginning of 2011 to serve as the basis for a US$50 million sanitation project planned for 2012.
The first round of Country Status Overviews (CSO1) published in 2006 benchmarked the preparedness of sectors of 16 countries in Africa to meet the WSS MDGs based on their medium-term spending plans and a set of ‘success factors’ selected from regional experience. Combined with a process of national stakeholder consultation, this prompted countries to ask whether they had those ‘success factors’ in place and, if not, whether they should put them in place.

The second round of Country Status Overviews (CSO2) has built on both the method and the process developed in CSO1. The ‘success factors’ have been supplemented with additional factors drawn from country and regional analysis to develop the CSO2 scorecard. Together these reflect the essential steps, functions and results in translating finance into services through government systems – in line with Paris Principles for aid effectiveness. The data and summary assessments have been drawn from local data sources and compared with internationally reported data, and, wherever possible, the assessments have been subject to broad-based consultations with lead government agencies and country sector stakeholders, including donor institutions.

This second set of 32 Country Status Overviews (CSO2) on water supply and sanitation was commissioned by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW). Development of the CSO2 was led by the World Bank administered Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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