

20 09

Annual Report

An art everyone can master



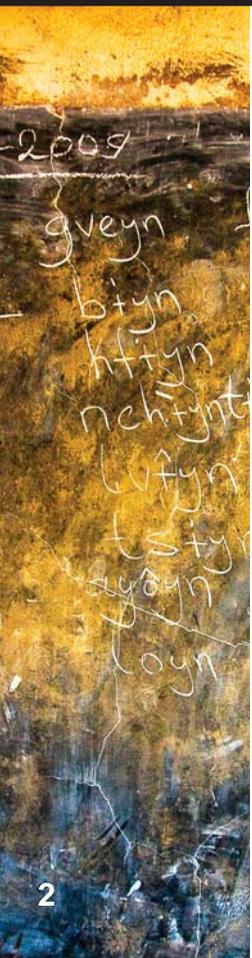
A Word from the Director

It's not impossible!



When I first joined the work of SIL Cameroon, I was assigned as a literacy specialist to the East Region. We often received visitors in the literacy centre and sometimes these would be highly educated officials, well-dressed and obviously successful people. When we presented the Makaa books, they would sometimes show signs of embarrassment on their face. They were not able to read them and they thought that learning to read Makaa would be too difficult. They were afraid of those funny-looking symbols. However, those who made the effort discovered that within just a few hours they were able to read fluently!

Learning to read is much harder for children. It often takes years. Up to that point the children stumble through short phrases, often without knowing what they are reading. Many of them are forced to give up before they master the art of reading. In some schools it is different though. In several communities SIL has helped to introduce education in the mother tongue. What a difference that makes! Suddenly children are able to read while still in Class 1. They are learning to read in a language they understand and that makes it so much easier.



Whether it is children or adults, it is not difficult to learn to read the mother tongue. That shouldn't be surprising, since the mother tongue is part of who we are, what we grow up with. People all across Cameroon are finding that they can learn to read with ease. In over 100 communities SIL is contributing to that effect.

Why would this be important? The theme of this annual report is "an art that everyone can master." The key word in this theme is "everyone." Our work helps to give opportunities to those who would otherwise be left out: children who would otherwise drop out of school, adults who never got their first



school-leaving certificate. This is just one of the many benefits of local language development. I hope that this Annual Report 2009 will help you get a glimpse of the exciting developments in mother tongue education, research, publication and training. Happy reading!

Nelis van den Berg
General Director SIL Cameroon

Administration in Cameroon in December 2009:

Nelis van den Berg
General Director
Steve S. Santos
Director of Administration
and Finance
Joe A. Rider
Personnel Director
Lawrence Seguin
Director of Language
Services
Ria Hedinger
Director Bamenda Region



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Tony Smith
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George Shultz



Introduction

40 years serving language communities in Cameroon

When a language dies, the culture, history and art of the people also die. Therefore, each people group should have access to the means to develop their language. Since 1969, SIL Cameroon has been doing that. Throughout the years, SIL has run training programmes aimed at building the capacity of local language communities. This training has enabled them to develop their own language. Thousands of people have learned how to read and write their mother tongue. Through this capacity building SIL is longing to give value to the linguistic riches of Cameroon.

Being an International NGO, SIL celebrated its 40th anniversary in April 2009. SIL is working under a scientific and cooperation convention and a headquarters' agreement signed with the Cameroon Government. During all these years, SIL also worked closely with research institutions, ministries in charge of education and all those who want to see national languages developed.



Courses/
Workshops

Language
communities

Represented
participants

10 in Linguistics

including text transcription, analysis of nouns and noun phrases, and dictionary publication preparation

13 in Literacy

Including programme management, practical writing, teacher training and production of HIV/AIDS brochures, primers, reading & writing books, calendars & agendas

57

50

162

139

Training

"... just like a child learning to walk!"

In order to make its research more accessible, SIL is training more Cameroonians in the management of their own language development projects. During the year 2009, many people from different language groups attended training workshops organised by SIL either at the regional or the national level. Additionally, it should be noted that several Cameroonians were mentored, trained or involved in personal follow-up by members of SIL.

"I arrived here empty and I am going back totally satisfied," declared Anatole at the end of a training session directed to adult literacy. During this course, Anatole with the other participants learnt a new method of teaching adults based on the five principles of adult education: Learning that LASTS. "I came here as a child learning how to walk, as a student who is making his first steps into the school premises. At the end of the year, he knows the alphabet and he is able to write his name. Thanks to this training, I am able to teach my people how to read and write our mother tongue."



