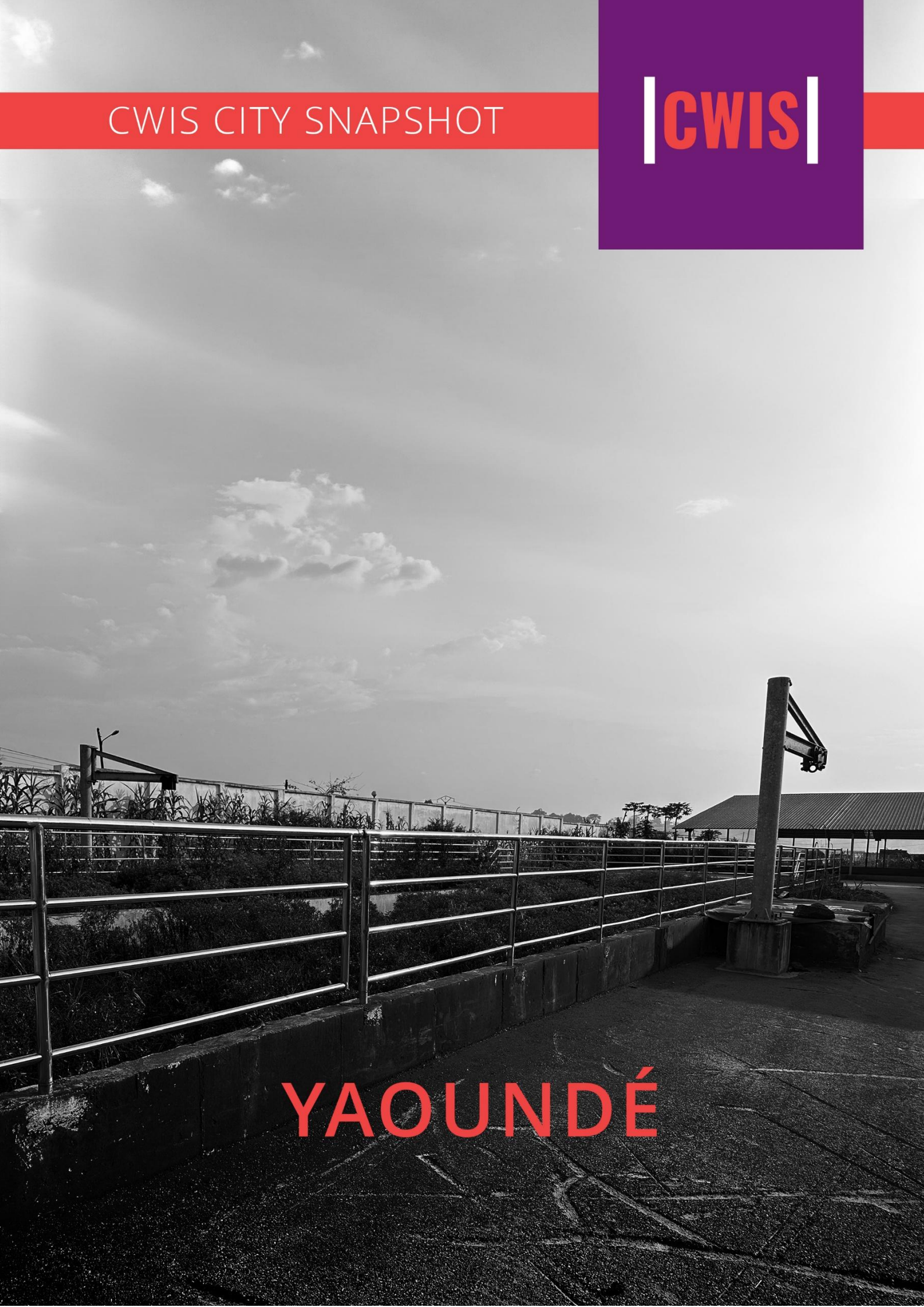
CWIS CITY SNAPSHOT

CWIS



YAOUNDÉ

YAOUNDÉ CWIS CITY SNAPSHOT

The Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) city snapshots are designed to provide compact summaries of initiatives that are being implemented in two cities, Yaoundé and Phnom Penh. Each of these cities has active investments designed to achieve the CWIS goals of equitable, safe, and sustainable sanitation service delivery. These city snapshots are implemented by Athena Infonomics as part of the Inclusive Sanitation in Francophone Cities (AIVF) initiative led by the Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF).

