

World
Watch
Research

Cameroon: Full Country Dossier

January 2022



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

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Young widow with baby in Far North Province, Cameroon (c) Open Doors International

Introduction

World Watch List 2022

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021	Total Score WWL 2020	Total Score WWL 2019	Total Score WWL 2018
1	Afghanistan	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	15.0	98	94	93	94	93
2	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	13.1	96	94	94	94	94
3	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	8.5	91	92	92	91	91
4	Libya	15.6	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.3	11.5	91	92	90	87	86
5	Yemen	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.7	16.7	5.2	88	87	85	86	85
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.6	11.1	88	88	87	86	86
7	Nigeria	13.8	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.4	16.7	87	85	80	80	77
8	Pakistan	13.6	14.0	15.1	14.9	13.1	16.7	87	88	88	87	86
9	Iran	14.5	14.6	13.6	15.8	16.5	10.4	85	86	85	85	85
10	India	12.7	12.7	12.9	14.7	13.3	15.6	82	83	83	83	81
11	Saudi Arabia	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.9	16.7	3.1	81	78	79	77	79
12	Myanmar	12.4	11.5	13.8	13.4	13.1	14.8	79	74	73	71	65
13	Sudan	13.4	13.4	14.3	13.6	15.7	8.5	79	79	85	87	87
14	Iraq	14.0	14.6	14.0	14.8	13.9	6.9	78	82	76	79	86
15	Syria	12.9	13.8	13.5	14.3	13.9	9.3	78	81	82	82	76
16	Maldives	15.4	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.4	77	77	78	78	78
17	China	12.6	9.8	12.2	14.4	15.5	11.1	76	74	70	65	57
18	Qatar	14.2	14.1	11.1	13.0	14.3	7.2	74	67	66	62	63
19	Vietnam	11.3	9.7	12.7	14.1	14.5	8.7	71	72	72	70	69
20	Egypt	12.7	13.2	11.5	12.7	10.8	10.0	71	75	76	76	70
21	Uzbekistan	14.9	12.7	14.1	11.8	15.6	1.7	71	71	73	74	73
22	Algeria	14.0	14.0	11.1	13.4	14.1	4.1	71	70	73	70	58
23	Mauritania	14.3	13.9	13.1	14.0	14.1	0.9	70	71	68	67	57
24	Mali	9.4	8.2	13.9	10.3	12.8	15.0	70	67	66	68	59
25	Turkmenistan	14.5	11.3	13.6	13.3	15.7	0.6	69	70	70	69	68
26	Laos	12.0	10.3	13.2	13.3	14.1	5.9	69	71	72	71	67
27	Morocco	13.1	13.8	10.8	12.8	14.2	3.9	69	67	66	63	51
28	Indonesia	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.0	9.6	13.5	68	63	60	65	59
29	Bangladesh	11.8	10.7	12.9	11.3	10.2	11.3	68	67	63	58	58
30	Colombia	11.5	8.8	13.1	11.0	9.9	13.3	68	67	62	58	56
31	CAR	9.0	8.6	13.6	9.6	11.4	15.6	68	66	68	70	61
32	Burkina Faso	9.4	9.7	12.0	9.6	12.1	14.8	68	67	66	48	-
33	Niger	9.4	9.5	13.9	7.2	12.8	14.8	68	62	60	52	45
34	Bhutan	13.4	12.4	11.7	13.7	13.8	1.7	67	64	61	64	62
35	Tunisia	11.9	12.7	10.6	11.3	13.4	6.5	66	67	64	63	62
36	Oman	13.8	14.0	10.3	13.2	13.4	1.5	66	63	62	59	57
37	Cuba	12.3	8.1	12.6	13.2	14.0	5.9	66	62	52	49	49
38	Ethiopia	9.9	10.3	13.1	10.3	12.3	9.8	66	65	63	65	62
39	Jordan	12.9	14.0	11.0	12.3	12.5	3.0	66	64	64	65	66
40	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	12.0	15.6	66	64	56	55	33
41	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	11.3	7.9	12.5	15.6	65	63	43	43	-
42	Turkey	12.6	11.5	11.4	13.2	11.6	4.6	65	69	63	66	62
43	Mexico	10.3	8.3	12.5	10.8	10.3	12.6	65	64	60	61	59
44	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	7.2	13.1	15.4	65	64	60	54	38
45	Tajikistan	13.8	12.3	12.0	12.6	13.2	0.7	65	66	65	65	65
46	Brunei	14.8	14.5	10.3	11.0	13.2	0.6	64	64	63	63	64
47	Kazakhstan	13.4	11.6	11.1	12.6	13.5	1.7	64	64	64	63	63
48	Nepal	12.4	9.8	9.9	13.6	12.7	5.2	64	66	64	64	64
49	Kuwait	13.5	13.7	9.8	12.3	13.1	1.1	64	63	62	60	61
50	Malaysia	12.5	14.3	11.5	11.6	10.2	3.3	63	63	62	60	65

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021	Total Score WWL 2020	Total Score WWL 2019	Total Score WWL 2018
51	Kenya	11.7	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	11.1	63	62	61	61	62
52	Sri Lanka	12.9	9.9	11.4	11.3	9.4	7.8	63	62	65	58	57
53	Comoros	12.7	11.1	11.2	12.4	14.2	0.9	63	62	57	56	56
54	UAE	13.4	13.6	10.1	11.8	12.2	1.3	62	62	60	58	58
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	13.7	61	58	55	52	53
56	Azerbaijan	13.1	9.9	9.3	11.0	13.4	3.3	60	56	57	57	57
57	Palestinian Territories	13.0	13.4	9.8	10.2	12.0	0.9	59	58	60	57	60
58	Djibouti	12.3	12.3	11.1	10.0	12.2	0.7	59	56	56	56	56
59	Kyrgyzstan	12.9	10.1	11.1	10.4	12.0	1.5	58	58	57	56	54
60	Bahrain	12.5	13.2	9.1	11.1	10.2	0.9	57	56	55	55	57
61	Nicaragua	9.1	5.6	11.1	11.8	11.3	7.6	56	51	41	41	-
62	Russian Federation	12.3	8.0	10.2	10.6	12.3	2.2	56	57	60	60	51
63	Chad	11.5	8.2	10.2	9.6	10.3	5.6	55	53	56	48	40
64	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.7	9.2	9.6	8.1	52	48	48	43	-
65	Venezuela	5.6	4.5	11.2	9.4	11.1	9.6	51	39	42	41	34
66	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	10.1	11.4	7.8	51	46	43	42	-
67	Rwanda	8.1	5.5	6.7	10.3	10.1	9.3	50	42	42	41	-
68	Honduras	7.2	5.1	10.5	7.7	9.2	8.7	48	46	39	38	-
69	Uganda	8.1	4.6	7.4	6.7	9.1	11.7	48	47	48	47	46
70	El Salvador	7.7	4.6	10.7	5.7	9.1	7.2	45	42	38	30	-
71	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	9.8	2.4	44	43	41	42	-
72	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.7	8.3	8.8	1.7	44	43	43	43	-
73	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	7.0	8.1	2.0	43	47	45	46	-
74	South Sudan	5.7	0.9	7.0	6.3	7.8	15.0	43	43	44	44	-
75	Ivory Coast	9.8	8.6	8.2	5.5	7.9	2.0	42	42	42	43	-
76	Israel	9.8	8.4	5.6	6.6	6.6	4.3	41	40	38	39	40

Copyright note

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Sources and definitions

- This country report is a collation of data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and includes statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD).
- Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the conclusion of each main section under the heading “External links”. In order to reduce the length of these reference sections, a table containing links to regularly used sources can be found at the beginning of the “Keys to Understanding” chapter under the heading “Links for general background information”. Where one of these sources has been quoted in the dossier text, a quote reference is supplied as indicated in the second column of the table.
- The WWL 2022 reporting period was 01 October 2020 - 30 September 2021.
- The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: “Any hostility experienced as a result of one’s identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians”. This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.
- The latest update of WWL Methodology including appendices can be found on the [World Watch List Documentation](#) page of the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom).

Effect on data-gathering during COVID-19 pandemic

In the WWL 2022 reporting period, travel restrictions and other measures introduced by the governments of various countries to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic did cause delays and create the need for restructuring grass-roots research in some cases. Through the agile cooperation of In-country networks, Open Doors country researchers, External experts, WWR analysts and an increased use of technological options, Open Doors is confident that – as in the previous reporting period – WWL 2022 scoring, analysis and documentation has maintained required levels of quality and reliability.

