

International Forum on TOSSD

Meeting of the Steering Group of the International Forum on TOSSD (IFT)

Agenda Item 7. Data review mechanism

[Draft for Discussion and Approval]

At the 17th TOSSD Task Force meeting held in July 2022, members approved the inclusion of a data validation mechanism in the TOSSD framework. This paper proposes a first phase to establish the mechanism, using the recipient profiles as well as a sampling method, and testing this with a few selected recipients in Q3/2024.

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TOSSD



Total Official Support for
Sustainable Development



International Forum on TOSSD

Meeting of the Steering Group of the International Forum on TOSSD (IFT)

22-24 May 2024, Oslo, Norway

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At the 17th TOSSD Task Force meeting held in July 2022, members approved the inclusion of a data validation mechanism in the TOSSD framework. This paper proposes a first phase to establish the mechanism, using the recipient profiles as well as a sampling method, and testing this with a few selected recipients in Q3/2024.

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DATA REVIEW MECHANISM

1. Background

1. At the 17th TOSSD Task Force meeting held in July 2022, members approved¹ the inclusion of a data validation mechanism in the TOSSD framework. This decision followed a data pilot² comparing TOSSD data and those available in the local public financial systems of three countries: Bangladesh, Cameroon and Colombia. The implementation of the data validation mechanism was subsequently discussed at the October 2022 meeting of the Task Force. During that meeting, participants generally supported the rationale, suggested principles and implementation process, as well as the establishment of the mechanism as a tool to enhance ownership of TOSSD data by recipient countries. For ease of reference, the summary action points are shown below in Box 1.³

Box 1. Extract from the Action Points of the 18th TOSSD Task Force meeting

Item 4. Data Validation Mechanism: Most members and observers supported the establishment of a data review mechanism as a tool to enhance ownership of TOSSD data by recipient countries. The Secretariat will a) suggest first concrete text for the Reporting Instructions, based on the discussion at the 18th meeting; b) start developing a guidance note to describe in more detail how the mechanism would function; c) look into the possibility of including specific provisions about the treatment of activities that would not be agreed upon between providers and recipients; d) look at the feasibility of including pillar II activities in the review; e) start compiling a network of relevant focal points in developing countries; f) organise in 2023 an online consultation workshop on the data review mechanism; and g) subject to the availability of funds, test the mechanism (principles and process) with a few recipient countries.

2. Moreover, the metadata for the SDG indicator 17.3.1 present a request for the co-custodian agencies to *“establish mechanisms for validation based on the sustainable development criteria applied for this indicator which would adequately support the concerns of the recipient countries”*. While noting the extensive validation and quality assurance procedures currently in place and being further developed, the metadata state that *“flows where the recipient country, after discussion with the custodian agency and/or the reporting provider country, objects to their characterisation as supporting its sustainable development may be excluded”*.⁴

¹ See Item 6 in the [action points of the 17th TOSSD Task Force meeting](#).

² See [Total Official Support for Sustainable Development – Data comparison study for Bangladesh, Cameroon and Colombia](#).

³ See Item 4 in the [action points of the 18th TOSSD Task Force meeting](#).

⁴ See section 4.d at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-17-03-01.pdf>.

3. The initial timeline for operationalising the data review mechanism could unfortunately not be met. Given the great interest expressed by numerous recipients for a robust mechanism, it is important to advance the work in the coming months. The Secretariat therefore proposes initiating a first phase, outlined in the present paper, to establish the mechanism using the recipient profiles and a sampling method. This phase involves testing it with 2022 TOSSD data for a few selected recipients in Q3/2024 and organising an online consultation with interested recipients in Q3-Q4/2024. The outcomes of this first phase would then be presented to the IFT Steering Group at its meeting towards the end of 2024 (tbc). A second phase would entail in possibly refining the methodology based on feedback by the Steering Group, aiming to implement the mechanism more broadly starting in 2025 (on 2023 TOSSD data).

