Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Cameroon

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Abbreviations

ADP	African Disability Protocol	
AFHAC	Association des Femmes Handicapées Actives du Cameroun	Association of Active Women with Disabilities in Cameroon
AFUB	African Union of the Blind	
ANAC	Association Nationale des Aveugles du Cameroun	National Association of the Blind of Cameroon
ANSCAM	Association Nationale des Sourds du Cameroun	National Association of the Deaf of Cameroon
APGDI	Association for the Promotion of Gender and Disability Issues	
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CBCHS	Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services	
CBM	Christian Blind Mission	
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
CONRHA	Comité National de Réadaptation et de Réinsertion Socio-Économique des Personnes Handicapées	National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration of People with Disabilities
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
CUAPWD	Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities	
FIEPWD	Foundation for the Inclusion and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	
GIDICS	Global Initiative for Disability Inclusive Society	
HI	Humanity & Inclusion	
IFCD	International Fund for Cultural Diversity	
ILO	International Labor Organization	
IPP	Incapacité Potentielle Permanente	Potential Permanent Disability
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
NDS	Stratégie Nationale de Développement	National Development Strategy

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPOPD	National Platform for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon
NWAWWD	North West Association of Women with Disabilities
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPRPD	United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 1,830.0	2024

Government Expenditure by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	4.48 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	2.8 %	2023
Social protection (% of GDP)[3]	0.6 %	1994

Population

Total population	29,123,744	2024
Male (% of total population)	49.8 %	
Female (% of total population)	50.2 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	55.4 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	44.6 %	
Life expectancy at birth (total)	63.7 years	2023
Male	61.5 years	
Female	65.9 years	

Health

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	4.8 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	41.2	2023

Education

Education System[4]	6 years	
Primary education	6 years	
Compulsory education		
Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above)	72.5 %	2018
Adult male	79.7 %	
Adult female	66.2 %	

[1] Based on the World Bank Database (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator (Accessed: 14 January 2026)).
[2] Hereinafter referred to as "GDP."
[3] Based on the International Labour Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ILO") (https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 17 January 2026)).
[4] In Cameroon, owing to the historical background by which the French and British trust territories merged into a single state, two education systems inherited from the respective former colonial powers coexist. The French system comprises 6 years of primary, 4 years of lower secondary and 3 years of upper secondary education; the British system comprises 6 years of primary, 5 years of lower secondary and 2 years of upper secondary education; higher education is common, with a bachelor's degree taking 3 years. Children start school at age 6. Based on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)(2025) *Spotlight on basic education completion and foundational learning: Cameroon*. Under the 1998 Basic Education Act (Law No. 98/004), elementary education is considered compulsory..

School enrollment		
Primary (% gross) (total)	114.4 %	2024
Male	119.2 %	
Female	109.5 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	44.8 %	2023
Male	47.2 %	
Female	42.5 %	
Tertiary (% gross) (total)	16.7 %	2024
Male	17.0 %	
Female	16.4 %	

Employment

Unemployment (total)	3.6 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	3.2 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	4.2 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

Article 2 of the 2010 Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (Loi N°2010/002 du 13 Avril 2010 Portant Protection et Promotion des Personnes Handicapées)[5] defines disability as follows.

- Disability (Handicap): a limitation of the possibilities for full participation of a person with a disability in an activity in a given environment.
- Person with a disability (Personne handicapée): any person unable to provide for all or part of the necessities of a normal individual or social life, due to a physical or mental disability, whether congenital or not.
- Impairment (Déficience): any loss of substance or alteration of a psychological, physiological, or anatomical function or structure.
- Incapacity (Incapacité): any temporary, partial, or total reduction in the capacity to perform an activity in a manner or within the limits considered normal for a human being.
- Invalidity (Invalidité): the condition of a person whose work capacity, due to physical or mental impairments, is permanently reduced, and is assessed as a percentage.
- Infirmity (Infirmité): the situation of a person who, due to congenital or other causes, has an amputated or defective organ or limb.

[5] Republic of Cameroon (2010) *Loi N°2010/002 du 13 Avril 2010 Portant Protection et Promotion des Personnes Handicapées*, https://droitcamerounais.info/en/files/83.04.10-Loi-du-13-avril-2020_Personnes-handicapees.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

Article 3 further provides that the term "person with a disability" applies to physically disabled (motor disabilities, sensory disabilities such as blind, visual impairment, deaf, deaf-mute, mute, hard of hearing), mental disabilities (intellectual disabilities, persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (hereinafter referred to as "ASD"), cerebral palsy (infirmes moteurs cérébraux), Down syndrome, microcephaly and macrocephaly (micro et macrocéphales), psychiatric illnesses, and epilepsy, and multiple disabilities (this category includes persons with more than one disability).

The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[6] (hereinafter referred to as "UNPRPD") points out that, while the definition of disability in Cameroon's Law No. 2010/002 has a certain commonality with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "CRPD") from the standpoint of impairment, it does not pay sufficient attention to the interaction with environmental and attitudinal barriers that hinder the full and effective participation and autonomy of persons with disabilities[7]. It also points out, as an issue, that the law presupposes the concept of "normal" without defining its content.

1-2-2. Statistics on Disability

In the Republic of Cameroon (hereinafter referred to as "Cameroon"), the third population census was conducted in 2005, and the fourth census was in progress as of April 2026[8]. The results of the third census of 2005, therefore, constitute the latest statistical data. In Cameroon, neither the census (2005) nor major household surveys have adopted the United Nations Washington Group Short Set[9], and conventional questions directly asking about the presence and type of disability are used[10]. As a result, there are large discrepancies in the proportion of persons with disabilities between surveys, which may bias the identification of vulnerable groups[11]. Meanwhile, comparison with surveys using

[6] Actual United Nations Global Disability Fund (hereinafter referred to as "GDF").

[7] UNPRPD (2021). UNPRPD is an international partnership for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, bringing together UN agencies — including the ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO"), the United Nations Children's Fund (hereinafter referred to as "UNICEF"), UN Women and the World Health Organization, together with national governments and OPDs (such as the International Disability Alliance and the International Disability Caucus).

[8] https://cameroon.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2025-11/Brochure%20RGPH%20ENG.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[9] Fotso, A. et al. (2019) *A comparative analysis of disability measures in Cameroonian surveys. Population Health Metrics.* The Washington Group Short Set is a set of questions developed by the Washington Group established under the United Nations Statistical Commission to identify disability based on 6 items to understand the degree of functional difficulty (seeing, hearing, walking, remembering/concentrating, self-care and communication); it is widely used with the aim of developing internationally comparable disability statistics.

[10] The question identifying persons with disabilities is "Do you have a disability? If yes, what kind of a disability are you suffering from?" Source: ILO website, https://webapps.ilo.org/surveyLib/index.php/catalog/883 (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[11] Fotso et al. (2019); Mitra et al. (2021) *Invisible or Mainstream? Disability in Surveys and Censuses in Low- and Middle-*

that question set has shown that measurement based on functional difficulty exhibits more consistent socio-economic associations, and from the standpoint of monitoring under the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs") and the CRPD, the introduction of the Washington Group method is regarded as an issue[12]. Whether that question set was used in the 2026 census could not be confirmed in this study.

Number of persons with disabilities (ages 0 and above)	262,119	1.5% of the total population[13]	2005
Male	134,738		
Female	127,381		

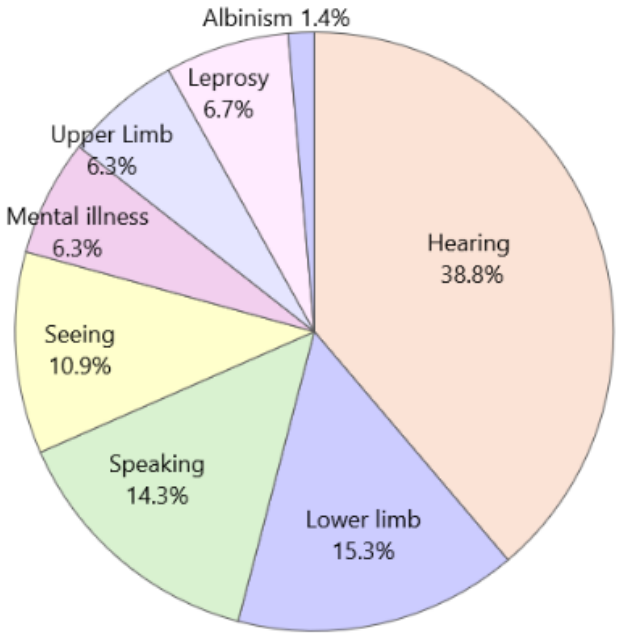


Figure 1[14]

The highest share is for "hearing" at 38.8%, far exceeding the other categories. This is followed by "lower limb" at 15.3%, "speaking" at 14.3% and "seeing" at 10.9%. By contrast, "mental illness" at 6.3%, "upper limb" at 6.3%, "leprosy" at 6.7% and "albinism" at 1.4% remain relatively low.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the third population census (2005)[15]

Income Countries. According to that study, the proportion of persons with disabilities (ages 15–49) was reported as 1.0% in the census (2005), 2.7% in the household survey (2007), 3.6% in the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), and 2.6% in a sample survey (ages 15–49) conducted in Yaoundé in that study using the Washington Group question set.

[12] *Ibid.*

[13] Republic of Cameroon (2005) *3ème RGPH Tome 13 - Situation Socioéconomique des Personnes Vivant avec un Handicap*, https://bucrep.org/download/25459/?tmstv=1776328341 (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[14] The share of each type among the reported types of disability and the combined total of leprosy and albinism.

