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Research Article

Rural services in the Madingring Sub Division of the North Region of Cameroon: Coping strategies for an increasing rural population

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Abstract: The population of rural areas in Cameroon has been at a constant increase. This increase has been accompanied by some major transformations with a significant multiplication of services provided in the health, transport, water, education, electricity, telecommunication, finance and marketing sectors. The Madingring Sub Division of the North region of Cameroon was not left out in this transformation process. Changes in government policies have led to the arrival of new rural service providers, including private enterprises, NGOs and local communities. This is in sharp contrast to the past situation when public institutions were the key providers of rural services. This paper seeks to carry out an overview of the state of service provision in this Sub Division. It also seeks to analyze the coping strategies by the increasing rural population to access services. The methodology consisted of a review of existing published and unpublished documents as well as the collection of primary data through the use of questionnaires, interviews and field observation. The very revealing result shows the existence of some basic services provided by different actors though with a major problem of accessibility. The increasing local population copes with the problem of quality and quantity of services in several ways.

Keywords: Rural, services, population, coping strategies, service providers.

INTRODUCTION

The improvement of the quality of life for people living in the rural areas is important in fostering sustainable economic development. A major element in this is the provision of quality services and their accessibility. In most rural areas, access to services can pose additional barriers for residents to overcome, thus the need for coping strategies. Nederlof *et al.*¹ identified the low or non-availability of rural services for the population in rural areas as a major indicator for rural poverty and recommended that it should be given more attention because of the multiple roles services could play to the retake off of the rural economies especially in the developing world. Rural services will not only improve the conditions of the rural dwellers but may also reduce the high rural urban migration that exists in rural areas in the developing world.

It is affirmed today that the availability and access to services by the population is a very important factor for the maintenance of persons in rural areas². It is also the source of a new form of solidarity and social cohesion which has led to a rapid dynamism of the rural space. Nevertheless the putting in place, maintenance and renewal of these services faces a lot of difficulties despite the arrival of new actors in some sectors like telecommunication with the construction of tele centers and also money transfers in the finance sector. These problems exist from the rural urban fringe zone to the rural hinterlands.

The primordial role today played by services in the economy of rural areas is observed in the increasing number of persons involved. Services in rural areas also contribute to an added economic value in several countries. In Quebec today, it is estimated that 52.5% of the rural population is involved in the services sector evolving positively from 50% in 2001³. The figures may not be so high in the developing countries as a whole but the positive evolution of persons involved in the services sector has been observed in African countries as a whole and in Cameroon in particular.

The governments of African countries in general and Cameroon in particular have since independence carried out various programs and projects to improve on the conditions of rural dwellers. Some of these projects carried out in partnership with donor institutions had the objective to reduce the high rate of rural urban migration by providing services which are found in the urban areas. The National Community Driven Program is an example carried out by the government of Cameroon to provide services to rural areas through the restructuring of the local governments for a perfect planning and execution of development projects⁴.

Rural services such as car or bus transport, post offices, banks and money transfers, local shops, education, health, pharmacy and public administration play a vital role in the economies and communities of rural areas. It is important to assure a countryside wherein people can have access to services or have it nearby. Local services improve the quality of life and bring environmental benefits such as reduced travels to the urban centers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study analyses the situation of services provision and coping strategies by the rural population of the Madingring Sub Division in the North Region of Cameroon. The first objective is to carry out a diagnosis of the services provided to the population in the Madingring Sub Division in terms of quantity and quality. The second objective is to identify and analyse the coping strategies of the population in reaction to the non-availability or low quality services provided in certain sectors. The study was based on the Madingring Sub Division, an administrative unit in the North region of Cameroon. It made use of both secondary and primary sources of data. Secondary source data were

drawn from libraries, internet and various institutions like the regional delegation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Planning and Territorial Development (MINEPAT) for the North and the National Community Driven Program, (PNDP) all working in close collaboration with the local councils and the grassroots population to plan and execute development programs. Random sampling was used to select the households to be studied. The study area was divided into three sub regions, Gor, Sorombeo and Madingring. These are the major concentration areas for the population of the sub division. Questionnaires were used to collect qualitative and quantitative data from the 150 households sampled. The research employed qualitative and quantitative techniques of analysis. Absolute data was transformed into relative data to well show the frequency variations.