2. TOSSD data review mechanism: proposed methodology

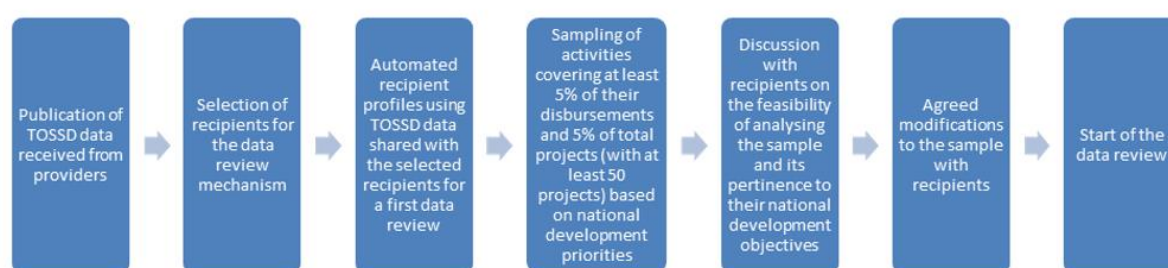
4. The TOSSD statistical framework is subject to the United Nations Statistics Quality Assurance Framework. The data review mechanism is part of broader TOSSD data quality assurance and will serve to verify the accuracy of the data. It aims to ensure that TOSSD data “correctly estimate or describe the quantity or characteristics”⁵ of development support from the recipient perspective. This, in turn, will consolidate TOSSD as the go-to international standard for measuring the full array of resources to promote sustainable development of developing countries.
5. At present, recipient countries can access the detailed data on external support provided to them in year N upon the publication of TOSSD data on the [tossd.online data visualisation tool](#), usually in Q1 of year N+2. In addition, the Secretariat has developed a **statistical overview of TOSSD by recipient** (so-called recipient profiles), expected to be disseminated online in June-July 2024.⁶
6. **As a first step in the data review**, the Secretariat proposes **using the recipient profiles (see Annex)**. Recipients would be invited to provide any first impressions and initial feedback on their profiles and signal, for instance, any notable omissions of major providers or significant disparities between total TOSSD figures and their national data.
7. Subsequently, **a sampling of activities could be performed**, which would be randomised, consider the largest projects or be a combination of the two. The sample would cover, in any given year and for selected recipients⁷, at least 5% of total disbursements reported to TOSSD and 5% of total number projects (with at least 50 projects), whichever is higher. Samples can be generated to focus on specific SDGs or areas based on recipients’ national development priorities, or other criteria to be agreed upon with the recipient, such as the modality of support or the financial instruments deployed, among others.

⁵ The accuracy of a statistical output is the degree to which the data correctly estimate or describe the quantities or characteristics they are designed to measure. For definitions of the other statistical quality dimensions, see Annex H of the [Reporting Instructions](#).

⁶ The recipient profiles were presented to the IFT Interim Governing Body in February 2024. The [action points](#) of the meeting (see Item 3) note the potential of these profiles to foster donor co-ordination, data triangulation and quality analysis and invite the Secretariat to put them online and disseminate them appropriately.

⁷ The TOSSD Task Force has previously agreed that the data review by the recipients should be voluntary.

8. Recipient countries will be invited to review the first sample and comment on the selected focus areas, including their alignment with national sustainable development priorities. Modifications and adjustments to the sample can be agreed in consultation with the recipient before the start of the data review, taking into account data availability in the national tracking system.
9. Once a finalised version of the sample is agreed upon, the data review will begin. To address any discrepancies highlighted by the recipient, the Secretariat will act as the link between the recipient and the various providers responsible for reporting the projects included in the sample. Meetings will be convened to clarify any quantitative or qualitative aspects of the projects, and if necessary, rectify the data in the TOSSD website and publications. A log of each recipient's data review, including the number of projects and total disbursements examined, will be published on the TOSSD website.
10. The proposed process for the data review mechanism is summarised in the Figure below.



