



**UNICEF Cameroon**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**November 2025**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE For Every Child, Rights

November has been a defining month for children and girls in Cameroon.

We began with the First International Conference on the Role of Academia in Promoting and Protecting Child Rights which brought together government institutions, universities, development partners, civil society, experts and young people. This landmark event highlighted the critical role of research, innovation, and academic leadership in advancing children's rights, laid the foundations for the creation of a network of African universities for children's rights and positioned Cameroon as a regional pioneer in this field.

Building on this momentum, the National Forum on Girls' Rights provided a powerful platform for more than 2,000 girls from across the country, both in person and virtually, to make their voices heard. During the Forum, girls formally presented their Manifesto and the Dakar Declaration to the Government, the United Nations, and partners calling for concrete and bold action to shape their futures.

I would like to warmly thank the Government of Cameroon, our sister UN agencies, donors, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and all implementing partners whose commitment and collaboration made these two major moments possible. Above all, I commend the children and young people whose leadership and engagement continue to inspire us.

UNICEF remains committed to working hand in hand with all partners to turn these commitments into lasting impact for every child in Cameroon.

**Nadine Perrault**  
Representative, UNICEF Cameroon



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## Academia and Leaders Unite to Advance Child Rights at UCAC in Yaoundé

The International Conference on the Role of Academia in Promoting and Protecting Child Rights took place on November 19 -20 at the Université Catholique d'Afrique Centrale (UCAC) in Yaoundé in the spirit of World Children's Day. The conference brought together high-level stakeholders, including Government ministers, the Apostolic Nuncio to Cameroon, the UN Resident Coordinator, UNICEF Country Representatives, traditional authorities, partners, academics, and researchers, united by a shared commitment to advancing the rights and wellbeing of every child.

Discussions focused on key themes such as cultural diversity and the implementation of the three conventions on the rights of the child in the African context, offering valuable reflections on the role of universities in strengthening research, academic leadership, and evidence-based advocacy for children. At the end of the meeting, the Yaoundé Declaration was signed by the participants demonstrating their commitment to promoting children's rights in Africa through and with academia. Organized by UNICEF Cameroon in partnership with UCAC, the conference reaffirmed collective commitment to ensuring that every child in Cameroon grows up safe, protected, and empowered.

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## Adolescents Lead Dialogue on Child Rights at UCAC Conference

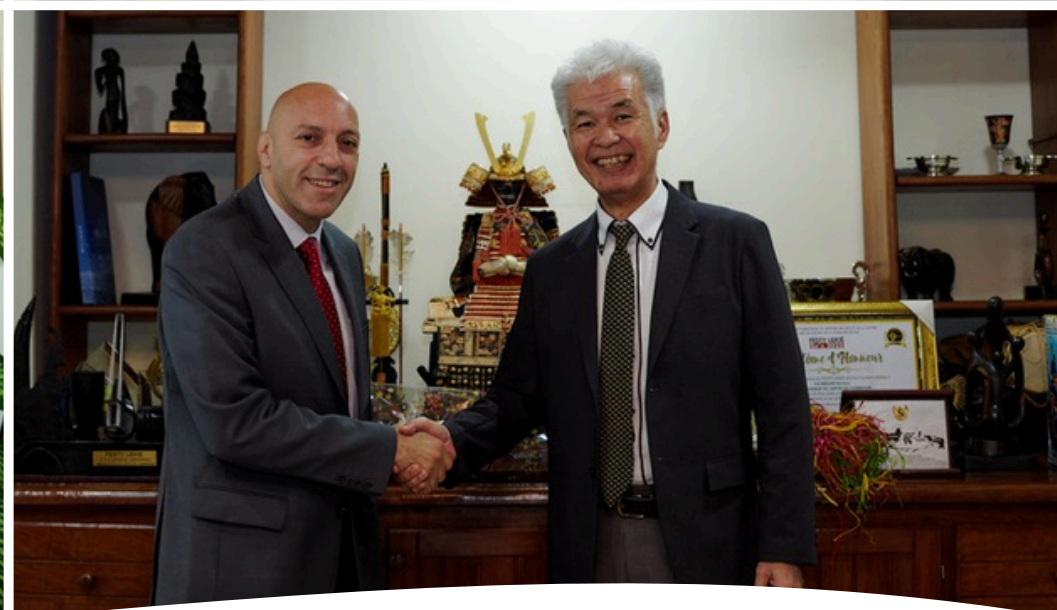
Young voices took center stage during the Conference Day Dialogue at UCAC, where adolescents engaged directly with experts and decision-makers on issues shaping their lives. They raised critical questions on the protection of student rights, the role of children in driving positive change in their communities, government accountability on child-rights commitments, and actions needed to prevent early marriage, gender-based violence, and barriers to girls' education.

