The participation of men and women with disabilities in political life in Cameroon: Endline report

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PLATEFORME INCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sightsavers

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List of abbreviations

BC	Birth certificate
CI	Confidence interval
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CNERSH	National Ethics Committee for Research on Human Health
ELECAM	Election Cameroon
ELQ	Economic Ladder Question
GPS	Global Positioning System
ID	Identification
ICF	International Classification of Functioning
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OR	Odds Ratio
OPDs	Organisation of People with Disabilities
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
WGSS	Washington Group Short Set
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive summary

Since 2017, the Political Participation Project in Cameroon has supported the country to deliver its democratic priorities by promoting an inclusive social and political environment. Specifically, the project has been strengthening the engagement and representation of women and men with disabilities in political processes.

What did we do in this study?

We measured political participation among adults aged 20 years and older, with and without disabilities. We also analysed political participation among young people aged 20-35 years. We did this to examine the impact of the Political Participation Project between 2017 and 2021, and to inform future work.

Where did we do it?

The project took place in three cities in two regions of Cameroon: Mbalmayo and Yaoundé in the Centre Region and Maroua in the Far North Region.

How did we do it?

We conducted a cross-sectional population-based survey of adults aged 20 years and older. 4,297 people participated in the survey: 56.8% of respondents were in Yaoundé, 34.7% in Maroua and 8.6% in Mbalmayo. The mean age of participants was 37 years and 57.6% of respondents were female. The prevalence of disability was 9.8%, and mobility difficulties was the most commonly reported functional difficulty at 4.5%.

The survey's four sections included questions about:

1. Socio-demographic characteristics of participants
2. Economic status of households
3. Disability, using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions
4. Political participation, looking at the possession of key documents (birth certificate, ID card and voter registration card), being registered to vote, having

participated in past elections, being a member of a political party, and regularly discussing politics.

Our statistical analysis took into account respondents' age, sex, education and location.

Key findings

Prevalence of disability

The prevalence of disability was higher among females (11.5%) than males (7.5%), and the overall prevalence of disability increased with age. More people with disabilities had never been to school (17.6%) than people without disabilities (12.4%). People with disabilities were slightly poorer than people without disabilities but the differences by wealth were not statistically significant.

Political participation

Possession of key documents for effective political participation

Overall, 85.0% of all respondents had a birth certificate and 85.5% had a national identification (ID) card. We found 55.8% were registered to vote and 51.4% had a valid voter card. Across sexes, a significantly lower proportion of females had ID cards (82.7%) compared to males (89.2%); were currently registered to vote (51.3% versus 61.9%); or had a valid voter card (46.4% versus 58.3%). Looking at age, sex, education and location, we found that people with disabilities were around 1.5 times more likely to not have a birth certificate and two times more likely to not have a national ID card. People with disabilities were also around twice as likely to not be registered to vote and 1.5 times more likely to not have a voter card. For the sub-group of younger participants aged 20-35 years, our results showed no statistically significant differences in the possession of the key documents and being registered to vote between young people with disabilities and young people without disabilities.

Participating in past elections and political processes

- Overall, 57.0% of respondents had ever voted, 20.3% were registered members of a political party and 63.1% discussed politics.
- People with disabilities were around 1.5 times more likely never to have voted in elections than people without disabilities.
- We found no statistically significant differences between people with and without disabilities being a registered member of a political party or discussing politics.
- We found no significant differences between people aged 20-35 years with and without disabilities in terms of discussing politics, having ever voted or being a registered member of a political party.

Implications for programmes

Our results show that people with disabilities were less likely to meet the basic administrative requirements to be able to vote, which is to have a birth certificate, a national ID card and a valid voter card. These findings suggest that our programmes should focus on supporting people with disabilities to address these administrative challenges and thus, reduce the existing gap in participation of people with and without disabilities in political processes.

- Relevant decision-makers and authorities should take a twin-track approach to disability. They should ensure people with disabilities are systematically included in mainstream development policies and programmes. They should also develop distinct initiatives to respond to the specific needs of people with disabilities.
- Organisations of people with disabilities can play a critical role in facilitating access of people with disabilities to essential documents and thus increase their participation in elections and other aspects of political life.

Introduction

The right to participate in politics and public life is fundamental to achieving democratic governance, social inclusion and economic development, and realising human rights. Participation can be individual or collective through formal or informal channels. It generally involves voicing demands, making choices, and being involved in local projects at council level [1].

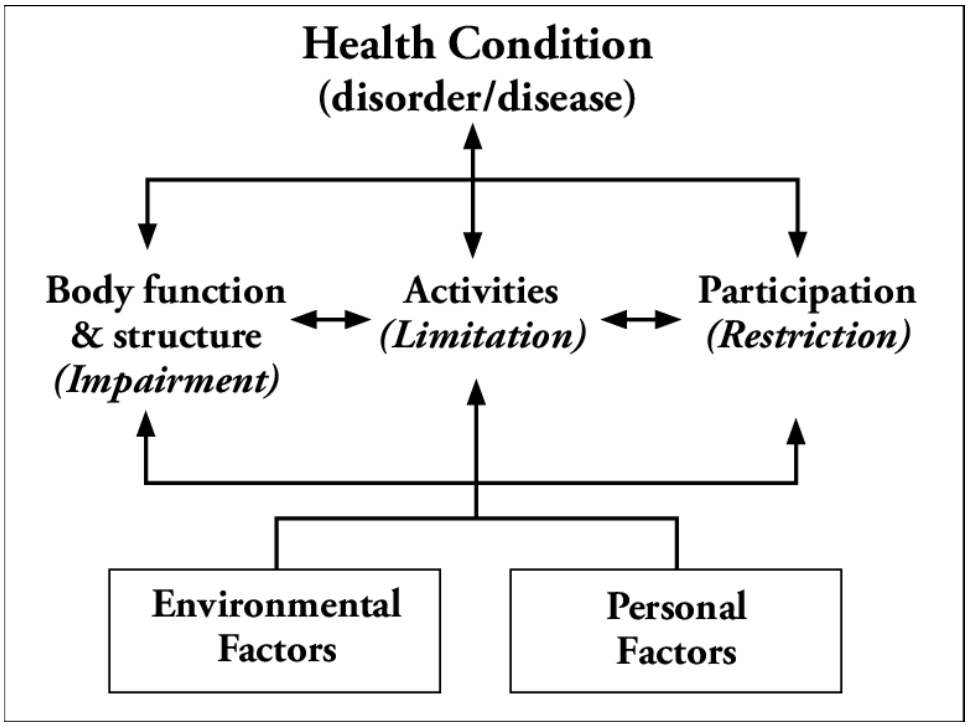
Article 25 (a) and (b) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognises the right of every citizen "to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage [2]." However, inequalities in political participation are widespread, including those arising from direct and indirect discrimination based on gender, disability and social status [3].

Men and women with disabilities are known to be especially vulnerable to social exclusion. Yet relatively little is known about the extent of this exclusion, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

The importance of political participation among people with disabilities is underscored in Article 29 (a) and (b) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This emphasises their right to effectively and fully participate in "political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected" without discrimination [4].

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) (Figure 1) defines disability as an outcome of interactions between health factors such as diseases, disorders and injuries, and contextual factors like social environments and attitudes [5]. This interactional model of disability provides a useful framework within which to explore the connections between activity limitations caused by health conditions and/or impairments, and restrictions on individual participation in community, social and civic life.

Figure 1: The World Health Organisation's International classification of functioning, disability, and health (ICF)



Political participation and disability in Cameroon

Cameroon has a multiparty political system. The 1996 Constitution establishes the separation of the executive, legislative and judicial arms of government, each with independent powers and responsibilities. The executive power is held by the President of the Republic, the Head of State. The legislative power is exercised by the Parliament which includes two chambers: the National Assembly which has 180 members and the Senate, which has 100 members. The judicial power is composed of a set of jurisdictions at the head of which is the Supreme Court [6].

Recently, to engage and provide opportunities for local communities to participate in decision-making, Cameroon decentralised many political processes from central to local government levels. Local and regional authorities are an essential link in the implementation of public policies at local level [7]. Attempts at decentralisation had taken place previously, but decentralisation in its current form was enshrined in legislation in 1996. Local authorities were recognised as legal entities with "administrative and financial autonomy in the management of local interests." [8]

Therefore, local governments, made up of democratically elected representatives, are increasingly important players in democratic processes in Cameroon.

Political participation can take place directly and indirectly. Direct participation includes involvement with an organisation such as a political party or union to express a choice or demand. While it may include voting and belonging to organisations, it may also cover attending meetings, boycotting products, occupying public space or participating in pressure groups. Indirect participation may be expressed through the creation or membership of social or community organisations like mass media, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other independent civil society organisations (CSOs) [9]. It can also be expressed through social development initiatives [10].

Cameroon signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008 and ratified it in 2021. In July 2018, the Government signed a law to protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities in Cameroon [11]. Cameroon is also committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is required to report how people at high risk of marginalisation have benefited from social and economic development [12]. This includes people with disabilities.

Despite these multiple legal frameworks, enforcing and implementing laws remains problematic. People with disabilities remain insufficiently represented in decision-making bodies and less engaged in political life [13], although the full magnitude of their social and political exclusion is poorly understood due to the lack of data.

Study context

The total population of Cameroon was estimated at 26,545,864 in 2022 [14], with around 45% below the age of 15 years and around 4% aged 65 or older [15]. The proportion of people with one or more disability is estimated at 16.5% based on a study conducted in 2017 [16].

There is evidence that people with disabilities in Cameroon are at risk of social exclusion [17] and experience stigma and discrimination at various levels [18].

A systematic review on disability-inclusive elections in Africa conducted by Sightsavers in 2017 identified barriers faced by people with disabilities in political processes:

1. Lack of education and financial resources
2. Stigma and negative social attitudes
3. Lack of physical accessibility of registration and electoral points
4. Lack of adjustments related to specific impairments [13]

In Cameroon, people with disabilities experience similar challenges. There are also limited opportunities to participate in governing institutions at local and national levels for people with disabilities, and particularly women. At the time of this study, there were no people with declared disabilities in the National Assembly or Parliament; only one man with a declared disability sat in the Senate as an alternate senator. Countrywide, at the local level, 12 municipal councillors with a declared disability were elected at the town hall. This included two deputy mayors. In the city of Yaoundé only 2 municipal councillors with a declared disability were elected at the town hall. Overall, evidence on how people with disabilities participate in political processes is scarce in Cameroon.

Even though Cameroon ratified the UNCRPD in 2021 [19], provisions for people with disabilities are not being implemented. Disability was not mentioned in Cameroon's 2019 General Code of Regional and Local Authorities [20] meaning there were no special provisions to ensure people with disabilities can participate in local governance. The Electoral Code presented numerous gaps in inclusion, and political parties are not required to account for the inclusion of persons with disabilities at the time of this study.

Since 2012, Sightsavers has implemented a number of political participation activities in partnership with the Government, CSOs and OPDs. These aim to increase and improve political participation of persons with disabilities in the Centre and Far North regions of the country. The most recent phase of the activities started in 2017 with funding from Irish Aid.

In line with the project monitoring framework, a baseline study was carried out in 2017 to provide reliable data on the participation of people with and without disabilities in political life in project areas. The study aimed to assess the level of

political participation of voting age adults (20 years and above), including people with and without disabilities, to inform programmatic activities and advocacy. The key baseline differences concerning political participation identified between people with and without disabilities related to the possession of a birth certificate and registration to vote. The proportion of those who had a birth certificate and were registered to vote was lower among people with disabilities after the adjustment for potential confounding, indicating an independent relationship between disability and these two outcomes [16]. The study presented here was conducted at the end of the project in 2021 with the aim of identifying what changed during the course of the project.

Project interventions

Awareness raising and sensitisation

The project organised door-to-door sensitisation and civic education campaigns within the project areas to improve access to the voter card and other key documents needed to fully participate in political life. During these outreach campaigns, people with disabilities who lacked the key documents were identified and given support to secure them. In addition, community and religious leaders, as well as chiefs of households, were targeted with sensitisation on the importance of birth certificates (BCs) and ID cards.

Financial support

The programme paid between $11 and $450 to enable people with disabilities to acquire a BC or ID card. The costs included stamp charges and associated administrative costs for the authentication and processing of these key civic documents.

In addition, direct financial support was provided to the Ministry of Social Affairs to produce a collection of texts on laws and conventions, highlighting the legal rights of people with disabilities to participate in politics and political engagement.

The programme also provided direct financial support to people with disabilities who registered to stand as candidates at the last election.

The programme also financially supported the Electoral Commission (ELECAM) in convening electoral colleges for people with disabilities and printing braille labels on ballot papers.

Training and workshops sessions

Several workshops and training sessions were organised with people with disabilities in each of the project areas. These explored the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities in relation to political participation, decentralisation, electoral laws, and the UNCRPD. The project also provided training on leadership, communication, self-confidence, advocacy skills and representation for people with disabilities. Local OPDs identified participants who wanted to become local representatives.

Local councillors and mayors were trained by the project on inclusive local development, on the right of people with disabilities to participate in local council sessions, and disability provisions in the decentralisation law [20].

In addition, several local journalists were trained on the rights of people with disabilities, and on a right-based approach to - and disability inclusion in - media coverage during elections.

Advocacy activities

A taskforce was set up to advocate for the participation of people with disabilities in local development plans, and to monitor the process. A working group was also established for advocacy and to monitor the revision of the electoral code.

Based on the efforts of this taskforce and working group, the programme identified people with disabilities who wished to become local representatives or candidates for the 2020 parliamentary and council elections. To increase the exposure of people with disabilities to political information, articles on politics - and how people with disabilities can be engaged - were published in national print media and broadcast over local radios and traditional community talk shows in the main municipalities of the project areas.

The project produced a documentary on the participation of people with disabilities in democratic processes to inform national and international communities. Developed

in collaboration with local OPDs and the government, the documentary was broadcast on both private and public media in Cameroon.

Study aims and objectives

The purpose of this study was to assess the level of political participation of individuals aged 20 years and above in selected areas of Cameroon, including people with and without disabilities. The study aimed to evaluate the impact of the project interventions to inform future programmatic activities and advocacy. It also aimed to contribute to the existing knowledge base on the political participation of people with and without disabilities in Cameroon.