This city snapshot focuses on the city of Yaoundé where the Yaoundé City Council (CUY) is the lead implementing institution for sanitation. This factsheet outlines the pathway that Yaoundé is taking to achieve its CWIS goals and tracks the progress being made, including key shifts in institutional and service delivery models to support safe, equitable and sustainable delivery of services.

The primary objective of creating city snapshots is to provide a clear, concise, and actionable overview of urban sanitation services, governance, and infrastructure in a way that supports strategic decision-making, accountability, and planning for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS). These snapshots serve as rapid diagnostic tools that capture the current status, institutional arrangements, and recent reforms in cities, enabling stakeholders to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for targeted improvements.

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City Sanitation Overview

Category	Indicator	Value / Description
Demographic	Administrative boundary	Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, covers approximately 180 km² within its urban footprint; however, its administrative jurisdiction aligns with the Mfoundi Department, extending the total area to around 318 km². The city is administratively divided into seven city councils (CAY) under the Communauté Urbaine de Yaoundé (CUY)[1]. Yaoundé is experiencing rapid peri-urban expansion, alongside the proliferation of informal settlements, many of which are located in flood-prone valley areas.
	Population	3–4 million[2].
	% of population living in informal settlements	60%[2].
Geographic	Topography	Yaoundé, located at an average elevation of approximately 700–800 metres above sea level and covering a total administrative area of about 318 km², is characterized by hilly terrain and deep valley bottoms that make the city highly susceptible to recurrent and widespread flooding. These conditions significantly heighten sanitation and public health risks, as the construction of improved sanitation facilities is often impractical. The widespread use of unlined pit latrines, combined with irregular emptying practices, substantially increases the risk of environmental contamination.
	Groundwater table	Yaoundé's hydrogeology comprises two aquifer systems. The upper aquifer (0–8 m in flood-prone areas; 8–20 m elsewhere) is accessed mainly through shallow wells in informal settlements and is associated with unsanitary on-site sanitation, resulting in

[1] SFD Report for Yaoundé, 2018
[2] UN-Habitat. (n.d.). *Learn more*. https://unhabitat.org/node/106926/. Urbanization in Cameroon: Building inclusive & sustainable cities

		very high contamination risk. The lower aquifer, occurring at depths greater than 20 m and accessed through boreholes in planned areas, presents a lower contamination risk[3]. Over 80% of residents are heavily reliant on non-network water sources.
Basic Sanitation Statistics (as of 2025)	% of population covered by sewerage networks	0%
	% of population practicing open defecation	0.5%
	% of population relying on onsite sanitation	99%
	Treatment hardware available (combined capacity)	1 faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP), built by the CUY with support from the AIMF, AFD and the Gates Foundation, with a design capacity of 265 m³/day, currently operating beyond capacity at 500 m³/day.

[3] Djeuda Tchapnga H.B., Tanawa E. et Ngnikam E. (2001). L'eau au Cameroun, tome 1 : approvisionnement en eau potable. Presses universitaires de Yaoundé ; Ngnikam E. et Tanawa E. (2011). Réconcilier l'eau, l'assainissement et la santé par l'approche ECOSANTE. ISBN 978-2-914279-49-9 ; Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard

Institutional and Governance Framework of City Sanitation Service Delivery

The graphics below show the institutional mandate, accountability and service provision models for Yaoundé for the year 2025. The full institutional model of urban sanitation service delivery covers all three of the systems functions under CWIS—Responsibility[4], Accountability[5], and Resource Planning, Management[6] (financing framework). The illustration in this section presents only responsibility and accountability, as financing framework is complex and varies widely across cities. The section on service model illustrates how sanitation services are being delivered. The service model includes a wide range of options such as direct provision by the mandated service authority, public-private partnerships, and direct provision by the private sector but with oversight/ regulation by the service authority or through open markets with limited oversight/regulation.

