

ADULT AND YOUTH LITERACY, 1990-2015

Analysis of data for 41 selected countries



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Abstract

This document presents data by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on adult and youth literacy in 41 selected countries from four regions: the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa. The document summarizes the most recent literacy rates and estimates of the illiterate population, as well as historical trends for the period since 1990 and prospects for 2015. The analysis is accompanied by a description of UIS methodology in the field of literacy statistics: definition of literacy, data sources, and calculation methods. A statistical annex contains 12 tables and 50 figures with literacy data for the 41 countries.

Keywords: literacy, disparity, Education for All (EFA), trend data, projections

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1. Introduction

This document presents data on adult and youth literacy for 41 countries from four regions:

- Arab States: Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen.
- Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste.
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Haiti, Mexico.
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo.

All data are from the database of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).¹ For three of the 41 countries, UIS had no data at the time this document was prepared: Afghanistan, Djibouti, and South Sudan. All data for Sudan refer to the country in its present borders, after separation from South Sudan.²

Section 2 summarizes the latest available data on adult literacy, historical trends for the period since 1990, and prospects for 2015. Section 3 summarizes data on youth literacy. Section 4 contains a brief description of UIS methodology in the field of literacy statistics. Statistical tables on adult and youth literacy are presented in Annex 1. Annex 2 contains figures on literacy in the 38 countries with data for the 2010. Annex 3 presents figures with cross-national trends in literacy from 1990 to 2015. Annex 4 contains figures with national trends in adult and youth literacy.

2. Adult literacy

2.1 Adult literacy in 2010

The most recent literacy rates in the UIS database are for the year 2010. The adult literacy rate (for the population 15 years and older) in the 38 countries with data ranged from 29% in Burkina Faso and Niger to 94% in China (see Table 1 and Figure 1). In addition to Burkina Faso and Niger, less than half of the adult population were able to read and write in Benin, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. In 16 more countries, fewer than two out of three adults were literate: Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, India, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Togo, and Yemen. The adult literacy rate exceeded 90% in only four countries: Brazil, China, Indonesia, and Mexico.

An examination of gender-disaggregated data reveals that in all countries, except Brazil, female literacy rates were lower than male literacy rates and often by a wide margin (see Tables 2 and 3 and Figure 1). Male literacy rates ranged from a low of 37% in Burkina Faso to a high of 97% in Palestine. By contrast, female literacy rates were as low as 15% in Niger. In seven additional countries, fewer than one in three women were literate: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia,

¹ Literacy rates and estimates of the illiterate population are also available in the UIS Data Centre at <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

² The data reported for Sudan for 2000 were collected with a household survey in the northern part of the country, equivalent to the present area of Sudan.

Guinea, Mali, and Sierra Leone. The highest female literacy rates, between 90% and 92%, were observed in Brazil, China, Indonesia, and Mexico.

The gender parity index (GPI) demonstrates that only two of the 38 countries with data had reached gender parity in adult literacy by 2010: Brazil and Mexico (see Table 4 and Figure 2).³ Only six more countries with a GPI of at least 0.90 were approaching the range of gender parity (indicated by a GPI between 0.97 and 1.03): China, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, and Rwanda. Gender disparity was most severe in Niger and Mali, with a GPI of 0.35 and 0.47, respectively. In these two countries, the literacy rate of adult women was less than half the literacy rate of adult men.

In absolute numbers, India was the country with by far the largest number of adults who lacked basic literacy skills in 2010: 287 million (see Table 5). At least 10 million illiterate adults were also reported from China (62 million), Pakistan (50 million), Bangladesh (44 million), Nigeria (35 million), Ethiopia (27 million), Egypt (16 million), Brazil (14 million), Indonesia (13 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (12 million), and Morocco (10 million). In 22 more countries, at least one million adults were unable to read and write: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Yemen.

In all 38 countries with data, more than half of all illiterate adults were women in 2010 (see Table 6). In nine countries, at least two thirds of the illiterate population were women: Cambodia, China, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nepal, Togo, and Yemen. In China and Yemen, the female share of the illiterate population was at the highest level of all countries, 74%.

2.2 Historical trends in adult literacy and prospects for 2015

In all 18 countries with data on literacy in 1990, adult literacy rates increased over the following two decades. The increase between 1990 and 2010 ranges from 6% in Mexico and Nigeria to 28% in Egypt (see Table 1, Figure 5, and Figures 13 to 50).⁴ Between 2000 and 2010, by contrast, adult literacy rates increased in only 35 of 38 countries with data for that period, with the rate of growth ranging from less than half a percentage point in Cambodia to 21% in Timor-Leste. For three countries – Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, and Madagascar – a decrease in the adult literacy rate was observed between 2000 and 2010. Overall, countries that started at a lower level of literacy typically made more progress over the past two decades than countries that were already at a relatively high level of literacy 10 or 20 years ago.

The Education for All goals, adopted at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000, call for a “50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015”. For monitoring, this goal is typically interpreted to mean a reduction of the adult illiteracy rate by 50% between 2000 and 2015 (UNESCO 2005).

³ The gender parity index (GPI) is the ratio of the female over the male literacy rate. A GPI of 0.5 indicates that the female literacy rate is half the male literacy rate. A GPI of 1 indicates that the female and male literacy rates are equal. A GPI between 0.97 and 1.03 is considered gender parity.

⁴ Literacy data are not collected annually and UIS therefore reports data for the 1990 census decade (1985-1994), 2000 census decade (1995-2004) and 2010 census decade (2005-2014). For ease of reading, this document refers to data for the 1985-1994 period as data for 1990, 1995-2004 data are reported as data for 2000, and the most recent data, for the period 2005-2010, are reported as data for 2010.

For 37 countries, UIS was able to estimate whether the EFA goal on adult literacy could be reached by 2015 (see Table 1 and Figure 5).⁵ The findings are not encouraging: only three countries are projected to reach or exceed the goal of a 50% reduction of the adult illiteracy rate between 2000 and 2015: China, Indonesia, and Iran. Five more countries are projected to come within 5 percentage points of the target adult literacy rate in 2015: Brazil, Egypt, Eritrea, Mexico, and Timor-Leste.

The remaining countries with data are projected to miss the goal by more than 5 percentage points, including 23 countries that are projected to miss the goal by 10% or more. Five countries, all in sub-Saharan Africa, are estimated to be at least 20% below the target adult literacy rate in 2015: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Madagascar, and Mali. For Sudan, the target literacy rate is known (81%) but no projections could be generated. Finally, no data were available for Afghanistan, Djibouti, and South Sudan.

In countries that are making progress, it is often due to substantial improvements in literacy among adult women, who were typically at lower levels of literacy than men one or two decades ago (see Tables 2 and 3, and Figures 6 and 7). For example, in Nepal, the female adult literacy rate is projected to grow from 17% in 1990, 35% in 2000, and 48% in 2010 to 56% in 2015. In Yemen, the observed and projected literacy rates of adult women are 17% in 1990, 36% in 2000, 47% in 2010, and 55% in 2015. In Egypt, the female adult literacy rate was 31% in 1990, 44% in 2000, and 64% in 2010, and is projected to reach 66% in 2015. There are also examples of progress by women in sub-Saharan Africa: in Senegal, the female adult literacy rate is projected to grow from 18% in 1990 to 46% in 2015, and in the Central African Republic the projected increase is from 20% in 1990 to 48% in 2015.

Over the period 2000 to 2015, female literacy rates are projected to more than double in Guinea, Niger, and Timor-Leste. In 15 more countries, the female literacy rate is projected to grow by more than half its level in 2000: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Yemen (see Table 3). Among men, relative growth rates in the levels of literacy are projected to be much lower between 2000 and 2015. UIS predicts that the adult literacy rate will grow by at least half its 2000 level in only three countries: Mali, Niger, and Timor-Leste (see Table 2).

The relative levels of male and female literacy are reflected in the gender parity index (GPI). There is no stated EFA goal of gender parity in adult literacy. However, gender parity would be reached with a GPI in the range 0.97 to 1.03. In spite of the remarkable progress among women in the 38 countries with data, only two countries are projected to be at gender parity in 2015 – Brazil and Mexico – and both had already achieved parity in 2010 (see Table 4 and Figure 8). In all other countries, gender disparity remains a concern. Six countries are projected to reach a GPI between 0.90 and 0.96 by 2015: China, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, and Rwanda. The remaining countries are projected to stay far from gender parity, with GPI values below 0.90. The lowest GPI values in 2015 are projected for Niger (0.47), Mali (0.54) and Benin (0.60).

Changes in the adult illiterate population of the 38 countries have varied over the past two decades, as a result of the interaction between varying trends in the adult literacy rate and population growth. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of illiterate adults fell by more than one million in five countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, and Iran (see Table 5). The biggest

⁵ See section 4 for details on the calculation of target values for 2015 reported in this document, as well as on the UIS methodology for projection of literacy rates in 2015.

decrease was observed in China, where the adult illiterate population fell by 24 million. On the other hand, the number of illiterate adults grew by at least one million in five other countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, and Pakistan. Among these countries, India had the biggest increase, with 13 million more adults unable to read and write in 2010 than in 2000. In the remaining 27 countries with data, the illiterate population increased or decreased by less than one million over the past decade.

Between 2010 and 2015, the adult illiterate population is projected to fall by at least one million in Brazil, China, India (reversing the trend over the previous decade), Indonesia, and Iran (see Table 5). An increase by one million or more is projected for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, and Pakistan. In 22 of 37 countries with projections for 2015, the number of illiterate adults is expected to remain relatively stable, with an increase or decrease by less than 0.5 million.

The total number of illiterate adults is projected to remain large. 33 of 37 countries with data are projected to have at least one million illiterate adults (see Table 5). In 18 countries, more than 5 million adults are projected to be illiterate, and in nine countries, the adult illiterate population is projected to exceed 10 million in 2015: Brazil (12 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (14 million), Egypt (16 million), Ethiopia (29 million), Nigeria (36 million), Bangladesh (44 million), China (50 million), Pakistan (51 million), and India (266 million).

The female share of the adult illiterate population varies. In nearly all countries, most illiterate adults are women and are projected to remain so in 2015. The exception is Brazil, where women are projected to account for 50% of the illiterate population in 2015 (see Table 6).

3. Youth literacy

3.1 Youth literacy in 2010

In 37 of 38 countries with data, youth literacy rates (for the population 15-24 years) were higher than adult literacy rates in 2010, the latest year with data, reflecting increased access to primary and secondary education among younger generations. The exception to the rule is the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where a youth literacy rate of 65% was reported for 2010, compared to an adult literacy rate of 67%. Overall in the 38 countries, the youth literacy rate ranged from 37% in Niger to 100% in Indonesia (see Table 7 and Figure 3). The youth literacy rate also exceeded 90% in Brazil and Mexico (98%), and in China and Iran (99%). On the other hand, in twelve countries less than two thirds of youths were able to read and write: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. No data on youth literacy were available for Afghanistan, Djibouti, and South Sudan.

