

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cameroon is a unitary republic with 10 regions, 58 departments and 374 local governments (315 municipalities, 45 urban neighborhood councils and 14 urban communities).¹ In 2019, local elections were postponed from 2017 and regional councils, established by the 2008 Constitution, were remaining inactive.² Elections were scheduled in 2019 but organized in February 2020.³



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).⁴

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2010, Cameroon adopted its **Vision 2035**. For the period 2010-2019, the government prepared a Strategy Paper for Growth and Employment (DSCE). Since 2020, Cameroon has entered the second phase to implement the major orientations contained in its vision with its **National Development Strategy 2030 (SND30)**,⁵ in which the SDGs are integrated. In addition to planning for the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the strategy includes accelerating economic growth, inclusive development and greater social cohesion, improving people's living conditions, and strengthening climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development (MINEPAT)**, with the support of the United Nations System, coordinates the implementation of the SDGs. At the regional and local levels, the coordination for SDG implementation is carried out by the regional and departmental services of MINEPAT.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **multi-stakeholder working group**, set up by decision of the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Territorial Development in 2019, coordinated the elaboration of the 2019 and 2022 VNRs. This working group was supported by a technical secretariat which provided support for the drafting of the report. Both VNRs were developed with a participatory approach involving all development actors, in particular the national government, LRGs, the private sector, civil society, technical and financial partners, youth associations, associations of people living with a disability, the media and academics. The data and information collection on the state of SDG implementation was conducted among many stakeholders. For the 2022 VNR, three consultations and a workshop were organized to review and finalize the report.

1.3 MONITORING

At national level, monitoring of SDG implementation is in charge of the **Technical Monitoring Committee of the National Development Strategy**, coordinated by MINEPAT. The review of the implementation of the SDGs takes the form of a **platform for dialogue** co-facilitated by MINEPAT and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, with the participation of representatives of public administrations, the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians and development partners.⁶ Statistical monitoring of the indicators for the implementation of the SDGs is the responsibility of the National Statistical System, managed by the National Institute of Statistics, which produces periodic reports on the progress of SDG indicators. However, there are still shortcomings in terms of production and access to the statistical information needed to achieve the SDGs. Local and regional levels also carry monitoring responsibilities (see below).

1. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

2. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

3. See: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lections_municipales_cameroonaises_de_2020

4. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24180CAMEROON_Rapport_VNR_0507_2019.pdf (2019);

<https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Rapport%20VNR%202022%20du%20Cameroon.pdf> (2022)

5. The horizon for the implementation of this second phase, initially set for the period 2020-2027, has been extended to 2030 to align it with that of the 2030 Agenda on the SDGs.

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

As part of the awareness-raising on the SDGs, tools were made available to local governments. They benefited from training to better integrate the SDGs into development activities; a methodological guide for municipal planning was updated in 2019; and a manual for integrating the SDGs into local plans was developed. The SDGs are integrated into the first-generation **municipal development plans** and even more into the second-generation currently developed. Those plans are drawn up under the supervision and coordination of the **National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP)** and most of the actions included in these strategies documents in terms of programming concern the SDGs.⁷

With recent decentralization reforms, the contextualization and monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs at the local level will increasingly be devolved to the **Municipal Technical Committees** for more participatory monitoring of public investment. At the regional level, the monitoring of SDG localization will be devolved to the **Regional Committees for Monitoring the Physical and Financial Execution of Public Investment**, chaired by the Regional Delegates of MINEPAT, which will have to produce regional reports on the monitoring and review of the implementation of the SDGs. LRGs also participate in the **dialogue platform** jointly led by the MINEPAT and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System which operationalizes the SDG implementation review.⁸

The association **United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (CVUC)** participated in the 2022 VNR through its VSR (see below). CVUC reports good relations with MINEPAT, and is involved in all ad hoc consultation processes it organizes.⁹ However, according to the 2022 VSR, only a minority of LRGs were directly informed of the VNR preparation (41%).¹⁰ Nonetheless, the national government states it took the VNR process as an opportunity to strengthen SDG awareness among LRGs. Local leaders received training to better implement and monitor the SDGs at the local level.

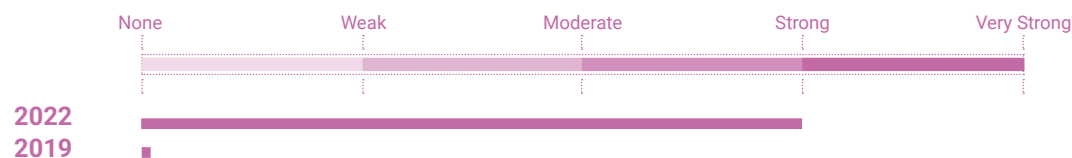
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs were consulted as part of the 2019 and 2022 VNR processes.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are not directly participating in national coordination mechanisms, but there are regional and municipal technical committees dedicated to the follow-up of SDG implementation. LRGs also participate in the dialogue platform which operationalizes the SDG implementation review.¹¹

