

SOCIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, AN IMPERATIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPITAL.

Presentation prepared and presented by Jean Pierre EDJOA, DPSE MINAS

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• INTRODUCTION <p>I- OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN CAMEROON;</p> <p>II – LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN CAMEROON;</p> <p>III – ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE NEW PROGRAM CYCLE OF MINAS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONCLUSION	<p>The human capital refers to the body of knowledge and skills acquired by individuals throughout their lives and to their state of health which enables them to achieve their full potential as productive members of society. It helps individuals improve their labour income and employability.</p> <p>Far from being a static state, human capital is a progressive construction that integrates both individual and collective values and realities. This construction begins at the conception of every human being to extend until his death.</p> <p>Based on the theories of the psychologist Robert WOODWORTH who said “<i>the childhood of today is the manhood of tomorrow</i>” or of the psychoanalyst Sigmund FREUD who said “<i>it's all decided in the first five years</i>”, we can easily understand the place occupied by childhood in the development of human capital, and the importance that should be given to this phase of the development of every human being.</p> <p>In Cameroon, despite the many advances recorded over the years in the promotion and protection of the rights of children, and faced with the emergence of new social phenomena and the humanitarian crisis situation experienced by certain regions of the country, efforts deserve to be made in the areas of education, health and social protection in particular.</p> <p>To achieve this, the country can count on a rich international and national legal framework, a consistent institutional framework and the existence of general or specific policy documents, including the National Child Protection Policy Document (2017 -2026) or the Early Childhood Development Policy Document.</p> <p>It is in this same vein that, thanks to the National Development Strategy (SND30), the Ministry of Social Affairs has carried out a reform/overhaul of its programs, dedicating a whole Operational program for the social protection of children (Program 070). In doing so, MINAS intends, not only to implement, in its fields of action, the vision and strategic orientations of SND30, but also and above all to operationalize the programs resulting from the Colloquium on Child Protection held in 2021, and the budgeted Multisectoral Action Plans of the National Child Protection Policy in Cameroon and the Early Childhood Development Policy Document.</p> <p>However, the following three actions are more than important for the success of this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ the effective appropriation by all actors of the social protection of children sector, of the new orientations thus defined;✓ the establishment and/or strengthening of intra- and intersectoral synergy;✓ the permanent production and dissemination of evidence corresponding to the various indicators defined.