Example of data review using 2022 TOSSD data for Cameroon

11. This section illustrates the aforementioned proposal using data from Cameroon.
12. The recipient profile (the first step of the data review) for Cameroon is provided in the Annex. The focal point in the country would be invited to offer general comments on the profile.
13. As previously mentioned, the Secretariat can prepare the TOSSD data sample (the second step of the data review) considering the recipient's sustainable development priorities. In the case of Cameroon, the National Development Strategy 2020-2030⁸ identifies education, health, social facilities, employment, and poverty and income inequality, as the key areas for evaluating the country's socio-economic situation. Cameroon's data sample could thus focus on support to SDGs 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10. For illustrative purposes, the Secretariat decided to focus on SDGs 3 and 9 for this exercise.
14. The sampling retrieves 175 projects targeting SDGs 3 and 9, with amounts disbursed totalling almost USD 185 million (equivalent to 5% of projects and 8.4% of total disbursements to Cameroon in 2022). The subsequent step would be the agreement on, or the modification of this sample with Cameroon prior to the start of the detailed data review.

⁸ Cameroon National Development Strategy: 2020-2030 ([Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, 2022](#)).

Illustration of data for 10 projects included in the first sample, Cameroon 2022 TOSSD data

Provider country/institution - name	Project title	SDG focus	Financial instrument - name	Amount disbursed (USD thousand)
Global Fund	Scale-up of HIV prevention to contribute to reduction of HIV related morbidity and mortality by 2023	3.3	Standard grant	\$66,659.08
Global Fund	Scaling up Malaria Control for High Impact	3.3	Standard grant	\$58,037.59
Korea	Garoua Referral Hospital Establishment Project	3.8	Standard loan	\$9,122.74
Germany	Support to the health system and family planning for the resilience in Cameroon	3	Standard grant	\$8,674.64
Islamic Development Bank	National Blood Transfusion System Strengthening Project	3.8	Standard loan	\$6,955.46
World Health Organisation	5.239 41702 10.1.1 Polio eradication and transition plans implemented in partnership with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative	3.3	Standard grant	\$6,132.68
Global Fund	Scale-up of HIV prevention to contribute to reduction of HIV related morbidity and mortality by 2023	3.3	Standard grant	\$4,808.39
Global Fund	Scale-up of HIV prevention to contribute to reduction of HIV related morbidity and mortality by 2023	3.3	Standard grant	\$4,584.79
Global Fund	Scale up finding of TB missing cases	3.3	Standard grant	\$4,447.91
Germany	Health Programme	3	Standard grant	\$3,215.81
UNHCR	Outcome area 10: Healthy lives	3	Standard grant	\$2,266.30
UNFPA	2. Quality of care and services	3.7	Standard grant	\$1,703.98

Note: Not all columns or projects are included in this image.

Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).

