The post-election crisis of 2025 in Cameroon: diagnosis, immediate consequences and levers for economic recovery

Assessment and advocacy report by the Groupement des Entreprises du Cameroun (GECAM)

Executive Summary

December 2025

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The presidential election of 12 October 2025 led to a post-election crisis of unprecedented magnitude in Cameroon. This crisis unfolded in three successive phases: rising tensions (12–25 October); intensification of unrest (26–30 October); and severe disruption of economic activity through so-called "ghost town" operations (3–5 November 2025 and beyond). These dynamics led to significant disruption of national economic activity, particularly in the Littoral, Far North, South-West, East and West regions. The assessment focuses specifically on the critical period from 26 October to 5 November 2025 and does not include subsequent economic developments.

In this context of increased security instability, supply chain disruptions and a sharp slowdown in demand, the private sector has been particularly exposed. Faced with interrupted logistics flows, temporary or prolonged closures and a sharp drop in footfall, businesses suffered a major economic shock, highlighting differentiated structural vulnerabilities and uneven resilience capacities. In this regard, **94% of the companies surveyed reported that they had been affected, directly or indirectly, by these events**.

In order to objectively assess these impacts, the Groupement des Entreprises du Cameroun (GECAM) conducted an in-depth evaluation. This evaluation has two objectives: to measure the immediate socio-economic consequences of the crisis and to formulate operational recommendations aimed at a rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Methodology, strengths and challenges

The study is based on a multi-faceted approach involving a quantitative survey conducted from 6 November to 2 December 2025 among 289 member and non-member companies of GECAM, representing a significant economic weight with a combined turnover of 4,825 billion CFA francs. It was supplemented by qualitative interviews with 11 key professional organisations.

The high concentration of respondents in Douala (78%), the epicentre of the crisis, ensures excellent coverage of the area, which accounts for nearly 67% of national turnover. The sample is composed of 56% SMEs, 28% micro-enterprises and 16% large enterprises (LEs), covering the sectors of Production (26%), Trade (27%) and Services (47%).

Main findings and results

► An already fragile initial situation

Before the crisis broke out, the economic fabric was already fragile: 65% of businesses reported that they were in a vulnerable or intermediate situation. In addition, 58% of businesses reported pre-existing difficulties, linked in particular to rising input costs, restricted access to foreign currency and insufficient electricity supplies.

► A major economic shock with differentiated effects

The crisis led to an average contraction in turnover of 33.5%, corresponding to an estimated direct loss of 202.2 billion CFA francs (approximately 0.6% of GDP in 2025), of which 160.5 billion was attributable to the city of Douala alone. Public finances were also affected, with an immediate tax shortfall estimated at 43.3 billion CFA francs, mainly in VAT and corporation tax.

The sectors most affected are:

- Hotels and restaurants (–53.4%);
- construction (–44.6%);
- Industry and energy (–39.8%).

In addition, 24 companies in the sample (8%) reported material damage (theft, destruction, fire), estimated (based on 15 companies that provided information during the quantitative survey) at 9.156 billion CFA francs, with the trade and distribution sector among the most affected.

► Logistical disruptions and generalised cost increases

The crisis resulted in particular in:

- a blockage of logistics flows, particularly affecting agriculture (86%) and industry (74%);
- significant inflationary pressure, with an average rate of 20.1% observed by companies, reaching 32.5% in the agricultural sector;
- total shutdowns of activity, affecting 75% of businesses.

► Cash flow tensions and solvency risks

The disruptions caused a marked drying up of liquidity: 44% of businesses reported that they were no longer able to meet their tax obligations, 45% their social security contributions and 40% their bank payments. In total, 30% of businesses reported an inability to meet all three types of commitments, posing a significant risk to the continuity of formal economic activity.

► Social impacts and managerial climate

Financial pressure has led 17.3% of businesses to reduce their workforce. Beyond job cuts, 56% of organisations report a significant deterioration in the social climate and internal functioning. The perception of the business climate remains a major concern: 81% of businesses describe the situation as fragile, critical or very worrying. In this context, the morale of business leaders appears to be severely affected, with 39% expressing feelings of pessimism or distress, a proportion that rises to 50% in the hotel and restaurant sector.

Strategic recommendations

The recovery levers identified as priorities by business leaders are as follows:

1. **Emergency fiscal measures (72% of responses)**: targeted relief, a moratorium on audits and deferral of deadlines to ease the cash flow pressure on businesses;

2. **Financial support (51%):** mobilisation of financing mechanisms, including grants and credit lines, with a particular focus on micro-enterprises (63% of requests);

3. **Infrastructure and security (46% and 45%)**: rehabilitation of damaged production facilities and strengthening of security in economic zones;

4. **Logistical appeasement measures (resulting from the feedback workshop):** temporary suspension of road checks on major corridors in order to restore the flow of trade.

In conclusion, the study highlights an exceptionally severe crisis for the private sector. Nearly one-third of the formal productive fabric is in a situation of critical vulnerability. A rapid, concerted and coherent response appears essential in order to contain the effects of the crisis and transform this period of fragility into an opportunity for structural reforms that will promote the competitiveness and sustainable stability of the Cameroonian economy.