

# Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin Burkina Faso Cameroon Central African Republic (C.A.R) Côte d'Ivoire Guinea-Bissau  
Ethiopia Liberia Mozambique Sierra Leone

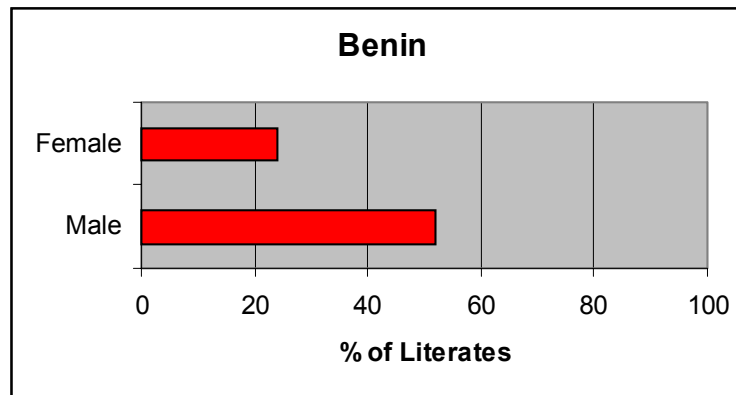


**Benin:** Access and quality are the two major issues in education in Benin. At present, half the female population of school-going age is denied their fundamental right to education. The country's burden of foreign debt and a high incidence of child labour in the country has meant that little real progress has successfully been made in working towards closing the gender gap in the country. In two southern cities alone, of the more than 100,000 6-14 year-olds working as domestic servants 85% are female. These girls, along with thousands of other working children in the country, are not registered in school. The government in Benin has recently made girls in rural areas exempt from paying school fees, but this has not impacted greatly upon school enrollment levels.

## Primary Education:

Primary School Enrolment Ratio (gross 1995-2001)		Primary School Enrolment Ratio (net 1995-2001)		Net Primary School Attendance (%) (1992-2001*)		% of Primary School entrants reaching Grade 5 (1995-2001*)	% Gender Gap (net male - net female)
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
103	69	83	57	52	34	64	18

## Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):



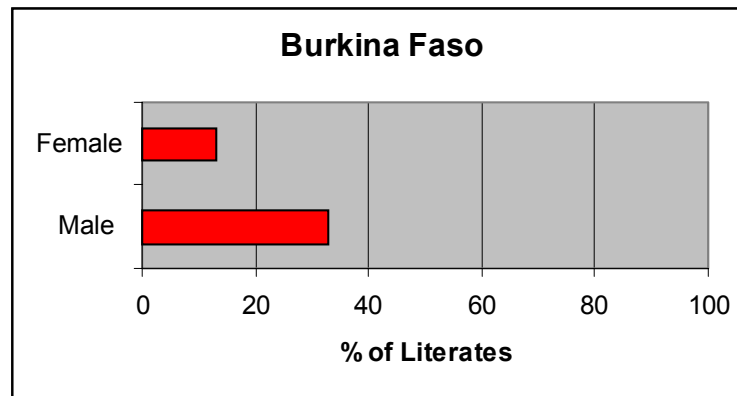


**Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso has one of the lowest primary school net enrolment rates in West Africa. And, especially in the poorest areas, there are extreme gender disparities. Female teachers only make up 14% of the total teaching force, and the pupil:textbook ratio indicates that there is only one textbook to every three children. The personal safety of girls attending school is also a major concern with long distances to travel and several cases of sexual harassment in schools. Programmes set up in the 5 poorest areas have linked education to income-generating projects, published 75,000 textbooks in French and 7 local languages, established 50 mobile classrooms, 229 satellite schools and 40 non-formal basic education centres to improve girls' education.

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Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
51	35	41	28	32	22	68	10

**Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):**

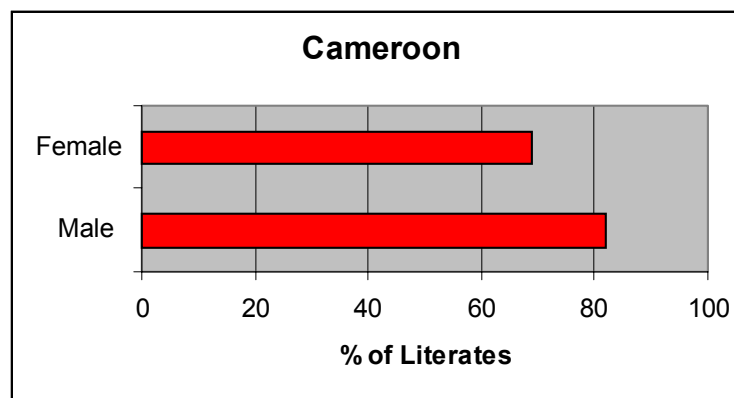


**Cameroon:** Towards the end of the nineties, the country was still experiencing a severe economic crisis that has consequently caused an immense decrease in the education budget. However, over the last few years, Cameroon's economy has started to pick up again and gender equality in school seems to be gradually improving, due in large to an ever increasing socio-economic elite who have the means to send all their children to school, regardless of sex.