Specifically, the research aims were:

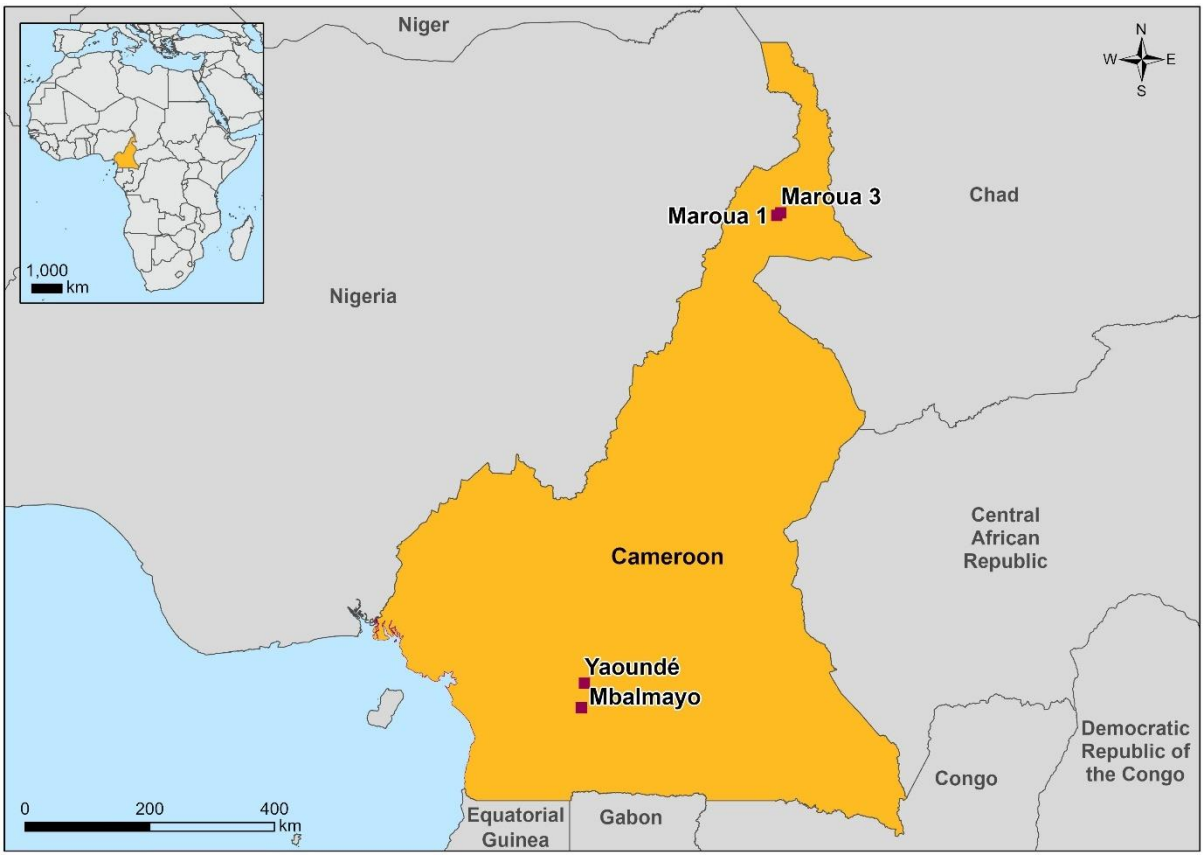
1. To measure the proportion of the adult population participating in national and local elections, local decision-making processes, governance institutions and political parties in selected areas of Cameroon
2. To compare the level of political participation of people with and without disabilities
3. To identify socio-demographic factors that influence the political participation of people with and without disabilities
4. To identify barriers to political participation among people with and without disabilities
5. To assess changes in levels of political participation between the project baseline and endline
6. To provide evidence for social inclusion programmes and advocacy in Cameroon

Methodology

Study design and setting

The study was a cross-sectional household survey conducted in two regions of Cameroon: the Centre Region and the Far North Region. Three cities within these two regions were selected: Maroua in the Far North; Mbalmayo and Yaoundé in the Centre (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Figure 2: Map of study areas



Study population and sampling method

The study population included voting age adults (20 years and older) with and without disabilities.

The sample size was calculated to detect a 10% change in the proportion of people with disabilities who voted in a national election compared with the baseline [16].

Therefore, based on 22% of people aged 20 years and above with self-reported disability who voted in national or municipal elections at baseline, a 16.5% estimated prevalence of disability at baseline, a 95% confidence interval, 80% power and 10% non-response, we aimed to recruit 4,700 participants across the two regions.

A two-stage sampling methodology was used. The first stage involved the random selection of residential neighbourhoods from the two regions based on probability proportional to size. At the second stage, a random walk was used to select households within each neighbourhood. All eligible adults in the household present at the time of the survey were invited to participate.

Data collection tools

Data were collected using a questionnaire comprised of four sections:

1. Characteristics of the household, completed with the head of the household
2. Socio-demographic characteristics, completed with all adults in the household
3. Assessment of disability for all adults
4. Questions on political participation.

All study questionnaires were translated into French and Fulfulde, and pilot tested. Pilot testing allowed for final French and English versions of the instruments to be developed before final translation into Fulfulde. Cognitive testing of the Washington Group Extended Set on Functioning was conducted to investigate whether questions were understood by respondents as intended.

Assessment of functional disability: The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning was used to measure functional difficulties (Appendix 1) [21]. Washington Group questions are designed to provide comparable data cross-nationally for populations living in a variety of cultures with varying economic resources ([21], [22]). The tool measures functional difficulty and has been extensively tested in at least 78 countries worldwide [21]. The questions are based on the ICF framework and aim to measure the prevalence of difficulties in performing certain tasks. Disability is determined by participants' responses to six questions relating to six functional domains: seeing, hearing, walking, communication, self-care and remembering/concentrating. The responses are given on a four-point scale: no

difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or can't do at all. The Washington Group recommends that participants who respond "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six domains are categorised as disabled.

Household wealth: Two tools were used to assess equity. These were the Equity Tool (appendix 2) [23], and the Economic Ladder Question (appendix 3).

The Equity Tool is used to measure the relative wealth of respondents. It is an internationally recognised tool designed to assess socioeconomic differences between social groups by classifying them into one of the five asset-based wealth quintiles (the first quintile being the poorest and the fifth quintile the richest) [23]. It is simple and easy-to-use, which makes it possible to compare the responses of study participants or beneficiaries of a programme with the rest of the national population, or to the rest of the urban population if it is applied in urban settings. The tool has been validated for more than 30 countries, including in Cameroon. Note that the data of the equity tools used in this study are those of 2013

To test and provide an alternative to the asset dimension, a subjective assessment of economic position was conducted using the Economic Ladder Question (ELQ). Using a visual ladder with a scale from one to ten, participants were asked to place themselves on the ladder. its top steps (eight, nine, ten) represent the richest people in their community. The bottom steps of the ladder (one, two, three) represent the poorest people. This question results in a self-assessment of relative poverty [24]. This additional tool was applied during the endline only. Therefore, only results pertaining to the Equity Tool are presented in this report to be consistent with the baseline study. Results pertaining to the economic ladder will be presented in future analyses.

Political participation: A questionnaire specific to the Cameroon context on political participation was developed for the baseline study. It was adjusted for the endline data collection. This questionnaire consisted of questions on the possession of the documents required to participate in elections (birth certificate, national identity card); registration on electoral lists; possession of a voter card; most recent participation in elections; involvement with national and local political parties and municipal councils; as well as participation in OPDs. Other aspects of political participation were explored such as being a member of a citizen movement or participation in other

groups that influence decision making (e.g., a local religious committee or economic association).

Data quality and management

The data collectors for the survey received training over five days. They were trained on the following content areas:

1. Protocol design and methodology
2. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the study
3. Human subjects and ethical issues
4. Crisis management
5. Quantitative interviewing
6. Using smart phones for data collection

The training also included a session on administering the Washington Group questions. All the tools were developed to work on keyless devices with mobile touch screens (encrypted smartphones protected by a password). All data was uploaded on a central server and backed up daily on the CommCare platform. This process ensured security and minimised data loss if a field device was lost or broken. To ensure the quality of the data, algorithms were integrated into the software to check the consistency of responses and a review of the data collected was carried out daily. The data review included information on data collectors, number of interviews conducted, time of the first and last interview, number of locations visited, global positioning system (GPS) coordinates, average time taken per interview, and errors and comments relating to the data collected. This information was shared with the data collection team for feedback and support where needed.

Data collection procedure

Data collection was implemented as follows: when the team arrived at a homestead, data collectors introduced themselves to the head of the household and explained the study with the study information sheet. The next step was to collect consent from the household head followed by using the household survey to assess household wealth. After the household survey, the data collector ascertained how many people

were eligible to participate in the study and proceeded with individual interviews. The consent of each participant was collected before beginning each interview. Where possible, the interviews were conducted in private spaces within the household. However, conditions varied considerably across different households, and so some interviews were conducted outside at a convenient private space that allowed a one-on-one interview.

Data analysis

Data were analysed using Stata version 16 and R version 4.1.2. Descriptive statistics were generated for key outcome indicators as crude proportions. It is important to note that crude proportions can be misleading in the presence of confounders. For example, the crude proportion of people who ever voted can be higher among people with disabilities. However, it is also higher among older people than younger people, and the prevalence of disability increases with age. Therefore, when people of similar age are compared (which is, roughly, what a logistic regression model adjusting for age does), those with disabilities may have a lower chance of having ever voted than those without disabilities.

To address confounding, logistic regression analyses adjusting for age, sex, location and education were conducted on key political participation outcomes. This allowed examination of the association between the primary exposure (disability) and the primary outcome (political participation indicators). The focus should be on these results for a full picture comparing people with and without disabilities. The magnitude of the association was determined by the odds ratio (OR) and confidence interval. ORs reported in the results show approximately how much more or less likely people with disabilities are to participate in different political processes compared to people without disabilities.

Logistic regression results and confidence interval computations accounted for the sample clustering using the *R survey* package. No weighting was used. No missing data imputation was performed.

We have presented results overall, and disaggregated by sex, disability status and city. These results exclude “refuse” and “don’t know” modalities for each question.

Due to programmatic interest, we have also presented results disaggregated by age. This shows results for younger people who in this study are defined as individuals aged from 20 to 35 years old (inclusive), and for those aged 36 years and older.

The models described above examine the relationship between different variables (including disability) and political participation outcomes, looking at these variables independently. However, in real life, different aspects, like sex and disability, will intersect: the effects of disability can be different by sex for example. In order to explore the effects of the intersection of youth, sex and disability on political participation variables, we included interaction terms in logistic regression models. These used the covariates previously described and tested the significance of the interaction term using a Rao-Scott Likelihood Ratio test [25]. The interaction terms "sex*disability" and "youth*disability" were tested for in separate models. Where the interaction term was significant, we then conducted separate logistic regressions within groups to explore how the effect of disability varied by group.

Ethical considerations

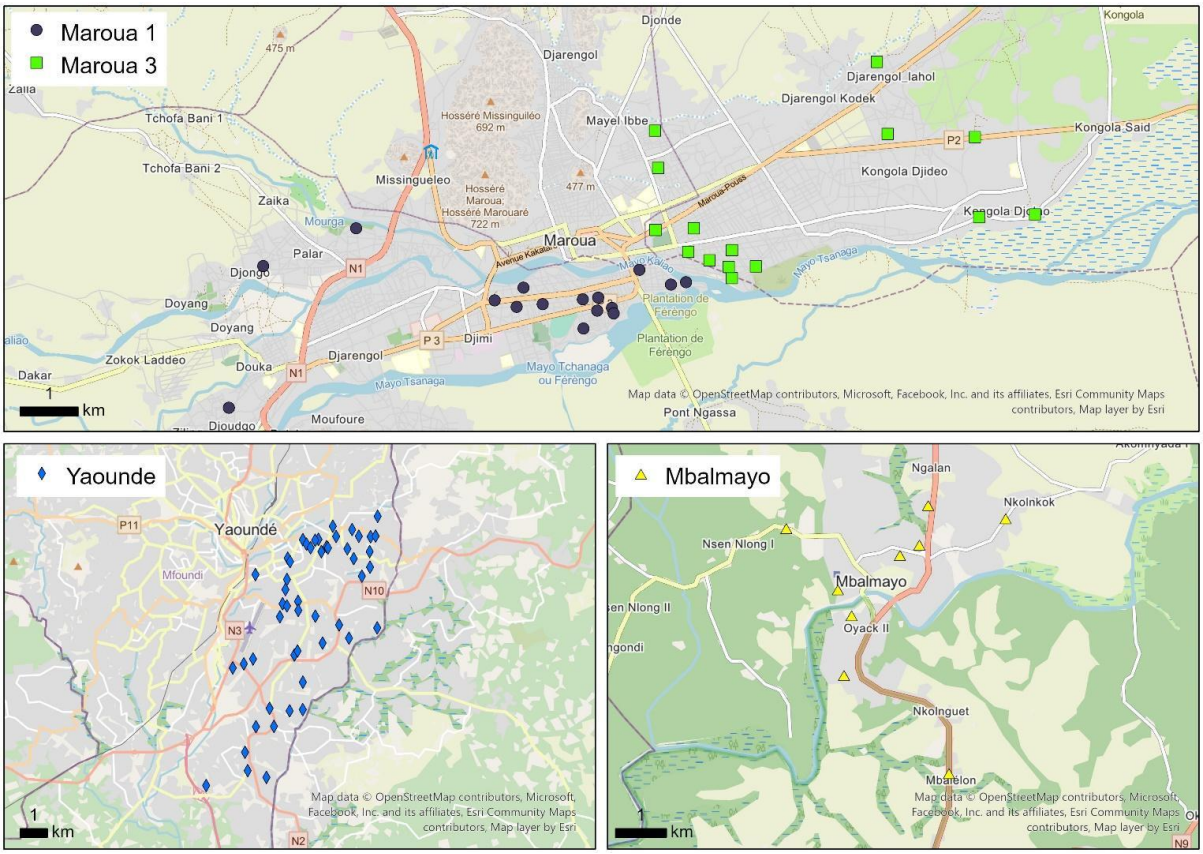
Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the National Ethics Committee for Research on Human Health in Cameroon (reference number: 2021/02/1338/CE/CNERSH/SP). Informed consent from each household head and all participants was obtained anonymously and documented. All participants were informed in their preferred language (French, English or Fulfulde) about the objectives of the study, the voluntary and confidential nature of the participation, the types of questions asked and the risks and benefits of participating in the study. Specific adaptations and supports were provided to enable people with disabilities to participate fully and safely in this research. For example, a sign language translator was recruited to assist data collectors where participants were deaf. For participants with intellectual difficulties or communication difficulties, a member of the household who understood the gestures of this participant was invited to assist the data collector during the interview with the participant's consent.

Results

Participant characteristics

A total of 4,297 individuals within 94 cluster participated in the survey (Figure 3). They included 2,439 (56.8%) participants in Yaoundé, 368 (8.6%) in Mbalmayo, and 1,490 (34.7%) in Maroua.

Figure 3: Presentation of the different clusters by region



Participants' ages ranged from 20 to 99 years with a mean age of 37. Among the participants, 2,474 (57.6%) were female.

Overall, 12.9% of participants had never been to school. This proportion was higher for females (16.4%) than males (8.1%) (Table 1). The majority of respondents reported receiving education up to primary level (23.9%) or to secondary level (43.8%). Proportions of males and females with primary or secondary education

were similar. However, the proportion of respondents reporting university-level education was higher among males (25.6%) than females (14.8%).

Most participants (68.8%) rated their health status as “fair”, while a significantly higher proportion of males (21.7%) than females (13.1%) reported “excellent” health.

Regarding employment, the most common response was “working in a sector other than farming or fishing” (21.8%), closely followed by “being engaged in household or family responsibilities” (20.5%). Statistically significant differences by sex were observed in those studying or training (16.4% in males; 11.0% in females), those working in a sector other than farming/fishing (17.6% in females; 27.4% in males), those engaged in household or family responsibilities (34.5% in females vs 1.4% in males), and those retired (1.9% in females; 4.3% in males).

In terms of relative wealth measured by the urban Equity Tool quintiles, the sample was slightly wealthier than the wider urban population of Cameroon, with 42.8% of participants falling into the two wealthiest quintiles and 31.7% in two poorest quintiles. For the population to be similar to the national urban population, we would expect 40% of participants to be in the two poorest and in the two wealthiest quintiles. The results were similar for males and females.

Apart from age and sex, the distribution of participants’ characteristics varied across study locations (see Table 14 in Appendix 4).