External Links - Introduction

- Sources and definitions: World Watch List Documentation - <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/>

WWL 2022 Situation in brief / Cameroon

Brief country details

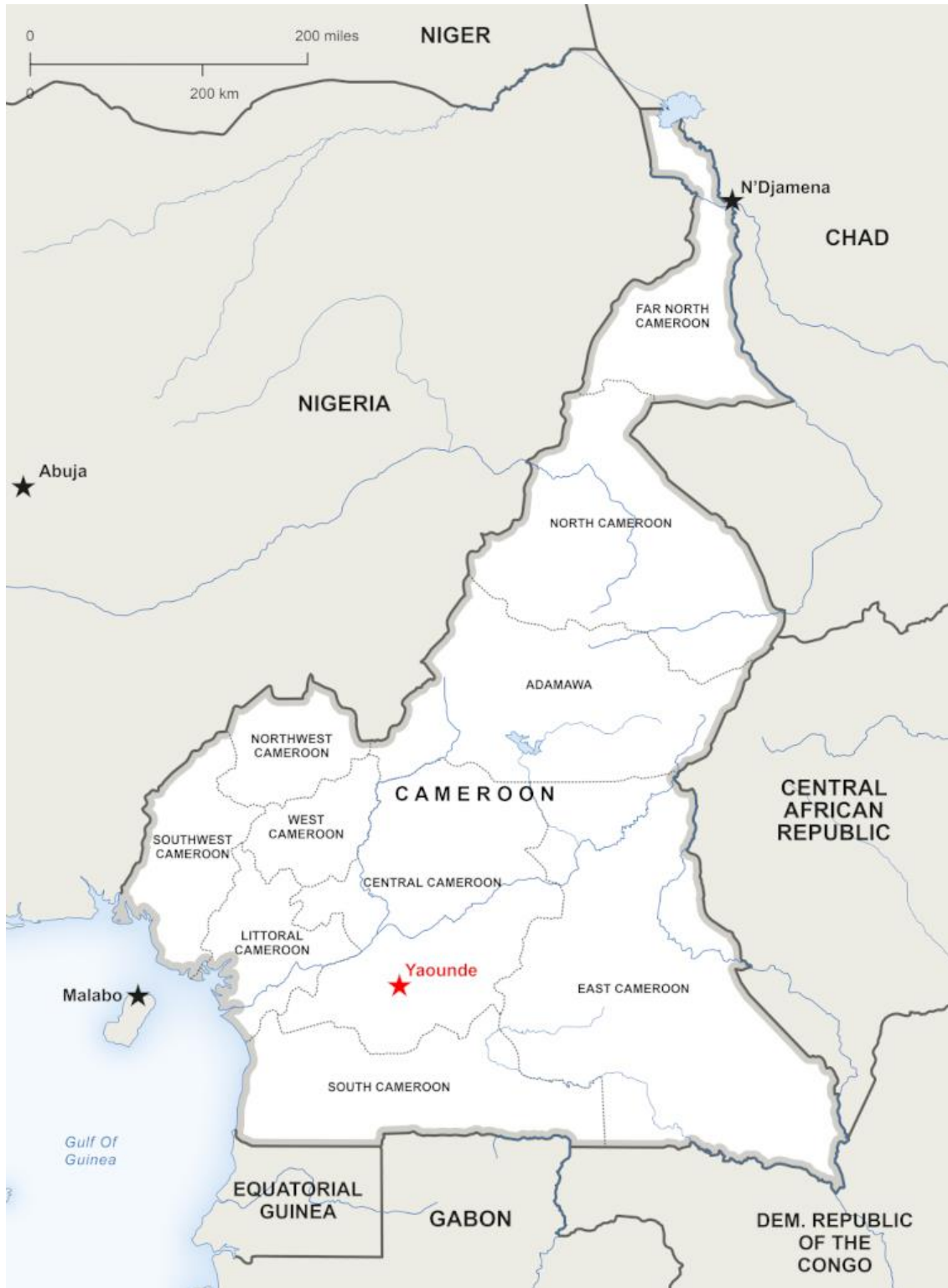
Cameroon: Population (UN estimate for 2021)	Christians	Chr%
26,614,000	16,366,000	61.5

Data source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds, World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2021)

Cameroon: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2022	65	44
WWL 2021	64	42
WWL 2020	60	48
WWL 2019	54	56
WWL 2018	38	-

Ranks are shown above whenever the country scored 41 points or more in the WWL 2018-2022 reporting periods

Map of country



Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Cameroon: Main Persecution engines	Main drivers
Islamic oppression	Violent religious groups, Non-Christian religious leaders, Organized crime cartels or networks, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family
Dictatorial paranoia	Government officials, Organized crime cartels or networks
Organized corruption and crime	Organized crime cartels or networks, Government officials
Christian denominational protectionism	Religious leaders of other churches
Clan oppression	Ethnic group leaders

Engines and Drivers are listed in order of strength. Only Very strong / Strong / Medium are shown here.

Brief description of the persecution situation

Muslims in Cameroon are severely hindered if they want to convert to Christianity, and in predominantly Muslim parts of the country, there has been a process of radicalization. Converts from Islam are threatened when Bibles or other Christian literature is found in their possession. Converts are not free to express their faith or Christian views, be it to immediate family members or others since doing so exposes them to grave risk. Many Christians with a Muslim background face problems with local communities in remote areas in the northern regions, and there have also been cases of children of Christians in the north being forced by non-Christian relatives to attend Islamic classes. Female converts are often coerced into marriage with non-Christians. Christian women also face the danger of abduction by Boko Haram. Church activities have been hindered or disrupted in areas where Boko Haram has been active. Due to the displacement of people, churches have not been able to function normally in those parts of the country. In other areas, security injunctions have set heavy restrictions on church activities.

Summary of international obligations and rights violations

Cameroon has committed to respect and protect fundamental rights in the following international treaties:

1. [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (ICCPR)
2. [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ICESCR)
3. [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW)
4. [Convention against Torture](#) (CAT)
5. [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC)

Cameroon is not fulfilling its international obligations by regularly violating or failing to protect the following rights of Christians:

- Christians are killed for their faith (ICCPR Art. 6)
- Christian converts face coercion, violence, and harassment, including the loss of a job or opportunities for further education unless they renounce their faith (ICCPR Art. 18, ICESCR Art. 2)
- Christian peaceful religious gatherings are restricted by Boko Haram, security restrictions, and denial of registrations or meeting permits (ICCPR Arts. 18 and 21)
- Christians face discrimination in the public and private work force (ICCPR Art. 18, ICESCR Art. 2)
- For a fear of reprisals due to a lack of security, Christians are denied their right to freedom of expression (ICCPR Art. 19)
- Christian women are forcibly married and forced to recant their beliefs (ICCPR Art. 23 and CEDAW Art. 16)

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

- [25 November 2020](#): Boko Haram militants attacked the predominantly Christian village of Gabass in Koza subdivision (Far North region) killing at least three people and abducting another (Crisis24, 26 November 2020). In the same night, Boko Haram also attacked Guidi village, also in the Far North, [setting fire](#) to five homes (Cameroon Intelligence Report, 28 November 2020).
- [8 January 2021](#): At least 13 people were killed in a suicide bomb attack in predominantly Christian Mozogo in Mayo Tsanaga department (Far North region), after armed militants raided the community (Reuters, 9 January 2021).
- [4 June 2021](#): Cameroon's government forces abducted Catholic priest Sylvester Ngarbah Nsah from the northwestern village of Vekovi on 4 June 2021 after accusing him of cooperating with separatists. Catholic priest Christopher Eboka was also reportedly abducted, however by rebels, on 22 May 2021 from a town in Cameroon's anglophone southwest. He stated that rebels freed him after 10 days in captivity (International Christian Concern - ICC, 9 June 2021).
- [6 June 2021](#): Catholic priests gathered at a pastoral center were attacked by unknown gunmen. Two people were killed, and 11 others were injured (VOA News, 8 June 2021).
- [August 2021](#): A Christian was killed when gunmen opened fire in a church in Bali (in the English-speaking Northwest region) while the Sunday church service was in progress. The pastor of the church was also wounded (Xinhua, 23 August 2021).

Specific examples of positive developments

Even though a negotiated ceasefire has not yet been reached, the government and armed groups are known to be meeting (often in secret) in an attempt to reach an agreement to end the conflict that has resulted in so much death, destruction and displacement.

External Links - Situation in brief

- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention against Torture - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cat.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Rights of the Child - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: 25 November 2020: - <https://crisis24.garda.com/insights-intelligence/intelligence/risk-alerts/nqal5idwyg3er7goe/cameroon-fatalities-reported-following-militant-attack-in-far-north-region-november-25>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: setting fire - <https://www.cameroonintelligencereport.com/french-cameroun-three-people-killed-one-abducted-in-boko-haram-attack/>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: 8 January 2021: - <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-cameroon-security-idUSKBN29E08Q>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: 4 June 2021: - <https://www.persecution.org/2021/06/09/priests-abducted-cameroon/>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: 6 June 2021 - <https://www.voanews.com/africa/cameroon-clerics-plea-spare-clergy-separatist-conflict>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: August 2021 - http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2021-08/23/c_1310142303.htm

WWL 2022: Keys to understanding / Cameroon

Links for general background information

Name	Quote Reference	Link	Last accessed on
Amnesty International country report	AI 2021	https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/cameroon/	5 August 2021
BBC News country profile	BBC country profile	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13146029	5 August 2021
Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2020	BTI 2020	https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-dashboard-CMR.html	5 August 2021
CIA World Factbook	CIA Factbook	https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cameroon/	5 August 2021
Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index 2020	EIU 2020	https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/democracy-index-2020.pdf	5 August 2021
FFP's Fragile States Index 2021	FSI 2021	https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/	5 August 2021
Freedom House's 2021 Democracy index (Cameroon is not included)	Freedom House/Democracy 2021	https://freedomhouse.org/countries/nations-transit/scores	
Freedom House's 2021 Global Freedom index	Freedom House/Global Freedom 2021	https://freedomhouse.org/country/cameroon/freedom-world/2021	5 August 2021
Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2020 report (Cameroon is not included)	Freedom House/Internet Freedom 2020	https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-net/scores	
Garda World country report	Garda World	https://www.garda.com/crisis24/country-reports/cameroon	5 August 2021
Human Rights Watch World Report 2021	HRW 2021	https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon	5 August 2021
Internet World Stats 2021	IWS 2021	https://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#cm	5 August 2021
RSF's 2020 World Press Freedom Index	World Press Freedom 2020	https://rsf.org/en/cameroon	5 August 2021
Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index	CPI 2020	https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/cmr	5 August 2021
UNDP's Global Human Development Indicators	HDI	http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CMR	5 August 2021
US State Department's 2020 International Religious Freedom country reports	IRFR 2020	https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/cameroon/	5 August 2021
USCIRF 2021 country reports	USCIRF 2021	https://www.uscirf.gov/countries	
World Bank country report	World Bank	https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cameroon	5 August 2021

Recent history

Cameroon is a West African country sharing borders with Gabon, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria. Europeans first came into contact when the Portuguese explorer, Fernando Po, led an expedition up the Wouri River in 1472. In 1520, the Portuguese established a sugar plantation which was later taken over by the French in the 1600s. In 1884, the agreement between Germany and local chiefs put the country under German domination. After the end of WWI, the country was taken away from Germany and divided into two with France getting a mandate over 80% of the area, and Britain getting a mandate over the remaining 20%. In 1960, the French colony became independent. The following year, the northern part of British Cameroon voted to join with Nigeria while the southern part voted to join French Cameroon leading to the formation of the first Cameroon Republic, officially known as the Federal Republic of Cameroon (Source: [History World](#), accessed 20 August 2020).

