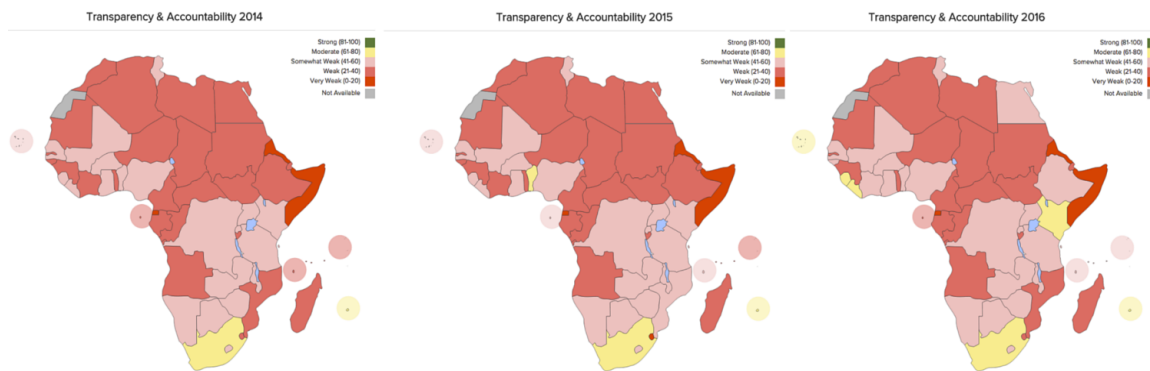


Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



Who is Global Integrity?

Global Integrity supports progress toward open and accountable governance in countries and communities around the world. We focus on generating research and data, supporting the work of country-level reformers, and influencing global conversations on open governance. Our work covers a number of themes, with data, learning and citizen engagement at the core of everything we do. To know more about us, visit our website at www.globalintegrity.org.

What are the Africa Integrity Indicators?

In 2012, Global Integrity embarked on a five-year collaboration with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to generate the Africa Integrity Indicators (AII), which assesses key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level across the continent. Global Integrity staff recruits and manages teams of in-country contributors in 54 countries to generate original governance data on an annual basis.

The questionnaire has 114 indicators and is divided in two main categories: Transparency & Accountability and Social Development. The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information. The Social Development indicators category consists of 51 indicators about gender, rights, welfare, rural sector, business environment, health and education.

The rich data set is designed to be particularly fruitful in identifying both bright spots as well as areas for improvement at the country level. The years of data include [2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#); the next round of research will begin later in 2016 and be published in April 2017. To access our data, visit our project website at <http://aii.globalintegrity.org>.

Note: Each round of research is named from its year of publication. Thus, the 2016 round of research covers the period from September 2014 to September 2015, with only sources relevant to this period of study being accepted.

Get in touch with us

Global Integrity is dedicated not only to producing high quality data, but ensuring that it is as useful as possible for reformers (both inside and outside of government) around the world. If you're interested in working with this data to identify opportunities to support open governance efforts in your country, contact us at aii@globalintegrity.org.