In the chart on the left, the number of participants is the actual number of people who attended a given category of course or workshop. The number of languages, however, includes those that may have taken part in more than one course or workshop.

1 ATP Training An international course	6 in Translation including translation principles and seminars for high-level translation consultants	7 in Scripture Use	2 in Computer Training
-	27	56	18
23	66	148	32

Literacy All is not lost

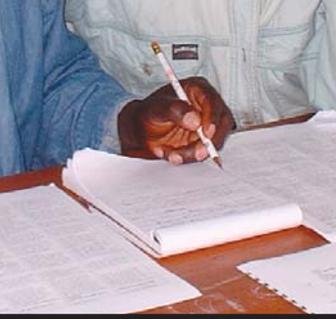
Despite the government effort to facilitate access to education all over the country, there are still many people who never had access to any formal education. For such people, sometimes all hope is gone. That is not the case for Felix Kabeley and Jean Gakwala.

Felix and Jean from the Mofu-Gudur community of the Far North Region of Cameroon did not have an opportunity to attend formal education. But during literacy activities held in the local church, they both learned to read in their mother tongue and later on made the transition to French. Thanks to these new abilities, Felix has now become not only a supervisor of the literacy classes in his community, but he was recruited to be a volunteer teacher in a local school. Besides that, he acquired health training and is serving his community as a health practitioner. Jean became a catechist in the Catholic church, preaching, teaching, and counselling people with the Word of God. He also got health training and serves as a health practitioner too.

The General Alphabet of Cameroon Languages is a result of several years of collective efforts made by researchers within the framework of the development of writing systems for African languages in general and for Cameroon languages in particular.



Thanks to our church-based literacy programmes, many people who did not go to formal schools are developing the abilities to become relevant partners of development in their own communities.



Translation

Don't abandon us please!

Translation is an area of applied linguistics in which SIL assists Cameroonians to address their need for translated documents.

Proper translation requires careful analysis of the meaning of words, sentences and discourse structures used in the source language. Then it is necessary to examine the syntactic, semantic

In one of my visits to share about the language development work we are doing, an official in the Ministry of Higher Education challenged me with this question: "How do you recognise a good translation?" I answered, "by its result."

SIL uses the story of KANDE in a lot of its work. This is a story of a girl who lost both parents because of HIV/AIDS and she had to care for her 6 siblings. This story has been translated in many languages during various regional and national workshops in Cameroon, and it has served as an excellent book in functional literacy classes and in other ways such as creating awareness on HIV/AIDS.

This book is used currently in many communities in Cameroon. In Zoetele, locality situated in the South Region of Cameroon, an elderly man who attended the adult literacy class said, *"I have been hearing about HIV on the radio and television.*



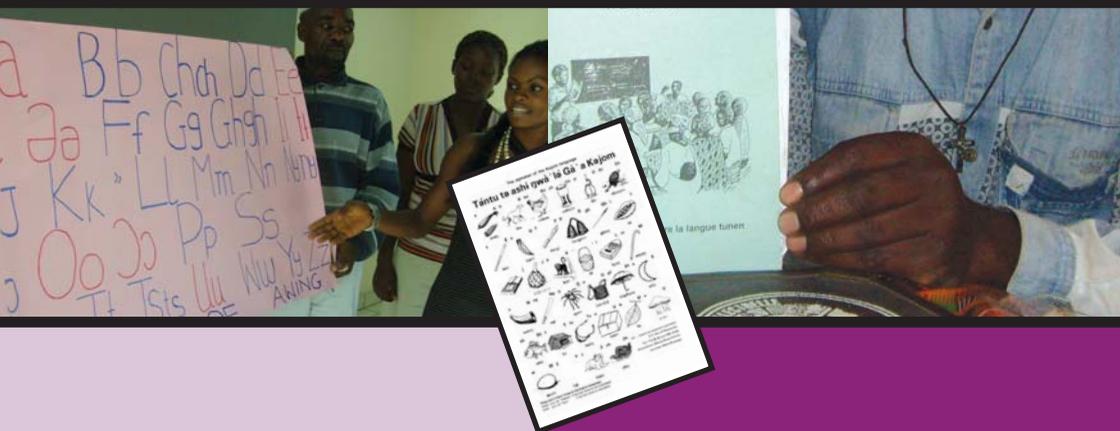
and discourse structures of the receptor language. A good translation often requires the rearrangement of the elements within each statement in order to produce a clear, accurate and natural translation.