Panelists underscored the importance of strong child-protection systems, the role of academic institutions in promoting and safeguarding rights, and the need for meaningful participation of children and adolescents in decision-making. Reflecting the spirit of World Children's Day, the dialogue reaffirmed UNICEF Cameroon's commitment to expanding safe and inclusive spaces where girls and adolescents can speak up and drive lasting change.

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## Strengthening Academic Leadership for Child Rights Ahead of the UCAC Conference

Ahead of the International Conference on the Role of Academia in Promoting and Protecting Child Rights UNICEF Country Representative Ms. Nadine Perrault and Prof. Dr. Ghassan Khalil engaged in multiple high-level advocacy meetings, including with the National Assembly, traditional leaders, donor ambassadors, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Basic Education. The discussions focused on how engage policy makers, in the spirit of the conference, to strengthen the national agenda on children's rights by involving academia and different actors.

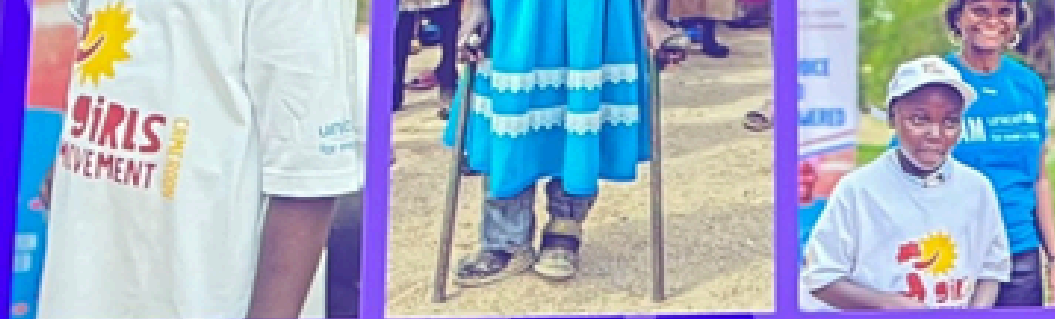
These engagements reaffirmed a shared commitment to shaping a future where children's rights in Cameroon and across Africa are protected, promoted, and anchored in strong academic leadership.

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## **UNICEF Cameroon Highlights Girls' Courage at the Women's Forum in Paris, November 6-7, 2025.**

UNICEF Cameroon participated in the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society in Paris, where the UNICEF Representative, Ms. Nadine Perrault, delivered inspiring insights on the Girls' Movement, an initiative linked to the West and Central Africa Girls' Vision for the Future. She spoke about courage as a defining pillar of UNICEF Cameroon's work and traced the journey of courage reflected in the lives of adolescent girls across the country. Through the stories of two young girls, she illustrated the real and persistent challenges faced by girls, as well as the resilience, leadership, and determination they continue to demonstrate in claiming their rights.

These stories represented the collective voices of more than 5,000 girls in Cameroon who came together through the National Girls' Movement Caravan. During this nationwide engagement, girls identified and articulated the issues affecting them.

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## Cameroon Takes a Landmark Step for Girls' Rights

Cameroon hosted the National Girls' Forum, bringing together 2000 adolescent girls from all ten regions to shape a new vision for their rights. For the first time, girls collectively developed a National Girls' Rights Manifesto, a blueprint reflecting their lived realities, priorities, and aspirations.

Led by the Ministry of the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF) with support from UNICEF and other UN agencies and partners, the Forum created a safe and inclusive platform for girls to share concerns and solutions, produced a Girls' Manifesto to influence policies and budgets, and secured strong commitments from government, civil society, and the private sector to expand and sustain the Girls' Movement across Cameroon.

This milestone demonstrates that girls are active leaders in shaping their futures. UNICEF Cameroon reaffirmed its commitment to advancing girls' leadership and ensuring that every girl is protected, empowered, and able to reach her full potential.

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## From Voices to Policy: The Girls' Rights Manifesto Shapes Cameroon's Future

The Girls' Rights Agenda, developed at the National Girls' Forum, provided a transformative tool for Cameroon, ensuring that girls' voices guide national policies. It identified urgent gaps in protection, education, and health, set clear priorities for policymakers and partners, informed more inclusive budgets and programmes, strengthened accountability for girls' rights, and connected Cameroon to the broader regional Girls' Movement.