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Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
88	74	81	71	76	71	51	5

**Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):**

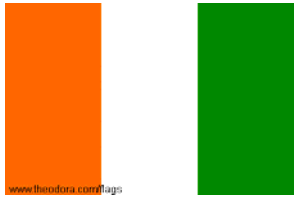
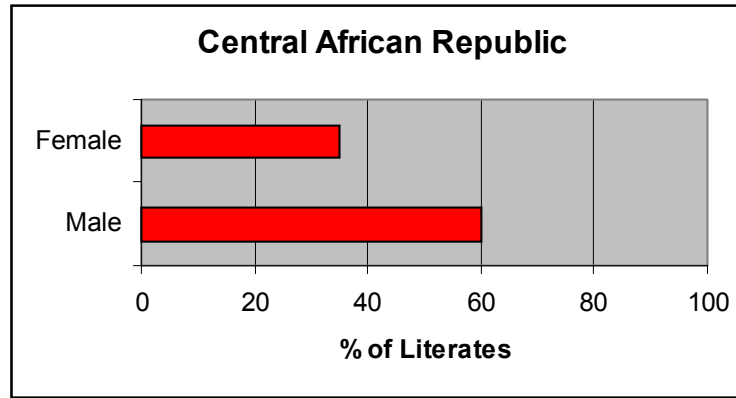


**Central African Republic:** Civil strife in the region have led to a deterioration in the formal education system of the Central African Republic (C.A.R.). In January 2003, UNICEF committed funds to the sum of US\$15,000 to help finance the construction of 15 primary schools and the training of 51 teachers within the South-Western region of Boda to promote girls' education. However, unless plan are undertaken to address the high prominence of child labour in the country's diamond industry, low primary school enrollment figures will not improve.

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Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
68	45	63	42	47	39	24	8

**Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):**



**Côte d'Ivoire:** In some districts, as few as one third of all girls old enough to attend primary school actually attend. Economic difficulties and civil war in the country have severely constrained the education sector. In 2001, the Côte d'Ivoire received OPEC funding to help reduce gender and regional inequalities in education enrollment levels in the country. Since then, sixty-seven new fully-equipped and gender sensitive primary schools have been constructed as well as an all-girl secondary college in Gagnoa. However, schools remain inadequate in number and learning materials are scarce.

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Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
88	66	67	50	61	52	70	9

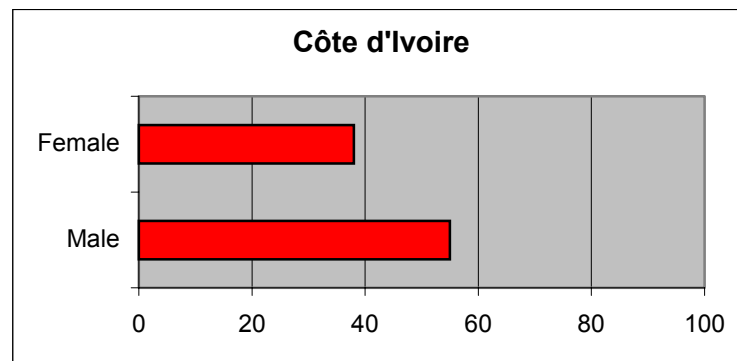


**Ethiopia:** Drought, famine and border conflict all plague Ethiopia and hinder its education system from developing. Over the last few years in particular, education spending has been drastically reduced due to extremely high military expenditure. As part of the government's Education Sector Plan, school monitoring, gender-sensitive instructional materials in regional languages and water and sanitation projects have been integrated into education reform to improve the conditions at school for girls, as well as projects of income-generation to encourage low-income families to send their daughters to school.