3. Testing the data review mechanism

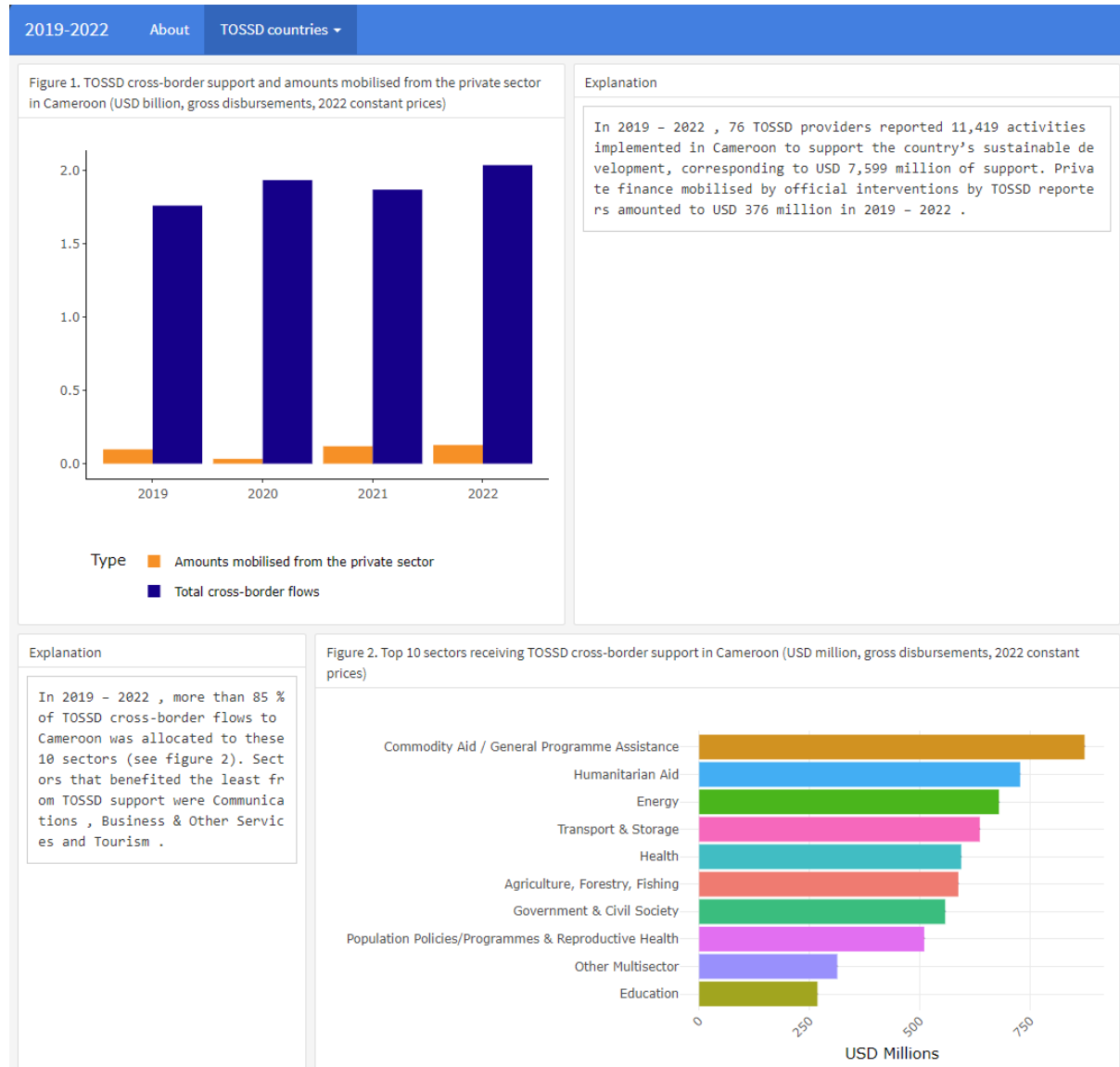
15. The Secretariat proposes conducting a test of the data review mechanism using TOSSD figures for 2022. This test could be carried out with two or three recipients⁹ in Q2-Q3/2024, based on the recipient profile and a data sample as outlined previously.
16. In parallel with the tests, the Secretariat will organise an online consultation with recipient countries on the methodological note by Q3-2024.
17. Drawing from the outcomes of the tests and the online consultation, the Secretariat will propose to the Steering Group the inclusion of the data review mechanism in the Reporting Instructions, for implementation starting in 2025, upon publication of TOSSD data for 2023. The Steering Group will also discuss the process to rectify data in the TOSSD database and publications, and how to proceed in case discrepancies observed cannot be easily solved. The aim would be to establish clear guidelines for the Secretariat on how to proceed in such cases.
18. Further elements mentioned in Box 1 will also be addressed in the coming months. Meanwhile, upon the dissemination of the recipient profiles on the TOSSD website, all the recipients will be given the possibility to raise questions or signal any issues regarding their data. A note outlining this procedure will be posted on the TOSSD website.

⁹ Cameroon and the Dominican Republic have expressed interest in testing the data review.

For discussion

- Do members support the Secretariat conducting a test of the data review mechanism in Q2-Q3/2024 towards its subsequent implementation in 2025 on 2023 TOSSD data?
- Do members have comments on the proposed methodology and process for testing the data review mechanism e.g., the proposed thresholds and number of recipients to be included in the test?
- Do members agree to use the recipient profiles for checking TOSSD data more broadly, including by recipients not taking part in the data review mechanism?