[15] Republic of Cameroon (2005)

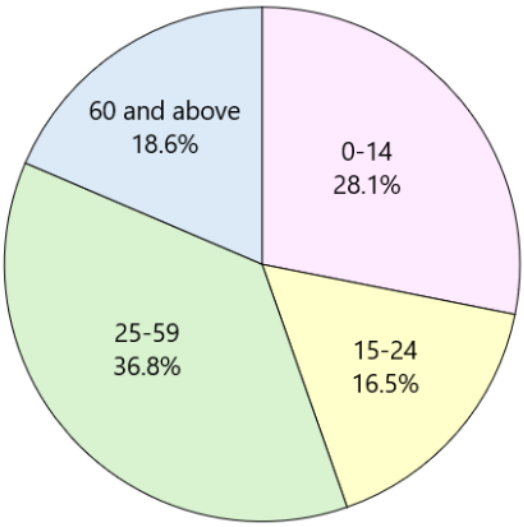


Figure 2

The highest share is the "25–39" group, at 36.8%. This is followed by "0–14" (28.1%) and "60 and above" (18.6%). The lowest is the "15–24" group (16.5%).

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the third population census (2005)[16]

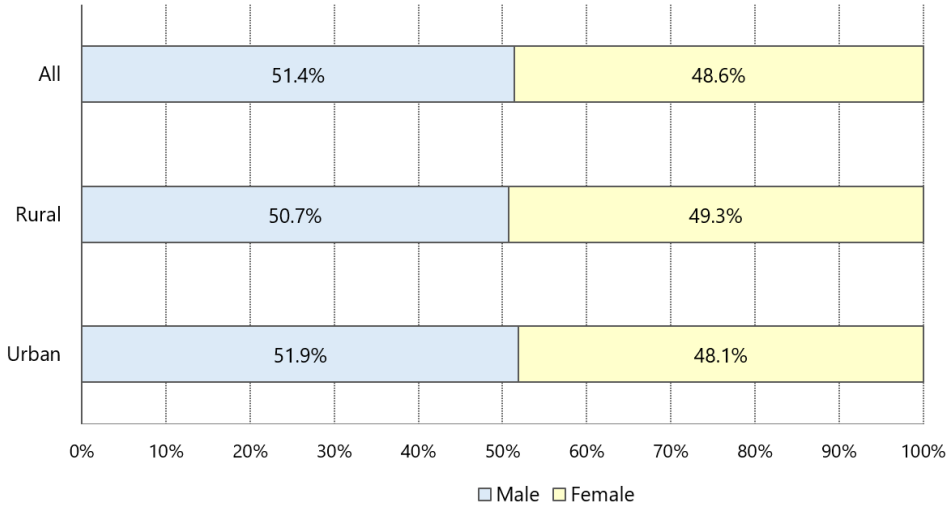


Figure 3

In "all" the male share is slightly higher, at 51.4%. Broken down into "rural" and "urban" the male share is also slightly higher, at 50.7% and 51.9% respectively.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the third population census (2005)[17]

[16] Republic of Cameroon (2005)

[17] *Ibid.*

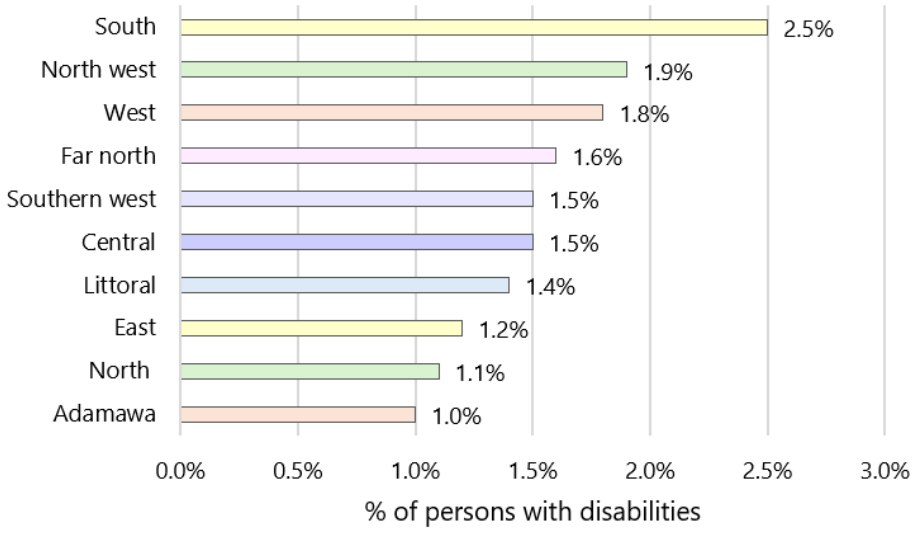


Figure 4

The highest share is in the "South" region, at 2.5%. This is followed by the "Northwest" (1.9%), "West" (1.8%), "Far north" (1.6%), "Southwest" (1.5%), "Central" (1.5%) and "Littoral" (1.4%). The relatively lower regions are the "East" (1.2%) and "North" (1.1%), and the lowest is "Adamawa" at 1.0%.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the third population census (2005)[18]

[18] Republic of Cameroon (2005)

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability

<Central Government>

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 1 Entities Responsible for Disability Issues in Cameroon

No.	Name	Overview
1	Ministry of Social Affairs (Ministère des Affaires Sociales)[19]	The main government institution monitoring the implementation of policies aimed at the protection, promotion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. As the lead institution for disability inclusion, it has a Directorate for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons[20].
2	Ministry of Basic Education (Ministère de l'Éducation de Base)[21]	The main institution responsible for primary education administration and involved in promoting educational access for children with disabilities. It plays an important role in promoting inclusive education and is introducing inclusive education pilot schools covering 69 schools[22]. It is also involved in providing teaching materials and assistive devices for children with disabilities and in promoting the transition from special needs education to inclusive education. Through cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Secondary Education, it is the core institution responsible for disability mainstreaming in the education sector[23].
3	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle)[24]	The institution responsible for vocational training, skills formation and employment promotion, involved in the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and the promotion of inclusive employment. Responsible for the vocational training of persons with disabilities and for improving their access to employment, it is expected to integrate disability-inclusive employment policy and skills development. The UNPRPD report identifies the strengthening of disability-inclusive employment and informal-sector support as fields requiring attention.
4	Ministry of Secondary Education	Responsible for secondary education administration and involved in securing schooling opportunities for children with disabilities. Through Joint Circular (No. 34/06/LC) with the

[19] For the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, and the Cameroon Human Rights Commission, an attempt was made to verify information on each ministry's official website, but the content could not be confirmed owing to access problems during the study period (pages not displaying / connection failures). This report therefore compiles information based on the available UNPRPD (2021).

[20] UNPRPD (2021)

[21] https://www.minedub.cm/en/multi-sector-validation-of-the-national-policy-of-inclusive-education-npie/ (Accessed: 25 April 2026)

[22] 68 schools in the Voluntary National Review (hereinafter referred to as "VNR") report, through which progress on the SDGs is reported to the UN.

[23] UNPRPD (2021)

[24] http://www.minefop.cm/fr/ (Accessed: 25 April 2026)

	(Ministère des Enseignements Secondaires)[25]	Ministry of Social Affairs in 2006, it introduced exemption from public secondary school registration fees for children with disabilities and for children of poor households with persons with disabilities. Through a further circular in 2007, it developed a system for identifying children with disabilities and reporting their needs, working on reasonable accommodation and improved educational access[26].
5	Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms (Ministère de la Fonction Publique et de la Réforme Administrative)[27]	Responsible for the civil service system and administrative reform. With regard to the employment of persons with disabilities, it is an institution that may be involved in implementing preferential measures in public recruitment and the prohibition of discrimination (Law No. 2010/002). From a disability-inclusion perspective, it is expected to provide reasonable accommodation in the public service, promote the recruitment of persons with disabilities, and mainstream disability into administrative reform[28]. In 2022, a list of successful candidates for posts in public health recruitment examinations was published for candidates with disabilities, confirming the tendency to recognize, to a certain extent, the access of persons with disabilities to public employment as a matter of institutional practice[29].
6	Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille)	Responsible for women's and family support policy and involved in support for women with disabilities and families of children with disabilities and in the intersectional issues of gender and disability. In the UNPRPD report, the promotion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities is positioned as a cross-cutting issue, and the ministry is expected to play a role connecting gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion. It is also related to family support, care and responses to gender-based violence[30].
7	Ministry of Public Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique)[31]	Responsible for health policy in general, including disability prevention, rehabilitation and improving access of persons with disabilities to healthcare. Under the Health Sector Strategy 2016–2027, it promotes universal health coverage, rehabilitation services, linkage with community health, and disability mainstreaming. In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and others, it is also involved in disability assessment and referral systems and in support for assistive devices[32].

[25] https://www.minesec.gov.cm/ (Accessed: 25 April 2026)
[26] UNPRPD (2021)
[27] https://www.minfopra.gov.cm/index.php/fr/ (Accessed: 25 April 2026)
[28] UNPRPD (2021)
[29] www.minfopra.gov.cm/images/2022/DDRHE/SANTEPUBLIQUE/Handicapes/infirmiers_Handicapes_Adminssibilite.pdf (Accessed: 25 April 2026)
[30] *Ibid.*
[31] Ministry of Public Health website, https://www.minsante.cm/site/?q=fr (Accessed: 25 April 2026)
[32] *Ibid.*

8	Cameroon Human Rights Commission (Commission des Droits de l'Homme du Cameroun)	An institution responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in Cameroon, responding to complaints and reports of human rights violations on the basis of self-referral or of information on serious, repeated or structural human rights violations. It is composed of 13 members, one of whom must be a representative of persons with disabilities. On this point, some organizations of persons with disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "OPDs") have expressed concern that, because the member is appointed by the executive, that member may feel more accountable to the executive than to the community of persons with disabilities and may not adequately represent the interests of persons with disabilities, particularly where those interests differ from the government's position[33].

