



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Dakar Office
Regional Bureau
for Education in Africa

Guinea Bissau EFA Profile

Education for All (EFA) - Global Status



The Guinea Bissau primary school-aged population is growing at a reasonable rate of 1.4%, and remains mainly rural and poor. School coverage has improved considerably, with 62% of children finishing primary in 2010. However disparities in enrollment are important, especially by wealth, area of residence and gender; and resource distribution is inequitable. Public spending per pupil, below the regional average, is compensated by excessively high household contributions. Guinea Bissau is still far from achieving universal primary education, and the level of sustainable literacy the education system produces is still too low. Education should be given greater budget priority, and the distribution of spending reviewed in favor of greater pedagogical spending.

Demographic and Macroeconomic Context

GDP per Capita	2010	US\$ 529.4
Total Population (Thousands)	2011	1,597
Primary School-Aged Population	2011	16.1%
HIV/AIDS Prevalence (15-49 years)	2009	2.5%
Human Development Index Ranking	2011	176/187

Key EFA Indicators - 2010 or MRY

Goal 1 Early Childhood Care and Education	Preprimary Enrollment (GER*)	<p>5,0 (Guinea Bissau), 12,8 (SSA Average), 36,4 (SSA Range)</p>
Goal 2 Universal Primary Education	Primary Completion	<p>62,0 (Guinea Bissau), 58,7 (SSA Average), 41,1 (SSA Range), 87,3 (SSA Range)</p>
Goal 3 Learning Needs of all Youth and Adults	Youth Literacy (15-24 Years)	<p>70 (Guinea Bissau), 71 (SSA Average), 37 (SSA Range), 99 (SSA Range)</p>

Legend – Guinea Bissau: ■

Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Average: ■

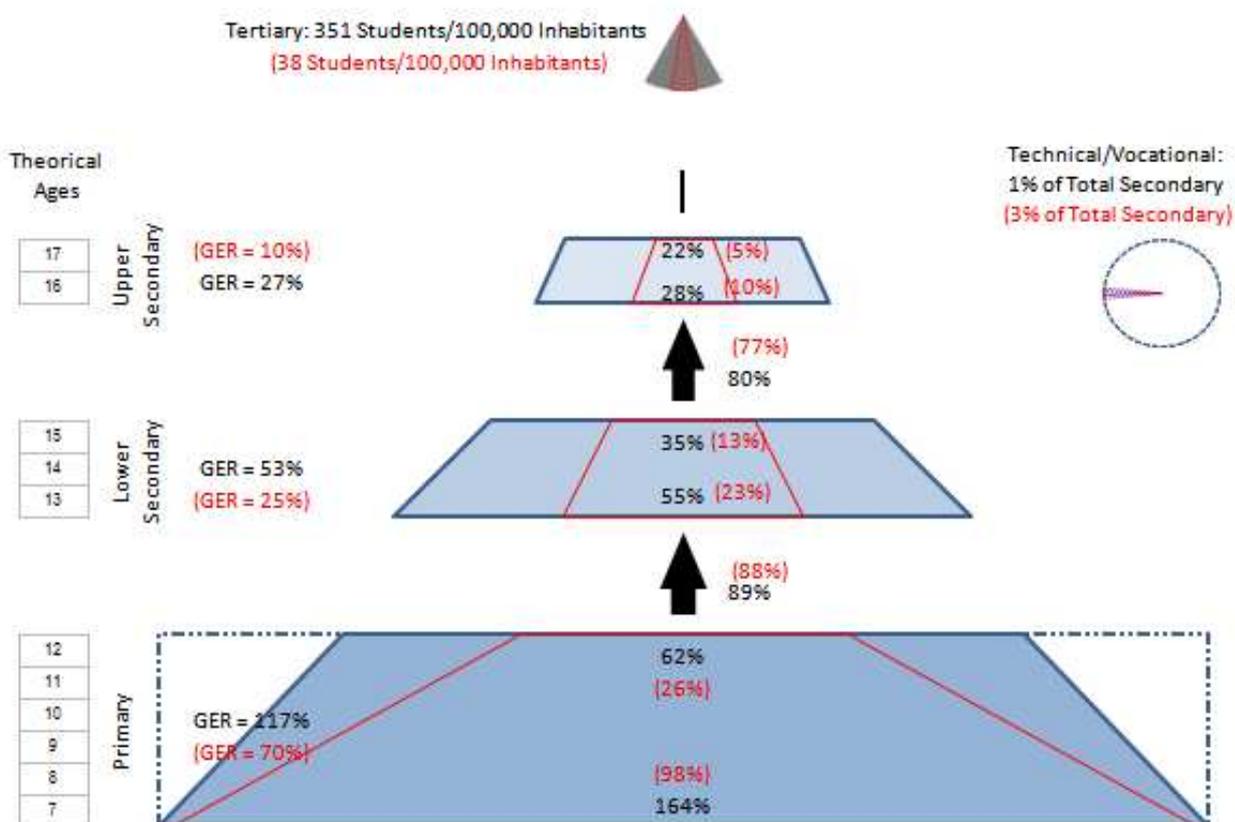
SSA Range: ■

Note: * GER – Gross Enrollment Rate, which is the total number of children enrolled in a given level, of any age, as a percentage of the official school-aged population for that level for a given school year.