Table 1: Participant characteristics. overall and disaggregated by sex

		Overall (N=4,297)			Females (N=2,474)			Males (N=1,823)		
Age	**Median (**IQR**)**	33 (25, 45)			32 (25, 45)			33 (25, 44)		
		N	**%**	**95% CI**	**N**	**%**	**95% CI**	**N**	**%**	**95% CI**
Highest level of completed education	Never went to school	553	12.9	[9.8,16.8]	405	16.4	[12.3,21.4]	148	8.1	[6.0,10.9]
	Primary	1028	23.9	[21.4,26.7]	621	25.1	[22.7,27.7]	407	22.3	[18.8,26.3]
	Secondary	1882	43.8	[40.3,47.4]	1080	43.7	[39.4,48.0]	802	44.0	[40.4,47.6]
	University	833	19.4	[16.8,22.3]	367	14.8	[12.5,17.6]	466	25.6	[22.1,29.4]
	Other	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.2]	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.3]	0	-	-
Health status	Poor	622	14.5	[12.7,16.5]	396	16.1	[13.8,18.6]	226	12.4	[10.5,14.6]
	Fair	2948	68.8	[66.1,71.3]	1748	70.9	[68.2,73.4]	1200	65.9	[62.1,69.5]
	Excellent	718	16.7	[14.5,19.3]	323	13.1	[11.2,15.2]	395	21.7	[18.2,25.6]
Occupation	Studying or training	570	13.3	[11.8,14.9]	271	11.0	[9.4,12.8]	299	16.4	[14.4,18.6]
	Work in farming or fishing	261	6.1	[4.5, 8.2]	114	4.6	[3.1, 6.9]	147	8.1	[5.8,11.1]
	Work in a sector other than farming or fishing	936	21.8	[18.4,25.6]	436	17.6	[14.7,21.0]	500	27.4	[22.5,33.0]
	Looking for work	358	8.3	[7.0, 10.0]	214	8.7	[7.0,10.7]	144	7.9	[6.4, 9.8]
	Engaged in household or family responsibilities	880	20.5	[17.6,23.7]	854	34.5	[29.6,39.8]	26	1.4	[0.8, 2.7]
	Long-term illness, injury or disability	69	1.6	[1.2, 2.1]	42	1.7	[1.2, 2.4]	27	1.5	[1.0, 2.2]

	Retired or pensioner	125	2.9	[2.3, 3.7]	47	1.9	[1.3, 2.7]	78	4.3	[3.4, 5.5]
	Other	1098	25.6	[21.6,30.0]	496	20.1	[16.4,24.3]	602	33.0	[27.8,38.8]
City	Maroua	1490	34.7	[25.5,45.2]	838	33.9	[24.7,44.4]	652	35.8	[26.2,46.6]
	Mbalmayo	368	8.6	[4.4,16.0]	236	9.5	[4.9,17.6]	132	7.2	[3.7,13.9]
	Yaoundé	2439	56.8	[46.4,66.6]	1400	56.6	[46.1,66.6]	1039	57.0	[46.3,67.1]
Equity Tool: Urban quintile	1st Quintile	361	8.4	[6.2,11.3]	224	9.1	[6.7,12.1]	137	7.5	[5.2,10.7]
	2nd Quintile	999	23.3	[19.9,27.0]	587	23.7	[20.3,27.6]	412	22.6	[19.0,26.6]
	3rd Quintile	1096	25.5	[22.1,29.2]	626	25.3	[22.0,28.9]	470	25.8	[22.0,30.0]
	4th Quintile	914	21.3	[19.0,23.7]	536	21.7	[19.1,24.5]	378	20.7	[18.4,23.3]
	5th Quintile	927	21.6	[17.9,25.8]	501	20.3	[16.6,24.5]	426	23.4	[19.2,28.1]

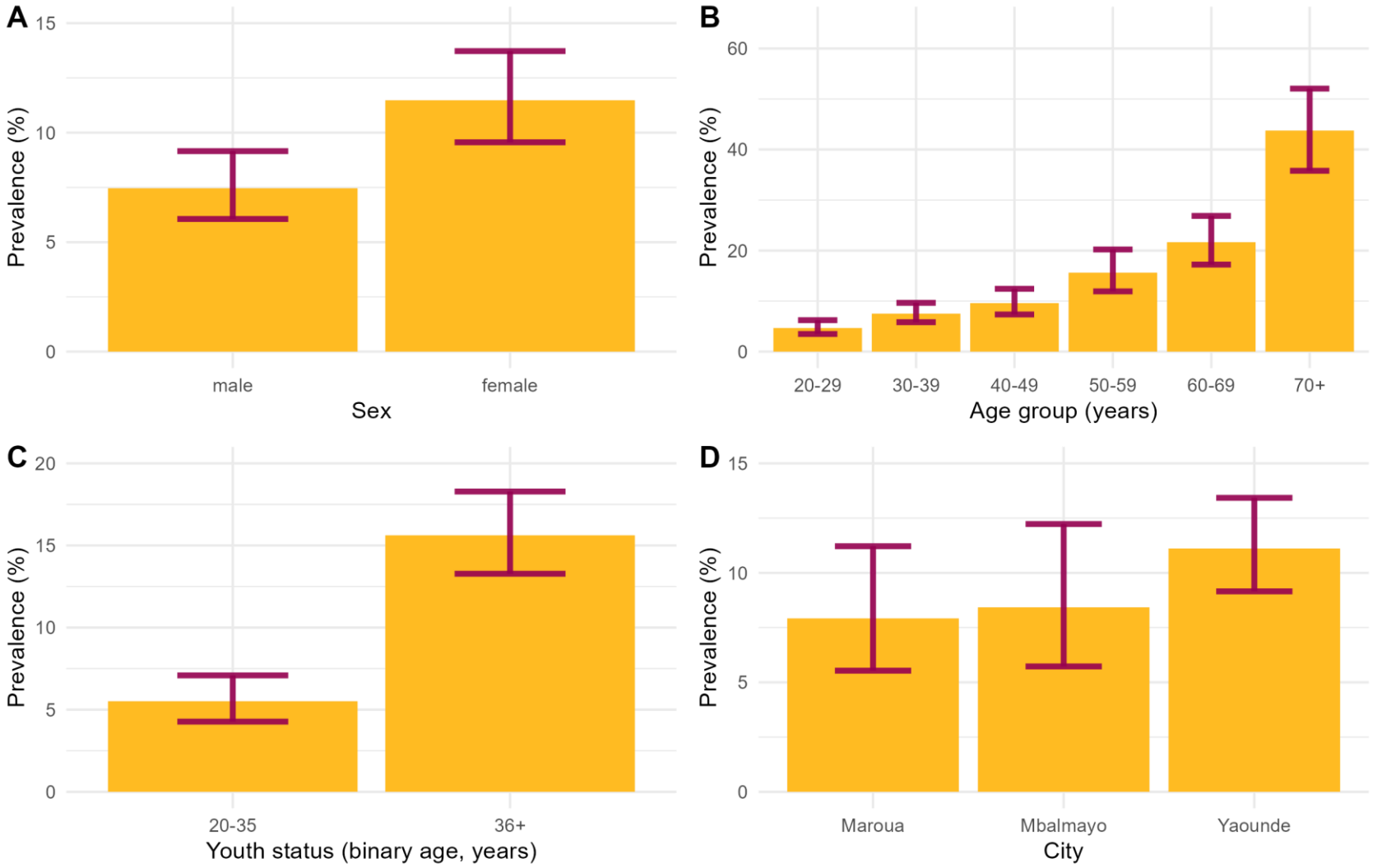
Prevalence of disability

Prevalence of disability by sex, age and location

Overall, the prevalence of disability was 9.8% (95% CI= [8.3, 11.5]; N=420). Levels of disability was higher among females (11.5%) than males (7.5%) (Figure 4A). The prevalence of disability starkly increased with age: from 4.7% among those aged 20-29 years old to 43.8% in those aged 70+ (Figure 4B). As expected, when comparing youth and those aged 36 or older (Figure 4C), the prevalence of disability is much higher in older adults (15.6% for those aged 36+; 5.5% for youth). The prevalence of disability ranged from 11.1% in Yaoundé to 8.4% and 7.9% in Mbalmayo and Maroua respectively (Figure 4D): the difference between locations was not statistically significant.

The prevalence of difficulties reported in the six functional domains is shown in the Figure 6 in (appendix 4).

Figure 4: Sample prevalence of disability, disaggregated by sex (A), age group (B), youth status (C) and city (D). Error bars show the associated 95% confidence intervals



Sightsavers

Socio-demographic characteristics by disability status

As shown in Table 2, the socio-demographic profile of participants varied by disability status. People with disabilities were older (median age higher by 15 years), had lower education status (only 10.0% had university-level education versus 20.4% in those without disabilities). A much higher proportion of those with disabilities reported being in poor health (48.8%) compared to those without disability (10.8%), and a higher proportion had long-term illness or injury (12.9% with disabilities; 0.4% without disabilities). Finally, a lower proportion of those with disabilities were studying or training (7.6% with disabilities; 13.9% in those without disabilities) while a higher proportion were retired (7.4% with disabilities; 2.4% without disabilities). Differences between those with and without disabilities in terms of wealth distribution, based on the urban quintiles from the Equity Tool, were not statistically significant.

Table 2: Socio-demographic characteristics by disability status (as defined by the WG-SS)

		People with disabilities			People without disabilities		
Age (years)	Median (IQR)	47	33-65		32	25-42	
		N	**%**	**95% CI**	**N**	**%**	**95% CI**
Highest level completed education	Never went to school	74	17.6	[12.5,24.3]	479	12.4	[9.3,16.2]
	Primary	136	32.4	[26.5,38.8]	892	23.0	[20.3,26.0]
	Secondary	168	40.0	[33.3,47.1]	1714	44.2	[40.6,47.9]
	University	42	10.0	[7.2,13.7]	791	20.4	[17.6,23.6]
	Other	0	-	-	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.2]
Health status	Poor	204	48.8	[42.8,54.8]	418	10.8	[9.2,12.6]
	Fair	194	46.4	[41.0,51.9]	2754	71.2	[68.4,73.8]
	Excellent	20	4.8	[3.1, 7.4]	698	18.0	[15.5,20.9]

Occupation	Studying or training	32	7.6	[5.2,11.0]	538	13.9	[12.3,15.6]
	Work in farming or fishing	27	6.4	[4.3, 9.5]	234	6.0	[4.4, 8.2]
	Work in a sector other than farming or fishing	77	18.3	[14.0,23.7]	859	22.2	[18.7,26.0]
	Looking for work	23	5.5	[3.6, 8.3]	335	8.6	[7.1,10.4]
	Engaged in household or family responsibilities	100	23.8	[19.5,28.7]	780	20.1	[17.1,23.5]
	Long-term illness, injury or disability	54	12.9	[9.7,16.8]	15	0.4	[0.2, 0.6]
	Retired or pensioner	31	7.4	[5.0,10.8]	94	2.4	[1.9, 3.1]
	Other	76	18.1	[13.4,24.1]	1022	26.4	[22.3,30.9]
Equity Tool quintiles	1st Quintile	44	10.5	[6.8,15.8]	317	8.2	[6.0,11.0]
	2nd Quintile	121	28.8	[23.3,35.0]	878	22.7	[19.3,26.4]
	3rd Quintile	99	23.57	[18.6,29.4]	997	25.7	[22.2,29.6]
	4th Quintile	79	18.8	[14.7,23.8]	835	21.5	[19.2,24.1]
	5th Quintile	77	18.3	[13.9,23.8]	850	21.9	[18.1,26.3]

Political participation

Possession of necessary documents

As shown in Table 3, most participants had a birth certificate (85.0%) and a national ID card (85.5%). Only around half were currently registered to vote (55.8%) and had a valid voter card (51.4%). Among those who were not registered to vote (N=1,890), the most frequent reason was a lack of interest (46.0%), followed by the lack of necessary documentation (19.7%) and the lack of necessary information (13.0%). Across sex, a significantly lower proportion of females had ID cards (82.7%) compared to males

(89.2%); were currently registered to vote (51.3% female; 61.9% male); or had a valid voter card (46.4% female; 58.3% male). The distribution of reasons for not being registered to vote were similar across males and females.

Table 3: Possession of key voting documents, overall and by sex

		Overall			Female			Male		
		N	%	95%CI	N	%	95%CI	N	%	95%CI
Birth certificate	Yes	3649	85.0	[81.3,88.1]	2031	82.2	[77.6,86.0]	1618	88.8	[85.5,91.4]
	No	645	15.0	[11.9,18.8]	440	17.8	[14.0,22.4]	205	11.3	[8.6,14.5]
National ID card	Yes	3672	85.5	[83.0,87.6]	2046	82.7	[79.9,85.2]	1626	89.2	[86.3,91.6]
	No	625	14.6	[12.4,17.0]	428	17.3	[14.8,20.1]	197	10.8	[8.4,13.8]
Currently registered to vote	Yes	2387	55.8	[53.0,58.6]	1264	51.3	[48.2,54.4]	1123	61.9	[58.5,65.2]
	No	1890	44.2	[41.4,47.0]	1200	48.7	[45.6,51.8]	690	38.1	[34.8,41.5]
Reasons given or not registered to vote (N=1890)	Didn't think eligible	87	4.6	[3.5, 6.0]	48	4	[2.9, 5.6]	39	5.7	[3.9, 8.1]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	8	0.4	[0.2, 0.9]	7	0.6	[0.3, 1.4]	1	0.1	[0.0, 1.1]
	Lack necessary information	245	13.0	[10.8,15.5]	170	14.2	[11.5,17.3]	75	10.9	[8.4,14.0]
	Lack necessary documentation	373	19.7	[15.7,24. 5]	246	20.5	[16.1,25. 8]	127	18.4	[14.2,23.6]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	22	1.2	[0.6, 2.2]	17	1.4	[0.7, 2.9]	5	0.7	[0.3, 2.0]
	Registration centre not accessible	17	0.9	[0.6, 1.4]	11	0.92	[0.5, 1.7]	6	0.9	[0.4, 1.9]
	Not interested	869	46.0	[42.2,49.8]	536	44.7	[40.4,49.0]	333	48.3	[43.4,53.2]
	Other	269	14.2	[11.8,17.0]	165	13.8	[11.1,16.9]	104	15.1	[11.9,19.0]
Valid voter card	Yes	2200	51.4	[48.5,54.3]	1143	46.4	[43.3,49.4]	1057	58.3	[54.7,61.8]
	No	2079	48.6	[45.7,51.5]	1323	53.7	[50.6,56.7]	756	41.7	[38.2,45.3]

Table 4 shows that a significantly lower proportion of people with disabilities had a birth certificate (75.2% versus 86.0% in those without disabilities). Although no statistically significant differences were observed in relation to other documents, we should recognise that there may be confounding factors such as age. This is addressed in the modelling section of this report. Regarding reasons for not being registered to vote, we note that, although numbers were small, a higher proportion of people with disabilities reported that they were not allowed by their family/community (2.3% in those with disabilities; 0.2% in those without). A higher proportion also reported that the register centre was not accessible: (2.9% in those with disabilities; 0.7% in those without).

Table 4: Possession of key voting documents by disability status

		People with disabilities			People without disabilities		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95%CI
Birth certificate	Yes	316	75.2	[67.7,81.5]	3333	86.0	[82.5,89.0]
	No	104	24.8	[18.5,32.3]	541	14.0	[11.1,17.5]
National ID card	Yes	345	82.1	[75.4,87.4]	3327	85.8	[83.5,87.9]
	No	75	17.9	[12.7,24.6]	550	14.2	[12.2,16.5]
Currently registered to vote	Yes	242	58.2	[51.5,64.5]	2145	55. 6	[52.7,58.4]
	No	174	41.8	[35.5,48.5]	1716	44.4	[41.7,47.3]
Reasons for not being registered to vote (N=1890)	Didn't think eligible	5	2.9	[1.2, 6.8]	82	4.8	[3.6, 6.2]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	4	2.3	[0.8, 6.3]	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
	Lack necessary information	30	17.2	[12.7,23.0]	215	12.5	[10.3,15.1]
	Lack necessary documentation	24	13.8	[7.5,24.0]	349	20.3	[16.3,25.1]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	2	1.2	[0.3, 4.6]	20	1.2	[0.6, 2.3]
	Registration centre not accessible	5	2.9	[1.2, 6. 6]	12	0.7	[0.4, 1.3]
	Not interested	71	40.8	[33.7,48.4]	798	46.5	[42.6,50.5]
	Other	33	19.0	[13.5,26.1]	236	13.8	[11.3,16.7]
Valid voter card	Yes	230	55.4	[49.3,61.4]	1970	51.0	[48.1,53.9]
	No	185	44.6	[38.7,50.7]	1894	49.0	[46.1,51.9]

Table 15 (in Appendix 4) shows that a higher proportion of youth possessed a birth certificate (90.1%) compared to older adults (77.9%). However, the proportion of young people with a national ID card was lower (81.4%) than for older adults (91.1%). The largest differences between young people and older people were observed in registration to vote (39.4% for young people; 78.4% for older adults) and having a valid voter card (34.8% for young people; 74.2% for older adults). When asked why they were not registered to vote, a higher proportion of young people cited a lack of necessary documentation (21.1% for young people; 14.6% for older adults), and the fact that they did not think they were eligible (5.7% for young people; 0.3% for older adults). A higher proportion of older adults indicated that they were not allowed by their family or community, although this proportion of respondents was small (1.5% for older adults; 0.1% for young people).