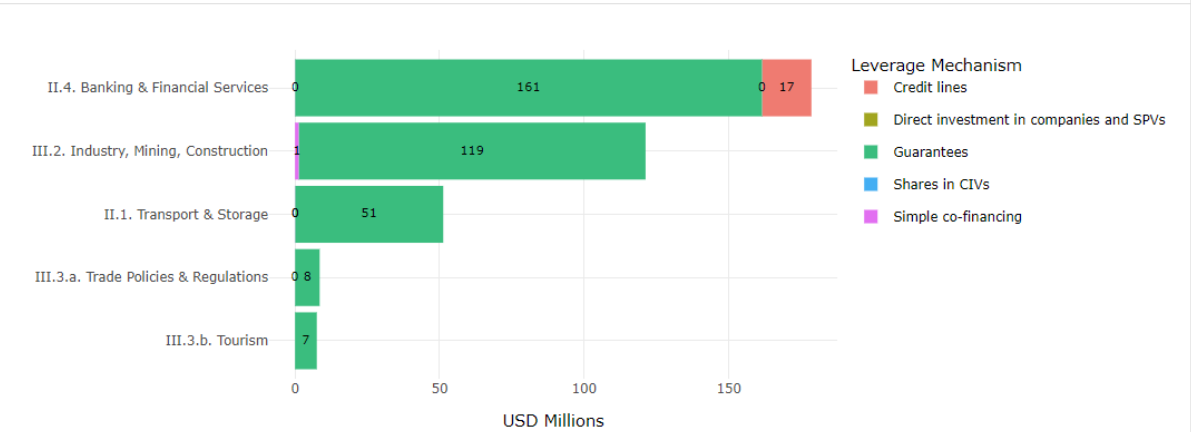
Recipient profile for Cameroon, 2019-2022



Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).

Recipient profile for Cameroon, 2019-2022 (continued)

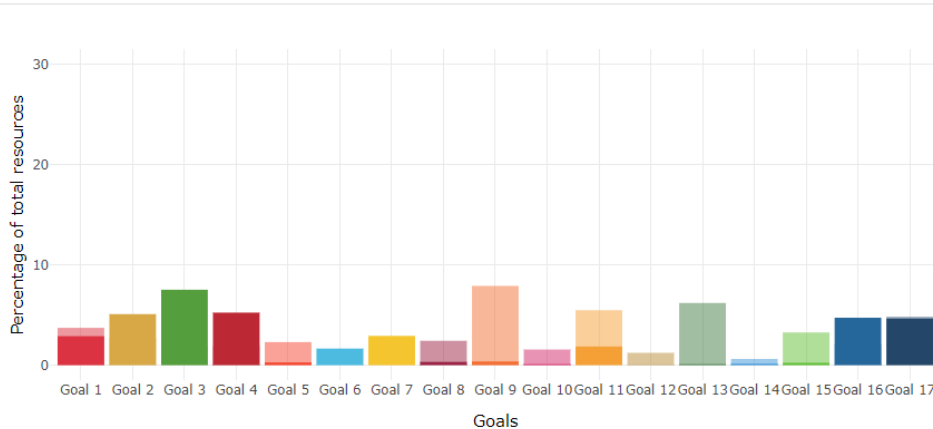
Figure 3. Total private finance mobilised for Cameroon in 2019-2022, reported to TOSSD (by leveraging mechanism, USD million, gross disbursements, 2022 constant prices)



Explanation

Between 2019 and 2022 , a total of USD 376 million was mobilised from the private sector thanks to public interventions by TOSSD providers to support sustainable development in Cameroon . Total mobilised private finance (MPF) benefited five main sectors: II.4. Banking & Financial Services , III.2. Industry, Mining, Construction , II.1. Transport & Storage , III.3.a. Trade Policies & Regulations and I II.3.b. Tourism . TOSSD reporters used a wide range of leveraging mechanisms to mobilize private finance which includes guarantees, credit lines, direct investment in companies and special purpose vehicles (DICs/SPVs), shares in collective investment vehicles (CIVs), syndicated loans and simple co-financing (see figure 3).

Figure 4. SDG focus of TOSSD cross-border support to Cameroon in 2019-2022



Explanation

In 2019 - 2022 according to TOSSD data, 70 % of the activities supporting sustainable development in Cameroon have been assigned to an SDG, either at goal or target levels.

Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).

Recipient profile for Cameroon, 2019-2022 (continued)

Explanation

An important aspect of TOSSD is that it shows new and additional data. Over 2019 - 2022 , 2,184 additional activities in Cameroon were reported by 33 TOSSD reporters, for a total of USD 83 1,479 thousand. The figure 5 shows the number of additional activities available in TOSSD in the case of Cameroon , broken down by sector.