The spatial matrix: Madingring Sub Division, a purely rural area: Madingring Sub Division was created on the 22nd of April 1995 and covers the Madingring council area. It is located in the North Region of Cameroon, in the Mayo Rey Division and in the Madingring council area. Its very long border from the North West to the West is shared with the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, from the North to the East with the Republic of Chad and to the South with the Tchollire Sub Division. It has a surface area of 3.490km² housing a population of 57.347 inhabitants. As on **Figure-1**, the entire Sub Division is found in the Buffer zone of the Bouba Ndjidda National Park (BZ 12, 21 and 23).

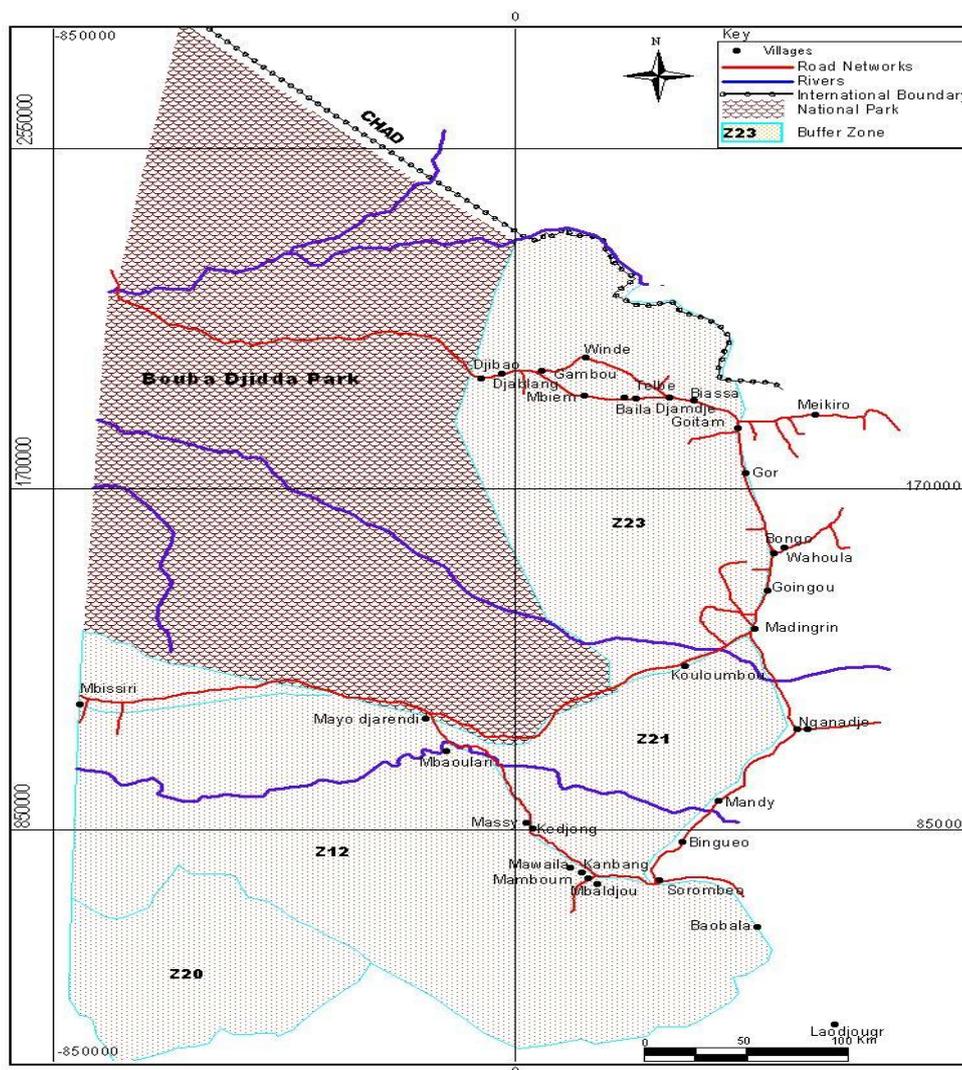


Figure-1: Madingring sub division with villages (Source: PNDP⁵)

