



Cameroon Sustainable cities and land project

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), with the World Bank, supports the Cameroon Sustainable Cities and Land Project to upgrade roads, drainage, and land rights in flood-prone informal settlements in Douala and Yaoundé. The project aims to reduce climate risks, improve living conditions, and promote social inclusion, especially for women and displaced populations.

Adaptation Need

Douala and Yaoundé face escalating climate risks, including frequent urban flooding, landslides, and poor drainage that damage homes, roads, and essential services. Informal settlements are particularly vulnerable due to unstable terrain and insecure land tenure, which limit residents' ability to invest in safer housing or access post-disaster support. Women and displaced populations face heightened risks from unsafe housing, limited mobility, and insecure public spaces. With temperatures projected to rise by 3.9°C and annual rainfall by 5.8 mm over the next 20 years, these climate impacts are expected to intensify. Weak institutional capacity and service delivery leave vulnerable communities increasingly exposed to climate shocks, infrastructure failure, and social vulnerability.

GCA's Added Value

GCA conducted a preliminary gender and climate vulnerability analysis that shaped the early design of the World Bank project. It showed that climate-driven flooding and landslides will worsen mobility and access challenges, especially for women who depend more on walking and public transport. In Yaoundé and Douala, poor drainage, limited lighting, and unsafe pedestrian infrastructure increase risks for women in flood-prone areas. GCA helped develop a gender action plan with inclusive design features like solar lighting, better walkways, and safer routes to schools, markets, and health facilities. These were incorporated into the project's infrastructure subcomponent to ensure climate-resilient investments also reduce gender gaps in safety and access. Gender tagging by GCA ensured gender considerations were fully integrated across all project components. The Project Appraisal Document explicitly acknowledged this contribution, demonstrating that GCA's inputs directly shaped the project's final design. In the next phase, GCA will support risk-informed asset management and adaptive maintenance to boost urban transport resilience.

Beneficiaries

1.22M

IFI Implementation period

2025 - 2031

Program

Water and Urban

Partners

World Bank

Status

Completed

Countries



SDG contribution



PROJECT GOALS

Mainstreaming Adaptation and Resilience

GCA recommended features like raised walkways to reduce flood impacts on vulnerable groups and maintain safe mobility. GCA will support climate-adaptive maintenance plans for drainage clearing, swift flood damage repairs, and risk-informed asset management to limit transport disruptions.

Expected Outcomes

Improved access to inclusive, climate-resilient urban infrastructure and services in Cameroon, by better integrating vulnerability and gender considerations into investment decisions, ensuring that urban infrastructure is both inclusive and climate-resilient.

Targeted Investments in Vulnerable Areas, with the results of the vulnerability assessment guiding the prioritization of neighborhoods for investment.

Narrowed gender gap: Measures informed by the gender vulnerability assessment will improve access to basic services and enhance resilience to floods for women

Enhanced resilience of local urban roads (including drainage systems) through

climate risk-informed prioritization and phasing of upgrades (including the upgrade of the urban transport and road asset management systems), and preventive maintenance activities.

TIMELINE

GCA Support Status

Technical Assistance Preparation

GCA Support Implementation

May, 2025

GCA Support Completion

Monitoring

September, 2025

Project Investment Value

Total Investment Value

IFI INVESTMENT VALUE

\$200.00M

OTHER INVESTMENT
VALUE

N/A

IFI partners



THE WORLD BANK

World Bank

GENERAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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