



CAMEROON'S EXPERIENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE Maternal and Child Health (MCH) HANDBOOK

**TICAD8 Side Event : Digitalization of the MCH handbook and MCH
registry : Cameroon Presentation by Dr. Grace MBAMBOLE ALAKE,
Obst/Gyneco, MSc Sexual and RH research.**

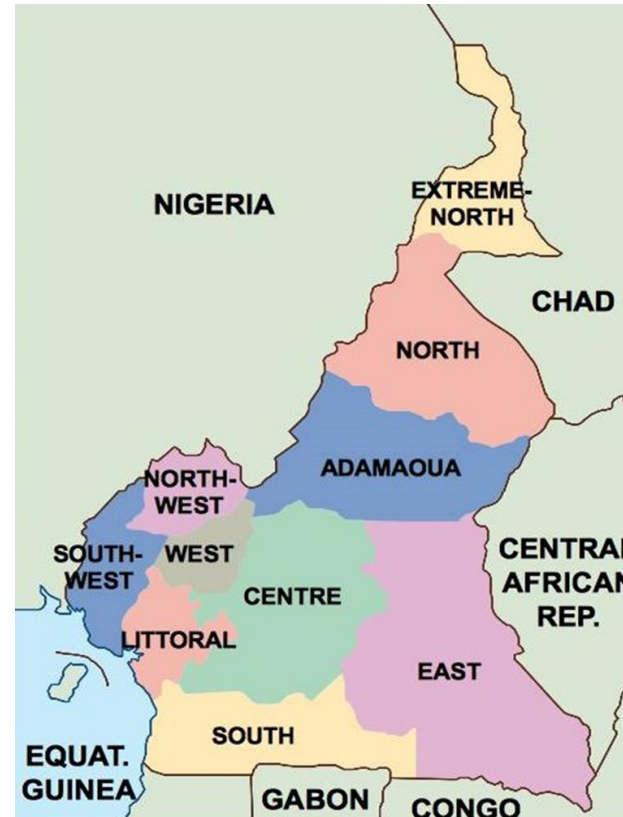
PLAN



- **Situation and general information on Cameroon**
- **Development of Cameroon's bilingual MCH handbook**
- **Results of its implementation and Evolution of the MCH hand book project in Cameroon**
- **Impact of use of the MCH hand book**
- **Strengths, challenges**
- **Prospects that the MCH handbook will be connected to the health information system of mothers and children**
- **Conclusion**
- **Some landmarks in the evolution of the MCH Handbook in Cameroon.**

SITUATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON CAMEROON-1

- **Cameroon** :Central African country.
- **Population** :26.6 million (2020)
- **Women** :51 % of the total population
- **Total fertility rate** :4.6, children per woman



SITUATION AND General information on Cameroon-2



Literacy Rate: 77.07% (2018),

- The MCH Hand book is issued at booking and it is filled by health providers in HFs in Cameroon
- Digital health recording in Cameroon in most HFs is limited to DHIS for the reporting of health statistics.
- Smart phone and internet penetration rate in Cameroon is at 40% and 34% respectively (2020).
- The major Mobile networks are MTN and ORANGE

HFs : Health Facilities

DHIS: District Health
Information System

DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-1



JICA training in Japan: Participants from 7 countries (Oct. 2008)

- MCH handbook was introduced in Cameroon in May 2010
- **Goal** : Contribute to reduce maternal and child mortality
- **Main objective**: Progressively scale up its use to nationwide.



Cameroonian participant

DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-2



- M/E and progressive scaling-up of its use
- Introduced in 42 out of 189 HDs in Cameroon (22.2%).
- Presentation of results of M/E at short term.

