Cameroon

**General**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population under 15</td>
<td>5,228,047</td>
<td>5,149,228</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population over 15</td>
<td>4,595,746</td>
<td>6,582,285</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All data from CIA, 2017

**Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>2015 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>110.8</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>UN Statistics, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>UN Statistics, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by a skilled health professional</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>WHO, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy for men</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy for women</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth literacy rate, ages 15–24</td>
<td>87.12%</td>
<td>80.45%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate, ages 15+</td>
<td>81.15%</td>
<td>68.88%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net enrolment rate in primary education</td>
<td>91.99%</td>
<td>87.33%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education</td>
<td>62.57%</td>
<td>53.53%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>15.24%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All data from UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2017

- Female graduates from tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 74.9%
Gender Country Profile

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Economic Activity
- Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%
- Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 53%
- Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a money mobile service provider (2014) (UN Statistics, 2017): 17.74%

Decision-Making

Human Rights
- Girls married before 15 (UNICEF, 2013): 13.4%
- Females married by 18 (UNICEF, 2013): 38.4%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 51.1%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: Insufficient data

Gender and Development Trends in Cameroon

Health
As of 2015, there were 580,000 people in Cameroon living with HIV (approximately 4.5%); 340,000 of these were women aged 15 and over (UNAIDS, 2015).

Research by UN Women (2014) indicates that HIV-positive status may prevent women from inheriting or owning property, and may also inhibit women from pursuing property and inheritance rights violations (see also UN Women, 2016a).

Despite a global drop, Cameroon’s maternal mortality rates remain high, with limited antenatal care cited as a key contributory factor (UNFPA, n.d.). In 2012, trained personnel assisted approximately 63% of deliveries (UNFPA, 2012).

Education
Following a civil war in the Central African Republic, 260,000 refugees found shelter in neighbouring Cameroon, 62% of whom are children. More than 88,000 of those children are still not in school (UNICEF, 2016). Girls in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Cameroon are particularly affected, due to the high prevalence of early marriage.

31.7% of adult women in Cameroon have reached a secondary level of education, compared to 37.9% of their male counterparts (UNDP, 2016).
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Economy
Cameroon’s economic activity slowed in 2016. GDP growth is estimated to reach 5.6% at the end December 2016, 0.2 point below its level of 2015. This was due to slower growth in oil production, and to the avian flu epidemic that has damaged the local poultry industry in the Western province. These changes have further impeded women’s economic rights, particularly in rural areas (World Bank, 2016).

Poverty is increasingly concentrated in Cameroon’s northern regions with an estimated 56% of the poor living in the North and Far North regions alone (World Bank, 2016).

Governance
In Cameroon, 31.1% of parliamentary seats are held by women – this has been largely attributed to the adoption of a progressive electoral code in 2012, as well as the implementation of a UN Women strategic plan for municipal, legislative, and senate elections (UN Women, 2016c).

Human Rights
Customary law may have an impact on women’s rights, for some groups in Cameroon and limit women’s rights to inheritance and employment. A 2015 U.S. State Department report on Cameroon found that traditional legal systems continue to regard wives as the legal property of their husbands (U.S. Department of State, 2015).

Though the law in Cameroon protects physical and bodily integrity of persons, it does not specifically address Female Genital Mutilation/Circumcision (FGM/C). Children under 18 years were reportedly subjected to FGM/C in isolated areas of the Far North, East, and Southwest regions (U.S. Department of State, 2015).

There has been an increase in suicide bombings in Cameroon. Whilst children do not instigate the bombings; they are used to carry bombs strapped to their bodies which are then detonated remotely in public places (UNICEF, 2015).

Cameroon SDG Progress Profile

- Cameroon is currently ranked 112th for overall performance under the SDGs, with a median rank of 109.
- Cameroon has ranked 153rd in the UN’s 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) (UNDP, 2015).

SDG 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels. (Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 10.4 (significant challenges remain)
- Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%): 80.6 (SDG major challenges must be overcome)
Net primary school enrolment rate (%): 94.9 (significant challenges remain)

In 2000, Cameroon instigated a universal free primary education program, to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts to keep young girls in school are impacted by low perceptions of the benefits of education, extreme poverty, and public perceptions that girls do not require an education (UNDP, 2016).

As of 2011, Cameroon had built 84 women’s empowerment and family centres, as well as a technology centre to enable professional integration of women and girls who had dropped out of the formal education system (“Education is Gateway...” 2011).

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.
(Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Women in National Parliament (%): 31.1 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female years of schooling (% male): 78.9 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female labor force participation (% male): 86.6 (SDG threshold met)
- Unmet demand for contraceptives (%): 66.3 (major challenges must be overcome)

Domestic violence in Cameroon remains widespread (UN CEDAW Committee, 2014). A ‘National Gender Policy’ document released by the Ministries of Social Affairs, Women’s Empowerment and the Family, asserts that 52% of women experienced domestic violence at least once, and that 53% of women experienced violence by the age of 15 (US Department of State, 2015).

The Government of Cameroon and the World Health Organisation (WHO) partnered in 2014, launching a nationwide campaign to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) within the country. The Ministry of Women’s and Family Affairs are partnered with both the WHO and the World Bank, to sensitise local communities to act against FGM (UNFPA, 2012).

In 2016, the Cameroon government introduced legislation banning forced marriage with a person under the age of 18 (UN Women, 2016b).
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