### Country: [Gabon]

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY[[1]](#footnote-2)**

### Reporting period: [2018-2022]

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Starting 2017, the Government's main orientation has been to prepare the transition to what they named “a *post-oil era*”, focusing on diversifying the economy and finding new economics drivers to rebuild the social cohesion. This new strategic orientation, from which UNDP CPD was derived put the basis of the development of the former CPD for 2018-2022.

The previous CPD was developed in a context in which Gabon had to promote the creation of inclusive and job-creating wealth, to reduce inequalities. The CPD was aligned to one UNDAF outcome, “By 2022, the quality of social sector budgeting is significantly improved and people, especially the most vulnerable, have made better use of quality basic social services”. To ensure results, UNDP approach was to move away from the strong centralization of political and administrative actions to promote SDGs appropriation of local authorities. In that contact, UNDP helped the development of 88 local development plans aligned with the SDG and the Agenda 2063. The main success of these development plans was their integration with the SDG and strengthened capacities of local authorities and communities to develop budgeted local plans adapted to their needs. These Plans were also accompanied by a funding scheme developed by the Government, through the Departmental Initiative Fund (FID).

Even though the FID was never operationalized to implement these strategic documents, a few concrete results were achieved at the local level: six national institutions (Ministry of Interior, 2 city halls, Departmental Councils and Ministry of Economy of Budget) have strengthened capacities to support local authorities to develop local development plans. Three monitoring systems were put in place, including the development of result frameworks, to allow for a regular monitoring and reporting of the plans and assessment of results achieved.

One of the particularities of these local development plan was their focus on promoting youth, women and vulnerable people opportunities, in alignment with the “Leave No One Behind Principe”. Seven hundred and fifty jobs were created in local communities, through protected areas management or agricultural green value chains, with 30% for women. At the institutional level, 12 state financial institutions have strengthened capacities on gender-sensitive budgeting to ensure a better inclusion of gender priorities in budgeting exercises.

To implement interventions related to job creation, UNDP worked in partnership with the FAO, which allowed to both promote better business management and innovative agricultural practices. The pilot phase initiated during COVID-19 was complemented by a 1.5 million USD additional fund, and 200 young people and 100 women scaled-up their businesses and continue implementing green agricultural practices. UNDP also partnered with UNEP and UNECA to develop green budgeting instruments, facilitating access to climate finance.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name: Gabon**  |
| **Current country programme period: 2018-2022** |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1.** By 2022, the quality of social sector budgeting is significantly improved and people, especially the most vulnerable, have made better use of quality basic social services | **10 750 642 USD** | 1. Indicator 1.1 The Mo Ibrahim index on Sustainable economic opportunity (National)
2. Indicator 1.2 Level of public confidence in the delivery of basic services (National)
3. Indicator 1.3 Human development index (National)
4. Indicator 1.4 Rate of unemployment at local level
 | 1. The Mo Ibrahim index of the perception of sustainable economic opportunities at the national level rose from 40.7 to 41.5%.
2. The population's level of confidence in access to basic social services remained stable throughout the period with a score of 47.7%.
3. HDI increased from 0.697 (rank 119) in 2018 to 0.706 (rank 112)
4. The unemployment rate increased from 20.7% in 2018 to 22.3% in 2021
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| **UNDP Contribution:**CP Outputs:*The country programme has identified the following priorities, taking into account social and economic factors: (i) strengthening technical and financial capacities to develop and implement local development plans to ensure effective and efficient and accountable management of public resources and services at the level of national and local institutions; (ii) Improve the technical capacity needed to monitor and report on the SDGs and the African Union Programme for 2063 of public institutions at the local and national levels; (iii) Strengthen the capacities of local authorities and NGOs to develop and implement mechanisms to ensure inclusive access to basic social services for young women and persons with disabilities; (iv) Promote access to sustainable livelihoods and employment initiatives for women and youth in disadvantaged areas; (v) Strengthen the technical capacities of national institutions and local communities to ensure conservation, sustainable use, adaptation, access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystems, in line with international conventions*Progress and achievements: With UNDP support, Gabon improved the quality of budgeting for the social services sector to improve vulnerable groups access to social services. To achieve this result, UNDP strengthen the capacity of local institutions to drawn and implement local development plans, integrating the SDG and the 2063 agenda. * Output 1.1 - 122 experts (50 women and 72 men) of the Government at national and local level have strengthened technical and financial capacities and are able to implement inclusive, integrated, and participatory development plans. Eighty-eight development plans have consequently been drawn up and implemented by national and local institutions (town halls and departments).
* Output 1.2 - SDGs and Agenda 2063 objectives and goals have been integrated in these development plans at the national and local levels. Through capacity building in budgeting and integration of SDG targets into public policies, local administration, ministries, departmental councils and city halls have better knowledge and expertise in the area.
* Output 1.3 – With the lead of provincial sections of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of statistics, UNDP has identified 200 women and 100 young entrepreneurs affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic who benefitted from investment dedicated to sustainable agriculture and processing activities while being trained in the use of new technologies enabling the development of business opportunities throughout the agri-value chain.
* Output 1.4 - The proportion of people who have access to basic social services increased from 20% to 40% and, 750 new full-time equivalent jobs were created for women and men aged 15 and over. Moreover, 1976 persons (including 1126 girls and young women, 500 women, 400 young men, 450 men) benefited from UNDP-supported livelihoods interventions, including green value chains structuration, financial support to small businesses, and training/capacity building in climate-smart agriculture techniques in partnership with FAO.
* Output 1.5 – 6 automatic synoptic weather stations were installed and allow the country to have a functional network of weather system to allow better adaptation to climate change and stronger early warning strategies. Under the CAFI, the office worked with the National Park Agency and accompany the creation of 5 new protected areas – 400 000 hectares – and land use mapping for agriculture. This output also contributed enhance sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains

On the SDGs, progress is being made in terms of access to basic services (education, health, water, energy, etc.), gender equality and women's empowerment. However, results are mixed in other areas (SDG 1-2-5-6-9-10-11), and sometimes weak (SDG 16-17). For example, the level of poverty has stagnated since the 2000s at around 30% and inequalities (income/employment, access to SSBs and localities) persist due, among other things, to structural constraints (human capital, business environment, lack of attractiveness of remoted areas with economic potential, food security, efficiency of public spending, etc.). These difficulties have increased this the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic with the risk of questioning some social gains and a negative shift in the trajectory of the SDGs to 2030. The environment portfolio was developed by mobilizing additional funding for the creation of new financing instruments, based, among other things, on the country's capacity to provide ecosystem services for the climate, instruments that will also be essential for the establishment of infrastructure (transport, energy, etc.) necessary for the emergence of a green economy that could reduce these inequalities ( job creation in sustainable agriculture, exploitation of marine resources, eco-tourism, agro-forestry, ecosystemic services, etc).  |

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| Summary of evaluation findings (*e.g. from outcome and project evaluations, UNDAF reviews, and other assessments*)[[2]](#footnote-3)**Effectiveness and Efficiency:** 1. The average level of achievement of the indicators of output 1 is 75%. UNDP has initiated a dynamic in the development of Local Development Plans. This contribution is considered positive as stated in the report on the state of play of the implementation of the PDL. UNDP has been successful in integrating local development into the process of managing public services at the decentralized level.
2. The implementation rate of interventions for Output 2 is 80%. There is a high level of integration of the SDGs into public policies supported by UNDP. Indeed, a monitoring report on the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063 with updated and disaggregated data, published by national institutions was produced in 2021. Public institutions now have the capacity to integrate and develop SDG-focused policies, while the monitoring system must still be strengthened in the future.
3. UNDP's contribution to achieving the indicators and targets previously established for Output 3 is 63.5%. Indeed, the partnership with NGOs and civil society was relatively weak. It did not allow a multi-level dynamic to deliver basic social services, which in addition does not correspond to the comparative advantages of UNDP in the country.
4. The level of achievement of Output 4 is at an average rate of 51.5%. Interventions that targeted women and young people in disadvantaged areas previously focused essentially on local development initiatives. UNDP's contribution was mainly based on emergency projects to recover from the adverse effects of Covid 19 which helped achieving results but in a localized and reduced manner.
5. The achievement of Output 5 according to the indicators is at a level of 33%. This relatively low level is explained by the fact that most of the projects are still in progress or started just before the COVID19 pandemic, and activities were at half-mast due to movement restrictions. However, there is a strong potential for the development of this area in the CO, considering the Government’s trust and UNDP expertise at a regional and global level.