Madingring Sub Division has 66 autonomous villages populated by several ethnic groups such as the Lame, the Mboum, the Foulbe, the Dama, the Mono, the Kali, the Pam, Dourou, Ngambaye, Sarah, Laka, Toupouri, Moundang, Guiziga and the Guidar resulting from ethnic migratory waves in search of fertile lands and territorial conquest from the Far North region and also in search of refuge land from Chad during the civil wars. There are therefore Chadians and Nigerians in this area. The population is in a majority farmers carrying out pastoral activities. They are also involved in small scale businesses. The society is organized in a traditional chieftaincy model. The Lamido of Rey Bouba is at the head of the chieftaincy with the Lamido resident in Rey. With the notables each responsible for specific duties, they form the *Faada* where important decisions are taken. A *Dogari* is at the head of a group of villages while a *Djaouro* is at the head of a village. The *Dogari* are found in large strategic villages such as Sorembeo, Gor, Gambou, Madingring, Djemadjou, Djeing, etc. It should be noted that the societal organization is influenced by the Islamic religion. The Lamido is the supreme religious leader, followed by the notables, the *Dogari*, the *Djaouro*, the quarter heads, the family heads and the population. Administratively, a Divisional Officer is at the head of the Madingring Sub Division.

Problem under study: During the past two decades, rural areas in Cameroon have witnessed profound changes. The early 1980's and 1990's were marked by administrative reforms which included the creation of new divisions and sub divisions like the Madingring Sub Division in 1995. The government of Cameroon expected that this will be closely followed by intense socio economic changes in the rural areas which were now administrative headquarters and their immediate environment. There was an increase in the population of these areas and in some both the formal and informal sector witnessed a boom. The population of Madingring Sub Division in 1987 was 20.632 inhabitants, and presently is more than 57.347 inhabitants^{6,7}. The changes were not only political but also cultural, economic and demographical. It is no doubt therefore that there was a progressive development in the provision of services in these areas. Today services play an important role in the development of the economy of rural areas. The increase in service activities is thus at the origin of the major changes modifying the physiognomy of the economies of rural areas today. The Mayo Rey division where the Madingring Sub Division is found is today considered as the least developed in the entire North Region. This is in terms of socio economic and infrastructure development. Madingring Sub Division is not even linked to the regional headquarter by a tarred road. This makes the supply of these areas with manufactured goods difficult especially in the wet season. It has nevertheless evolved both administratively and demographically. The survival of this population depends on the existence of services. These services cover a large variety of activities and are an important element to maintain the population in place. This situation raises questions on the availability, proximity and accessibility of services for the population of the Madingring Sub Division. The population is coping in various ways on the poor quality or the absence of certain services in this area. This study investigates into the services offered to this ever increasing population and also into the coping strategies by this population on the poor quality or the absence of certain services.

Some theoretical considerations on the typology of services for the rural population: Services have been of interest to several researchers who attempted an identification and classification of the different types for the population. According to Clark⁸, services are products of human activity intended to satisfy a human need or needs but not constituting an item of goods. This definition is complemented by the Observatoire Europeen², which concluded that services refers to an activity carried out with the objective of providing material or non-material goods for payment. Services are provided to individuals, to households and to the entire community. Several categories are identified. Economic services includes domestic water and electricity supply, household waste collection and

waste water treatment. Social services such as schools for education and health services such as pharmacy, hospital and ambulances. Other social services like the old people's home are included. Security services such as the police as well as transport and telecommunication services like telephone, internet, radio and the television occupy an important place in today's rural societies. In Cameroon rural milieus, ambulances are completely absent while old people's homes are non-existent in the entire country. Commercial services include the provision store, the bakery, etc to be accompanied by cultural and leisure services. Other classifications have been done such as, Browning and Singleman, cited by Nagle⁹, Dugas¹⁰⁻¹¹ Pepin¹², Collini *et al.*¹³ and the European commission cited by Majella³.

