

Cameroon's 'Intelligent Cities' — Huawei-Built Police Facial-Recognition Network in Yaoundé and Douala

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Cameroon

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Cameroon's police run a Huawei-built 'Intelligent Cities' facial-recognition network, launched in Yaoundé (2019), expanded to Douala (2023). Phase one installed 3,000+ cameras toward a 5,000-camera target (EUR50M loan); no data-protection law governs it.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-08

Délégation Générale à la Sûreté Nationale (DGSN), with Huawei and CAMTEL — accessed 2026-08-08

Biometric Update — Cameroon launches live facial recognition in Douala (2023) — accessed 2026-08-08

Biometric Update — Cameroon wants EUR50M to expand facial recognition (2024) — accessed 2026-08-08

Cairn.info — 'The state's new eyes': video surveillance in Yaoundé (2021) — accessed 2026-08-08

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