From 1960 until 1982, Ahmadou Ahidjo ruled the country as president with an iron fist. He abolished the federal government structure in 1972, followed by more repressive measures against his opponents. In 1982, he was replaced by his deputy Paul Biya (Source: [Cameroun Web](#), accessed 20 August 2020). Today, more than three decades have passed but Paul Biya's dictatorial regime continues to rule the country.

Since late 2016, Cameroon's Anglophone regions (i.e. North West and South West) have been engulfed in a crisis which started when English-speaking lawyers, students and teachers began protesting against what they saw as their cultural marginalization and under-representation in the central government. This was met with a heavy-handed government response and over the years many [innocent civilians](#) have been killed, arbitrarily detained and physically abused by the government security forces (HRW, World Report 2019).

The [heavy-handed response by the government](#) resulted in the formation of several non-state armed groups and fueled existing separatist sentiment; the subsequent violent confrontations also forced more than half a million people to flee their homes (Refugees International, 29 May 2019). Similar acts of violence in September 2018 that involved both armed secessionists and security forces took a greater death toll on ordinary people and showed the escalation of the situation, which led the UN and African Union to issue a [joint communiqué](#) calling on the government to facilitate access to humanitarian and human rights organizations (HRW, World Report 2019).

Today, the civil war continues unabated in the Anglophone regions of the country. Hundreds of civilians have been killed since January 2020 in the North-West and South-West regions. In March 2020, a separatist group, calling itself "Southern Cameroons Defence Forces" (SOCADEF), called for a ceasefire as the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. In June 2020, government officials held peace talks in the capital, Yaoundé, with the leaders of the Ambazonia Interim Government, a major separatist group. Neither initiative led to an end to the violence (HRW 2021).

In this ongoing civil war, Christians are impacted both directly and indirectly. There are direct attacks coming from both sides of the conflict if they do not support their cause. The indirect impact comes from the government focusing its attention on combatting separatists, which has

given Boko Haram the opportunity to take advantage of security loopholes left by the security forces.

Political and legal landscape

Cameroon is a [unitary republic](#) with a president as head of state. Since the country has had experience with German, French and British occupation, the country's legal system is based on a mixture of English common law and the Napoleonic Code. The parliament is bicameral: The National Assembly (the lower house) has 180 members and the Senate (the upper house) has 100 members (The Commonwealth, accessed 20 August 2020).

On 7 October 2018, the country held a [presidential election](#): The turnout of 54% was far lower than in previous elections and was just 10% in English-speaking regions. The six-term octogenarian President Paul Biya was declared the winner on 22 October following the dismissal of a petition filed by multiple opposition candidates at the constitutional court alleging fraud and irregularities (The Guardian, 22 October 2018). On 6 November 2018, 85-year-old Biya was sworn-in for a seventh term as president. In late January 2019, Maurice Kamto and several Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) officials were arrested by security forces after the party held nationwide rallies calling for a recount of the 2018 presidential vote. The government used force to disrupt the CRM's rallies and relied on the same tactics when the party held rallies to call for Kamto's release in June. Kamto was tried on charges of insurrection and rebellion in September 2019, but President Biya ordered his release in October. The government also banned CRM rallies.

Parliamentary elections were held in Cameroon on 9 February 2020, together with municipal elections. The Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) retained its majority in parliament, winning 139 of the 167 seats. Cameroon also held regional elections for the first time in December 2020. President Biya hoped that the first ever regional vote would appease critics who were claiming he was neglecting the 10 provinces, and that it would also end a bloody four-year insurgency in the west by English-speaking separatists. The government viewed the polls as a step towards greater regional autonomy, but opponents claimed that the vote would only tighten President Biya's hold on power and boycotted the regional elections. As a result, President Biya's ruling party [won control](#) of nine out of 10 regional councils (Reuters, 10 December 2020).

According to Freedom House/Global Freedom 2021:

- The ruling CPDM party dominated legislative elections in February 2020, as well as the country's first-ever regional elections in December 2020.
- Authorities cracked down on opposition movement CRM throughout the year, banning their rallies and arresting demonstrators who defied the bans.
- On 22 September 2020, over 500 protesters including two party leaders were arrested in various cities and accused of crimes including insurrection. A day before, CRM leader Maurice Kamto was placed under house arrest, where he remained until 8 December 2020.
- In 2020, the conflict in the Anglophone regions wore on, with frequent reports of violence by separatists and government forces. Separatists maintained an atmosphere of terror in the regions, including through deadly attacks on students, teachers and schools.

- Rights groups and journalists reported a massacre of 21 civilians by government forces and armed ethnic Fulani militiamen in February 2020, in Ngarbuh, Northwest Region. In April 2020, authorities acknowledged some of the events there and pledged to investigate.
- State-run CRTV has been criticized for favoring the ruling CPDM in its coverage.

Cameroon's legal landscape has long been restrictive towards women and girls. In particular, marriage is a place where violent repression of women takes place, especially of female converts. Whilst forced marriages are prohibited, polygamy is legal (for men) and widely culturally accepted (Civil Code, Ordinance 81-02, Art. 49, 1981). The minimum age for marriage is 15 for girls (with parental permission) and 18 for boys; according to [Girls Not Brides \(2020\)](#), a total of 31% of girls are married by the age of 18, with most early marriages occurring in the North. Within marriages violence is pervasive, and due to a lack of legislation addressing domestic violence or marital rape, victims have no recourse to justice or protection ([Home Office, 2020](#)). Human rights advocates have campaigned for the cessation of harmful practices towards widows, which include a widow being publicly blamed for the death of her husband, being forced to have sexual relations with one of her husbands' male relatives, being forcibly shaven and unclothed, and being imprisoned within her own home ([Global Fund for Widows, 15 December 2020](#)).

Christians are very active in the political sphere but suffer from the corruption and lack of democracy. Many Christians have complained that government officials are not giving them the protection accorded to them by the law, if they do not openly support the government.

Religious landscape

Cameroon: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	16,366,000	61.5
Muslim	5,448,000	20.5
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	520	0.0
Ethno-religionist	4,502,000	16.9
Jewish	71	0.0
Bahai	66,400	0.2
Atheist	51,000	0.2
Agnostic	164,000	0.6
Other	16,130	0.1
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Data source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds, *World Christian Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2021)

The Islamic community is concentrated in the north of Cameroon. Christian communities are most dense in the southern and western regions of the country.

As per the US State Department (IRFR 2020):

- "The Fulani (Peuhl) ethnic group is mostly Muslim and lives primarily in the northern Francophone regions; the Bamoun ethnic group is also predominantly Muslim and lives in the West Region. Many Muslims, Christians, and members of other faiths also adhere to some aspects of animist beliefs."

Economic landscape

According to [World Bank's Macro Poverty Outlook \(April 2021\)](#):

- The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the contraction of Cameroon's economy in 2020, and additional 400,000 people fell into extreme poverty. The pandemic has mainly affected service sectors and those linked to global value chains, hampering manufacturing sectors.
- The current account deficit narrowed to 4.6 percent of GDP in 2020, from 5.0 percent of GDP in 2019.
- At the end of December 2020, inflation surged by 2.5 percent mainly driven by rising clothing, footwear and food prices.
- Cameroon's economic activity is expected to recover gradually from 2021 onwards on the back of dynamic secondary and tertiary sectors. Real GDP would grow by 2.1 percent in 2021 (0.1 percent in per capita terms), and the country is projected to return to its pre-COVID growth rate (3.8 percent) in 2023.

According to Heritage Foundation's [2021 Index of Economic Freedom](#):

- Cameroon's economy is categorized as 'mostly unfree'.
- "Cameroon's economic freedom score is 53.4, making its economy the 144th freest in the 2020 Index. Its overall score has decreased by 0.2 point, primarily because of a decline in property rights. Cameroon is ranked 32nd among 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages."
- The combined value of exports and imports is equal to 36.9% of GDP.

Women and girls are among the most economically vulnerable in Cameroon, in part due to limited education and employment opportunities ([OCHA, 2019](#)). Making it additionally challenging for women to achieve economic independence, customary practices often deny widows their due inheritance, overriding statutory provisions. In some communities women are viewed as the property of their husband, or forced into levirate marriages ([OECD, 2019](#)).