In Yaoundé, prior to CWIS investments, faecal sludge management (FSM) was largely informal, with sludge discharged at an unregulated site in Mbankomo (Nomayos), posing serious environmental and public health risks. The main institutional change came with the full takeover of the CUY which, now, oversees the service chain with licensed, GPS-tracked emptiers and mandatory discharge at the Etoa FSTP.

Yaoundé - Before CWIS Investment (2021)

Sewered Sanitation (SS) and Non-Sewered Sanitation (NSS)

	Capture	Emptying	Conveyance	Treatment	Disposal / Reuse
Mandate	HH	CUY			
	SS: Access to sewered sanitation was limited, as the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was only partially operational and functioning at a very low capacity. The Yaoundé City Council (CUY) has overall responsibility for sanitation at the city level—including solid waste, liquid waste, and drainage management—with fragmented institutional roles across agencies. The District Municipalities (CAY) focus primarily on hygiene-related activities such as market cleaning, gutter dredging, and the disinfection of public toilets. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU) manages urban drainage projects, while the Ministry of Water and Energy (MINEE) is responsible for liquid sanitation services in rural areas. NSS: Households are responsible for constructing their own toilets and containment systems and for arranging emptying when needed, as there were no FSTPs.				
Accountability	CUY				
	SS & NSS: CUY held nominal oversight, there was no control over faecal sludge emptying, conveyance, or disposal.				
Service Provision & Financing	HH	CUY+ Private informal market			
	SS: Sewered connections to households were limited to less than 0.5% of households. NSS: On-site emptying was informal. Households independently arranged desludging services through informal networks.				

[4] Responsibility means that authority (i.es,) executes a clear public mandate to ensure safe, equitable, and sustainable sanitation for all.
[5] Accountability means that authorities' performance against their mandate is monitored and managed with data, transparency and incentives.
[6] Resource Planning/ Management means that resources – human, financial, natural, assets – are effectively managed to support execution of mandate across time/space.

Yaoundé – Current (2025)

Sewered Sanitation (SS) and Non-Sewered Sanitation (NSS)

	Capture	Emptying	Conveyance	Treatment	Disposal / Reuse
Mandate	HH	CUY + ROCOBY			

SS: WWTP is non-functional and not in operation.

NSS: CUY is responsible for organizing sanitation services at the city level, covering solid waste, liquid sanitation, and drainage. Following AIMF investments, CUY's mandate expanded to include the construction and maintenance of public toilets, operation of wastewater treatment plants, management of the Yaoundé FSTP, and oversight of the emptiers' association (ROCOBY). Households are responsible for constructing and maintaining their own on-site sanitation facilities and for arranging and paying for desludging services. CAY focuses on hygiene-related activities, while MINHDU manages urban drainage projects under CUY oversight and MINEE oversees liquid sanitation policy, primarily in rural areas. Coordination is maintained through regular inter-institutional meetings.

Accountability	MINHDU	MINEE	CUY		

SS: No oversight or management from the CUY.

NSS: Primarily rests with CUY, which oversees sanitation operations, licenses and supervises mechanical emptiers, manages the FSTP, enforces municipal bylaws, and applies contractual and police powers to ensure compliance by private operators. Inspection of building construction—including toilet superstructures and containment systems—is carried out by MINHDU, which enforces urban planning, building, and sanitation standards. At the national level, MINEE provides policy and regulatory oversight to ensure alignment with national water and sanitation frameworks, while both ministries guide and supervise municipal action with CUY without directly delivering services.

Service Provision & Financing	HH	CUY + ROCOBY+ SECA			

SS: No services being provided and no financing to support maintenance of facility

NSS: CUY plans sanitation infrastructure, oversees wastewater and faecal sludge treatment facilities, manages public toilets, supervises private operators, and enforces service standards under municipal regulations under government order published in 2020. Households finance their own on-site sanitation facilities and pay for desludging services, while vacuum trucks pay regulated discharge fees at the Etoa FSTP. Service delivery—including desludging, transport, treatment, and maintenance—is carried out by licensed private operators, mainly members of ROCOBY (Association of faecal sludge collection operators), operating under CUY contracts, tariffs, and performance monitoring, with GPS-tracked trucks and mandatory discharge at the Etoa FSTP. Additionally, SECA (public desludging operator), licensed by Ministries and CUY, provide services to institutions.