Figure 5. Additional activities reported in TOSSD for Cameroon (2019-2022, by sector)

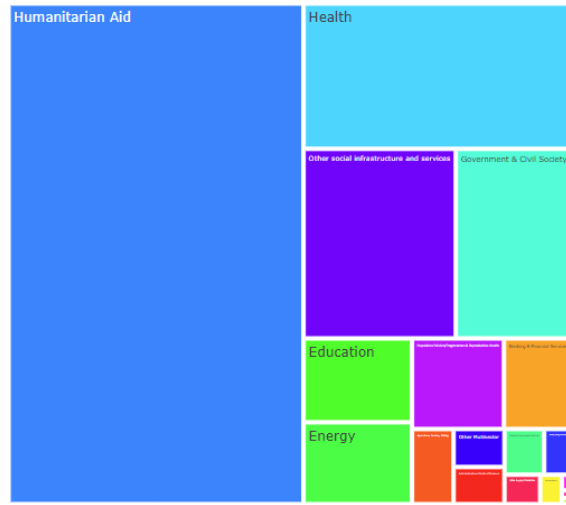
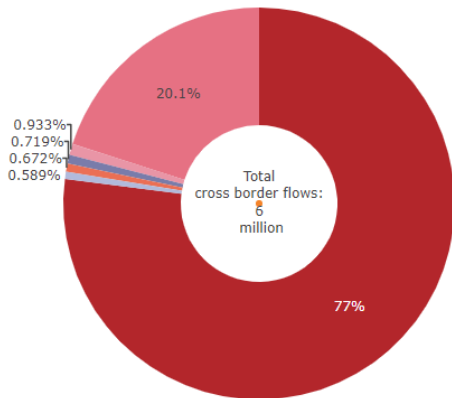


Figure 6. TOSSD cross-border support for Cameroon (% , by modality, 2019-2022, 2022 constant prices).



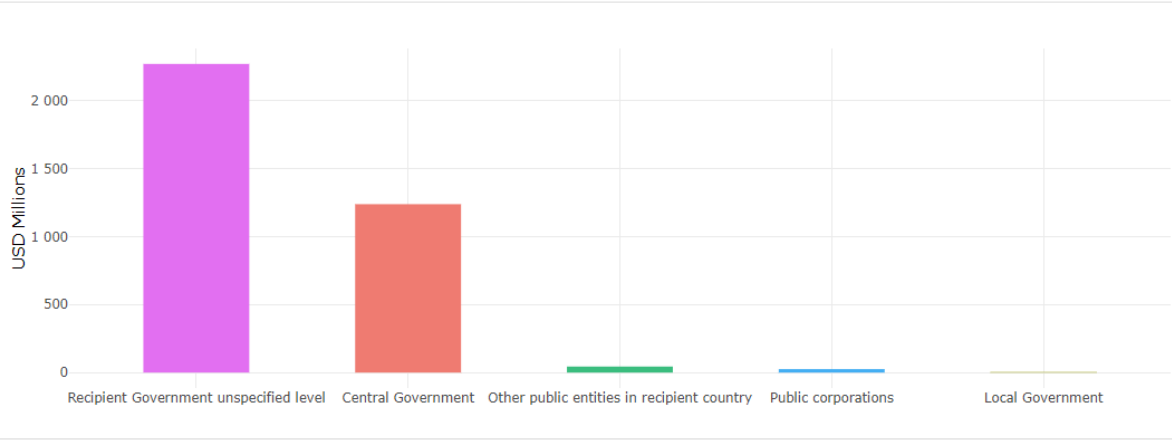
Explanation

Cameroon receives support for sustainable development mostly through Projects - type interventions (76 %) and Budget support (20 %). Other modalities include Other technical co-operation , Contributions to specific purpose programmes and funds managed by implementing partners (excluding self-benefit) , and Scholarships/training in donor country (see figure 6).

Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).