Social and cultural landscape

According to UNDP's HDI 2020 report and CIA Factbook:

- **Main ethnic groups:** The country has more than 200 ethnic groups. Bamileke-Bamu 24.3%, Beti/Bassa, Mbam 21.6 %, Biu-Mandara 14.6%, Arab-Choa/Hausa/Kanuri 11%, Adamawa-Ubangi 9.8%, Grassfields 7.7%, Kako,Meka/Pygmy 3.3%, Cotier/Ngoe/Oroko 2.7 %, Southwestern Bantu 0.7%, foreign/other ethnic group 4.5 % (2018 est.)
- **Main languages:** 24 major African language groups, English (official), French (official)
- **Urban population:** 58.1% of the total population (2021)
- **Rate of urbanization:** 3.43% annual rate change (2020-2025 est.)
- **Population growth rate:** 2.77% (2021 est.)
- **Median age:** 18.7 years
- **Literacy rate, adult (15 years of age and older):** 77.1%
- **Expected years of schooling:** 12.1 years; (11.3 years for females and 12.9 years for males)
- **Employment population ratio (15 years of age and older):** 73.5%
- **Unemployment, total (% of labour force):** 3.4%
- **Unemployment, youth (15-24 years of age):** 5.8%

According to the [UNHCR fact sheet](#) (March 2021):

- **Refugees/IDPs:** Cameroon hosts 1,946,751 persons of concern to UNHCR: 440,461 refugees, 7,591 asylum seekers, 1,032,942 internally displaced persons (IDPs), (321,886 in the Far North and 711,056 in the North West and South West regions), and 465,757 returnees (former IDPs).

According to the UN Global Development Indicators (HDI 2020):

- **Human Development Index:** Cameroon is ranked 153 out of 189 countries with a value of 0.563
- **Life expectancy at birth:** 59.3 years
- **Gender Development index (GDI):** 0.864
- **Gender inequality index (GII):** 0.560. Cameroon ranks 150th among a total of 189 classified countries. This is nine places lower than the previous year, indicating how the status of women and girls has been in a downward trajectory.

Cameroonians often have large, extended families with both [polygamous](#) and monogamous marriages (DW, 26 July 2016). Due to the traditional encouragement to have large families, more than 60% of the current Cameroonian population is under 25 years of age.

Cameroon is a heavily patriarchal society, which treats women and girls as inferior to men in daily life. By law, men are the head of the household and make decisions on behalf of the family (Ordinance 81-02, Art. 212-214, 1981; Constitution, 1996). According to the [CSPPS \(2020\)](#), the COVID-19 crisis has magnified the gap between men and women. 56% of women have reportedly experienced sexual violence and domestic violence is reportedly rampant ([Reliefweb/GenCap, 17 October 2019](#)). Whilst primarily a danger for women, men and boys are not exempt from the threat of sexual violence – of all reported cases of sexual violence, 11% of victims are male.

Technological landscape

According to Internet World Stats (IWS 2021):

- **Internet usage:** 28.9% of the population – survey date: 31 December 2020
- **Facebook usage:** 15.7% of the population - survey date: 31 December 2020

According to World Bank:

- **Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people - 2019):** 83

Cameroon has displayed efforts to reduce the gender gap in the information and communications technology sector (ICT); the number of female Internet users has reportedly risen in recent years ([UN Women, 2015](#); [Web Foundation, 2015](#)). According to [Napoleon Cat \(2020\)](#), 42.2% of Facebook users are female, compared to 57.8% male. This indicates that a gender gap in relation to technology access remains.

According to [BuddeComm research](#) (updated 20 April 2020):

- About 95% of all electronic transactions are carried through the m-money services operated by MTN Cameroon and Orange Cameroon.
- Nextell Cameroon (majority-owned by Viettel) launched a third network in 2014, including the country's first 3G mobile service. There were about 4.89 million subscribers by late 2018.
- Due to the 2020 COVID-19 crisis, the telecoms sector to various degrees is likely to experience a downturn in mobile device production, while it may also be difficult for network operators to manage workflows when maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure. Overall progress towards 5G may be postponed.
- The ICT sector in Cameroon has made steady progress. The government has also been supportive, having launched its 'Cameroon Digital 2020' program, aimed at improving connectivity. By September 2018, the SAIL submarine cable had been laid, providing a direct link to Brazil and with onward connectivity to other countries in the Americas. The cable substantially improves international bandwidth and should lead to further reductions in access prices for consumers.

Security situation

In recent years, northern Cameroon has come under a series of attacks orchestrated by the Islamic militant group, Boko Haram. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW, [World Report 2020](#)): In 2019, the Islamist group carried out over 100 attacks in the Far North region killing more than 100 civilians. Up until the end of 2019, the conflict between government forces and Boko Haram had killed thousands of Cameroonians and displaced over 270,000 since 2014, leading to the rise of self-defense vigilante groups.

Boko Haram has stepped up attacks on civilians in towns and villages in the Far North region of [Cameroon](#) since December 2020, killing at least 80 civilians in 4 months (HRW, 5 April 2021). The group has also looted hundreds of homes in the region.

The violence in the Anglophone region has also made the country more unsafe. Fighting between government security forces and separatist militants from Cameroon's English-speaking minority has continued unabated since October 2017. From October 2018 to March 2019 alone, at least 170 civilians were [killed](#) in over 220 incidents in the North West and South West regions (HRW, 8 March 2019).

State resources are being invested in combatting the Anglophone insurgency instead of being used against Boko Haram. This has given the Islamic militant group more freedom to recruit, organize and mount attacks against Christians. 2020 and 2021 have not brought meaningful changes in this respect.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in the Anglophone region and the Boko Haram presence in the North have created a cocktail of pressure and violence for men and women alike; women in particular are exposed to gender-based violence ([Al-Jazeera, 29 April 2021](#)). Christian women and girls risk being abducted, forcibly married to fighters and forced to convert to Islam. Christian men and boys, particularly church leaders, are also vulnerable to abduction. They may be forced into the ranks of militias, used for forced labor, or tortured and killed.

Trends analysis

1) The battle against Boko Haram affects the whole region

A significant part of West Africa has become a battleground between government forces and Islamic militants, with Boko Haram actively attacking Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger. Coupled with the fact that the Cameroon government is not respecting or protecting the rights of its citizens, the future of the country does not look bright.

2) Radical Islamic ideology has made deep inroads

In the northern part of the country where radicalization and militancy is taking place, the life of Christians is particularly hard. Even if Boko Haram were to be defeated, social harmony is unlikely to result since Islamist ideology has already made deep inroads among Muslim youth in the region. If things continue as they are, there might be sectarian violence on a scale as occurred in the Central African Republic (CAR) in the last years. The COVID-19 crisis affecting the region has resulted in jihadists having a freer hand and more opportunities for organization and action. They could become even more dangerous in post-pandemic months.

3) The government has become increasingly repressive

What started off as a protest movement by Anglophone Cameroonians has led to civil war. In response, the government has become increasingly repressive and has been accused of serious human rights violations. As it is focusing more and more on suppressing political dissent and opposition, the government has become distracted from its fight against Boko Haram. In July 2020, it was reported that government and separatists had started to hold peace talks. However, [little progress](#) was made by early 2021 (New Humanitarian, 29 March 2021). If these negotiations fail, the country will be in a deep crisis for years to come.

In the context of the above-mentioned crises in the country, Christians are becoming increasingly vulnerable to attack.

External Links - Keys to understanding

- Recent history: History World - <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?ParagraphID=pau>
- Recent history: Cameroun Web - <https://www.camerounweb.com/CameroonHomePage/people/person.php?ID=1253>
- Recent history: innocent civilians - <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/cameroon>
- Recent history: heavy-handed response by the government - https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2019/5/28/crisis-denied-in-cameroon-government-refusal-to-recognize-suffering-in-nwsw-deteters-donors?gclid=Cj0KCQjws_r0BRCwARIsAMxfDRiNNM5F4-9K6toVx60UBgM9ohd6yEkzahVvLIHxS01nTgW6yqAXkbAaAnuJEALw_wcB
- Recent history: joint communiqué - <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/cameroon>
- Political and legal landscape: unitary republic - <http://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries/cameroon/constitution-politics>
- Political and legal landscape: presidential election: - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/22/paul-biya-cameroon-85-year-old-president-wins-re-election-landslide>
- Political and legal landscape: won control - <https://www.reuters.com/article/cameroon-election-idINKBN28K145>
- Political and legal landscape: Girls Not Brides (2020) - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/cameroon/>
- Political and legal landscape: Home Office, 2020 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948164/Cameroon_-_Background_-_CPIN_-_v1.0__final__Gov.uk.pdf
- Political and legal landscape: Global Fund for Widows, 15 December 2020 - https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5fce889a3c0f6e35f56692ce/5fdce6b05dc11341870eac54_Cameroon%20final.pdf
- Economic landscape: World Bank's Macro Poverty Outlook (April 2021): - <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/819481492188154977/mpo-cmr.pdf>
- Economic landscape: 2021 Index of Economic Freedom - <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/cameroon>
- Economic landscape: OCHA, 2019 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/data-gender-equality-cameroon>
- Economic landscape: OECD, 2019 - <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/CM.pdf>
- Social and cultural landscape: UNHCR fact sheet - <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20MCO%20CAMEROON%20FACTSHEET%20FEBRUARY%202021.pdf>
- Social and cultural landscape: polygamous - <https://www.dw.com/en/polygamy-continues-among-camerorens-traditional-rulers/a-19420852>
- Social and cultural landscape: CSPPS (2020), - <https://www.cspps.org/toughest-battles-Cameroon-fought-by-women-girls>
- Social and cultural landscape: Reliefweb/GenCap, 17 October 2019 - https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/data_on_gender_equality_in_cameroon-hno_2020-17_oct_19.pdf
- Technological landscape: UN Women, 2015 - https://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/cameroon_review_beijing20.ashx
- Technological landscape: Web Foundation, 2015 - <https://webfoundation.org/2015/10/narrowing-camerorens-gender-gap-reasons-for-hope/>
- Technological landscape: Napoleon Cat (2020), - <https://napoleoncat.com/stats/facebook-users-in-cameroon/2020/02>
- Technological landscape: BuddeComm research - <https://www.budde.com.au/Research/Cameroon-Telecoms-Mobile-and-Broadband-Statistics-and-Analyses>
- Security situation: World Report 2020 - <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/cameroon>