Compared to the total adult population over 15 years of age, gender disparities in literacy were smaller in the population aged 15 to 24 years in 2010. The female youth literacy rate ranged from 23% in Niger and 33% to 34% in Burkina Faso and Mali to 99% in Brazil, China, Indonesia, Iran, and Mexico (see Table 9 and Figure 3). By comparison, the range of the male youth literacy rate was 47% in Burkina Faso to 100% in China and Indonesia (see Table 8 and Figure 3).

Nine countries had reached gender parity in youth literacy in 2010, with a gender parity index (GPI) of the youth literacy rate between 0.97 and 1.03: Brazil, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, and Timor-Leste (see Table 10 and Figure 4). By comparison, only two countries were at gender parity for the adult literacy rate. Still, in the majority of countries, young women were less likely to be able to read and write than their male peers: 27 countries had GPI values below 0.97, and of those, ten had GPI values below 0.80. Niger and Mali were furthest from gender parity, with a GPI of 0.44 and 0.60, respectively. In two countries, young men were less likely to be literate than young women in 2010: Bangladesh (GPI 1.04) and Papua New Guinea (GPI 1.11).

In 2010, the number of illiterate youths was less than one million in 20 countries, and between one and two million in eleven countries (see Table 11). Only six countries had a youth illiterate population that exceeded 2 million: Democratic Republic of the Congo (4.7 million), Bangladesh (7.0 million), Ethiopia (7.1 million), Nigeria (8.6 million), Pakistan (11 million), and India (41 million).

The female share of the youth illiterate population ranged from 33% in Brazil to 86% in Yemen (see Table 12). In 28 of 37 countries with data, the female share of illiterate youths was smaller than the female share of illiterate adults.

3.2 Historical trends in youth literacy and prospects for 2015

In all 18 countries with data for the period 1990-2010, youth literacy rates have increased over the past two decades. The same is not true for the period 2000-2010: in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, and Madagascar, the youth literacy rate fell by 2 to 9 percentage points relative to 2000. In four countries, the literacy rate was stable between 2000 and 2010, with a change of less than plus or minus 1%. In the remaining 29 countries, the youth literacy rate has increased by at least 1 percentage point since 2000, with the increase ranging from 1% in Brazil to 23% in Niger (see Table 7, Figure 9, and Figures 13 to 50).

Unlike the EFA goal to halve adult illiteracy rates by 2015, there is no EFA goal for youth literacy. However, five countries – Brazil, China, Indonesia, Iran, and Mexico – are expected to move closer to or remain near universal youth literacy, with projected literacy rates between 98% and 100% (see Table 7 and Figure 9). In five more countries, at least nine out of ten youths are expected to be literate in 2015: Cambodia, Egypt, Eritrea, India, and Yemen. At the same time, in seven countries fewer than two out of three youths are projected to be able to read and write by 2015: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali, and Niger. No projections are available for Afghanistan, Djibouti, South Sudan, and Sudan.

An examination of gender disaggregated data shows that improvements in literacy were especially strong among young women, who generally started at lower levels of literacy than young men one or two decades ago (see Tables 8 and 9, and Figures 10 and 11). Countries with a substantial increase in female youth literacy over the past decade, between 18 and 23 percentage points, include Bangladesh (60% in 2000, 79% in 2010), Gambia (41% in 2000, 62% in 2010), Guinea (34% in 2000, 57% in 2010), Guinea-Bissau (46% in 2000, 65% in 2010), Nepal (60% in 2000, 78% in 2010), and Pakistan (43% in 2000, 62% in 2010) (see Table 9, Figure 11, and Figures 13 to 50).

The relative increase of male and female youth literacy rates can be seen in changes in the gender parity index (GPI). In 1990, three of 18 countries with data were at gender parity in youth literacy; the same was true for six of 37 countries in 2000 and nine of 38 countries in 2010. For

2015, UIS projections show gender parity in youth literacy in 13 of 37 countries with data: Brazil, Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Timor-Leste (see Table 10 and Figure 12). Twelve more countries are projected to have GPI values between 0.90 and 0.96, while ten countries are projected to lag behind with GPI values below 0.90. Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea are projected to remain the only countries with disparity in youth literacy against young men.

The population of illiterate youths fell or remained stable between 2000 and 2010 in 27 of 36 countries with trend data (see Table 11). The largest reductions – at least one million fewer illiterate youths in 2010 than in 2000 – were reported from India (decrease by 8.4 million), Bangladesh (decrease by 3.1 million), Egypt (decrease by 1.3 million), and Pakistan (decrease by 1.1 million). In eight countries, the youth illiterate population grew by 0.1 to 0.5 million. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the only country with a substantial increase in the number of illiterate youths, 1.8 million more in 2010 than in 2000.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is also the only country where the youth illiterate population is projected to grow by more than 0.5 million between 2010 and 2015 (see Table 11). In 31 countries, the number of illiterate youths is projected to change by plus or minus 0.5 million or less. In five countries, the youth illiterate population is projected to fall by more than 0.5 million between 2010 and 2015: Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, and Pakistan. By 2015, the number of illiterate youths is projected to be below 2 million in 30 countries; of those, 22 countries are projected to have fewer than 1 million illiterate youths. In seven countries, the number of illiterate youths is projected to be greater than 2 million: Burkina Faso (2.1 million), Bangladesh (5.3 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (5.8 million), Ethiopia (6.2 million), Nigeria (8.6 million), Pakistan (9.0 million), and India (24 million).

In 28 of 37 countries with data, more than half of illiterate youths are projected to be female in 2015. In nine countries, at least three out of five illiterate youths are projected to be young women: Benin, Egypt, India, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Yemen. Yemen has by far the highest projected female share of the youth illiterate population, 87%. On the other hand, in nine countries more young men than young women are projected to lack basic literacy skills: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Iran, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, and Timor-Leste (see Table 12).

4. Methodology

Literacy has traditionally been defined as the ability to read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement about one's everyday life (UN 2008). Questions in population censuses and sample surveys typically draw on this definition of literacy, although there is some variation in the questionnaires. Conventional literacy statistics that divide the population into two groups based on this definition, one that is literate and one that is illiterate, are widely available and useful for tracking global progress towards universal literacy.

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics collects data on literacy that match the UN (2008) definition with its annual literacy survey. Country respondents report the literate and illiterate population by age, sex, and – where available – location (urban or rural). In addition, UIS extracts data on literacy from nationally representative household surveys, including the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).⁶

⁶ DHS data are available at <http://measuredhs.com>, MICS data at <http://www.childinfo.org/mics.html>.

Because censuses and surveys are not carried out annually, and because literacy rates change more slowly over time than indicators like school enrolment rates, UIS reports literacy statistics per census decade. The current census decade covers the years 2005 to 2014. The two preceding census decades were 1995 to 2004 and 1985 to 1994. Within each decade, the most recent available literacy rate for a country is used for reporting of national data and for calculation of regional averages. For ease of reporting, the present document refers to data for the current census decade as data for 2010. Data from 1995 to 2004 are reported as data for 2000, and data from 1985 to 1994 are reported as data for 1990. The national figures in Annex 4 indicate the exact years in which literacy data were collected in each country.

Target values for the EFA goal of reduction of the adult illiteracy rate by 50% by 2015 are calculated by UIS because there is no set of official target values for this indicator. To identify the target values for each country, UIS takes the literacy rate reported in the 2000 census decade and adds half of the difference between 100% and the literacy rate in 2000. For example, if the adult literacy rate in a country was 60% in 2000, the target is set at $60\% + (100\% - 60\%) / 2 = 80\%$.

Projected literacy rates in 2015 are calculated by UIS with its Global Age-Specific Literacy Projections (GALP) model (Lutz and Scherbov 2006). In GALP, regression analysis is applied to age-disaggregated literacy data, in combination with demographic data by the UN Population Division (UNPD 2011), to determine the likely evolution of literacy rates based on past trends. The literacy rate is a relatively stable indicator that covers large segments of a country's population: 15- to 24-year-olds in the case of the youth literacy rate and persons 15 years and older in the case of the adult literacy rate. For this reason, GALP projections are highly reliable, especially if the period of projection extends only a few years into the future.

To calculate the illiterate population, the UIS applies the literacy rates from its database to population estimates by the UN Population Division (UNDP 2011). The estimates of the illiterate population and the female share of illiterate youths and adults correspond to the year in which literacy data were collected. In the case of projections, GALP estimates of the literacy rate for a given year are applied to population estimates for that year to arrive at estimates of the illiterate population.

Recent innovations have tried to address certain weaknesses in the current collection of literacy data. The first such weakness is linked to the fact that the ability to read and write is typically self-reported by survey respondents. The second weakness is linked to the dichotomous nature of traditional literacy statistics, which divide populations into two parts: one that is literate and one that is illiterate.

Self-reporting by survey respondents for themselves and other members in a household may lead to an overestimation of literacy rates. To obtain more accurate information on literacy skills, some surveys, including recent DHS and MICS surveys, have begun to apply a simple reading test (ORC Macro 2006; UNICEF 2006). Respondents are asked to read a card with a short, simple sentence in their language. The result is recorded as one of three options: (1) cannot read at all, (2) able to read only parts of the sentence, or (3) able to read the whole sentence. A comparison of data collected with both methods (self-reporting and reading test) shows that the number of persons who can read a simple sentence is usually lower than the number of persons who claim to be able to read and write. In UIS statistics based on such reading tests, only persons who can read an entire sentence are counted as literate.

Another development in recent years is an increased emphasis on functional literacy and a view of literacy as a continuum of skills that cannot be fully captured with traditional dichotomous measures of literacy. For this reason, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics has developed the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) (UIS 2009). LAMP allows countries to assess the full spectrum of their populations' literacy skills through a standardised assessment of reading and numeracy. The first international report by LAMP with results from four countries – Jordan, Mongolia, Palestine, and Paraguay – is expected to be released in 2012 (UIS 2011).

