



Disability in Cameroon

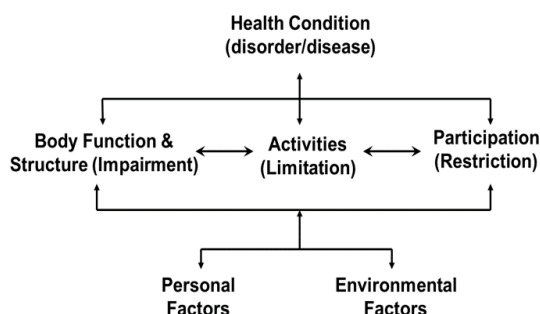
The Importance of Disability

Disability is both a multidimensional concept and experience. Disability can affect anyone at any time – from birth through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Worldwide, many people with disabilities do not have equal access to education, employment, and health care. In addition, those with disability may experience barriers to participating in civic and social life activities.

Defining Disability

No single definition of disability exists. Definitions vary depending on the purpose for measurement. Moreover, the nature and severity of disabilities can vary greatly depending on cultural contexts¹. Yet, data on the size and characteristics of the population with disability, which also allow for cross-cultural comparisons, require standardization in both the conceptualization and the measurement of disability.

The ICF Model of Disability



The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), developed by the World Health Organization², provides the necessary and consistent definition of disability. According to the ICF model, disability arises from the interaction between an individual and

that individual's contextual (personal and environmental) circumstances. Thus, the degree to which participation in life activities is restricted depends on the interaction between the individual's functioning (ability to perform basic functional activities) and the environment.

The Washington Group

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG), a city group established under the United Nations Statistical Commission, was formed to address the need for population-based measures of disability by promoting and coordinating international co-operation in the area of health statistics, focusing on disability data collection tools suitable for censuses and national surveys.

The WG has developed, tested and adopted the Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) to collect such data. The questions use the ICF as a conceptual framework. The WG-SS is comprised of 6 questions measuring difficulty functioning in basic actions, with response categories that capture the full spectrum of difficulty functioning, from mild to severe. Disability is defined as having “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one WG-SS question.

The WG Short Set on Functioning

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing?
6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Response categories: No difficulty / Some difficulty / A lot of difficulty / Cannot do at all

Cameroon Data on Disability and Methods

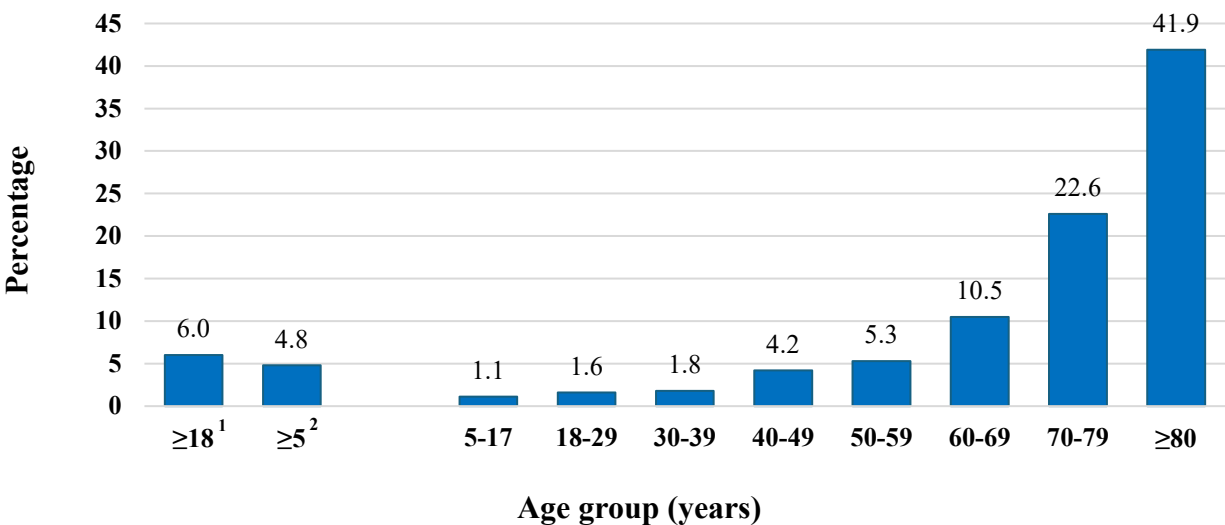
The data used to produce this report come from the Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon (EESI3) carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (INS). The survey targeted a sample of 10,788 ordinary households at the national level. All persons aged 10 or older who were usual residents of the selected households were eligible to be interviewed. For phase 2 of the survey, projections based on the Phase 1 sample anticipated the identification of 5,870 non-agricultural informal production units (UPI). For more information on EESI3, please visit: <https://ins-cameroun.cm/>.