The European commission on its part identified 17 types of services grouped into four major families; services linked to daily activities, services linked to the improvement of the living setting, culture and leisure services as well as government services³. Government services in Cameroon's rural milieus are found in administrative headquarters. Some services are found only in the Divisional headquarters like the legalization of certain documents. This is the case with the attestation of the presentation of the originals of certificates and other documents. Nevertheless, this classification integrates some new elements like child care, patrimony, nature protection and tourism.

Services provision varies with communities. This variation is linked to the spatial size of communities as well as their population. The Geographer, Dugas^{14, 11}, in 1979 and 1994 constructed a typology in function of the population of localities. His analysis showed that the diverse demographic categories of localities correspond to the diverse types of services. Smaller localities will have very few services but with the most important being schools, Post office, etc. This is a reality in rural areas in Cameroon.

In the portrait of rural collectivities, Collini *et al.*¹³ used the demographic size approach to classify the diverse categories of services. Finally the Organisation for Cooperation and Economic Development, OCDE¹⁵, in a document on the new management of services in rural areas identified two types of services only; services destined to families and those destined to enterprises. The first include basic services like education, postal and retail commerce. These are considered as essential for the quality of life in the rural milieu. The second is directly link to the size of localities, the closeness to the urban centers as well as the presence of new information technology and communication. The government of Cameroon is presently constructing community tele centers which are expected to provide basic telecommunication services like the internet to the rural population.

The most useful classification of services is that of Browning and Singleman of 1975⁹. They identified four main categories; distributive, producer, social and personal services. Distributive services include transport and communication as well as wholesale and retail trade. Producer services include finance, insurance and business services. Social services include health and welfare, education, postal services and government. Personal services cover domestic and personal services, hotels, restaurants, repairs and entertainment. Today several authors prefer to use the threefold division of producer, consumer and tourism services which they think is more explicit than the others. This is also more global as every producer or every consumer services fits clearly in a category.

This study uses a specific service identification approach wherein services are identified as specific entities but recognizing the fact that services are link in their functioning. Several studies have been carried out on specific services in rural areas. These studies showed the specific contribution of each service to the wellbeing of the rural population

Studies on rural finance for example have been carried out by Wenner¹⁶, Quirós¹⁷, Giuliani *et al.*¹⁸ and Fletcher and Kenney¹⁹. Giuliani *et al.*¹⁸ focused their analysis on rural finance and the provision of financial services such as securing savings, credit, money transfer and insurance in rural areas. Analyzing different rural finance services in Kosovo, Madagascar, Mali and Bolivia, they concluded that, indeed, financial services can play an important role in rural development: Money transfer services make it possible for people who leave rural areas to work in cities or abroad to send home their remittances safely and at reasonable costs. Despite the significant demand for financial services in rural areas, institutions offering financial services such as banks, credit unions, microfinance institutions or insurance companies are typically reluctant to serve rural areas. As a result, the majority of the developing world's rural population does not have access to the formal financial system.

Transport services have also been of interest to researchers. The movement of goods and persons between rural and urban areas, between rural areas and in rural areas is vital for economic success. Some of these studies include Ellis²⁰, Starkey²¹, Kemtsop²² and Champeau²³. Studies carried out in the rural area of the South region of Cameroon and in three other countries (Burkina Faso, Tanzania and Zambia) on the request of the Sub Sahara Africa Transport Program in the framework of its new approach focused on integrated transport concluded that rural transport services are essential for poverty alleviation, both for its equity and growth aspects. Rural transport services in the South region of Cameroon are generally viewed by operators and some transport authorities as a social service than an economic (profit making) one. Among the main factors influencing rural transport services, poor road condition is the most important. Transport activity in rural areas is seasonal during the year, the month and the week. During the week it varies according to market days as even in some areas such services are provided only on market days. This leads to a specific demand for both goods and persons transportation and vehicles are then very highly technically modified to fit with the existing demand.

The existing transport services are mainly found in regional and market towns, where motorized vehicles are mostly found in bus or motorbike stations. Operators act differently from one division to another. This study focuses on services rendered directly or indirectly to persons or families which is a response to basic individual or collective socio economic and or cultural needs. This includes social services such as education and health, transport services and commercial services (fixed or mobile).

