



STEM EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Case study: Cameroon

THE TURNING POINT

In January 1994, a major step towards macroeconomic adjustment and international competitiveness was taken with the devaluation of the CFA franc in Cameroon causing specific difficulties such as unchecked competition from imports, very limited technology, financing difficulties and, more recently, widespread power shortages.

This was the birth of the importance of technology and STEM education in order to improve product/service quality and to maintain Cameroon's economy in the competitive market.



CAMEROON'S 2035 VISION

- In 2003, the president of Cameroon, his excellency Paul Biya expressed aspirations of Cameroon to be a united nation enjoying peace and security; democracy; decentralized administration; prosperity; and universal access to quality social services through an agenda for development planning set by a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
- This strategy gave birth to specific policies and governance highlighting key priorities to advance development and poverty reduction.
- Amongst which was the importance of STEM education from elementary school to higher institutions and alternative education
- Gender equality, women/girls in STEM is equally at the core of this vision and ambition



EVOLUTION

- **PARTNERSHIP**

Cameroon has managed to establish diverse partnerships with international organizations, bodies, and countries to advance STEM education for women and girls. Some organizations such as Plan International, World Bank, US embassy in Cameroon, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and a host of others are working tirelessly to influence policies which advance girls right and access to quality education.

- **SCHOOL CURRICULAR**

Ministries of, basic, secondary and higher education are constantly investing in STEM education by advancing teachers knowledge on teaching techniques and alternative methods that facilitate STEM education and quality education as a whole

- **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Cameroon is now a host of many local organizations who are continuously working to bring and ensure STEM education for girls in all parts of Cameroon especially rural communities which are a host of over 60% of Cameroons population.

- We can see this through the existence of local organizations such as She's STEM Foundation who's working with rural women and girls in rural communities, AfritechHub, EduClick and a host of other local organizations advancing girls right and access to STEM education.



PROSPECTS



CREATING NEW INDUSTRIES.

- Since 1994, Cameroon has evolved in the creation and sustainability of over 2000+ industries and companies operating both locally and internationally. Most of these companies are making use of technology and local talent which are a product of STEM education from schools within the country.

PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH

- Cameroon has regional hospitals, district and health centers in every part of its regions with the use of technological equipment and expertise reinforced and put to practice in order to advance quality health services.

ACCESS TO WATER AND NEW ENERGY SOURCES

- The country is gradually shifting from the use of manual systems to systems which make use of solar energy and technology to ensure availability of water in every sector of the country. Rural communities are mostly affected by this gap and are great examples where initiatives such as solar powered pumps are valuable and sustainable.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION.

- As an emerging country by 2035, agriculture is a main contributor to advance emergence for Cameroon by 2035. Therefore, in order for it to remain in a competitive market, the government has improved policies that promote the use of machines and mechanized agriculture for large scale production and processing in order to achieve its second-generation agriculture ambition.

EDUCATION

- Many private and public schools in Cameroon have essential programs to enhance skills in STEM education. AI, Robotics, Engineering and much more have become essential courses delivered by some universities in Cameroon. Local organizations are equally hosting programs and bootcamps to create awareness on the availability of these programs to women and girls.



THANK YOU!