M/E : monitoring and evaluation

HD : health districts

HF : Health Facilities

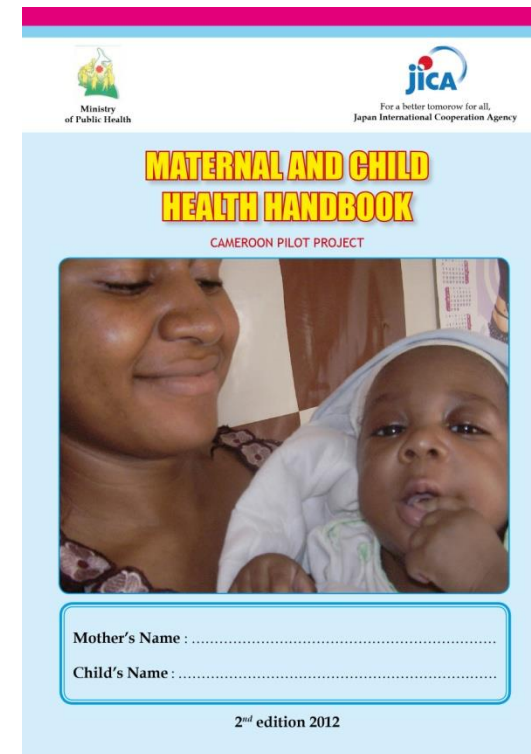
**Symposium at Djeuga Palace Hotel on
03/02/2011**



DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-3

Editions of the MCH Handbook

2nd Edition: 2013, separate French and English copies

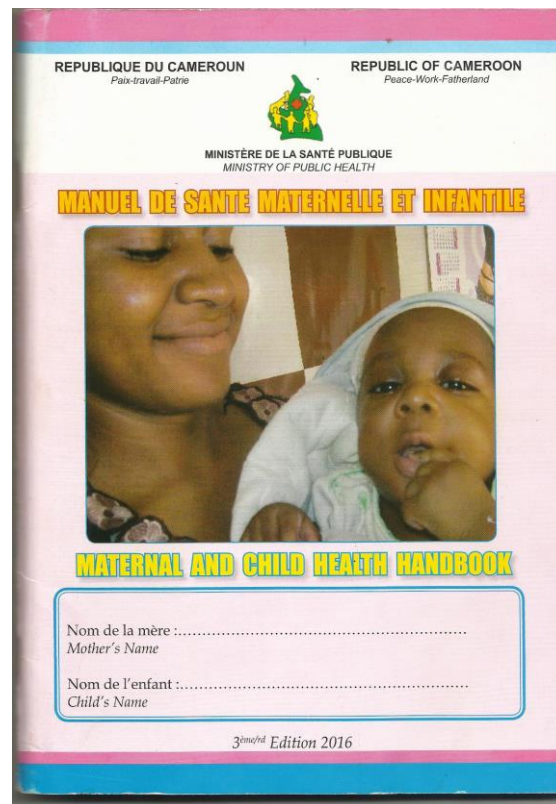


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DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-4



3rd Edition: 2016, Bilingual Edition both French and English in one booklet.



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DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-5



Specificities of the bilingual MCH Handbook, 3rd edition:

- Both the French and English languages are merged in all the pages (red headings and bullets for French and bleu for English)
- 68 illustrations (24 in the maternal and 44 in the child section).
- Contains a certificate of immunization to be signed by a health provider on completion of routine immunization
- Useful telephone contacts on the back cover page.

DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-6

Specificities of the bilingual MCH Handbook



The image shows a blank immunization certificate from the Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Public Health. The certificate is titled "CERTIFICAT DE VACCINATION / IMMUNIZATION CERTIFICATE" and is for a child aged 12 to 23 months. It includes fields for the child's name, age, and the health facility's name and signature. The certificate also mentions the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and the Gavi logo.

