



# CAMEROON GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Cameroon on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains, minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

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
<b>HUMAN ENDOWMENTS</b>								
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	5.12	2010	→	5.09	2020	NA	NA
	Male	5.79	2010	→	5.48	2020	NA	NA
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	64.8	2010	↗	71.6	2018	59.4	83.3
	Male	78.3	2010	→	82.6	2018	72.5	90.1
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	22.9	2009	↗	46.6	2016	41.3	77.3
	Male	26.6	2009	↗	47.7	2016	46.0	76.7
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		5.11	2010	↘	4.44	2020	4.56	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		125	2010	↘	98.9	2020	98.0	41.0
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		597	2010	↘	529	2017	534	211
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		60.4	2004	→	64.9	2018	54.3	NA
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)		20.5	2004	↗	23.0	2018	22.6	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	24.8	2010	↘	22.3	2019	20.1	14.8
	Male	30.1	2010	↘	25.7	2019	22.7	21.7
<b>ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY</b>								
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	70.5	2010	→	70.2	2021	60.2	46.3
	Male	82.1	2010	→	80.7	2021	71.7	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	10.9	2010	↗	16.8	2019	18.8	54.6
	Male	27.3	2010	↗	33.3	2019	30.4	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	61.1	2010	↘	47.7	2019	52.6	25.3
	Male	49.7	2010	↘	39.8	2019	53.2	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	16.0	2010	↗	23.1	2014	NA	NA
	Male	4.68	2010	↗	10.5	2014	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		87.0	2010	→	81.1	2020	82.6	54.6
Women who own land both alone and jointly (% of women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	1.90	2018	NA	NA
Men who own land alone (% of men)		NA	NA	---	25.3	2018	NA	NA
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	22.7	2017	NA	51.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	31.1	2017	NA	60.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	11.2	2017	NA	6.81
	Male	NA	NA	---	13.0	2017	NA	9.00
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		15.7	2009	↗	39.7	2016	28.0	33.1
<b>VOICE AND AGENCY</b>								
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		10.00	2009	↗	22.9	2016	16.2	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		13.9	2010	↗	33.9	2021	25.9	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		36.3	2006	↘	29.8	2018	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
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		55.6	2004	↘	27.7	2018	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 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,046 to \$4,095 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#).

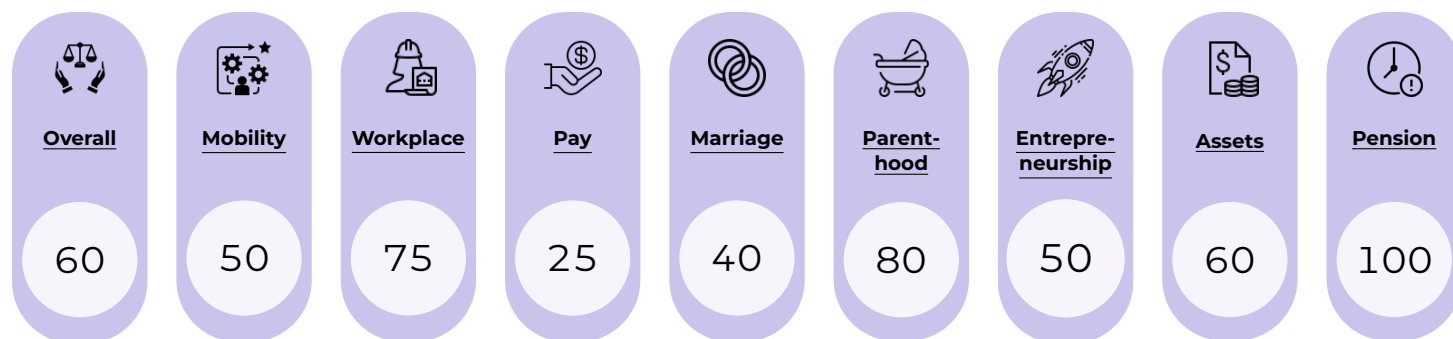
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Cameroon performs relative to the region, income group, and the world. Lighter and darker shades represent values 10 percent above and below regional peer values, respectively.



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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 80.

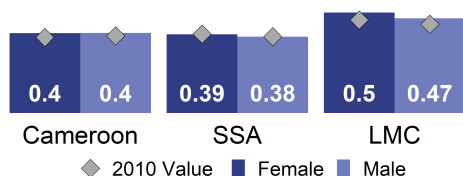


## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Cameroon

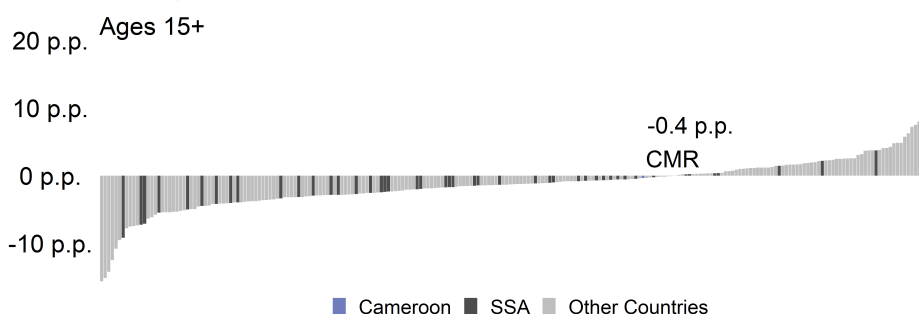
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment,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



## 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 already 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 are not able to visit family, relatives and friends on her own decision **(2018)**

### 52 in 53

98 percent of women do not have any land, both solely and jointly, registered under their name **(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 Group Gender Strategy (FY16-FY23):** This 2015 report outlines the World Bank Group's strategy to promote gender equality.

**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.