Point estimates and corresponding variances for this analysis were calculated to take account of the complex sample design of EESI3. It should be noted that the WG Extended Set on Functioning (WG-ES) was used in EESI3. To ensure comparability with other countries, only those questions that are also in the WG Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) were used to produce the estimates in this report. Some of the estimates reported here are age-adjusted using the 2020 world population³ to facilitate cross-country comparisons.

Prevalence of Disability

- The age-adjusted prevalence of disability in the population aged 18 and over is 6.0%.
- The prevalence of disability increases with age, from 1.6% among 18–29-year-olds to 41.9% among those aged 80 and over, a difference of 40.3 percentage points.

Figure 1. Prevalence of disability: age-adjusted and age-specific percentage of the population 18 years and over and by age group, Cameroon, 2021



¹Total for ≥18 is age-adjusted using the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](#)) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and ≥80 years.

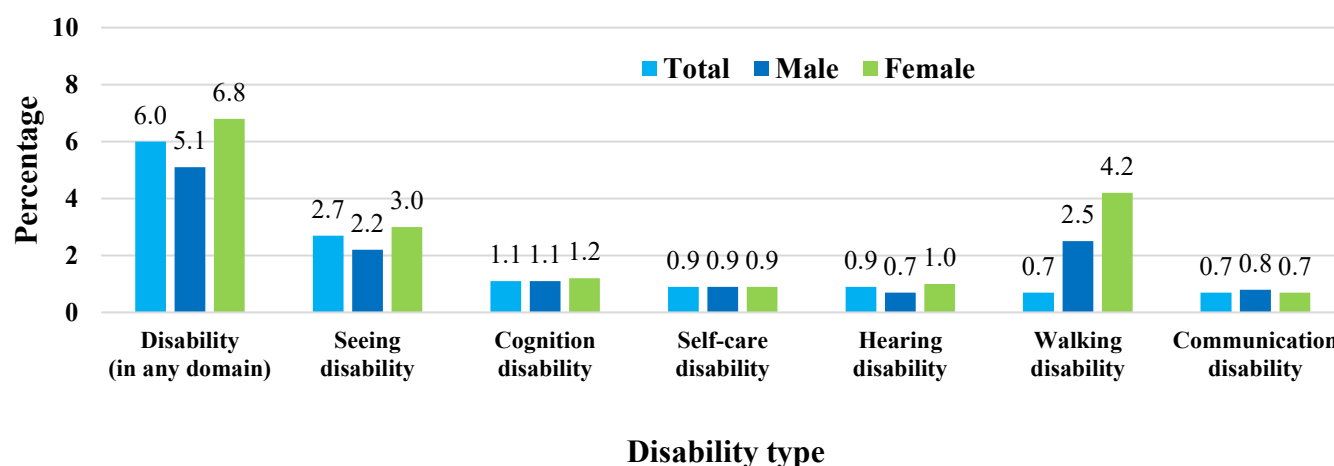
²Total for 5 years and over is age-adjusted using the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](#)) using the following age groups: 5–17, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and ≥80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

- The age-adjusted prevalence of disability (in any domain) is higher among females aged 18 or over (6.8%) than among males in the same age group (5.1%).
- Females are more likely than males to have seeing disabilities (3.0% versus 2.2%) and walking disabilities (4.2% versus 2.5%).
- Females and males have similar rates of the following types of disability: communication, cognition, and self-care.