Personally, I did not actually feel concerned because the message was in a foreign language and I concluded it was a foreign disease. But during this class, I could hear HIV talking to me directly and I became afraid." He concluded, "Please don't abandon us."

Talk of Mbembe Language (Primer 1)

Publication Review

Let us learn how to read in Mambay 1



The Mbembe primer is based on the approved Mbembe orthography. It is used to teach literacy to children and adults who have no education in a second language. It is a working tool for literacy teachers. It is used in literacy centres and elementary classes in the primary schools. Primer 2 is in the process of being developed.

All SIL publications use the General Alphabet of Cameroon Languages, which was adopted on March 9, 1979, in Yaoundé, for the unification and harmonization of the alphabets of Cameroon languages.

The Mambay language is spoken in North Cameroon, mostly in Guider and Figuil Subdivisions, and in Chad in Lac-Léré Division. It has as language code ISO 639-3: mcs. The manual, *Let Us Learn How to Read in Mambay*, is the first in a series of three primers. It is destined to speakers of the Mambay language and its goal is to permit them to learn how to write and read their language. On the other hand, this manual allows the speakers who are already literate in French to also and easily learn to read and write their mother tongue.

This manual fills a real need and brings a remarkable change within the community.

Publications in national languages



SIL Cameroon publications are primarily written for national language speakers. In 2009, SIL members worked together with nationals to produce publications in the mother tongue covering a wide range of topics, including dictionaries, folktales, health booklets, literacy and primers. See the website for more details: www.silcam.org

Akoose

NGALAME, Hipolite K. 2009. I Krow Akoose (Language). 72 pp. Tombel, Cameroon: Bakossi Bible Translation Project (BBTP).

NGALAME, Hipolite K. 2009. I Understand Akoose. 75 pp. Tombel, Cameroon: Bakossi Bible Translation Project (BBTP).

NGALAME, Hipolite K. 2009. Post primer 2: I Am Bakossi. 78 pp. Tombel, Cameroon: Bakossi Bible Translation Project (BBTP).

Bamunka

FONCONYI, Cletus; Daniel MBIGIONYI; Martin TAH; and Edward WOGHOMBONG. 2009. Bamunka Reading and Writing Book. 79 pp. Yaounde, Cameroon: SIL.

Gemzek (Guemzek)

AWEKETIYE, Jean; Amos DOMAYO; André BERNEK; et Sali D. IZAIE. 2009. Apprenons à lire en langue guemzek 2. 53 pp. Mora (Cameroun) : Comité de langue guemzek.

Kako

ERNST, Gerd; et David Dee KOMBO. 2009. Baba et sa famille: Syllabaire 1 en langue kako. 71 pp. Batouri (Cameroun) : Centre de littérature en langue kako.

Koonzime [Badwe'e, Nzime]

ASTRADHE. 2009. Le livre des écrivains. 20 pp. Lomié (Cameroun) : ASTRADHE.

CODYLKO-OUEST. 2009. Les contes badwe'e, tome 1. 36 pp. Somalomo (Cameroun) : CODYLKO-Ouest.

EKOALEA, Maurice; et Ferdinand ELANGA. 2009. Les animaux de la forêt. 33 pp. Somalomo (Cameroun) : CODYLKO-Ouest.

ELANGA, Ferdinand. 2009. Proverbes - Le serpent ne trouve jamais les gens avec un bâton entre les mains. 51 pp. Somalomo (Cameroun) : CODYLKO-Ouest.

MEDJO, François M. 2009. Manuel pour lire et écrire en langue koonzime. 154 pp. Lomié (Cameroun) : ASTRADHE.

Mambai (Mambay)

KOUE, Nathanael; et K. Erik ANONBY. 2009. Apprenons à lire en mambay - Syllabaire 1. 67 pp. Guider (Cameroun) : Comité de langue mambay.

Wandala (Mandara)

DOUCHA, André; Philippe KANDAY; Jean DJOUGOUDOU; et Timothée LADE. 2009. Apprendre à lire le livre (Syllabaire 1 en langue mandara). 64 pp. Mora (Cameroun) : Comité de langue mandara.

Mazagway (Mazagway-Hidi)

GARDI, Albert; François DELI; et Philémon NGOURAI. 2009. Apprenons des choses modernes 3 (Post-syllabaire en langue mazagway-hidi 3). 72 pp. Guider (Cameroun) : Comité de la culture et de la langue mazagway-hidi.

Merey

NDJATAI, Jonas; et André MAGUIBAY. 2009. Progressons dans la lecture (Post-syllabaire en langue merey 4). 64 pp. Meri (Cameroun) : Comité de traduction de langue merey.