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Annex I. Statistical tables

Table 1: Adult literacy rate (15 years and older) (%), total, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection	2015 target
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	44.4	55.6	72.0	73.8	77.8
	Iraq	...	74.1	78.2	79.5	87.0
	Mauritania	...	51.2	58.0	61.0	75.6
	Morocco	41.6	52.3	56.1	62.0	76.2
	Sudan	...	61.3	71.1	...	80.7
	Yemen	37.1	54.7	63.9	70.2	77.4
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	35.3	47.5	56.8	61.4	73.7
	Cambodia	...	73.6	73.9	78.2	86.8
	China	77.8	90.9	94.3	95.5	95.5
	India	48.2	61.0	62.8	71.4	80.5
	Indonesia	81.5	90.4	92.6	94.8	95.2
	Iran	65.5	77.0	85.0	90.6	88.5
	Nepal	33.0	48.6	60.3	66.1	74.3
	Pakistan	...	42.7	54.9	59.9	71.3
	Papua New Guinea	...	57.3	60.6	62.7	78.7
	Timor-Leste	...	37.6	58.3	66.8	68.8
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	88.6	90.3	92.4	94.3
	Haiti	...	58.7	48.7	61.0	79.4
	Mexico	87.6	91.0	93.1	93.5	95.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	27.2	34.7	42.4	46.7	67.3
	Burkina Faso	13.6	21.8	28.7	36.0	60.9
	Central African Republic	33.6	50.6	56.0	59.0	75.3
	Chad	10.9	28.4	34.5	39.1	64.2
	DR Congo	...	67.2	66.8	66.0	83.6
	Eritrea	...	52.5	67.8	73.3	76.3
	Ethiopia	27.0	35.9	39.0	48.6	68.0
	Gambia	...	36.8	50.0	55.7	68.4
	Guinea	...	29.7	41.0	48.7	64.9
	Guinea-Bissau	...	41.4	54.2	59.6	70.7
	Madagascar	...	70.7	64.5	64.7	85.3
	Mali	...	24.0	31.1	38.0	62.0
	Mozambique	...	48.2	56.1	61.5	74.1
	Niger	...	9.4	28.7	36.1	54.7
	Nigeria	55.4	54.8	61.3	64.7	77.4
	Rwanda	57.9	64.9	71.1	72.8	82.4
	Senegal	26.9	39.3	49.7	56.5	69.6
	Sierra Leone	...	34.8	42.1	48.2	67.4
	South Sudan	...	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	53.2	57.1	67.6	76.6	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 2: Adult literacy rate (15 years and older) (%), male, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	57.0	67.2	80.3	82.1
	Iraq	...	84.1	86.0	85.6
	Mauritania	...	59.5	64.9	66.8
	Morocco	55.2	65.7	68.9	74.0
	Sudan	...	71.6	80.1	...
	Yemen	56.7	74.3	81.2	85.5
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	44.3	53.9	61.3	64.8
	Cambodia	...	84.7	82.8	84.8
	China	87.0	95.1	97.1	97.8
	India	61.6	73.4	75.2	81.4
	Indonesia	88.0	94.0	95.6	97.0
	Iran	74.3	83.5	89.3	93.6
	Nepal	49.2	62.7	73.0	77.1
	Pakistan	...	55.3	68.6	72.2
	Papua New Guinea	...	63.4	63.9	64.0
Timor-Leste	...	45.3	63.6	71.0	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	88.4	90.2	92.1
	Haiti	...	63.1	53.4	64.4
	Mexico	90.3	92.4	94.4	94.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	39.9	47.9	55.2	58.7
	Burkina Faso	19.6	29.4	36.7	43.1
	Central African Republic	48.0	66.8	69.3	70.5
	Chad	18.3	39.4	45.0	47.9
	DR Congo	...	80.9	76.9	73.6
	Eritrea	...	65.4	78.7	82.5
	Ethiopia	36.0	50.0	49.1	56.9
	Gambia	...	49.0	60.0	64.1
	Guinea	...	42.9	52.0	57.8
	Guinea-Bissau	...	57.6	68.2	71.6
	Madagascar	...	76.5	67.4	66.8
	Mali	...	32.7	43.4	49.5
	Mozambique	...	65.6	70.8	74.0
	Niger	...	9.4	42.9	49.1
	Nigeria	67.7	66.8	72.1	74.1
	Rwanda	57.9	71.4	74.8	75.4
Senegal	36.9	51.1	61.8	67.4	
Sierra Leone	...	46.7	53.6	59.0	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	68.7	71.2	78.5	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 3: Adult literacy rate (15 years and older) (%), female, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	31.4	43.6	63.5	65.6
	Iraq	...	64.2	70.6	73.4
	Mauritania	...	43.4	51.2	55.2
	Morocco	28.7	39.6	43.9	50.8
	Sudan	...	52.1	62.0	...
	Yemen	17.1	35.5	46.8	55.1
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	25.8	40.8	52.2	58.0
	Cambodia	...	64.1	65.9	72.1
	China	68.1	86.5	91.3	93.2
	India	33.7	47.8	50.8	60.9
	Indonesia	75.3	86.8	89.7	92.6
	Iran	56.2	70.4	80.7	87.6
	Nepal	17.4	34.9	48.3	55.7
	Pakistan	...	29.0	40.3	47.3
	Papua New Guinea	...	50.9	57.3	61.3
Timor-Leste	...	30.0	53.0	62.5	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	88.8	90.4	92.6
	Haiti	...	54.9	44.6	57.7
	Mexico	85.0	89.6	91.9	92.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	16.6	23.3	30.3	35.2
	Burkina Faso	8.2	15.2	21.6	29.3
	Central African Republic	20.3	35.3	43.2	48.0
	Chad	4.6	18.0	24.2	30.6
	DR Congo	...	54.1	57.0	58.5
	Eritrea	...	40.2	57.5	64.7
	Ethiopia	18.5	22.8	28.9	40.5
	Gambia	...	25.1	40.4	47.8
	Guinea	...	18.2	30.0	39.4
	Guinea-Bissau	...	27.5	40.6	47.9
	Madagascar	...	65.3	61.6	62.6
	Mali	...	15.9	20.3	26.9
	Mozambique	...	33.2	42.8	50.0
	Niger	...	9.4	15.1	23.3
	Nigeria	43.7	43.3	50.4	55.3
	Rwanda	57.9	59.8	67.5	70.3
Senegal	17.9	29.2	38.7	46.1	
Sierra Leone	...	24.2	31.4	38.1	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	38.5	43.6	56.9	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 4: Adult literacy rate (15 years and older), gender parity index (GPI), 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	0.55	0.65	0.79	0.80
	Iraq	...	0.76	0.82	0.86
	Mauritania	...	0.73	0.79	0.83
	Morocco	0.52	0.60	0.64	0.69
	Sudan	...	0.73	0.77	...
	Yemen	0.30	0.48	0.58	0.65
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	0.58	0.76	0.85	0.89
	Cambodia	...	0.76	0.80	0.85
	China	0.78	0.91	0.94	0.95
	India	0.55	0.65	0.68	0.75
	Indonesia	0.86	0.92	0.94	0.95
	Iran	0.76	0.84	0.90	0.94
	Nepal	0.35	0.56	0.66	0.72
	Pakistan	...	0.53	0.59	0.65
	Papua New Guinea	...	0.80	0.90	0.96
Timor-Leste	...	0.66	0.83	0.88	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	1.00	1.00	1.00
	Haiti	...	0.87	0.84	0.89
	Mexico	0.94	0.97	0.97	0.98
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	0.42	0.49	0.55	0.60
	Burkina Faso	0.42	0.52	0.59	0.68
	Central African Republic	0.42	0.53	0.62	0.68
	Chad	0.25	0.46	0.54	0.64
	DR Congo	...	0.67	0.74	0.80
	Eritrea	...	0.62	0.73	0.78
	Ethiopia	0.51	0.46	0.59	0.71
	Gambia	...	0.51	0.67	0.74
	Guinea	...	0.43	0.58	0.68
	Guinea-Bissau	...	0.48	0.60	0.67
	Madagascar	...	0.85	0.91	0.94
	Mali	...	0.49	0.47	0.54
	Mozambique	...	0.51	0.61	0.68
	Niger	...	1.00	0.35	0.47
	Nigeria	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.75
	Rwanda	1.00	0.84	0.90	0.93
Senegal	0.48	0.57	0.63	0.68	
Sierra Leone	...	0.52	0.59	0.64	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	0.56	0.61	0.72	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 5: Adult illiterate population (15 years and older) (000), total, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	16,910	17,422	15,631	16,110
	Iraq	...	3,520	3,930	4,438
	Mauritania	...	737	873	925
	Morocco	9,603	9,921	9,967	9,405
	Sudan	...	...	...	...
	Yemen	4,466	4,820	4,841	4,734
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	40,252	43,809	44,149	43,876
	Cambodia	...	2,160	2,449	2,312
	China	182,744	85,688	61,882	50,320
	India	287,272	274,053	287,355	266,367
	Indonesia	21,557	15,303	12,709	9,832
	Iran	10,687	10,605	8,256	5,680
	Nepal	7,531	7,627	7,587	7,425
	Pakistan	...	45,610	49,507	51,037
	Papua New Guinea	...	1,374	1,646	1,794
Timor-Leste	...	271	252	244	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	15,096	13,899	11,929
	Haiti	...	2,281	3,028	2,748
	Mexico	6,437	6,472	5,561	5,714
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	1,998	2,466	2,872	3,093
	Burkina Faso	4,326	5,616	5,806	6,752
	Central African Republic	1,059	1,060	1,155	1,213
	Chad	3,155	3,662	4,014	4,313
	DR Congo	...	8,683	11,765	14,153
	Eritrea	...	1,071	989	954
	Ethiopia	21,815	25,465	26,847	29,280
	Gambia	...	446	485	504
	Guinea	...	3,400	3,360	3,370
	Guinea-Bissau	...	407	407	406
	Madagascar	...	2,449	4,039	4,945
	Mali	...	4,963	5,554	5,891
	Mozambique	...	5,677	5,740	5,746
	Niger	...	5,261	4,731	6,072
	Nigeria	24,489	34,078	35,025	36,357
	Rwanda	1,472	1,532	1,764	1,905
	Senegal	2,600	3,309	3,400	3,539
Sierra Leone	...	1,837	1,936	1,963	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	1,271	1,515	1,349	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Sources: Literacy: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Population: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, CD-ROM Edition. The population estimate used corresponds to the year of the census, survey or projection.