Table 16 (in Appendix 4) shows regional differences in the possession of key documents as well as reasons for not being registered to vote. A lower proportion of participants in Maroua possessed a birth certificate (65.8%) compared to Mbalmayo (90.5%) and Yaoundé (95.9%). A similar pattern was observed regarding national ID cards, with 77.3% of participants possessing one in Maroua versus 84.2% in Mbalmayo and 90.6% in Yaoundé. However, the proportion of participants registered to vote was highest in Maroua (65.2%) compared to 50.3% and 54.0% in Yaoundé and Mbalmayo, respectively. Similarly, 59.7% had a valid voter card in Maroua, compared to 54.4% in Mbalmayo and 45.9% in Yaoundé. Reasons given for not being registered to vote also differed across locations, with only 4.1% reporting a lack of information in Mbalmayo (versus 17.6% in Maroua and 12.2% in Yaoundé) and 42.0% reporting a lack of documentation in Maroua (versus 25.0% in Mbalmayo and 9.5% in Yaoundé). Finally, only 33.5% reported having a lack of interest in Maroua compared to 45.0% in Mbalmayo and 51.5% in Yaoundé.

Political participation: voting

Table 5 shows that 57.0% of the sample participants had ever voted. This figure was higher among males (63.0%) than females (52.6%). Most participants had last voted in recent elections: 53.2% in 2020 and 37.2% in 2018. The most frequent type of elections that participants had last voted in were municipal (65.0%) followed by presidential (28.5%). The most common reason given for never voting was a lack of interest (46.6%), followed by a lack of necessary documentation (21.3%).

Table 5: Participation in past elections, overall and by sex

		Overall			Female			Male		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Ever voted	Yes	2440	57.0	[54.4,59.6]	1297	52.6	[49.8,55.5]	1143	63.0	[59.6,66.2]
	No	1839	43.0	[40.4,45.6]	1167	47.4	[44.5,50.2]	672	37.0	[33.8,40.4]
If ever voted, Year of last	Don't know/can't remember	78	3.2	[2.3,4.4]	57	4.4	[3.2,6.0]	21	1.8	[1.1,3.0]
	2020	1299	53.2	[46.0,60.3]	693	53.4	[46.3,60.4]	606	53.0	[45.1,60.8]

election voted in (N=2440)	2018	908	37.2	[30.5,44.4]	444	34.2	[28.1,41.0]	464	40.6	[33.0,48.7]
	2013	29	1.2	[0.7,1.9]	22	1.7	[1.0,2.9]	7	0.6	[0.3,1.4]
	2011	87	3.6	[2.6,4.8]	57	4.4	[3.1,6.2]	30	2.6	[1.7,4.0]
	2007	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.4]	2	0.2	[0.0,0.6]	2	0.2	[0.0,0.7]
	Pre-2014	35	1.4	[0.9,2.3]	22	1.7	[0.9,3.0]	13	1.1	[0.6,2.1]
If ever voted, Type of last election voted in (N=2440)	Don't know/can't remember	68	2.8	[2.1,3.7]	56	4.3	[3.2,5.8]	12	1.1	[0.6,2.0]
	Presidential	696	28.5	[23.9,33.7]	367	28.3	[23.7,33.4]	329	28.8	[23.4,34.8]
	Municipal	1587	65.0	[59.1,70.5]	816	62.9	[56.8,68.6]	771	67. 5	[61.0,73.3]
	Parliamentary	13	0.5	[0.3,1.1]	7	0.5	[0.3, 1.1]	6	0.5	[0.2, 1.6]
	Regional	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.4]	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.6]	3	0.3	[0.1,0.8]
	Party primary	64	2.6	[1.5, 4.6]	47	3.6	[2.0, 6.5]	17	1.5	[0.7, 3.1]
	Referendum	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	Other	8	0.3	[0.2, 0.7]	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.7]	5	0.4	[0.2, 1.0]
Reasons for never voting (N=1839)	Didn't think eligible	93	5.1	[3.9, 6.5]	49	4.2	[3.0, 5.8]	44	6.6	[4.6, 9.3]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	7	0.4	[0.2, 0.8]	5	0.4	[0.2,1.0]	2	0.3	[0.1,1.2]
	Lack necessary information	192	10.4	[8.5,12.8]	128	11.0	[8.6,13.9]	64	9.5	[7.0,12.8]
	Lack necessary documentation	391	21.3	[17.4,25.7]	261	22.4	[18.2,27.2]	130	19.4	[14.9,24.7]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	18	1.0	[0.4,2.3]	11	0.9	[0.4,2.2]	7	1.0	[0.2,4.5]
	Registration centre not accessible	16	0.9	[0.5, 1.4]	10	0.9	[0.4,1.7]	6	0.9	[0.4,1.9]
	Not interested	857	46.6	[42.9,50.4]	540	46.3	[42.4,50.2]	317	47.2	[41.9,52.6]

	Victim of violence	6	0.3	[0.2, 0.7]	3	0.3	[0.1,0.8]	3	0.5	[0.1, 1.4]
	Other	259	14.1	[11.5,17.2]	160	13.7	[11.0,16.9]	99	14.7	[11.4,18.8]

Table 6 shows the proportion of those with disabilities who had ever voted was higher (67.2%) than those without disabilities (55.9%). This may be largely due to the differences in the age profiles of these participant groups. The results of the logistic regression analyses provide a more comprehensive picture of the comparison of people with and without disabilities, accounting for confounding factors. There was generally no marked difference between both groups in the distribution of the timing and type of last election voted in, and the reasons given for never voting.

Table 6: Participation in past elections, by disability status

		With disabilities			Without disabilities		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95%CI
Ever voted	Yes	280	67.2	[61.3,72.5]	2160	55.9	[53.2,58.6]
	No	137	32.9	[27.5,38.7]	1702	44.1	[41.4,46.8]
If ever voted, year of last election voted in (N=2440)	Don't know/can't remember	19	6.8	[4.0,11.2]	59	2.7	[1.9, 3.9]
	2020	157	56.1	[47.2,64.6]	1142	52.9	[45.4,60.3]
	2018	74	26.4	[20.1,33.9]	834	38.6	[31.6,46.2]
	2013	4	1.4	[0.4, 4.6]	25	1.2	[0.7, 1.9]
	2011	14	5	[2.7, 9.1]	73	3.4	[2.5, 4.6]
	2007	0	-	-	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.5]
	Pre-2014	12	4.3	[2.0, 9.1]	23	1.1	[0.7, 1.7]
If ever voted, Type of last election voted in (N=2440)	Don't know/can't remember	17	6.1	[3.5,10.3]	51	2.4	[1.7, 3.2]
	Presidential	85	30.4	[23.3,38.4]	611	28.3	[23.5,33.7]
	Municipal	159	56.8	[48.5,64.7]	1428	66.1	[60.0,71.7]
	Parliamentary	0	-	-	13	0.6	[0.3, 1.3]
	Regional	0	-	-	4	0.19	[0.07, 0.49]
	Party primary	18	6.4	[3.1,12.9]	46	2.1	[1.2, 3.8]

	Referendum	0			0		
	Other	1	0.4	[0.1, 2.6]	7	0.3	[0.1, 0.7]
Reasons for never voting (N=1839)	Didn't think eligible	6	4.4	[2.0, 9.2]	87	5.1	[3.9, 6.7]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	3	2.2	[0.7, 6.8]	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
	Lack necessary information	17	12.4	[7.6,19.6]	175	10.3	[8.2,12.8]
	Lack necessary documentation	21	15.3	[8.1,27.2]	370	21.7	[17.8,26.2]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	3	2.2	[0.7, 6.5]	15	0.9	[0.3, 2.3]
	Registration centre not accessible	3	2.2	[0.7, 6.8]	13	0.8	[0.4, 1.4]
	Not interested	53	38.7	[30.2,47.9]	804	47.2	[43.4,51.1]
	Victim of violence	1	0.7	[0.1, 5.3]	5	0.3	[0.1, 0.7]
	Other	30	21.9	[15.0,30.8]	229	13. 5	[10.8,16.7]

Table 17 (in Appendix 4) shows the proportion of youth who ever voted was lower (37.0%) than adults aged 36+ (84.6%). The distribution of the type and year of the last election voted in was relatively similar between both groups, as were the reasons for never voting.

Table 18 (in Appendix 4) shows that the proportion of those who ever voted was highest in Maroua (64.3%) this figure was 55.0% in Mbalmayo and 52.9% in Yaoundé. The proportion of those who last voted in 2020 was much higher in Mbalmayo (86.1%) than in Maroua (53.1%) and in Yaoundé (48.2%). A higher proportion of participants in Mbalmayo and Maroua also last voted in municipal elections (83.2% and 89.6% respectively) compared to Yaoundé (43.9%). A higher proportion of participants in Yaoundé last voted in the presidential elections (45.3%) versus Mbalmayo (14.4%) and Maroua (9.1%).

Political participation: engagement in political debate

Table 7 shows that 63.1% of sample participants reported being engaged in political debate. This figure was higher in males (73.3%) than females (55.7%). Among those engaged in political debate, the most frequently reported main source of information was television (48.5%), followed by friends and family (20.2%) and the internet (15%). The distribution of sources of information was similar across male and female respondents.

Table 7: Engagement in political debate, overall and by sex

		Overall			Female			Male		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Watch/listen/discuss/read politics	Yes	2707	63.1	[59.3,66.9]	1376	55.7	[51.5,59.9]	1331	73.3	[69.2,77.0]
	No	1580	36.9	[33.1,40.8]	1094	44.3	[40.1,48.6]	486	26.8	[23.0,30.9]
Main source of information (N=2707)	Radio	360	13.3	[10.6,16.6]	162	11.8	[8.9,15.4]	198	14.9	[11.8,18.6]
	Television	1312	48.5	[43.3,53.6]	690	50.1	[44.8,55.5]	622	46.7	[41.0,52.6]
	Newspapers	30	1.1	[0.8, 1.6]	11	0.8	[0.4, 1.5]	19	1.4	[0.9, 2.4]
	Friends and family	548	20.2	[15.8,25.5]	288	20.9	[16.1,26.8]	260	19.5	[15.1,24.9]
	Internet	407	15.0	[12.7,17.7]	193	14.0	[11.5,17.0]	214	16.1	[13.3,19.4]
	Local council	19	0.7	[0.4, 1.2]	13	0.9	[0.5, 1.7]	6	0. 5	[0.2, 1.0]
	Community/religious leaders	18	0.7	[0.3, 1.5]	10	0.7	[0.3, 1.6]	8	0.6	[0.2, 1.6]
	OPD	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
	NGOs	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.3]	0	0	-	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.5]
	Other	12	0.4	[0.2, 1.0]	9	0.7	[0.3, 1.6]	3	0.2	[0.1, 1.0]

Table 8 shows there was no significant difference in engagement in political debate between people with and without disabilities, nor in their main sources of information.

Table 8: Engagement in political debate by disability status

		People with disabilities			People without disabilities		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95%CI
Watch/listen/discuss/read politics	Yes	246	59.4	[52.3,66.1]	2461	63.5	[59.7,67.3]
	No	168	40.6	[33.9,47.7]	1412	36.5	[32.7,40.4]
Main source of information (N=2707)	Radio	41	16.7	[11.9,22.9]	319	13.0	[10.2,16.4]
	Television	109	44.3	[36.7,52.2]	1203	48.9	[43.6,54.2]
	Newspapers	6	2.44	[1.1, 5.4]	24	1.0	[0.6, 1.5]
	Friends and family	43	17.5	[11.7,25.3]	505	20.5	[16.1,25.8]
	Internet	34	13.8	[9.9,19.0]	373	15.2	[12.8,17.9]
	Local council	6	2.4	[1.0, 5.9]	13	0.5	[0.3, 0.9]
	Community/religious leaders	3	1.2	[0.4, 3.7]	15	0.6	[0.3, 1.4]
	OPDs	0	0	-	0	0	-
	NGOs	0	0	-	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.3]
	Other	4	1.6	[0.5, 5.5]	8	0.3	[0.1, 0.8]

Table 19 (in Appendix 4) shows there was no statistically significant difference in engagement in political debate between young people and older adults. However, the proportion of participants whose main source of information was the internet was much higher among young people (21.6%) than older adults (6.8%).

Table 20 (in Appendix 4) shows that the proportion of participants engaged in political debate was highest in Yaoundé (67.0%) and lowest in Mbalmayo (48.6%). A higher proportion of participants used the radio as their main source of information in Maroua (22.1%) compared to Mbalmayo (6.2%) and Yaoundé (9.2%). Conversely, a lower proportion used the television as their main source of information in Maroua (21.8%) compared to Mbalmayo (48.6%) and Yaoundé (63.2%). A much lower proportion of individuals reported friends and family as their main source of information in Yaoundé (5.8%) compared to the other locations (38.6% in Mbalmayo and 42.7% in Maroua). Finally, those reporting using the internet as their main source of information ranged from 5.6% in Mbalmayo to 18.5% in Yaoundé.

Political participation: political party involvement

Political party membership

Table 9 shows that 20.3% of participants were registered with a political party. This figure was higher in males (24.2%) than females (17.3%). The majority of those not registered had also never tried to register with a political party (95.3%). There was no significant variation across sex. Among those who had not tried to register, the most frequent reason given was a lack of interest (64.4%), followed by “other” reason (14.6%). Reasons were roughly similar across sex.

Table 9: Political party membership, overall and by sex

		Overall			Female			Male		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Registered member of political party	Yes	867	20.3	[17.4,23.5]	428	17.3	[14.7,20.3]	439	24.2	[20.5,28.4]
	No	3415	79.8	[76.6,82.6]	2042	82.7	[79.7,85.3]	1373	75.8	[71.6,79.5]
If not registered, ever tried to register with a political party (N=3415)	Yes	158	4.6	[3.7, 5.7]	79	3.9	[2.9, 5.1]	79	5.8	[4.3, 7.7]
	No	3255	95.3	[94.3,96.3]	1962	96.1	[94.9,97.1]	1293	94.2	[92.3,95.7]
If has not tried to register, reason for not being registered with a political party (N=3255)	Didn't think eligible	76	2.3	[1.7, 3.2]	41	2.1	[1.4, 3.2]	35	2.7	[1.8, 4.1]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	20	0.6	[0.3, 1.2]	16	0.8	[0.4, 1.8]	4	0.3	[0.1, 0.8]
	Lack necessary information	297	9.1	[7.3,11.4]	178	9.1	[6.9,11.9]	119	9.2	[7.2,11.8]
	Lack necessary documentation	272	8.4	[6.2,11.1]	175	8.9	[6.6,12.0]	97	7.5	[5.4,10.4]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	6	0.2	[0.1, 0.7]	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.4]	5	0.4	[0.1, 2.0]
	Registration centre not accessible	9	0.3	[0.1, 0.6]	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.5]	6	0.5	[0.2, 1.2]
	Not interested	2095	64.4	[60.0,68.5]	1287	65.6	[61.2,69.7]	808	62.5	[57.2,67.5]
	Victim of violence	6	0.2	[0.1, 0.4]	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.5]	2	0.2	[0.0, 0.6]
	Other	474	14.6	[11.4,18.4]	257	13.1	[10.2,16.7]	217	16.8	[12.8,21.6]

Table 10 shows that the proportion of those registered with a political party was higher among those with disabilities (27.9%) compared to those without disabilities (19.4%), although this difference was not statistically significant. The proportion of those who had tried to register and the distribution of reasons for not being registered were similar across groups.