- Security situation: Cameroon - [https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/05/cameroon-boko-haram-attacks-escalate-far-north#:~:text=\(Nairobi\)%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Islamist%20armed,Human%20Rights%20Watch%20said%20today.](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/05/cameroon-boko-haram-attacks-escalate-far-north#:~:text=(Nairobi)%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Islamist%20armed,Human%20Rights%20Watch%20said%20today.)
- Security situation: killed - <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/03/28/cameroon-new-attacks-civilians-troops-separatists>
- Security situation: Al-Jazeera, 29 April 2021 - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/29/gender-based-violence-pervasive-in-cameroods-anglophone-regions>
- Trends analysis: little progress - <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2021/3/29/cameroods-elusive-peace-rivals-rifts-and-secret-talks>

WWL 2022: Church information / Cameroon

Christian origins

The Portuguese brought Christianity to the country in 1429. However, the Roman Catholic Church only officially started establishing congregations in the country towards the end of the 19th century. The London Baptist Missionary Society (LBMS) sent missionaries in 1845 who were part of a wider influx of European merchants and explorers looking for business opportunities and raw materials. The first LBMS missionaries were led by Alfred Saker along with a group of West Indian Baptist preachers mainly from Jamaica. US Presbyterians came in 1879.

When Germany began colonizing the region in 1880, Protestant work was taken over by German Baptists and Basel missionaries. German Catholic missionaries opened the first successful Catholic mission in 1890.

(Source: *Sundkler B. and Steed C., A History of the Church in Africa, Cambridge University Press, 2000, pp.750-756.*)

Church spectrum today

Cameroon: Church networks	Christians	%
Orthodox	1,400	0.0
Catholic	7,238,000	44.2
Protestant	6,158,000	37.6
Independent	1,682,000	10.3
Unaffiliated	1,359,000	8.3
Doubly-affiliated Christians	-71,900	-0.4
Total	16,366,500	100.0
<i>(Any deviation from the total number of Christians stated above is due to the rounding of decimals)</i>		
Evangelical movement	2,158,000	13.2
Renewalist movement	2,467,000	15.1

Data source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds, *World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2021)*

Orthodox: Eastern (Chalcedonian), Oriental (Pre-Chalcedonian, Non-Chalcedonian, Monophysite), Nestorian (Assyrian), and non-historical Orthodox. **Roman Catholics:** All Christians in communion with the Church of Rome. **Protestants:** Christians in churches originating in or in communion with the Western world's 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Includes Anglicans, Lutherans and Baptists (any of whom may be Charismatic) and denominational Pentecostals, but not Independent traditions such as Independent Baptists nor independent Charismatics. **Independents:** Christians who do not identify with the major Christian traditions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant). **Unaffiliated Christians:** Persons professing publicly to be Christians but who are not affiliated to churches. **Doubly-affiliated Christians:** Persons affiliated to or claimed by 2 denominations at once. **Evangelical movement:** Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. **Renewalist movement:** Church members involved in Pentecostal/Charismatic renewal.

Most Christians belong to the Roman Catholic Church. As per the US State Department (IRFR 2020):

- "There is a growing number of Christian revivalist churches. Christians are concentrated primarily in the southern and western parts of the country. The two Anglophone regions are largely Protestant, and the five southern Francophone regions are mostly Catholic."

WWL 2022: Persecution Dynamics / Cameroon

Reporting period

1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021

Position on the World Watch List

Cameroon: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2022	65	44
WWL 2021	64	42
WWL 2020	60	48
WWL 2019	54	56
WWL 2018	38	-

Ranks are shown above whenever the country scored 41 points or more in the WWL 2018-2022 reporting periods

The rise in score by 1 point in WWL 2022 is due mainly to the increases in pressure in the *Church sphere*. Due to the conflict in the Anglophone region and the existence of Boko Haram in the northern part of the country and the overall *Dictatorial paranoia*, church life is very limited for Christians. Christians face intimidation and attacks if they speak against the atrocities going on in the country (perpetrated both by government and separatist forces). At times, church premises have been used for military bases. The government has also refused to allow some Christians to operate in the country. Established church denominations also persecute other Christian groups where the increase in the number of non-traditional Christian communities is seen as a threat. The existence of rampant corruption in the country has also made security and the rule of law virtually non-existent in many areas. The COVID-19 crisis has served to strengthen the forces of persecution and weaken the position of those targeted.

Persecution engines

Cameroon: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Very strong
Religious nationalism	RN	Not at all
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Not at all
Clan oppression	CO	Medium
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Medium
Communist and post - Communist oppression	CPCO	Not at all
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Strong
Organized corruption and crime	OCC	Strong

The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Islamic oppression (Very Strong)

This persecution engine is particularly evident in the north, in Adamawa, and also in some eastern regions. *Islamic oppression* affects primarily Christians with a Muslim background who are persecuted by their family. The Boko Haram Islamic insurgency also poses a constant threat to the life and security of Christians and has caused the displacement of many Christians from Adamawa, the north and the extreme northern regions. In remote areas in these regions, some Muslim leaders believe that Islam should be the only religion present. Although Cameroon is generally a country where there is religious tolerance, the memories and legacies of Fulani-led *jihad* in previous centuries in the northern regions lingers on: It was through *jihad* that the indigenous population was forcibly converted to Islam. The violence and activity of Boko Haram have brought these memories alive and is undermining the history of peaceful relations between Christians and Muslims in modern-day Cameroon.

Dictatorial paranoia (Strong)

During the past three decades of Paul Biya's rule, the regime has been responsible for a whole series of political arrests, killings and persecution of Christians. The Anglophone region of the country has been particularly affected by this due to the independence movement active in the area.

Organized corruption and crime (Strong)

Cameroon is one of the most corrupt nations in the world. The dictatorial regime of Paul Biya is responsible for the rampant corruption that weakens the country's political structure. Although the country has oil resources, it still lags behind most African countries in economic development. Corrupt officials in the northern part of the country have been responsible for the

persecution of Christians by not taking appropriate action to protect Christians under attack by radical Islamic groups. Corrupt officials have also been responsible for persecuting Christians who have views opposing the government.

Clan oppression (Medium)

A significant number of the population adhere to traditional belief systems - and there are also Christians who mix traditional beliefs with Christianity. In areas where Christians oppose such practices, they will face persecution.

Christian denominational protectionism (Medium)

Well-established denominations do not welcome the activities of new church groups in the country. For example, [in 2018](#), Cameroon's Protestant, Baptist, and Catholic churches called on the government to shut down a further number of Pentecostal churches (DW, 21 March 2018).

Drivers of persecution

Cameroon: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	VERY STRONG		-	MEDIUM	MEDIUM			STRONG	STRONG
Government officials								Strong	Medium
Ethnic group leaders			-	Medium					
Non-Christian religious leaders	Strong								
Religious leaders of other churches					Medium				
Violent religious groups	Very strong								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Medium		Weak						
One's own (extended) family	Medium		Weak						
Organized crime cartels or networks	Strong							Strong	Strong

The scale for the level of influence of Drivers of persecution in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. Please note that "-" denotes "not at all". For more information see WWL Methodology.

Drivers of Islamic oppression

- **Violent religious groups (Very strong):** The main drivers are militant groups like Boko Haram who engage in violent attacks targeting both Christians and Muslims who do not adhere to the same interpretation of Islam as them. In addition to these groups, government officials at the local level who sympathize with such groups also contribute to

the persecution of Christians.

- **Non-Christian religious leaders (Strong):** Some Islamic preachers encourage the persecution of converts in their teaching. Such teaching supports the activities of Boko Haram.
- **Family members (Medium):** Family members and neighbors will put pressure on converts to return to Islam.
- **Citizens (people from the broader society) (Medium):** People from wider society also put pressure on converts in the northern part of the country.
- **Organized crime cartels/networks (Medium):** Organized crime cartels or networks have also played a major role in making Boko Haram more potent in the country. These networks are not limited to Cameroon itself; it is a regional issue.

Drivers of Dictatorial paranoia

- **Government officials (Strong):** Paul Biya's dictatorial regime has been ruling the country since 1982. Recently there has been a growing opposition movement throughout the country against his regime. Most opponents are Christians since Cameroon is a Christian majority country. Several Christian leaders have been arrested, tortured, and killed by government officials because they oppose the government's inhuman treatment of political opponents.
- **Organized corruption (Strong):** Government officials also participate in organized crime networks. This has made rule of law a luxury. Even violent religious groups and other groups have benefited from this role of government officials.

Drivers of Organized corruption and crime

- **Violent religious groups (Very strong):** Boko Haram engages with criminal networks to bribe officials and to traffic people and arms.
- **Government officials (Medium):** Paul Biya's regime supports corrupt officials in order to maintain its grip on power. Corrupt officials have taken part in the persecution of Christians in the Muslim-dominated parts of the country. There are also numerous cases where corrupt officials have arrested and killed Christian political opponents of the government.

Drivers Clan oppression

- **Ethnic leaders (Medium):** In this category of drivers are ethnic leaders, adherents of traditional belief systems, family members, and even some Christians who are mixing traditional beliefs with Christianity.

Drivers of Christian denominational protectionism

- **Christian religious leaders (Medium):** The leaders of well-established church denominations sometimes influence the authorities to crack down on smaller church groups in the country.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

Governance and security in Cameroon are major problems, with the country facing violence in three regions:

- Far North - where Boko Haram continues to mount attacks;
- North West - where the Anglophone insurgency is growing;
- South West - where the Anglophone insurgency is growing.