Figure 2. Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain: age-adjusted percentage of the population 18 years and over, by sex, Cameroon, 2021



Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/)) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and ≥80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as having disability (in any domain). Disability in each domain is defined by a response of “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” in that domain.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

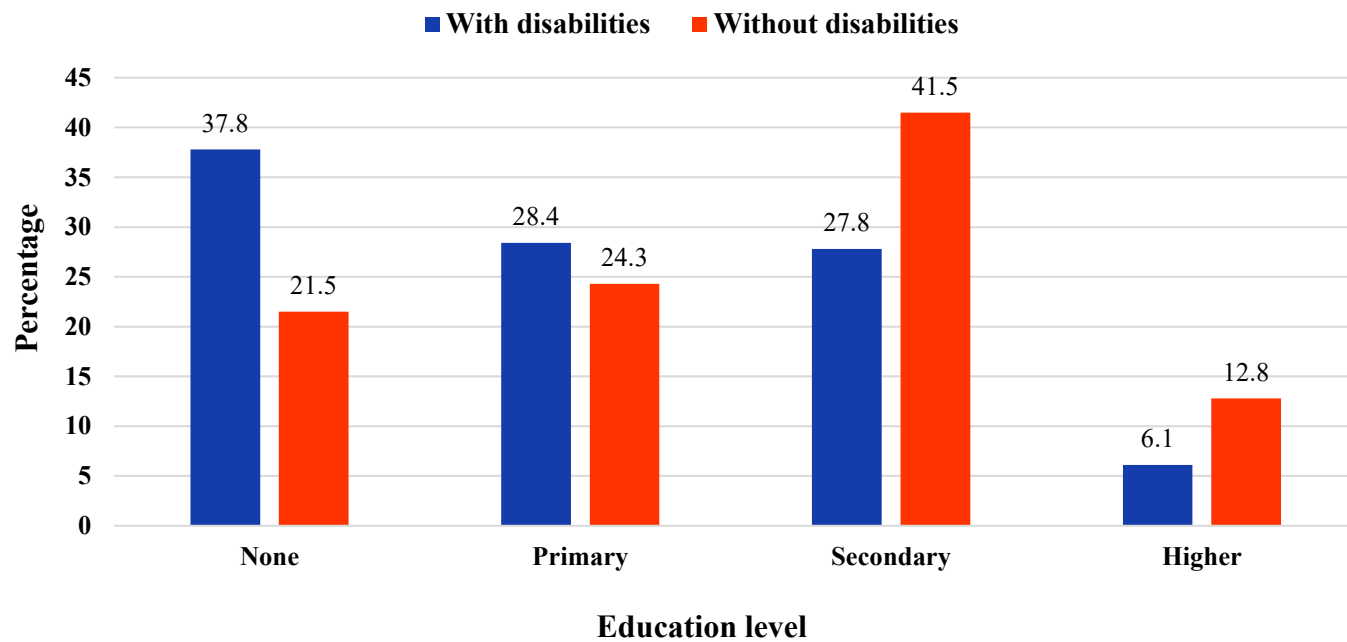
Outcomes Disaggregated by Disability

Disaggregating data by disability status allows for the comparison of outcomes for people with and without disabilities and is a necessary first step towards addressing disparities. Outcome indicators, such as educational attainment and employment, any of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals⁵, or specific programmatic objectives, can be monitored over time to determine if gaps exist between those with and without disabilities and whether those gaps are increasing or decreasing across time. In this section, data on educational attainment, vocational training, employment status, and employment sector and activity are disaggregated by disability status.

Educational Attainment

- Almost 2 out of 5 adults (37.8%) aged 18 or over living with disabilities have no formal education, while among adults without disabilities, just 21.5% have no formal education.
- Access to higher education by people aged 18 and over with disabilities remains very low compared to those without disabilities. The percentage is 6.1% for people with disabilities compared with 12.8% for those without disabilities.

