



REPORT

National U-Report Bootcamp

 Ngaoundéré
2026



INTRODUCTION

As part of efforts to strengthen youth civic engagement and promote the U-Report platform, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC) and several partners, organized the very first National U-Report Communities Bootcamp. This event brought together young people from different regions of Cameroon for training sessions, team-building activities, experience-sharing discussions, and the recognition of the best-performing U-Report communities. The main objective was to strengthen young people's capacities in leadership, digital communication, civic participation, child rights protection, and psychosocial skills, while also fostering networking among the various U-Report communities.

U-Reporters' Sports Walk



The National U-Report Bootcamp was officially launched with an awareness-raising walk organized on Friday, July 3, 2026, through the streets of Ngaoundéré. Bringing together U-Reporters from all ten regions of Cameroon, this sports walk aimed to officially announce the launch of the Bootcamp, promote the U-Report platform, and raise public awareness about the importance of youth participation in the development of their communities.



The participants covered approximately three kilometers, from Carrefour Universitaire to the Ngaoundéré III Council Hall, passing through Lake Dang, the Third-Class Traditional Chiefdom of Malang, and Carrefour Borongo. Carrying banners, wearing T-shirts, and displaying other visibility materials bearing the colors of UNICEF and its partners, the U-Reporters engaged with local communities throughout the route, sharing messages on children's rights, youth civic engagement, and the role of the U-Report platform as a space for expression and action in support of children and adolescents.

This walk generated significant interest among local residents and provided strong visibility for the launch of the National U-Report Bootcamp in Ngaoundéré, while reaffirming the commitment of UNICEF, its partners, and young people to promoting civic participation and amplifying the voices of children and youth in Cameroon.

Following this awareness-raising activity, the participants proceeded to the Bootcamp venue, where the first day began with the welcoming, registration, and accommodation of participants by the organizing team.



Official Launch Ceremony



The official launch ceremony of the National U-Report Bootcamp brought together administrative and municipal authorities, government representatives, UNICEF staff, partners, and more than one hundred U-Reporters from the ten regions of Cameroon. The ceremony marked the official opening of several days of exchanges, capacity-building activities, and youth engagement in support of children's rights.

Following the welcome remarks delivered by the two Masters of Ceremony, both U-Reporters, Ms. Bawane Ayonga Georgette and Mr. Jean Tabi, participants sang the National Anthem of Cameroon. The various speeches that followed highlighted the importance of youth engagement, civic participation, and the role of the U-Report platform in promoting and protecting children's rights.



The Principal of Malang Bilingual High School, the host institution, welcomed participants from the different regions of the country and commended the organization of this important national gathering within his school. He encouraged the young participants to make the most of the various training sessions, experience-sharing opportunities, and learning activities offered during the Bootcamp.

In his remarks, the **Mayor of Ngaoundéré III** Subdivisional Council expressed his gratitude to UNICEF and its partners for choosing his municipality to host this national event. He encouraged the young U-Reporters to continue playing an active role in their communities by promoting messages of peace, citizenship, community engagement, and the protection of children's rights.

The Representative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC) reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting youth development and participation in national development processes. He highlighted the importance of the U-Report platform as a space that enables young people to make their voices heard, share their concerns, and propose innovative solutions to the challenges affecting their communities.

On behalf of UNICEF, the **Chief of the Bertoua Field Office** commended the strong mobilization of young people from all regions of Cameroon and emphasized the importance of their involvement in advancing children's rights. He stressed that U-Report is much more than a digital platform; it is a powerful engagement tool that enables young people to actively contribute to positive change within their communities.

The final speech during the protocol segment was delivered by the **Representative of the Governor of the Adamawa Region**, who conveyed the Governor's greetings and encouragement to the participants. In his address, he congratulated UNICEF and its partners for their commitment to youth empowerment and encouraged the U-Reporters to use the knowledge gained during the Bootcamp to become responsible leaders and agents of change in their communities. He then officially declared the 2026 National U-Report Bootcamp open.



Le Proviseur du Lycée Bilingue de Malang, établissement hôte, a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants venus des différentes régions du pays et a salué l'organisation de cette importante rencontre nationale au sein de son établissement. Il a encouragé les jeunes à profiter pleinement des différentes sessions de formation, des échanges d'expériences et des opportunités offertes par le Bootcamp.