REPUBLIC DU CAMEROUN
Paix-travail-Patrie
MINISTÈRE DE LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CERTIFICAT DE VACCINATION / IMMUNIZATION CERTIFICATE

Pour l'enfant âgé(e) de 12 à 23 mois / For child aged 12 to 23 months

Attestent par le présent certificat que / Testify by the present certificate that :

ENFANT / CHILD _____ **AGE** _____ mois/months

A reçu tous les vaccins de routine du Programme Elargie de Vaccination (PEV).
/ Has received all routine vaccines in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

Nom de la Formation Sanitaire / Name of Health facility: _____

Nom et signature de Responsable / Name and signature of Official : _____

Cachet de la Formation Sanitaire / Health Facility Stamp : _____

Date : _____

Gavi

DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON'S BILINGUAL MCH HANDBOOK-7

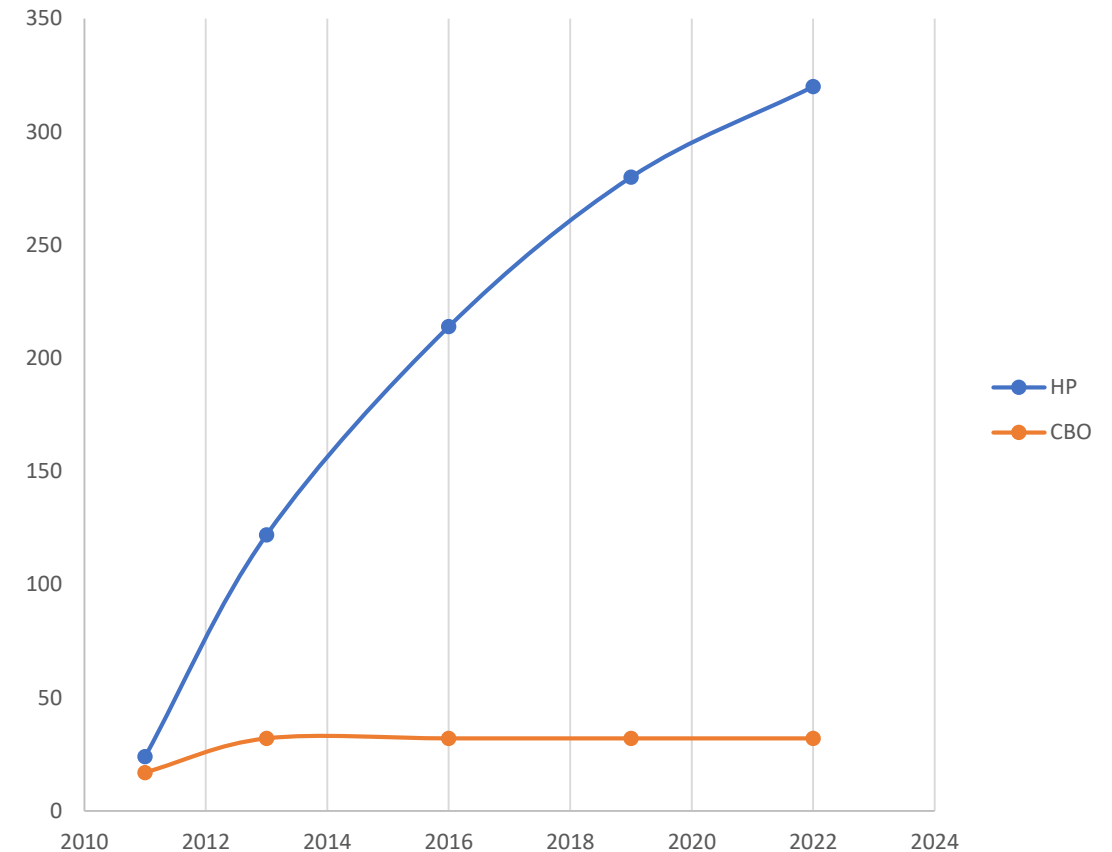
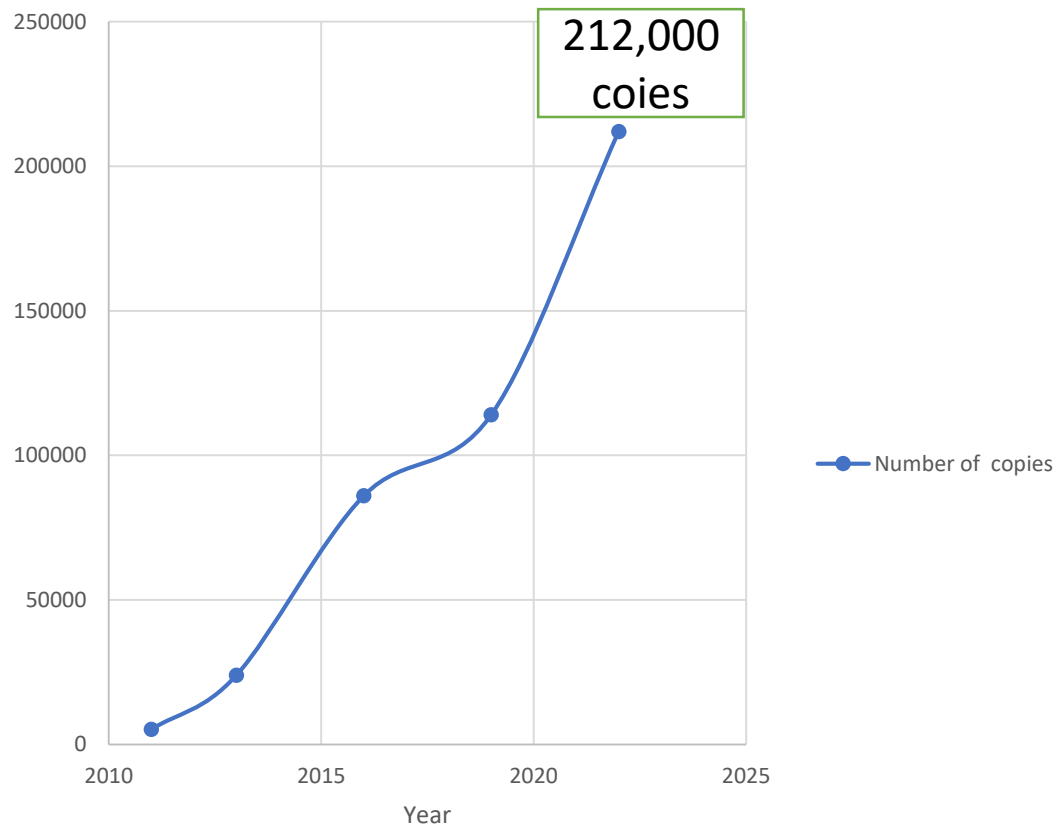