Figure 3. Education level by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cameroon, 2021



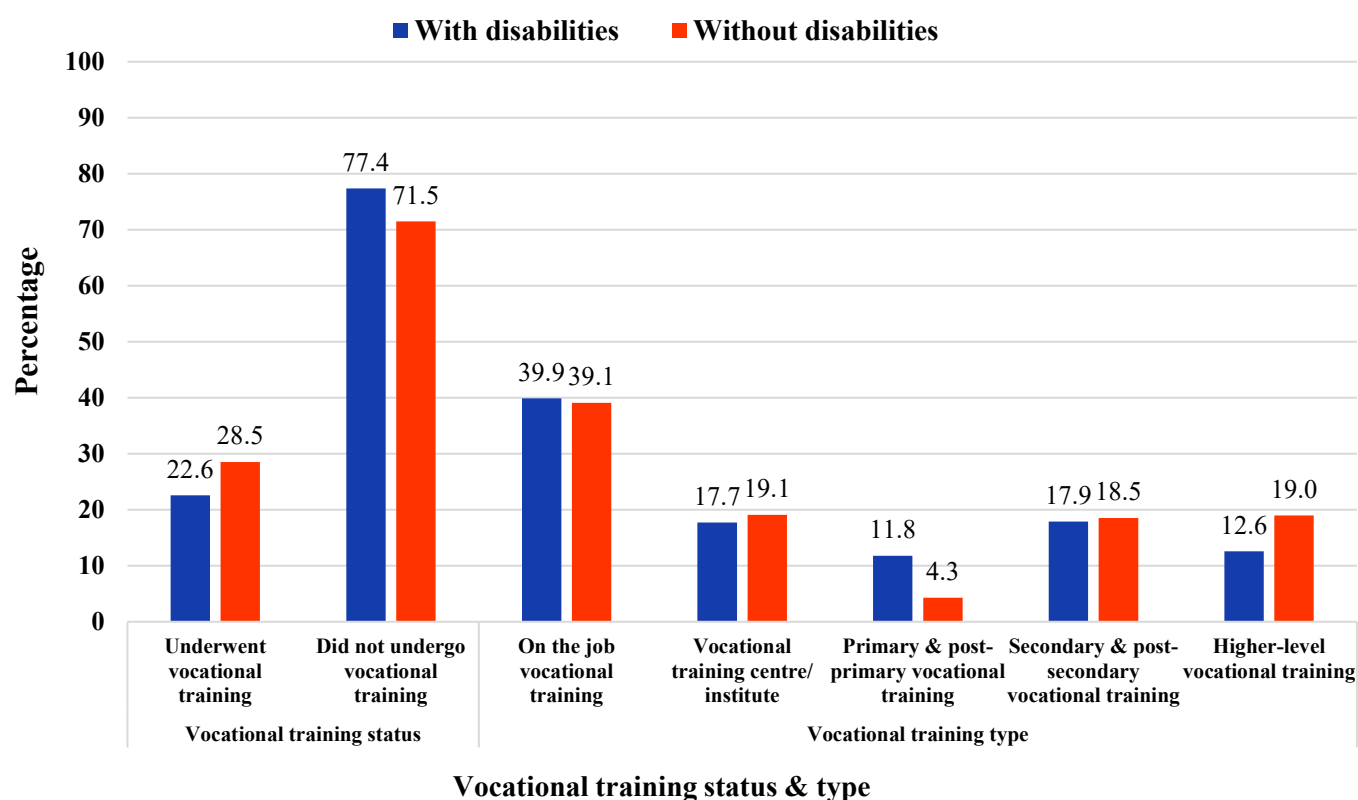
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

Vocational Training

- Participation in vocational training is low among the population aged 18 or over: one in four people (25%) are currently enrolled in or have completed some form of vocational training. In Cameroon, access to vocational training remains marked by significant disparities: the participation rate for people with disabilities is only 22.6%, compared to 28.5% for people without disabilities. These figures reflect the reality of relatively more restricted access for people with disabilities.
- Within the population who received vocational training, adults with and without disabilities are similar in terms of rates of participation in vocational training received on the job, in training institutes/centres, and in programs awarding certificates at the secondary or post-secondary level.
- Vocational training at the primary and post-primary level is more common among people with disabilities than among people without disabilities. Conversely, people without disabilities are more likely than people with disabilities to participate in higher-level vocational training.

