Cameroon’s national youth policy (2006) defines youth as persons between the age of 15 and 35.

**YOUTH POLICY FACT SHEET**

**Cameroon**

- Population by Age and Sex 2010
- Youth Unemployment (share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment)
- GDP PER CAPITA
- HDI
- GINI
- Corruption Perception
- Press Freedom
- Literacy Rates
- Tobacco Use
- Prevalence of HIV
- Net Enrolment Rates
- Youth Development
- Voting Age
- Candidacy Age
- Majority Age
- Marriageable Age
- SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
- DEFINITION OF YOUTH
- YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

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**GDP PER CAPITA**

USD 1,166.91

**HDI**

0.495

**GINI**

38.91

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**CORRUPTION PERCEPTION**

25

**PRESS FREEDOM**

34.78

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**Population by Age and Sex 2010**

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**Youth Unemployment (share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment)**

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**Net Enrolment Rates**

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**Literacy Rates**

- Male (15-24) %: 90.57%
- Female (15-24) %: 85.40%
- Both sexes (15-24) %: 81.89%

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**Tobacco Use**

- Male (13-15) %: 10.9%
- Female (13-15) %: 14.0%
- Both sexes (13-15) %: 12.6%

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**Prevalence of HIV**

- Male (15-24) %: 1.0%
- Female (15-24) %: 1.8%
- Both sexes (15-24) %: 1.4%

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**Youth Development**

- 2013 Commonwealth Youth Programme

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**Voting Age**

- Lower House: 23
- Upper House: 40

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**Canditacy Age**

- Lower House: 23
- Upper House: 40

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**Defined YOUTH**

- Marriageable Age
- Majority Age
- Voting Age

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**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

- Net Enrolment Rates
- Literacy Rates
- Tobacco Use
- Prevalence of HIV

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**YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION**

The national youth policy is anchored in both national priorities and international commitments of the Cameroonian government. The policy of 2006 prioritises national development and building a prosperous and peaceful country. It was formulated in a consultative process involving representatives of public institutions, private organizations, civil society, UN agencies, and youth movements. The policy document outlines a participatory and multi-sectoral approach. It focuses on the education sector, the provision of nutrition and health services to young people, and seeks to respond the scarcity of employment. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Cameroon is a signatory of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015. It lists 13 action points including youth empowerment, youth governance, participation, gender equality, education, health and ICT.

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**Is there a national youth policy?**

Yes

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**Cameroon has a 2006 national youth policy, but lacks instruments for its systematic implementation.**
YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Since 2004, Cameroon has a dedicated Ministry for Youth and Sports, which is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the national youth policy. Another relevant body is the Inter-ministerial Committee in which relevant stakeholders and youth organizations are deemed to be represented. It is tasked with ensuring implementation of programs and action plans provided for in the national youth policy, and taking into account the concerns of young people in the development and implementation of programs and action plans.

YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

The National Council of Youth of Cameroon (CNJC) was established to give young people a voice in the political processes of Cameroon. The first elections took place in 2009. These were open to all registered youth associations, movements and groups in Cameroon. The CNJC is designed as an apolitical, secular, non-profit institution that serves as national forum for consultation, expression, co-ordination, dialogue and action of youth organisations. The CNJC operates under the Ministry of Youth & Sports. At a global level, Cameroon is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Council.

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

No budgetary information regarding youth spending in Cameroon could be found online.

According to the World Bank, Cameroon spent 16.3% of its government expenditure and 3.2% of its GDP on education provision in 2011.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

Does the country have national youth organisation/association (council, platform, body)?

Yes

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

Unclear

Total Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Government Spending and GDP

Source: World Bank
Gaps in graph indicate missing data from original source. (Accessed August 2013).

Footnotes

1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)

2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)

3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)

4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)

5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)