List of CWIS Interventions

This section seeks to capture Yaoundé's path to CWIS goals of equity, safety and sustainability and its performance on key functions such as clarity of mandate/responsibility, accountability and resource planning/ management. The table below is a list of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)[7] used to gauge changes towards CWIS, followed by another table detailing the scenario in Yaoundé. The KPIs EQ-1 and SF-1 specifically follow the definitions as laid out in the Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) manual[2].

KPIs for Interventions

	Equity	Safety	Sustainability
	Services reflect fairness in distribution and prioritization of service quality, prices, and deployment of public finance/subsidies	*Services safeguard customers, workers, and communities from safety and health risks—reaching everyone with safe sanitation*	*Services are reliably and continually delivered based on effective management of human, financial and natural resources*
Service Outcomes	EQ-1: % safely managed sanitation in low-income areas • % wastewater (WW) contained • % supernatant (SN) contained • % faecal sludge (FS) contained • % FS emptied EQ-2: Women's participation in sanitation-related matters EQ-3: Gender-friendly PT/CT design EQ-4: % of sanitation workers covered by social	SF-1: % safely managed sanitation • % WW contained • % WW contained delivered to treatment • % SN contained • % FS contained • % FS emptied (contained + not contained) • % wastewater treated • % FS treated SF-2: Health and safety standards and SOPs exist to protect sanitation workers from occupational hazards,	SS-1: % of treated wastewater that is reused SS-2: % of treated biosolids that is reused SS-3: % of utility capital investments covered by budget line/government transfers SS-4: % of O&M cost recovered for sanitation infrastructure (STPs/WWTPs, FSTPs, CT/PTs, desludging trucks, etc.)

[7] The KPIs are based on the list of CWIS indicators, which are more detailed and intended to offer comprehensive insights into a city's progress towards CWIS. This KPI list focuses on a subset of CWIS indicators and seeks to highlight interventions that can contribute to improved outcomes, as most cities are still in early stages of investment maturity. For example, the CWIS indicators measure women's usage of PT/CTs as quantitative outcomes, while the KPI EQ-3 focus on gender friendly PT/CTs as an intermediate outcome that can lead to more women using PT/CTs. 13 Definitions as per the SFD Manual i.e., %SN contained = 0.5 * %Septic tank/ fully lined tank (sealed)/ lined tank with impermeable walls and open bottom connected to a centralized/decentralized combined sewer or foul/separate sewer; %WW contained = %Toilet discharges directly to a centralized/decentralized combined sewer or foul/separate sewer; %FS contained (all conditions when there is 'low risk' of groundwater pollution) = %Toilet discharges directly to soak pit + %Septic tank/ fully lined tank (sealed)/ lined tank with impermeable walls and open bottom connected to soak pit or no outlet + % Lined/ unlined pit, no outlet or overflow + % Pit (all types), never emptied but abandoned when full and covered with soil, no outlet or overflow + %SN contained.

	security and health insurance	and compliance is monitored	
System Functions	**Responsibility** *Authority(ies) execute a clear public mandate to ensure safe, equitable, and sustainable sanitation for all*	**Accountability** *Authorities' performance against their mandate is monitored and managed with data, transparency and incentives*	**Resource Planning / Management** *Resources – human, financial, natural, assets – are effectively managed to support execution of mandate across time/space*
	RS-1: Policy mandate for service delivery covers both sewered and non-sewered sanitation across the entire sanitation service chain • Mandate has no exclusions • Mandate is explicitly pro-poor • Mandate is gender-intentional and inclusive of vulnerable groups	**AC-1:** Service authority performance is monitored externally with clear KPIs and targets **AC-2:** Performance data is sufficiently collected and reported, representative, and transparent **AC-3:** Incentives and/or penalties tied to performance exist for sanitation service authority	**RPM-1:** Clear financing framework **RPM-2:** Staff are in place and capable to execute mandate **RPM-3:** Quality of investment decision-making **RPM-4:** Integrated citywide sanitation plan

Yaoundé Scenario

The table below presents the sanitation scenario in Yaoundé in 2025. The table seeks to cover key interventions, both those completed over the past few years and those under planning, by all stakeholders that contribute to goals aligned with the CWIS idea. The table is not restricted to interventions that are part of the Inclusive Sanitation in Francophone Cities (AIMF) initiative.