Table 6: Adult illiterate population (15 years and older), percent female, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	61.8	63.4	65.1	65.9
	Iraq	...	70.2	68.4	65.3
	Mauritania	...	59.0	58.3	57.6
	Morocco	62.3	65.1	65.9	67.2
	Sudan	...	...	...	...
	Yemen	66.3	71.7	74.0	75.6
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	55.4	54.9	54.8	54.1
	Cambodia	...	72.2	68.3	66.4
	China	69.9	72.5	73.8	74.4
	India	61.5	64.7	65.1	66.6
	Indonesia	67.7	69.3	70.8	71.8
	Iran	63.2	63.9	63.7	65.7
	Nepal	62.1	64.8	66.9	67.1
	Pakistan	...	59.9	64.9	64.8
	Papua New Guinea	...	56.7	53.7	51.3
Timor-Leste	...	54.9	55.6	55.6	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	50.4	50.8	49.9
	Haiti	...	56.2	55.4	55.4
	Mexico	61.9	59.1	60.5	60.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	61.2	61.7	62.2	62.3
	Burkina Faso	55.9	56.4	56.9	56.5
	Central African Republic	61.9	67.3	65.9	64.7
	Chad	55.0	58.3	58.6	57.7
	DR Congo	...	71.4	65.7	61.6
	Eritrea	...	65.2	68.0	68.1
	Ethiopia	56.7	61.3	58.9	58.5
	Gambia	...	60.5	61.2	60.7
	Guinea	...	58.7	59.1	58.7
	Guinea-Bissau	...	64.0	65.9	65.4
	Madagascar	...	60.0	54.5	53.5
	Mali	...	57.0	59.4	59.9
	Mozambique	...	68.9	68.4	67.6
	Niger	...	51.0	60.6	60.6
	Nigeria	63.7	62.9	63.8	63.0
	Rwanda	51.3	60.4	57.8	56.0
Senegal	56.9	60.1	62.7	63.4	
Sierra Leone	...	60.4	61.2	61.6	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	67.1	66.9	67.4	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 7: Youth literacy rate (15-24 years) (%), total, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	63.3	73.2	87.5	91.8
	Iraq	...	84.8	82.6	81.5
	Mauritania	...	61.3	68.3	71.4
	Morocco	58.4	70.5	79.5	83.3
	Sudan	...	78.2	86.7	...
	Yemen	60.2	76.9	85.2	90.3
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	44.7	63.6	77.0	83.1
	Cambodia	...	83.4	87.1	91.5
	China	94.3	98.9	99.4	99.6
	India	61.9	76.4	81.1	90.2
	Indonesia	96.2	98.7	99.5	99.7
	Iran	87.0	93.0	98.7	99.1
	Nepal	49.6	70.1	83.1	88.1
	Pakistan	...	55.3	70.7	77.1
	Papua New Guinea	...	66.7	68.4	70.0
Timor-Leste	...	74.6	79.5	81.9	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	96.8	98.1	98.8
	Haiti	...	81.6	72.3	82.1
	Mexico	95.4	97.6	98.4	98.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	39.9	45.3	55.0	60.2
	Burkina Faso	20.2	31.2	39.3	45.4
	Central African Republic	48.2	60.8	65.2	67.5
	Chad	17.3	41.7	47.0	52.7
	DR Congo	...	70.4	65.0	62.3
	Eritrea	...	77.9	89.3	93.3
	Ethiopia	33.6	49.9	55.0	69.3
	Gambia	...	52.6	66.7	73.1
	Guinea	...	47.1	63.4	74.4
	Guinea-Bissau	...	59.5	72.1	77.2
	Madagascar	...	70.2	64.9	65.1
	Mali	...	...	44.3	53.3
	Mozambique	...	61.9	71.8	77.8
	Niger	...	14.0	36.5	45.9
	Nigeria	71.2	69.0	72.1	75.0
	Rwanda	74.9	77.6	77.5	77.4
Senegal	37.9	49.1	65.0	73.4	
Sierra Leone	...	47.9	59.4	67.4	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	74.4	81.7	88.2	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 8: Youth literacy rate (15-24 years) (%), male, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	71.4	79.0	90.6	93.6
	Iraq	...	88.9	84.5	82.4
	Mauritania	...	67.7	71.3	73.0
	Morocco	71.4	80.8	86.7	88.9
	Sudan	...	85.7	89.6	...
	Yemen	82.8	92.8	96.0	97.6
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	51.7	67.2	75.5	80.6
	Cambodia	...	87.9	88.4	91.1
	China	97.0	99.2	99.5	99.6
	India	73.5	84.2	88.4	92.9
	Indonesia	97.4	98.9	99.6	99.8
	Iran	92.4	95.5	98.8	99.0
	Nepal	68.2	80.6	87.6	90.7
	Pakistan	...	67.1	79.1	81.7
	Papua New Guinea	...	69.1	65.1	63.8
Timor-Leste	...	77.6	80.5	81.5	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	95.8	97.4	98.4
	Haiti	...	82.7	74.4	82.5
	Mexico	96.0	97.5	98.4	98.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	55.1	59.2	65.6	69.4
	Burkina Faso	26.8	38.4	46.7	47.6
	Central African Republic	62.6	72.6	72.3	72.2
	Chad	26.2	53.7	53.5	55.2
	DR Congo	...	78.0	68.3	63.2
	Eritrea	...	86.3	92.0	94.6
	Ethiopia	39.3	62.2	63.0	71.0
	Gambia	...	64.3	71.9	75.5
	Guinea	...	59.5	69.6	77.1
	Guinea-Bissau	...	74.8	78.9	80.8
	Madagascar	...	72.7	65.9	65.4
	Mali	...	...	56.4	62.0
	Mozambique	...	74.4	78.5	82.5
	Niger	...	13.7	52.4	56.3
	Nigeria	81.4	78.1	78.0	78.8
	Rwanda	74.9	78.5	77.1	76.3
	Senegal	49.1	58.5	74.2	80.1
Sierra Leone	...	59.6	69.1	75.9	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	83.8	87.6	90.0	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 9: Youth literacy rate (15-24 years) (%), female, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	54.0	66.9	84.3	90.0
	Iraq	...	80.5	80.5	80.6
	Mauritania	...	55.5	65.3	69.8
	Morocco	46.0	60.5	72.1	77.6
	Sudan	...	72.3	83.6	...
	Yemen	35.4	60.5	74.1	82.8
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	38.0	60.3	78.5	85.8
	Cambodia	...	78.9	85.9	91.9
	China	91.5	98.5	99.3	99.5
	India	49.3	67.7	74.4	87.2
	Indonesia	95.1	98.5	99.4	99.7
	Iran	81.2	90.6	98.5	99.2
	Nepal	32.7	60.1	78.4	85.5
	Pakistan	...	43.1	61.5	72.2
	Papua New Guinea	...	64.1	71.9	76.6
Timor-Leste	...	71.4	78.6	82.4	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	97.9	98.7	99.3
	Haiti	...	80.7	70.5	81.6
	Mexico	94.9	97.6	98.5	98.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	26.7	33.2	44.6	51.1
	Burkina Faso	14.2	24.8	33.1	43.2
	Central African Republic	34.9	49.0	58.2	62.8
	Chad	8.9	30.8	40.6	50.1
	DR Congo	...	63.1	61.8	61.4
	Eritrea	...	69.5	86.7	92.0
	Ethiopia	28.1	38.5	47.0	67.5
	Gambia	...	41.4	61.7	70.8
	Guinea	...	34.1	57.0	71.6
	Guinea-Bissau	...	45.9	65.3	73.6
	Madagascar	...	68.2	64.0	64.8
	Mali	...	...	33.9	44.4
	Mozambique	...	50.0	65.1	73.1
	Niger	...	14.2	23.2	35.9
	Nigeria	62.5	60.5	66.1	71.0
	Rwanda	74.9	76.9	77.8	78.4
Senegal	28.0	41.0	56.2	66.5	
Sierra Leone	...	37.4	50.1	59.3	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	63.6	74.6	86.5	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 10: Youth literacy rate (15-24 years), gender parity index (GPI), 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	0.76	0.85	0.93	0.96
	Iraq	...	0.91	0.95	0.98
	Mauritania	...	0.82	0.92	0.96
	Morocco	0.64	0.75	0.83	0.87
	Sudan	...	0.84	0.93	...
	Yemen	0.43	0.65	0.77	0.85
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	0.73	0.90	1.04	1.07
	Cambodia	...	0.90	0.97	1.01
	China	0.94	0.99	1.00	1.00
	India	0.67	0.80	0.84	0.94
	Indonesia	0.98	1.00	1.00	1.00
	Iran	0.88	0.95	1.00	1.00
	Nepal	0.48	0.75	0.89	0.94
	Pakistan	...	0.64	0.78	0.88
	Papua New Guinea	...	0.93	1.11	1.20
Timor-Leste	...	0.92	0.98	1.01	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	1.02	1.01	1.01
	Haiti	...	0.98	0.95	0.99
	Mexico	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	0.48	0.56	0.68	0.74
	Burkina Faso	0.53	0.65	0.71	0.91
	Central African Republic	0.56	0.68	0.80	0.87
	Chad	0.34	0.57	0.76	0.91
	DR Congo	...	0.81	0.90	0.97
	Eritrea	...	0.81	0.94	0.97
	Ethiopia	0.71	0.62	0.75	0.95
	Gambia	...	0.64	0.86	0.94
	Guinea	...	0.57	0.82	0.93
	Guinea-Bissau	...	0.61	0.83	0.91
	Madagascar	...	0.94	0.97	0.99
	Mali	...	...	0.60	0.72
	Mozambique	...	0.67	0.83	0.89
	Niger	...	1.04	0.44	0.64
	Nigeria	0.77	0.77	0.85	0.90
	Rwanda	1.00	0.98	1.01	1.03
	Senegal	0.57	0.70	0.76	0.83
Sierra Leone	...	0.63	0.73	0.78	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	0.76	0.85	0.96	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Table 11: Youth illiterate population (15-24 years) (000), total, 1990-2015

Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	3,747	3,340	2,004	1,289
	Iraq	...	752	1,081	1,346
	Mauritania	...	206	219	218
	Morocco	2,234	1,864	1,296	1,009
	Sudan	...	...	...	...
	Yemen	1,042	1,015	787	572
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	12,116	10,083	6,951	5,254
	Cambodia	...	516	410	265
	China	14,235	2,235	1,356	884
	India	65,244	49,643	41,275	23,738
	Indonesia	1,450	570	228	109
	Iran	1,392	1,165	235	114
	Nepal	1,862	1,453	1,048	815
	Pakistan	...	11,927	10,820	9,038
	Papua New Guinea	...	366	412	453
Timor-Leste	...	38	47	53	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	1,117	655	390
	Haiti	...	359	570	391
	Mexico	832	480	325	377
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	580	725	785	800
	Burkina Faso	1,518	1,887	1,838	2,076
	Central African Republic	265	288	317	323
	Chad	1,013	1,071	1,174	1,208
	DR Congo	...	2,853	4,665	5,844
	Eritrea	...	203	113	77
	Ethiopia	6,808	6,987	7,090	6,222
	Gambia	...	131	118	110
	Guinea	...	902	725	574
	Guinea-Bissau	...	95	84	76
	Madagascar	...	855	1,384	1,703
	Mali	...	...	1,657	1,644
	Mozambique	...	1,458	1,299	1,177
	Niger	...	1,703	1,440	1,880
	Nigeria	5,256	8,186	8,617	8,647
	Rwanda	320	387	498	515
Senegal	817	1,052	874	769	
Sierra Leone	...	508	461	424	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	261	232	161	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Sources: Literacy: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Population: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, CD-ROM Edition. The population estimate used corresponds to the year of the census, survey or projection.

