



# Political participation in Cameroon and Senegal: a population-based survey

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# Background

- Political participation includes a broad range of activities through which people (with and without disabilities) develop and express their opinions and shape the decisions that affect their lives.
- Every individual has the right to participate in politics, including people with disabilities.

# In the context of this study

- Article 29 of the UN CRPD (2006) mandates that Member States “shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and equal opportunity with others”
- However people with disabilities living in LMICs continue to experience multiple barriers to political participation
- Empirical data on the extent of the problem and how it varies between and within the countries continues to be limited

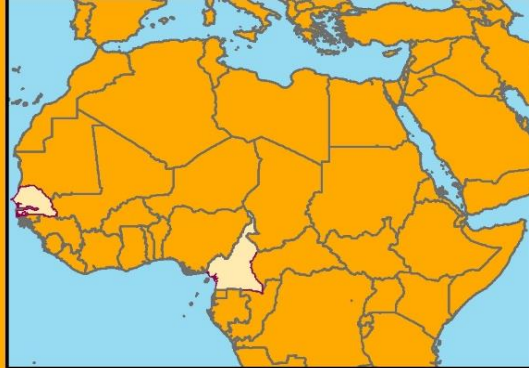
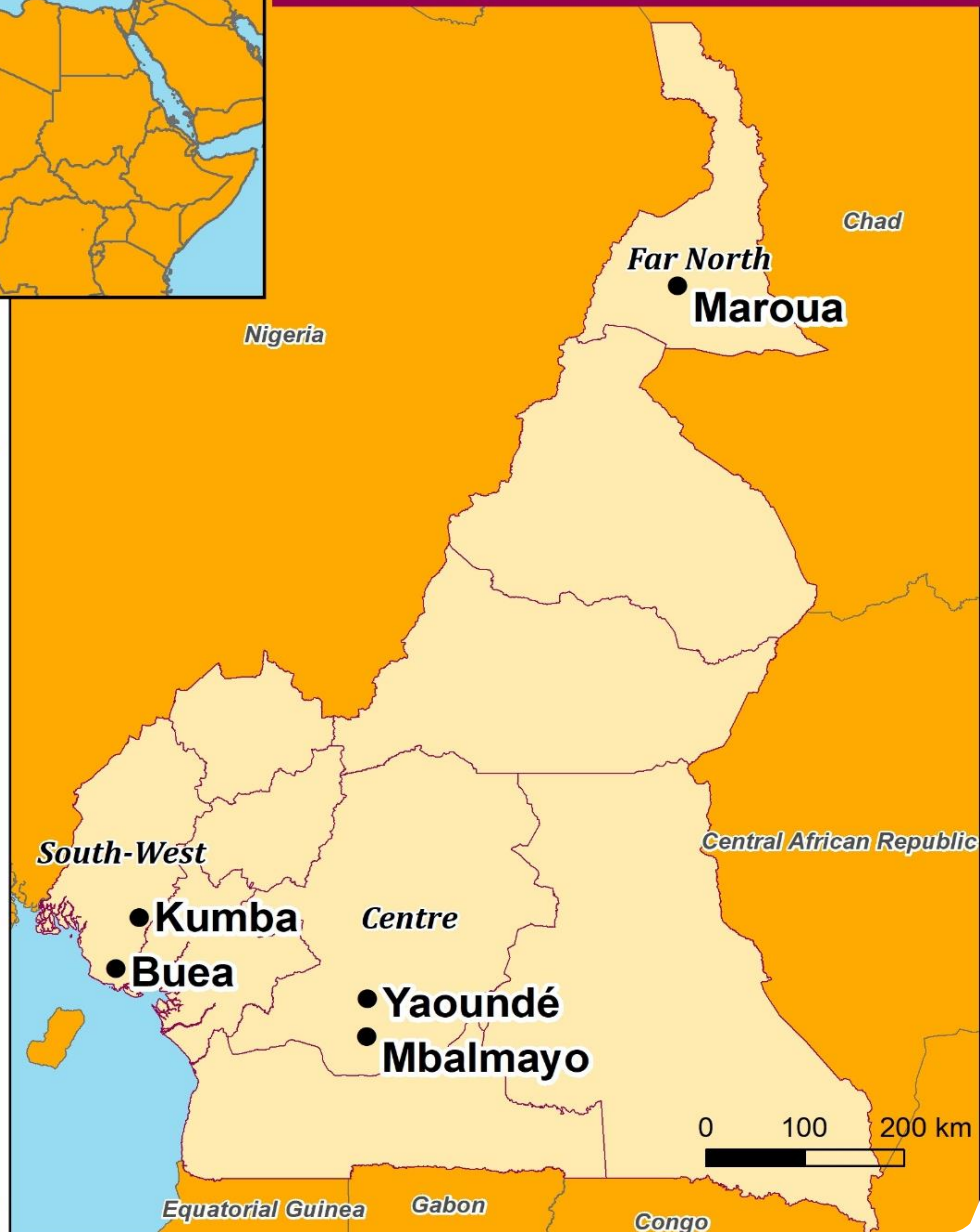
# Study objectives