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A variety of coping strategies developed for certain quality services: Very few services are completely absent in the Madingring Sub Division. There is no pipe borne water supplied by the Cameroon National Utilities Company or electricity supplied by the Energy of Cameroon Company. In the absence of these two basic social services the local population has developed coping strategies to supply themselves with energy and water. It should nevertheless be noted that the coping strategies developed by the local population is in relation to and determined by the level of income earned by the individual or family head. A survey on a sample of the population of the sub division carried out on 150 family heads chosen randomly in the different villages that make up the sub division provides an idea on these strategies. This is shown on **Table-1**.

Table-1: Coping strategies for different services according to level of income

Services	COPING STRATEGIES FOR DIFFERENT INCOME EARNERS			
	High income earners	Percentage	Low income earners	Percentage
Electricity	Generators	33.72	Rechargeable and kerosene lamps	66.28
Water	Private Handpump wells	5.2	Simple wells and community handpump wells	94.8
Good quality education	Children study in Tchollire and Garoua	27.3	Study in place	72.7
Health / pharmacy	Consult specialist in Garoua	24.6	Consultation of herbalist, use of local pharmacopea and roadside drugs	75.4
Transport	Use private or hired cars before public transport	16.7	Bikes, public transport and Cotton or other goods trucks	83.3
Banking / Finance	Money transfer in Tchollire, salary in Garoua	100	Money transfer in Tchollire, salary in Garoua	100
ITC-Internet, Fax, etc	In Tchollire	100	In Tchollire	100
Fuel filling	Fueling in Garoua and use of Zoua Zoua	100	Use of Zoua Zoua	100
No CRTV Television and radio signals	Use of parabolic antennas	6.7	-	-

Source: Questionnaire Survey, 2013.

Sector analysis of coping strategies in a rural area almost void of basic services :

Education services with a preference to Garoua: In the Madingring Sub Division, there are two nursery schools, a public and a Catholic nursery school. These schools had a total of 28 pupils in the 2008/2009 academic year taught by two teachers. The number of pupils has increase to 48 in the 2012/2013 academic year. The classroom of the catholic school is constructed with permanent materials while that of the public school is in temporal materials. The literacy level for boys at this level is 28.57% while for girls it is 71.43%. The teacher/pupil and pupil/classroom ratio for the nursery level is 24 which is below the national standard ratio of 30 and is therefore acceptable. Very few kids have the opportunity to attend nursery school in this area. Most parents consider it as a waste of resources. Nevertheless only kids resident in Madingring, the sub divisional headquarter can attend nursery schools for the two schools are located there.

The area has 28 primary schools amongst which are 4 community schools. More than 2.000 pupils are now registered schooling in some 40 classrooms, about 25% of which is in temporal materials. There are about 30 state teachers and 21 part time teachers. There is a single secondary and high school in this area having about 750 students, 616 boys and 134 girls studying in 10 classrooms. Though there are standard classrooms, other facilities like drinking water, canteen and toilets are lacking.

The teacher/pupil ratio at the primary level is 66 while the pupil/classroom ratio is 50. This is far above the national standard ratio of 40 and is therefore not acceptable. In the lone secondary school

the teacher/pupil ratio is 43 while the student/classroom ratio is 75. The student/classroom ratio is far above the national standard ratio of 60. Overcrowding in classrooms at the primary and secondary levels affects the quality of teaching by the teachers and this is part of the contributing factors to falling standards in education in Cameroon. The quality of education services offered in the schools of Madingring Sub Division is poor due to the non-respect of national standard ratio for teacher/pupil and pupil/classroom.

There is a high drop in the number of girls with the passage from the nursery to the primary and finally to the secondary level. They get married at a very youthful age influenced by their religion. The few girls that continue end up in the arts section. There are not enough teachers as those posted to this area because of the non-availability of social amenities prefer to return to Garoua, Ngaoundere and even Yaoundé. Many parents also do prefer to send their children to Garoua where there are teachers in every series and where they are certain of the quality of teaching and their eventual success in exams like the Baccaalaureate. The literacy level in major villages and for the sub division is presented on **Table-2**.