Recipient profile for Cameroon, 2019-2022 (continued)

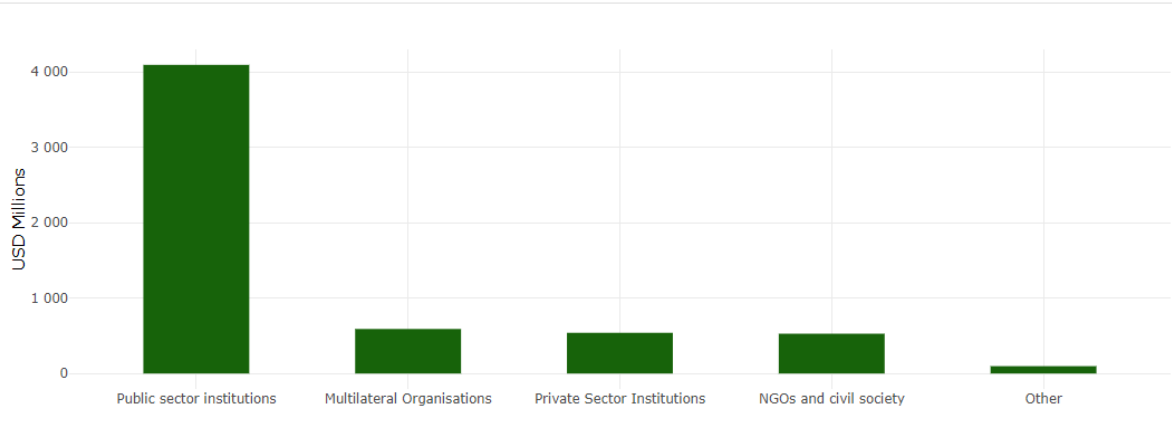
Figure 7. TOSSD cross-border support for Cameroon (2019-2022, by recipient government channels, USD billion, gross disbursements, 2022 constant prices)



Explanation

Between 2019 and 2022 , according to TOSSD data, support to Cameroon was mainly channeled through the government, for an amount of US D 3,586,045 thousand, 63 % of which was reported as channeled through the Recipient Government unspecified level . Local Government were used as channels to a very small extent, for 0.119 % of this total (figure 7).

Figure 8. TOSSD cross-border support for Cameroon (2019-2022, by channel, USD billion, gross disbursements, 2022 constant prices)



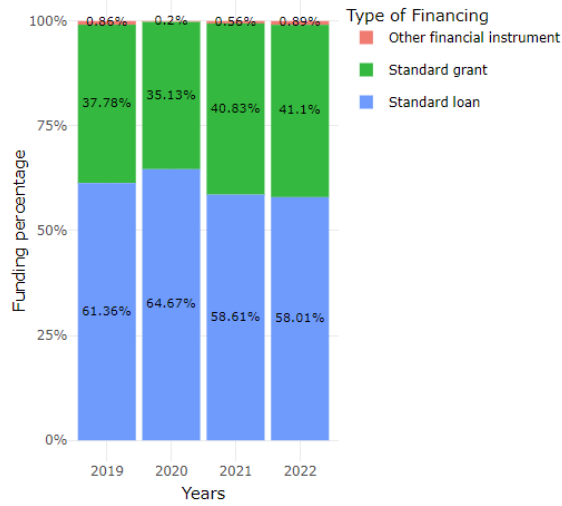
Explanation

Examples of other channels of co-operation include Public sector institutions , and Multilateral Organisations (see figure 8).

Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).

Recipient profile for Cameroon, 2019-2022 (continued)

Figure 9. TOSSD cross-border flows (2019-2022, by financing instrument, USD billion, gross disbursements, 2022 constant prices)



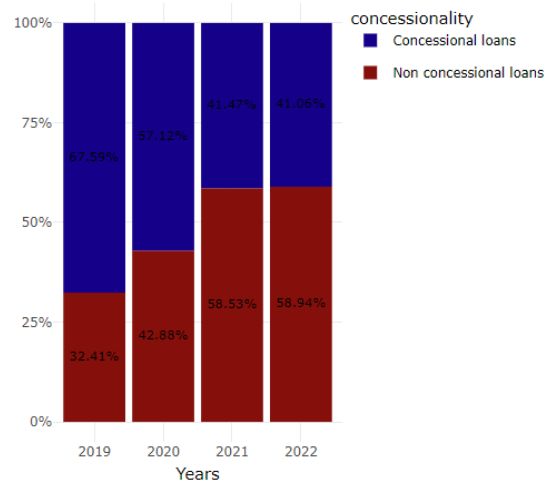
Explanation

Cameroon receives official support for sustainable development mainly through standard loans and grants, which respectively totaled USD 4,607 million and USD 2,944 million in 2019 - 2022 . In addition, TOSSD data revealed a small volume of finance provided through other instruments such as common equity, direct provider spending, and shares in collective investment vehicles.