Table 10: Political party membership, by disability status

		People with disabilities			People without disabilities		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Registered member of political party	Yes	116	27.9	[22.2,34.4]	751	19.4	[16.6,22.6]
	No	300	72.1	[65.6,77.8]	3115	80.6	[77.4,83.4]
If not registered, ever tried to register with a political party (N=3415)	Yes	17	5.7	[3.4, 9.5]	141	4.5	[3.7, 5.6]
	No	282	94.3	[90.5,96.6]	2973	95.4	[94.4,96.4]
If has not tried to register, reason for not being registered with a political party (N=3255)	Didn't think eligible	8	2.8	[1.4, 5.9]	68	2.3	[1.6, 3.2]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	4	1.4	[0.5, 3.7]	16	0.5	[0.3, 1.1]
	Lack necessary information	25	8.9	[5.7,13.6]	272	9.1	[7.3,11.5]
	Lack necessary documentation	28	9.9	[4.7,20.0]	244	8.2	[6.2,10.7]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	1	0.4	[0.1, 2.6]	5	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
	Registration centre not accessible	1	0.4	[0.1, 2.6]	8	0.3	[0.1, 0.6]
	Not interested	170	60.3	[51.9,68.1]	1925	64.7	[60.4,68.9]
	Victim of violence	0	0	-	6	0.2	[0.1, 0.4]
	Other	45	16.0	[11.5,21.8]	429	14.4	[11.2,18.4]

Table 21 (in Appendix 4) shows that a higher proportion of adults aged 36+ were registered with a political party (30.7%) compared to younger people (12.7%). A slightly higher proportion of young people never tried registering (97.1% in young people; 92.3% in older adults). The reasons reported for not being registered were similar across groups.

Table 22 (in Appendix 4) shows that the proportion of those registered with a political party ranged from 18.4% in Maroua to 28.5% in Mbalmayo. Among those not registered, a higher proportion had tried to register in Yaoundé (6.6% compared to 2.1% in Maroua and 1.5% in Mbalmayo). The most frequent reason for not being registered in all cities was a lack of interest. However, a higher proportion in Maroua reported a lack of necessary information (13.1% compared with 3.9% in Mbalmayo and 7.2% in Yaoundé) and a lack of necessary documentation (16.7% compared with 4.3% in Mbalmayo and 3.5% in Yaoundé). Conversely, a higher proportion reported “other” reason in Mbalmayo (17.8%) and Yaoundé (22.6%), compared to Maroua (1.6%).

Political party representation

Table 23 (in Appendix 4) shows that among those registered with a political party (N=867), 27.6% (N=239) were representatives/candidates for a political party. Among those who were not a local representative (N=628), only 9.2% (N=58) wanted to become a local representative. Among these, 50%, (N=29) had registered to become a local representative. Among the 29 who did not register to do so, the most frequent reasons were not meeting requirements and that they might not meet voters’ demands. Reasons for not registering were only described overall as the number of people (N=29) responding to this question was too low to meaningfully disaggregate the data.

Table 24 (in Appendix 4) shows that among those registered with a political party, the proportion of those who were a local representative or candidate for a political party was similar for each disability status. The proportion of members of an economic association was also roughly the same for each disability status (see Table 28 in Appendix 4).

Table 25 (in Appendix 4) shows that among those registered with a political party, the proportion of those who were a local representative or candidate for a political party was similar across age groups.

Table 26 (in Appendix 4) shows that among those registered with a political party, the proportion of those who were a local representative or candidate for a political party varied from 32.6% in Yaoundé to 17.1% in Mbalmayo. The number of those who wanted to become a local representative was very low when disaggregated by city. Therefore, results about wanting to become a local representative within these subgroups are not presented.

Community political participation: involvement in local council sessions and economic associations

Table 27 (in Appendix 4) shows that 30.4% of all participants had ever taken part or observed a local area or religious committee. This figure was lower in females (27.3%) than males (34.6%). Among the 239 individuals who were local representatives or candidates, 53.1% attended local council sessions. The most frequent reasons given for not attending were “other” (38.4%), a lack of necessary information (31.3%) and not thinking they were eligible (15.2%). Based on the small number of local representatives/candidates, the responses to local council session attendance were not disaggregated further. Overall, 36.4% of participants were members of an economic association and there was no significant difference between males and females.

Table 28 (in Appendix 4) shows that the proportions of those who had ever taken part or been an observer in a local area or religious committee were similar across disability status. Similarly, no significant differences were observed between people with and without disabilities in terms of membership of an economic association.

Table 29 (in Appendix 4) shows that a lower proportion of youth (24.6%) than adults aged 36+ (38.3) had ever taken part/been an observer in a local area or religious committee. Similarly, a lower proportion of youth (31%) were members of an economic association, compared to adults aged 36+ (43.8%).

Table 30 (in Appendix 4) shows that the proportion of participants who took part or were an observer in a local area or religious committee ranged from 24.0% in Maroua to 34.2% in Yaoundé. The proportion of members of an economic association was lower in Maroua (24.1%) than Yaoundé (42.6%) and Mbalmayo (45.7%).

Political participation: comparisons between people with and without disabilities

In this section, we present the results of multivariate logistic regression models used to compare political participation in people with and without disabilities. These account for confounding factors that may affect the relationship between disability and political participation variables. The confounding factors adjusted for were age, sex, level of education and study location. Results are presented in terms of odds ratios and associated 95% confidence intervals.

Table 11 shows that, after adjusting for age, sex, location and education, people with disability had lower odds of having any of the necessary documents for effective participation in political processes: birth certificate (OR=0.61, 95%CI= [0.44, 0.85]), a national ID card (0.47 [0.32, 0.69]), voter registration (0.51 [0.34, 0.77]) or a valid voter card (0.58 [0.42, 0.80]). This means that, compared to those without disabilities, people with disabilities were around 1.6 times more likely to not have a birth certificate, 2.1 times more likely to not have an ID card, 1.9 times more likely to not be registered to vote and 1.7 times more likely to not have a valid voter card.

In addition to this, results showed that whilst the odds of having a birth certificate decreased with age, the odds of having any of the other documents increased with age. Women were less likely than men to possess any of the necessary documents. People in Mbalmayo and Yaoundé were more likely to have a birth certificate than people in Maroua, and this was also the case for the national ID card. However,

people in Mbalmayo and Yaoundé were less likely to be registered to vote and to have a valid voter card than those in Maroua. Finally, the odds of having a birth certificate or a national ID card increased with education levels whilst the odds of being registered to vote or having a valid voter card were higher for all those who received a formal education compared to those who had never gone to school.

Table 11: Comparison of people with and without disabilities regarding possession of key documents. Data are odds ratios (95% CI) from multivariate logistic regression models

	Birth certificate	National ID card	Registration to vote	Valid voter card
With disabilities (versus without)	0.61 [0.44, 0.85]	0.47 [0.32, 0.69]	0.51 [0.34, 0.77]	0.58 [0.42, 0.80]
Age (years)	0.98 [0.97, 0.99]	1.05 [1.04, 1.06]	1.08 [1.07, 1.09]	1.08 [1.07, 1.09]
Female (versus male)	0.72 [0.55, 0.93]	0.65 [0.51, 0.83]	0.62 [0.53, 0.73]	0.59 [0.51, 0.68]
City (versus Maroua)				
Mbalmayo	3.21 [1.86, 5.55]	1.22 [0.75, 1.99]	0.53 [0.37, 0.78]	0.71 [0.50, 1.00]
Yaoundé	5.51 [3.52, 8.62]	2.05 [1.39, 3.02]	0.48 [0.36, 0.65]	0.51 [0.38, 0.68]
Education (versus never went to school)				
Primary	2.63 [1.94, 3.56]	1.39 [1.03, 1.88]	1.35 [0.97, 1.87]	1.28 [0.95, 1.71]
Secondary	7.59 [4.94, 11.65]	1.83 [1.28, 2.62]	1.23 [0.90, 1.68]	1.26 [0.95, 1.69]
University/other	15.75 [7.49, 33.13]	8.83 [4.81, 16.22]	1.57 [1.10, 2.23]	1.57 [1.13, 2.18]

Table 12 shows that after adjusting for age, sex, location and education, people with disabilities had lower odds of ever having voted (0.65 [0.43, 0.96]) or of being a member of an economic association (0.62 [0.47, 0.81]). This means that compared to people without disabilities, people with disabilities were approximately 1.5 times more likely to have never voted and 1.6 times more likely to not be a member of an economic association. We did not find statistically significant differences between participants with and without disabilities in terms of political debate engagement, political membership or participation in local area or religious committees.

In addition, results showed that older people were more likely to be engaged in political debate, to have ever voted, to be members of political parties, have participated or observed local area or religious committees or be a member of an economic association . Women were less likely than men to be engaged in political debate, to have ever voted, to be a member of a political party or to have participated/observed a local area/religious committee. People in Mbalmayo were less likely to be engaged in political debate

than those from Maroua. Those in Mbalmayo and those in Yaoundé were less likely to have ever voted than those from Maroua. Conversely, they were more likely to be members of an economic association than participants in Maroua. Finally, those who received any formal education compared to those who had never been to school were more likely to be engaged in political debate, to have ever voted, to be a member of a political party, to have participated in/observed a local area/religious committee or be an economic association member.

Table 12: Comparison of people with and without disabilities regarding political engagement. Data are odds ratios (95% CI) from multivariate logistic regression models

	Engaged in political debate	Ever voted	Member of political party	Participated/observed local development/religious committee	Economic association member
With disabilities (versus without)	0.81 [0.61, 1.06]	0.65 [0.43, 0.96]	1.04 [0.77, 1.42]	0.84 [0.66, 1.06]	0.62 [0.47, 0.81]
Age (years)	1.02 [1.01, 1.02]	1.12 [1.11, 1.14]	1.04 [1.04, 1.05]	1.03 [1.03, 1.04]	1.02 [1.02, 1.03]
Female (versus male)	0.51 [0.44, 0.60]	0.58 [0.49, 0.68]	0.67 [0.57, 0.79]	0.75 [0.64, 0.87]	1.00 [0.87, 1.16]
City (versus Maroua)					
Mbalmayo	0.47 [0.27, 0.83]	0.57 [0.36, 0.88]	1.31 [0.63, 2.69]	1.11 [0.68, 1.80]	2.13 [1.41, 3.23]
Yaounde	0.93 [0.60, 1.46]	0.56 [0.41, 0.76]	0.84 [0.51, 1.38]	1.31 [0.93, 1.84]	1.95 [1.41, 2.69]
Education (versus never went to school)					

Primary	1.40 [1.02, 1.92]	1.33 [0.97, 1.84]	3.03 [2.13, 4.30]	1.30 [0.92, 1.83]	2.16 [1.68, 2.79]
Secondary	1.98 [1.41, 2.80]	1.18 [0.86, 1.62]	3.60 [2.50, 5.19]	2.00 [1.40, 2.85]	2.34 [1.78, 3.09]
University/other	3.51 [2.31, 5.32]	1.36 [0.95, 1.96]	2.87 [1.91, 4.32]	2.13 [1.41, 3.21]	2.18 [1.55, 3.08]

Disability cards and OPD membership

Participants were directly asked the question “Do you have a disability?” Table 13 shows that 5.6% of sample participants responded “yes” to this direct question. Notably, among those identified as “with disabilities” using the WGSS, only 31.0% responded “yes” to the direct question about disability. Conversely, 2.8% of participants who were not identified as having a disability based on the WGSS, responded “yes” to the direct disability question.

Table 13: Cross-tabulation of responses to “do you have a disability” and disability status as identified by the WGSS

	Overall			With disabilities (WGSS)			Without disabilities (WGSS)		
“Do you have a disability?”	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95%CI
Yes	239	5.6	[4.7, 6.6]	130	31.0	[25.5,37.1]	109	2.8	[2.2, 3.5]
No	4056	94.4	[93.4,95.3]	289	69.0	[62.9,74.5]	3767	97.2	[96.5,97.8]

Among the 239 individuals who responded “yes” to the direct question “do you have a disability”, only 13.9% (N=33) had a disability card and 2.9% (N=7) were a member of an OPD. Due to the low numbers, data was not disaggregated as this would not produce meaningful information.

Exploring intersectionality in political participation

As described in the methodology section, we explored whether the associations between disability and political participation outcomes differed by sex or youth status.

The results of the interaction tests displayed in Table 31 (in Appendix 4) suggest that associations between disability and possession of key documents is similar for both men and women. In other words, one would expect similar differences for the possession of key documents. between men without and with disabilities, and women with and without disabilities

On the other hand, results suggest that associations between disability and the possession of an ID card differ between youth and older adults but are similar for

other key documents. Within-group results suggest that the magnitude of the gap between those with and without disabilities might be larger among older adults than young people (OR=0.44 [0.28, 0.70] among older adults versus 0.71 [0.43, 1.18]) among young people).

Table 32 (in Appendix 4) indicates that associations between disability and political engagement are similar for young and older people, and for men and women. An exception concerns participation in religious or local area committees where the significant interaction term suggested a difference between men and women. Within-group results suggest that women with disabilities are less likely than women without disabilities to participate in/observe religious or local area committees (OR=0.52, [0.34, 0.79]), whilst men with and without disabilities have similar levels of participation in these meetings (OR=1.12 [0.75, 1.67]).

Gaps between people with and without disabilities: endline versus baseline

We informally examined whether gaps between people with and without disabilities observed at baseline had changed at endline by comparing the results of the multivariate logistic regression models in both studies. We adjusted for age, location, education[1] and sex, for the common measures of political participation. We compared results only for locations that were common to the endline and baseline studies (i.e., Maroua, Mbalmayo and Yaoundé).

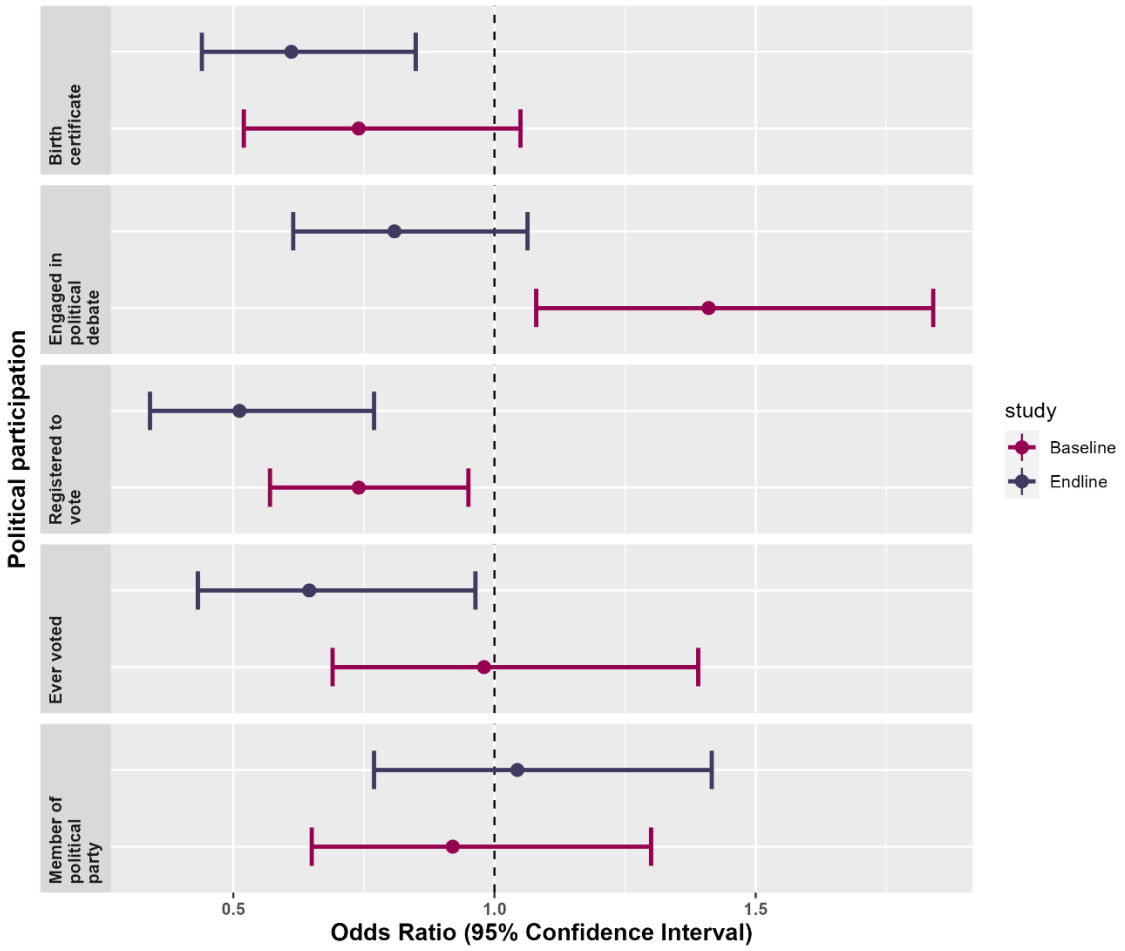
[1] Note that education was coded in a slightly different way in the endline and baseline studies, as shown in Table 11.