Table-2: Literacy level in Madingring Sub Division

Locality	Category	Literacy Percentage		Illiteracy Population Percentage
		Primary level	Secondary level	
Gor	Men	37.87	12.87	49.24
	Women	19.90	0.90	79.18
	Boys	57.58	4.26	38.15
	Girls	41.77	0	58.22
Sorombeo	Men	39.82	10.62	49.55
	Women	9.30	0	90.69
	Boys	50.88	5.29	43.83
	Girls	33.98	0.24	65.77
Madingring	Men	42.36	8.37	49.26
	Women	8.24	0	91.76
	Boys	44.07	8.14	47.79
	Girls	32.52	0.11	67.37
General Average for the Sub Division	Men	44.94	13.48	41.58
	Women	20.73	1.22	78.05
	Boys	50	10.54	39.46
	Girls	29.41	0	70.59

Source: Questionnaire Survey, 2013

From the table it is observed that the literacy level is high for the men, 44.94% and the boys, 50% compared to 20.73% for the women and 29.41% for the girls. It should be noted that several pupils and students do drop out of school after repeating the same class for several academic years. The rate of repeating is about 48.23%. During the farming season many pupils and students are not regular in school. It is normal to be absent especially on market days. Floods in some villages and difficulty in crossing the river to school are some reasons for absenteeism in the rainy season. To these is added the discrimination of the girl child who is destined to serve at home as the mother at a very tender age. Many are obliged to drop out of school against their wish to get married. There is also the lack of a birth certificate to register for the final year exams in the primary school. Many pupils do abandon school.

The quality of education offered in this area is highly affected by other problems such as shortage of classrooms, qualified teachers and benches, no administrative block for the staff, no electricity and so no computer classes, no lodging for staff, no potable water, no toilet, few didactic materials and few sports and leisure facilities.

Health services delivery with a preference to local pharmacopeia and specialist consultation in Garoua: The Madingring Sub Division has two integrated health centers (Gor and Sorombeo) and a Sub Divisional medical center in Madingring center (**Figure-2**).

