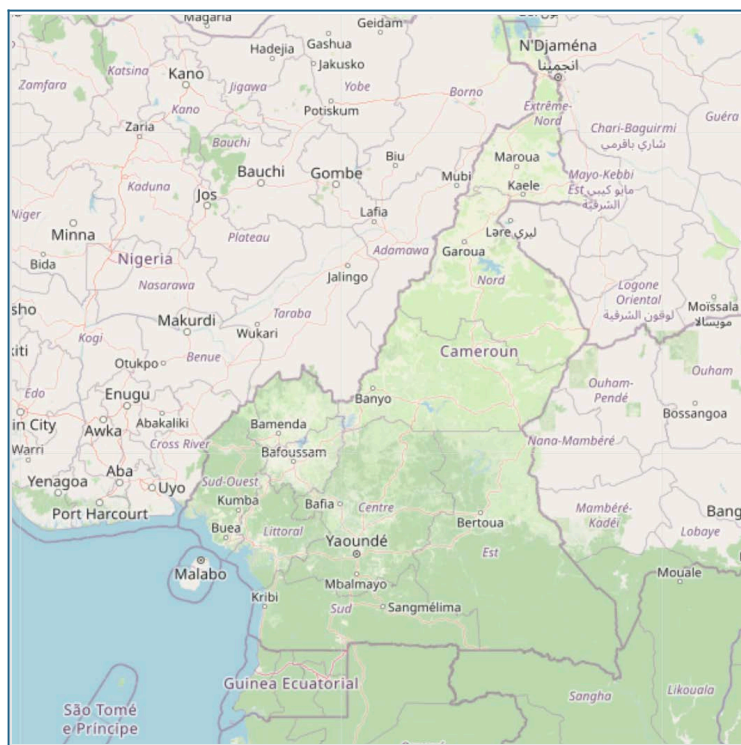


# Cameroon Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	505,692
New asylum applications (2019)	3,989

## NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/africa/cameroon>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

## STATISTICS

### Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	27,997	2016	Percentage of foreign prisoners	3.1	2014
	24,000	2011			
	23,368	2009			
	22,062	2006			
	20,000	2002			
	15,903	1997			
	18,230	1993			
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	115	2016			
	112	2011			
	115	2009			
	117	2006			
	119	2002			
	108	1997			
	136	1993			

### Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	26,500,000	2020	International migrants	505,692	2019
	23,344,000	2015		382,000	2015
International migrants as a percentage of the population	1.6	2015	Refugees	421,692	2020
				406,259	2019
				380,329	2018
				337,388	2017
				375,393	2016
				342,973	2015
				264,126	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	15.69	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	3,989	2019
	11.6	2014		3,798	2016
				9,102	2014
Refugee recognition rate	84.3	2014			

## DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION		
Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2017
	Common law	2017
	Customary law	2017
COVID-19 UPDATES		
Latest Update	Update Status	Observation Date
	<p>A critical humanitarian concern in Cameroon is its growing population of internally displaced people (IDPs), which according to UNHCR has increased substantially in recent months because of violence in northern parts of the country. As of mid-2020 there were nearly one million IDPs in the country, in addition to the more than 400,000 refugees. But there appears to be little updated information about the impact of Covid-19 on these populations. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 17 refugees in Cameroon had tested positive for the disease as of 26 August, the latest 7 cases reported following a voluntary screening campaign “carried out by the regional delegation of public health of the East region from the 10 to 16 August” (OCHA, “Cameroon: Covid-19 Emergency,” Situation Report No. 06). The pandemic is having an important impact on the movements into and across the country. In late March, for instance, growing fears about the spread of the coronavirus spurred thousands of IDPs located in camps in the west of the country to flee to other areas in the south and the north. In the meantime, the country has been blocking people from entering the country from Chad and the Central African Republic. Preventive measures including hand washing and temperature measurements were also implemented at border crossings, according to UNHCR. UNHCR reported that the country was setting up 40 Refugee Housing Units to facilitate the provision of isolation and quarantine facilities in the East and Adamawa regions. A 14 day quarantine has been made compulsory for all refugees and migrants coming into the country to refugee camps and systematic controls of all new arrivals are made including temperature checks and medical assessments. There have also been concerns about the impact of the pandemic in prisons. In March 2020, Human Rights Watch reported that local NGOs have decried overcrowding in the country’s prisons and the lack of sanitary measures and distancing. Two months later, the Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners (CL2P) revealed that many prisoners had already tested positive. The NGO warned that due to the lack of testing, this number was expected to rise. The Yaoundé prison, which has a population of more than 5,000 prisoners, has been particularly affected by the pandemic. In mid-April, following the death of several prisoners, a protest erupted at the prison. On 20 June, the Ministry of Justice said that 7,000 prisoners had been released since the start of the pandemic. Some 44 percent of those released tested positive for Covid-19, but it is unclear whether they were quarantined following their release.</p>	2020

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaties	Name		Ratification Year
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations		1967
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination		1971
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		1984
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		1984
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women		1994
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		1986
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child		1993
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		1961
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children		2006
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime		2006
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	10/19		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name		Acceptance Year
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966		1984
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999		2005
	CAT, declaration under article 22 of the Convention		2000
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	3/6	2017	
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name		Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	ACHPR, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights		1989
	ACRWC, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child		1997
	APRW, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)		2012
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2009	2017
	No	2013	2017

## INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Cameroon is available at the website of the Global Detention Project  
([www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org))

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