

Support Programme for Decentralisation and Financial Governance in Cameroon

Actors in decentralisation fulfil their role in citizen-oriented governance more effectively with respect to the particular needs of women and girls, and of gender equality

Context

Cameroon has adopted a series of laws and strategic documents aimed at strengthening its development. These include 2035 Vision and the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (SND30), which set out the priorities. These strategic planning frameworks take into account the Constitution of January 18, 1996, which gives local authorities responsibility for promoting democracy and development at local level. The modernization of public finances is mainly governed by the Law on the Financial Regime of the State and other Entities and by the 2018 Code of Transparency and Good Governance. In 2019, the law 2019/024 relating to the General code of Regional and Local Authorities (LA) has been promulgated.

Despite the efforts of the Cameroonian government to promote decentralisation and implementation of public finance reforms, some challenges abound. Councils need more capacity reinforcement to mobilize sufficient resources to ensure the sustainable development of infrastructure and the efficient delivery of services. Actually, transfers do not fully cover the financing needs of municipalities. As a result, public services are not provided to the population in the required quantity and quality. Transparency in public action is limited by insufficient sanctions and weak institutionalization. The needs and potential of local populations, particularly women, girls and other vulnerable and marginalised groups (including young people), are not sufficiently considered in the formulation and development of policies at local level.

The Support Programme for Strengthening Decentralisation and Financial Governance (PADGOF) focuses on the improvements in gender equality, financial distribution keys, councils' own revenues, good climate-sensitive local governance and citizen participation. It contributes to the progress of decentralisation to ensure an efficient and transparent provision of services by local authorities. Its main political partners are the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) and the Ministry of Finance (MINFI). The programme is declined into four areas of intervention.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| 1 NO POVERTY | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS |
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| Project Name | Support Programme for Strengthening Decentralization and Financial Governance in Cameroon (PADGOF) | | | | |
| Commissioned by | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) | | | | |
| Implementing agency | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | | | | |
| Lead executing partners | Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL), Ministry of Finance (MINFI) | | | | |
| Target | Municipalities, State Deconcentrated Services, Civil Society, women and girls | | | | |
| Partners | Municipalities (45), MINDDEVEL, MINFI, FEICOM, Audit Bench of the Supreme Court | | | | |
| Regions | Littoral and North | | | | |
| Duration | 01.09.2023 – 31.08.2026 | | | | |

Outputs :

1. Strengthening the role of municipalities in local governance;
2. Strengthening the skills of local actors in terms of citizen participation, with particular emphasis on women and gender equality;
3. Improving the mobilisation of financial resources at commune level on the basis of the selected elements;
4. Improved efficiency and transparency of tax and expenditure management by the tax administration and sector ministries.



Digital Kiosk in Ngong council : digitalization makes it easier for citizens to participate



Workshop: Civil society's contribution to the transparency of the State budget process



Practical training for council technical staff in the maintenance of a water point



Workshop: sharing experiences on transparency between members of the network of management controllers of ministerial programmes



Handover of motorbikes to improve the mobility of municipal agents responsible for maintaining communal infrastructures and organizing forums



Citizen participation : Budget orientation debate 2022, municipality of Idenau, South-West region

Mr Ulrich Berdelmann,
Director of Governance
Programmes

ulrich.berdelmann1@giz.de

Services

In cooperation with MINDDEVEL and MINFI, PADGOF focuses on strengthening decentralisation process and modernizing public finance management in Cameroon. In this regard, the programme strengthens the capacities of municipalities and Decentralized State Services (SDE) through training and advisory support in the areas of good local governance, public finance management, citizen participation and delivery of services, to improve local development.

PADGOF, in collaboration with government institutions, SDE and other technical and financial partners, implements activities aimed at :

- Improving the satisfaction of the population within their municipalities, through citizen oriented services to promote transparency and accountability in local governance;
- Implementing inclusive and participatory approaches by partner municipalities in order to strengthen the participation of local populations, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), civil society and local economic stakeholders,
- Networking, leadership development, coaching and training on local governance for local professionals and managers, particularly women leaders at local level,
- Improving citizens' rights, particularly those of women and girls, and empowering them to reduce poverty and inequality,
- Advisory support on the reform of financial decentralisation and the different roles and responsibilities in consultation with key stakeholders,
- Scaling up gender- and climate-sensitive budgets with sectoral ministries,
- Increasing local revenue, for example through improved digital solutions and better management of taxes and expenditure.

Approach

PADGOF draws on the experience and achievements of the Support Programme for Municipal Development (PROMUD) and the Support Programme for Modernizing Public Finances (PAMFIP), and integrates them in its implementation approach. In addition, the Programme calls on national and international experts to provide direct advisory support services to partners. It also draws on the expertise of service providers and civil society organisations (CSOs). PADGOF uses a systemic approach that strengthens networking and facilitates coordination between stakeholders at different levels and in different sectors. The multi-level approach also enables results to be reported and used, from the municipal level to the regional and national levels, and vice versa.



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Registered Offices : Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Support Programme for Strengthening Decentralisation and Financial Governance (PADGOF)
GIZ Regional Office – Yaounde
P.O. Box 7814, Yaounde, Cameroon
T +237 650 27 69 30 / 650 27 69 31 / 677 11 22 21
www.giz.de/kamerun

Responsible Ulrich Berdelmann

Text Leah Ngaba

Layout Leah Ngaba

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In cooperation with Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, Ministry of Finance
On behalf of Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Adresses of the BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, DE

T + 49 (0)228 99 535-0
F + 49 (0)228 99 535-3500

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de

BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin, DE

T + 49 (0)30 18 535-0
T + 49 (0)30 18 535-2501

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