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the documents mentioned in the table

Status of Coordination Mechanism

Name of the mechanism	National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities (Comité National de Réadaptation et de Réinsertion Socio-Économique des Personnes Handicapées; hereinafter referred to as "CONRHA")
Overview	Its reorganization was provided for by the 2018 "Decree on the reorganization of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities (Decret N°2018/6234/PM du 26 Jul 2018 Portant Reorganisation du Comite National pour la Readaptation et la Reinsertion Socio-Economique Des Personnes Handicapees)"[34]. Chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs, it is a government-led advisory and coordination platform, positioned as a national-level framework responsible for coordination, advice and the promotion of mainstreaming on disability policy, with the participation of OPDs, civil society, relevant ministries, development partners and the private sector[35].
Commission Members[36]	• The chair is the Minister of Social Affairs. The chair may invite external experts to attend with an advisory voice depending on the agenda. • The members comprise representatives of the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office, and the ministries responsible for social affairs, decentralization, health, basic education,

[33] UNPRPD (2021)

[34] Republic of Cameroon (2018a) Decret N°2018/6234/PM du 26 Jul 2018 Portant Reorganisation du Comité National pour la Readaptation et la Reinsertion Socio-Economique Des Personnes Handicapees

[35] UNPRPD (2021)

[36] Republic of Cameroon (2018a)

	secondary education, higher education, finance, employment and vocational training, family, youth, sports, the public service, small and medium-sized enterprises, housing and public works, plus four OPD representatives, one representative of the Cameroon National Paralympic Committee, and representatives of the most representative trade union confederations on the workers' and employers' sides. ・ Members are nominated by their institutions and serve a two-year term, renewable once.
Role and status of operation[37]	CONRHA's main roles and responsibilities are as follows: 1) To coordinate the efforts of public institutions, civil society organizations and private actors. 2) To support the formulation of the government's disability policy and participate in its evaluation. 3) To give opinions on technical matters concerning persons with disabilities. 4) To promote awareness of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. 5) To promote disability mainstreaming in the policies, plans and projects of each sector. ・ It is required to prepare, by 1 October each year, an evaluation report on the implementation status of the government's disability policy and to submit it to the Prime Minister through the chair. ・ Ordinary sessions are held twice a year at the chair's convocation. Extraordinary sessions may be held as needed on the proposal of the chair or of two-thirds of the members. Decisions are taken by simple majority, with the chair holding the casting vote in the event of a tie. ・ Four specialized committees are established: “Education, Vocational Training, Employment and Health,” “Access to Infrastructure, Social Housing and Transport,” “Citizenship and Political Integration,” and “Sports, Leisure, Culture and Communication.” ・ A standing technical secretariat is established, with the roles of receiving, registering and forwarding documents, preparing matters for committee deliberation, providing meeting administration, following up recommendations, preparing activity reports and action plans, archiving documents and official records, and carrying out other tasks referred to by the committee. The secretariat is placed under the coordination of the Director responsible for the protection of persons with disabilities (Directeur chargé de

[37] *Ibid.*

	la protection des personnes handicapées), with four officers appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs. ・ The duties of the chair, members, secretariat, specialized committee members and members of the regional and departmental sub-structures are unpaid, but the costs of attending meetings are reimbursed in accordance with the regulations in force. The operating budget is borne by the Ministry of Social Affairs. ・ The following activities are implemented; an ordinary session in 2022[38], pilot sessions in Bafoussam and Bamenda in 2023[39], a regional pilot session in Douala in 2024[40], and, as of February 2026, the development of implementing rules for the CONRHA organizational decree as part of an ongoing project supported by UNESCO[41].

<Local Government>

Cameroon's administrative divisions are organized into 10 regions (Région), 58 departments (Département) and 360 communes/sub-divisions (Commune/Arrondissement) [42]. Under the decentralization framework, local authorities are established at the regional and communal levels[43].

Name	Overview
Regional delegations (délégations régionales) and departmental delegations (délégations départementales) of the Ministry of Social Affairs	As the local implementation structure of the Ministry of Social Affairs, 10 regional delegations (délégations régionales) and 58 departmental delegations (délégations départementales) are established.
Decentralised territorial authorities (collectivités territoriales décentralisées)	・ The 2010 Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities imposes responsibilities for the prevention and inclusion of disability not only on the State but also on decentralized territorial authorities. Under the law, the territorial authorities, together with the State, are involved in ensuring access to vaccination, public health education, information, education and communication activities for

[38] https://www.spm.gov.cm/site/sites/default/files/rapport_minjustice_sddh_anglais_2022.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[39] https://cnudhd.com/fr/actualite/l-apres-ratification-de-la-convention-relative-aux-droits-des-personnes-handicapees-en-debat/165/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[40] https://cnudhd.com/fr/actualite/session-regionale-2023-de-la-conrha-a-douala/186/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[41] https://www.unesco.org/fr/articles/le-comite-de-pilotage-du-projet-disability-ex-unprpd-examine-les-acquis-pour-linclusion-au-cameroun (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[42] https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/international-programs/mapping-files/time-series/Cameroon-Technical-Document.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[43] https://cameroonhighcommission.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/law_no_2019_024_24122019.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

	disability prevention, hygiene and safety measures in workplaces and living spaces, and the prevention of disability arising from disasters, transport and environmental pollution[44]. ・ The law also provides that territorial authorities are involved in the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. Specifically, this includes the development of medical rehabilitation and functional training facilities, the development of facilities for inclusive and special education, the training of specialized personnel, access to information, access to buildings, housing and transport, and the promotion of participation in sports and leisure[45]. ・ The law's implementing decree (Decree No. 2018/6233/PM of 26 July 2018) provides that the State and territorial authorities shall advance vocational training suited to persons with disabilities, employment support centers, sheltered employment, accessibility of buildings and roads, priority access to public housing, preferential measures in public transport, access to communication and information, and the promotion of participation in sports, culture and leisure[46].
CONRHA	It is provided that CONRHA shall have regional (régionaux) and departmental (départementaux) sub-structures, but their specific organization and operation are left to the decision of the Minister of Social Affairs, and the decree establishing CONRHA does not set out their detailed composition[47].

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability

Under the current Constitution of Cameroon, as constituted by the 1996 constitutional amendment, the preamble provides that the State shall protect women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. The same preamble also sets out the equal rights and duties of all and the State's provision of the conditions necessary for the development of all citizens. Article 1(2) defines Cameroon as a "decentralized unitary State dedicated to social service" and guarantees equality before the law in the same article[48]. The 2010 "Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities" is the basic law concerning persons with disabilities.

[44] Republic of Cameroon (2010)
[45] *Ibid.*
[46] Republic of Cameroon (2018b) *Decret N°2018/6233/PM du 26 Jul 2018 Fixant les Modalites d'application de la Loi N° 2010/002 du 13 Avril 2010 Portant Protection et Promotion des Personnes Handicapees*
[47] Republic of Cameroon (2018a)
[48] Republic of Cameroon (1996) *Law No. 96-6 of 18 January 1996 to amend the Constitution of 2 June, 1972 Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon*, https://www.assnat.cm/images/The_constitution.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

Title	Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[49] (Loi N°2010/002 du 13 Avril 2010 Portant Protection et Promotion des Personnes Handicapées)
Year of enactment	2010
Overview	・ A law aimed at the protection and promotion of the social participation of persons with disabilities, indicating that the State, families and private actors should cooperate to advance support for persons with disabilities. Its content is structured around three pillars: prevention of disability, rehabilitation, and participation in socio-economic activities. ・ Prevention of disability through vaccination, pre-marital, prenatal and postnatal check-ups, and check-ups at schools and workplaces is emphasized. ・ Rehabilitation includes psychosocial support, medical and functional recovery training, and special needs education. ・ For participation in socio-economic activities, the law provides a mechanism whereby persons with disabilities living in poverty are granted medical-cost support and a disability allowance. It also makes the guarantee of access to education, vocational training, information, culture, housing, transport, sports and employment an important pillar. In employment, it prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability and permits preferential recruitment and sheltered employment where conditions are met. ・ It sets out the definitions of disability and persons with disabilities, the types of disability, and the method of certification by a physician. ・ It also establishes a disability card system and provides penalties for fraudulent acquisition and acts of discrimination.

Other laws relating to persons with disabilities are as follows.

Title	Decree establishing the implementing procedures of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[50] (Decret N°2018/6233/PM du 26 Jul 2018 Fixant les Modalites d'application de la Loi N° 2010/002 du 13 Avril 2010 Portant Protection et Promotion des Personnes Handicapees)
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	・ Sets out the implementing rules for the operation of the 2010 Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities. The principal beneficiaries are persons with disabilities who hold a national disability card and have a Permanent Potential Incapacity (Incapacité Potentielle Permanente: IPP) of 50% or more. ・ In education, it provides that admission to a regular school may

[49] Republic of Cameroon (2010)
[50] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)

	not be refused on the grounds of disability and that inclusive education shall be advanced. It allows accommodations such as extended examination time, adjustment of examination methods and the provision of special examination rooms. ・ In vocational training and employment, it provides for relaxation of age limits, preferential recruitment, prohibition of discrimination and workplace adjustments. For persons with severe disabilities, it provides sheltered employment suited to their condition, entrepreneurship support and tax incentives. ・ In buildings, housing and transport, it provides for accessibility, priority in public housing, transport-fare discounts and boarding/alighting support. ・ In communication and information, it incorporates information accessibility such as braille signage, sign language interpretation, captioning and hearing-loop equipment. ・ For persons with disabilities living in poverty, it provides, subject to conditions, a disability allowance, reduction or exemption of medical costs, subsidies for assistive devices, and medical transport support when needed.

Title	Decree on the reorganization of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities[51] (Decret N°2018/6234/PM du 26 Jul 2018 Portant Reorganisation du Comite National pour la Readaptation et la Reinsertion Socio-Economique Des Personnes Handicapees)
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	Provides for the establishment of CONRHA and the above-mentioned matters concerning the committee's organization, roles, etc.