Cameroon – Country Findings Summary

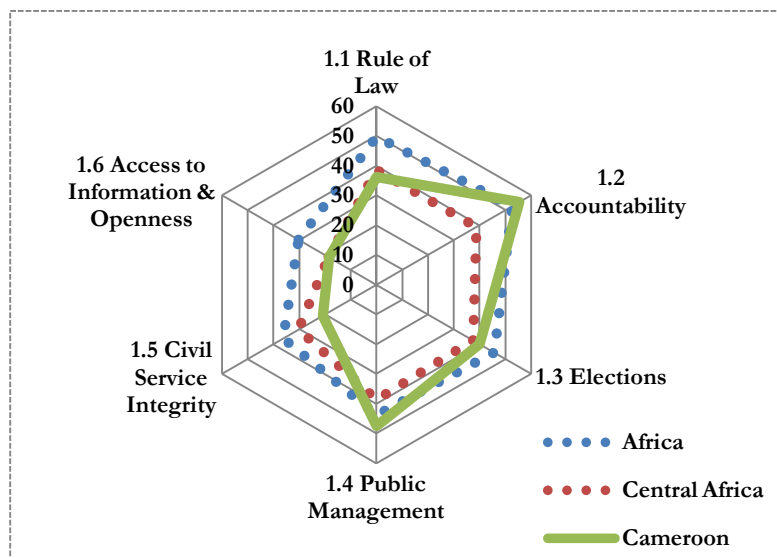
1. Transparency & Accountability

The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information & openness. The indicators look into transparency of the public procurement process, media freedom, asset disclosure requirements, independence of the judiciary, and conflict of interest laws, among others.

The overall category score shows a substantial change, increasing by nine points from 27 in 2015 to 36 in 2016. However, Cameroon is still in the “weak” area on the Global Integrity scale.¹

On two out of the [six subcategories](#), Cameroon’s aggregate scores were higher than the Central African and the continental average scores.

Accountability remained the highest performing subcategory, and its aggregate score of 56 was higher than the regional and continental scores. Also, Cameroon’s aggregate score of 48 for the Public Management subcategory was higher than both the Central African and the continental average scores. For both subcategories, however, Cameroon is in the “somewhat weak” area on the Global Integrity scale. Access to Information & Openness was the lowest performing subcategory and its aggregate score decreased slightly from 20 in 2015 to 18 in 2016. The remaining subcategories Rule of Law, Elections, and Civil Service Integrity recorded slight increases of their aggregate scores.



< Figure 1 > Cameroon’s subcategory scores in comparison to the region and the continent. The radar chart depicts the country’s aggregate scores of each of the six subcategories under Transparency & Accountability, in comparison to average scores of the continent (blue dotted lines) and the country’s region (red dotted lines).

Selected highlights

- **The judiciary and supreme audit institution operated under executive influence, but their decisions were publicly accessible.** In Cameroon, as noted in [indicator 1](#), article 37 of the Constitution provides that the president as the head of the executive branch also chairs the Conseil

¹ The Global Integrity scale on the Africa Integrity Indicators website is as follows: 81-100 (Strong), 61-80 (Moderate), 41-60 (Somewhat weak), 21-40 (Weak), 0-20 (Very Weak)

Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM), the organ charged with the appointment, transfer and dismissal of judges, and that the Minister of Justice occupies the secretary position of the CSM. [Indicator 2](#) reports that in practice, judges' autonomy was restricted and that for high-profile cases, the Minister of Justice decided whether a case should proceed and legal proceedings be initiated. The president too can decide to dismiss a case without seeking the opinion of judges. [Indicator 3](#) reports that there is no tenure for judges, including those in the highest courts. Judges are subject to negative political incentives; for instance, while the executive branch is to submit decisions of disciplinary actions against judges to the CSM for approval, it sometimes bypasses the CSM on such matters. The supreme audit institution Contrôle Supérieur de l'État (CONSUPE) also lacks independence from the executive branch, as by law, it is part of the president's office and is headed by a minister who reports only to the president. Although the CONSUPE is reported to have been adequately funded in the last three years (US\$10 million annually) and to have operated without fear in the study period, the partiality of its investigators was decried on some cases of the the anti-corruption campaign "Operation Epervier" launched in 2007 ([indicator 7](#)). On the transparency front, however, [indicator 4](#) reports that judges of the Supreme Court give reasons for their decisions, and these decisions are accessible to the public via the court clerk's office. [Indicator 9](#) also reports that annually, the CONSUPE produces many reports that can be accessed by citizens within three days of submitting a request. Some of these reports are also published entirely in the government newspaper, Cameroon Tribune.