Table 12: Youth illiterate population (15-24 years), percent female, 1990-2015

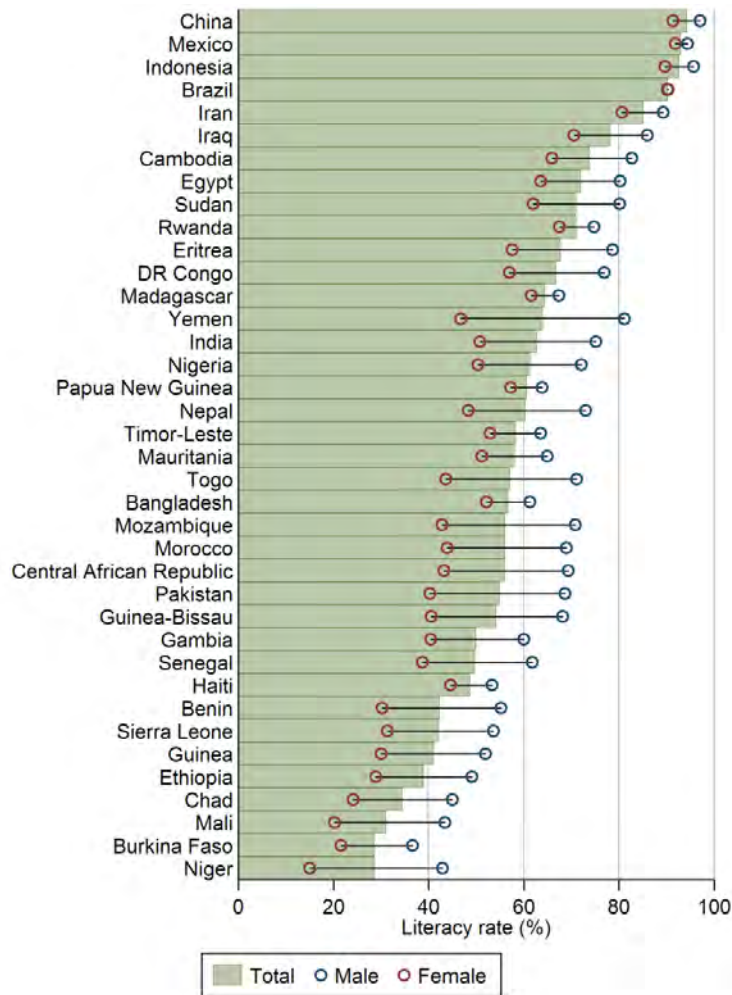
Region	Country	1990	2000	2010	2015 projection
Arab States	Djibouti	...	...	...	...
	Egypt	61.0	60.4	61.7	60.0
	Iraq	...	62.6	54.4	51.2
	Mauritania	...	57.2	53.9	52.1
	Morocco	65.2	67.7	67.8	66.6
	Sudan	...	...	...	...
	Yemen	78.4	84.2	86.2	87.2
Asia and Pacific	Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
	Bangladesh	55.0	53.8	45.8	40.9
	Cambodia	...	63.3	54.3	46.6
	China	72.7	63.7	54.1	48.8
	India	63.7	65.3	67.1	62.1
	Indonesia	65.1	55.7	56.7	53.4
	Iran	71.1	67.1	54.3	45.2
	Nepal	67.0	66.2	62.4	59.8
	Pakistan	...	62.3	64.1	59.2
	Papua New Guinea	...	52.5	43.2	37.8
Timor-Leste	...	53.8	51.1	47.5	
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	...	32.8	33.4	30.0
	Haiti	...	52.7	53.5	51.5
	Mexico	56.2	49.6	48.6	47.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	63.0	62.8	62.1	61.9
	Burkina Faso	53.6	54.4	55.0	51.3
	Central African Republic	64.0	65.5	60.6	57.8
	Chad	55.5	59.9	56.0	52.6
	DR Congo	...	62.5	54.5	51.1
	Eritrea	...	69.2	62.7	59.5
	Ethiopia	54.2	62.0	58.9	52.7
	Gambia	...	63.7	58.4	54.9
	Guinea	...	61.1	57.9	54.7
	Guinea-Bissau	...	68.3	62.2	57.9
	Madagascar	...	53.7	51.5	50.5
	Mali	...	...	59.4	58.5
	Mozambique	...	66.4	62.0	60.6
	Niger	...	53.1	64.4	60.5
	Nigeria	66.2	63.5	59.7	56.9
	Rwanda	51.0	52.8	49.7	48.0
	Senegal	58.6	58.6	62.7	62.4
Sierra Leone	...	61.9	62.9	63.8	
South Sudan	...	...	...	...
Togo	...	69.4	67.5	57.8	

Note: 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

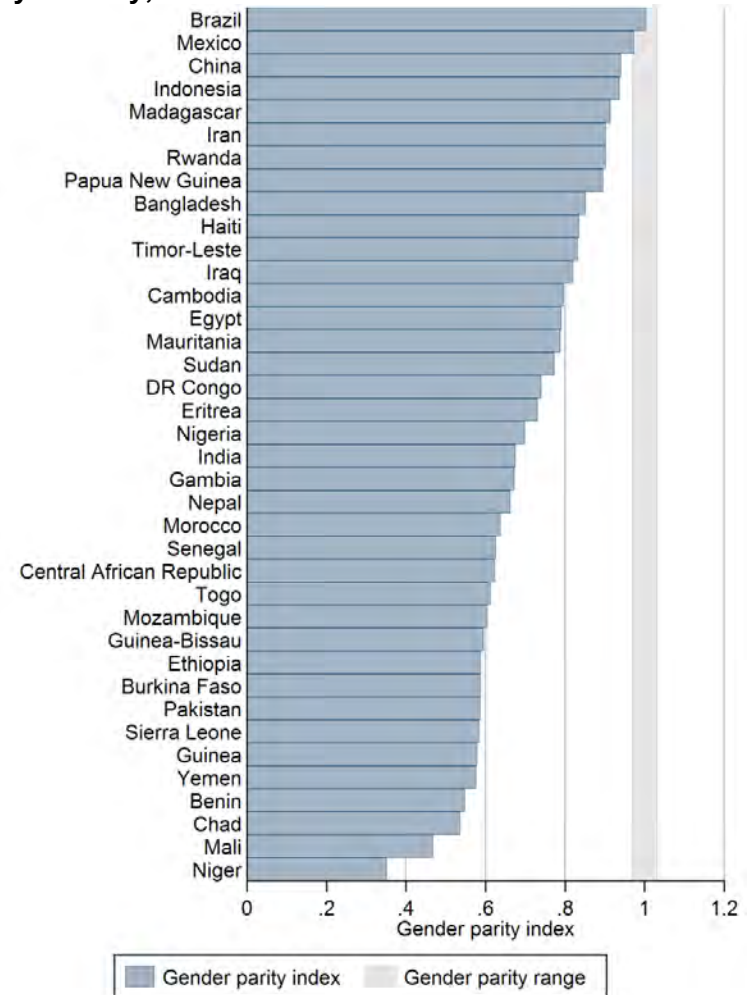
Annex II. Figures with literacy in 2010

Figure 1: Adult literacy rate, by country and sex, 2010



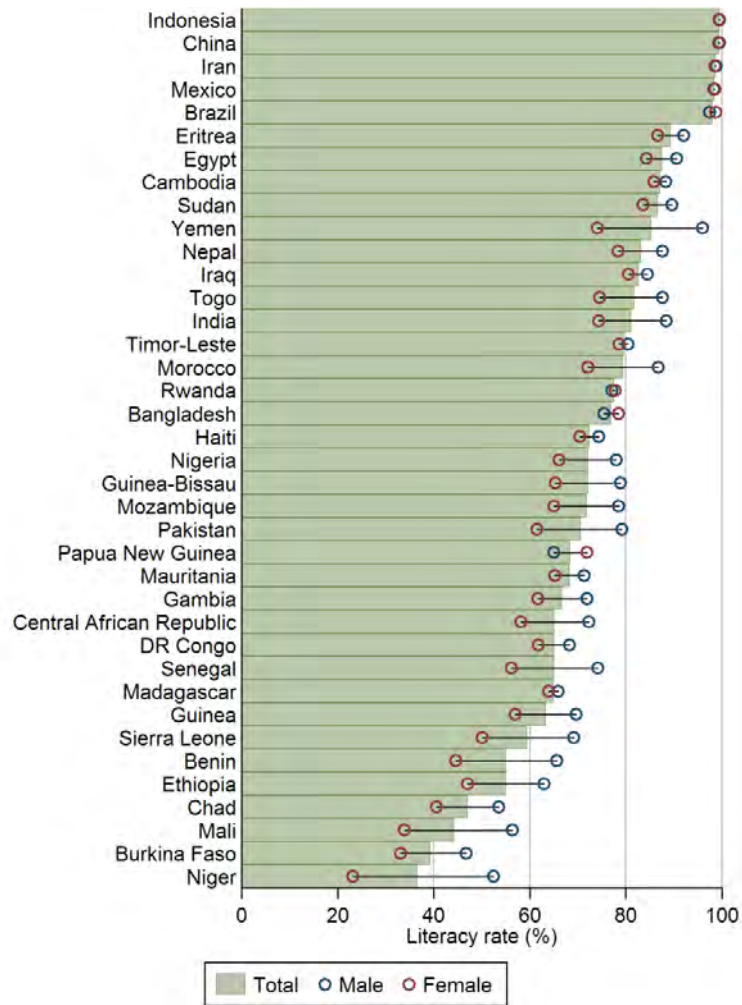
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.
 Note: 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 2: Gender parity index (GPI) of adult literacy rate, by country, 2010



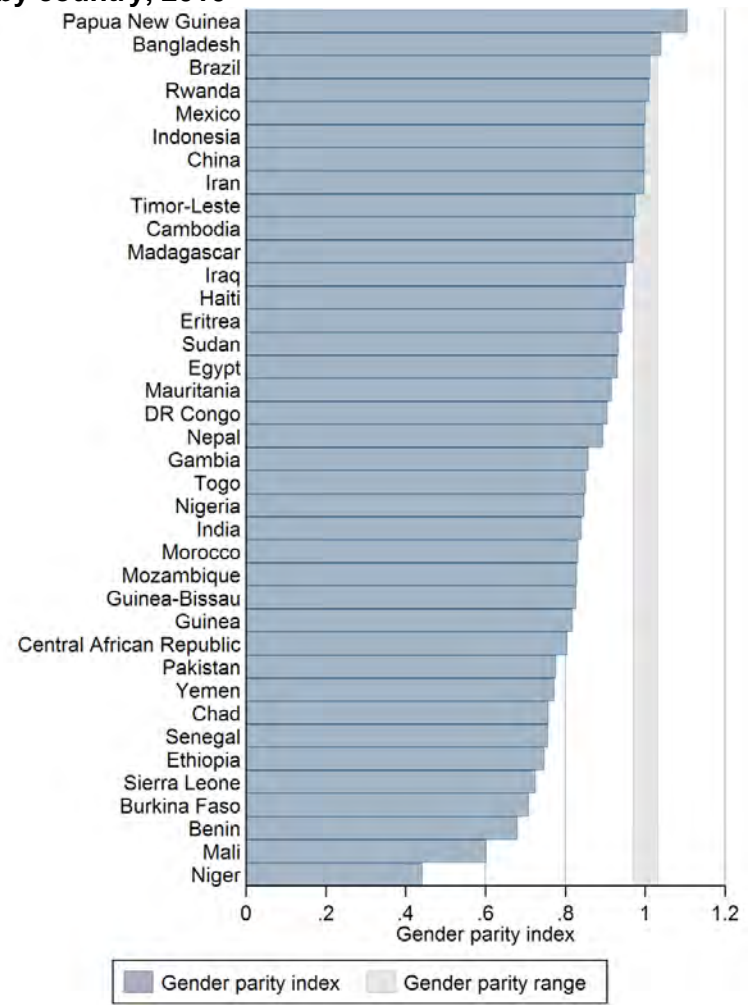
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.
 Note: 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 3: Youth literacy rate, by country and sex, 2010



