



CAMEROON

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR

WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?

		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

Cameroon has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

SRH RIGHTS

The *Stratégie Sectorielle de Santé 2016–2027* aims to expand access to and use of family planning and SRH services through improved service delivery and supply management, health worker training, interventions addressing social norms, and strengthened coordination and monitoring.

FAMILY PLANNING

No explicit legal provisions require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian, or adolescents to obtain parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The *Curriculum de l'Éducation à la Vie Familiale, en Matière de Population et au VIH & SIDA* outlines a comprehensive approach to integrating education on life skills, reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention. The *Curriculum de l'Enseignement Primaire Francophone* integrates comprehensive sexuality education themes into various subjects, including social studies, health, and ethics.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The *Stratégie Nationale de Développement-Cameroun 2030, Ministère de l'Économie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire* aims at enabling all girls and boys to follow a complete cycle of low-cost, quality, free primary and secondary education on an equal basis.

Circulaire N° 02/22/C/MINESEC/CAB du 22 avril 2022 issued by the Ministry of Secondary Education allows pregnant and parenting students to attend school.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in Cameroon's legal and supportive frameworks across four of the indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Cameroon may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The law does not guarantee the right to SRH or access to SRH services. Additionally, it does not prohibit discrimination in accessing SRH services based on sex or gender, age, or marital status.

The *Stratégie Sectorielle de Santé 2016-2027* does not explicitly include and budget any awareness or sensitization campaigns on SRH rights.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The *Code Pénal* criminalizes genital mutilation but does not establish a specific offense of FGM or address cross-border FGM. No measures specifically aimed at preventing or eliminating FGM have been adopted.

FAMILY PLANNING

The law does not guarantee access to SRH services in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	N/A	
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	N/A	
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	N/A	
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	No	No applicable provisions could be located

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	Yes	Stratégie Sectorielle de Santé 2016-2027, Ministère de la Santé Publique
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Stratégie Sectorielle de Santé 2016-2027, Ministère de la Santé Publique
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	No	Insufficient evidence located
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	Yes	Normes et Standards en SR/PF au Cameroun, Ministère de la Santé Publique ; Protocols et Algorithmes en SR/PF au Cameroun, Ministère de la Santé Publique
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	Yes	Curriculum de l'Éducation à la Vie Familiale, en Matière de Population et au VIH & SIDA, Ministère de l'Éducation de Base et Ministère des Enseignements Secondaires ; Curriculum de l'Enseignement Primaire Francophone, Ministère de l'Éducation de Base
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	Yes	Stratégie Nationale de Développement-Cameroun 2030, Ministère de l'Économie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	Yes	Circulaire N° 02/22/C/MINESEC/CAB du 22 avril 2022 portant modalités de gestion des cas de grossesse des élèves dans les établissements scolaires publics et privés d'enseignement secondaire
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	Yes	Circulaire N° 02/22/C/MINESEC/CAB du 22 avril 2022 portant modalités de gestion des cas de grossesse des élèves dans les établissements scolaires publics et privés d'enseignement secondaire