Title	Order on the age exemption for persons with disabilities in competitive examinations and recruitment into the public service[52] (ARRETE N° 040/PM DU 19 MAI 2022 fixant les modalités d'octroi de la dispense d'âge aux personnes handicapées lors des concours administratifs et des recrutements dans la Fonction Publique de l'Etat)
Year of enactment	2022
Overview	Sets the conditions for relaxing age limits when persons with disabilities apply for public service recruitment examinations or recruitment into the public service. The beneficiaries are persons with

[51] Republic of Cameroon (2018a)

[52] Republic of Cameroon (2022) *ARRETE N° 040/PM DU 19 MAI 2022 fixant les modalités d'octroi de la dispense d'âge aux personnes handicapées lors des concours administratifs et des recrutements dans la Fonction Publique de l'Etat,* https://www.spm.gov.cm/site/sites/default/files/arrete_n_040_du_19_mai.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

	disabilities who have completed vocational, school or university education and hold a national disability card; the age exemption is granted up to a maximum of 5 years beyond the upper age limit set in the call for applications. However, final success or recruitment is conditional on the post applied for being suited to the type and condition of the disability, with such suitability judged on the basis of a list of posts established by the Minister of Social Affairs. The notice of examination or recruitment must state the age exemption for persons with disabilities, and the application documents must indicate the presence of a disability and, where necessary, its type and degree. Furthermore, a person who succeeds through this age exemption may also benefit from the same exemption upon formal integration as a civil servant.

Title	Cameroon Vocational Training Law[53] (Loi N°2018/010 du 11 juillet 2018 régissant la formation professionnelle au Cameroun)
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	Although a general law on vocational training, it sets out as a basic principle, alongside "equality between men and women", the "elimination of inequalities affecting persons with disabilities in vocational training". It also provides that "special measures shall be established for the vocational training of persons with disabilities". In addition, the decree on the procedures of this law[54] provides that, where necessary, special provisions shall apply to candidates with disabilities regarding admission to vocational training centers and apprenticeship training centers.

Disability policies

Title	National Policy on Inclusive Education[55]
Year implemented	2024
Overview	Aims to advance access to education for all, targeting in particular learners requiring special support, including students with disabilities. It aims for at least 25% of persons with special needs to have access, by 2028, to equitable, inclusive and quality education, technical and vocational skills development and lifelong learning

[53] Republic of Cameroon (2018c) *Loi N°2018/010 du 11 juillet 2018 régissant la formation professionnelle au Cameroun*, https://gredevel.fr/index.php/thematiques/textes-et-lois/21-droit-du-travail?download=312%3Aloi-n-2018-010-du-11-juillet-2018-regissant-la-formation-professionnelle-au-cameroun (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[54] Republic of Cameroon (2020a) *Decret N° 2020/2529/PM du 19 juin 2020 fixant les modalités de création, d'organisation et de fonctionnement des centres de formation professionnelle et d'apprentissage*, https://droitcamerounais.info/en/files/512.06.20-Decret-du-19-juin-2020_Centres-de-formation-promotionnelle.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[55] Republic of Cameroon (2024) *National Policy on Inclusive Education*, https://www.globalpartnership.org/node/document/download?file=document/file/2024-11-national-policy-inclusive-education-cameroon.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

	opportunities in an appropriate, sound, safe and protected environment. It sets three specific objectives: 1) improving access of persons with special needs to a safe and protective support environment; 2) promoting training and the progression/assessment system concerning the education of persons with special educational needs; and 3) improving governance and partnership development.

Title	Cameroon Vision 2035 (Cameroun Vision 2035)[56]
Year implemented	2009
Overview	A long-term national development vision formulated by the government in 2009, a foundational document aiming for Cameroon to become an "emerging country" by 2035. It explicitly includes persons with disabilities among vulnerable groups, and its content covers the elimination of all forms of discrimination — particularly against women, youth, socially marginalized groups and other vulnerable groups — the expansion of social protection for vulnerable people, and the promotion of income-redistribution policies.

Title	National Development Strategy 2020–2030 (Stratégie Nationale de Développement 2020-2030: NDS-30)[57]
Year implemented	2020
Overview	A 10-year medium-term development strategy constituting the second phase of Vision 2035. Its formal title is "For structural transformation and inclusive development (Pour la transformation structurelle et le développement inclusif)," published in 2020 by the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development. It includes improving equal access to education for vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, the priority development of a system for distributing essential medicines to vulnerable people, the establishment of a nationwide cash-transfer system for the poor and vulnerable, the expansion of subsidies such as social benefits (including expanding the scope of material support to persons with disabilities and others), the strengthening of care, support, rehabilitation and training for particularly vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, and ensuring support for the activities of organizations assisting them and respect for their rights.

Title	Health Sector Strategy 2016–2027[58]
Year implemented	2016

[56] Republic of Cameroon (2009) *Cameroun Vision 2035*, https://www.cameroon-embassy.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Cameroon_VISION_2035_English_Version.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[57] Republic of Cameroon (2020b) *NDS30: National Development Strategy 2020-2030 For structural transformation and inclusive development*
[58] Republic of Cameroon (2016) *Health Sector Strategy 2016–2027*, https://www.minsante.cm/site/sites/default/files/HSS_english_0.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

Overview	・ The implementation plan of the Ministry of Public Health operationalized through the National Health Development Plan based on this strategy. ・ It explicitly addresses disability, stating that more than 5% of the population has at least one sensory or motor impairment, that the Ministry of Social Affairs has specialized rehabilitation facilities for persons with physical disabilities, that physiotherapy and physical rehabilitation are provided at some facilities under the Ministry of Public Health, and that the 2010 Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities is the legal framework for the prevention and management of disability. ・ It sets out the development of an integrated disability policy including mental disability, the strengthening of teams able to respond to disability at the field level, the strengthening of early detection and early rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, the development of disability management mechanisms at all levels of the health pyramid[59], and the strengthening of cooperation among the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family.

2-3. Measures on Disability

1) Healthcare

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[60] provides that preventive measures against disability include medical prevention, promoting health check-ups and vaccination pre-marriage, prenatally and postnatally, at schools and universities, and in workplaces.

The decree on the implementing procedures of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[61] provides the following support for persons with disabilities living in poverty.

- Disability allowance: granted to poor persons with disabilities who have a permanent impairment rate of 95% or more and who, based on a specialist's assessment report, require medical supervision and continuous care for their health condition. “Poverty” is determined on the basis of a social investigation conducted by the competent department of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Medical coverage: persons with disabilities meeting the above conditions receive,

[59] Cameroon's health administration is run as a three-tier pyramid centered on the Ministry of Public Health (central level, the intermediate level of the 10 regions, and 203 health districts). (Republic of Cameroon (2016))
[60] Republic of Cameroon (2010)
[61] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)

according to their permanent potential incapacity rate, a reduction in or exemption from consultation fees, examination fees, radiology or medical-imaging fees, hospitalization costs, medical transport costs, and the cost of certain medicines purchased at specialized facilities and public and private health facilities.

- Assistive devices: subsidies are granted for certain assistive devices for the treatment of specific diseases or for functional recovery training. The list of assistive devices is established by a joint specific document of the Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Public Health.
- Medical transport: where medical follow-up or functional recovery training can only be carried out at a medical institution abroad, the medical transport costs of poor persons with disabilities are subsidized. Such medical transport is granted on the basis of a social investigation conducted by the Minister of Social Affairs.

In addition, the Ministry of Public Health's sector strategy states, as noted above, that disability responses are to be strengthened across the entire health system[62].

Health status

According to the analysis in the Ministry of Public Health's 2016 Health Sector Strategy[63], more than 5% of the population (3.5% with sensory disabilities and 1.5% with motor disabilities) has at least one sensory or motor impairment. The prevalence of disability varies by region: broadly, prevalence is high in the southern and littoral regions (10–11%), average in the Centre, North West, West and Far North (6–7%), and low in the South West, East, North and Adamawa (3–5%).

Availability of Medical Services

A 2007 survey on the situation of persons with disabilities conducted by several OPDs and non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as "NGOs")[64] points out that, while some medical institutions in Cameroon provide special consideration for persons with disabilities, such as discounts on consultation, examination and laboratory fees upon presentation of a disability card, other institutions, especially private hospitals, show almost no consideration for persons with disabilities and treat them exactly the same as other patients regardless of disability. It also reports that not all persons with disabilities hold a disability card, and that even those who do are not always able to receive government

[62] Republic of Cameroon (2016)
[63] *Ibid.*
[64] African Union of the Blind (AFUB) and the Cameroon National Association for the Blind (CNAB) in partnership with Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) and Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired (SRF) (2007) *Study on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon*

medical services when they go to a health center.

Rehabilitation and Assistive Devices

According to the Ministry of Public Health's 2016 Health Sector Strategy[65], only the Ministry of Social Affairs has medical facilities specialized in the rehabilitation of persons with physical disabilities. Some medical facilities under the Ministry of Public Health provide physiotherapy and physical rehabilitation services. Efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of persons with motor and sensory disabilities are also being implemented in each region.

The government provides disability support services to persons with disabilities through the Ministry of Social Affairs and local social centers. Disability support services are the support persons with disabilities need to carry out ordinary activities and participate in society, including personal assistance, mobility aids, assistive devices and technology, decision-making support, communication support (such as sign language or guide interpreters) and community services[66].

Meanwhile, disability support services through the Ministry of Social Affairs' budget are limited, and the major source of disability support services is international NGOs and religious organizations. Because such support is sporadic and subject to various external factors, it is pointed out that many persons with disabilities are unable to use disability support services[67]. A survey on the situation of children with visual impairments in the town of Maroua in the Far north of Cameroon reported that fewer than 8% were able to use braille, touch pens and the like[68].

2) Education

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[69] defines special education for persons with disabilities as "enabling persons with physical, sensory, mental and multiple disabilities to acquire appropriate means of communication and subsequently to access ordinary schooling and vocational training". It also provides that the State, local authorities and civil society shall establish facilities for inclusive education and institutions for training instructors by disability type, and shall ensure the initial and continuing training of specialized personnel engaged in supporting persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the State shall grant subsidies for teaching materials and aids used in instructing persons with

[65] Republic of Cameroon (2016)
[66] UNPRPD (2021)
[67] *Ibid.*
[68] *Ibid.*
[69] Republic of Cameroon (2010)

disabilities who have special educational needs. The law also states that the State shall bear the education costs of students with disabilities living in poverty, and that children and young persons with any type of disability shall benefit from education and learning conditions suited to their condition.