<p>Goal 4 Improving Levels of Adult Literacy</p>	<p>Adult Literacy (15+ Years)</p>	
<p>Goal 5 Gender Parity in Primary Education</p>	<p>Gender Equality (GER)</p>	
<p>Goal 6 Educational Quality</p>	<p>Primary School Survival</p>	

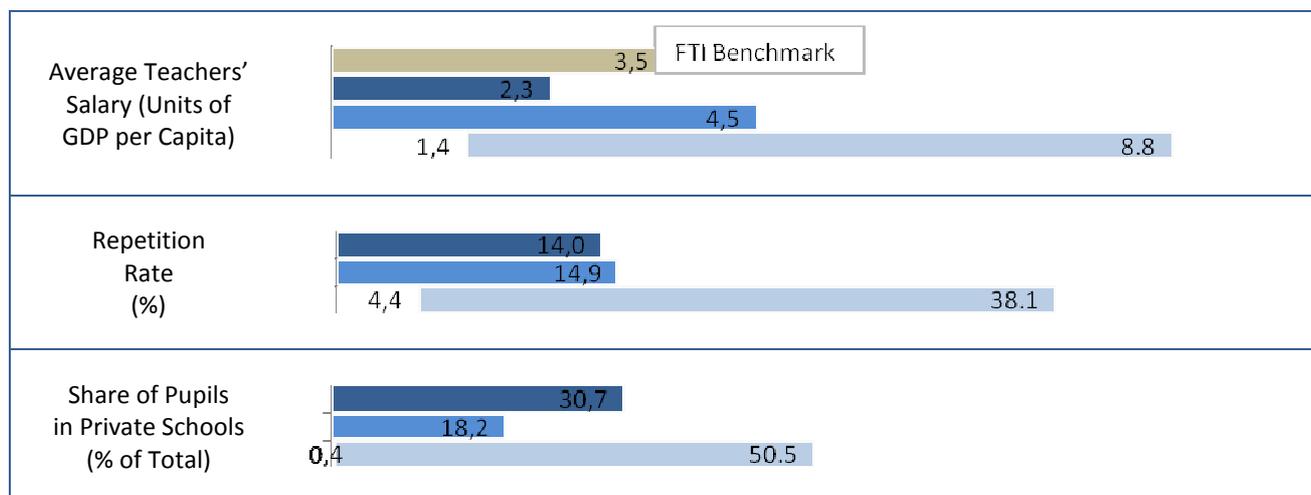
Legend – Guinea Bissau: Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Average: SSA Range:

Enrollment: Education Pyramids – 2009/10 (1999/2000)



The Guinea Bissau education pyramids show tremendous expansion of education over the past 10 years, at almost every level. Access is now universal, and two thirds of children complete primary school, against 26% in 2000; almost three times as many complete lower secondary and more than four times complete upper secondary. Higher education enrollment has increased by a factor of nine. Only TVET has contracted, to a minuscule one percent. However, despite the substantial achievements the country still faces the following challenges:

Primary Education Policy Indicators – 2010 or MRY



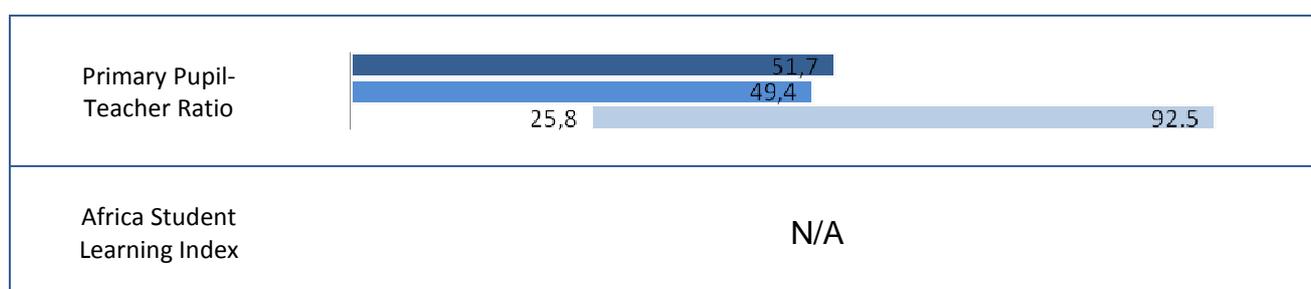
Legend – Guinea Bissau:

Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Average:

SSA Range:

The policy indicators demonstrate scope for improvement in the management of the Guinea Bissau education system: teacher pay is excessively low, even by African standards and the private sector appears to compensate for a lack of supply in terms of public primary schools. Repetition, although on par with the regional average, remains high at 14%.