Christian communities and how they are affected

Communities of expatriate Christians: Communities of expatriate Christians do not exist as a separate category for WWL analysis, since expatriates are free to interact with other Christian groups.

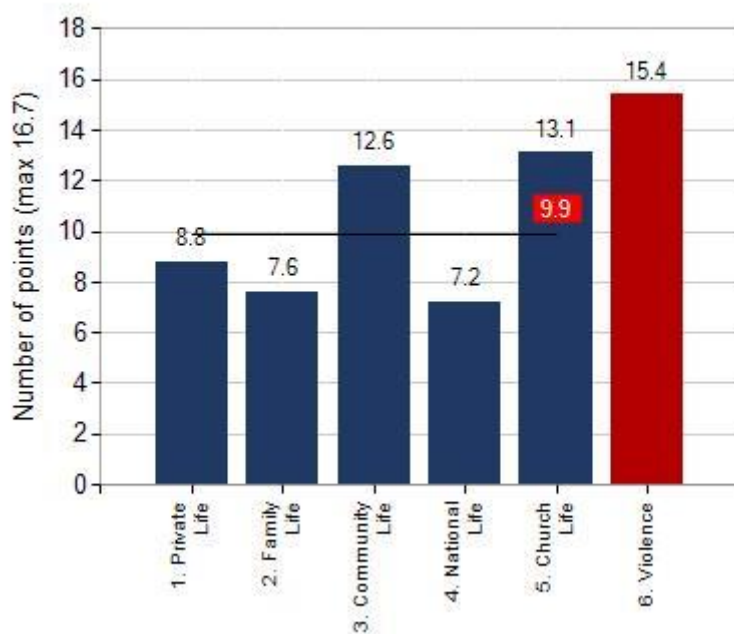
Historical Christian communities: According to World Christian Database statistics, Roman Catholics make up 42.2% of the Christians population. However, there are also several Protestant denominations (e.g. Presbyterians) who can also be considered as belonging to this category. They do not suffer as much persecution as convert communities, but nevertheless, some congregations have been affected by Boko Haram violence; also, the *Dictatorial paranoia* of the government undermines the autonomy of Historical Christian communities.

Converts to Christianity: Converts from Islam to Christianity are the most persecuted Christian group in the country, whether they meet in secret or riskily share fellowship with other Christians. Convert Christians in Protestant churches, are often persecuted by family and community in the northern regions, Adamawa and in the Eastern and Western regions. Some converts were reportedly threatened during Boko Haram attacks to reconvert to Islam. Therefore, this community of Christians faces the risk of pressure, ostracism and violence. This often leads to forced displacement to safer parts of the country. Those who convert from ethnic religious beliefs to Christianity also face pressure from their community and families to renounce Christianity, but the pressure is less intensive.

Non-traditional Christian communities: This is a growing category in Cameroon; Baptist and Pentecostal groups are examples. While some Pentecostal churches have criticized the government and have faced threats of closure, others have tried to align themselves with the government, campaigning and mobilizing funds for the ruling party during elections. Pressure exerted by the government undermines the freedom of such churches. These churches also face threats and violence from groups like Boko Haram in the north. *Islamic oppression* in the north has also made the evangelistic efforts of such groups risky (as well as integration of Christians with a Muslim background).

The Persecution pattern

WWL 2022 Persecution Pattern for Cameroon



The WWL 2022 Persecution pattern for Cameroon shows:

- The average pressure on Christians in Cameroon is high at 9.9 points, rising from 9.7 points in WWL 2021.
- The *Church sphere* score is the highest with 13.1 points, followed by the *Community sphere* score with 12.6 points.
- The score for violence is extremely high at 15.4 points, a slight decrease from WWL 2021 (15.7).

Pressure in the 5 spheres of life

In each of the five spheres of life discussed below, four questions have been selected from the WWL 2021 questionnaire for brief commentary and explanation. The selection usually (but not always) reflects the highest scoring elements. In some cases, an additional paragraph per sphere is included to give further information deemed important. (To see how individual questions are scored on a scale of 0-4 points, please see the “WWL Scoring example” in the WWL Methodology, available at: <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/>, password: freedom).

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.3: It has been dangerous to privately own or keep Christian materials. (2.75 points)

In the context of the ongoing incursion and expansion of Boko Haram, Christians often find it risky to own Christian materials. Converts are threatened if Bibles or other Christian literature are found in their possession. This is true for almost all Christians in the areas that are affected by Boko Haram. There are some Christians who do not take their Bibles home but choose to leave their copies in the church building. The risk is far more acute for converts.

Block 1.8: It has been risky for Christians to speak about their faith with those other than immediate family (extended family, others). (2.75 points)

The northern part of the country is facing a tremendous pressure and Christians, especially converts see their rights to have a discussion about their faith extremely limited. They often face opposition from the wider family should they discuss about their faith. They are often insulted and rejected. This is especially the case in North Cameroon where extended family members are Muslims. Thus, it is very common for Christian converts to hide their conversion. This is also an issue for those who joined new denominations from the well established traditional ones.

Block 1.9: It has been risky for Christians to meet with other Christians. (2.75 points)

Security has been an acute challenge for Christians. For Christians in general, but especially for converts from Islam in the North, it is very risky to meet with other Christians. If they do try to meet up, the local community is likely to think that these Christian groups are trying to convert others. The presence of Boko Haram has made it further difficult.

Block 1.7: It has been risky for Christians to speak about their faith with immediate family members. (2.25 points)

Converts are not free to express their faith be it to immediate family members or others. In some cases, especially in North Cameroon where family members are Muslim, Christians have faced harassment when they discuss their faith with them.

Block 1 - further information

In their private sphere, it is convert Christians who face the severest forms of persecution. They cannot worship in the presence of their families or in their community. They often find it difficult to possess Christian materials. In addition they struggle to meet and also live a life as Christians. In the northern part of the country, even other Christians have to hide their faith in order to protect themselves from Boko Haram.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.12: Christian spouses of non-Christians have been excluded from the right or opportunity to claim custody of the children in divorce cases. (2.75 points)

For most categories of Christianity in the country, there is little or no persecution in this regard. However, Christians with a Muslim background in the northern part of the country do face difficulties. A country researcher states: "In some parts of the country - especially in northern Cameroon (e.g. Touboro) - Christian spouses have been refused custody of children by non-Christian spouses. Official divorce is rare, but couples do separate. Especially in the North Christian spouses will be refused to continue raising their child, let alone have custody over it. This situation mostly affects women. There is also a cultural element to this."

Block 2.13: Christians have lost their inheritance rights because of their conversion to Christianity or (if a person already was a Christian) other types of Christianity. (2.75 points)

Added to the cultural issues, faith also plays a key role when it comes to inheritance where Christians women suffer the most egregious discrimination. This issue affects converts mostly. A country researcher states: "In some parts of the country especially the northern part, there have been some instances where a convert lost his farmland including his house. According to Islamic law, when someone becomes a Christian, he loses his/her right to inherit from their parents. They believe that the Quran does not permit the inheritance of a Muslim to be given to a Christian, so if a man is a Muslim and his child converts, that child is entitled to nothing."

Block 2.10: Christian spouses and/or children of Christians have been subject to separation for prolonged periods of time by circumstances relating to persecution. (2.50 points)

For most categories of Christianity in the country, there is little persecution in this regard. However, Christians with a Muslim background in the northern part of the country face difficulties where it is used as a form of leverage to force parents to renounce their faith. Some converts will hide their faith so as not to be forced to leave their families. If the news of conversion is heard by the community/family, separation is sure to follow.

Block 2.11: Spouses of converts have been put under pressure (successfully or unsuccessfully) by others to divorce. (2.25 points)

Christians with a Muslim background in the northern part of the country face this kind of difficulty. There are several instances where female converts have to choose between either their husband or their Christian faith (which would lead to divorce). The pressure to renounce faith is also a part of the tactics employed by the community and radical groups to teach potential converts what awaits them should they convert.

Block 2 - further information

The Family sphere is another area where Christians converts face serious persecution. It is always difficult for them to celebrate weddings and Christian holidays or raise their children in accordance with their Christian faith. They also face discrimination when it comes to inheritance and also in marriage. The status of a convert in their family diminishes completely..

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere

Block 3.1: Christians have been harassed, threatened or obstructed in their daily lives for faith-related reasons (e.g. for not meeting majority religion or traditional dress codes, beard codes etc.). (3.50 points)

Many Christians with a Muslim background face problems in local communities in remote areas of the northern region. If they are recognized as Christians, they are despised and discriminated against simply for their faith. Educational opportunities for Christians are also restricted. Many Christian headteachers have been compelled to close their schools in the far North, fearing attacks by Boko Haram. This is not limited to converts from a Muslim background: Those who joined other Christian denominations from the well-established traditional churches also face

this problem.

Block 3.10: Christians have been discriminated against in public or private employment for faith-related reasons. (3.50 points)

This often happens in government institutions, and in companies where Muslims are the majority. However, it can also happen in public and private institutions where denominational favoritism or discrimination takes place.

Block 3.2: Christians have been monitored by their local communities or by private groups (this includes reporting to police, being shadowed, telephone lines listened to, emails read/censored, etc.). (3.25 points)

Certain pastors, churches and missionary groups are sometimes closely watched by government intelligence agents since they are perceived to be critical of the government. Many Christians with a Muslim background also face problems with monitoring by local communities in remote areas of the northern regions. For fear of retaliation, Christians also practice self-censorship, especially when gathering for a meeting or using social media. This is the case mostly in the northern part of the country.

