











Cameroon

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score	WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score	WBL 2.0 expert opinions score
45.0	23.3	50.0

Women, Business and the Law 2024 (WBL 2024) identifies barriers for women’s economic empowerment in three areas: women’s legal rights, policy instruments designed to support the implementation of these rights, and how these rights are realized in practice. For that purpose, three new *Women, Business and the Law 2.0* indexes are presented for ten indicators: (1) legal frameworks, (2) supportive frameworks, and (3) expert opinions. For the WBL 2.0 legal frameworks index, 40 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. For the WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks index, 30 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. Overall economy level legal and supportive frameworks scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. The WBL 2.0 expert opinions index is created for a total of 164 economies. Expert opinion scores are not available for 26 economies due to an insufficient number of responses received from those economies during data collection. Individual responses at the economy level for 15 expert opinions questions across the ten indicators are scored by taking the median value of all responses per question. The economy level expert opinions index is equal to the simple unweighted average of the ten indicator scores.

For Cameroon, data refer to the legal frameworks, supportive frameworks, and expert opinions that are applicable to the main business city (Douala). The scores for Cameroon are shown in the table below.

Women, Business and the Law 2024 2.0 indicator scores

										
WBL 2.0 Legal frameworks score	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	50.0	100.0	25.0	0.0	75.0	100.0
WBL 2.0 Supportive frameworks score	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	66.7	0.0	50.0
WBL 2.0 Expert opinions score	0.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	37.5	62.5	25.0	50.0	75.0	100.0

In summary, the **WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score** for Cameroon (45.0 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (64.2) and lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa regional average (57.4). When it comes to laws affecting women’s work after having children and laws affecting the size of a woman’s pension, Cameroon obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Cameroon is on the indicator measuring constraints on women starting and running a business. To improve on the Entrepreneurship indicator, Cameroon may wish to consider allowing a woman to undertake entrepreneurial activities in the same way as a man, making access to credit easier for women by prohibiting gender-based discrimination in financial services, legally prescribing a gender quota on corporate boards and introducing in the law gender-sensitive procurement provisions for public procurement processes.

The **WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score** for Cameroon (23.3 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (39.5) and lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa regional average (24.5). Cameroon does not attain a perfect score on any of the WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks indicators. There is room for improvement across all ten indicators. As an example, one of the

lowest scores for Cameroon is on the indicator measuring supportive frameworks affecting women's safety. To improve on the Safety indicator, Cameroon may wish to consider developing comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women, putting in place special procedures for cases of sexual harassment, designating a government entity responsible for the monitoring and implementation of national services, plans and programmes addressing violence against women, providing an annual budgetary allocation towards violence against women risk mitigation and prevention and response programs.

The **WBL 2.0 expert opinions score** for Cameroon (50.0 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (65.7) and lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa regional average (54.6). When it comes to expert opinions on women's pensions, Cameroon obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Cameroon is on the indicator measuring expert opinions on women's safety.

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Safety		
Does the law address child marriage?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address sexual harassment?	Yes	Loi No. 2016/007 du 12 juillet 2016 portant Code Pénal, Art. 302-1
Does the law address domestic violence?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address femicide?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Mobility		
Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	No	Code Civil, Art. 215
Can a woman travel internationally in the same way as a man?	No	Décret no. 2013/002 du 04 janvier 2013, Art. 12(3)
Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Do a woman and a man have equal rights to confer citizenship on their spouses and their children?	No	Loi no. 68-LF-3 du 11 juin 1968 portant code de la nationalité camerounaise, Arts. 6, 7, 8 et 26
Workplace		
Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	No	Code Civil, Art. 223; Ordonnance no. 81/02 du 29 juin 1981, Art. 74(2)
Does the law explicitly prohibit discrimination in recruitment based on marital status, parental status, and age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Code Pénal, Art. 242
Does the law allow employees to request flexible work?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Pay		
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	No	Arrêté No.16/MTLS du 27 mai 1969, Arts. 6, 10, 14 et 15; Code du Travail, Art. 83
Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	Arrêté No.16/MTLS du 27 mai 1969, Arst. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 et 10; Code du Travail, Arts. 82(2) et 83
Marriage		
Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
Can a woman be "head of household" or "head of family" in the same way as a man?	No	Code Civil, Art. 213
Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Code Civil, Art. 229
Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Ordonnance no. 81/02 du 29 juin 1981, Art. 77
Parenthood		
Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. 84