- To measure the prevalence of disability among adults of voting age
- To determine the levels of participation of people with and without disabilities in elections and political parties
- To determine the levels of access of people with disabilities to disability cards and participation in DPOs

# STUDY AREAS IN SENEGAL



# STUDY AREAS IN CAMEROON



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# Methodology

- **Study design:** cross-sectional population- based surveys
- **Participants:** adults aged 20+ in Cameroon and 18+ in Senegal
- **Data collection:**
  - Socio-demographic characteristics
  - Washington Group Short Set of question
  - Equity tool
  - Political participation questionnaire
- **Analysis:** Stata Version 14.2

# Results

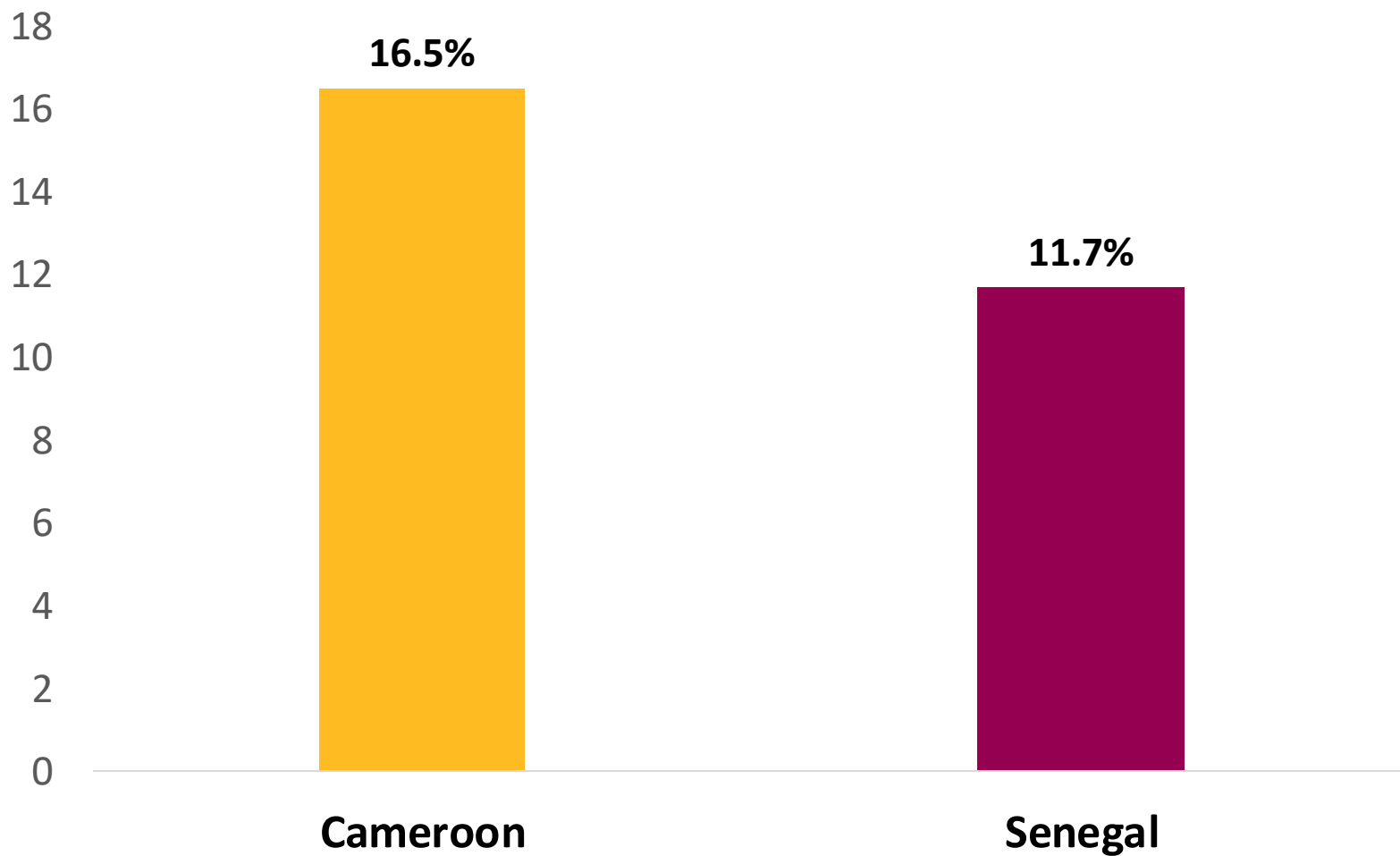
## Cameroon

- N= 3,761
- Females (54.3%)
- Median age = 33 years
- More people with disabilities never went to school (27.4% vs 12.9%)
- People with disabilities were poorer than those without disabilities (45% vs 29% in the two poorest quintiles)

## Senegal

- N=3,874
- Females (67.3%)
- Median age = 32 years
- More people with disabilities never went to school (53.6% vs 32.4%)
- Little difference between people with and without disabilities in wealth (34% vs 38% in the two poorest quintiles)

# Results: Prevalence of disability





# Results: key variables of interest (people with disabilities)

	Cameroon (N=620)	Senegal (N=435)
Birth certificate	65.7%	94.5%
Registered to vote	56.8%	85.2%
Ever voted	75.5%	78.8%
Members of a political party	23.6%	14.4%
Disability card	6.1%	3.3%
DPO member	4.5%	3.8%

# Birth certificates and registration to vote

- Age and sex adjusted odds ratios: Association between disability and Birth certificate / Registration to vote

			Adjusted OR	CI	p
Cameroon	Birth certificate	Not disabled	1		0.002
		Disabled	<b>0.68</b>	(0.53-0.87)	
Senegal		Not disabled	1		0.055
		Disabled	0.63	(0.39-1.01)	