Block 3.7: Christians have been pressured by their community to renounce their faith. (3.00 points)

This is the case mostly in the northern part of the country and it affects all Christian groups, both men and women. However, converts are affected the most. Where a Muslim's conversion to Christian faith has become known, he faces losing his job or opportunities for further education, unless he renounces his faith.

Block 3 - further information

The Community sphere of life is one of the worst areas where Christians face persecution. They struggle to participate in their communal institutions or share communal resources. They are also monitored by the locals. In areas where Boko Haram is active, there is huge fear that Christians, their homes and churches can be easily recognized and attacked. It is an area that makes Christians very vulnerable.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

Block 4.8: Christians have been hindered in expressing their views or opinions in public. (3.50 points)

The dictatorial nature of the government makes it very sensitive and hostile to actual or perceived criticism. Therefore, churches and Christians are forced to act carefully when expressing their opinion about public matters from the perspective of their faith. According to a country researcher: "Especially in the Anglophone regions, the freedom of expression and belief was threatened even more, with Internet shut-downs and people being arrested. In the far northern part of the country, people were met by restrictions due to Boko Haram's presence."

Block 4.3: Christians have been forced by law or in practice to act against their conscience, e.g. regarding military service or in certain professions. (3.25 points)

There is no law which specifically requires or compels Christians to act against their conscience. However, there are difficulties for some Christians where the law requires people to swear an oath. Also, corruption affects all citizens, including Christians where they are compelled to participate in unethical practices in government or civil institutions and businesses.

Block 4.14: Those who caused harm to Christians have deliberately been left unpunished. (2.75 points)

This is a common occurrence especially in the northern part of the country. A country researcher states: "Security or armed forces have gone unpunished when they arrested arbitrarily, abused, tortured or killed civilians (e.g. supposed Boko Haram supporters in the North, or supposed separatists in the Anglophone regions ...)". Since Muslims dominate the governmental structure in most of the northern provinces, cases that come before the lower courts are likely to end up in favor of the Muslim party.

Block 4.4: Christians have been hindered in travelling for faith-related reasons. (2.50 points)

There are no laws that prevent Christians from traveling freely within the country. However, Christians face systematic discrimination that hinders them when traveling. The situation with Boko Haram in the northern part of the country has anyway created a volatile environment and made traveling risky.

Block 4 - further information

The National sphere of life is inked to the role of Dictatorial paranoia. Non-traditional Christians and others who do not actively support the government face restrictions. and cannot obtain registration and licenses etc.. Those who speak against injustice, corruption and human dignity are harassed, and subjected to surveillance.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.1: Church activities have been monitored, hindered, disturbed, or obstructed. (3.75 points)

Church activities have been hindered and sometimes attacked in areas where Boko Haram is active. Also, due to the displacement of thousands of people, many churches are unable to function normally. Clashes between government armed forces and separatists have disrupted Christian activities in the Anglophone provinces.

Block 5.2: It has been difficult to get registration or legal status for churches at any level of government. (3.75 points)

Registration has become one of the main areas where Christians experience difficulties. The government has approved no new religious groups since 2010. Although many churches operate without registration and are rarely punished for doing this, the lack of registration can always be used to threaten a church with closure whenever the government feels the churches in quest-

ion have not sided with it politically.

Block 5.5: Churches have been hindered from organizing Christian activities outside church buildings. (3.75 points)

Permission for 'outdoor' activities is often not given in Muslim areas. Such activities would risk provoking an attack by Boko Haram.

Block 5.3: Christian communities have been hindered in building or renovating church buildings or in claiming historical religious premises and places of worship which had been taken from them earlier. (3.50 points)

In Cameroon's Far North region, where Boko Haram is active, Christians would provoke attack if they were to build a church. Also, the government will anyway not allow some church groups to get a license to operate in the country and hence the construction of new churches is hindered for them too.

Block 5 - further information

The Church sphere has seen very high levels of pressure in the WWL 2022 reporting period. Many churches were forced to close down due to the insecurity. Some churches were deliberately taken over to use as a military base. Some churches were intentionally attacked. In some situations, Christians found it unsafe to meet inside their places of worship.

Violence

Violence is defined in WWL Methodology as the deprivation of physical freedom or as bodily harm to Christians or damage to their property. It includes severe threats (mental abuse). The table is based on reported cases as much as possible, but since many incidents go unreported, the numbers must be understood as being minimum figures. The following 5 points should be considered when using the data provided in the Block 6 table:

1. Some incidents go unreported because the Christians involved choose not to speak about the hostility being faced. Possible reasons for this may be:

- *Doing so would expose them to more attacks. For example, if a family member is killed because of his/her faith, the survivors might decide to keep silent about the circumstances of the killing to avoid provoking any further attacks.*
- *In some circumstances, the reticence to pass on information may be due to the danger of exposure caused by converts returning to their previous faith.*
- *If persecution is related to sexual violence - due to stigma, survivors often do not tell even their closest relatives.*
- *In some cultural settings, if your loved one is killed, you might be under the obligation to take revenge. Christians not wishing to do that, may decide to keep quiet about it.*

2. Other incidents go unreported for the following possible reasons:

- *Some incidents never reach the public consciousness, because no one really knows about it; or the incident is simply not considered worth reporting; or media coverage is deliberately blocked or distorted; or media coverage is not deliberately blocked, but the information somehow gets lost; or the incidents are deliberately not reported widely for security reasons (e.g. for the protection of local church leaders).*
- *In situations where Christians have been discriminated against for many years, armed conflict can make them additionally vulnerable. Christians killed in areas where fighting regularly takes place are unlikely to be reported separately. Examples in recent years have been Sudan, Syria and Myanmar.*

- *Christians who die through the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care (due to long-term discrimination) are unlikely to be reported separately. Christians are not always killed directly; they can be so squeezed by regulations and other oppressive factors that they die – not at once, but in the course of years. This often includes the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care, or exclusion from government assisted socio-economic development projects. These numbers could be immense.*

3. For further discussion (with a focus on the complexity of assessing the numbers of Christians killed for their faith) please see World Watch Monitor’s article dated 13 November 2013 available at: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/11/number-of-christian-martyrs-continues-to-cause-debate/>.

4. The use of symbolic numbers: In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10*, 100* etc.) is given and indicated with an asterisk. A symbolic number of 10* could in reality even be 100 or more but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 100* could go well over 1000 but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 1,000* could go well over 10,000 but, again, the real number is uncertain. The same applies for symbolic numbers 10,000*, 100,000* and 1,000,000*: Each could indicate much higher numbers, but WWR chooses to be cautious because the real number is uncertain.

5. The symbol “x” in the table: This denotes a known number which cannot be published due to security concerns.

Cameroon: Violence Block question		WWL 2022	WWL 2021
6.1	How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	27	53
6.2	How many churches or Christian buildings (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	10 *	12
6.3	How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	0	32
6.4	How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?	0	0
6.5	How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)?	4	10*
6.6	How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	100 *	100*
6.7	How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	10	10*
6.8	How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	100 *	100*
6.9	How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	270	100*
6.10	How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	10 *	100*

6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	100 *	1000*
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	100*	1

5 Year trends

The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Average pressure

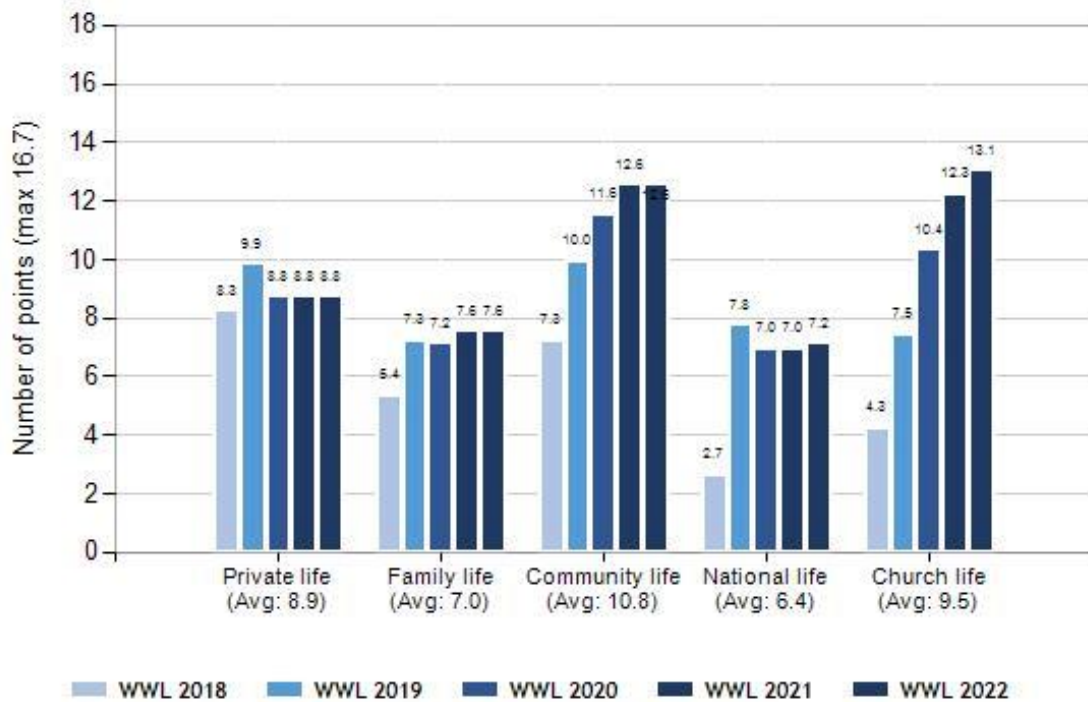
Cameroon: WWL 2018 - WWL 2022 Persecution Pattern history	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2022	9.9
2021	9.7
2020	9.0
2019	8.5
2018	5.6

The chart above shows that, over the last five WWL reporting periods, the average pressure on Christians in Cameroon has been steadily increasing and has now reached a high level (9.9 points).

