



CAMEROON GENDER LANDSCAPE

Gender data helps to inform smart development policy. This briefing provides key indicators for Cameroon which help in monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. The arrows indicate longer term progress on outcomes from a base year, while the color coded elements compare the latest gender data in Cameroon with its regional peers.

Click the measures below to explore the [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#).

Compared to:	Base Year	Region
>10% Higher Value	↗	
Equal/No Change	→	
>10% Lower Value	↘	
No Data	---	

		Country Performance				Peer Comparison			
		Baseline		Latest		Latest			
		Value	Year	Value	Year	SSA	LMC	World	
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	5.12	2010	→	5.09	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	5.79	2010	→	5.48	2020	NA	NA	NA
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	64.8	2010	↗	73.1	2020	60.9	72.9	83.5
	Male	78.3	2010	→	83.4	2020	73.8	84.5	90.2
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	39.8	2011	↘	35.4	2021	43.0	77.3	78.0
	Male	41.8	2011	↘	35.9	2021	46.1	74.6	77.0
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		5.06	2011	↘	4.46	2021	4.60	2.63	2.27
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		128	2011	↘	110	2021	100.0	44.5	42.5
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		519	2011	↘	438	2020	536	255	223
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		62.2	2011	→	64.9	2018	53.8	59.5	65.4
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)		23.5	2011	→	23.0	2018	21.5	13.5	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	24.7	2011	↘	22.3	2019	20.1	18.9	14.8
	Male	30.0	2011	↘	25.7	2019	22.8	25.0	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	69.6	2011	→	67.4	2022	60.9	33.4	47.3
	Male	81.0	2011	→	76.2	2022	72.7	73.3	72.5
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	11.6	2011	↗	16.7	2021	17.4	30.9	54.3
	Male	28.2	2011	↗	31.7	2021	28.7	36.3	52.9
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	59.3	2011	↘	47.6	2021	51.6	44.5	25.3
	Male	47.9	2011	↘	38.2	2021	51.5	35.6	27.2
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	16.0	2010	↗	23.1	2014	NA	41.7	NA
	Male	4.68	2010	↗	10.5	2014	NA	14.3	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		87.8	2011	→	81.4	2022	82.1	56.5	55.2
Women who own land both alone and jointly (% of women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	1.90	2018	NA	NA	NA
Men who own land alone (% of men)		NA	NA	---	25.3	2018	NA	NA	NA
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	10.9	2011	↗	20.3	2021	33.8	55.6	71.9
	Male	18.8	2011	↗	26.9	2021	45.9	61.3	76.0
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	11.2	2017	10.8	7.17	5.27
	Male	NA	NA	---	13.0	2017	12.4	9.36	7.58
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		15.7	2009	↗	39.7	2016	28.1	32.5	33.3
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		10.00	2009	↗	22.9	2016	16.2	19.2	17.9
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		13.9	2011	↗	33.9	2022	26.3	21.8	26.5
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		38.4	2011	↘	29.8	2018	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	32.7	2014	NA	NA	NA
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		46.5	2011	↘	27.7	2018	NA	NA	NA

Note: The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region includes 48 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Cameroon is a lower middle income (LMC) country, which includes 54 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,136 to \$4,465 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#). Data is as of September 14, 2023.

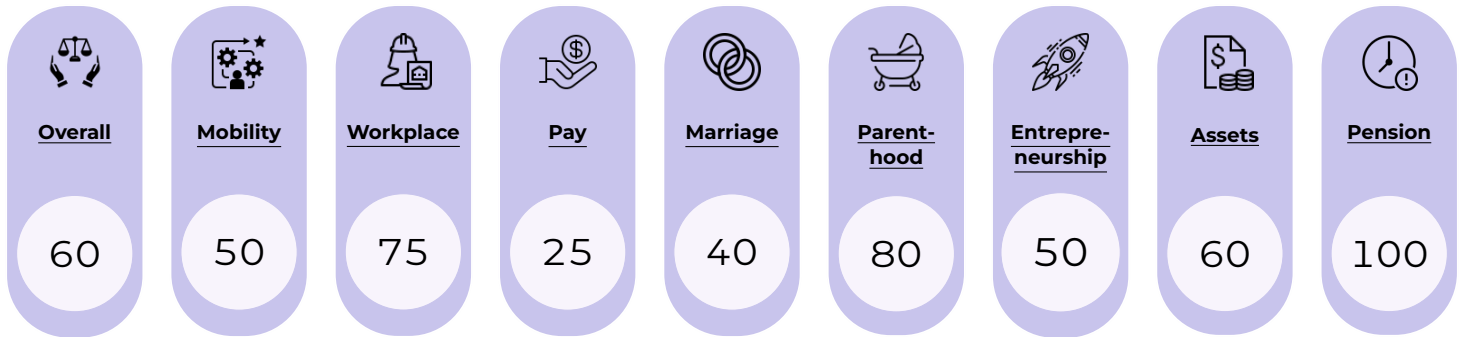
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2011. Latest Value shows the latest available value from 2012 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer Comparison shows how Cameroon performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Color coding represents values 10 percent above or below its peers in the region.



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Women, Business and the Law in Cameroon

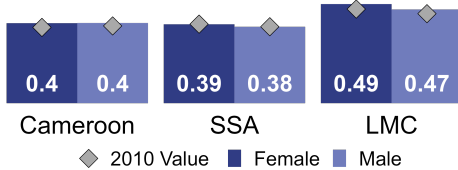
Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Cameroon scores 60 out of 100**, while the regional average across Sub-Saharan Africa is 73.



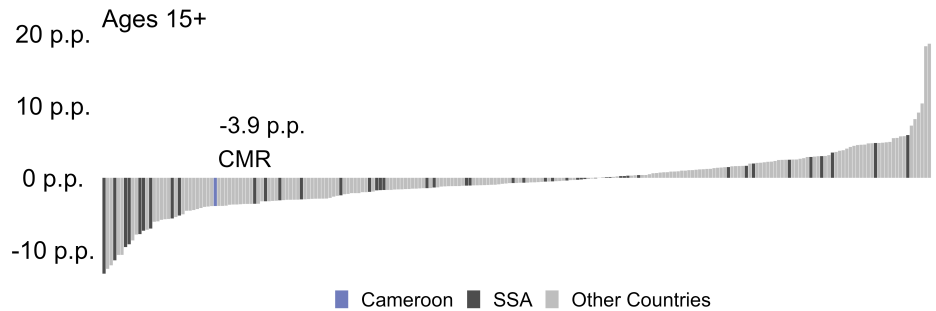
A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Cameroon

Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1) Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.) Ages 15+



Unpacking the Numbers in Cameroon

40 percent

A girl born today will be 40 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

6 in 25

24 percent of women 15 to 19 years old have had children or are currently pregnant **(2018)**

13 percent

13 percent of women report having ever experienced any form of sexual violence **(2018)**

37 in 100

37 percent of women do not make sole or joint decisions to visit family and friends **(2018)**

2 in 53

2 percent of women own more than one plot of land **(2018)**

LEARN MORE

The World Bank in Gender: This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.

Women, Business and the Law: This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.

World Bank Gender Strategy (2024-30): This page summarizes research and evidence feeding into WBG's new gender strategy.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

AFR Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.



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