The decree on the implementing procedures of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[70] provides that the education (and vocational training) of persons with disabilities shall be carried out, according to the nature or degree of disability, in ordinary schools (and training centers) or in specialized schools (and specialized training centers) established or subsidized by the State, but that disability shall in no case be grounds for refusing the admission or registration of a student in an ordinary school (or training center). It also provides that inclusive education shall be promoted through the following.

- Acquisition of appropriate communication methods enabling ordinary schooling
- Development of a standard framework in school and university education for the acquisition of sign language and braille
- Developing ordinary public school facilities so that students with disabilities can access classrooms more easily
- Deploying specialized teachers and training instructors in public schools and universities that admit students with disabilities
- Deploying qualified personnel in private special needs education institutions
- Initial and continuing training for specialized personnel engaged in supporting persons with disabilities
- Providing students with disabilities with appropriate teaching materials and aids according to the type of disability
- Use of sign language interpreters in schools or universities
- Introducing examination methods that take into account the needs of deaf persons
- Placing students with disabilities in ground-floor classrooms or near the blackboard, according to the type of disability
- Exemption from age limits

The National Policy on Inclusive Education[71], as noted above, aims for at least 25% of persons with special educational needs (with targets of converting 1,200 schools, training 8,000 teachers and supporting 22,000 children with disabilities[72]) to receive equitable and quality inclusive education by 2028, with implementation proceeding along three strategic

[70] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)
[71] Republic of Cameroon (2024)
[72] Website of the international NGO Sightsavers, https://www.sightsavers.org/news/2024/11/cameroon-approves-landmark-inclusive-education-policy/ (Accessed: 25 April 2026)

axes — access, quality and governance — and adopting a model that combines specialized support within ordinary classrooms and training environments. A phased rollout plan for 2024–2028, indicators to measure achievement, and a comparison of scenarios reflecting feasibility are presented.

Enrollment status

According to the results of the third population census of 2005[73], the national primary school enrollment rate was 75.5%, whereas the enrollment rate for children with disabilities was 69.9%. This gap exists regardless of region or sex. By sex, the enrollment rate for boys with disabilities was 70.6%, while for girls it was 69.0%. By type of disability, as shown in Table 2 below, the rate is below 50% for children with speech disabilities and mental disabilities (malade mental).

Table 2 1[74]

	Male	Female	Total
Hearing impairment	71.6	70.7	71.2
Speech disability	41.9	45.7	43.7
Visual impairment	54.0	59.4	56.6
Leprosy	73.8	67.1	71.0
Upper-limb disability	73.3	69.6	71.8
Lower-limb disability	67.6	61.5	64.9
Mental disability[75]	51.9	38.4	46.3
Albinism (congenital)	84.8	88.8	86.9

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the third population census (2005)[76]

The situational analysis in the 2024 National Policy on Inclusive Education[77] states that 74.8% of persons with disabilities are not in school. For primary education in the 2020/2021 school year, 10,311 children with disabilities were identified within the primary education population. By breakdown, children with visual impairments were the most numerous, followed by physical disabilities and hearing impairments. For secondary education (including general and technical/vocational education), it states that 3,672 students with disabilities (1,784 female and 1,888 male) were enrolled in 2019.

[73] Republic of Cameroon (2005)
[74] In some regions (the North-West and South-West), children aged 6–12 were surveyed.
[75] The original term is malade mental.
[76] Republic of Cameroon (2005)
[77] Republic of Cameroon (2024) National Policy on Inclusive Education, https://www.globalpartnership.org/node/document/download?file=document/file/2024-11-national-policy-inclusive-education-cameroon.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

Inclusive education

According to UNPRPD's 2021 situational analysis report on persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Basic Education launched a pilot inclusive-education program in 69 primary schools in which students with disabilities and other students attend class together. Similar efforts are also called for at the secondary level[78]. However, in Cameroon a special education system that separates students with disabilities from other students remains predominant.

Special school

It is very difficult for children with disabilities to be admitted to ordinary schools, and students with disabilities are often admitted to special schools run by NGOs and private organizations[79]. As of 2012, there were 19 special schools in the country, of which 16 were run by missionaries and 3 by the government. These special schools are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs and instruct children with severe and most severe disabilities[80].

In addition, special needs education is provided at 47 disability facilities in 10 regions of the country. According to the Ministry of Social Affairs' 2010 statistics, 3,992 persons with disabilities were in residential facilities, comprising 1,552 persons with physical disabilities, 883 with hearing impairments, 281 with visual impairments, 106 with intellectual disabilities, 1,070 with multiple disabilities such as visual impairments, hearing impairments and ASD, and 100 others[81].

3) Gender

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities and its implementing decree contain no provisions on gender[82]. The Africa regional situational report prepared in connection with Beijing+25[83] points out that the law needs to be revised to incorporate a clear gender perspective[84]. In addition, the National Gender Policy 2011–2020, the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence 2022–2026 and others have been formulated, and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family is working on countermeasures[85],

[78] UNPRPD (2021)
[79] https://education-profiles.org/fr/afrique-sub-saharienne/cameroun/~inclusion (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[80] Ibid.
[81] Fotso Fotue, Arlette, Pierre Fonkoua, and Claude Désiré Noumbissie (2024) *"Les contraintes de l'éducation inclusive dans le sous-secteur de l'enseignement de base au Cameroun." Collection Pluraxes / Monde*, https://edition-efua.acaref.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2024/05/5-ARLETTE-FOTSO-FOTUE.pdf (Accessed: 28 May 2026)
[82] UNPRPD (2021)
[83] Beijing+25 refers to international efforts and progress assessment for gender equality and the empowerment of women in 2020, marking the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.
[84] https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Perspectives_of_African_Women_with_Disabilities_Beijing%2B25_efee74e5.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[85] Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (2024) *Women and Men, Girls and Boys in*

but whether these policies and strategies contain specific measures specific to women and girls with disabilities could not be confirmed in this study.

Situation of women with disabilities

According to an analysis based on the results of the third population census, the incidence of disability is higher among women than men in both rural and urban areas. In the city of Douala, women with disabilities accounted for 4.0%, compared with 2.3% for men. In the city of Yaoundé, the gender gap in disability was somewhat larger, with women with disabilities at 3.3% compared with 1.4% for men. In rural areas, the gender gap in disability was relatively small (4.3% for women versus 3.7% for men)[86].

At the women's empowerment vocational training center in the Northwest region run by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, tuition-free training is provided that also targets women and girls with disabilities. Meanwhile, government support is limited, and international NGOs and support organizations provide assistance[87].

The participation of persons with disabilities, especially women, in local and central governing bodies is very limited. In the National Assembly, there is only one man with a disability serving as an alternate member in the Senate. At the local level, 2.4% of local council members are persons with disabilities, of whom only one is a woman[88]. When the government decided to recruit 25,000 civil servants in 2010, it allocated a certain number to persons with disabilities suited to various posts. This gave some women and girls with disabilities the opportunity to be recruited as civil servants[89].

4) Vocational Training and Employment

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[90] provides the following in relation to the employment of persons with disabilities.

- Persons with disabilities who have received vocational training or school education shall, where the post suits their condition, receive preferential measures — particularly age-limit exemption — compared with persons without disabilities in recruitment to

Cameroon, https://ins-cameroun.cm/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Factbook_Cameroon_EN_2025_01_17.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

86 Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (2024)

87 https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Perspectives_of_African_Women_with_Disabilities_Beijing%2B25_efee74e5.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

88 UNPRPD (2021)

89 https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/uploads/documents/Perspectives_of_African_Women_with_Disabilities_Beijing%2B25_efee74e5.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

90 Republic of Cameroon (2010)

public and private employment.

- Where qualifications are equal, priority in recruitment shall be given to persons with disabilities.
- Examinations imposed on persons with disabilities shall be suited to their condition.
- In no case shall disability be grounds for rejecting an application or for discrimination.
- Persons with disabilities who, owing to the severity of their disability, cannot cope with ordinary working conditions in an ordinary working environment shall benefit from sheltered employment. Sheltered employment means work adjusted in light of the functional possibilities and productive capacity of the person with a disability.

The decree on the implementing procedures of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[91] provides, regarding the above preferential measures in recruitment, that for public service recruitment the age limit may be relaxed by up to 5 years, that application forms shall include items distinguishing persons with disabilities from persons without disabilities, and that a worker in either the public or private sector who acquires a disability likely to impede the continuation of ordinary duties shall not be dismissed on the grounds of that disability.

The 1983 law on the protection of persons with disabilities and the 1990 decree establishing its implementing rules (Décret n° 90/1516 du 26 novembre 1990 fixant les modalités d'application de la loi n° 83/013 du 21 juillet 1983 relative à la protection des personnes handicapées) provided that "public and private enterprises shall allocate at least 10% of posts that persons with disabilities can hold to them"[92], but the current law above contains no provision on quotas.

The Labor Code (Loi n° 92/007 du 14 août 1992 portant Code du travail) contains no provisions specific to persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities are not listed among the prohibited grounds of discrimination[93]. Meanwhile, the decree on the organization of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (Décret n° 2005/123 du 15 avril 2005 portant organisation du Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle) lists, among the ministry's tasks, the job placement and employment monitoring of trained young people, whether or not they have disabilities[94].

