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# Book's Lovers Association for local development

«support and solidarities actions for organisations and Freedom »

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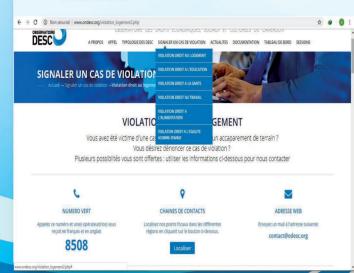
# Who are we?

Created in 1998, ASSOAL is a social organization supporting local actors and development processes.

#### Issues and challenges?

Some constraints of context underpin our action :

- Improved governance, including financial governance, local democracy and the culture of rights mainly Economic, Social and Cultural Right (ESCR):
  - In a context of low culture of citizenship, accountability, transparency and social responsibility;
- → The territorialization of public policies :
  - In a context of centralization, low integration of socio-cultural diversity, low sensitivity to climate challenges and ESCR;
- Equal access to basic social services :
  - In a context of weak fiscal culture and weak public policy effectiveness.



# Three reasons to engage with us:

ASSOAL is:

- A platform of ideas and proposals to rebuild public policies, local governance and decentralisation on citizen engagement, accountability, ownership of rights and social responsibility;
- → A citizen campaign to mobilize for the territorialization of public policies of social housing ;
- An innovation laboratory to test alternative models of governance, sustainable and climate sensitive development.



#### What is our common vision?

By 2035 ASSOAL aims to be recognized nationally and internationally as a leading advisory partner in promoting governance and sustainable development sensitive to climate and to economic and socio-cultural rights.































## **Key mission**

Contributing to the territorialisation of development policies through three-dimensional multi-stakeholder partnerships that prioritizes participation, citizen engagement, respect for citizens' economic and socio-cultural rights and the fight against climate change.



### What are the goals?

ASSOAL's strategic objective 2019-2028 is to promote the Participatory Budget (PB) as a mode of governance sensitive to climate change at the local level that can strengthen the realization of the economic and socio-cultural rights of all citizens.



#### Some achievements

- PB is implemented in the municipalities of 35 African countries and 95 municipalities in Cameroon;
- → PB taken into account in the local authority code in Cameroon (Article 386);
- Citizens' proposals for housing and social housing included in the draft of the national housing policy;
- Several thousand households protected and retaining their land holdings:
- Several alternative models of social housing demonstrated with more than 20 housing co-operatives created in Cameroon;
- → An African Network of Inhabitant's Organizations (ANIO), an Inter-African Alliance for Participatory Budgeting (IAA-PB), a Cameroonian Alliance for Participatory Budgeting and Local Finance (CAPB-LF), a CSO Platform on ESCRs, a Mutuals and Housing Co-operatives Promoters Platform (MHC2P), several organizations and federations of grassroots organizations and evictions victims:
- Many basic services improved and maintained in the neighbourhoods and villages of several municipalities in Cameroon (drinking water, health centres, schools, etc.);
- Etc.



#### Our areas and themes of work:

#### 1. Local governance

#### In this area, a few projects :

- ) Information and Communication Technology Project for Governance (ICT-4GOV, Phase 2 Extension);
- 2) Inclusive and climate-sensitive Participatory Budget Project (phase 2, systematization and scaling);
- School of Governance Project (construction of a centre of excellence and training for PB facilitators);
- 4) Citizens' Universities and Caravans for Peace and Social Cohesion Project.
- 5) Community Libraries for Peace, Security and Climate Project;
- 6) Observatories of basic social services and local public finances Project;
- Public Investments and Public Contracts Participatory Tracking Project.



#### 2. Human rights

# In this area, a few projects :

- 1) Land Security and Alternative Solutions for Social Housing (LS-A2SH) Program;
- 2) ESCRs in Public Policy Project (ESCR-3P, phase 2);
- 3) Social Housing Cooperative Project (SHC 1500 social housing, phase 2);
- 4) Campaign Against Evictions Project (Cameroon);
- 5) Tirth Year Forum of Inhabitants Project (sixth edition);
- 6) African People's Court Against Evictions Project;
- 7) Community Land Campaign Project;
- 8) ESCR's Observatory Project (phase 2).

#### Some services and products available:

#### Thematic Axis 1: Local Governance

- → Citizen Call Center for Governance, Democracy and ESCR (Number 8508);
- Platforms for simplification, information and budget monitoring: www.cameroon.opensending.org or www.transparencebudgetaire-cm.org
- The Citizen's Tribune (ASSOAL's Magazine);
- → PB's manual in Cameroon:
- Charter for Local Action:
- School of governance's pedagogical sheets;
- Comic book on Participatory Budgeting (PB);
- Image box on the PB;
- Four targeted communal libraries (Yaounde 6, 2), Douala 3, Edzendouan;
- Ten community libraries in the cities of Douala, Maroua, Ngong, Lagdo and Yaounde.



#### Thematic Axis 2: Promotion of DESC

- → ESCR's Observatory ;
- → Alternative Models of Social Housing Guide;
- Adobe Building Guide;
- Housing Co-operatives Guide;
- Land procedures Comic Book;
- Call Center for citizen and victims of ESCR violations:
- ESCR monitoring Guide;
- Documentary and tracking cases Guide;
- Charter of Social Housing.

### Internal governance

# By joining us, you could participate in the following

- → A General Assembly (every five years);
- A Board of Directors (twice a year);
- → An Executive Office (monthly);
- A General Coordination of Programmes (permanent);
- Relays in the regions.

#### Networks associated with our action:

#### At the international level:

- 1) Habitat International Coalition (HIC):
- 2) Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPRC);
- 3) African Academy of Local Communities (ALGA/UCLGA);
- 4) International Development and Research Alliance (IDRA);
- 5) Inter-African Participatory Budget Alliance (IAA-PB):
- 6) International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD); 7) African Network of Inhabitant's Organizations (ANIO).

# At the national level :

- 1) Civil Society Platform on ESCRs (CSOP-ESCR);
- 2) Mutual and Housing Co-operatives Promoters Platform (MHC2P;
- 3) Cameroon Mutual Health Promoters Platform (CAM-MH2P);
- 4) National Network of Inhabitants (NNI);
- 5) Cameroon's Alliance of Participatory Budgeting and Local Finance (CAPB-LF).

# **Key partners**

# They have made and/or trust us :

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHUD);
- MISEREOR (Germany):
- Habitat and Participation (Hep, Belgium);
- · Circle of Friends of Spain (Spain);
- Foundation for the Progress of the Humanity (FPH, France);
- · European Union Delegation (Yaounde);
- Service for Cooperation and Cultural Actions (French Embassy, Yaounde);
- International Centre for Development and Research (ICDR, France)
- Terre des Hommes (TDH, France);
- National Anti-Corruption Coalition;
- National Governance Programme (PNG);
- Etc.