- **Legal frameworks to ensure civil service integrity remain weak.** [Indicator 37](#) reports that the Penal Code provides for rules to prevent conflicts of interest, nepotism, cronyism and patronage in all branches of government, and that it criminalizes cases of discrimination in the recruitment and promotion of civil servants. In practice, [indicator 38](#) and [39](#) report that while disciplinary actions against civil servants are infrequent, recruitments and appointments are not based on merit, performance evaluations not carried out, and promotions based on affiliation with the ruling party CPDM or on ethnic background. Moreover, [indicator 35](#) reports that no law requires civil servants to report cases of alleged corruption, and [indicator 36](#) notes that in law, civil servants who report corruption cases are not protected from recrimination or other negative consequences. Finally, there is no law placing restrictions for civil servants who enter the private sector after leaving the government ([indicator 40](#)).
- **Citizens faced difficulties accessing public information in general, and asset disclosures and financial records of political parties in particular.** As noted in [indicator 41](#), Cameroon has no law on access to information. [Indicator 42](#) reports that in practice, it takes weeks or even months for journalists and citizens to access certain types of information. Moreover, a fee of up to US\$2 applies in addition to the cost of photocopying. For access to certain types of legislative processes and documents, citizens are required to submit requests to the office of the Speaker, or request the help of a member of parliament ([indicator 43](#)).

Although the Constitution and the Law 003/2006 on asset disclosures require senior officials and certain categories of low-level public servants of the three branches of government to disclose

records of their assets, these disclosures are required to remain confidential. This explains the score of 0 for both [indicators 44](#) and [46](#). In practice, the decree which should have allowed the implementation of the Law 03/2006 has never been signed, hence no civil servant, whether in senior or low-level position, has ever disclosed his/her assets since 2006 ([indicators 45](#) and [47](#)).

Also, the Law 2000/015 of December 19, 2000 on political finance establishes that state funding should be allocated to political parties, and grants should be made to parties which have garnered at least 5% of the popular vote during the most recent elections. However, as noted in [indicator 48](#), the law does not require the recipient parties to publish information on these contributions. [Indicator 50](#) notes that the law is silent on private donations received by political parties. [Indicators 49](#) and [51](#) report that in practice, political parties do not disclose financial information regarding government funding and private donations.

2. Social Development

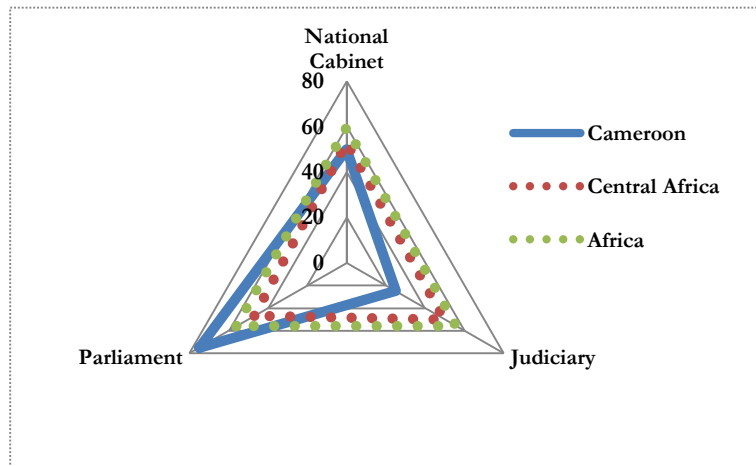
This category covers seven subcategories, including rights (civil society space and minority rights), gender, business environment and infrastructure, rural sector, welfare, health, education, and civil registration. Because the Social Development portion of the research only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we only provide the scores for each individual indicator and don't provide aggregated category or subcategory scores. However, the individual indicators themselves contain a wealth of information across a breadth of topics, a select few highlights of which are noted below.

