

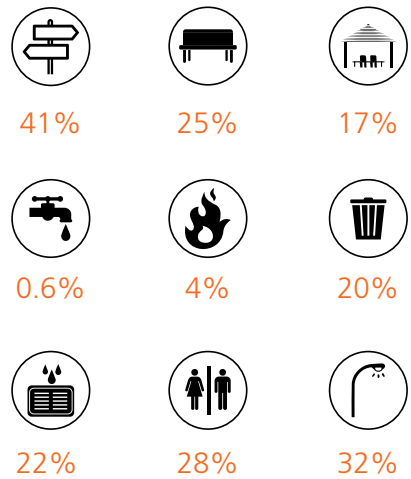
B. BAMENDA, CAMEROON

Bamenda, the third largest city in Cameroon is the capital of the North-West Region and strategically located on the cross route that links Cameroon with cities in Nigeria such as Enugu and Calabar. The current population is 500,000, expected to rise to about 2.1 million by 2026. The city is well known for its market places, which are the key drivers for its economic development and job creation. According to the World Health Organization, Bamenda is the most polluted city in Africa in terms of PM2.5 and, due to its hilly terrain and abundant rainfall, the city is heavily exposed to flooding.

In 2017, UN-Habitat and Bamenda City Council conducted a city-wide inventory and assessment of all open public spaces, with a special focus on markets. In addition to the normal assessment parameters, the Bamenda assessment also placed heavy emphasis on resilience – assessing the risk of markets being exposed to environmental challenges such as flooding. The results of the

survey highlighted gaps in public space and markets distribution as well as their quality, inclusivity, safety and accessibility and how they can be used to promote sustainability. Bamenda has 7 percent of its urban land dedicated to open public space – again well below UN-Habitat’s recommendation of 15-20 percent.

Percentage of Public Spaces with different Public Infrastructure



Bamenda, Cameroon © UN-Habitat

This participatory process established key recommendations to meet the current challenges faced by the city’s markets. It also informed the way forward for the renovation and modernization of markets, to meet citizens’ needs and social changes. A city-wide open public space strategy has been drafted based on the results of the assessment with two pilot projects currently implemented.