Cameroon	Registered to vote	Not disabled	1		0.504
		Disabled	0.93	0.76-1.15	
Senegal		Not disabled	1		<0.001
		Disabled	0.56	0.41-0.77	

# Ever voted and political party membership

- Age and sex adjusted odds ratios: association between disability and ever voted / member of a political party

			Adjusted OR	CI	p
Cameroon	Ever voted	Not disabled	1		0.367
		Disabled	1.13	0.87-1.46	
Senegal		Not disabled	1		<0.001
		Disabled	0.55	0.40-0.77	
Cameroon	Registered member of political party	Not disabled	1		0.515
		Disabled	1.08	0.85-1.38	
Senegal		Not disabled	1		0.049
		Disabled	0.75	0.56-1.00	

# DPO membership

- The majority of those, who were DPO members in both settings valued their DPO membership and agreed that DPOs
  - Helped people with disabilities to improve their living conditions and gain new skills;
  - Provided a forum for discussing common issues and gaining peer support; and
  - Enabled people with disabilities to access their rights and bring their issues closer to decision-makers

# Conclusions and next steps, 1

- People with disabilities participate in formal politics but the extent of their involvement varies by context
- There is a need to improve accessibility of political institutions and political processes
- Where it is appropriate there is a need to promote DPO and self-help group membership more broadly

# Conclusions and next steps, 2

- Development projects need to focus more on access to Birth certificates and Disability cards
- In Senegal barriers to political participation of people with disabilities need to be further explored and addressed
- Low levels of education among people with disabilities need to be taken into account in the design of communication campaigns

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**The participation of men and women with disabilities in political life in Senegal: Baseline report**  
June 2018



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