Figure 4. Vocational training status and type by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cameroon, 2021



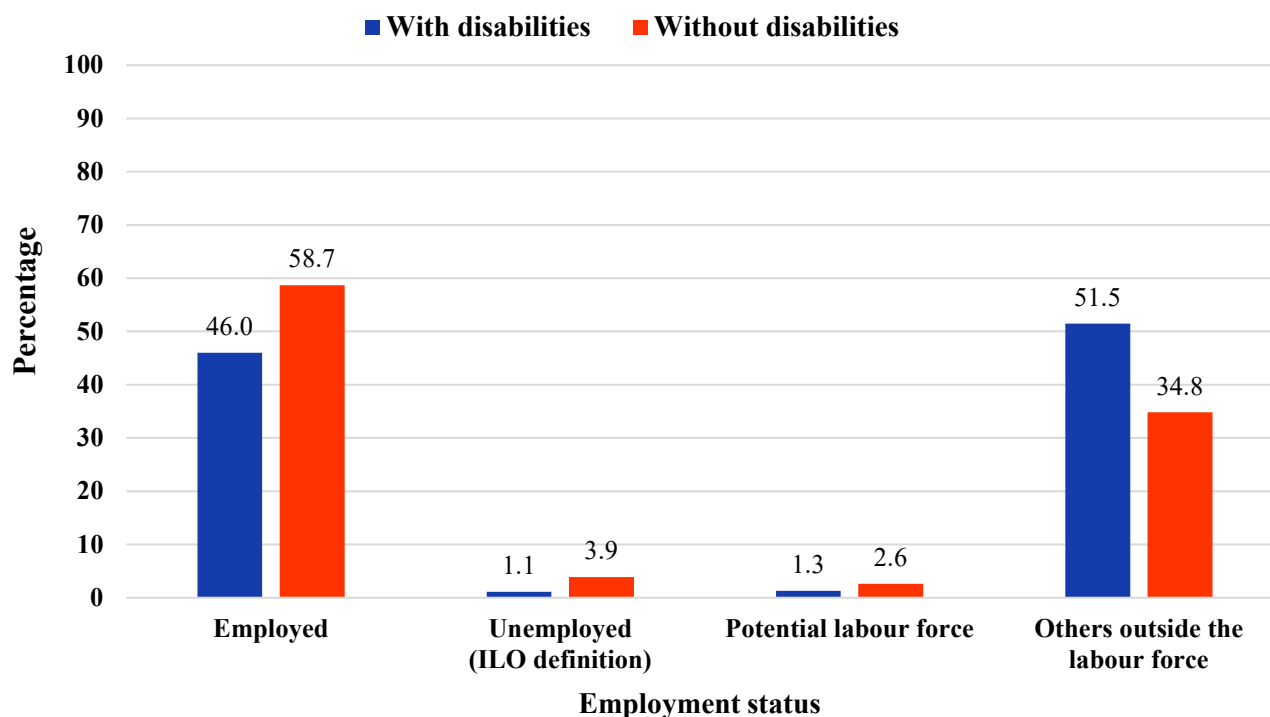
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

Employment Status

- Among the population aged 18 and over, 62.6% of people without disabilities are in the labour force (58.7% are employed and 3.9% are unemployed), compared with 47.1% of those with disabilities (46.0% are employed and 1.1% are unemployed).
- The proportion of the population aged 18 or over who are neither employed nor unemployed, nor in the potential labour force, is higher among people with disabilities (51.5%) compared with those without disabilities (34.8%). Some people outside of the labour force are attending school or are no longer in a position to work, but for some, disability may be an obstacle to entering the labour market (lack of job opportunities due to disability).

Figure 5. Employment status by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cameroon, 2021