Reasons for developing a bilingual MCH handbook in Cameroon

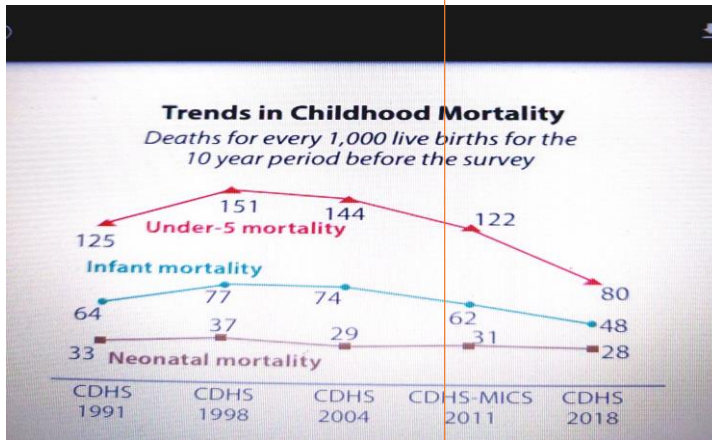
- Cameroon is a bilingual country
- Official documents/tools translated to both languages in Cameroon
- In 2017, the MCH Handbook was adopted as the **unique** tool for follow up of the mother and her child up to 5 years of age.
- It is economically cost effective
- To facilitate communication between health providers service users irrespective of the language.