Meta' [Moghamo]

NJECK, Mathaus Mbah. 2008. The Moghamo Alphabet Chart. Batibo, Cameroon: Moghamo Language Committee.

Ngomba

FOMAT, Jean-Pierre. 2009. Lire et écrire le ngomba est bon! 1. 80 pp. Mbouda (Cameroun) : Comité de langue ngomba.

Nomaande

SHELL, Olive; et Etienne SADEMBOUO. 2009. Livre de calcul 1. 79 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : ANACLAC. [Collection Propelca, 185].

Elip (Nulibie)

BABOGA, Achille; et E. Alain BEDILENE. 2009. Apprendre à lire et à écrire le nulibie 1. 78 pp. Ombessa (Cameroun) : Comité de langue nulibie.

Publications

Mmaala (Numaala)

COMITÉ DE LANGUE NUMAALA. 2009. Apprenons, lisons, et écrivons le numaala. 43 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : Comité de langue numaala.

OMBIONO, Jean; Angéline BAGONA; et Raymond BEBIYEME. 2009. Lisons et écrivons le numaala. 75 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : Comité de langue numaala.

Wuzlam (Ouldeme)

DJIMKO, Simon; Timothée OUMATÉ; et Anni M. KINNAIRD. 2009. Apprenons à lire en langue ouldémé! 2, Livre du moniteur. 80 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue ouldémé.

DJIMKO, Simon; Timothée OUMATÉ; et Anni M. KINNAIRD. 2009. Apprenons à lire en langue ouldémé! 1. 60 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue ouldémé.

DJIMKO, Simon; Timothée OUMATÉ; et Anni M. KINNAIRD. 2009. Apprenons à lire en langue ouldémé! 2. 60 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue ouldémé.

KINNAIRD, Anni M. 2009. Le livre pour l'apprentissage de l'écriture 1. 32 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue ouldémé.

KINNAIRD, Anni M.; Simon DJIMKO; et Timothée OUMATÉ. 2009. Apprenons à lire en langue ouldémé! 1, livre de moniteur. 80 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue ouldémé.

KINNAIRD, Anni M. 2009. Le livre pour l'apprentissage de l'écriture 2. 36 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue ouldémé.

Tunen

SEBINENI, Alphonsine Flore; et Samuel BETE. 2009. Initiation à la lecture et à l'écriture de la langue tunen 1. 79 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : Comité de développement de la langue tunen.

Vame

CHIFA, Elie; André DOUCHA; Simon DJIMKO; Anni M. KINNAIRD; et Philippe KOFINE. 2009. Apprenons à lire et à écrire en langue vame 2, livre du moniteur. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue vame.

CHIFA, Elie; André DOUCHA; et Simon DJIMKO. 2009. Apprenons à lire et à écrire en langue vame 2. 68 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue vame.

KINNAIRD, Anni M.; Simon DJIMKO; et Elie CHIFA. 2009. Apprenons à lire et à écrire en langue vame 1. 60 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue vame.

KINNAIRD, Anni M. 2009. Apprenons à écrire 1. 36 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue vame.

KINNAIRD, Anni M. 2009. Apprenons à écrire 2. 36 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue vame.

KINNAIRD, Anni M.; Simon DJIMKO; et Elie CHIFA. 2009. Apprenons à lire et à écrire en langue vame 1, livre du moniteur. 82 pp. Maroua (Cameroun) : Bureau d'édition en langue vame.

Yambetta

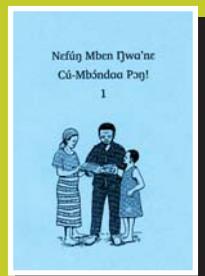
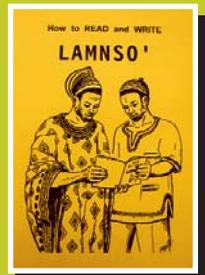
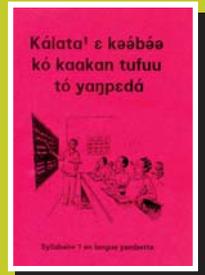
MONGO, Nfon Raoul; et Léonard-Albert BOLIOKI. 2009. Syllabaire 1 en langue yambetta. 75 pp. Bafia (Cameroun) : YALICO.

SHELL, Olive; et Etienne SADEMBOUO. 2009. Livre de calcul 1. 80 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : ANACLAC.