[91] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)

[92] Republic of Cameroun (1990) *Décret n° 90/1516 du 26 novembre 1990 fixant les modalités d'application de la loi n° 83/013 du 21 juillet 1983 relative à la protection des personnes handicapées*, https://ecommons.cornell.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/2eb3b6f1-b434-4675-9877-e81b0c76b55b/content (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[93] Republic of Cameroon (1992) *Loi n°92/007 du 14 août 1992 portant Code du travail*, https://droitcamerounais.info/files/82.08.92-Loi-du-14-aout-1992_Code-du-travail.pdf (Accessed: 10 Aprild 2026)

[94] https://www.spm.gov.cm/site/?q=fr/content/d%C3%A9cret-n%C2%B0-2005123-du-15-avril-2005-portant-organisation-du-minist%C3%A8re-de-lemploi-et-de-la

Status of Employment

According to the results of the third population census, the employment rate of persons with disabilities was 46.5% (compared with 56.9% for others), at 43.1% in urban areas and 48.9% in rural areas. The rate was higher for men (53.0%) than for women (39.3%). By occupation, the share engaged in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing was the highest regardless of disability, but persons with disabilities had a high share of 71.1% (compared with 63.6% for others). In particular, 79.2% of women with disabilities were engaged in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing. By type of disability, persons with visual impairments, mental disabilities, leprosy, and to a lesser extent upper-limb disabilities and speech disabilities, were most engaged in the primary sector (agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing), with respective shares of 85.1%, 84.3%, 82.7%, 74.3% and 72.9%. By contrast, persons with albinism, lower-limb disabilities and hearing disabilities accounted for a relatively high share in other industrial sectors[95].

Regarding the employment sector (formal employment, agricultural informal employment and non-agricultural informal employment), 89.6% of persons with disabilities were in informal employment, 2.4 points higher than 87.3% for others. Of these, agricultural informal employment was 68.0% for persons with disabilities versus 60.8% for others, 8 points higher. Non-agricultural informal employment was 21.6% for persons with disabilities versus 26.5% for others, 4.9 points lower. Formal employment was 10.4% for persons with disabilities versus 12.7% for others, 2.3 points lower. On this point, the difference between rural and urban areas is large: as shown in Table 3, the share of persons with disabilities in rural areas in formal employment is very low (3.8% for men and 1.1% for women, 2.6% overall), with a high share in agricultural informal employment. In urban areas, non-agricultural informal employment accounts for about half.

According to an occupational survey of 286 persons with functional impairments in the capital, Yaoundé, conducted from July 2007 to March 2012[96], there were various occupations — civil servants employed through the disability employment scheme, Christian missionary teachers, resale businesses using disability-discount fares, ethnic-group-specific butchery and the sale of farm produce at markets, copy and laminating shops around schools and government offices, mobile phone repair, barbering, and day labour at construction sites — and in particular, 121 persons engaged in begging[97].

[95] Republic of Cameroon (2005)

[96] Toda, M. (2023) *"Disability and Gender among Women with Disabilities in Cameroon," Japanese Journal of Cultural Anthropology, Vol. 87, No. 4, pp. 653–669* [In Japanese].

[97] Because rehabilitation services are concentrated in cities, many persons with disabilities visit Yaoundé from rural areas for short periods to receive services, and it is explained that the vast majority, 75% (91 out of 121 people), are those staying for less than a year, such as "migrant workers".

Table 3 Employment of persons with disabilities (ages 15 and above) by employment sector (%)

	Urban		Rural		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Formal employment	29.4	19.8	3.8	1.1	13.1	6.4
Non-agricultural informal employment	48.3	44.8	11.4	5.9	24.8	16.9
Agricultural informal employment	22.3	35.4	84.8	92.9	62.1	76.8

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the third population census (2005)[98]

Vocational Training

As described under "2) Education," the inclusive responsiveness of vocational training centers is being promoted in the same way as for schools, and it is prohibited to refuse admission to a vocational training center on the grounds of disability[99]. There are 1,761 vocational training centers nationwide in Cameroon[100], operated mainly under the supervision of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. The Vocational Training Law provides for the elimination of inequalities affecting persons with disabilities and special measures for their vocational training[101]. Meanwhile, it is pointed out that many persons with disabilities have no opportunity for vocational training and, as a result, cannot obtain employment[102]. The government has almost no specialized vocational training institutions for persons with disabilities, and actual training opportunities depend on private, religious and charitable facilities[103].

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[104] establishes a national disability card for persons with disabilities and provides that cardholders may receive full or partial subsidies for medical rehabilitation and functional recovery training at

[98] *Ibid.*
[99] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)
[100] Republic of Cameroon (n.d.) *Annuaire Statistique de la Formation Professionnelle 2020-2021*, https://ins-cameroun.cm/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ANNUAIRE-STATISTIQUE-DE-LA-FOP-2020-2021-FINAL.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[101] Republic of Cameroon (2018c)
[102] UNPRPD (2021)
[103] African Union of the Blind (AFUB) and the Cameroon National Association for the Blind (CNAB) in partnership with Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) and Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired (SRF) (2007)
[104] Republic of Cameroon (2010)

specialized public and private health facilities, discounted fares on public transport, priority in boarding and alighting, and the securing of priority seating, among other support and services. The decree on the implementing procedures of the law[105] further provides that persons with disabilities who hold a national disability card and can certify a Permanent Potential Incapacity (Incapacité Potentielle Permanente; hereinafter referred to as "IPP")[106] of 50% or more are eligible for welfare services such as reduced rents or priority allocation in public housing, scholarship schemes, a disability allowance and medical coverage (subject to conditions based on the IPP rate), and subsidies for the purchase of assistive devices.

Service Provision

The issuance of disability cards is handled mainly by the social welfare centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which, within their assessment and referral system, work with specialized medical centers such as the Etoug-Ebe Disability Centre in Yaoundé to determine the type and degree of disability and issue disability cards to persons with disabilities. This entitles persons with disabilities to the various services and preferential measures provided by law[107]. Meanwhile, persons with disabilities living in remote areas where there is no social welfare center face difficulties in obtaining a disability card, and it is pointed out that more than 40% of persons with disabilities are unaware of assessment and referral services, including how to obtain a disability card[108]. There are 32 social welfare centers in the country's medical facilities, and social workers are insufficient in both quality and quantity[109].

Cameroon also has a social insurance scheme operated mainly by the National Social Insurance Fund (Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale). Its beneficiaries are mainly private-sector employees, with some non-employees such as the self-employed able to join voluntarily, and it provides three branches of benefits — 1) family benefits, 2) old-age, disability and survivors' pensions, and 3) employment injury and occupational disease — but illness and unemployment are not normally covered[110]. Civil servants have a separate scheme[111]. The proportion of the population receiving at least one of these forms of social

[105] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)

[106] Determined on the basis of medical evidence and a specialist's assessment, in accordance with the "Reference framework for assessing impairments and disabilities of persons with disabilities in Cameroon (Référentiel d'évaluation des déficiences et des incapacités des personnes handicapées au Cameroun)" Republic of Cameroon (2018) *Arrete Conjoint n°0001/MINSANTE/MINAS DU 13 Aou 2018 fixant les modalités d'établissement et de délivrance du Certificat Medical Special*, https://dpml.cm/images/Actualite/201808_ARRETE%20CONJOINT%20MINSANTE_MINAS%20CECERTIFICAT%20MEDICAL%20SPECIAL.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[107] UNPRPD (2021)

[108] UNPRPD (2021)

[109] *Ibid.*

[110] https://www.cnps.cm/en/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

[111] https://www.issa.int/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07/Cameroon.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

protection was 10% in 2022[112].

6) Transportation and Urban Development (including accessible urban planning)

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[113] provides that persons with disabilities who hold a national disability card receive preferential measures on public and private public transport, such as fare discounts, priority in boarding and alighting, and the securing of priority seating. The decree on the implementing procedures of the law[114] provides as follows regarding access to infrastructure and transport.

- The State, local authorities and public and private institutions shall take all necessary measures to make it easier for persons with disabilities to access buildings and facilities open to the public.
- When renovating or substantially rebuilding existing public and private buildings and facilities open to the public, they should be redeveloped to facilitate access and use by persons with disabilities.
- Building or operating permits shall be conditional on compliance with the above two paragraphs.
- When constructing transport routes, the provision of facilities for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account.

In the use of public transport, persons with disabilities shall also receive the following support.

- Introduction of public transport suited to persons with disabilities who have mobility restrictions
- Provision of ramps for public transport vehicles or passenger facilities
- Priority in purchasing tickets and in reception registration
- Priority in boarding and alighting
- Provision of assistive devices to facilitate the mobility of persons with disabilities
- Transport-fare discounts according to the permanent potential incapacity rate recorded on the national disability card
- Support through sign language for deaf persons
- Provision of information in braille for persons with visual impairments
- Clear designation of priority seating and dedicated zones in parking lots
- Other measures of any kind to facilitate the boarding and alighting of persons with disabilities on public transport

[112] https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/cmr/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[113] Republic of Cameroon (2010)
[114] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)

It is also provided that, where persons with disabilities need assistance with mobility, the attendant shall also receive a discount on the ticket fare, and that persons with disabilities shall receive customs and tax preferences when importing a vehicle suited to their disability.

Status of Accessibility

It is pointed out that the above provisions are frequently violated — for example, some recently built ministry buildings constructed by the government itself lack ramps or elevators to facilitate access for persons with motor impairments[115].

7) Information Accessibility

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[116] states that all appropriate measures shall be taken to facilitate access by persons with disabilities to information and communication technology. The decree on the implementing procedures of the law[117] provides that the State, local authorities and their sub-bodies shall guarantee access by persons with disabilities to communication and information through audiovisual means, means of communication and various media, citing the following as its measures.

- Braille and enlarged-character labelling on everyday goods
- Awareness raising on language and sign language for persons with audiovisual disabilities
- Installation of hearing-loop equipment in large public halls
- Sign language interpretation of television programs and commercials
- The provision of full, high-quality captioning on television or all audiovisual works

Status of Information Access

Sign language interpreters are not deployed at various public institutions (ministries, schools, public centers, etc.). It is pointed out that, even in public information conveying important information such as the main news on public television, sign language interpreters are hardly used, except in very rare cases such as weather forecasts. Very important laws and information are also not published in braille, and access for persons with disabilities is seriously problematic in the field of communication and information transmission as well[118].

8) Disaster Risk Management

[115] UNPRPD (2021)
[116] Republic of Cameroon (2010)
[117] Republic of Cameroon (2018b)
[118] UNPRPD (2021)

Status of Legislative Framework

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities[119] lists, as objects of disability prevention, domestic violence, public buildings, environmental pollution, natural disasters, rail, road, air and maritime transport, armed conflict and all other forms of violence, and positions the prevention of disability arising from disasters and armed conflict as a responsibility of the State and local authorities.