Figure 5 shows no significant change at endline compared to baseline in terms of the gap in political participation between people with and without disabilities. Full model results for the baseline data subset pertaining to the graph are given in Gaps between people with and without disabilities at baseline

Table 33 (see Appendix 4), while endline results are displayed in Table 11 and Table 12

.

Figure 5: Baseline versus endline associations between disability and political participation outcomes – forest-plot of ORs from multivariate logistic regression models



Discussion

This study aimed to measure the level of political participation of people with and without disabilities in three cities within two regions of Cameroon: Yaoundé and Mbalmayo in the Centre Region, and Maroua in the Far North Region. To measure political participation, we considered the possession of administrative documents (BC, ID card and the voter card), which allow someone to be recognised as an elector, as well as actions covering voting in elections and participating in a political party or a local council meeting.

Overall, the findings show that most participants have the necessary documents required for political engagement (BC and ID card). A sizeable minority are involved in political parties and local council sessions.

The estimated prevalence of disability in the sample (adults aged 20+ years) was 9.8%, which is consistent with results of other studies using the Washington Group questions to measure disability [26]. This prevalence is slightly lower than the most recent estimate conducted in Cameroon by Sightsavers using the WGSS [26]. It is also lower than the prevalence reported by the World Population Review for Cameroon [27]. As expected, and as seen in other studies, the prevalence of disability was slightly higher among women, and increased with age. This was also seen in the baseline study [16].

In addition, there was regional variation in the prevalence of disability with significantly higher prevalence observed in the Centre region compared to the Far North region. More people with disabilities never went to school compared to people without disabilities. Similar results are reported by UNESCO [27].

A higher proportion of people with disabilities reported having necessary documents for political participation compared to people without disabilities, However, these differences were largely attributable to confounding variables such as age, education, sex and location. Indeed, people with disabilities are older and some studies have shown that older people are more politically active [28]. When the results were adjusted for age, sex, education and study location, people with disabilities were less likely to have the necessary documents to participate in politics

(BC, ID card, registration to vote). Our baseline study in Cameroon showed that, adjusting for the same confounding factors, people with disabilities were significantly less likely to have a birth certificate and be registered to vote [16]. In Nepal, results of a study on political participation also highlighted that at the last election in 2017, people with disabilities were highly likely to be excluded from voter registration lists due to the lack of a citizenship certificate which is the prerequisite document for political engagement

Our results show that a lower proportion of youth (<35 years) reported ever voting. As reported by Norris et al (2002), age is one of the important demographic factors influencing voter turnout. He reported that young people eligible to vote generally show low interest in voting [29]. In Africa, data from the Afrobarometer on political participation of youth highlights that youth tend to vote less and express a lower level of partisanship, which is consistent with findings for youth in other regions of the world [30]. It is also important to highlight that, by definition, older people will have had more opportunities to have ever voted due to having been of voting age for a longer time.

Our findings also show that, participants with higher education levels were more likely to have a birth certificate, national ID card, a valid voter card or to be registered to vote than those who had never gone to school. In addition, participants with higher education levels were more likely to be engaged in political debate, to have ever voted, and to be members of political parties. Similarly, in Nepal, the lack of administrative documents and low engagement in politics among people with disabilities was attributed to lower levels of education among this group as people with disabilities were more likely to be out of school or to have stopped school early [31]. Literature on barriers to political participation of persons with disabilities from other settings also shows that a low level of education is a barrier to full participation [32, 33]. More educated people may be better able to process complex political information; they are also more likely to be aware of where and how to get the necessary documents and subsequently fulfil the requirements needed to engage politically. Our study shows that, low levels of education among people with disabilities led to the lack of key documentation and subsequently to people's ability to vote.

Finally, our results showed that in many areas of political participation, there was a gender gap with women being less likely to participate. Since the associations between disability and political participation and possessing key documents were generally the same for men and women, it is important to consider the results through an intersectional lens: woman with disabilities are likely to face both barriers relating to disability and barriers relating to gender.

Despite the fact that many activities (sensitisation, training, financial support and advocacy) were implemented programmatically with key stakeholders both at the national and at community level, the endline survey showed no change in closing the gaps between people with and without disabilities regarding political participation, where these gaps existed. These results may be due to the limited scale of the interventions targeting a relatively small number of people with disabilities or to the complex contextual factors that undermined the impact of the intended interventions. For example, there was political instability in some project areas, which required the project to change its intervention locations. The COVID-19 pandemic also affected project implementation and the election calendar and turnout in many countries [34].

Another limitation affecting comparability of the baseline and endline studies was that they used different samples, which had slightly different characteristics and were recruited from slightly different locations due to the security situation.

In conclusion, the results of this endline study reiterate the presence of inequalities in political participation between people with and without disabilities. These inequalities are a serious issue in Cameroon. They need to be addressed through more inclusive policies and interventions, and specifically through better access for people with disabilities to essential administrative documents and more inclusive electoral processes. Future research should focus on gaining a better understanding of the intersectionality of disability with other characteristics of disadvantage, and on the impact of specific disability-inclusive interventions.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Washington Group Short Set of questions

"The next questions ask about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a health problem."

Vision

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

    1. No difficulty
    2. Some difficulty
    3. A lot of difficulty
    4. Cannot do at all
    5. Refused
    6. Don't know

Hearing

2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid(s)?

    1. No difficulty
    2. Some difficulty
    3. A lot of difficulty
    4. Cannot do at all
    5. Refused
    6. Don't know

Mobility

3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

    1. No difficulty
    2. Some difficulty
    3. A lot of difficulty

4. Cannot do at all
5. Refused
6. Don’t know

Cognition (remembering)

4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

    1. No difficulty
    2. Some difficulty
    3. A lot of difficulty
    4. Cannot do at all
    5. Refused
    6. Don’t know

Self-care

5. Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing?

    1. No difficulty
    2. Some difficulty
    3. A lot of difficulty
    4. Cannot do at all
    5. Refused
    6. Don’t know

Communication

6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

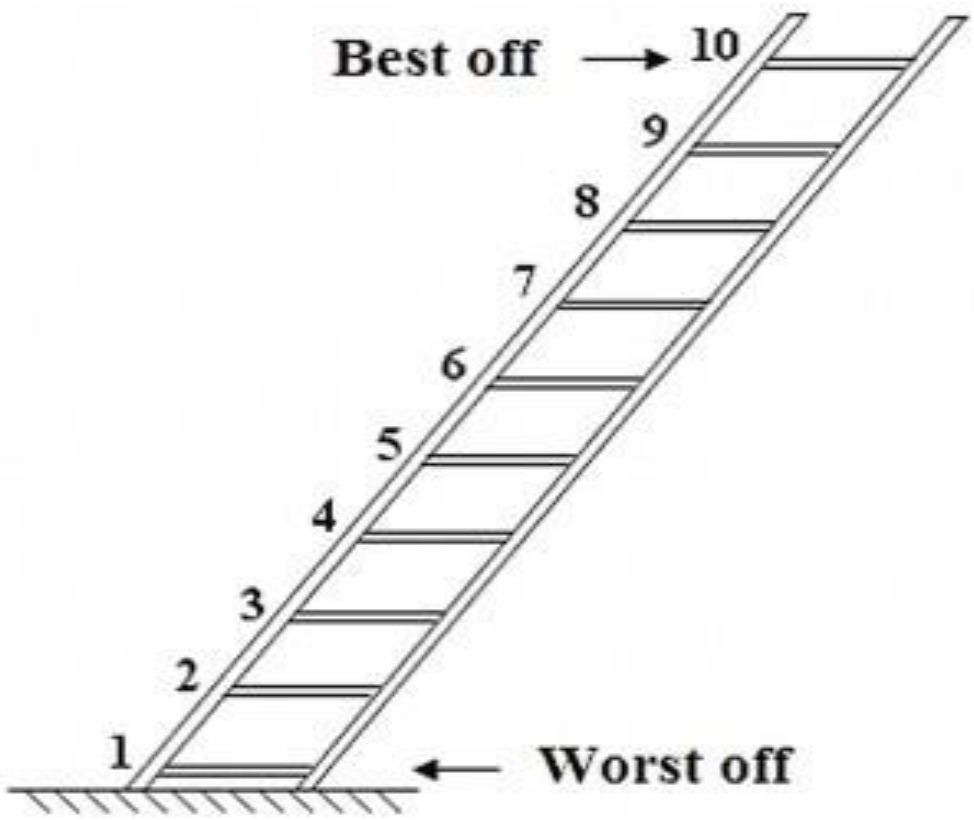
    1. No difficulty
    2. Some difficulty
    3. A lot of difficulty
    4. Cannot do at all
    5. Refused
    6. Don’t know

Appendix 2: Household wealth, Cameroon Equity Tool

	Question	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	Does your household have…			
Q1	…a refrigerator?	Yes	No	
Q2	… a CD/DVD player?	Yes	No	
Q3	… a television?	Yes	No	
Q4	… a fan?	Yes	No	
Q5	Does any member of this household have a bank account?	Yes	No	
Q6	What kind of toilet facility do members of your household use?	Flush to septic tank	Other	
Q7	What type of fuel does your household primarily use for cooking?	Wood	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Other
Q8	What is the primary material used in the construction of the exterior walls of your dwelling?	Cement	Other	
Q9	What is the primary material of the floor of your dwelling?	Earth/Sand/ Dung	Other	

Appendix 3: Economic Ladder Questions

“Imagine ten steps, where on the bottom, the first step, stand the poorest people, and on the highest step, the tenth, stand the rich (show a picture of the steps). On which step are you today?”



Appendix 4: Results

Participant characteristics disaggregated by city

Table 14 shows participant characteristics across cities. Age and sex distributions were similar across the three locations. However, there was some variation in other characteristics. Education levels were significantly lower in Maroua than other locations: a majority of participants either never went to school (32.6%) or stopped at primary education (36.1%) compared to 6.5% and 20.4% respectively in Mbalmayo, and 1.8% and 17.0% respectively in Yaoundé. A higher proportion of participants had university-level education in Yaoundé (28.3%) versus 6.3% and 13.3% in Maroua and Mbalmayo respectively.

A higher proportion reported poor health in Mbalmayo (23.1%) compared to Yaoundé (13.6%) and Maroua (13.9%).

In terms of occupation, the proportion of those studying or training was higher in Yaoundé (15.7%) than Maroua (9.4%). In Mbalmayo, 13.0% were studying or training. The proportion of those working in farming or fishing was higher in Mbalmayo (19.0%) than other locations (7.2% in Maroua and 3.4% in Yaoundé). Finally, a much higher proportion of participants were engaged in household/family responsibilities in Maroua (37.0%) than in Mbalmayo (9.2%) and in Yaoundé (12.1%).

There were also important differences in wealth distribution, with participants in Yaoundé being wealthier than the urban population in Cameroon while those in Maroua were poorer. For example, only 19.8% of participants fell into the two wealthiest quintiles in Maroua vs 36.2% in Mbalmayo and 57.9% in Yaoundé.

Table 14: Participant characteristics disaggregated by city

		Maroua			Mbalmayo			Yaoundé		
Variable		**Median (IQR)**			**Median (IQR)**			**Median (IQR)**		
Age		33 (25, 46)			33 (25, 50)			32 (25, 43)		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95%CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Highest level of education completed	Never went to school	485	32.6	[27.8,37.7]	24	6.5	[2.7,15.0]	44	1.8	[1.3, 2.5]
	Primary	538	36.1	[31.7,40.7]	75	20.4	[17.3,23.8]	415	17.0	[15.1,19.1]
	Secondary	373	25.0	[20.7,30.0]	220	59.8	[51.1,67.9]	1289	52.9	[50.6,55.1]
	University	94	6.3	[4.7, 8.5]	49	13.3	[6.8,24.5]	690	28.3	[25.7,31.0]
	Other	0	-	-	0	-	-	1	0.0	[0.0, 0.3]
Health status	Poor	207	13.9	[10.5,18.2]	85	23.1	[17.8,29.4]	330	13.6	[11.5,16.0]
	Fair	1025	68.8	[62.9,74.2]	214	58.2	[49.4,66.5]	1709	70.3	[67.6,72.9]
	Excellent	258	17.3	[12.1,24.2]	69	18.8	[14.3,24.2]	391	16.1	[14.0,18.5]
Occupation	Studying or training	140	9.4	[7.1,12.4]	48	13.0	[9.2,18.1]	382	15.7	[13.9,17.7]
	Work in farming or fishing	107	7.2	[4.7,10.9]	70	19.0	[8.6,36.9]	84	3.4	[2.5, 4.7]