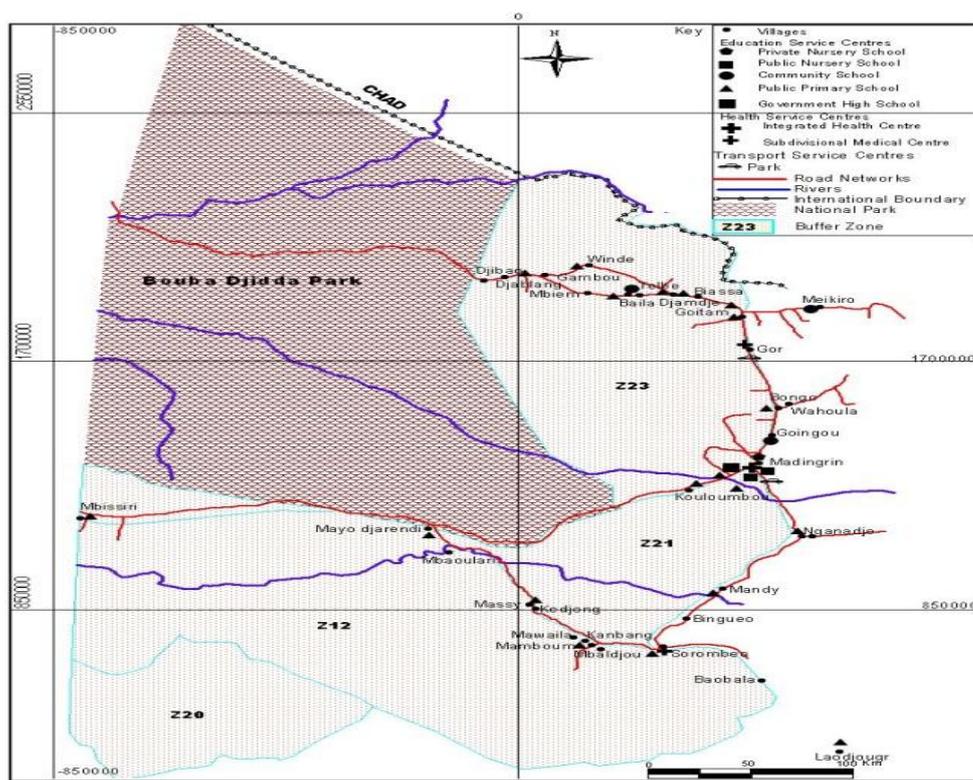


Figure-2: Some service delivery centers in madingring sub division

There is one Medical Doctor, six Nurses and four Support staff. There is a State Nurse and a Midwife. There is therefore one Medical Doctor for 57.347 inhabitants. The Sub divisional health center has 20 beds while the Gor and Sorombeo integrated health centers have just a few beds. The average distance between the other communities and the health centers is more than 10km. The villages where the health centers are located are favored compared to other villages located in distant areas. From Massy to Sorombeo is 14km, so from every village after Kedjong to the nearest health center in Sorombeo is more than 10km. From Bissa to the nearest health center in Gor is 3km and is a favored village but from Gambou to Gor is about 12km. There is a serious problem of health coverage in the Sub Division and the very long distance to be covered to the nearest health centers from many villages has led to very few patients visiting the health centers. There is a high rate of self-medication and visiting of traditional healers for the local pharmacopeia. Severe cases are transported on bikes or moto bikes to Gor, Sorombeo or Madingring. There are just three pharmacies in Madingring, Gor and Sorombeo. Added to the poor health coverage are other problems such as few qualified health personnel, few hospitalization rooms, problems of conservation of products due to no electricity, etc.

Seasonal transport services and commercial sector rich in small businesses : The Madingring Sub Division has 371km of road with only 71km suitable for use by vehicles. This is even less in the wet

season when some of the roads are impassable. The poor state of the roads has an impact on transport services and not any type of vehicle can circulate in the area. Transport service is more developed in the Sub Divisional headquarter, Madingring and in some major villages like Gor, Sorombeo and Djemadjou. Vehicles such as Hiace, Mitsubishi 4x4, trucks and bikes are used to transport both goods and persons. The transport services permits the villagers to move from one village to another especially to take part in the various weekly markets of the villages. In the wet season it is very difficult to find vehicles and even trucks due to the poor state of the roads. During this period Motobikes and bicycles are used and many do trek. The cost of transport services varies between the Motobikes and the vehicles. It varies also for every distance with seasons. **Table-3** presents the cost variation with distance, means of transportation and with seasons.

Table-3: Variation in transport services cost

Localities	Distance	Transport means	Cost in F CFA			
			Dry season		Wet season	
			Market day	Daily	Market day	Daily
Madingring-Mayo Djarendi	35 Km	Motobike	2500	2500	3000	3000
		Vehicle	2000	2000	2500	2500
Madingring-Gor	22 Km	Motobike	1500	1500	1700	1700
		Vehicle	700	700	1000	1000
Madingring-Garoua	350 Km	Motobike	5000	5000	6000	6000
Goingou-Gor	20 Km	Vehicle	800	800	1000	1000
		Motobike	500	500	700	700
Bissa-Gor	3 Km	Motobike	200	200	300	300
		Truck	300	300	400	400
		Vehicle	1500	1500	2000	2000
Sorombéo -Kanbang	7 Km	Motobike	300	300	500	500
		Vehicle	200	200	300	300
Gambou-Gor	30 Km	Motobike	2000	2000	2500	2500
		Vehicle	700	700	1000	1000
Bongo -Wahoula	7 Km	Motobike	500	500	700	700
		Vehicle	200	200	300	300
Massy-Sorombéo	14 Km	Motobike	700	700	1000	1000
		Vehicle	2500	2500	4000	4000
Massy-Mayo Djarendi	14 Km	Motobike	1000	1000	1500	1500
		Vehicle	700	700	1000	1000
Mayo Djarendi-Mbissiri	32 Km	Motobike	2500	2500	3000	3000
		Vehicle	500	500	700	700
Sorombéo-Madingring	30 Km	Motobike	2500	2500	3000	3000
		Truck	500	500	700	700
		Vehicle	700	700	1000	1000