Selected highlights

- **The civic space in Cameroon was severely restricted, but no NGOs were shut down during the study period.** As noted in [indicator 65](#), Cameroonian workers were able to organize into unions, but unions seeking to vent their legitimate claims were refused authorization to demonstrate, or were stopped by the police from demonstrating. For instance, union leaders such as Yimgain Moussa were subject to intimidation and arrest. [Indicator 66](#), which assesses respect for workers' rights, notes that government employees were fired for posting critical contents online, or assaulted by the police for demanding payment of salary arrears. In reaction to the terror threats posed by Boko Haram in the northeast of the country, the government passed an anti-terrorism law which was used to restrict citizens' ability to assemble. [Indicator 67](#) reports that local authorities routinely denied requests for demonstrations, and public meetings were dispersed. This was the case with members of the civil society organization Dynamique Citoyenne, who were arrested in September 2015 for holding an unauthorized public gathering. NGOs, particularly those working on human rights issues, continued to face administrative hurdles and intimidation in their registration process. A three-year work experience is required to obtain the NGO status, and only the President of the Republic can grant that status. Sometimes, non-profit associations are forced to change their mission statement in order to be authorized. For instance, local authorities in the Wouri prefecture forced the founder of a non-profit to accept the deletion of "human rights" from its bylaws in order to be registered. Finally, although no NGO was shut down or harassed with unwarranted administrative burdens, investigations or sanctions as retribution for their work ([indicator 70](#)), many NGO employees were threatened, arrested, imprisoned and interrogated over the study period ([indicator 69](#)). This includes activists of Cameroon Ô Bosso in October 2014, Gerard Kuissi of Article 53 in March 2015, Maximilienne Ngo Mbé of the REDHAC and Hans de Marie Hengoup of the Crisis Group.
- **Civil and customary laws restrict women's rights to property and employment. Customary laws also restrict women's rights to land ownership, inheritance, divorce petition and travel.** [Indicator 78](#) notes that in its articles 1421 and 1428, the Civil Code grants the full control of marital property to men. Women are disadvantaged in the same manner under customary laws. Cameroon is also among the 18 countries in the world where women cannot work without the authorization of their husband, as noted in [indicator 83](#). Although women's rights to land ownership are guaranteed by state law, customary laws among the Bamileke in the western parts of the country and the Muslim communities of the northern parts limit land rights to men ([indicator 77](#)). [Indicator 79](#) also reports that under laws implemented within Muslim communities, men are privileged when it comes to

inheritance compared to women. While the Civil Code grants equal divorce petition rights to men and women, [indicator 80](#) reports customary laws only grant men the right to repudiate their wives. Finally, women in Muslim communities are required to seek the authorization of their husband prior to engaging in any type of travel ([indicator 82](#)).

- **Women’s representation is comparatively low in the highest level of the executive and judicial branches, but high in the legislature.** With nine women out of 60 members (15%) in the national cabinet, Cameroon earns a score of 50 on [indicator 85](#), which assesses women’s representation in the highest level of the executive branch. This score is lower than both the Central African average score of 53 and the continental average of 60. Also,



< Figure 2 > Cameroon’s female representation in the three branches of government compared to the country’s region and the continent.

[indicator 86](#) reports that only six out of 61 (9%) judges of the Supreme Court were women. Thus, Cameroon earns a score of 25 on this indicator, which is lower than the Central African average of 50 and the continental average of 56. [Indicator 87](#) reports that there are 75 women out of 280 members of the legislature (National Assembly and Senate); the score of 75 on this indicator was higher than both the regional average of 47 and the continental average of 56.

- **Cameroon’s statistical capacity is extremely low.** As noted in [indicator 91](#), Cameroon’s National Statistics Office (INS) does not collect and publish data on youth unemployment, and according to an anonymous source, this is due to the sensitivity of the issue of employment in the country. On the other hand, [indicator 92](#) reports that the INS collects and publishes data on poverty through the household survey Enquête Camerounaise Auprès des Ménages (ECAM), but this happens very infrequently; after 2001, 2003, and 2007, the latest data collection took place in March-April 2014, but no results had yet been published by the end of the study period. Finally, [indicator 93](#) reports that statistics on infrastructure are not collected by the INS, and to find such data, one has to rely on estimates published by international actors such as the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The above findings capture selected highlights and are not an exhaustive analysis of the collected data. We encourage interested users to access our website [here](#) for detailed comments and sources for 114 individual indicators.