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2022 VNR refers to LRGs, and provides specific examples. However, these are mainly national initiatives implemented in certain municipalities/territories rather than locally-led initiatives. The report calls on LRGs to play "a more important role in driving socio-economic and cultural development at the grassroots level" now that all the institutions provided for by the decentralization laws have been completed (see VNR, 2022, p. 8). The VSR prepared by the CVUC is mentioned.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **CVUC** organized several workshops to raise awareness on the SDGs, held in parallel with national events or conferences. In 2017, together with the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), CVUC organized a national workshop on the SDGs in which it presented a report on the taking into account of the SDGs at the local level. This report shows that the national decentralization policy is 94.44% consistent with the SDGs, and 62% with their targets. In 2019, CVUC developed guidelines on SDGs and local planning.

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

8. According to the CVUC, November 2021.

9. According to the CVUC, November 2021.

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

► **Yaounde 6** has been engaged in disaster risk reduction at the local level since 2013 and has shifted from a sectoral vision to a global and integrated vision of its development, with a plan covering the period 2019-2030.¹²

► In the municipality of **Mayo-Baleo**, a Centre for the Promotion of Women and the Family has been built to train women, girls and young people in running small businesses and to offer them a range of other courses (languages, sewing, computer courses, catering, etc.).¹³

► In the municipality of **Kribi**, the actions implemented focus on wellbeing and sanitation, through the development of playgrounds and the organization of cultural events, and the systematization of household waste collection, treatment and recycling of waste.¹⁴

► The municipality of **Tibati** focuses on health and education with actions including the provision of health personnel, and the recruitment and management of teaching staff.¹⁵

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Yaounde published a VLR in 2020.¹⁶ **CVUC** published in 2022 the first VSR in the country.¹⁷ The analysis shows that most of the actions included in the local plans touch on one of the SDGs. It leads to five recommendations to improve SDG localization, including increased involvement of LRGs in the VNR preparation, increased support from the national government and development partners, and increased financial resources.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To improve financing for the implementation of the SDGs, Cameroon wishes to rely more on development aid, the mobilization of resources from the national and international private sector, and public-private partnerships. According to the General Code of the Regional and Local Authorities, the national government plans to raise the proportion of resources transferred to LRGs to at least 15% of its budget to increase their financial resources and have a significant impact on the implementation of the SDGs.¹⁸

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Cameroon, decentralization has been enshrined in law since 1996. The **decentralization** process has accelerated in recent years. The **Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDEVEL)** was created in 2018. In 2019, the General Code of Decentralized Local Governments established the general framework for decentralization (free administration and functional autonomy of local governments). The government adopted the National Development Strategy 2030 whose fourth pillar relies on decentralization as a means to reach its goals. The implementation of decentralization should take a significant step forward with the decision of the public authorities to devote more financial resources to the functioning of the regional councils during the year 2022. Six decrees signed in December 2021 by the President of the Republic, relating to the organization of the regional administration and the methods of exercising certain powers transferred to the regions, provide regional governments more capacities for development. The transfer of competencies concerns in particular urban planning and housing, participation in the organization and management of interurban public transport, tourism and leisure activities as well as environmental protection.¹⁹

Since 2014 the country has been facing repeated attacks by the terrorist group Boko Haram in the northern part, to the influx of Central African refugees to the east and since 2017 to an internal crisis in the regions of Northwest and Southwest. All of these factors that affect internal resource mobilization capacities negatively influence the achievement of the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2012, the adoption of a law on the Electoral Code of Cameroon made the consideration of gender a legal requirement in the constitution of all candidate lists for municipal, legislative, regional and senatorial elections.²⁰ In 2022, Cameroon has 9.36% of women mayors and 33.8% of women deputy mayors. No woman is president of a region.

12. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

13. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

15. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

16. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/yaounde_2020.pdf

17. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

18. However, transfers to LRGs have stagnated at 7.2% of the national budget in 2021 and 2022. The financial resources available for LRGs remain insufficient to guarantee the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

19. However, the funds allocated to the functioning of the regions represent barely 7.2% of the general state budget in accordance with the 2022 finance law which amounts to nearly 5,700 billion FCFA (nearly 10 billion dollars). This envelope dedicated to the implementation of decentralization is far below the 30% of the total state budget desired by the regions and municipalities.

See: <https://www.financialafrik.com/2021/12/30/cameroon-letat-consacre-des-moyens-supplementaires-pour-impulser-la-decentralisation/>

20. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

The central government supported the crucial role of municipalities and urban communities in the fight against COVID-19 through the National Social Security Fund with forms of support including fiscal flexibilization and debt relief.²¹

4. SDG INDICATORS²²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		24.5 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		33.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		43.6 (2009, Yaounde)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		65.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		37.9 (2019)

21. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

22. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>
More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/cmr>