

## **Call for projects : Protection and promotion of the rights of detainees**

**2025-2026**

**Closing date for the call for projects: 15 June 2025 11:59 pm (GMT+1)**

### 1. Background to the PAGOC project :

Cameroon has 76 prisons and a legislative framework that protects human rights, enshrined in the 1996 Constitution and supported by the ratification of various international conventions. Despite the construction of new prisons, the renovation of existing infrastructure and initiatives to speed up judicial procedures, many challenges remain.

Cameroon's prisons are chronically overcrowded (178%), with occupancy rates approaching 500%. This situation is mainly due to prolonged pre-trial detention, which accounts for 58% of prisoners, who are sometimes incarcerated for several years while awaiting trial. The most vulnerable prisoners are the main victims and have limited access to adequate legal assistance.

In this context, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France), the Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (NGO RECODH) and the Research Institute for Development (RIDEV) have received financial support from the European Union to jointly implement the **Projet d'Appui à une Gouvernance Carcérale basée sur les droits humains au Cameroun (PAGOC)**, with the aim of contributing to the consolidation of prison and judicial governance that is sensitive to human rights and the protection of people in detention, particularly the most vulnerable prisoners.

The ASF France / NGO RECODH / RIDEV consortium aims to put in place a participative and inclusive process involving all stakeholders in order to improve access to justice for vulnerable prisoners, their conditions of detention and their socio-professional reintegration. This project is made up of 4 main areas of intervention:

- 1- Capacity-building for lawyers and others involved in the criminal justice system, of which this training is an integral part;
- 2- Legal and holistic care for 220 prisoners until their reintegration and the funding of micro-projects for the promotion and protection of people deprived of their liberty;
- 3- The setting up of working groups and studies on detention in Cameroon, including a mapping of actors working in the prison environment and the creation of a multi-actor observatory on detention conditions in Cameroonian prisons.
- 4- Advocacy for the effective introduction of alternatives to prison sentences

These activities take place in 8 detention centres in Cameroon:

- The two central prisons in Douala (New Bell and Douala-Ngoma);
- Yaoundé Central Prison;
- The central prison in Bafoussam;
- The central prison in Buea;



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- The central prison in Bamenda;
- The central prison in Garoua;
- The central prison in Maroua.

For more information on the project: <https://>

## 2. Grant's objectives :

One of the priorities of the PAGOC project is to fund initiatives led by non-state actors involved in the promotion and protection of prisoners' rights, with a view to supporting the improvement of prison conditions. The aim of awarding grants to these actors is to strengthen the results and indicators of the PAGOC project while supporting the development of various civil society projects aimed at supporting prisoners, particularly in the medical, social and emergency fields. In addition, the granting of subsidies to the various actors involved in the promotion and protection of prisoners' rights is also intended to extend the project's impact to the whole of Cameroon and to activities not covered by the consortium's actions.

The beneficiaries of the grants will receive technical support from the coordination team and local project assistants, enabling them to carry out their activities successfully while building their capacity to manage future initiatives independently. Initially, this technical support will take the form of project management training sessions prior to the launch of activities. These capacity-building sessions will be run by the coordination team and project assistants. Support will then be provided through a process of ongoing training and action training. CSOs will take part in regular exchanges and meetings to gain a better understanding of the contractual, administrative and managerial aspects of fund management. Finally, the organisations will be supported in drawing up the narrative and financial reports required to ensure accountability to the consortium.

It should be noted that the aim of granting subsidies for micro-projects is to develop better coordination between the various players involved in improving prison conditions. The establishment of consortiums will be encouraged and the creation of synergies with the prison authorities will be promoted.

## 3. Types of eligible activities

The project, which focuses on improving prison conditions and promoting prisoners' rights, aims to provide financial support for a range of initiatives that reinforce this objective and amplify its impact. The areas of activity eligible for financial support are deliberately varied in order to provide a comprehensive and substantial response to the multiple needs of prisoners, improving their living conditions in a holistic and sustainable way. Accordingly, the initiatives presented in an exhaustive list may relate to the following three areas (these are not lots, only lists of activities in category):

### 1) **Improving prison conditions :**

- Medical care, such as medical consultations, psychological or moral support, improved access to care, prevention of psychological disorders or communicable diseases in prisons, etc.



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- Provision of essential goods such as hygiene kits, food and clothing.
- Renovation or refurbishment of prison infrastructure, particularly in terms of access to drinking water, sanitation of communal areas and bringing cells up to standard.

## **2) Strengthening the fundamental rights of prisoners :**

- Free legal aid for prisoners in centres not covered by the project;
- Raising awareness and educating prisoners about their rights;
- Lobbying the authorities to strengthen legislation or its implementation with regard to prisoners' rights;
- Mobilising the media and the general public to raise awareness of prison conditions and the rehabilitation of prisoners.

## **3) Cultural, social and professional support for prisoners:**

- Vocational training to prepare prisoners for reintegration into society within prisons;
- Mediation programmes involving prisoners, their families and civil society;
- Cultural, sporting or educational activities designed to improve psychological well-being.

These three areas are not all-inclusive. So a project can have activities that cut across several areas of activity.

Associations wishing to carry out activities within prisons must provide proof of authorisation to access the targeted detention centres.