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.
 Note: 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010

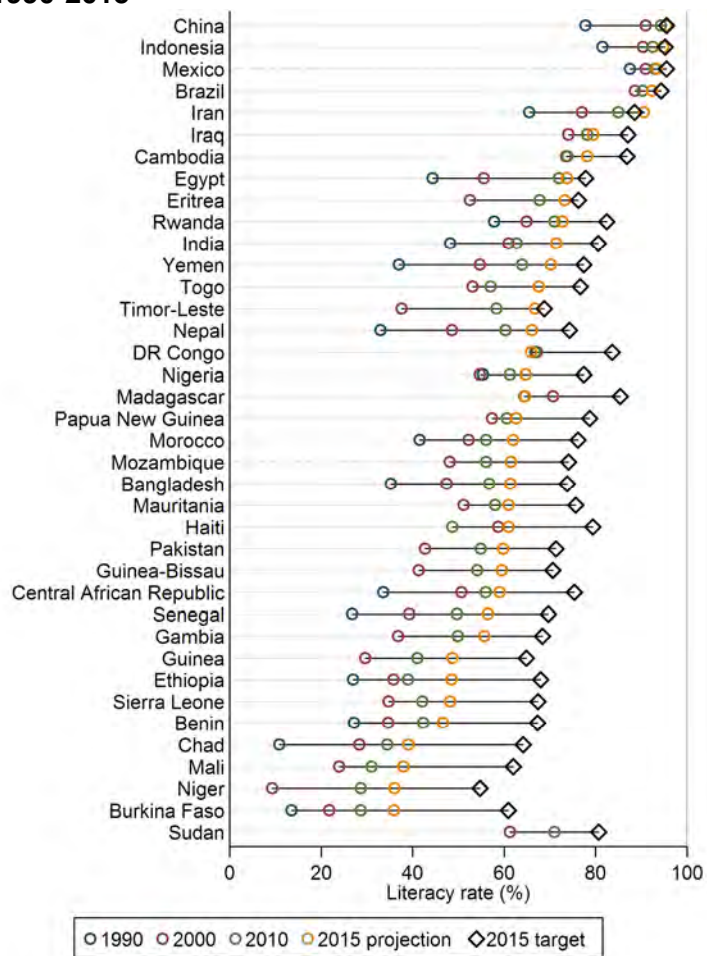
Figure 4: Gender parity index (GPI) of youth literacy rate, by country, 2010



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.
 Note: 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

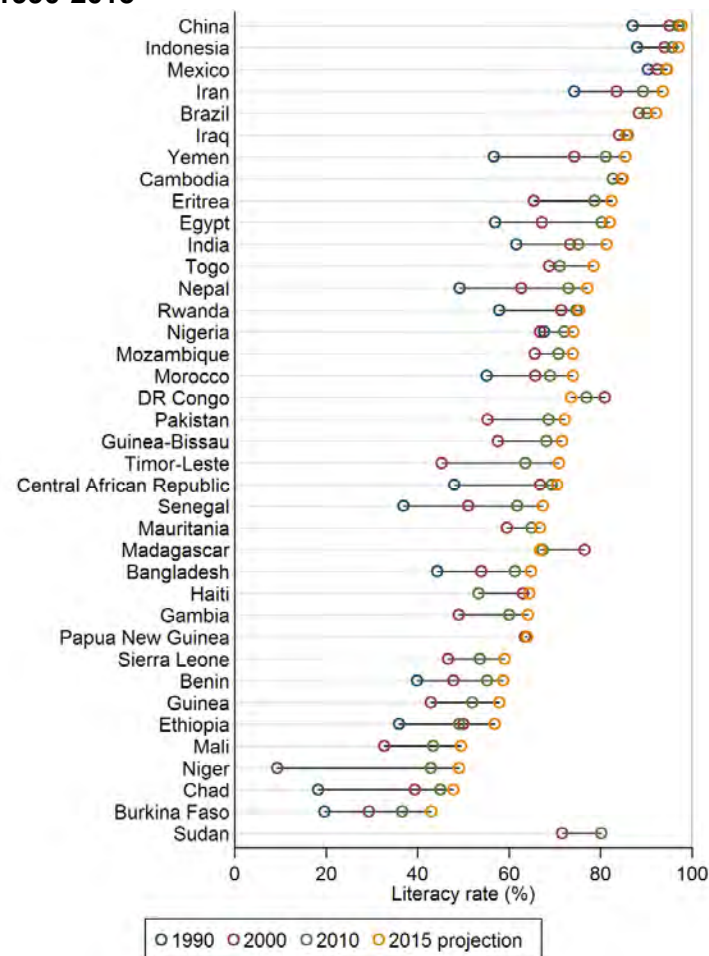
Annex III. Figures with cross-national literacy trends, 1990-2015

Figure 5: Adult literacy rate, total population, by country, 1990-2015



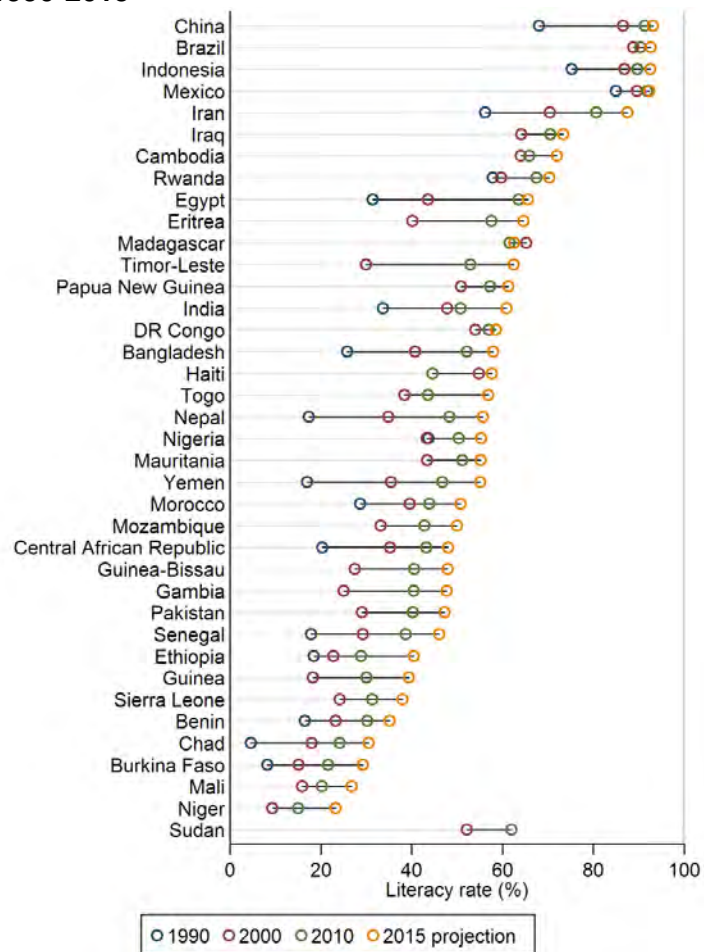
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected literacy rate of adult population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 6: Adult literacy rate, male population, by country, 1990-2015



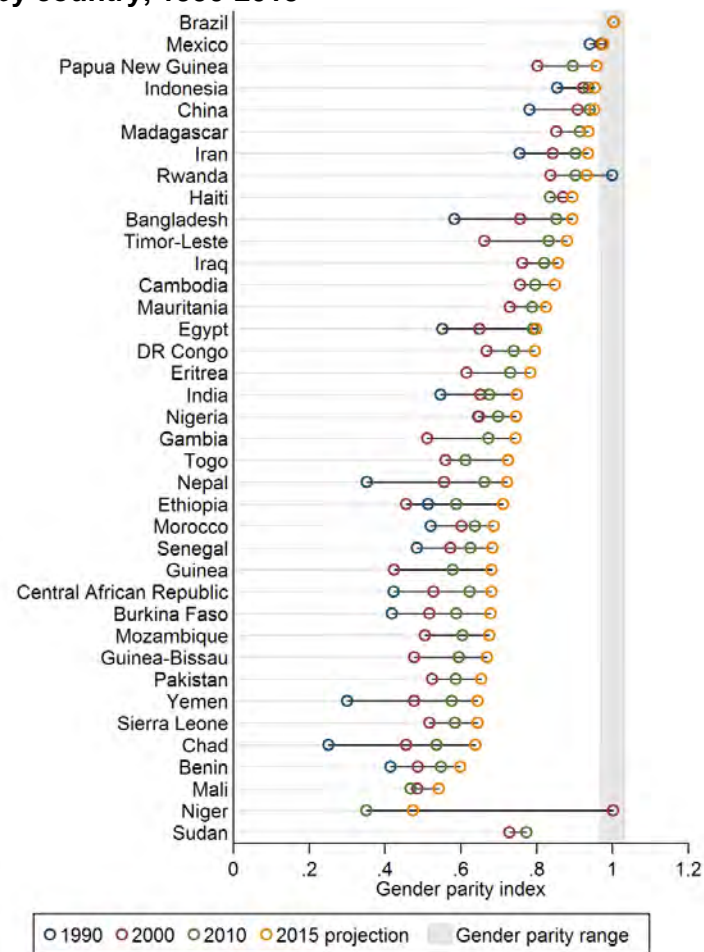
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected literacy rate of male adult population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 7: Adult literacy rate, female population, by country, 1990-2015