Prenant la parole, **le Maire de la Commune d'Arrondissement de Ngaoundéré III** a exprimé sa gratitude à l'UNICEF et à ses partenaires pour avoir choisi sa commune pour accueillir cet événement national. Il a encouragé les jeunes U-Reporters à continuer à jouer un rôle actif dans leurs communautés en portant des messages de paix, de citoyenneté, d'engagement communautaire et de promotion des droits de l'enfant.

Le représentant du Ministère de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Civique (MINJEC) a réaffirmé l'engagement du Gouvernement à accompagner l'épanouissement et la participation des jeunes dans les processus de développement. Il a reconnu l'importance de la plateforme U-Report comme un espace permettant aux jeunes de faire entendre leur voix, de partager leurs préoccupations et de proposer des solutions innovantes aux défis qui touchent leurs communautés.

Au nom de l'UNICEF, **le Chef du Bureau de Terrain de Bertoua** a salué la mobilisation des jeunes venus de toutes les régions du Cameroun et a rappelé l'importance de leur implication dans la réalisation des droits de l'enfant. Il a souligné que U-Report représente bien plus qu'une plateforme numérique, mais un véritable outil d'engagement permettant aux jeunes de participer activement aux changements positifs dans leurs communautés.

La dernière intervention de la phase protocolaire a été celle du **représentant du Gouverneur de la Région de l'Adamaoua**, qui a transmis les salutations et les encouragements du Gouverneur aux participants. Dans son discours, il a félicité l'UNICEF et ses partenaires pour leur engagement en faveur de l'autonomisation des jeunes et a encouragé les U-Reporters à utiliser les connaissances acquises pour devenir des leaders responsables et des ambassadeurs du changement dans leurs communautés. Il a ensuite officiellement déclaré ouverts les travaux du Bootcamp National U-Report 2026.





Following the official ceremony, participants moved to the training hall to attend a videoconference address by Ms. Nadine Perrault, UNICEF Representative in Cameroon.

In her message to the U-Reporters, she presented UNICEF's main strategic priorities for the coming years, emphasizing youth participation, education, health, child protection, social inclusion, and climate action.

She encouraged U-Reporters to become true agents of change by going beyond simply participating on the platform and taking concrete actions in support of children and communities. She particularly urged them to strengthen their commitment to out-of-school and the most vulnerable children, using their voices, skills, and creativity to contribute to sustainable solutions.

Other Activities

The first day of the National U-Report Bootcamp continued with several interactive sessions that enabled U-Reporters and U-Responders to strengthen their knowledge of children's rights, child protection, and UNICEF's priorities in Cameroon.

The second plenary session, facilitated by the UNICEF Maroua Field Office, focused on children's rights and protection mechanisms. Participants were sensitized on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the four fundamental principles of the CRC: non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life and development, and participation.

The young participants were also informed about UNICEF's expectations of U-Reporters and U-Responders, who are considered key actors within the child protection system. They were encouraged to serve as positive role models, advocates for children's rights, and agents of change, while upholding the principles of confidentiality, dignity, and UNICEF's core values.

A session facilitated by Doline helped clarify the role of young people in child protection, with a particular focus on preventing violence through community awareness-raising, advocacy, and social mobilization. Participants were also informed about referral mechanisms and toll-free helplines available for reporting cases of violence.

The day continued with an interactive forum theatre session centered on mediation, emotional skills, peaceful conflict resolution, and community engagement. Through role-playing exercises, the young participants strengthened their capacities in dialogue, collaboration, and leadership.

The Chief of the UNICEF Maroua Field Office also presented UNICEF's strategic directions for the 2027-2031 period, structured around three major outcomes: child survival and development, learning and education, and protection. He encouraged U-Reporters to align their actions with these priorities and to contribute to national efforts aimed at improving the well-being of children.

The day concluded with a session on child and adolescent nutrition facilitated by Madelène, which highlighted the importance of the first 1,000 days of life as well as adolescence as critical periods for growth and development. Participants were sensitized to the importance of iron and folic acid, particularly for adolescent girls.

This first day, rich in learning opportunities and exchanges, helped strengthen the commitment of young U-Reporters and U-Responders as key actors in promoting the rights and well-being of children in Cameroon.



Activities and Training Sessions

The second day of the U-Report National Bootcamp was dedicated to strengthening U-Reporters' digital skills, creativity, teamwork, and advocacy capacities through a series of interactive sessions and practical activities.