Source: Questionnaire Survey, 2013

Major villages like Madingring, Sorombeo, Gor and Gambou all have a weekly market that hold on different days. Commercial activities take place in these markets as the rural population sells their farm harvest and animals and while returning to their villages do buy household manufactured products. The main markets are: Madingring that hold on Sundays, Gor that hold on Saturdays, Sorombeo that hold on Monday and Gambou that hold on Tuesdays. In the Madingring market, cereals

like maize and groundnuts are sold as well as smoked fish. In Gor, cattle is sold alongside cereals. Customers to these markets do come from as far as Maroua, Garoua and Ngaoundere especially to buy cattle and farm produce at affordable prices. The Madingring market has some 20 shops constructed with permanent materials while the Gor and Sorombeo markets do have 10 and 3 permanent shops respectively. The other markets do not have permanent structures. During the wet season commercial activities are always interrupted by downpour. The state of the roads affects the transportation of goods and persons to and from the markets. There is also insecurity as a slow moving vehicle can be easily attack by highway robbers.

In the Madingring Sub Division, there are 150 owners of grinding mills, some 25 tailors having just 10 sewing machines and 15 truck pushers selling water especially in the dry season when the heat is at its peak. Restaurant activities are well operational in Madingring center junction and in Gor. It is carried out mostly by women in make shift structures selling a plate of food between 350 to 500FCFA. The lowest daily revenue of a restaurant operator is 800FCFA while the highest is 15.000FCFA. The average revenue is 4.215FCFA. The average monthly revenue is 126.500FCFA and the average yearly revenue is 1.518.000FCFA. The Madingring junction has an important restaurant activity as the customers are not only residents but travellers to Chad, to Tchollire and Garoua. Rice, beans, millet, roasted cow and goat meat are sold.

DISCUSSION

It is an over statement to say that the Madingring Sub Division is void of basic services, but it is worth mentioning that the situation is not the best and there is need for the lapses in the service provision to be filled. Greater attention should be given to services like education, health, water and electricity. In the water supply sector for example, with the absence of CAMWATER, the entire sub division depends on hand pump wells as well as modern wells constructed by the state, the council and the local population. There are 47 hand pump wells spread all over the sub division and 21 modern wells. There are 7 in Madingring, 4 in Sorombeo and 2 in Gor. Unfortunately 44.6% of the hand pump wells are not functioning. There are 3 bad hand pump wells in Madingring, 2 in Sorombeo and 1 in Gor. Not only should the 21 bad hand pump wells be repaired but there is still the need for 41 new hand pump wells for the entire sub division to be well covered. There is need for strong community development efforts to solve the problem of water supply. The three integrated health centers and three pro pharmacies in the sub division are found in Madingring, Gor and Sorombeo and all has problems of supply of drugs. There is a community health center only in Gambou. For health service provision to cover the entire sub division there is need for 7 health centers to be created in Mbissiri, Mbongo, Gambou, Djeing, Kanagdje, Mayo Djerandi and Djemadjou. There is also need for pro pharmacies in these health centers. To improve on the education services there must be strict control for teachers posted to stay in the respective villages but this can only be possible if government is fast and efficient in disbursing salaries to them when transferred or placed after training. In terms of furniture, the schools need to be better equipped. Note should be taken that the problem in the education sector is not the creation of schools but to staff the schools created and to provide adequate infrastructure. There is an urgent need for about 46 teachers in the primary schools and 10 in the Government High School Madingring already using 9 part time teachers paid by the PTA and some elites. Due to the condition of the roads in the wet season, transport fares are increased. Missing the bus to travel is the worse situation but which is very common in this area. Other alternative is using the trucks of the Cotton Development Corporation, (SODECOTTON) or other trucks transporting goods and sitting on the goods to travel from one village to another. The use of bikes is providing a fast solution to circulation problems in the sub division.

CONCLUSION

Service provision in most rural areas in Cameroon remains a sore sight. A lot still needs to be done in the most important basic services like water, electricity, health and education. In some regions like the North West and the West, such services in the rural areas are almost entirely provided through community efforts. This is not the case in the Madingring Sub Division which was expected to take off in socio economic development immediately after its creation in 1995. It is worth mentioning that an area not link to the national water and electricity supply network will normally face difficulties in supplying other services like ICT, banking and finance. The present service provision in health, education, water and electricity are the efforts of the state, the local government and some elites of the area. Much still has to be done in terms of service provision in Madingring Sub Division whose evolution in service provision remains slow and low.

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