Results of implementation and Evolution of the MCH hand book project in Cameroon

EVOLUTION OF PROGRESS INDICATORS

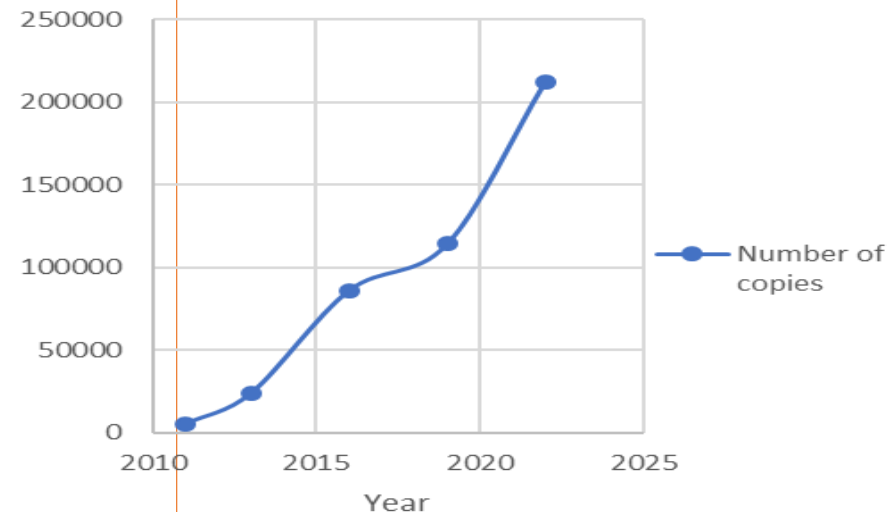


IMPACT OF USE OF THE MCH HANDBOOK ON MAJOR MCH INDICATORS IN CAMEROON -1

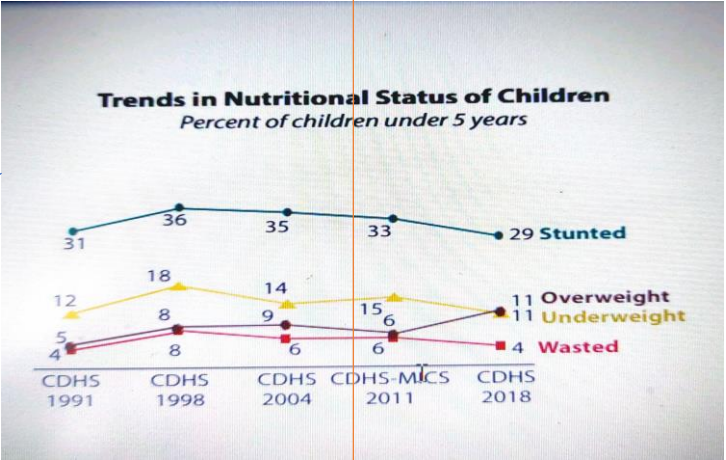


Introduction of the
MCH handbook in
2010

(CDHS-2018)

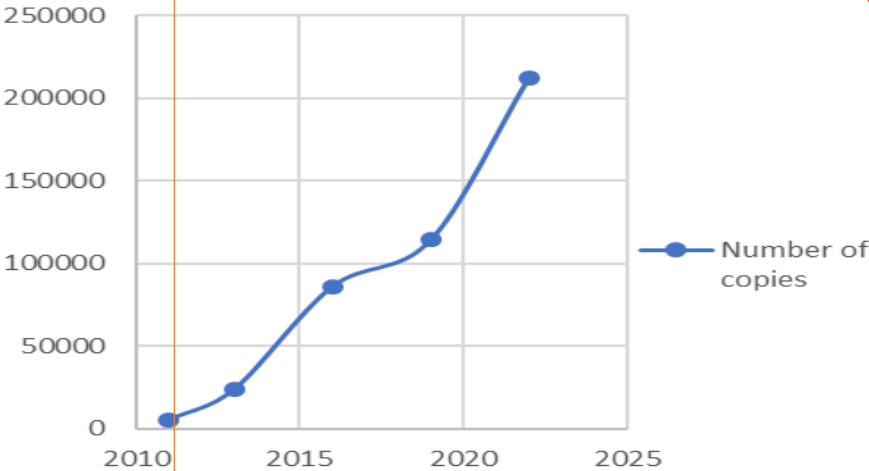


IMPACT OF USE OF THE MCH HANDBOOK ON MAJOR MCH INDICATORS IN CAMEROON -2



Improved Nutritional status of children within the years correlate with the number of MCH Hand books used by Health facilities.