The Manifesto positioned girls as active contributors rather than passive beneficiaries, recognizing their resilience, leadership, and potential to drive national transformation. UNICEF Cameroon reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Ministry of the Promotion of Women and the Family and partners to translate the Girls' Rights Agenda into tangible results for girls across all regions.



## Commitments for Girls' Rights Strengthened at the National Girls' Forum

The National Girls' Forum concluded with a powerful display of commitment as government officials, civil society, and partners publicly endorsed the National Girls' Rights Agenda through the Commitment Board. Ministers and senior leaders pledged concrete actions to ensure that girls' voices are reflected in laws, policies, programmes, and budgets that directly affect their lives.

These commitments signaled a shift from dialogue to action promising stronger protection systems, improved access to education and health services, and expanded opportunities for girls' participation and leadership across all ten regions. By backing the Girls' Manifesto and a sustainable, nationwide Girls' Movement, decision-makers affirmed that adolescent girls are not beneficiaries of change but partners in shaping it. UNICEF Cameroon reaffirmed its commitment to supporting government and partners to translate these pledges into measurable results that improve the daily lives and futures of every girl in Cameroon.



## **Courage in Action: Stories from the National Girls' Forum**

At the National Girls' Forum in Cameroon, UNICEF Representative Nadine Perrault shared the inspiring stories of Patience and Bolda, two girls whose courage embodies the spirit of the Girls' Movement.

Patience, who lives with a disability resulting from a serious childhood illness, dreams of becoming a doctor. Despite challenges, she asked to join the Forum's dance activity while seated, showing that inclusion is a source of strength. Bolda demonstrated another form of courage when she asked, "Talking is good, but what happens after?" a reminder that real change requires action and follow-through.

These stories highlighted the resilience, creativity, and determination of girls across Cameroon, showing that courage is not only about speaking up but also demanding that words lead to meaningful action. UNICEF Cameroon continues to support initiative that empower girls to lead, participate, and ensure their rights are respected.



## UNICEF Cameroon Celebrates World Children's Day

UNICEF Cameroon joined the international community in celebrating World Children's Day under the theme #MyDayMyRights, alongside the Carton Rouge programme hosted at the Yaoundé IV City Council. The event brought together schools competing in educational and creative activities, including business project pitching, the Match des Incollables knowledge challenge, musical performances, and interactive sessions that provided children with a meaningful platform for expression.

During the celebration, children shared powerful messages on their desire to be respected, protected, supported, and empowered, while expressing appreciation for UNICEF's continued commitment to advancing their rights. Marking World Children's Day, UNICEF Cameroon reaffirmed its dedication to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive, participate, and be heard – for every child, every right.

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## World Children's Day: Children Paint Their Rights Into Reality

In Yaoundé IV, children marked World Children's Day during the international education programme Carton Rouge under the theme "My Day. My Rights." The celebration created a joyful and inclusive space where children actively participated in learning, creativity, and dialogue around their rights.

A highlight of the event was a mural-painting activity, where children transformed walls with blue artwork and powerful messages calling for respect, protection, and equal opportunities for all children. Through their drawings and words, they expressed their hopes for a safe, supportive, and empowering environment in which every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

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## World Children's Day: Children Stand Against Violence

On World Children's Day, children raised their voices with strength and clarity, sending a resounding message against all forms of violence through the Carton Rouge initiative. From early marriage and forced labour to physical and psychological abuse, children stood united to say "No more" and demand a safer, more supportive environment for every child.

Through learning activities, creative projects, competitions, and presentations, children demonstrated the power of participation and the change that is possible when they are given space to express themselves and shape their future. UNICEF Cameroon stands alongside every child, supporting their voices, empowering them with knowledge, and reaffirming its commitment to protecting children's rights and ending violence against children everywhere.

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## UNICEF Cameroon Mobilizes Youth Against Digital Violence During 16 Days of Activism

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNICEF Cameroon partnered with Petrichor Football Association to raise awareness on digital violence against women and girls under the theme “United to End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls.” The initiative brought together girls, adolescents, toddlers, youth groups, and community members in a dynamic day of sports, creative activities, and dialogue, using play and participation to spark important conversations.

Through inspiring testimonies, practical guidance, and open discussions, participants explored ways to stay safe online and promote respectful digital spaces. Joined by groups such as AGAB Girls, Ma Cota, and Les Combis, the event reinforced collective commitment to speak up, denounce online abuse, and take action, reaffirming UNICEF Cameroon’s stand alongside partners to end digital violence and ensure safer online environments for women and girls.