Explanation

The share of concessional loans to Cameroon in total loans decreased over the 2019 - 2022 period, from 68 % in 2019 to 41 % in 2022 . The share of non-concessional loans, in proportion of total loans increased from 32 % in 2019 to 59 % in 2022 (see figure 10).

Figure 10. Concessional loans granted to Cameroon, reported to TOSSD (% , 2019-2022)

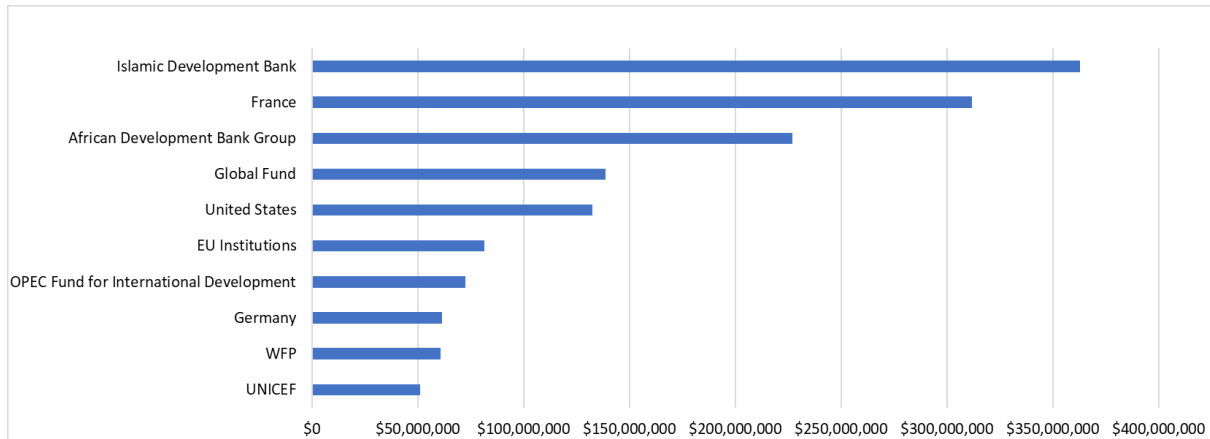


1. The custodian agencies of indicator 17.3.1 are "requested to establish mechanisms for validation based on the sustainable development criteria applied for this indicator which will adequately support concerns of the recipient countries".↔

Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).



Selected providers by amounts disbursed in current USD, 2022 TOSSD data for Cameroon



Note: Only the ten providers with the largest volume of disbursements in current USD are shown in the chart. Other providers in order of volume of disbursements are: UNHCR; Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization; United Kingdom; World Health Organisation; Japan; Korea; UNDP; WHO-Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan; UNFPA; IFAD; Private Infrastructure Development Group; Italy; Sweden; Switzerland; Canada; Food and Agriculture Organisation; International Labour Organisation; UN Peacebuilding Fund; UN Women; Norway; Belgium; Saudi Arabia; UN Development Coordination Office; Denmark; Austria; Qatar; Kuwait; Spain; Ireland; Türkiye; WTO - International Trade Centre; UNEP; Central Emergency Response Fund; UN inter-agency pooled funds; UN Industrial Development Organization; Brazil; Poland; Global Environment Facility; Australia; Israel; Romania; International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; UN Conference on Trade and Development; Mexico; UNAIDS; Thailand; United Arab Emirates; New Zealand; Lithuania; Green Climate Fund; Malta; Czechia; Portugal; Latvia; and Hungary.

Source: 2022 TOSSD data – IFT, 2024 ([TOSSD Visualisation Tool](#)).