Are leave benefits for mothers paid solely by the government?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. 84(5)
Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Convention Collective Nationale du Commerce 2017, Art. 64
Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. 84(1)
Childcare		
Does the law establish the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Décret No. 2017/0039/PM du 19 janvier 2017, Arts. 2-3 et 25; Décret No. 2001/110/PM du 20 mars 2001, Art. 1
Does the law establish any form of support for families for childcare services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish any form of support for nonstate childcare providers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish quality standards for the provision of center-based childcare services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship		
Can a woman undertake entrepreneurial activities in the same way as a man?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prescribe a gender quota for corporate boards?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law include gender-sensitive procurement provisions for public procurement processes?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Assets		
Do a woman and a man have equal administrative power and ownership rights to immovable property, including land?	No	Code Civil, Arts. 1421 et 1428; Ordonnance no. 74-1 du 06 juillet 1974 relative au régime foncier, Art. 1
Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Code Civil, Arts. 723, 731 et 745
Do male and female surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Code Civil, Arts. 723 et 767
Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Code Civil, Arts. 1400 et 1401
Pension		
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Loi No. 69/LF/18 du 18 novembre 1969, Art. 8
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
Is the mandatory retirement age for a woman and a man the same?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	Loi No. 69/LF/18 du 18 novembre 1969, Art. 14(d)

WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
Safety		
Has the government developed comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are special procedures in place for cases of sexual harassment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is a government entity responsible for monitoring and implementing national services, plans and programs addressing violence against women?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is an annual budgetary allocation devoted to violence against women risk mitigation, prevention, and response programs?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Mobility		
Are passport application processes the same for a woman and a man?	No	Procédures de demande de passeport

Are the application processes for official identity documents the same for a woman and a man?	No	Procédures de demande de carte d'identité
Does a current policy or plan explicitly consider the specific mobility needs of women in public transportation?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Workplace		
Does a specialized body receive complaints about gender discrimination in employment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on nondiscrimination based on gender in recruitment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on flexible work arrangements?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Pay		
Are pay transparency measures or enforcement mechanisms in place to address the pay gap?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on employment in different industries or sectors been published?	Yes	Annuaire Statistique du Secteur des Mines, de l'Industrie et du Développement Technologique; Annuaire Statistique Edition 2020 Ministère du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale
Marriage		
Is there a fast-track process or procedure for family law disputes?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are there specialized family courts?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is legal aid available for family law disputes?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Parenthood		
Is it possible to apply for maternity benefits through a single government application process?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. 84; Arrêté n° 007-MTLS-DPS du 14 avril 1970, Art. 13; Formulaire de demande de prestations familiales
Are incentives in place to encourage fathers to take paternity leave on the birth of a child?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on unpaid care work been published?	Yes	Institut National de la Statistique: Leadership féminin : pour un futur égalitaire dans le monde de la Covid-19
Childcare		
Is there a publicly available registry or database of childcare providers?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by parents?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by nonstate childcare providers?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published any reports on the quality of childcare services?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Entrepreneurship		
Have sex-disaggregated data on business activities, entrepreneurship, or women-owned businesses been published?	Yes	Statistics Office of Cameroon
Are government-led programs supporting female entrepreneurs providing access to finance and training, coaching, or business development?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Does a current national government plan or strategy focus on women's access to financial services?	Yes	Stratégie Nationale de la Finance Inclusive (2023-2027)
Assets		
Are mechanisms or incentives in place to encourage women to register immovable property (including joint titling)?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are awareness measures in place to improve women's access to information about marital and inheritance rights?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have anonymized sex-disaggregated data on property ownership been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Pension		
Are incentives in place to increase women's retirement benefits?	No	Insufficient evidence located