Special protective measures for persons with disabilities in natural disasters and emergencies could not be confirmed in this study. The UNPRPD report notes that the need for disability-inclusive responses is recognized in the humanitarian response field, and identifies the participation of OPDs and the strengthening of accessible emergency response as issues[120].

[119] Republic of Cameroon (2010)
[120] UNPRPD (2021)

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD

Cameroon ratified the CRPD on 28 September 2023. It has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[121]. No State Party's Report has yet been submitted; the first report was due on 28 October 2025 but, as of April 2026, had not been published on the UN treaty information site[122]. The dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of concluding observations are scheduled for around 15 August 2031[123].

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Government of Cameroon deposited its instrument of ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty with the World Intellectual Property Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WIPO") on 5 October 2021. With this ratification, the treaty entered into force for Cameroon on 5 January 2022[124]. The domestic law on copyright is the "Law on Copyright and Related Rights" (2000) (Loi n° 2000/011 du 19 décembre 2000 relative au droit d'auteur et aux droits voisins)[125], and the domestic body responsible for copyright is the Ministry of Arts and Culture[126]. As for Marrakesh Treaty authorized entities, no Cameroonian body is listed on WIPO's list of Authorized Entities[127]. Regarding the cross-border sharing of works, no Cameroonian body is listed among the participating organizations of the Global Book Service, which enables the exchange of books in accessible formats, operated by the Accessible Books Consortium[128].

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies

The Government of Cameroon works on the SDGs using the National Development Strategy NDS-30 (2020–2030) as its domestic implementation framework, and has incorporated, in particular, SDG-related sectoral actions into that plan[129].

Cameroon conducted Voluntary National Reviews, through which progress on the SDGs is

[121] https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=30&Lang=EN (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[122] https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx?CountryCode=CMR&Lang=EN (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[123] *Ibid.*
[124] https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/notifications/details/treaty_marrakesh_84 (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[125] https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/836 (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[126] https://www.wipo.int/en/web/country-profiles/directory-ip-offices (Accessed: April 2026)
[127] https://www.wipo.int/en/web/marrakesh-treaty/authorized-entities (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[128] https://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/en/web/abc/globalbooks#B (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[129] Republic of Cameroon (2020)

reported to the UN, in 2019 and 2022. In the 2022 review, it reported the following[130].

- Continuous efforts are being made to ensure the construction of infrastructure usable by all, in accordance with the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities and the decree on its implementing procedures.
- That, in relation to SDG 4, measures are being strengthened to make it easier for disadvantaged children, children with disabilities and ethnic minorities to receive inclusive education.
- That, in relation to SDG 8, efforts are being made to ensure that all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, can obtain decent work and appropriate remuneration (the underemployment rate, including young people and persons with disabilities, fell by 4 points, from 69% in 2010 to 65% in 2021).
- That, in relation to SDG 11, in May 2022, a decree was signed establishing procedures for the age-limit exemption for persons with disabilities in public service entrance examinations and recruitment processes.

The report was also prepared under a participatory approach, with the involvement of OPDs.

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

Cameroon ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW") in 1994. In the most recent concluding observations submitted by the CEDAW Committee in 2014, concern was expressed about the lack of adequate protection and support for disadvantaged groups of women, including women with disabilities, and recommendations were made to raise public awareness in order to eliminate prejudice against disadvantaged women, including women with disabilities, and to ensure that these women and girls can receive support for income-generating activities without discrimination[131].

Cameroon ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "CRC") in 1993. The most recent concluding observations from the CRC Committee (2017) recommend the formulation and implementation of comprehensive legislation to protect all children, including children with disabilities, from discrimination; the repeal of discriminatory provisions on the naturalization of children with disabilities; and concrete measures of

[130] Republic of Cameroon (2022) *Examen National Volontaire des ODD, Cameroun*, https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Rapport%20VNR%202022%20du%20Cameroun.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

[131] UNPRPD (2021)

prevention, protection and rehabilitation to address sexual and gender-based violence against children, including children with disabilities. In particular, a special chapter on children with disabilities was included, with the following recommendations.

- Promptly promulgate the draft decree on the implementation of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities and mandate the provision of reasonable accommodation.
- Take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities can access healthcare, including early detection and early intervention programs.
- Immediately discharge children placed in institutions on the grounds of disability and enable them to receive support in the community.
- Implement the national policy on inclusive education, train specialized teachers and specialists and deploy them in inclusive education classes, and provide individualized support and adequate accommodation to children with learning difficulties.
- Conduct awareness campaigns target families of children with disabilities, teachers and society as a whole to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against children with disabilities and to promote a positive image of children with disabilities.

Cameroon has not ratified the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (ILO Convention No. 159)[132].

Regarding the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (African Disability Protocol: ADP; adopted in 2018, entered into force in 2024), which is a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities that maintains the principles of the CRPD while reflecting Africa's own context, Cameroon is one of the 15 African countries that ratified the treaty at its inception[133].

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[134]

• The Government of Japan[135]

<Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects>

- Project to expand the Louis Braille Comprehensive Bilingual Primary School and Kindergarten (2024)[136]

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[132] https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103038 (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

[133] In addition to Cameroon: Angola, Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Uganda — 15 countries in total. https://africandisabilityforum.org/press-release-ratifications-of-the-protocol-to-the-african-charter-on-human-and-peoples-rights-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-africa/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

[134] Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.

[135] JICA (2025) *Aiming for a world where all people benefit: Initiatives for "Disability and Development"* [In Japanese].

[136] https://www.cmr.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100609218.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

- Project to construct classrooms and toilets at Sainte Marie de Bankim Catholic Bilingual Primary School (2024)[137]

<Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers>

- Volunteers in "Community development" and "Youth activities" assigned to the Club of Rehabilitated Young Blind People of Cameroon (2025–2026)[138]

• Other Donors

<International Organizations>

GDF

- Strengthening Disability Rights, Accessibility, Inclusive Services and Non-Discrimination in Cameroon (2021–2026)[139]

UNICEF

- Inclusive Education Project (2020–) (funded by the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada))[140]

UNESCO

- Offering opportunities to women with disabilities in Cameroon's cultural industries (2013–2014) (funded by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and implemented by the Association of Active Women with Disabilities of Cameroon (Association des Femmes Handicapées Actives du Cameroun (AFHAC))[141]

<Bilateral and multilateral donors>

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung; hereinafter referred to as "BMZ")

- Strengthening Ear and Hearing Health Care capacities in Cameroon (2025–2028) (funded by BMZ and implemented by Christian Blind Mission (CBM) and Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS))[142]

[137] *Ibid.*

[138] https://www.jocv-info.jica.go.jp/jv/index.php?m=List&cID=569&n=y&period=2024%7C%E7%A7%8B (Accessed: 15 April 2026). Although the request information could be confirmed, the actual dispatch record could not be confirmed from publicly available materials.

[139] Implemented by UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Population Fund and others. Australia, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom are listed as the main funding countries. https://globaldisabilityfund.org/programme/cameroon/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

[140] https://www.unicef.org/cameroon/stories/quality-education-all (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

[141] https://www.unesco.org/creativity/en/articles/offering-opportunities-women-disabilities-cameroons-cultural-industries (Accessed:15 April 2026)

[142] https://www.cbm.org/news/news-articles/2025/BMZ-Funded-Project-on-Ear-Diseases-and-Hearing-Loss-in-Cameroon.html (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

<International NGOs>

Christian Blind Mission (CBM)

- Strengthening Ear and Hearing Health Care capacities in Cameroon (2025–2028) (funded by BMZ)[143]
- Leave No One Behind! Phase 3 (incorporating disability inclusion into humanitarian assistance; funded by the German Federal Foreign Office)[144]

Sightsavers

- Inclusive education project / pilot project for disability-inclusive education in Cameroon (2014–) (funded by the Government of Ireland (Irish Aid))[145]

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

- Making It Work "Gender and Disability" project (2017–) (a multi-country project in Africa including Cameroon)[146]

Liliane Fonds

- Community of Practice as a Leverage for Sustaining the Gains of Inclusive Education (2021–2023)[147]

Mission 21

- Promoting self-determined ways out of precarious living situations in Cameroon (2017–) (social integration and self-reliance support including children and youth with disabilities)[148]

[143] https://www.cbm.org/news/news-articles/2025/BMZ-Funded-Project-on-Ear-Diseases-and-Hearing-Loss-in-Cameroon.html (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[144] https://www.cbm.org/dam/jcr%3A00263470-4d19-4ba0-84fb-cb7e371a7fde/Case%20study_CBM_LNOB3_Cameroon.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[145] https://research.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Cost-and-budget-analysis-impact-of-inclusive-education-for-children-with-disabilities-cameroon-report-english.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[146] https://www.hi.org/en/cameroon (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[147] https://www.lilianefonds.org/project/community-of-practice (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[148] https://www.mission-21.org/en/projects/help-for-special-vulnerable-people-in-cameroon/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Name of Organization	Overview
National Platform for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon: NPOPD (Plateforme Nationale des Organizations de Promotion des Personnes Handicapées du Cameroun)	A nationwide OPD network bringing together numerous OPDs and civil society groups across Cameroon. It functions as the joint voice and coordinating body for disability-inclusive initiatives in Cameroon. It engages in advocacy and rights promotion (conducting national-level advocacy to influence inclusive social policy and to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected and incorporated into government and development plans). Since 2022, the establishment of regional branches has been advanced, with 8 regional branches established as of 2023[149]. Under the UNPRPD programme, it aims to establish regional branches in all 10 regions of Cameroon[150].
Cameroon National Association of the Blind (Association Nationale des Aveugles du Cameroun: ANAC)	An organization aimed at improving the lives of blind and partially sighted persons in Cameroon. Aiming to achieve an inclusive society and to promote equal rights, it works on advocacy, improving accessibility and inclusion in the community. It is a member of the World Blind Union[151].
Cameroon National Association of the Deaf (Association Nationale des Sourds du Cameroun: ANSCAM)	An organization representing deaf persons in Cameroon and working on rights protection and support (sign language interpretation). It is a member of the World Federation of the Deaf[152].
Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities: CUAPWD	In the North West of Cameroon, it forms a robust network of 121 OPDs. It serves as the regional representative of the National Platform for an inclusive society in Cameroon. It represents persons with diverse disabilities, including physical, visual, hearing and speech disabilities. It works on advocacy, capacity development, inclusive education, livelihood support, social participation, awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, and building OPD networks for stronger collective action[153].