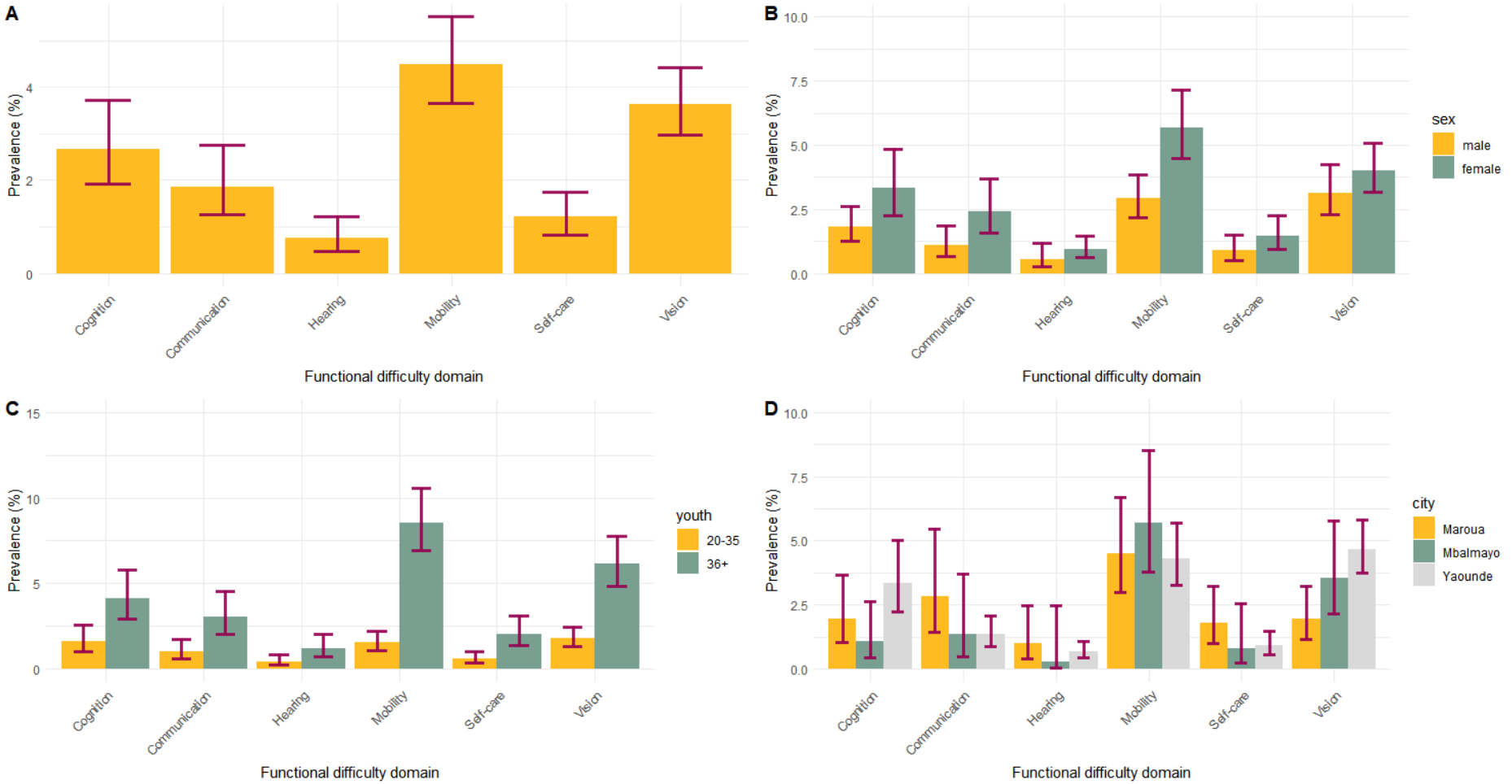
	Work in a sector other than farming or fishing	265	17.8	[12.5,24.7]	115	31.3	[20.2,44.9]	556	22.8	[18.4,27.9]
	Looking for work	40	2.7	[1.7, 4.3]	31	8.4	[5.7,12.2]	287	11.8	[9.9,13.9]
	Engaged in household or family responsibilities	551	37.0	[32.9,41.3]	34	9.2	[7.5,11.4]	295	12.1	[10.3,14.2]
	Long-term illness, injury or disability	30	2.0	[1.5, 2.8]	16	4.4	[2.4, 7.8]	23	0.9	[0.6, 1.6]
	Retired or pensioner	7	0.5	[0.2, 1.0]	22	6.0	[3.4,10.4]	96	3.9	[3.1, 4.9]
	Other	350	23.5	[17.5,30.9]	32	8.7	[5.3,13.9]	716	29.4	[23.7,35.7]
Sex	Male	652	43.8	[40.3,47.3]	132	35.9	[30.5,41.6]	1039	42.6	[40.2,45.0]
	female	838	56.2	[52.7,59.7]	236	64.1	[58.4,69.5]	1400	57.4	[55.0,59.8]
Equity Tool: Urban quintile	1st Quintile	174	11.7	[7.1,18.5]	45	12.2	[5.1,26.4]	142	5.8	[3.9, 8.6]
	2nd Quintile	496	33.3	[26.0,41.5]	78	21.2	[13.5,31.6]	425	17.4	[14.7,20.6]
	3rd Quintile	524	35.2	[27.9,43.3]	112	30.4	[21.2,41.6]	460	18.9	[16.2,21.8]
	4th Quintile	212	14.2	[10.6,18.9]	89	24.2	[16.0,34.8]	613	25.1	[22.8,27.6]
	5th Quintile	84	5.6	[3.4, 9.2]	44	12.0	[4.7,27.2]	799	32.8	[28.2,37.7]

Reported domains of functional difficulty

Of the six functional domains used to determine disability in this report, functional difficulties were most commonly reported under mobility (4.5%), followed by vision (3.6%) and cognition (2.7%) (see Figure 6). The prevalence of difficulty in each domain was generally higher in females than males, although the difference was statistically significant only for mobility (5.7% in females vs 2.9% in males). As expected, prevalence was higher in all areas of difficulty among those aged 36+ compared to youth, with the largest gaps observed in mobility (1.5% vs 8.6%) and vision (1.8% vs 6.1%). No significant differences were observed across cities.

Overall, 6.6% of participants reported a functional difficulty in only one domain, and 3.2% reported a functional difficulty in two or more domains.

Figure 6: Prevalence of domains of functional difficulty in the sample, overall and disaggregated by sex, age group and city. Error bars show the associated 95% confidence intervals



Sightsavers

Additional difficulty domains reported (WG-ES)

Figure 6 shows the prevalence of additional difficulty domains that were reported using questions from the Washington Extended group questionnaire. The cut-off points used to determine whether a difficulty was present in these domains are those used to define disability according to the extended set (levels 4 for Anxiety, depression, pain and fatigue, 3 or 4 for upper body difficulty).

Among the additional functional difficulties reported by participants, pain was the most frequently reported (2.8%). Prevalence was generally higher in females than males, though differences were not statistically different. Prevalence of difficulties was significantly higher for adults aged 36+ than for young people, except for anxiety and depression, where differences weren't significant. No statistically significant differences were observed across cities.

Political participation

Possession of necessary documents

Table 15: Possession of key voting documents, by youth status

		Youth (aged 20-35 years)			Older adults aged 36+		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95%CI
Birth certificate	Yes	2239	90.1	[86.8,92.7]	1410	77.9	[72.6,82.5]
	No	245	9.9	[7.3,13.2]	400	22.1	[17.5,27.5]
National ID card	Yes	2022	81.4	[78.4,84.0]	1650	91.1	[88.6,93.0]
	No	463	18.6	[16.0,21.6]	162	8.9	[7.0,11.4]
Currently registered to vote	Yes	974	39.4	[36.4,42.4]	1413	78.4	[75.2,81.2]
	No	1500	60.6	[57.6,63.6]	390	21.6	[18.8,24.8]
Reasons for not being registered to vote (N=1890)	Didn't think eligible	86	5.7	[4.4, 7.5]	1	0.3	[0.0, 1.9]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	2	0.1	[0.0, 0.5]	6	1.5	[0.7, 3.4]
	Lack necessary information	195	13.0	[10.7,15.7]	50	12.8	[9.4,17.3]
	Lack necessary documentation	316	21.1	[16.9,26.0]	57	14.6	[10.3,20.3]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	17	1.1	[0.6, 2.3]	5	1.3	[0.5, 3.1]
	Registration centre not accessible	11	0.7	[0.4, 1.3]	6	1.5	[0.7, 3.3]
	Not interested	678	45.2	[41.2,49.3]	191	49.0	[43.6,54.3]
	Other	195	13.0	[10.5,15.9]	74	19.0	[14.9,23.9]
Valid voter card	Yes	862	34.8	[31.9,37.9]	1338	74.2	[70.8,77.3]
	No	1614	65.2	[62.1,68.1]	465	25.8	[22.7,29.2]

Table 16: Possession of key voting documents, by city

		Mbalmayo			Maroua			Yaoundé		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95%CI	N	%	95% CI
Birth certificate	Yes	333	90.5	[83.0,94.9]	980	65.8	[61.1,70.2]	2336	95.9	[94.5,96.9]
	No	35	9.5	[5.1,17.0]	509	34.2	[29.8,38.9]	101	4.1	[3.1, 5.5]
National ID card	Yes	310	84.2	[77.7,89.2]	1152	77.3	[72.0,81.9]	2210	90.6	[89.1,91.9]
	No	58	15.8	[10.8,22.4]	338	22.7	[18.1,28.0]	229	9.4	[8.1,10.9]
Currently registered to vote	Yes	198	54.0	[46.0,61.7]	969	65.2	[60.6,69.5]	1220	50.3	[47.2,53.5]
	No	169	46.0	[38.3,54.0]	517	34.8	[30.5,39.4]	1204	49.7	[46.6,52.8]
Reasons for not being registered to vote (N=1890)	Didn't think eligible	16	9.5	[6.1,14.4]	6	1.2	[0.5, 2.8]	65	5.4	[4.0, 7.3]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	0	-	-	5	1.0	[0.3, 2.8]	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.8]
	Lack necessary information	7	4.1	[2.1, 8.1]	91	17.6	[12.3,24.6]	147	12.2	[9.9,14.9]
	Lack necessary documentation	42	25	[14.6,39.0]	217	42.0	[32.7,51.9]	114	9.5	[7.5,12.0]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	1	0.6	[0.1, 5.1]	13	2.5	[1.0, 6.4]	8	0.7	[0.3, 1.3]
	Registration centre not accessible	3	1.8	[0.6, 5.3]	1	0.2	[0.0, 1.5]	13	1.1	[0.6, 1.8]
	Not interested	76	45	[34.5,55.9]	173	33.5	[24.9,43.3]	620	51.5	[48.0,55.0]
	Other	24	14	[9.4,20.9]	11	2.1	[1.0, 4.4]	234	19.4	[16.4,22.9]
Valid voter card	Yes	200	54.4	[47.2,61.3]	889	59.7	[55.2,64.2]	1111	45.9	[42.4,49.4]
	No	168	45.7	[38.7,52.8]	599	40.3	[35.8,44.8]	1312	54.1	[50.7,57.6]

Political participation: voting

Table 17: Participation in past elections, by youth status

		20-35			36+		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Ever voted	Yes	915	37.0	[34.1,39.9]	1525	84.6	82.1,86.8]
	No	1561	63.0	[60.1,65.9]	278	15.4	[13.2,18.0]
If ever voted, year of last election voted in (N=2440)	Don't know/can't remember	20	2.2	[1.3, 3.6]	58	3.8	[2.7, 5.3]
	2020	446	48.7	[40.5,57.1]	853	55.9	[48.8,62.8]
	2018	395	43.2	[35.3,51.4]	513	33.6	[27.3,40.7]
	2013	14	1.5	[0.9, 2.6]	15	1.0	[0.5, 1.9]
	2011	36	3.9	[2.6, 5.9]	51	3.3	[2.3, 4.9]
	2007	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.8]	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
	Pre-2014	3	0.3	[0.1, 1.0]	32	2.1	[1.3, 3.4]
If ever voted, type of last election voted in (N=2440)	Don't know/can't remember	19	2.1	[1.3, 3.4]	49	3.2	[2.4, 4.3]
	Presidential	285	31.1	[25.3,37.7]	411	27.0	[22.5,31.9]
	Municipal	588	64.3	[57.2,70.8]	999	65.5	[59.8,70.8]
	Parliamentary	4	0.4	[0.1, 1.5]	9	0.6	[0.2, 1.4]
	Regional	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.8]	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
	Party primary	13	1.4	[0.7, 2.9]	51	3.3	[1.8, 6.2]
	Referendum	0	0	[0.0, 0.0]	0	0	[0.0, 0.0]
	Other	5	0.5	[0.2, 1.3]	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
Reasons for never voting (N=1839)	Didn't think eligible	93	6.0	[4.6, 7.7]	0	0	-
	Family/community wouldn't allow	4	0.3	[0.1, 0.7]	3	1.1	[0.3, 3.4]

	Lack necessary information	167	10.7	[8.7,13.1]	25	9.0	[5.7,13.8]
	Lack necessary documentation	350	22.4	[18.3,27.2]	41	14.7	[10.1,21.1]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	14	0.9	[0.3, 2.4]	4	1.4	[0.5, 3.8]
	Registration centre not accessible	11	0.7	[0.4, 1.3]	5	1.8	[0.8, 4.3]
	Not interested	705	45.2	[41.3,49.1]	152	54.7	[47.9,61.3]
	Victim of violence	5	0.3	[0.1, 0.8]	1	0.4	[0.1, 2.5]
	Other	212	13.6	[10.9,16.9]	47	16.9	[12.4,22.6]

Table 18: Participation in past elections, by city

		Mbalmayo			Maroua			Yaoundé		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Ever voted	Yes	202	55.0	[47.0,62.9]	957	64.3	[59.5,68.8]	1281	52.8	[49.9,55.8]
	No	165	45.0	[37.1,53.0]	531	35.7	[31.2,40.5]	1143	47.2	[44.2,50.1]
If ever voted, year of last election voted in (N=2440)	Don't know/can't remember	0	0	-	5	0.5	[0.2, 1.2]	73	5.7	[4.3, 7.5]
	2020	174	86.1	[79.7,90.8]	508	53.1	[37.2,68.3]	617	48.2	[41.9,54.5]
	2018	22	10.9	[7.4,15.8]	401	41.9	[27.0,58.4]	485	37.9	[32.8,43.2]
	2013	0	0	-	17	1.8	[1.0, 3.3]	12	0.9	[0.5, 1.9]
	2011	3	1.5	[0.3, 7.2]	22	2.3	[1.1, 4.8]	62	4.8	[3.5, 6.7]
	2007	1	0.5	[0.1, 4.1]	0	0	-	3	0.2	[0.1, 0.7]
	Pre-2014	2	1.0	[0.2, 4.0]	4	0.4	[0.2, 1.1]	29	2.3	[1.3, 3.9]
If ever voted, type of last election voted in	Don't know/can't remember	0	0	-	5	0.5	[0.2, 1.2]	63	4.9	[3.8, 6.3]
	Presidential	29	14.4	[9.7,20.7]	87	9.1	[6.1,13.4]	580	45.3	[39.5,51.2]
	Municipal	168	83.2	[73.0,90.0]	857	89.6	[84.9,92.9]	562	43.9	[38.3,49.6]
	Parliamentary	3	1.5	[0.3, 6.9]	5	0.5	[0.1, 2.1]	5	0.4	[0.1, 1.1]

(N=2440)	Regional	1	0.5	[0.1, 4.0]	2	0.2	[0.1, 0.9]	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.6]
	Party primary	0	0	-	0	0	-	64	5.0	[2.9, 8.5]
	Referendum	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
	Other	1	0.5	[0.1, 4.6]	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.8]	6	0.5	[0.2, 1.2]
Reasons for never voting (N=1839)	Didn't think eligible	18	10.9	[5.9,19.4]	4	0.8	[0.3, 1.9]	71	6.2	[4.8, 8.0]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	0	0	-	4	0.8	[0.3, 2.0]	3	0.3	[0.1, 0.8]
	Lack necessary information	6	3.6	[1.8, 7.2]	81	15.2	[10.7,21.4]	105	9.2	[7.3,11.6]
	Lack necessary documentation	40	24.2	[13.4,39.9]	231	43.4	[35.9,51.4]	120	10.5	[8.4,13.0]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	0	0	-	9	1.7	[0.4, 6.6]	9	0.8	[0.3, 2.2]
	Registration centre not accessible	3	1.8	[0.7, 4.8]	1	0.2	[0.0, 1.4]	12	1.0	[0.6, 1.9]
	Not interested	74	44.8	[34.7,55.5]	191	35.9	[28.1,44.7]	592	51.8	[48.0,55.6]
	Victim of violence	0	0	-	0	0	-	6	0.5	[0.2, 1.1]
	Other	24	14.5	[9.1,22.4]	10	1.9	[0.8, 4.4]	225	19.7	[16.3,23.6]

Political participation: engagement in political debate

Table 19: Engagement in political debate, by youth status

		20-35			36+		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Watch/listen/discuss/read politics	Yes	1513	61.0	[56.4,65.3]	1194	66.1	[62.2,69.9]
	No	969	39.0	[34.7,43.6]	611	33.9	[30.1,37.8]
Main source of information (N=2707)	Radio	180	11.9	[9.1,15.4]	180	15.1	[12.1,18.7]
	Television	714	47.2	[42.1,52.3]	598	50.1	[43.8,56.4]
	Newspapers	17	1.1	[0.6, 2.0]	13	1.1	[0.6, 1.9]
	Friends and family	262	17.3	[13.3,22.3]	286	24.0	[18.5,30.5]
	Internet	326	21.5	[18.1,25.5]	81	6.8	[5.4, 8.6]
	Local council	2	0.1	[0.0, 0.5]	17	1.4	[0.8, 2.5]
	Community/religious leaders	7	0.5	[0.2, 1.4]	11	0.9	[0.4, 2.3]
	OPDs	0	0	-	0	0	-
	NGOs	0	0	-	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.6]
	Other	5	0.3	[0.1, 0.9]	7	0.6	[0.2, 1.7]