### **The following are not eligible:**

- activities that are contrary to the project's objectives and/or unrelated to the key objectives ;
- activities that do not respect human rights or that reinforce abusive or discriminatory practices;
- profit-making activities ;
- partisan and/or political, religious or ideological activities ;
- activities that do not directly benefit prisoners and/or serve personal or economic interests;
- the activities already carried out by the consortium partners as part of the PAGOC project;
- activities already funded as part of another project (co-funding of projects is permitted);
- projects already receiving funding from the European Union Delegation in Cameroon;
- activities with low sustainability or limited impact;
- expenditure on property purchases.

## **4. Project duration**

The duration of subsidised projects is between 6 and 12 months.

## **5. Implementation period**

The projects will be implemented <sup>between</sup> 1 November 2025 and 31 December 2026 at the latest.

## **6. Target areas for subsidies**

The ten (10) regions of Cameroon.

## **7. Grants budget**



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The call for projects provides for grants of up to **XAF 39,000,000** per project, for a total budget of XAF 235,000,000. At the end of the final selection of applications, 8 to 16 projects will be selected.

Depending on the responses to the call for projects and the interview, the selection committee will reserve the right to accept or reduce the budget allocated to the project organisation.

#### 8. Eligibility criteria :

**The eligibility criteria** for organisations eligible for this financial support are :

- Be a Cameroonian civil society organisation, in particular a local association or a non-governmental organisation registered in Cameroon.
- Be committed to promoting and improving conditions for prisoners.
- To have carried out one or more structuring projects on the theme.
- Have already successfully completed a project worth at least XAF 15,000,000.
- Be in existence for at least 3 years.
- Comply with tax and regulatory obligations in force in Cameroon.
- To be listed in the mapping of non-state actors drawn up as part of the project: [https://framacarte.org/fr/map/carte-des-acteurs-non-etatiques-intervenant-en-mil\\_202997#8/4.836/10.058](https://framacarte.org/fr/map/carte-des-acteurs-non-etatiques-intervenant-en-mil_202997#8/4.836/10.058) . Register here: <https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/x/oFcqCrEK>

Preference will be given to organisations working in consortia with complementary activities and a holistic approach

**The following are not eligible:**

- Informal groups, collectives or unregistered associations,
- National and international institutions,
- Organisations with conflicts of interest with members of the consortium,
- Organisations affiliated to political parties or proselytising groups,
- Organisations that have been subject to sanctions or disputes,
- Private for-profit organisations.

#### 9. Selection criteria

All proposals meeting the above eligibility criteria (eligibility of the applicant and eligibility of the action) will be assessed according to the following selection criteria:

1. **Relevance of the action** (35 points)
2. **Organisational experience and capacity** (30 points)
3. **Partnerships and complementarity** (20 points)
4. **Realistic budget** (15 points)

An evaluation grid is drawn up with criteria of up to 100 points. An application assessment committee meets in June 2025. A minimum of **75/100** is required to be shortlisted for interview.

#### 10. Submitting applications



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An organisation may apply a maximum of once as a project leader and a maximum of once as a partner in a consortium. Proposals may be submitted in French or English.

The documents (form, budget outline) relating to the call are available via the link below

[https://bit.ly/PAGOC\\_document\\_appel\\_à\\_projet](https://bit.ly/PAGOC_document_appel_à_projet)

Complete applications (proposal, budget and supporting documents) must be sent **before 15 June 23:59** by email to [.sub-pagoc@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:.sub-pagoc@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)

Applicants have until **23:59 on 5 June** to ask questions about the call for projects by email to [.cdp.cam@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:.cdp.cam@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)

#### 11. Documents to be supplied by the applicant

The project promoter must provide the following documents:

- The completed project form ;
- A duly completed provisional budget for the project;
- A letter requesting a grant;
- The organisation's articles of association ;
- The official registration receipt ;
- The organisation's latest activity report ;
- The organisation's latest financial statement;
- An external audit report (if available) ;
- The organisation chart ;
- The bank details of the association ;
- One or two CVs of the technical team in charge of the project.

#### 12. Follow-up and support

The winning organisations will receive technical and operational support to facilitate the management and coordination of their project. A focal point will be assigned to each organisation to provide advice and guidance.

To facilitate monitoring, project leaders are strongly advised to include in their proposal a requirement to travel at least once to Yaoundé to monitor the project at the ASF France office with the coordination team.

#### 13. Indicative timetable for the selection process

Date	Action
16 May 2025	Publication of the call for projects
28 May 2025 at 10 am Cameroon time (GMT+1)	Information session on the call for projects by clicking on the following link <a href="https://bit.ly/PAGOC_Session_information_appel_à_projet">https://bit.ly/PAGOC_Session_information_appel_à_projet</a>



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**PAGOC**

PROJET D'APPUI À UNE GOUVERNANCE CARCÉRALE BASÉE SUR LES DROITS HUMAINS AU CAMEROUN

15 June 2025 at 23:59 (GMT+1)	Closure of the call
June 2025	Pre-selection of projects by the selection committee
July/August 2025	Interviews with pre-selected projects
September 2025	Declaration to selected organisations
From 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2025	Launching projects



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