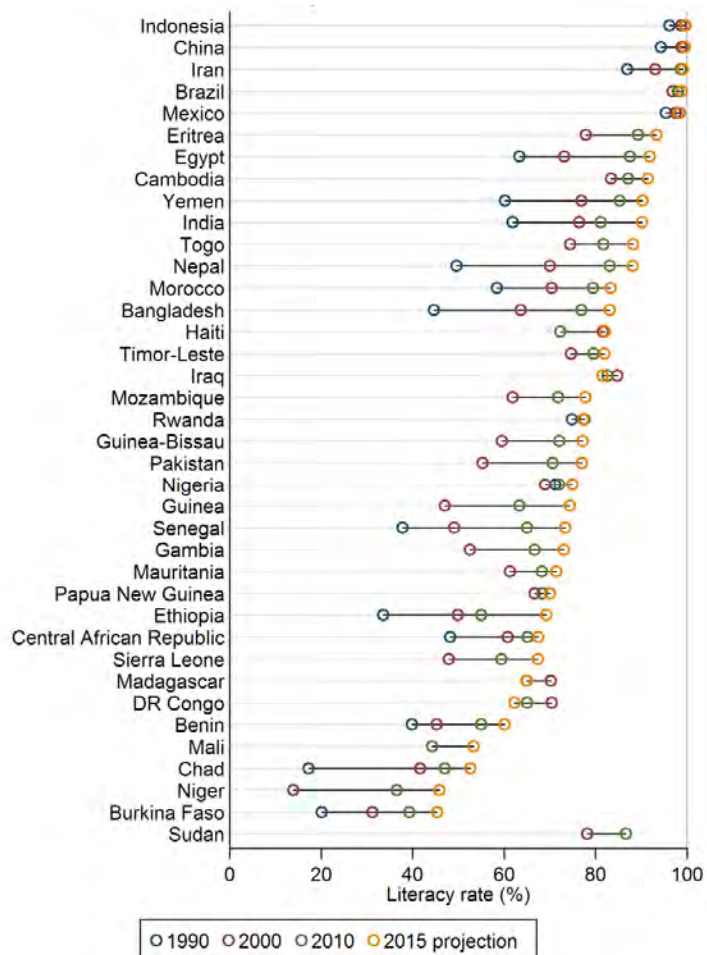
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected literacy rate of female adult population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 8: Gender parity index (GPI) of adult literacy rate, by country, 1990-2015



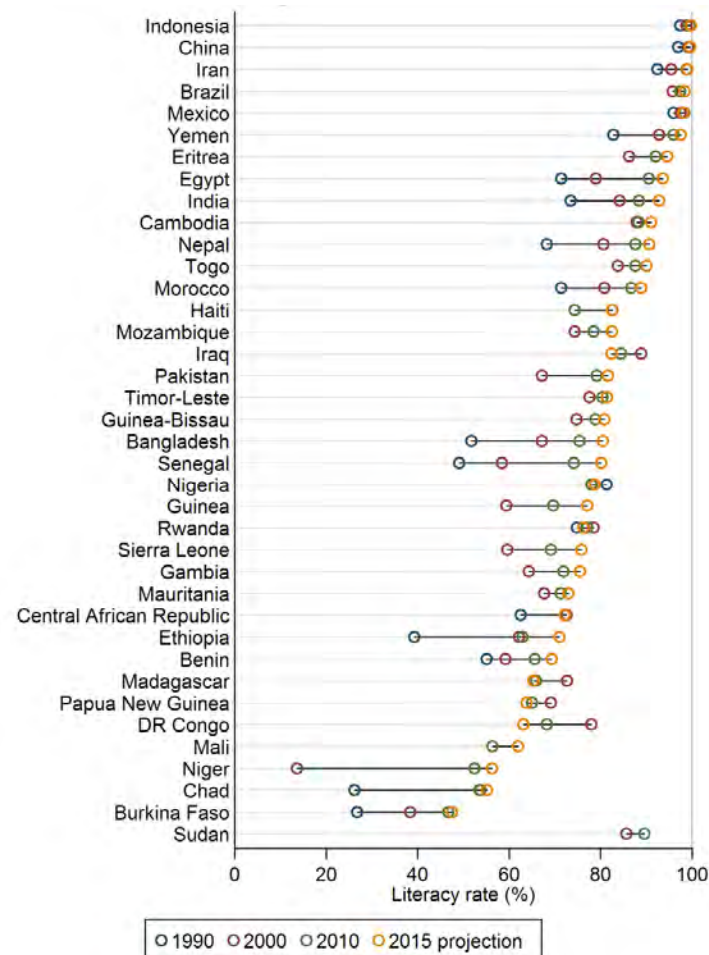
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected GPI of adult literacy rate in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 9: Youth literacy rate, total population, by country, 1990-2015



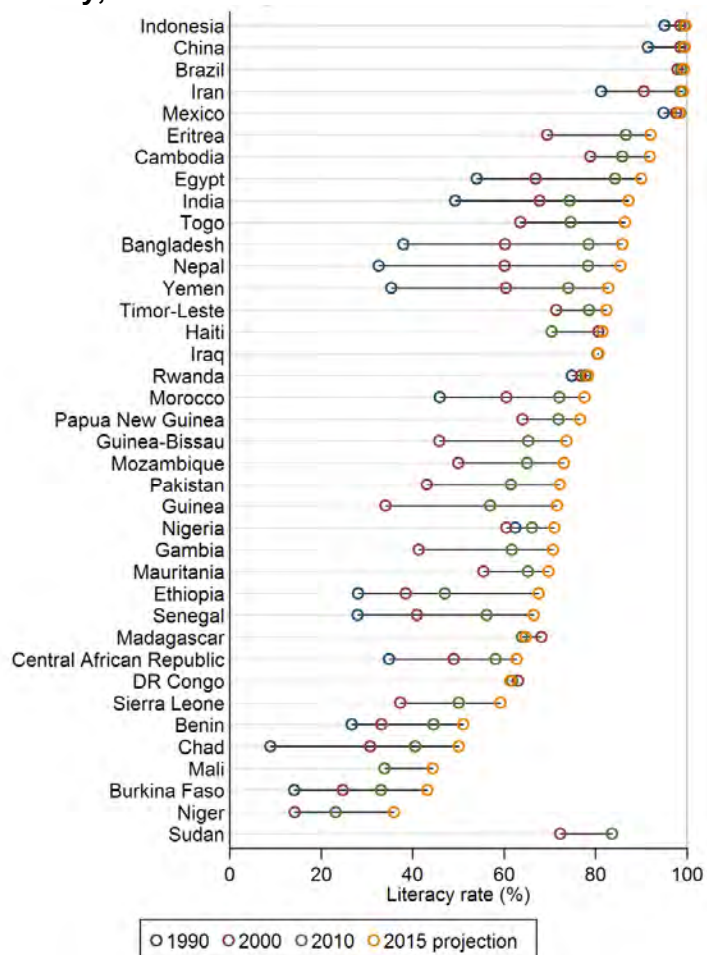
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected literacy rate of youth population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 10: Youth literacy rate, male population, by country, 1990-2015



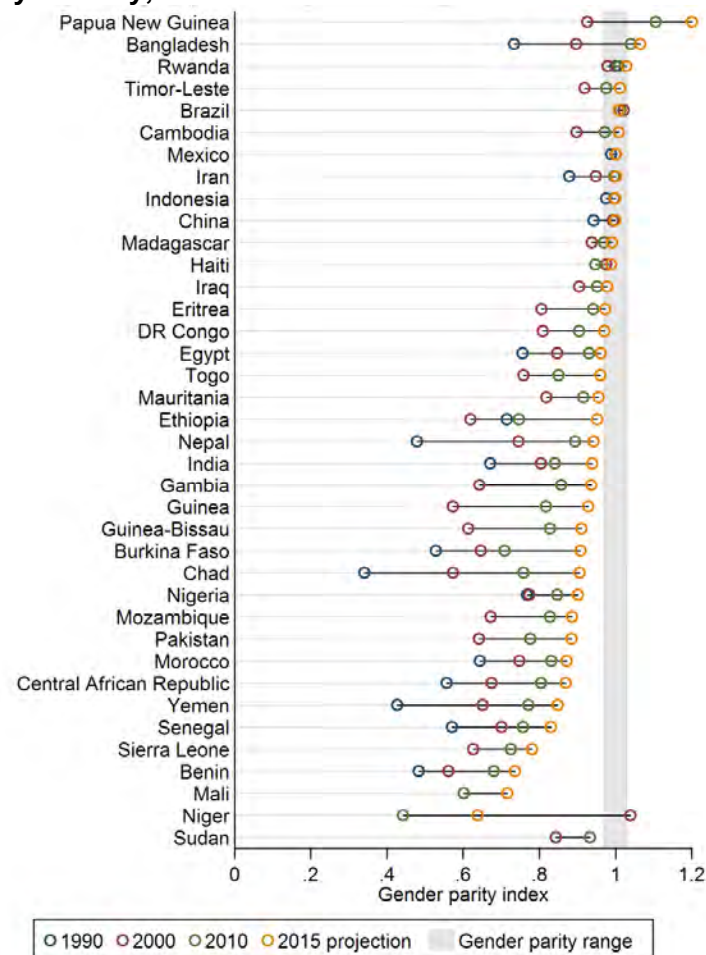
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected literacy rate of male youth population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

Figure 11: Youth literacy rate, female population, by country, 1990-2015



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected literacy rate of female youth population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

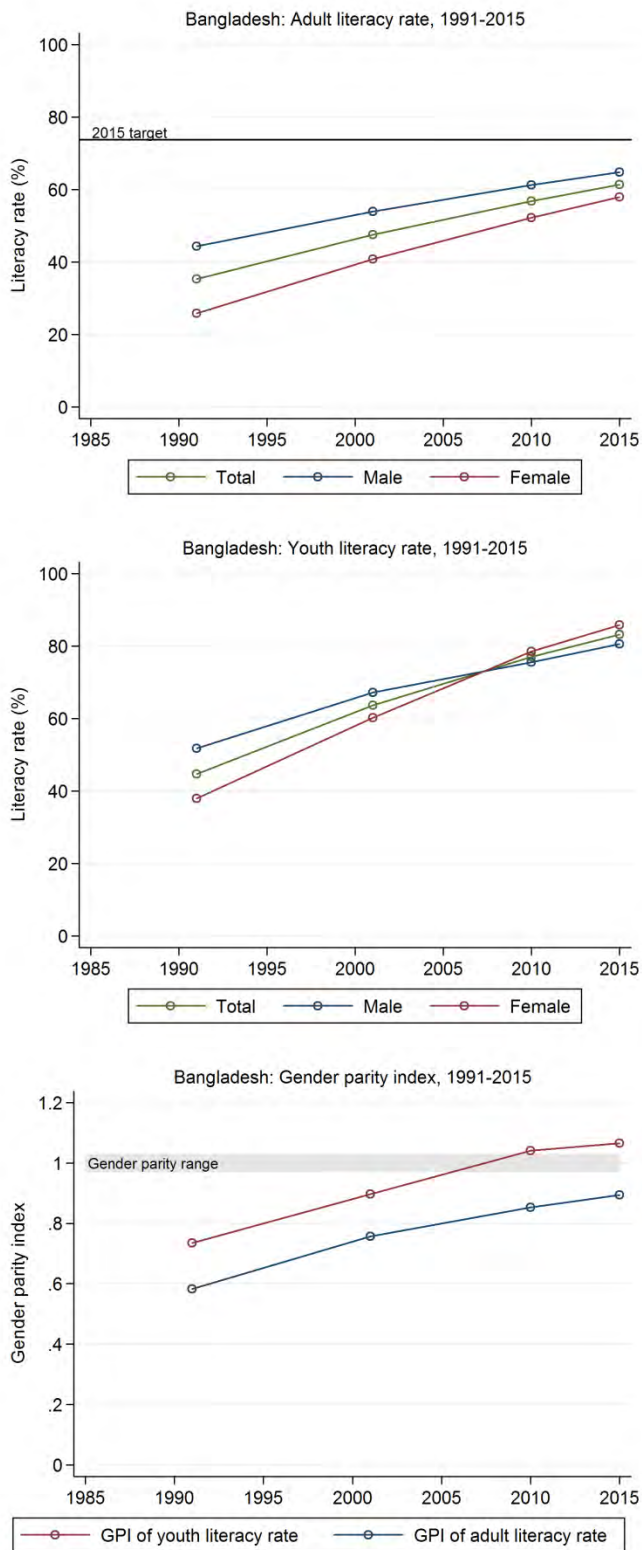
Figure 12: Gender parity index (GPI) of youth literacy rate, by country, 1990-2015



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012. - Notes: Countries sorted by projected GPI of youth literacy rate in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2010 data refer to the period 2005-2010.