Yemba

HARRO, Gretchen. 2009. Une affaire inutile, n'est-ce pas! (CD). 51 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : SIL.

HAYNES, Nancy; et Edouard JIOKENG. 2009. La sagesse, de A à Z : Proverbes yémba. 39 pp. Yaoundé (Cameroun) : SIL.





Publications

Technical manuscripts

Awing

VAN DEN BERG, Bianca. 2009. A Phonological Sketch of Awing. 26 pp.

Baka

LEONARD, Yves. 2009. Orthographe baka. 8 pp.

Bambalang

LUIDER, Jennifer. 2009. A Phonological Sketch of the Bambalang (Chrambo) Language (CD). 42 pp.

WRIGHT, Jennifer. 2009. The Noun and Verb Phrase in Chrambo (Bambalang) (CD). 72 pp.

Kenswei Nsei (Bamessing)

SODER, Joakim. 2008. Bamessing-English 1700-Wordlist (work in progress).

Bamukumbit

DEVISSER, Christine. 2009. A Collection of Bamukumbit (Mankong) Narrative Texts. 36 pp.

Buwal

VILJOEN, Melanie. 2009. A Phonology of Buwal. 112 pp.

VILJOEN, Michael, R. T. 2009. Buwal Local Level Background Survey. 17 pp.

VILJOEN, Michael, R. T.; Melanie VILJOEN; Pascal KONAI; François MBOUVAI; Ernest KOYANG; et Benjamin DELI. 2009. Précis d'orthographe pour la langue buwal. 36 pp. [Edition préliminaire].

Daba

LIENHARD, Ruth; et Marti GIGER. 2009. Document de référence pour la standardisation de la langue daba. 27 pp.

Fulfulde

HUBER, Carolin. 2008. Stages of Life: Traditions and Rites of Faarank'o'en, a Fulbe Clan in the Northwest Province of Cameroon. 105 pp.

Gavar

VILJOEN, Melanie. 2009. Précis d'orthographe pour la langue gavar. 33 pp.

Kemezung

SMOES, Christopher. 2009. Conflict Resolution in the Kemezung Community (CD). 71 pp.

Kol

HENSON, Bonnie J. 2008. The Noun Phrase in Kol. 44 pp.

Kom

WALTER, Stephen L.; and Kristine R. TRAMMELL. 2009. The Kom (Cameroon) Multilingual Education Project (KEP), Status Report - July 2009. 43 pp.

Lagwan

SHRYOCK, Aaron. 2009. Folk Knowledge of Fish among the Kotoko of Logone-Birni. 11 pp.

Makaa (Mekaa)

HEATH, Daniel P.; Teresa HEATH; and Emini BEKOLO. 2009. Hortatory Texts in Makaa (CD). 46 pp.

Mbembe

EYOH, Julius A.; and Emmanuel Sandamu ECHEBI. 2009. Mbembe Orthography Guide. 18 pp.

Mfumte

MCLEAN, Greg. 2009. Food Production and Marketing in Lus (CD). 24 pp.

Mofu-Gudur

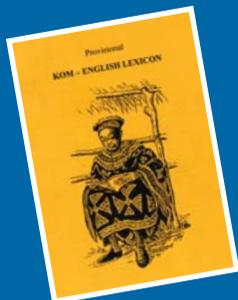
HOLLINGSWORTH, Kenneth R. 2009. Preliminary Analysis of Mofu-Gudur Song Texts. 47 pp.

Moloko

FRIESEN, Dianne. 2008. Translating Narrative Peak into Moloko. 65 pp.
FRIESEN, Dianne. 2008. A Profile and Discourse Analysis of Two Moloko Short Stories. 42 pp.

Nugunu

PATMAN, Keith. 2009. Règles d'orthographe pour la langue nugunu. 7 pp.



Partnership

SIL/CBTS hand in hand

Many local communities in Cameroon are glad to carry out their language development project. This enables more nationals to take initiative over covering different roles in the language project. By so doing, they can sustain the use of their language in written and other electronic forms.

With this goal in mind, SIL Cameroon has taken part in the development of a Bible Translation Degree Programme in partnership with the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary (CBTS) and the Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy (CABTAL). This Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible Translation aims to train people for different roles in a language development and Bible translation project, such as translators, exegetes, literacy workers, Scripture use workers or project leaders. The programme is currently training nineteen students from 15 language communities.