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85	57	34	28	33	28	51	5

**Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):**

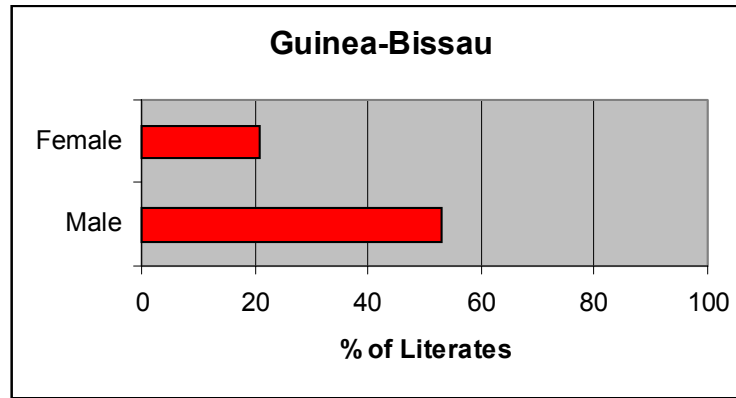


**Guinea-Bissau:** The disastrous consequences of the 1998/1999 civil that afflicted the country as well as its heavy international debts have had a seriously negative effect on education, and the chances of achieving gender parity in Guinea-Bissau by 2005 are extremely low at present. Gender discrimination within families, poorly trained teachers, insufficient didactic materials and an inadequate infrastructure are key issues to be tackle. In some areas, children have to travel 7-14km to get to school and this raises safety concerns, especially for girls. The UNICEF Girls' Education Programme is working to overcome these obstacles in the Gabú region, but help is needed in others areas.

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Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
99	66	63	45	44	38	20	6

Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):

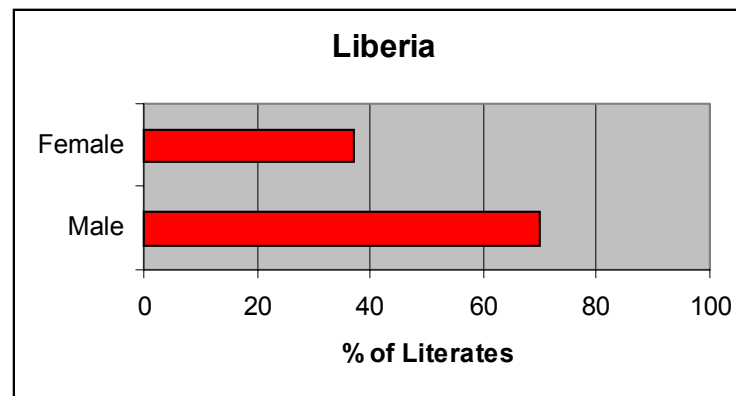


Liberia: Seventy-five years of civil conflict have greatly scarred the country. Post-war unemployment stands at 80% and more than 80% of the population lives in poverty. Over 70% of girls drop out before secondary school level due, in part, to teenage pregnancy, early marriage and a poor standard of teaching. Only 25% of all teachers in the country are properly trained and women constitute only 20% of the total teaching force. Girls' health is also a hindering factor to their education as malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory problems are rife. Programmes are being initiated to improve gender parity in Liberia, but progress is extremely slow.

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Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
137	99	100	64	59	53	33	6

Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):



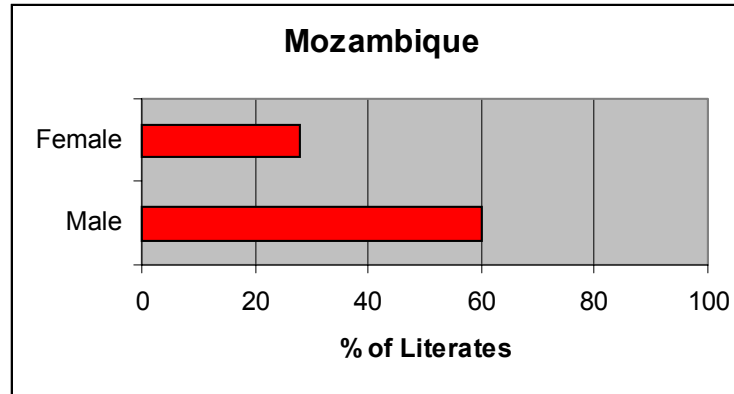


**Mozambique:** The country has clearly established an Action Plan aimed at achieving universal Education For All. Strategic measures have been proposed to increase access to education by focussing on gender disparities between provinces and between urban and rural areas. Specific financial assistance has been promised to low income families, particularly to encourage them to send girls to school, through the *Caixa Escolar* system. The aim is to create a school environment that is gender sensitive in mainstream education and at the same time to promote non-formal educational programmes for girls' education.

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98	73	55	46	63	56	46	7

**Adult Literacy Ratio (2000):**



**Sierra Leone:** Gender parity in the country still has a long way to go to meet the EFA goals. However, Alpha Tejan Wurie, the country's Minister of Education, recently announced that 700 schools will be constructed throughout the country within the next five years, that the government will pay exam fees for all pupil and also reduce the price of all text books by 60%. It is hoped that this will reduce the financial burden of schooling for parents and encourage them to send both their daughters and sons to school.

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68	63	68	63	39	34	-	5

**Adult Literacy Ration (2000):**