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life

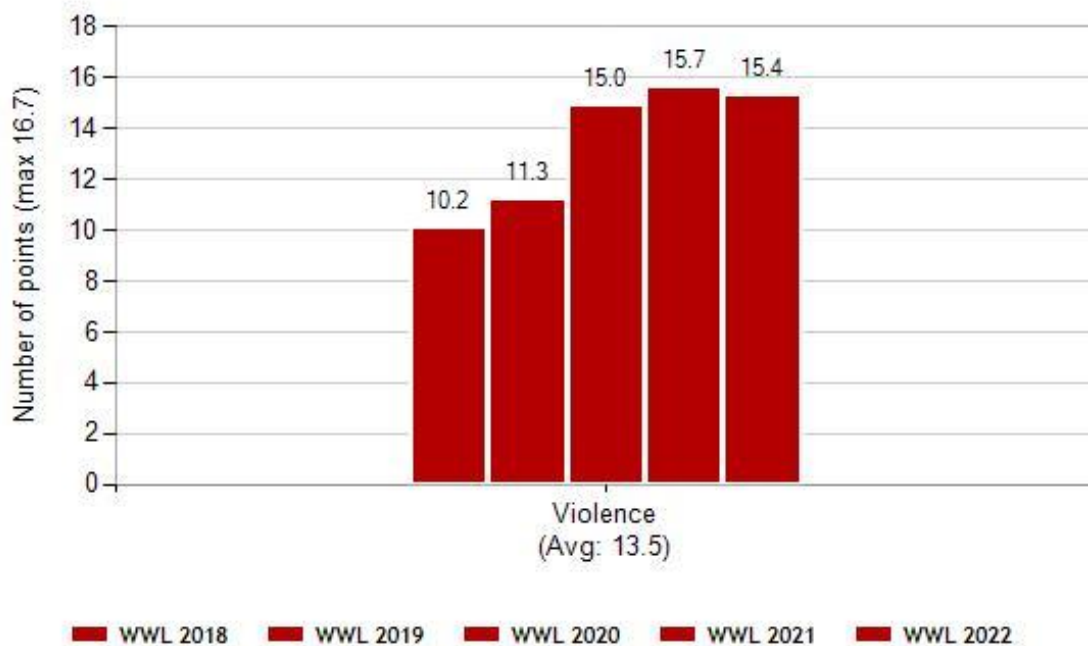
The sphere averages in the chart below show that the *Community, Church* and *Private spheres of life* are the areas of greatest pressure on Christians scoring 10.8, 9.5 and 8.9 points respectively. Rises in pressure over the last few reporting periods were particularly noticeable in the *Church* and *Community spheres of life*. Pressure in the *Church sphere of life* is caused by the operation of the Persecution engines *Dictatorial paranoia* and *Islamic oppression* coupled with the ongoing Anglophone crisis. The pressure in the *Private* and *Community spheres*, which appears to have stabilized in the last few reporting periods, particularly affects converts.

WWL 2018 - WWL 2022 Persecution Pattern for Cameroon (Spheres of life)



5 Year trends: Violence against Christians

WWL 2018 - WWL 2022 Persecution Pattern for Cameroon (Violence)



The chart above shows how violence against Christians rose sharply in WWL 2020 and is now at the extremely high level of 15.4 points. This is an indication that, although Cameroon is a Christian majority country, Christians are subject to violence at an alarmingly high level.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

Group	Female Pressure Points
Economic	Denied inheritance or possessions; Discrimination/harassment via education
Political and Legal	Denied access to Christian religious materials, teachings and rites; Denied custody of children; Forced divorce; Forced marriage
Security	Abduction; Violence – death; Violence – sexual
Social and Cultural	Denied access to social community/networks; Enforced religious dress code; Violence – psychological
Technological	-

Cameroon is a secular country, yet the Far North region continues to suffer from the violent presence of Boko Haram. Christian women in northern Cameroon are subject to several forms of persecution related to their status in society. Boko Haram continues to regularly abduct women and girls, forcing them into marriage with one of their members or subjecting them to forced labor and rape. They are further put under extreme pressure to renounce their faith and embrace Islam (US State Department IRFR 2020). A country expert summarizes some of the risks: “Women are often abducted, raped and forced into marriage by militant groups. Because of the continuous insecurity in northern Cameroon, families are forced to keep their girls out of school for their safety.” Exemplifying just how dangerous these militants are, country experts indicate that several girls have been forced to act as suicide bombers to further decimate Christian populations. Compounding these pressures, strong governance is lacking in Cameroon and [arbitrary arrests](#) have demonstrated the injustice of the legal system (RFI, 26 June 2020).

Female converts to Christianity from a Muslim or Animist background face further pressure within family and community. Linked partly to a lack of education, women in Cameroon are dependent on their husbands or fathers; when they make the decision to convert to Christianity, it can be considered an act of defiance. They can be denied the opportunity to socialize with other Christians and prevented from going to church. Unmarried converts risk being forcibly married to a non-Christian, particularly in the north of the country. Married converts conversely face the prospect of divorce, the loss of custody of their children and disinheritance. If a Christian marries a Muslim and they later separate, the family often refuses to hand over the children, because they insist the children must be brought up as Muslims. Poverty and [financial dependency](#) make Christian women and girls more vulnerable to such pressure (Relief Web, 23 October 2019).

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

Group	Male Pressure Points
Economic	Denied inheritance or possessions; Economic harassment via business/job/work access
Political and Legal	Imprisonment by government
Security	Abduction; Forced to flee town/country; Military/militia conscription/service against conscience; Violence – death; Violence – physical
Social and Cultural	Violence – Verbal
Technological	-

Boko Haram also poses a major threat to Christian men and boys living in the northern regions of Cameroon, particularly church leaders. Men have been abducted by militant groups, tortured and used for forced labor. Others have been forcibly recruited into the ranks of militias. This leaves Christian families without a family head and provider, making them vulnerable to attacks themselves. Communities have become reduced in size due to such attacks, compounded by many men leaving the locality for safer areas. Conflict in the Anglophone region (also known as the Southern Cameroons region), has also fueled instability in the country and caused many people to flee, including Christians. A country expert summarized the situation as follows: “Christian leaders have been targeted and murdered by Boko Haram militants. Some of them have also been abducted. In the Anglophone regions, Christian leaders are targeted by separatist groups and government forces for speaking out against the violence.”

Christian men also face discrimination in the areas of job opportunities and promotion. Furthermore, they also experience hindrances from government officials where they oppose corruption. When a man refuses to get involved in unethical practices because of his Christian beliefs, he is taunted and called a coward. When jobs are refused due to discrimination, the family cannot thrive. Boycotts also affect Christian families economically, financially and psychologically.

Male converts to Christianity also face pressure from family and community members. They may be rejected by their nuclear families and be denied their due inheritance.

Persecution of other religious minorities

Any religious groups that have not openly supported the government face danger. In areas where Christians are the majority, Muslims are ostracized because the community sees them as likely Boko Haram supporters/sympathizers.

Future outlook

The outlook for Christians as viewed through the lens of:

Dictatorial paranoia

The incumbent president has been in power for decades. He has been accused of violating the rights of the citizens. His government has restricted freedom of association, religion and expression. Some Christian groups are being denied licenses to operate in the country. As it stands there are no signs that the nature of the government will change.

Islamic oppression

The northern part of the country has seen devastating attacks by Boko Haram. This militant group has regrouped while the Cameroon government has been occupied with the Anglophone conflict. Attacks by Boko Haram are a regional issue and will likely remain a challenge for Christians in the country in 2022 and beyond.

Organized corruption and crime

The existing rampant corruption has made the life of most Cameroonians difficult and is also helping Boko Haram to operate. This issue will likely remain a challenge for the country in general and Christians in particular where they oppose it.

Clan oppression

Significant number of Cameroonians are still practicing traditional belief systems. At the same time Christians preachers are reaching out to those areas. Thus, it is inevitable that this Persecution engine is likely to decrease in importance as those who adhere to such traditional belief systems are increasingly exposed to education and other religious views.

Christian denominational protectionism

This Persecution engine might grow in importance in the country. The differences between the churches is not so often about theology, but rather about who has the most members and best church buildings. If, in the future, the government chooses to allow non-traditional Christian groups (often Pentecostals) to operate without restriction, *Christian denominational protectionism* is likely to rise sharply.

The Anglophone crisis

In October 2020, rights groups called for a [cease-fire](#) in the Anglophone conflict (DW, 27 October 2020). This crisis has forced the Cameroonian army to shift its attention from fighting Boko Haram to fighting the 'separatists'. If a sustainable peace is not achieved, that would mean Boko Haram can make further inroads.

External Links - Persecution Dynamics

- Persecution engines description: n 2018 - <https://www.dw.com/en/cameroons-pentecostal-churches-under-fire/a-43070272>

- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: arbitrary arrests - <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20200626-these-girls-escaped-boko-haram-face-lengthy-jail-terms-cameroon>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: financial dependency - <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/data-gender-equality-cameroon>
- Future outlook: cease-fire - <https://www.dw.com/en/rights-groups-call-for-cessation-of-fire-in-cameroon/a-55408173>

Further useful reports

A selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on World Watch Research's Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom) and on the World Watch Monitor website:

- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/?s=Cameroon>
- <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/countries/Cameroon>