Quality and Learning Outcomes – 2010 or MRY



Legend – Guinea Bissau:

Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Average:

SSA Range:

At 51.7 pupils per teacher on average, Guinea Bissau is slightly worse off than the SSA average of 49.4, itself far from ideal. No data is available to measure learning achievements for Guinea Bissau children. Joining the regional PASEC or SACMEQ standardized evaluation procedures would provide education policy decision makers with valuable historical and regionally comparable data to inform quality-oriented policy improvement.

Sources: Pôle de Dakar v14 database, 2012; UIS, 2012; GMR Report, 2011; UNDP HDI, 2011, World Bank Africa SLI, 2011. Unless specifically indicated, data is from 2010, except for GPI (2006), adult literacy (2009) and youth literacy and external aid (2008).

Equity – 2010 or MRV

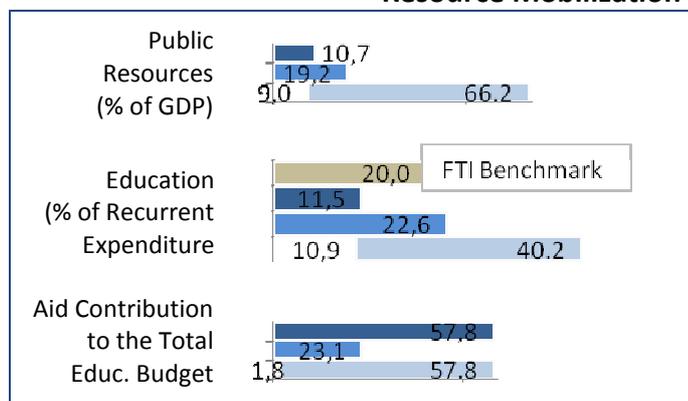
The gender parity index is 0.92, meaning that for every 100 boys completing primary, 92 girls complete the cycle, which is good compared to the African average of 0.90. The share of resources consumed by the 10% most educated, a further measure of equity, is 28% against 41% for SSA. Both of these measures indicate that Guinea-Bissau's education system is not unduly inequitable.

Gender Parity Index
(Girls/Boys) **0.92**

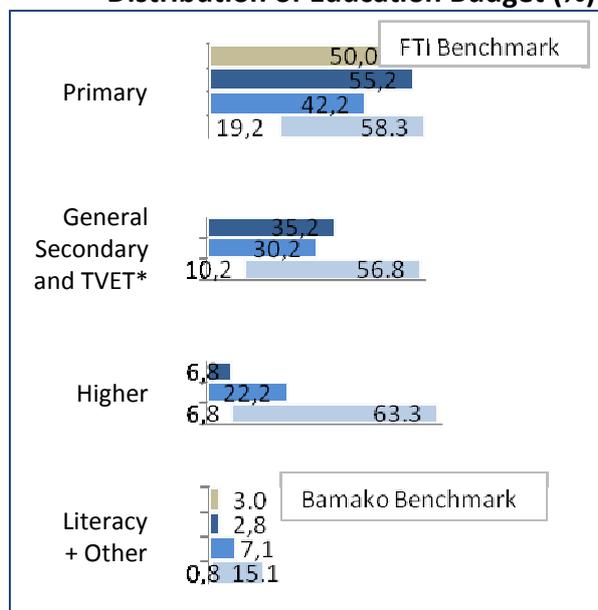
% of resources consumed by 10% most educated **28%**

Education Funding – 2010 or MRV

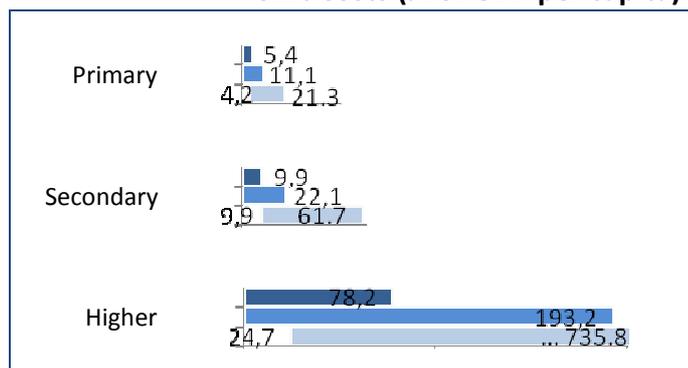
Resource Mobilization



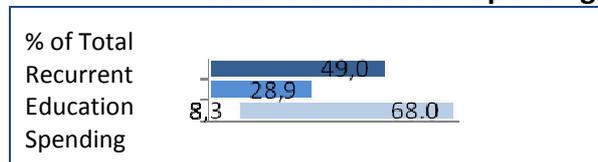
Distribution of Education Budget (%)



Unit Costs (% of GDP per capita)



Household Education Spending



Legend – Guinea Bissau:

Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Average:

SSA Range:

The share of public recurrent expenditure devoted to education is very low at 11.5%, less than half the African average of 22.6, and at the bottom end of the range. It is not surprising therefore that unit costs at all levels are just as low, comparatively speaking, or that household contributions are almost equal to public expenditure. Although the recently approved FTI support will improve expenditure on education, political support for increasing the education budget is urgently needed as well as sustained donor support.