NOTE: Acronyms are available at the end of the section.

Service Outcomes	Stage	Equity	Safety	Sustainability
	Year 2025	**EQ-1:** 1% safely managed sanitation in low-income areas • 1% wastewater (WW) contained • % supernatant (SN) contained – Data not available • % faecal sludge (FS) contained – Data not available • % FS emptied - Data not available **EQ-2:** Women are employed in FSTP operations (4 staff) and hold administrative roles in most desludging companies, but only one emptying company is women-owned. In CUY, overall, women account for 22% staff, and within the Sub-Directorate for Sustainable Development, 16.5% staff are women. **EQ-3:** Of the 56 public toilets, about 70% have separate facilities for men and women. None are accessible to persons with disabilities, and gender-responsive features—such as menstrual hygiene facilities, safety measures, and enhanced privacy—are absent. **EQ-4:** All sanitation workers are covered by social security and health insurance, as the Labour Code requires their registration with the National Social Insurance Fund (CNPS), while NGOs and donors supply PPE, training, and health kits.	**SF-1:** 26% safely managed sanitation • 22.8% WW contained • 22.8% WW contained delivered to treatment • 1.5% SN contained • 72.8% FS contained • 44.5% FS emptied (contained + not contained) • 31.2% FS treated **SF-2:** Health and safety standards for sanitation workers include mandatory CNPS registration under the Labour Code, with NGOs and donors providing PPE, training, and health kits. Oversight is carried out by the CUY through contractor supervision and bylaws, and by the Labour Inspectorate for worker safety.	**SS-1:** 0% of treated wastewater is reused. **SS-2:** 10% of treated biosolids is reused; biosolid sold at market prices. **SS-3:** 37.40% of utility capital investments covered by budget line/government transfers. **SS-4:** 100% of O&M cost recovered for sanitation infrastructure (STPs/WWTPs, FSTPs, CT/PTs, desludging trucks, etc.). 80% PTs (run by CUY) are able to fully recover O&M costs from user fees applied per use.
	Reforms & Interventions	• Deployment of FSM and on-site sanitation (OSS) prototype toilets in low-income and informal settlements—such as ventilated pit latrines in low-groundwater areas and elevated containment systems in flood-prone zones. • Public toilet tariffs standardized, while progressive financing mechanisms enable increased access to women, children & PwD. • PT/CT upgrades supported by easily accessible financing plans for PT operators & for low-income households.	• Sanitation networks designed to serve 900,000 people, including 200,000 residents in the priority area.[8] • Network expansion - 75 km of primary sewer network; 42 km of secondary networks; 25 km of rehabilitated networks • FSTP upgraded with capacity of 555 m³/day to serve 3.38 million people • Rehabilitation / construction of 6+ WWTPs (Mvan, Mendong, Biyem Assi, Nkolbisson, etc.) • 5,135 toilets constructed in schools, markets, and public places	• Suite of national laws and decrees—such as Law 96/12 on environmental management, Law 98/005 on water resource governance, and Decree 2001/165/PM on the protection of groundwater and surface water—has strengthened the regulatory foundation for long-term sanitation and environmental safeguards. • Financial sustainability measures have been advanced through user-financed operating costs, proposed sanitation levies on water bills (US$0.3–0.54 per m³), sanitation fees and penalties, and systematic financial performance monitoring, which demonstrates operating surpluses and reserve accumulation to support future service delivery and asset maintenance.

[8] Communauté Urbaine de Yaoundé (CUY). (2024). *Plan d'assainissement de la ville de Yaoundé* (Version définitive). MATCH SARL.