Globally, the independent evaluation of the CPD noted that the effectiveness of the country program was dependent on a set of parameters that made it moderately operational. The nature of the projects is most often characterized by “quick wins” (quick impact projects) while activities are undertaken for products to be obtained in the medium term. The average achievement rate/financial execution rate ratio was 107% as of March 2022. This indicates a good rational use of resources in absolute value. However, a more in-depth analysis shows a disparate situation by ouputs. Indeed Output 3 seems to record the highest efficiency with 122% and Output 5 on the other hand represents the lowest efficiency 65%. This can be understood by UNDP's commitment with other United Nations agencies to support the government in its response to the COVID-19 health crisis with additional resources. Output 5 still represents a volume of activities to be implemented for the rest of the program cycle (8 months) for which some of the activities will be extended and overlap in the new cycle (2023-2028). **Key Achievements:**Evaluations found that projects in execution have produced substantive results. In the field of environmental protection, the Government noted the official adoption of the National Strategy for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas and the designation of the two pilot sites (Ivindo Nation Park and Louango National Park) for the implementation of Income generating activities as a resilience strategy during the Covid-19 period. In terms of climate information, UNDP helped strengthening the national meteorological system with the installation of 6 automatic weather stations in the coastal area. This work focusing on environment and climate change allowed the office to rebuild its service offer in the country. As of today, 30 million USD has been mobilized, including 23 million USD as the first ever GHG removal’s result-based payment for an African country. In the field of good governance and fight against corruption, a partnership with the European Union and UNOCA helped strengthening the capacities of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), the General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and Civil Society during the sensitive post-election time. The project supported the creation of the National Mechanism for Dialogue and Exchange bringing together civil society, the CNDH and the Ministry of Justice – entities that were unable to dialogue in previous years. Consistent training was provided to the members of the penal chain to prevent detainees’ human rights violation. The country office has positioned itself as a major player in the COVID-19 response with funding of 350,000 USD allowing the distribution of health kits to vulnerable communities. An embryonic social protection system (financed at 200,000 USD) has been set up to support under-privileged social categories (people living with a disability, people living with HIV, unemployed young people, etc.) and an envelope of 150 USD was distributed to 1200 persons. Thanks to the positive result of this cash transfer modality, the additional 1.5 million USD through the Rapid Financing Facility allowed the CO to reconduct the cash transfer experience to 300 people. As of today, 80% of cash was disbursed and an additional “safety nets” package was added to ensure that innovative agriculture equipment was purchased to increase crop yields. An impact assessment will be performed at the end of the project to measure results and capture lessons learned from these safety nets operations. **Major Lessons Learnt:** 1. Programme results are subject to projects whose duration of implementation hardly exceeds two years. This complexifies achieving broader outcomes and impacts and reduce the capacity of CO to properly meet CPD results and indicators. The new CPD has been developed based on this lesson learned and more precise outputs and indicators have been formulated to achieve tangible results in a five-year perspective. In addition, the office is also exploring progressively introducing a "Portfolio" approach to ensure program coherence and avoid silo approach in implementation.
2. CO will benefit from expanding its partnerships with NGO and civil society from project formulation to implementation and evaluation; the limited partnership with NGO during the CPD cycle prevent from reaching a greater number of beneficiaries, specifically women.
3. The office should strengthen its monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Capacity building will be needed, moving forward, to ensure that Programme staff are able to properly report projects’ results and regularly update of indicators to capture achievements.
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III. Country Programme Resources

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| **Focus Area[[3]](#footnote-4)** | **Programme Expenditure ($)** | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Democratic Governance  | 847,592  | 1,732,737 | 2,580,329 | **24%** |
| Poverty and SDGs  | 2,325,739 | 1,346,790 | 3,672,529 | **34%** |
| Crisis Prevention and Recovery  | 1,407,939 | 279,970 | 1,687,909  | **16%** |
| Environment and Sustainable Development  | 0 | 2,809,875 | 2,809,875 | **26%** |
| **Total** | **4,581,270** | **6,169,322** | **10 750 642** |  |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)**  |
| UNDP Human Development Report, 2018 and 20211. UNDP, 2020, Results Oriented Annual Report, UNDP Gabon
2. UNDP, 2021, Results Oriented Annual Report, UNDP Gabon

UNDP, 2022, CPD 2018-2022 Final Evaluation Report, UNDP GabonUNDP Snapshot and StreamILOSTAT |

1. This assessment of results is to be prepared only in the absence of a completed Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) for the cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The findings in this section are based on the review of CPD Evaluation Report and three CPD 2018 - 2022 Result Oriented Annual Reports (ROAR) for Gabon. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Focus area of the Country Programme 2018-2022 for Gabon [↑](#footnote-ref-4)