



# Cameroon:

The **variety of a continent**—all in one country.

## World Team Cameroon South:

A **variety of ministries**—all in one team.

High mountains, deep forests, and broad tropical savannahs. Villages, rural towns, and big cities. Forest dwelling hunter-gatherers, semi-nomadic cattle herders, farmers, and traders. In the southern region of Cameroon, Central West Africa, one can find all these settings... including our reason for being here: people unreached with the Gospel, whether they be animists, Muslims, or the “churched”. How do we accomplish this? Through church planting, community development, and Bible translation. So where do *you* want to be found sharing this message of hope?

### Religion:

In general, Cameroon enjoys a high level of religious freedom (and peace), much of which is accredited to the large amount of ethnic diversity within the country. That is, while geographically Christians tend to be concentrated in the South and Muslims in the Central/North Regions, religious affiliation also tends to follow ethnic or tribal lines. This ethnic/religious identity also influences the amount of syncretism found in Christianity/Islam because of African Traditional Religion (a form of animism). This is especially true in the rural areas where the resulting folk religions are very strong.



### Location:

Cameroon sits in the heart of Africa, just north of the equator and just below the familiar bulge of the west coast of the continent. Home to an estimated 18 million people, Cameroon is about the size of the US state of California.



### Languages:

There are an estimated 230 to 280 different ethnic and linguistic groups in Cameroon. Some languages, like Fulfulde and Pidgin English are used as regional trade languages, but French and English are the official languages of the country, the use varying by region. Understandably, literacy work and Bible translation are ongoing needs in Cameroon.



### Economy:

As a developing country, Cameroon struggles with its limited infrastructure, particularly a good network of paved roads. Yet while one-third of the population lives below the international poverty threshold, Cameroon's per capita GRP is among the top ten in sub-Saharan Africa. Progress is being made and the people have a strong entrepreneurial spirit. An estimated 70% of the population farms – mostly using simple hand tools – and livestock raising, fishing, lumbering, and some petroleum/mineral exploitation add to the growing economic development.

# World Team in Cameroon

## SE Cameroon

The Baka people have lived in the dense rainforests of southeast Cameroon for centuries, surviving as semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers. Considered backward and primitive by other Cameroonians, they have seldom been on equal footing with others. They are animists who value their freedom to roam the forest, however the encroachment of the logging industry is changing the forest landscape forever. The Baka way of life will need to change if they are to survive, but past efforts to introduce changes have not been very successful.



World Team began work among the Baka in 1992. From the beginning the Baka team has emphasized a holistic approach, using medical care and development initiatives to build trust relationships. Chronological storytelling is being used to present the Gospel to this pre-literate group.

**Needs:** translators to help translate chronological stories, home school/children's tutors (short-term), literacy workers church planters (for a new area), medical workers (primary health care/teaching), community development workers

## Central Cameroon

As Cameroon's rainforests and southern plateau rise northward they give way to the rugged Adamawa Plateau in Central Cameroon. This large and relatively sparsely populated area is home to numerous Fulfulde-speaking people groups living in smaller cities, rural villages, and compounds scattered about in the hills and along the rivers.



World Team entered this area/work in 2002, focusing on church planting and assisting with water development projects.

**Needs:** Church planters (for existing and new areas), community development workers (primarily water and health related), literacy workers

## SW Cameroon

Ten dialect groups in the hilly rainforest of SW Cameroon share the greeting "Oroko!", meaning "(you are) Welcome!" Hospitality comes easily to the Oroko, but maintaining social harmony is a constant struggle. Jealousy, hatred, and fear of witchcraft tear families and communities apart. But a handful of committed Christian leaders are emerging at a critical time—just as translators are putting God's Word into their heart language, so the Oroko can understand God's welcome.



World Team missionaries helped establish the Oroko alphabet in 2004. In 2005, 13 people began training to be part of a translation team. Bible translators and literacy work is now in full swing.

**Needs:** disciplers (long- and short-term), linguistic interns, home school/children's tutors (short-term for 2 families), ethnomusicologist, youth/children's workers (with the national church), Chronological Bible Storytelling worker

## Yaoundé: The capital city

Rain Forest International School (RFIS) provides quality education for missionary kids grades 7-12. The school is vital to the ministries of families serving in Cameroon. RFIS makes it possible for families to remain in Cameroon and continue their ministries while meeting the educational needs of their children.

Every year RFIS is in need of dedicated teachers and administrators and those who will serve as dorm parents. World Team staff at RFIS also have opportunities to teach in the local Cameroonian high school.

To learn more, visit [www.rfis.org](http://www.rfis.org).

**Needs:** short- and long-term teachers, administrators, dorm parents, work crews to help with campus expansion project



World Team Cameroon needs more team members! Consider using your God-given giftedness, however diverse it may be, to join the work in Cameroon. The work is not finished yet! To learn more, please contact us at [mobilize@worldteam.org](mailto:mobilize@worldteam.org).



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