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# ASSOAL

**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) :
  - o In a context of low culture of citizenship, accountability, transparency and social responsibility ;
- ➔ The territorialization of public policies :
  - o In a context of centralization, low integration of socio-cultural diversity, low sensitivity to climate challenges and ESCR ;
- ➔ Equal access to basic social services :
  - o 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.



RFI Net Africa Prize 2005



Medal of the 52nd Legislature of the State Assembly of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil 2007



Finalist 2013, World Habitat Awards 2014

You can join us on our social networks through :

- http://www.facebook.com/Assoal.Assoalcam
- http://www.facebook.com/pals.336
- http://www.twitter.com/assoalcam
- http://www.youtube.com/assoalcam.

ASSOAL is an organization with special consultative status with ECOSOC (UN)

Partners



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### 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 Cameroonain 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 :**

- 1) 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);
- 3) 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;
- 7) 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](http://www.cameroon.opensending.org) or [www.transparencebudgetaire-cm.org](http://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, Edzandouan;
- ➔ 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 instances:**

- ➔ 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.