Introduction of the MCH handbook in 2010

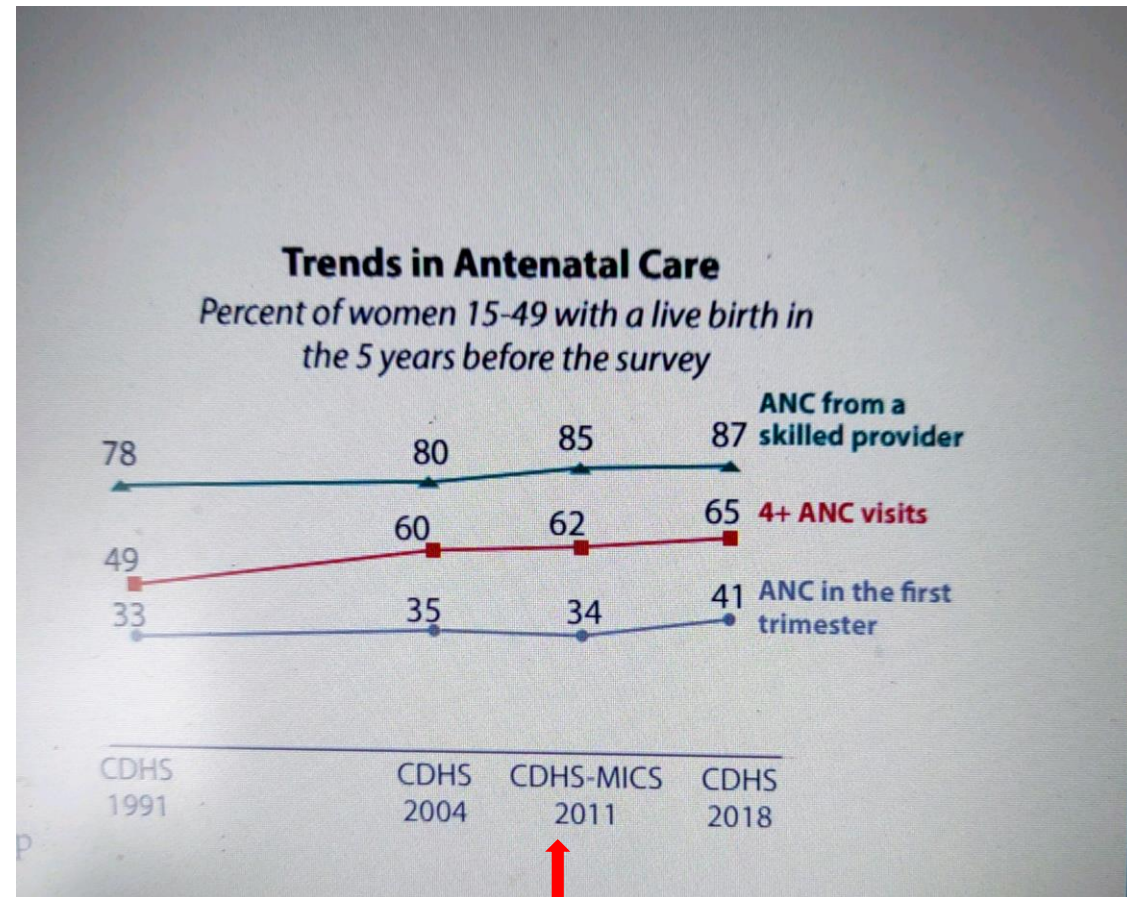


IMPACT OF USE OF THE MCH HANDBOOK ON MAJOR MCH INDICATORS IN CAMEROON -3



Maternal health indicators

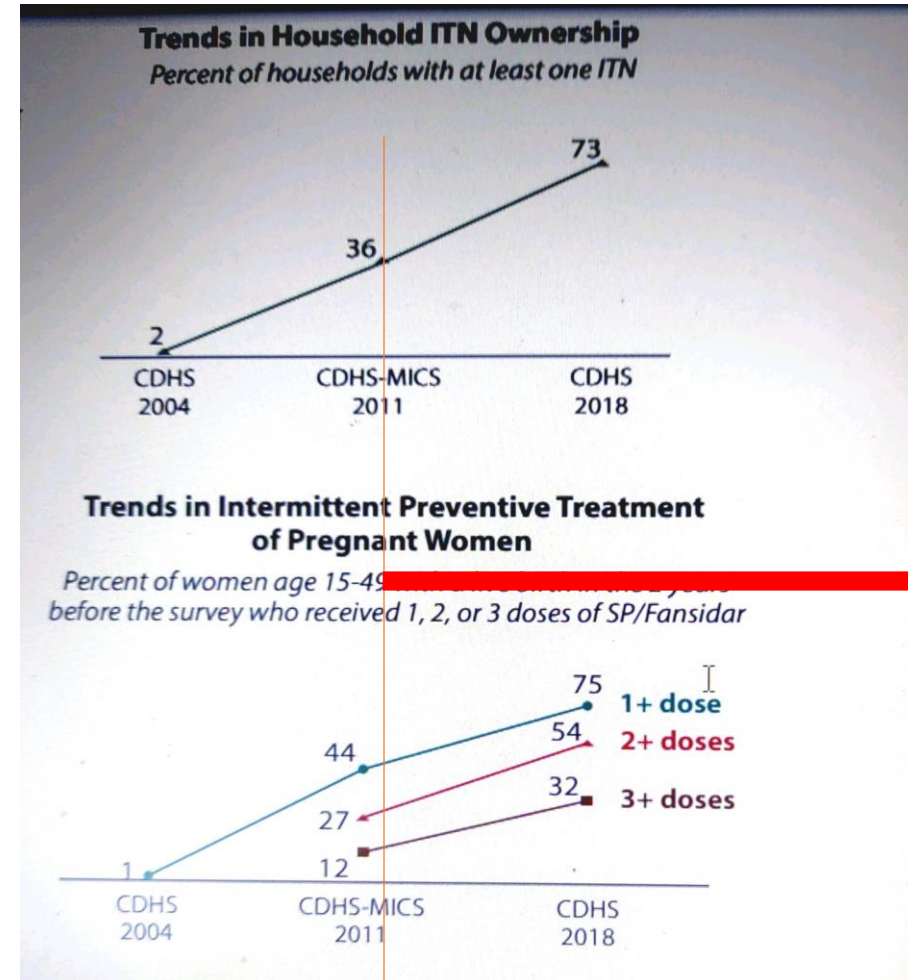
- Health facility births : **61% (2011) to 67% (2018)**
- Increase in antenatal care uptake rate
- Maternal mortality dropped from 782 in 2011 to 467 per 100,000 life births in 2018.



IMPACT OF USE OF THE MCH HANDBOOK ON MAJOR MCH INDICATORS IN CAMEROON -4



- Increase in uptake for intermittent preventive malaria treatment
- Improved indicators correlate with increase use on MCH handbook from 2011 to 2022



MCH handbook

STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES



❖STRENGTHS:

- Cameroon's bilingual MCH Handbook serves as a template for French and English speaking African countries.
- The MCH Handbook is very much appreciated by the service providers and service users where it is in used;
- The MCH handbook project can readily incorporate the innovative, MCH App.
- Digitalization of the MCH handbook would be an added value to the MCH service in Cameroon.