➤ Responsible Use of the Internet and Multimedia

The first session focused on the responsible use of the Internet, social media, and multimedia tools. Participants were sensitized to the importance of using digital platforms positively, protecting their online identity, and creating responsible content as young digital influencers.

The session also introduced participants to the fundamentals of multimedia storytelling, including photography, video production, and digital content creation. They learned that lighting is the most essential element of good photography and that the best times to capture high-quality images are generally in the morning and afternoon. The young participants were encouraged to use digital tools to tell positive stories, raise awareness within their communities, and contribute to social change.

➤ Team-Building Activities and Community Engagement

After the coffee break, participants took part in team-building activities facilitated by the Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) section, aimed at strengthening teamwork and collaboration among U-Reporters from the different regions of Cameroon.

Through practical exercises, the young participants presented their community initiatives and simulated awareness-raising activities on issues such as child marriage and school dropout.

A relay race entitled "My Voice Counts" also helped strengthen unity and cooperation among the various U-Report communities.

➤ Slam Workshop and Creative Expression

A slam poetry and creative writing workshop facilitated by Myname enabled participants to develop their self-confidence, public speaking skills, and creativity. The young participants discovered slam as an effective tool for community awareness-raising and advocacy, while strengthening their ability to express ideas and messages in a powerful and engaging way.

➤ Cultural Exchanges and Knowledge Competition

The day continued with a community engagement session led by the collective "Je suis musique", which encouraged experience-sharing and cultural exchanges among the different regional delegations.

An inter-regional competition entitled "Question for a Champion" then provided an opportunity to assess participants' knowledge on various topics through an interactive quiz, complemented by cultural performances and traditional dances.



Closing Ceremony



The closing of the Bootcamp marked the culmination of the various activities, featuring the presentation of the national jury and the evaluation criteria for U-Report communities, a general summary of the proceedings, the award ceremony recognizing the six best U-Report communities in Cameroon, interviews with the winners and UNICEF representatives, as well as the official group photograph.

The ceremony concluded with the signing of a Commitment Charter by the young participants, reaffirming their determination to continue using their voices and skills to promote children's rights and contribute positively to the development of their communities.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

At the end of the two-day National U-Report Bootcamp 2026, several significant results were achieved:

- Strengthened young people's understanding of the functioning and objectives of the U-Report platform.
- Improved participants' skills in leadership, digital communication, responsible internet use, multimedia content creation, and citizen journalism.
- Enhanced U-Reporters' knowledge of children's rights, child protection, and UNICEF's strategic priorities in Cameroon.
- Developed participants' capacities in communication, mediation, peaceful conflict resolution, public speaking, and community engagement.
- Strengthened cohesion, collaboration, and networking among U-Report communities from all ten regions of Cameroon.
- Promoted youth creativity and innovation through practical workshops, cultural activities, and inter-regional competitions.
- Recognized and celebrated the best U-Report communities in Cameroon through a national award and recognition ceremony.
- Secured the signing of the Commitment Charter by participants, reaffirming their determination to promote children's rights and contribute to the development of their communities.
- Renewed participants' commitment to using the U-Report platform as a tool for civic participation, advocacy, and mobilization in support of the rights and well-being of children in Cameroon.

BOOTCAMP HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the two days of the National U-Report Bootcamp, several highlights marked this first edition and contributed to its success:

- An excellent atmosphere characterized by a strong spirit of camaraderie, collaboration, and solidarity among participants throughout the Bootcamp.
- The effective presence of administrative and municipal authorities, as well as partners, during the official opening ceremony.
- The national awards ceremony recognizing the six best U-Report communities in Cameroon.
- The signing of the Commitment Charter by U-Reporters and U-Responders, reaffirming their dedication to children's rights and civic participation.
- The visit to exhibition stands showcasing UNICEF initiatives, partner contributions, and the achievements of young people.
- Cultural performances and a dance competition among the different U-Report communities, promoting cohesion and celebrating cultural diversity.
- The outstanding moderation of the event by two young U-Reporters, who professionally facilitated the various sessions and activities of the Bootcamp.
- The remarkable and enthusiastic arrival of delegations from the North and Far North regions, which greatly contributed to the festive atmosphere and overall success of the event.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Despite the overall success of the first National U-Report Bootcamp, several challenges were identified during both the preparation and implementation phases of the event. These included:

- *Delays in the release and disbursement of funds, which affected the preparation of certain activities.*
- *The significant financial support provided by the DREPAD, which helped sustain and facilitate the implementation of several Bootcamp activities.*
- *The reduction of the initial budget by the PAC team, which required adjustments to the planning and implementation of certain activities.*
- *Delays in the delivery of visibility and promotional materials required for the event.*
- *Delays in the availability of the press kit, which limited the optimal preparation of communication and visibility activities.*
- *The failure to produce participation certificates for all communities that took part in the Bootcamp, leading to some frustration among several young participants.*
- *The omission of an additional day in the calculation of participants' Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), resulting in concerns and complaints raised with the event organizers.*
- *Challenges related to the transportation and accommodation of participants, with available capacities sometimes proving insufficient to meet the needs of all attending youth.*
- *Limited consideration of the inclusion of persons with disabilities and individuals with specific needs during the planning and implementation of the activity.*

RECOMMENDATIONS AND INNOVATIONS

Recommendations :

- Finalize all administrative and financial arrangements at least three (03) months before the event to ensure better planning and avoid delays in the implementation of activities.
- Make decisions and communicate promptly on the various procedures (logistics, sessions, coordination, etc.) to facilitate the organization and smooth execution of activities.
- Ensure greater inclusion of minorities, particularly persons with disabilities and participants with specific needs.
- Develop and share a Code of Ethics that U-Reporters and U-Responders will be required to observe during future Bootcamps, in order to promote responsible and professional conduct.
- Align the number of participants with the hosting capacity of the venue, particularly regarding accommodation, transportation, and logistical arrangements.
- Strengthen youth engagement in the digital space by encouraging them to produce more positive content and use digital platforms as tools for awareness-raising and advocacy.
- Support youth-led initiatives such as U-Chai activities by promoting the participation of other communities, thereby enhancing inclusion and experience-sharing.
- Organize quizzes and competitions by mixing participants from different regions and communities in order to foster greater interaction, collaboration, and national cohesion.
- Include dedicated spaces within the Bootcamp agenda for young people to express themselves and share their experiences, initiatives, and recommendations.
- Encourage young people to showcase their achievements and creative work through exhibitions focused on customization, recycling, technological innovations, green solutions, and other community-based initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The National U-Report Bootcamp, held from **4 to 5 July 2026 in Ngaoundéré**, marked an important milestone in strengthening youth participation, leadership, and civic engagement across Cameroon. Bringing together U-Reporters and U-Responders from all ten regions of the country, the event provided a unique platform for learning, experience-sharing, networking, and collective reflection on the role of young people in promoting children's rights and community development.

Through the various training sessions, practical workshops, team-building activities, cultural exchanges, and participatory exercises, participants strengthened their skills in leadership, digital communication, citizen journalism, community mobilization, advocacy, and child protection. These activities also enabled them to gain a deeper understanding of UNICEF's priorities and the importance of aligning their initiatives with national efforts aimed at improving the well-being of children.

Beyond the knowledge acquired, the Bootcamp fostered a genuine national dynamic among U-Report communities by encouraging experience-sharing, collaboration, and the celebration of the diversity of young people from different regions of Cameroon. The recognition of the six best U-Report communities, the signing of the Commitment Charter, and the various discussion and networking sessions demonstrated the willingness of young people to become active agents of change within their communities.

Although some challenges were encountered during the preparation and implementation of this first edition, the lessons learned and recommendations formulated will help improve the organization of future editions, making them even more inclusive, innovative, and responsive to the needs of young people. The 2026 National U-Report Bootcamp therefore concluded on a note of renewed commitment, with a generation of young people who are better equipped, more connected, and more motivated to use their voices, creativity, and skills to advocate for children's rights, promote civic participation, and contribute to a better future for all children in Cameroon.

APPRECIATION

The success of the 2026 National U-Report Bootcamp was made possible thanks to the invaluable support of our partners and donors.

UNICEF Cameroon extends its heartfelt gratitude to UNICEF Ireland and TIKa (the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency) for their support and commitment to promoting youth participation and empowerment through the U-Report platform.

Thanks to their contribution, U-Reporters and U-Responders from all ten regions of Cameroon were able to strengthen their skills, share experiences, and develop tools to better promote children's rights and contribute to positive change within their communities.

We would like to reiterate our sincere appreciation for their trust and continued commitment to supporting the young people and children of Cameroon.

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Thank You
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Merci
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for every child