

Republic of Cameroon: Fostering skills for inclusive workforce development, competitiveness, and growth

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The overarching goal of this study is to facilitate Cameroon’s strategic objective of ensuring a well-educated human resources base in support of its quest to emerge as a strong middle-income economy by 2035. This study is intended to support Cameroon in preparing a national strategy for skills development, related policies, and institutions to boost competitiveness and productivity, and job creation - while being aware that many factors other than skills can limit productivity and job creation, including weak governance, bureaucracy, infrastructure, and taxation policies that directly affect the business environment. The study focuses on skills development for the informal and formal labor markets. For this purpose the authors have undertaken empirical analyses on growth accumulation effects, skills development through the education, and training system that is presented by examining skills accumulation effects, and value-chain analysis that shows the constraints for the demand and supply of skilled and unskilled labor in Cameroon. This report

also presents a comprehensive diagnostic of skills development policies and institutions in Cameroon. It analyzes the various mechanisms for skills development and their alignment with emerging sector demand. The study attempts to bridge a knowledge gap about the skills mismatch in Cameroon, and address the question of how education and training can make valuable contributions to developing skills, spurring growth, increasing competitiveness, and helping Cameroon evolve to higher-value products and services. This study attempts to understand the skills in demand by employers, the constraints on the development of those skills, and the skills that make a difference in raising productivity.

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