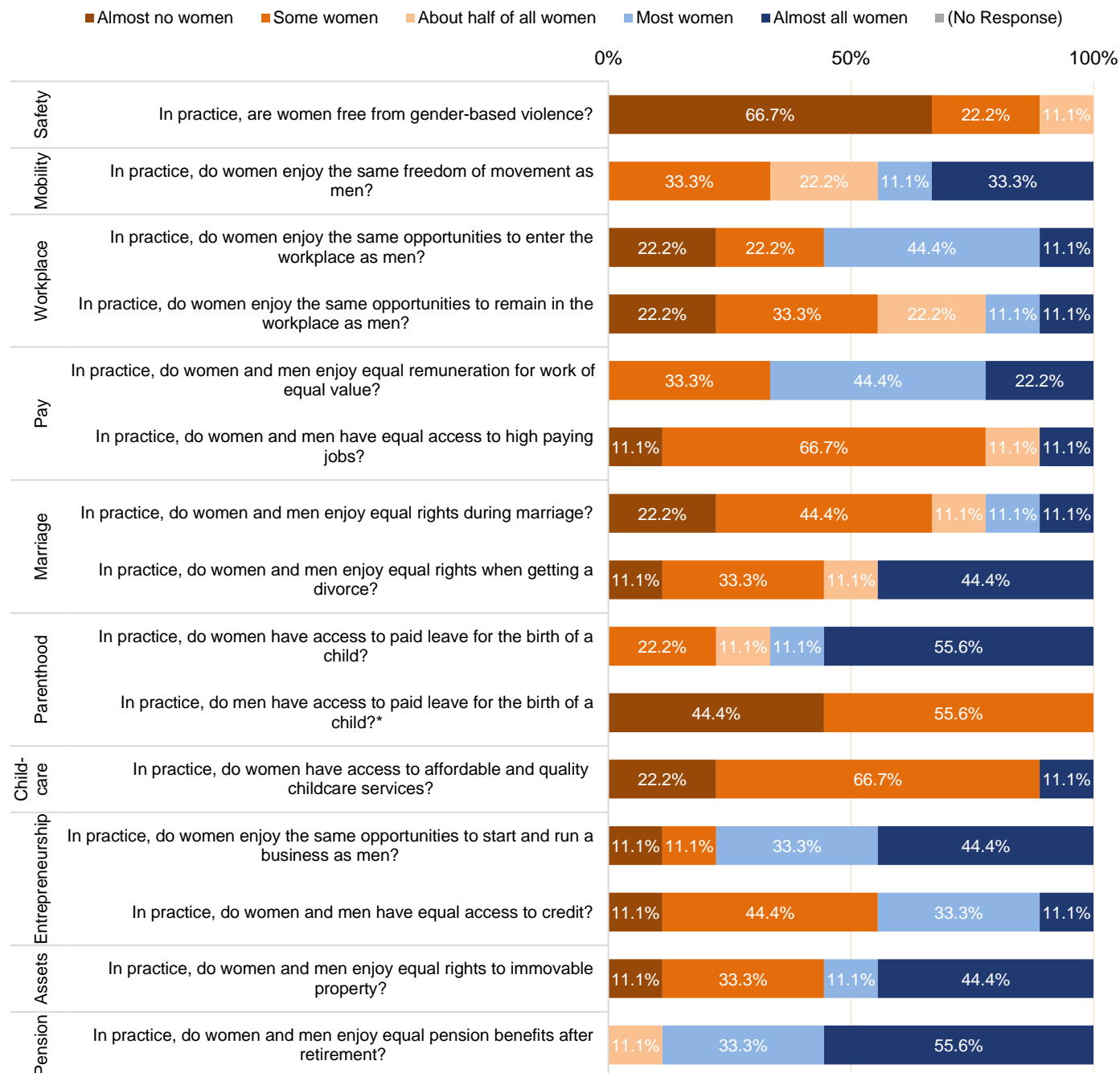
Is a procedure in place for pension beneficiaries to challenge the decisions of the competent authority regarding their benefits?

Yes

Ordonnance n° 73-17 du 22 mai 1973, Arts. 20 et 21



WBL 2.0 distribution of expert opinion responses



*Note: The response options for the second Parenthood question above are formatted as almost no men, some men, about half of all men, most men, almost all men.