	Target Scenario (2026 & beyond)	EQ-1: Improvements in safely managed sanitation in LICs driven by investment planning that prioritizes vulnerable populations and incorporates life-cycle cost analysis. EQ-3: Increased number of gender-segregated public toilets as more funds are allocated. EQ-4: All sanitation workers are covered by social security and health insurance by registering with CNPS.	SF-1: Improved safely managed sanitation • 100% FS treated SF-2: Health and safety standards and SOPs exist to protect sanitation workers from occupational hazards, and compliance and coverage levels are monitored.	SS-1: 100% of treated wastewater is reused. SS-2: 100% of treated biosolids is reused; biosolid sold at market prices. SS-4: 100% of O&M cost recovered for sanitation infrastructure.
System Functions		Responsibility	Accountability	Resource planning and Management
	Year 2025	RS-1: National Water Policy (2020–2030), decentralization laws, and urban, environmental, and public health legislation assign sanitation responsibilities to communes, with CUY mandated to organize, regulate, and supervise both sewered and non-sewered sanitation services across the sanitation service chain. • The mandate includes pro-poor elements through the national WASH plan's focus on vulnerable groups, targeted OSS/FSM solutions for slum and flood-prone areas, and gradual fund mobilization mechanisms for low-income households.	• AC-1: CUY's sanitation performance is monitored through national oversight by MINEE and MINHDU, and through programmatic frameworks such as PADY, PCADY, which track indicators including wastewater treated, drainage clearance, solid waste collection, and flood reduction outcomes. AC-2: Data on wastewater and faecal sludge management collected through the sanitation master planning process and studies on structuring the sludge management sector. • GPS tracking system for vacuum trucks is operational, with operators submitting regular monthly and annual performance reports. • Performance data are collected on wastewater and faecal sludge treatment volumes, contractor compliance, public toilet functionality and financial viability, and sanitation-related financial performance. AC-3: Municipal bylaws and regulatory instruments empower CUY to enforce penalties for non-compliance by contractors and operators, and sanitation service delegation is regulated through contracts.	RPM-1: Sanitation sector is financed through a mix of municipal budgets, state transfers via MINFI and FEICOM, donor funding (AfDB, World Bank, EU, UN agencies), and own-source revenues from user fees and fines. Defined tariffs include OSS emptying at approximately US$16/m³ (US$150–200 per service), FSM truck discharge fees of US$13.5–18, and a proposed sanitation levy of US$0.26–0.48 per m³ on water bills. Financial reporting indicates operational viability, with operating income of about US$198,000 in 2025 and a net surplus of approximately US$32,000. RPM-2: Sanitation planning, implementation, supervision, and enforcement in Yaoundé are led by the Urban Community Council (CUY) through its City Technical Services, the Department of Urban Planning, Architecture and Living Environment, and the Infrastructure and Equipment Development Department. While these entities have dedicated teams, staffing levels within CUY, the Ministry of Water and Energy (MINEE), and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU) remain insufficient to fully support sanitation service delivery across the city. • Service provision is supported by 16 mechanical emptying companies, 20 manual emptiers, and private operators contracted by CUY to manage on-site sanitation emptying and treatment facilities. National ministries—MINEE, MINHDU, and the Labour Inspectorate—provide policy direction, enforce technical standards, and ensure compliance with worker safety regulations. RPM-3: Investment decisions are guided by the National Water Policy (2020–2030), which targets 60% sanitation coverage by 2030, and by city master plans extending to 2035. Infrastructure investments follow a phased approach, including the Etoa STBV with a design capacity of 265 m³/day (expandable to 450 m³/day) to serve around 2 million people, and which treated 117,191 m³ of sludge in 2023; 133,354 m³ of sludge in 2024 and 140,768 m³ of sludge in 2025. Investment adjustments are informed by routine monitoring of performance and financial indicators, including treatment