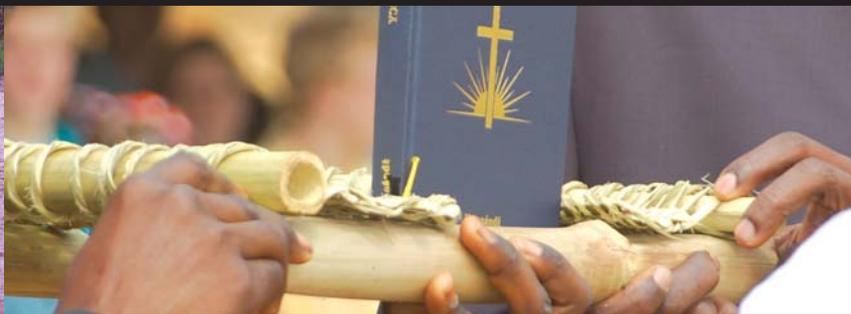
This degree programme is helping to build capacity for language development and Bible translation among churches in Cameroon. Through this partnership, many more nationals are given the possibility to play key roles in the development of their communities.

**SIL Cameroon
personnel
nationalities:**

**Australia
Bahamas
Cameroon
Canada
Costa Rica
Finland
Ireland (Eire)
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
The Netherlands
The United Kingdom
The United
States of America**

SIL International
President:
John Watters
Executive Director:
Freddy Boswell
Director Africa Area:
John Hollman

Language Development in all regions of Cameroon



●
Yaoundé
Siège et centre
de formation de
la SIL Cameroon /
Administrative office
and training centre
of SIL Cameroon

●
Bamenda
Bureau régional de
Bamenda /
Bamenda Regional
Office

●
Maroua
Bureau régional
du Grand Nord /
Greater North
Regional Office

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Below is the list of the language communities to which SIL provided consulting, training or logistical support to language development during 2009.

Far-North Region

Bana	Buwal
Fulfulde	Cuvok (Tchouvok)
Gavar	Gemzek (Guemzek)
Gude	Hdi
Jimi	Lagwan
Mambai (Mambay)	Matal
Mazagway-Hidi	Mbedam (Mbudum)
Mbuko	Merey
Mofu-Gudur	Moloko
Mpade	Musey
Muyang	Parkwa (Podoko)
Vame	Wandala (Mandara)
Wuzlam (Ouldeme)	Zulgo

Centre Region

Basaa	Bebele
Elip (Nulibie)	Lefa
Mbule	Mmaala (Numaala)
Nomaande	Nubaca (Baca)
Nugunu	Tuki
Tunen	Vute
Yambeta	Yangben (Nuasue)

North West Region

Aghem	Awing
Baba	Babanki (Kejom)
Bafanji	Bafut
Bamali	Bambalang
Bamukumbit	Bamunka
Bangolan	Bebe
Bum	Cung
Esimbi	Fulfulde
Kemezung	Kenswei Nsei (Bamessing)
Kom	Lamnso'
Limbum	Mbembe, Tigon
Meta' [Menemo]	Meta' [Moghamo]
Mfumte	Mmen
Ncane [Mungong]	Ncane [Ncane]
Ngemba [Mankon]	Ngwo (Engwo)
Ngie	Noone (Noni)
Oku	Pinyin
Saari (Nsari)	Vengo (Babungo)
Weh	Wushi (Babessi)
Yamba	

North Region

Daba	Gidar
Karang	Pana

Adamawa Region

Kwanja	Mambila
Tikar	

South Region

Gyele	Bakoko
Batanga	Kwasio
Yasa	

South West Region

Akoose	Denya
Ejagham	Iceve-Maci [Oliti]
Kenyang	Mundani
Oroko	

Littoral Region

Bakoko	Bakaka [Mkaa]
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West Region

Ghomála'	Ngiemboon
Ngomba	Ngombale
Yemba	

East Region

Baka	Bangandu
Kako	Kol
Koonzime [Badwe'e]	
Koonzime [Nzime]	
Makaa (Mekaa)	
Mpongmpong (Mpumpong)	
Njyem	

With some exceptions, language names are according to the 16th edition of *Ethnologue* published by SIL International.

(Name) = Other common name
[Name] = Dialect name



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Bureau régional du Grand Nord

B.P. : 200
Maroua
Région de l'Extrême-Nord
Tél. : +237 77.50.04.25

Bamenda Regional Office

P.O. Box 5025
Bamenda-Nkwen
North West Region
Tel.: +237 77.50.02.33

Siège / Administrative Offices

B.P. : 1299
Yaoundé
Région du Centre
Tél. : +237 22.30.39.48
+237 22.30.64.54
Fax : +237 22.30.53.34

