



INTERNET
SANS FRONTIÈRES

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE

REPORT CARD



CAMEROON

Measuring Progress,
Driving Action



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SANS FRONTIÈRES

CAMEROON



OVERALL SCORE:



20%



SCORE: 3

Cameroon does not collect sex-isaggregated ICT data, thus it is difficult for the country to propose relevant and effective national policies to tackle the gender digital gap: in our 2015 survey, only 36% of women were Internet users, compared to 45% men.



SCORE: 4.5

1GB of prepaid data costs 4,6% of average monthly income in Cameroon. Despite a relative reduction of Internet costs in recent years, thanks to entry of service of two additional submarine cables and to increased competition on the market, women still report that affordability is a hindrance to their Internet connectivity.



SCORE: 1

Cameroon's poor score is explained by the lack of a culture of integration of ICT in educational curricula: there is no policy to build capacities of teachers in the use of ICT for educational purposes, and the country needs to do more efforts in integrating Internet connection in school facilities.



SCORE: **1**

According to our Women's Rights Online survey, 94% of women in poor areas of Yaounde report owning a mobile phone. Despite this, the use of ICT to provide relevant content and services for women and girls in Cameroon is still not common. Cameroon needs to enhance access to information of its citizens.



SCORE: **0.5**

Almost one in five Cameroonian women we surveyed reported having experienced online harassment.

Despite this worrying data, Cameroon's legal provisions on the matter do not specifically criminalize the use of ICT to commit gender-based violence, making it difficult for victims to seek justice. In addition, law enforcement authorities do not receive training on the subject of online Gender-based violence.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

- 1 INCLUDE ICT TARGETS IN BROADBAND POLICIES.** Government should put in place measures to identify, analyze and better understand the phenomenon of the gender digital gap in Cameroon through regular collection of ICT data on men and women.
- 2 INCREASE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.** Work with mobile operators and Internet Service Providers to lower tariffs. Free public Wi-Fi initiatives should be scaled and offered in all public places including schools.
- 3 PRIORITISE DIGITAL EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES.** Invest in digital skills training programmes in primary, secondary and tertiary schools. The government should provide free or subsidised digital skills and empowerment training in all schools and communities.
- 4 DEVELOP RELEVANT ONLINE CONTENT FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.** Government websites should be updated regularly with appropriate information, including about women's rights. All citizens should be able to access government services and data and engage with leaders online.
- 5 END ONLINE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.** Government must ensure that the proper legal tools exist to prosecute and punish gender based violence committed online, by Creating and implementing balanced policies that define and penalise gender-based violence committed through the use of ICT, while respecting rights to freedom of expression

PROJECT OVERVIEW

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



The United Nations recently made gender-equitable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set the global development agenda until 2030.

Why? ICTs are powerful. They can help to deliver improved healthcare, quality education for all, financial inclusion, more accountable government, and much more. In adopting the SDGs, all countries have pledged to prioritise universal Internet access, and to use ICTs to empower women.

But much hard work lies ahead if we are to translate this vision into reality. A formidable gender gap in Internet access, digital skills and online rights exists - our [Women's Rights Online research](#) shows that in many communities, women are 50% less likely

than men to be online and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet for economic and political empowerment. Women face many barriers - including high costs, lack of know-how, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content - as well as social and legal obstacles to speaking freely and privately online.

Internet San Frontières (Internet Without Borders) has prepared this gender audit to help Cameroon assess what it needs to do to overcome the gender digital divide. Internet Sans Frontières has taken the lead, in consultation with other national stakeholders, on identifying concrete steps that the government can take in the next year to address the challenges and gaps identified. We hope that this report card and action plan will spark debate and galvanise policy change.

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

We based our scores on 14 simple indicators for which reliable empirical evidence exists, and grading was done in the second quarter of 2016. See the accompanying overview for a description of the indicators and sources used. A full methodology is available on our website.



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SWEDEN



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women