[149] https://cnudhd.com/fr/actualite/creation-d-une-plateforme-d-organisations-pour-personnes-handicapees-de-la-region-du-centre/110/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[150] https://cnudhd.com/fr/actualite/creation-d-une-plateforme-d-organisations-pour-personnes-handicapees-de-la-region-du-centre/110/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[151] https://wbu.ngo/members/association-nationale-des-aveugles-du-cameroun (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[152] Ibid.
[153] https://cuapwdcenco.org/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

Platform Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities	A nationwide civil society network. It brings together all OPDs and organizations supporting persons with disabilities across Cameroon — including visual, hearing, physical and intellectual — working on the promotion of an inclusive society, rights protection, the advancement of equity and accessibility, and the coordination of cross-sectoral efforts. It operates in cooperation with the government, NGOs and international organizations[154].
Cameroon Union of Associations Working for and with the Elderly and Disabled	A Cameroon-based union representing elderly people and persons with disabilities, promoting the development of inclusive policies and social support mechanisms[155].
North West Association of Women with Disabilities: NWAWWD	Established in 2010 as a non-profit community organization working for the most socially marginalized and vulnerable grassroots women with disabilities. Its aim is to strengthen the capacities of women with disabilities, through a rights-based approach, so that they can live with dignity in society[156].
Association of Active Women with Disabilities of Cameroon (Association des Femmes Handicapées Actives du Cameroun: AFHAC)	An NGO established in 2006. It focuses on improving the situation of women with disabilities through art, crafts and vocational training[157].
Cameroon National Association of Disabled Women	Focuses on the empowerment of women with disabilities through economic, political and social inclusion, the provision of vocational training, and the fight against gender-based violence. It works on advocacy in cooperation with other organizations[158].

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Name of Organization	Overview
Global Initiative for Disability Inclusive Society: GIDICS	An NGO focusing mainly on inclusive education, rehabilitation, advocacy and community participation for children with various disabilities and other socially

[154] https://www.ds-international.org/cameroon (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[155] https://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/RI-Global-Directory-2017.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[156] https://awdf.org/north-west-association-of-women-with-disabilities-nwawwd/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[157] https://www.unesco.org/creativity/fr/articles/offrir-de-nouvelles-chances-aux-femmes-handicapees-au-sein-des-industries-culturelles-camerounaises (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[158] https://drpi.research.yorku.ca/africa/drpi-cameroon/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

	vulnerable people. It provides specialized educational support and assistive technology and promotes the realization of an inclusive society in schools and communities[159].
Foundation for the Inclusion and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities: FIEPWD	Works to promote the inclusion and empowerment of young people with disabilities of all types. Its core mission is to break down barriers to inclusion and promote equal opportunity. Its activities include participation in socio-economic activities and leadership development[160].
Association for the Promotion of Gender and Disability Issues: APGDI	Combining gender equality with the advocacy of the rights of persons with disabilities, it works to protect and promote the rights of women, girls and persons with disabilities across all areas of social life, including health, protection, education and livelihoods[161].
Union of Associations and Institutions of and for Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon (Union des Associations et Institutions de et pour Personnes Handicapées du Cameroun)	A grouping of organizations and institutions working with and for persons with disabilities in Cameroon, actively engaged in advocacy, rights protection and inclusive development activities[162].

[159] https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550313583673 (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[160] https://fiepwd.org/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[161] https://grassrootsjusticenetwork.org/connect/organization/association-for-the-promotion-of-gender-and-disability-issues-apgdi-cameroon/ (Accessed: 15 April 2026)
[162] https://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/RI-Global-Directory-2017.pdf (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities[163]

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

It is pointed out as a major challenge that support such as disability assessment, obtaining a disability card, referral services, rehabilitation and the provision of assistive devices does not adequately reach persons with disabilities. As for disability cards, it is noted that many persons with disabilities do not hold a disability card in the first place, and that even those who do are not always able to receive appropriate support at medical institutions[164]. Especially in rural areas, access to social welfare centers and related services is limited, making it difficult to be connected to the support needed. Persons with disabilities also often belong to the poorest groups, and out-of-pocket medical costs are a heavy burden. The strengthening of disability assessment and referral systems, the expansion of community-based rehabilitation services, the stable supply of assistive devices, and the reduction of the economic burden are therefore presented as important needs.

The healthcare needs of women with disabilities include that sexual and reproductive health services are insufficient and not easy for persons with disabilities to use, that support services for victims of violence and counseling and listening services are not accessible to women with disabilities, and that the necessary support funding is lacking[165].

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

Although inclusive education efforts have begun, they are still limited and the quality of support is assessed as uneven. Owing to a lack of teacher expertise, shortages of support services such as sign language, braille and assistive devices, and the weak capacity of public schools to admit students, many children with disabilities are unable to obtain sufficient educational opportunities. There are also situations in which parents have no choice but to depend on expensive private special needs schools. In addition, reasonable accommodation in competitive and selection examinations is insufficient. The full-scale development of an inclusive education system, teacher training, the enhancement of assistive devices and teaching materials, examination accommodations, and continuous financial measures are therefore needed. In addition to the above, OPDs of women with disabilities point out that

[163] Unless otherwise noted, the information in this chapter is sourced from UNPRPD (2021).

[164] African Union of the Blind (AFUB) and the Cameroon National Association for the Blind (CNAB) in partnership with Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) and Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired (SRF) (2007)

[165] A parallel report by OPDs specific to women with disabilities, prepared for CEDAW. No date of preparation is given, but it is posted in the UN treaty database as a document of the most recent reporting cycle and is presumed to have been prepared in 2024 or 2025. Comité des femmes handicapées du Cameroun (n.d.) *Rapport Alternatif des Organisations des Femmes Handicapees du Cameroun Comité pour l'Elimination de la Discrimination a l'Egard des Femmes*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/DownloadDraft.aspx?key=HzrUFyAv+13R4/y71UhhEdph8ZG5R1ysDmmMG/DdHcP24mRvFqejuamlNga6pp8a (Accessed: 15 April 2026)

appropriate school infrastructure is not in place for girls with disabilities, and that toilets in particular are undeveloped or unsanitary[166].

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

Although there are provisions on the prohibition of discrimination and preferential recruitment for persons with disabilities, their effectiveness is said to be weak. Employers' prejudice, the lack of reasonable accommodation in the workplace, persons with disabilities' own insufficient knowledge of their legal rights and remedy procedures, and the small number of lawyers familiar with disability law are factors that narrow employment opportunities. Furthermore, the lack of education and vocational training opportunities makes the transition to employment even more difficult. The strengthening of inclusive employment policy, the implementation of reasonable accommodation, the improvement of vocational training, and improved access to legal support and remedy procedures are therefore called for. In addition, women with disabilities face intersectional discrimination based on sex and disability and are pushed into the informal sector, where they face customers' prejudice and communication barriers[167]. The lack of skills formation linked to market needs, insufficient connection to markets, and constraints on access to start-up capital and microfinance are also identified as factors narrowing opportunities not only for employment but also for self-employment and income generation[168].

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

A major barrier is that the accessibility of public transport and public buildings has not progressed sufficiently. It is pointed out that even relatively newly constructed ministry buildings in some cases lack ramps or elevators. Moreover, even where there are transport preferences through the disability card, the benefits of the scheme do not adequately reach people because obtaining the card itself is not easy in rural areas. Ensuring accessibility from the design stage of public transport, roads and buildings, and improving the effectiveness of the disability card system, are therefore important issues. In particular, reducing the burden of the additional costs associated with mobility and ensuring usable access to schools, workplaces and support institutions are called for[169].

[166] Comité des femmes handicapées du Cameroun (n.d.)
[167] Comité des femmes handicapées du Cameroun (n.d.)
[168] Bouyap, R. F. (2023) The Experience of Disability in Cameroonian Families and the Contribution of EMDR Psychotherapy. Research Open World.
[169] *Ibid.*

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

Public institutions have almost no permanent sign language interpreters, and sign language interpretation is hardly used even in the main news on state television. It is also regarded as a problem that important laws and public information are not provided in braille. Furthermore, because awareness-raising activities and many campaigns are conducted mainly on the radio, access for deaf persons is pointed out to be difficult[170]. As a result, persons with disabilities find it difficult to access the necessary information and knowledge of remedy procedures, making it difficult to counter discrimination and exclusion. In particular, weak access to communication on the government's inclusive education and gender-violence measures and to information on rights harms the interests of women with disabilities[171]. The development of information-accessibility systems is therefore needed, including sign language interpretation, braille materials, improved accessibility of information and communication technology, and the provision of information in easy-to-read formats.

5-6. Barriers to and Needs regarding Gender

The rights of women and girls with disabilities are not sufficiently mainstreamed. Domestic laws and policies set out gender equality and the promotion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities as cross-cutting principles, but this perspective is not sufficiently put into concrete form. In terms of political participation as well, the representation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, is extremely low. The development of data on women with disabilities, the promotion of their participation in policy decision-making, and the strengthening of gender considerations in all fields — including health, education, employment and political participation — are therefore needed. In particular, the lack of a disability perspective in gender-violence measures, discrimination and stigma in families and communities, and high vulnerability to harmful practices and sexual violence are barriers for women with disabilities[172].

[170] Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (2024)
[171] Comité des femmes handicapées du Cameroun (n.d.)
[172] *Ibid.*

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