Table 20: Engagement in political debate, by city

		Mbalmayo			Maroua			Yaoundé		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Watch/listen/discuss/read politics	Yes	179	48.6	[37.7,59.7]	899	60.5	[51.7,68.7]	1629	67.0	[63.1,70.6]
	No	189	51.4	[40.3,62.3]	587	39.5	[31.4,48.3]	804	33.0	[29.4,36.9]
Main source of information (N=2707)	Radio	11	6.1	[3.9, 9.5]	199	22.1	[15.1,31.2]	150	9.2	[7.3,11.5]
	Television	87	48.6	[33.1,64.3]	196	21.8	[16.8,27.7]	1029	63.2	[59.2,67.0]
	Newspapers	0	0	-	6	0.7	[0.3, 1.6]	24	1.5	[1.0, 2.3]
	Friends and family	69	38.5	[23.5,56.2]	384	42.7	[36.2,49.5]	95	5.8	[4.0, 8.4]
	Internet	10	5.6	[2.1,14.3]	95	10.6	[6.6,16.4]	302	18.5	[15.9,21.6]
	Local council	0			4	0.4	[0.1, 1.5]	15	0.9	[0.5, 1.6]
	Community/religious leaders	1	0.6	[0.1, 5.3]	15	1.7	[0.7, 4.1]	2	0.1	[0.0, 0.5]
	OPDs	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	
	NGOs	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.5]
	Other	1	0.6	[0.1, 5.3]	0	0	-	11	0.7	[0.3, 1.7]

Political participation: political party involvement

Political party membership

Table 21: Political party membership, by youth status

		Aged 20-35			Aged 36+		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Registered member of political party	Yes	314	12.7	[10.4,15.4]	553	30.7	[26.6,35.1]
	No	2166	87.3	[84.6,89.6]	1249	69.3	[64.9,73.4]
If not registered, ever tried to register with a political party (N=3415)	Yes	62	2.9	[2.2, 3.8]	96	7.7	[6.0, 9.8]
	No	2104	97.1	[96.2,97.9]	1151	92.3	[90.2,94.0]
If not tried to register, reason for not being registered with a political party (N=3255)	Didn't think eligible	70	3.3	[2.4, 4.6]	6	0.5	[0.2, 1.4]
	Family/community wouldn't t allow	9	0.4	[0.2, 1.0]	11	1.0	[0.5, 2.0]
	Lack necessary information	217	10.3	[8.3,12.8]	80	7.0	[4.9, 9.9]
	Lack necessary documentation	202	9.6	[7.3,12.5]	70	6.1	[3.9, 9.3]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	6	0.3	[0.1, 1.2]	0	-	-
	Registration centre not accessible	6	0.3	[0.1, 0.6]	3	0.3	[0.1, 0.8]
	Not interested	1323	62.9	[58.7,66.9]	772	67.1	[61.5,72.2]
	Victim of violence	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.5]	2	0.2	[0.0, 0.7]
	Other	267	12.7	[9.8,16.3]	207	18.0	[13.8,23.1]

Table 22: Political party membership, by city

		Mbalmayo			Maroua			Yaoundé		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
Registered member of political party	Yes	105	28.5	[17.6,42.8]	274	18.4	[12.9,25.7]	488	20.1	[17.1,23.6]
	No	263	71.5	[57.2,82.4]	1213	81.6	[74.4,87.1]	1939	79.9	[76.4,83.0]
If not registered, ever tried to register with a political party (N=3415)	Yes	4	1.5	[0.5, 4.9]	26	2.1	[1.4, 3.3]	128	6.6	[5.4, 8.1]
	No	259	98.5	[95.1,99.5]	1187	97.9	[96.8,98.6]	1809	93.4	[91.9,94.6]
If not tried to register, reason for not being registered with a political party (N=3255)	Didn't think eligible	15	5.8	[2.5,12.8]	11	0.9	[0.3, 2.9]	50	2.8	[2.0, 3.8]
	Family/community wouldn't allow	0	0	-	16	1.3	[0.6, 2.9]	4	0.2	[0.1, 0.6]
	Lack necessary information	10	3.9	[2.0, 7.2]	156	13.1	[9.1,18.6]	131	7.2	[5.7, 9.2]
	Lack necessary documentation	11	4.2	[1.7,10.1]	198	16.7	[12.0,22.7]	63	3.5	[2.5, 4.8]
	Necessary documents are not accessible	0	0	-	5	0.4	[0.1, 2.2]	1	0.1	[0.0, 0.4]
	Registration centre not accessible	0	0	-	2	0.2	[0.02, 1.3]	7	0.4	[0.2, 0.8]
	Not interested	177	68.3	[63.2,73.1]	780	65.7	[57.7,73.0]	1138	62.9	[57.0, 68.5]
	Victim of violence	0			0			6	0.3	[0.2, 0.7]
	Other	46	17.8	[12.2,25.1]	19	1.6	[0.7, 3.7]	409	22.6	[18.1, 27.8]

Political party representation

Table 23: Political party representation, overall and by sex

		Overall			Female			Male		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95% CI]
If registered member of political party, local representative/candidate for a political party (N=867)	Yes	239	27.6	[22.9,32.8]	108	25.2	[19.9,31.5]	131	29.8	[23.9,36.6]
	No	628	72.4	[67.2,77.1]	320	74.8	[68.5,80.1]	308	70.2	[63.5,76.1]
If not a local representative/candidate - Wanted to become a local representative (N=628)	Yes	58	9.2	[6.6,13.0]	18	5.6	[3.2, 9.8]	40	13.1	[8.7,19.1]
	No	567	90.7	[87.0,93.4]	301	94.4	[90.2,96.8]	266	86.9	[80.9,91.3]
If wanted to become a local representative, registered to become a local representative (N=58)	Yes	29	50	[35.7,64.3]	12	66.7	[37.0, 87.2]	17	42.5	[26.5,60.3]
	No	29	50	[35.7,64.3]	6	33.3	[12.8,63.1]	23	57.5	[39.7,73.5]
If not registered to become a local representative, reasons for not being registered (N=29)	Don't meet requirements	7	24.1	[11.3,44.2]	-[2]	-	-	-	-	-
	May not meet voters' demands	4	13.8	[4.0, 38.1]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Attitudinal barriers	3	10.3	[3.0, 30.1]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Physical barriers	2	6.9	[1.5, 26.1]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	13	44.8	[23.6, 68.2]	-	-	-	-	-	-

[2] N too low for meaningful disaggregation by sex, therefore not presented.

Table 24: Representation in political party, by disability status

		People with disabilities			People without disabilities		
		N	%	[95% CI]	N	%	[95%CI]
Local representative/candidate for a political party	**Yes**	34	29.3	[21.2, 39.0]	205	27.3	[22.1, 33.2]
	No	82	70.7	[61.0, 78.8]	546	72.7	[66.8, 77.9]
If not a local rep/candidate - Wanted to become a local representative (N=628)	**Yes**	12	14.6	[7.8, 25.9]	46	8.5	[5.9, 12.1]
	No	70	85.4	[74.1,92.3]	497	91.5	[87.9,94.1]
If wanted to become a local representative, registered to become a local representative (N=58)	**Yes**	7	58.3	[26.0, 84.8]	22	47.8	[32.4, 63.7]
	No	5	41.7	[15.2, 74.1]	24	52.2	[36.3, 67.6]

Table 25: Representation in political party, by youth status

		20-35 years			36+ years		
		N	%	95%CI	N	%	95%CI
Local rep/candidate for a political party	**Yes**	81	25.8	[19.5,33.3]	158	28.6	[23.7,34.0]
	No	233	74.2	[66.7,80.5]	395	71.4	[66.0,76.3]
If not a local rep/candidate. wanted to become a local representative (N=628)	**Yes**	17	7.3	[4.1,12.7]	41	10.5	[7.2,14.9]
	No	216	92.7	[87.3,95.9]	351	89.5	[85.1,92.8]
If wanted to become a local representative, registered to become a local representative (N=58)	**Yes**	9	52.9	[29.3,75.4]	20	48.8	[30.6,67.3]
	No	8	47.1	[24.7,70.7]	21	51.2	[32.7,69.4]

Table 26: Representation in political party, by city

		Mbalmayo			Maroua			Yaoundé		
		N	%	95%CI	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Local rep/candidate for a political party	Yes	18	17.1	[8.0,33.0]	62	22.6	[13.3,35.7]	159	32.6	[28.3,37.1]
	No	87	82.9	[67.0, 92.0]	212	77.4	[64.3, 86.7]	329	67.4	[62.9,71.7]
If not a local rep/candidate, wanted to become a local representative (N=628)	Yes	4	4.6	[2.4, 8.6]	15	7.1	[3.0,15.9]	39	12.0	[8.3,17.0]
	No	83	95.4	[91.5,97.6]	197	92.92	[84.1,97.0]	287	88.0	[83.0,91.7]

Community political participation: involvement in local council sessions

Table 27: Involvement in local council sessions and membership of economic associations, overall and by sex

		Overall			Female			Male		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Ever taken part or been an observer in local area or religious committee	Yes	1304	30.4	[27.2,33.7]	674	27.3	[24.2,30.6]	630	34.6	[30.6,38.9]
	No	2986	69.6	[66.3,72.8]	1797	72.7	[69.4,75.8]	1189	65.4	[61.1,69.4]
If local representative /candidate - attending local council (N=239)	Yes	127	53.1	[45.0,61.2]	46	42.6	[32.5,53.4]	81	61.8	[51.0,71.6]
	No	112	46.9	[38.8,55.1]	62	57.4	[46.6,67.5]	50	38.2	[28.4,49.0]
Reasons for not attending local council (N=112)	Didn't think eligible	17	15.2	[7.8,27.6]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Family/community wouldn't allow	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Lack necessary information	35	31.3	[20.6,44.4]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Lack necessary documentation	5	4.5	[1.8,10.5]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Necessary documents are not accessible	1	0.9	[0.1, 6.3]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Registration centre not accessible	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Not interested	10	8.9	[4.7,16.4]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Victim of violence	1	0.9	[0.1, 6.3]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	43	38.4	[25.0,53.9]	-	-	-	-	-	-
Member of economic association	**Yes**	1564	36.4	[32.7, 40.3]	889	35.9	[31.9,40.2]	675	37.0	[33.0,41.3]
	No	2731	63.6	[59.7,67.3]	1584	64.1	[59.8,68.1]	1147	63.0	[58.7,67.0]

Table 28: Involvement in local area or religious committee and membership of economic association, by disability status

		People with disabilities			People without disabilities		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Ever taken part or been an observer in local area or religious committee	Yes	139	33.2	[28.1,38.6]	1165	30.1	[26.9,33.5]
	No	280	66.8	[61.4,71.9]	2706	69.9	[66.5,73.1]
Member of economic association	Yes	139	33.2	[27.7,39.1]	1425	36.8	[32.9,40.8]
	No	280	66.8	[60.9,72.3]	2451	63.2	[59.2,67.1]

Table 29: Involvement in local area or religious committee and membership of economic association, by youth status

		Aged 20-35 years			Aged 36+ years		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Ever taken part or been an observer in local area or religious committee	Yes	612	24.6	[21.4,28.2]	692	38.3	[34.3,42.5]
	No	1871	75.4	[71.8,78.6]	1115	61.7	[57.6,65.7]
Member of economic association	Yes	770	31.0	[27.5,34.8]	794	43.8	[38.7,49.2]
	No	1714	69.0	[65.2,72.5]	1017	56.2	[50.8,61.3]

Table 30: Involvement in local area or religious committee and membership of economic association, by city

		Mbalmayo			Maroua			Yaoundé		
		N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI	N	%	95% CI
Ever taken part or been an observer in local area or religious committee	Yes	113	30.8	[21.8,41.6]	358	24.0	[19.6,29.2]	833	34.2	[29.9,38.9]
	No	254	69.2	[58.4,78.2]	1131	76.0	[70.8,80.5]	1601	65.8	[61.2,70.1]
Member of economic association	Yes	168	45.7	[36.1,55.5]	359	24.1	[20.4,28.2]	1037	42.6	[37.4,47.9]
	No	200	54.4	[44.5,63.9]	1131	75.9	[71.8,79.6]	1400	57.5	[52.1,62.6]

Exploring intersectionality in political participation

Table 31: Interaction terms for key documents – p-value of Scott-Rao LRT test per outcome studied, exploring the interaction between sex and disability and the interaction between youth and disability

Interaction term tested	Birth certificate	ID card	Voting card	Registered to vote
M1[3]: sex*disability	0.98	0.71	0.63	0.99
M2[4]: youth*disability	0.90	0.03	0.46	0.08

Table 32: Interaction terms for political engagement – p-value of Scott-Rao LRT test per outcome studied, exploring the interaction between sex and disability and the interaction between youth and disability

Interaction term tested	Ever voted	Engaged in political debate	Economic association member	Religious or local area committee participation/observation	Member of political party
M1[5]: sex*disability	0.64	0.61	0.32	0.04	0.14
M2[6]: youth*disability	0.70	0.17	0.30	0.35	0.55

[3] M1 is a logistic regression model with the outcome being the variable denoted in columns, and the covariates being: age, sex, education, location, disability status, sex*disability status.

[4] M2 is a logistic regression model with the outcome being the variable denoted in columns, and the covariates being: youth, sex, education, location, disability status, youth*disability status.

[5] M1 is a logistic regression model with the outcome being the variable denoted in columns, and the covariates being: age, sex, education, location, disability status, sex*disability status.

[6] M2 is a logistic regression model with the outcome being the variable denoted in columns, and the covariates being: youth, sex, education, location, disability status, youth*disability status.

Gaps between people with and without disabilities at baseline

Table 33: Gaps between people with and without disabilities at baseline: excluding the South-West region. Data are odds ratios (95% CI) from multivariate logistic regression models

	Birth certificate	Registered to vote	Ever voted	Engaged in political debate	Member of a political party
With disabilities (versus without)	0.74 [0.52, 1.05]	0.74 [0.57, 0.95]	0.98 [0.69, 0.39]	1.41 [1.08, 1.84]	1.04 [1.03, 1.05]
Age (years)	0.96 [0.95, 0.97]	1.06 [1.05, 1.08]	1.15 [1.12, 1.18]	1.01 [1.00, 1.02]	0.92 [0.65, 1.30]
Female (versus male)	0.76 [0.55, 1.05]	0.74 [0.60, 0.92]	0.95 [0.78, 1.17]	0.44 [0.35, 0.54]	1.12 [0.84, 1.48]
City (versus Maroua)					
Mbalmayo	2.37 [1.42, 3.94]	0.22 [0.16, 0.32]	0.62 [0.46, 0.83]	1.26 [0.89, 1.80]	1.71 [1.13, 2.58]
Yaounde	4.33 [2.36, 7.96]	0.16 [0.12, 0.21]	0.31 [0.22, 0.43]	0.88 [0.59, 1.31]	0.91 [0.61, 1.35]
Education (versus never went to school)					
Primary	7.78 [4.94, 12.25]	1.30 [0.94, 1.80]	1.35 [0.90, 2.04]	1.09 [0.80, 1.47]	2.43 [1.62, 3.64]
Secondary	20.61 [11.83, 35.93]	1.08 [0.77, 1.52]	0.97 [0.62, 1.52]	1.23 [0.83, 1.82]	2.11 [1.26, 3.52]
Post-secondary non-tertiary/tertiary/university/other	97.34 [33.75, 280.76]	1.53 [0.97, 2.43]	0.84 [0.50, 1.40]	1.62 [1.00, 2.62]	2.04 [1.05, 3.96]
Some schooling/unknown	5.59 [2.46, 12.73]	1.66 [0.62, 4.42]	1.02 [0.21, 4.84]	1.16 [0.48, 2.76]	1.91 [0.63, 5.81]

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