

Enabling Social Innovation in New Caledonia



Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ↓

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Equatorial Guinea's social innovation ecosystem.

- ✓ Direct focus on social innovation
- 🔗 Connected but indirect focus on social innovation
- ✗ No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Official Definition of Social Innovation 🔗



While no formal legal definition of social innovation has been identified, national policy documents reference “innovación social” in the context of civil society dynamism and entrepreneurship.

- Social innovation is framed as part of broader development, entrepreneurship, and capacity-building agendas rather than a standalone concept.

Government Body for Social Innovation ✓



Rather than a dedicated agency, responsibility is distributed across planning and development institutions:

- National Development governance structures under **Agenda Guinea Ecuatorial 2035** coordinate innovation and development policy.
- These include planning councils, a national development agency, and coordination bodies responsible for monitoring implementation and fostering innovation.

Government Strategy for Social Innovation ✓



While no standalone social innovation strategy exists, relevant priorities appear in:

- **Agenda Guinea Ecuatorial 2035** (2021), the national sustainable development strategy, which includes science, technology and innovation (CT&I) as drivers of economic diversification and social development.
- The strategy highlights the role of innovation networks, entrepreneurship, and knowledge diffusion in addressing social and economic challenges.

Policies, Laws & Regulations ✓ 🔗



No social innovation-specific legislation was identified; however, several frameworks support enabling conditions:

- **Cooperatives Law (Decree-Law 6/1991)** establishes the legal basis for cooperative organisations.
- **Associations Law (Law 11/1992)** and **NGO Law (1999)** regulate civil society organisations.
- **Industrial Property Law (2000)** promotes technological development and innovation protection.
- **SME Investment Law (1990)** provides incentives for private enterprise development.
- Business climate reforms (e.g. national committees for competitiveness) support entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems.

Official Statistics



While a national statistics office exists, public evidence of dedicated statistics on social innovation, social enterprises, or the social economy is limited.

- Data collection frameworks exist for general economic and social indicators but are not disaggregated for social innovation.

Government Programs



Several programs indirectly support social innovation through entrepreneurship and innovation:

- **GUINEA ON (UNDP–Government)** supports youth-led tech entrepreneurship, creating 10 startups and providing grants of ~6,000,000 FCFA per project.
- Capacity-building programs include training for young ICT entrepreneurs and civil servants under national SDG implementation efforts.
- Agenda 2035 proposes a **Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (FACTI)** to finance research and innovation activities.

ECOSYSTEM

Stakeholders



The ecosystem is emerging, with a small but growing number of innovation actors:

- Innovation hubs and support organisations include Dreams Hub, LPC Space, and IDENTIC Foundation, focusing on entrepreneurship, technology, and creative industries.
- Pan-African networks such as AfriLabs connect local hubs to regional innovation ecosystems.
- Financial institutions such as Banco Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (BANGE) contribute through entrepreneurship support initiatives.

Support Initiatives



Support mechanisms are primarily entrepreneurship- and innovation-oriented:

- **BANGE Impulsa** provides incubation, mentoring, co-working, and financing for startups, with a reported funding pool of approximately 250 million (local currency unspecified).
- **GUINEA ON** provides incubation, training, and grant funding for youth-led innovation.
- Agenda 2035 proposes the development of regional innovation centres aligned with key sectors.

Collaboration



Collaboration occurs mainly through public–international partnerships:

- Strong cooperation between government institutions and UNDP supports innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives.
- National strategy promotes collaboration through networks linking producers, users, and knowledge institutions.
- Business environment reforms are developed in partnership with the World Bank Group.

FINANCE

Financing Schemes



Financing for social innovation is limited but evolving:

- Proposed **FACTI fund** under Agenda 2035 aims to support innovation through public financing mechanisms.
- UNDP-supported programs provide direct grants to startups (e.g. 6,000,000 FCFA per company under GUINEA ON).
- Bank-led initiatives such as BANGE Impulsa provide accelerator funding and support.



Financing Inclusivity

Funding shows partial inclusivity:

- Programs such as GUINEA-ON explicitly target youth and include both men and women participants.
- National SDG frameworks emphasise capacity-building for youth, women, and local partners.
- Broader financing mechanisms do not consistently specify targeted inclusion criteria.

SOCIETY



Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Social innovation is present in policy discourse but remains limited in broader public awareness:

- National strategies and SDG reporting reference social innovation as part of entrepreneurship and development agendas.
- Public discourse is more strongly focused on economic diversification and innovation than on social innovation as a distinct field.



Research

Research activity is emerging but limited:

- Agenda 2035 emphasises building a national research and innovation system and strengthening R&D institutions.
- Innovation hubs such as Dreams Hub contribute to applied research and knowledge exchange.



Education & Human Capital

Education and training focus on entrepreneurship and skills development:

- Programs train youth in digital entrepreneurship and business planning, particularly through ICT-focused initiatives.
- Public sector training programs have strengthened institutional capacity (e.g. training of thousands of civil servants).
- No dedicated academic programmes in social innovation were identified.

Entrepreneurship



178th / 190 countries



Business Environment

Ease of doing business: ranked 178th globally in Doing Business 2020.

--th / --



countries

Innovation Capacity

While formal innovation and entrepreneurship indicators are limited, policy reforms aim to improve competitiveness and the business environment.



Social entrepreneurship

No recent Global Innovation Index or GEM data specific to social entrepreneurship was identified in public sources.

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity

Climate vulnerability remains high, with a relatively low readiness score in global adaptation indices.



Political participation

National policy commitments include participation in the Paris Agreement and climate strategies such as REDD+ and national adaptation plans.



population

Volunteering

Data on volunteerism and civic participation is limited in publicly available sources.



countries

Sustainability

Environmental Performance Index: ranked 114th globally (2024).
Environmental Performance Index (EPI)