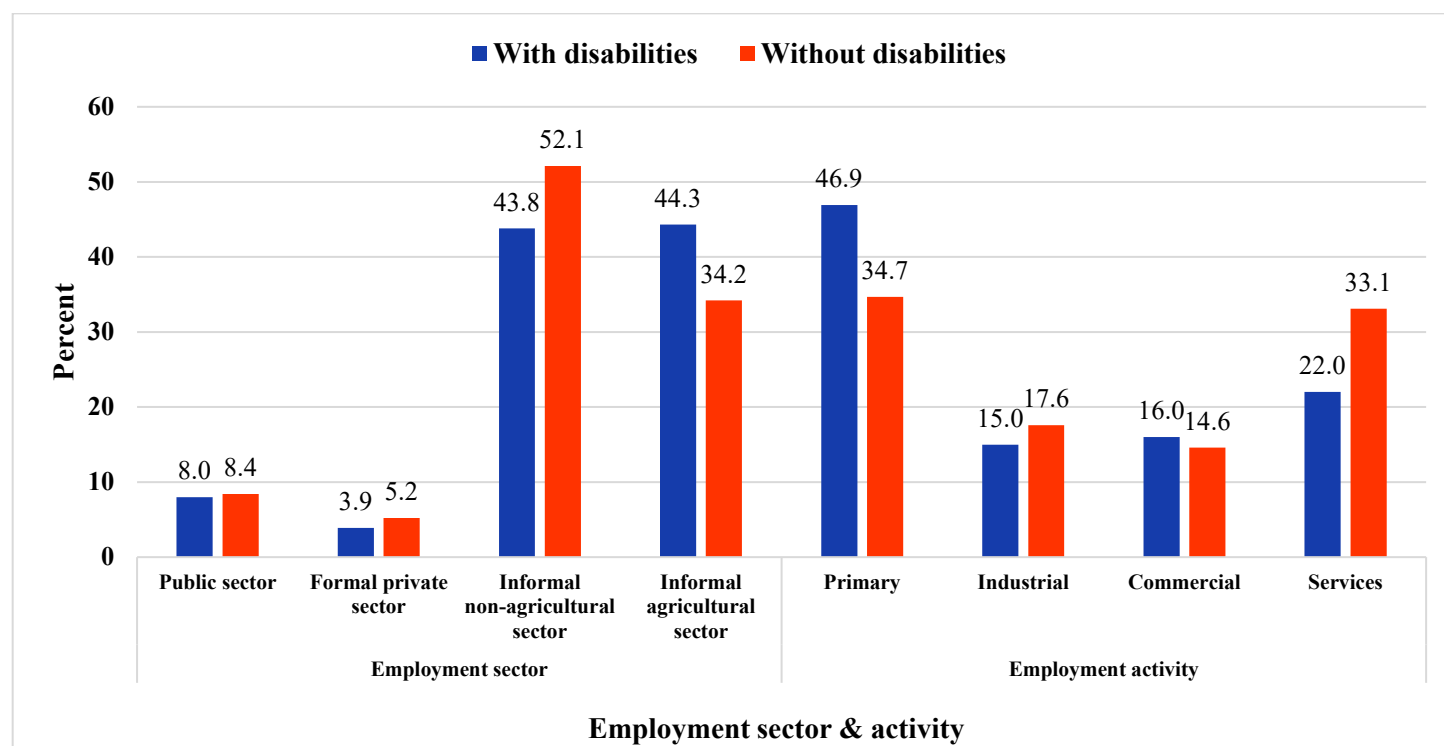
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities. The labour force is a concept that refers to the current supply of labour for the production of goods and services in exchange for remuneration or profit. It refers to both employed and unemployed people. Employment categories include employed, unemployed, potential labour force, and others outside the labour force. The unemployed category is based on the ILO definition and includes individuals who meet the following three criteria: jobless, available to work, and looking for work. The potential labour force category is defined as people who are either a) jobless and looking for work but not available to work, or b) jobless and available to work but not looking for work. Others outside the labour force are individuals who meet the following three criteria: jobless, not available, and not looking for a job.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

Employment Sector and Activity

- Analysis of the structure of employment by employment sector shows that adults with disabilities (44.3%) are more likely than adults without disabilities (34.2%) to be in the informal agricultural sector, while those without disabilities (52.1%) are most likely to be in the informal non-agricultural sector.
- In terms of employment activity, adults with disabilities are more likely to be employed in the primary sector and, to a lesser extent, in the commercial sector, compared to adults without disabilities, who are more likely than adults with disabilities to be employed in the industrial and services sectors.