				volumes, truck rotations, operating costs, and operating surplus. RPM-4: Yaoundé's sanitation planning integrates on-site sanitation, FSM, sewerage, drainage, and public toilets within CUY master plans and national urban planning frameworks extending to 2035. Formal coordination mechanisms link CUY with national ministries, donors, NGOs, and private operators under the National Water Policy and the Yaoundé Sanitation Project.
	Reforms & Interventions	• Government-led coordination team formed, and their coordination mechanism brings together CUY, MINEE, MINHDU, donors, NGOs, and private operators under the national sanitation plan, ensuring shared responsibility and role clarity across actors. • MINHDU enforces building standards to ensure safe sanitation containment structures, particularly for on-site systems in dense or flood-prone urban areas. • National water management laws developed that prohibit harmful wastewater discharges, and urban sanitation regulations remain valid through 2035, providing a legal framework to reduce health risks from faecal contamination and unsafe sludge disposal.	• PADY and PCADY monitoring systems developed to track accountability indicators such as the percentage of wastewater treated, drains cleared, solid waste collected, and flood risk reduction outcomes. • CUY use these systems to assess contractor performance against agreed service standards.	• Investment decisions based on the most vulnerable group considerations of service coverage and life-cycle costs. • CUY Sanitation Master Plan updated to adequately cover NSS. • CUY maintains operational databases on service providers and assets, including records of 16 mechanical emptying firms, 20 manual emptiers, 20 sludge trucks, treatment plant capacities, and FSM facility performance to inform ongoing resource allocation and maintenance planning. • Resource management is supported by municipal budgeting systems, sanitation-specific budget lines, user-fee structures, and financial tracking of operating revenue, costs, amortization, and reserves, with documented financial indicators reported for 2023 and 2024.
	Target Scenario (2025 & beyond)	RS-1: Coordination across authorities for SS, NSS, drainage, and solid waste has improved, with a unified mandate to serve all areas of Yaoundé—rural (MINEE for liquid sanitation) and urban (MINHDU for drainage)—with particular focus on vulnerable groups.	AC-1: CUY regulates the performance and tariffs of sanitation services for both sewered and non-sewered sanitation with clear KPIs on both sanitation coverage and service quality. AC-2: Sanitation-related data is comprehensively collected and captured in an MIS based on spatial GIS data for the entire city.	RPM-3: Implement the PAMAP[9] strategy through a phased investment program that includes the construction of an additional FSTP in the eastern part of the city, installation of a compact treatment unit at Etoa to address desludging overload, and reuse of treated biosolids from the Etoa FSTP. Investments will continue to prioritize on-site sanitation and FSM in low-income, informal, and peri-urban areas, while progressively expanding collective sewerage and wastewater treatment systems in the city centre. • Coverage objectives will be pursued through defined infrastructure outputs—such as new and rehabilitated treatment plants, expanded networks, and public sanitation facilities. • Dedicated parking and operational infrastructure for ROCOBY will be developed, modernize and upgrade their desludging equipment, and improve the overall working conditions and safety of all faecal sludge emptiers.

[9] Plan d'Action Municipal pour l'Assainissement à la Parcelle et à la gestion des boues de vidange (2019). Projet de structuration de la filière des boues de vidange à Yaoundé. Financement CUY/AIMF et mis en œuvre par le groupement Delvic/ERA-Cameroun

Acronyms:

AFD : French Development Agency
AIMF : International Association of Francophone Mayors
CT / PT : Community Toilet/ Public Toilet
CUY : Communauté Urbaine de Yaoundé
FCFA : Central African CFA Franc
FEICOM : Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance FSM: Faecal Sludge Management
FSM : Faecal Sludge Management
FSTP : Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant
LIC : Low Income Community
MINEE : Ministry of Water and Energy
MINFI: Ministry of Finance
MINHDU : Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MINSANTE : Ministry of Public HealthNGO: Non-Governmental Organization
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
NSS : Non-Sewered Sanitation
OSS : On-Site Sanitation System
PADY : Yaoundé City Sanitation Project
PAMAP : Municipal Action Plan for On-Site Sanitation (OSS)
PCADY : Additional Sustainable Urban Drainage Project for the City of Yaoundé
ROCOBY : Network of Faecal Sludge Collection Operators in Yaoundé
SS : Sewered Sanitation
STP : Sewage Treatment Plant
WWTP : Wastewater Treatment Plant