

PROGRESSIVE INITIATIVE FOR CAMEROON P I C A M

JUSTICE - DEVELOPMENT - PROGRESS

Who We Are

PICAM is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and transforming the Cameroonian society through innovative research, practice, and programs based on a collection of factors necessary to foster an overall improvement in human dignity. At the core of our work is the building of a strong civil society on the belief that this is critical to the transformation needed in Cameroon.



Why We Exist

PICAM was founded against the background of social injustices, human rights violations, poor governance, corruption, disregard for the rule of law, underdevelopment, social instability, lack of support mechanisms for the poor and underprivileged, and other forms of social ills that continue to plague the Cameroonian society.

Our Mission

To improve and safeguard the human dignity of everyone by promoting and supporting the principles of human rights, democracy, peace building, development, and humanitarian assistance in the Republic of Cameroon.

Our Vision

A Cameroon in which everyone enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in international conventions and national laws; a Cameroon in which democratic principles are respected and upheld; a Cameroon in which peace and justice prevails and everyone enjoys equal opportunities; a Cameroon in which individuals and communities are empowered to their full potentials; a Cameroon in which there are support structures for the poor, distressed, disabled, and underprivileged.

What We Do

PICAM has five major programs – human rights, democracy, peace building, development, and humanitarian assistance. To achieve the objectives and goals of these five major programs, PICAM undertakes various projects.

Programs

Our **human rights program** seeks to defend all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions and national laws through investigation and exposure of human rights violations, while challenging the authorities to investigate and bring to justice those responsible for abuses on the belief that a timely protest can prevent abuses from escalating.

Our **democracy program** advocates for a culture of democracy through promotion and support for the principles of rule of law, separation of power, good governance, accountability in government, and democratic participation, while preventing discriminatory and corrupt practices.

Our **peace building program** seeks to promote peaceful coexistence, conflict management, and conflict resolution by emphasizing that peace and stability are integral parts of human interaction. PICAM will challenge politicians, elites, and local rulers to seek peaceful resolution to tensions, while encouraging all Cameroonians to see themselves first as Cameroonians. This program equally underscores the correlation between peace, and the principles on human rights, democracy, and development.

Our **development program** is designed to improve lives through involved participation of communities especially at the grassroots level. It is based on the notion that development is most effective when initiated by those to benefit from it. PICAM's embrace communities as a fundamental part of their success, operating with community input and involvement thereby treating members of the community as active participants in their own growth and development rather than passive observers.

Our **humanitarian assistance program** aspires to help meet the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable members of society by reaching those who are economically and socially outside the reach of mainstream services and support, including the poor,

orphans, the sick, the disabled, the homeless, rural populations, children, women, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups.

Projects

To accomplish its mission and vision, PICAM's projects are designed to achieve both the broader and specific aspects of its programs in human rights, democracy, peace building, development, and humanitarian assistance. Some projects seek to achieve the goals of a single program while others seek to achieve the goals of more than one program.

PICAM's current projects include Human Rights Promotion and Protection; Democracy and Good Governance; Cameroon Leadership Forum; Electoral Reform in Cameroon; Democracy and Human Rights Monitoring; Alliance for Peace Network; Elementary Education for All; Underprivileged Vocation Assistance; CamLaws project; Cameroon Journal on Democracy and Human Rights. For details about our projects, please visit <http://www.picam.org/projects/home.htm>.

Population served

PICAM's programs are implemented within the national territory of Cameroon. Our programs target all segments of the Cameroonian population including youths, women, and indigenous people.

PICAM's does not distinguish or discriminate against any person on the basis of age, sex, race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, language, socio-economic status, political opinion, or religious affiliation in any of its policies, procedures, programs, projects or practices.

How PICAM Operates

PICAM operates in a variety of ways. Direct operation involves the use of our staff and volunteers in investigation, advocacy campaigns, project implementation, research, and other activities. Collaborative operation involves partnership with other organizations within and without Cameroon that support PICAM's mission and vision. Our local and grassroots partnership augment our local presence for successful project implementation, while our global partnership enhance our capacity to timely and effectively expose the ills and injustices of the Cameroonian society, especially in crisis situation.

The policies of PICAM are defined by the Board of Directors and implemented under the headship of the Executive Director.

Objective

PICAM's main objective is to perpetuate the course of social justice in Cameroon through broad-based programs that promote a vibrant civil society capable of bringing about peaceful and meaningful change to the socio-political situation, and the establishment of a sustainable democracy in Cameroon.

The Thrust of PICAM

PICAM is independent of any government influence, political ideology, and religious persuasion.

We recognize that respect for human rights is a vital part of human contentment; that democratic participation is an inseparable value of good and accountable governance; that peace and stability are integral elements

of human interaction; that development is necessary to bring meaningful improvement in the lives of people; and that humanitarian assistance is an invaluable means to reach those who are economically and socially outside the reach of mainstream services and support.

How You Can Support PICAM

There are many ways to support our work. You can make moderate to significant contribution to our programs in cash or in-kind. You can also volunteer with PICAM, provide logistic and legal support to PICAM, etc. To make a donation to PICAM, please visit <http://www.picam.org/donation.htm>.

To become involved with PICAM in another capacity, please visit our website at: <http://www.picam.org/getinvolved.htm>.

PICAM is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(C)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue (IRS) Code. Donations to PICAM are tax deductible.

Contact PICAM

6229 Springhill Court, Ste 302
Greenbelt, MD 20770
United States of America.

P.O. Box 631 Kumba
South West Region
Republic of Cameroon.

Tel: (1) 301 938 5221
Tel: (237) 9961 5026
Fax: (1) 240 595 6203

Email: info@picam.org

Website: <http://www.picam.org>