Figure 6. Employment sector and activity by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cameroon, 2021



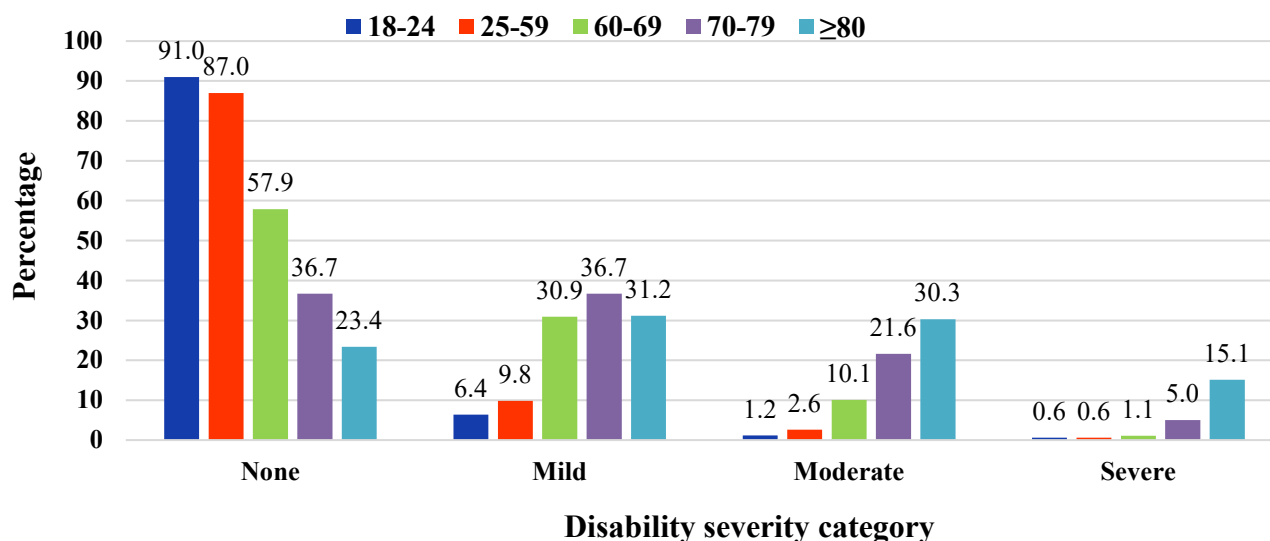
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

Severity of Disability

- Older adults (aged 70-79 and 80 or over) are more likely to have severe disabilities. In fact, 15.1% of adults aged 80 or over and 5.0% of adults aged 70-79 reported more severe difficulties, compared to 1.1% of adults aged 60-69 and less than 1% of adults aged 18-59.
- Among adults aged 70-79 and 80 and over, 21.6% and 30.3% experience moderate difficulties, respectively.

Figure 7. Severity of disability, by age: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cameroon, 2021



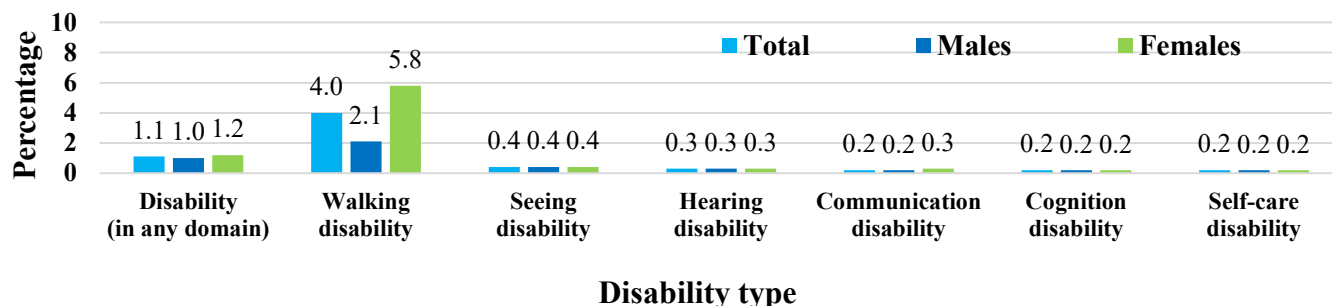
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. The disability severity indicator expands the two disability indicator categories (“with disabilities” and “without disabilities”) into four categories based on the highest level of difficulty reported in all six domains. The measure better reflects the full range of functioning in the population. A continuous disability severity score (SS-Sco) is calculated by assigning values to the responses to each of the six domain questions, then summing the values across the domains. The values assigned to the responses to each domain are: No difficulty = 0; Some difficulty = 1; A lot of difficulty = 6 and Cannot do at all = 36. After summing across all domains, thresholds are set at different levels of the disability spectrum to create severity categories. The resulting disability severity indicator is based on the following categories: SS-Sco = 0 corresponds to “No difficulties”; SS-Sco = 1 - 4 corresponds to “Mild difficulties”; SS-Sco = 5 - 23 corresponds to “Moderate difficulties” and SS-Sco = 24 - 216 corresponds to “More severe difficulties”.

Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

Prevalence of Disability in the 5-17 Age Group

- Around one percent of the population aged 5-17 have disabilities (in any domain), and rates of disability (in any domain) are similar for male children (1.0%) and female children (1.2%).
- The most common type of disability among children is walking (4.0%), and female children (5.8%) are more likely to have difficulty in this domain than male children (2.1%).

Figure 8. Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain: age-adjusted percentage of the population 5-17 years, by sex, Cameroon, 2021



Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](https://population.un.org/wpp/)) using the following age groups: 5-9, 10-14, and 15-17 years.

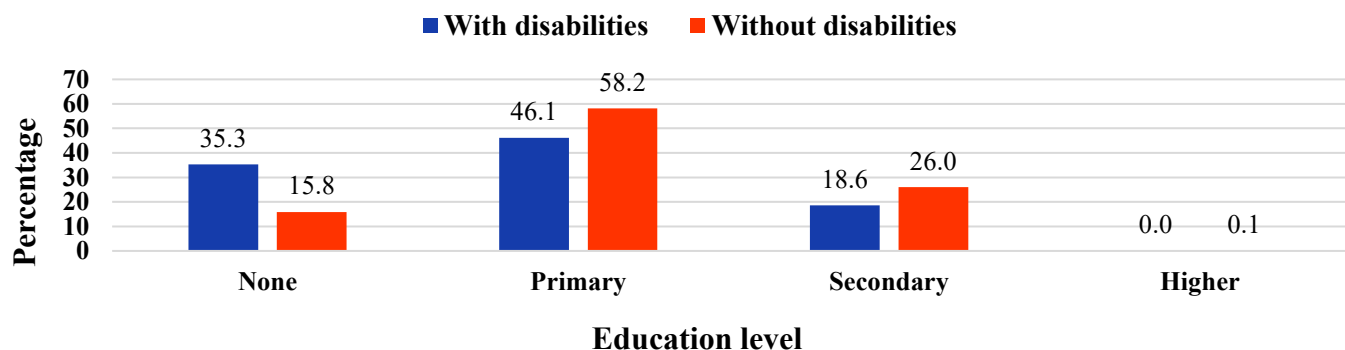
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Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

Outcomes Disaggregated by Disability in the 5-17 Age Group

- Almost 2 in 5 children aged 5-17 with disabilities (35.3%) had completed no formal education at the time of the survey, compared to around 1 in 5 children without disabilities (15.8%).
- These results suggest high barriers to access to school for children with disabilities.

Figure 9. Education level by disability status: percentage of the population 5-17 years, Cameroon, 2021



Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

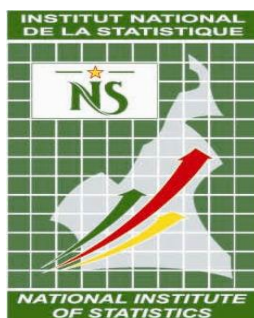
Data source: National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3), 2021.

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Appendix 1: Processing and analysis team

No.	First and last names	Structure
01	TCHOUDJA Victorien	INS
02	Djabar Dine ADECHIAN	AFRISTAT
03	Steve Bertrand MBOKO IBARA	IFORD/Brazzaville Group

Appendix 2: Other Relevant Sources

1. International Labour Office. (Geneva, January-February 2013). Report submitted for discussion at the meeting of labour statistics experts on the development of employment and unemployment statistics. <https://www.ilo.org>
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5. Ministry of Labour and Social Security. (1992). Law No. 92/007 of 14 August 1992 on establishing the Labour Code. www.mintss.gov.cm