❖CHALLENGE:

- MCH handbook use is not yet nationwide (22,2%)



Prospects that the MCH handbook will be connected to the Health information system of mothers and children-1

Considering the situation in Cameroon,

- A software Application (MCH App.) can be developed to relay health information in the MCH handbook to mothers by use of mobile phones.
- Appropriate alert messages and notifications can be transmitted to pregnant women and mothers of children <5 years on MCH issues.
- Service users can receive notifications on up-coming vaccinations and appointments by automated messages.



PROSPECTS THAT THE MCH HANDBOOK WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN-2

- Digitalization of the MCH handbook would benefit all mothers and children, including those who cannot use the MCH app through policies made using data from the MCH registry
- It would serve as a motivating factor for HFs to acquire the MCH handbook to satisfy client demand, with eventual scaling-up of nationwide use.
- Success use of the MCH Handbook as a tool for “continuum of care” is evidence for the feasibility of piloting the digitalized MCH handbook and MCH registration in Cameroon.

CONCLUSION



- The MCH handbook turns to be a tool to improve Maternal and child health in Cameroon
- Digitalization of the MCH handbook by the introduction of an MCH application is a feasible innovation that can be piloted in Cameroon with possible partner support
- These tools would enable better decision-making, better quality of antenatal and perinatal care and a reduction of maternal and infant mortality in Cameroon and contribute to public health in Africa.

Some landmarks in the evolution of the MCH Handbook in Cameroon.



**CAMEROONIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON MCH HANDBOOK, NAIROBI KENYA, OCT.
2012**



AT THE TICAD-5 SUMMIT OFFICIAL EVENT

Applause for Cameroon's MCH Handbook



The S.G of the I.C on MCH Handbook presents Cameroon's MCH handbook to the audience



The project coordinator is presented at an official event

during the TICAD-5 Summit June 2013.
PRESENTED BY DR. MBAMBOLE GRACE ALAKE.
CAMEROON'S MCH HANDBOOK PROJECT COORDINATOR

TICAD8 Side Event : Digitalization of the MCH handbook and
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2013: The Global Chair, of the I.C on MCH handbook, Prof. NAKAMURA visited Cameroon



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MBAMBOLE ALAKE, Obst/Gyneco, MSc Sexual and RH research.

-2014: Visit of the S.G, of the I.C, on MCH Handbook, Madam Akemi BANDO and Dr. Anneke Kesler to Cameroon.



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MBAMBOLE ALAKE, Obst/Gyneco, MSc Sexual and RH research.

2015, Cameroon hosted the 9th I.C on MCH Handbook



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2015: Launching of the MCH handbook in the Far North Region, crowd pulling event with community mobilization



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2016: Meeting with the MPH and the D.G of SOPECAM, discuss on centralized printing of MCH Handbooks



L'AMÉLIORATION DE LA SANTÉ MATERNELLE POUR LES PAYS D'AFRIQUE FRANCOPHONE

JFY 2016 NO. J1604259 / ID. 1684866 Période des cours au Japon : du 5 au 29 octobre 2016

RAPPORT DE FORMATION



Présenté par : Dr. MBAMBOLE Grace ALAKE (SDV/DSF/MIN ANTE)
Mme ATANGANA Mbezele (CSF/HCY)

Novembre, 2016

P.C



TICAD8 Side Event : Digitalization of the MCH handbook and
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THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH) HANDBOOK

TOKYO, JAPAN

23RD TO 25TH NOV. 2016

REPORT



Head of the Cameroonian Delegation: H.E. Dr. Pierre NDZENGUE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cameroon to Japan, (representing the Minister of Public Health of Cameroon).

Members: Prof. Robinson MBU, Director of Family Health, Ministry of Public health

Dr. Grace MBAMBOLE ALAKE, Coordinator of the Cameroon MCH Handbook project.



Board Members of the I.C on MCH Handbooks

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**THANKS FOR YOUR KEEN
ATTENTION**

HOPE