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## **MA COTA Girls Inspired by Women Leaders at the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family**

On 26 November 2025, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family hosted an inspiring exchange with young women from the MA COTA Programme. In a moment marked by energy and enthusiasm, the girls engaged with the Minister for the Promotion of Women and the Family, the Minister of Social Affairs, and the UNICEF Representative, who shared their personal journeys, challenges, and lessons learned in leadership and service.

Through open and generous dialogue, the leaders encouraged the girls to believe in their potential and pursue their aspirations with confidence and resilience. The exchange reinforced the importance of mentorship and role models, while reaffirming UNICEF Cameroon's commitment to empowering adolescent girls and supporting initiatives that help them shape their futures.



## Strengthening Child Protection Response Through the 116 Child Helpline

A methodological orientation workshop was held to support the implementation of response services through the 116 child helpline, whose listening center is hosted at the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF). The workshop brought together members of the Helpline Steering Committee, including representatives from key child-protection sectors such as government ministries, development partners, and civil society organizations.

The discussions focused on defining clear and effective implementation modalities to ensure that children identified through the 116 helpline particularly those affected by violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect receive timely, appropriate, and child-centered services. Group work addressed priority areas, including the strengthening of legal, institutional, and organizational frameworks, with a shared objective of safeguarding the best interests of every child.



## Innovative Multigrade Teaching Strengthens Learning in Kadey Division

In Kadey Division, where schools often face acute teacher shortages, UNICEF Cameroon supported innovative solutions to improve learning outcomes through multigrade classroom management. From 19 to 22 November 2025 in Batouri, 137 teachers, including 66 women, received intensive training on multigrade teaching, organized by UNICEF and the Regional Delegation for Basic Education with support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

This approach enabled one teacher to effectively instruct learners across multiple grade levels, turning necessity into innovation. As a result of the training, an estimated 26,645 children, including 12,773 girls, in Batouri, Kette, Kentzou, and Ouli were expected to benefit from improved access to quality education, reinforcing collective commitment to ensuring every child learns, even in the most challenging contexts.

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## U-Reporters and Communities Mobilize to End Polio in Garoua

Polio vaccination efforts gained momentum as U-Reporters worked alongside Community Health Workers, going door-to-door to mobilize families and encourage parents to vaccinate their children. Through community engagement and interpersonal communication, young volunteers helped amplify life-saving messages and support vaccination efforts on the ground.

In Laïnde, Aminatou, a Communication Focal Point with over 25 years of service, highlighted the added value of youth engagement, noting that young people brought renewed energy to the response. In Garoua I, religious and traditional leaders reinforced vaccination messages in mosques and churches, strengthening community trust and collective action. These combined efforts reaffirmed that every vaccine counts and every child matters in the fight to end polio.

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## U-Reporters Promote Hygiene During World Toilet Day in Garoua

U-Reporters in Garoua led an engaging celebration of World Toilet Day at Laïnde Nursery and Primary School, reaching 443 children 251 in nursery and 192 in primary. Through hands-on activities, they shared best practices with the children, teaching the importance of handwashing and maintaining clean toilets.

The U-Reporters worked alongside the children to clean the school's toilets, introducing them to proper sanitation practices and fostering a culture of hygiene. This initiative reinforced UNICEF Cameroon's commitment to promoting health, hygiene, and safe learning environments for every child.



## U-Reporters in Garoua Mobilize for the Environment on International Volunteer Day

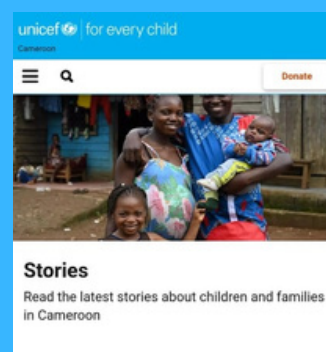
On the occasion of the 40th edition of International Volunteer Day, the U-Report community in Garoua took part in the celebration on Saturday, 29 November. Alongside the Regional Focal Point of the National Volunteering Programme for the North, U-Reporters participated in a large-scale eco-jogging activity aimed at cleaning the streets of Garoua.

From the Roundé-Adjia Boulevard to the Omnisports Stadium, volunteers collected plastic waste while raising awareness among community members on the importance of protecting the environment. This initiative highlighted the strong commitment of young volunteers to building cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable communities.



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## Together, We Can Make a Difference

UNICEF is on the ground, working around the clock to meet the urgent needs of children and families. But we can't do it alone.

### You can help by:

- Raising awareness about the ongoing crisis.
- Advocating for life-saving aid and child protection.
- Amplifying humanitarian efforts to deliver food, medical care, clean water, education, and safe shelter.

*Next Edition: December 2025*

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