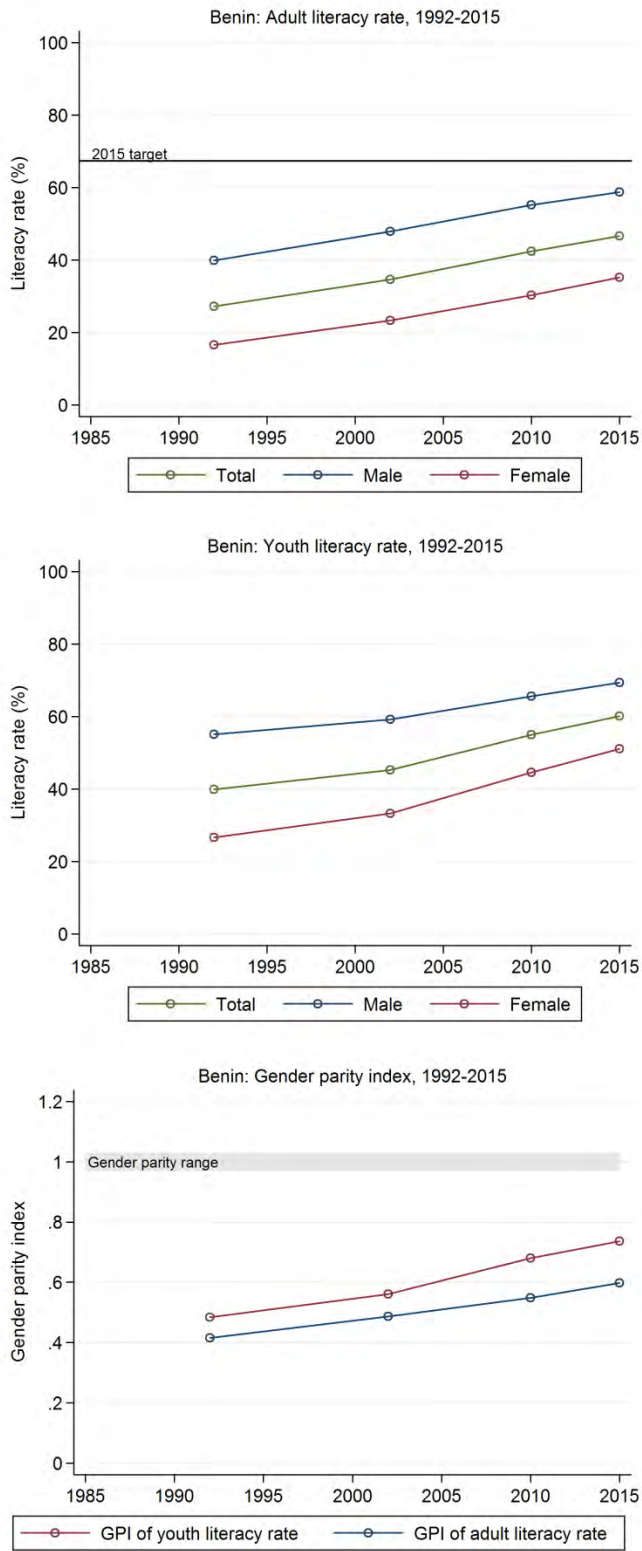
Annex IV. Figures with national literacy trends, 1990-2015

Figure 13: Bangladesh



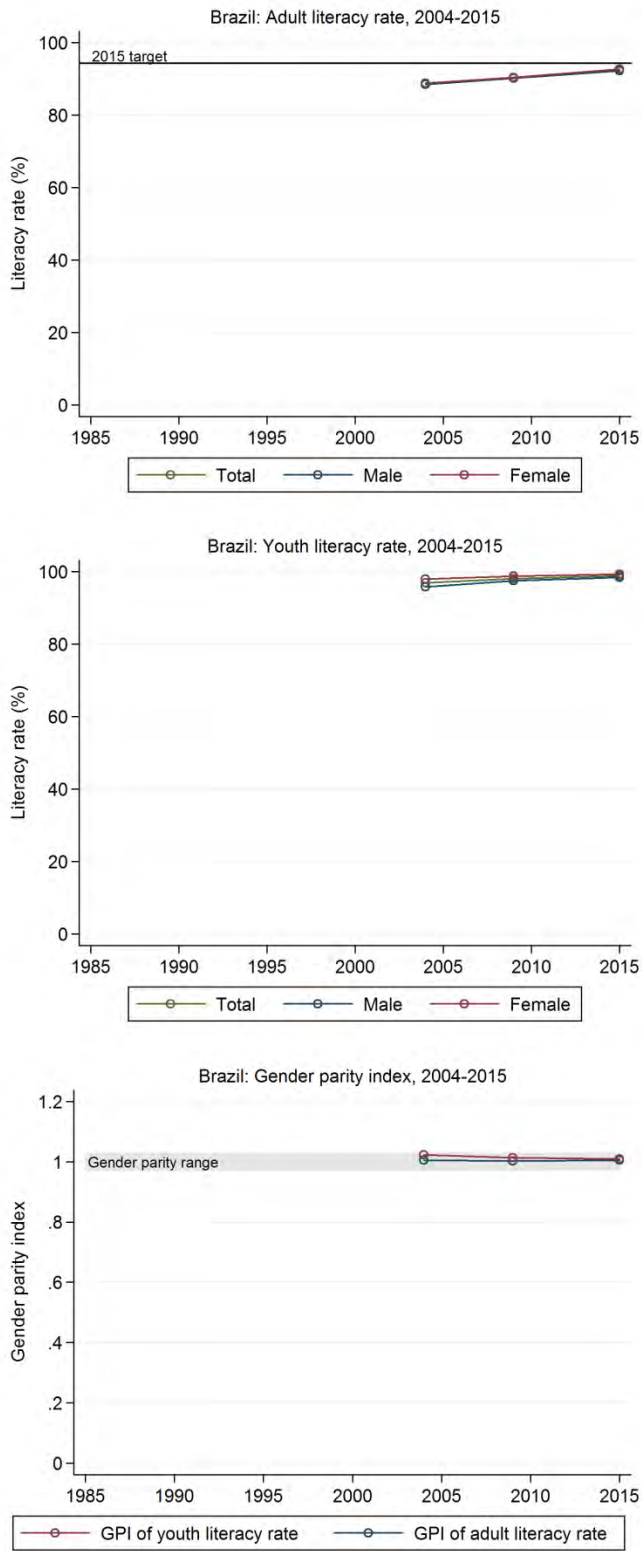
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 14: Benin



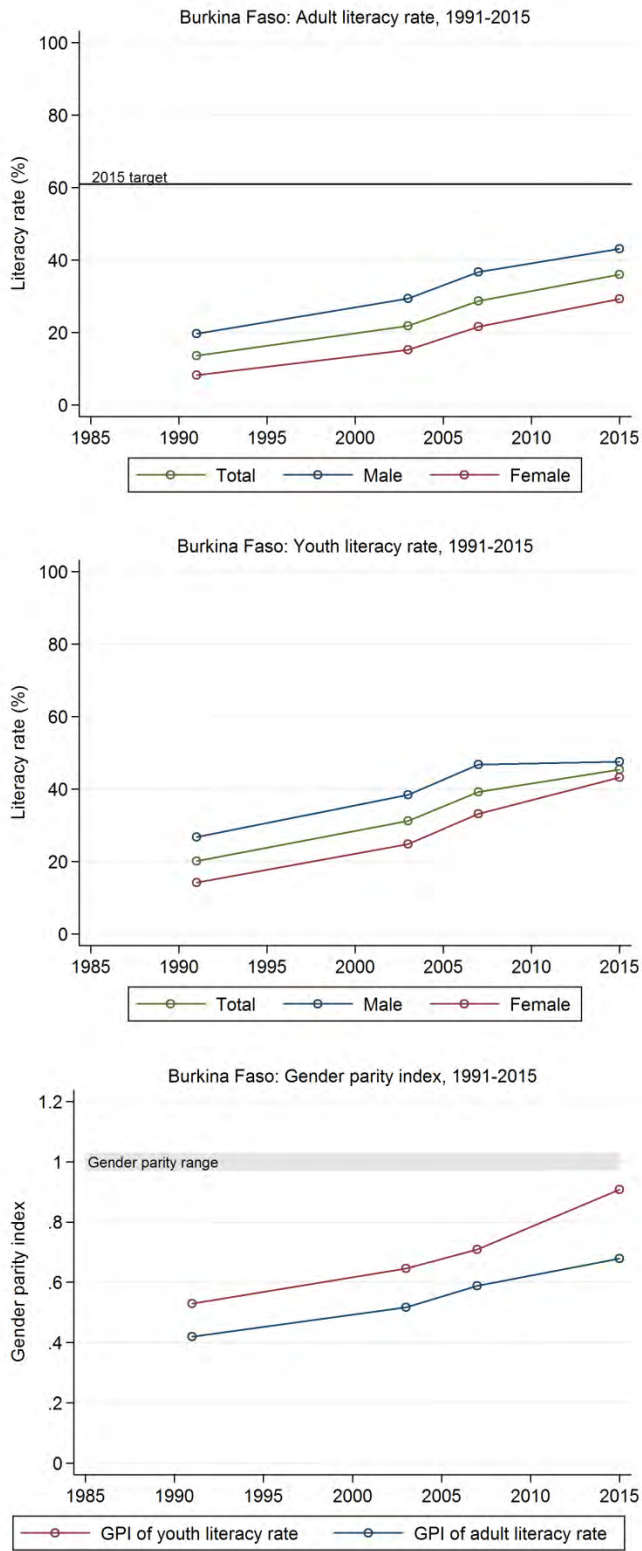
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 15: Brazil



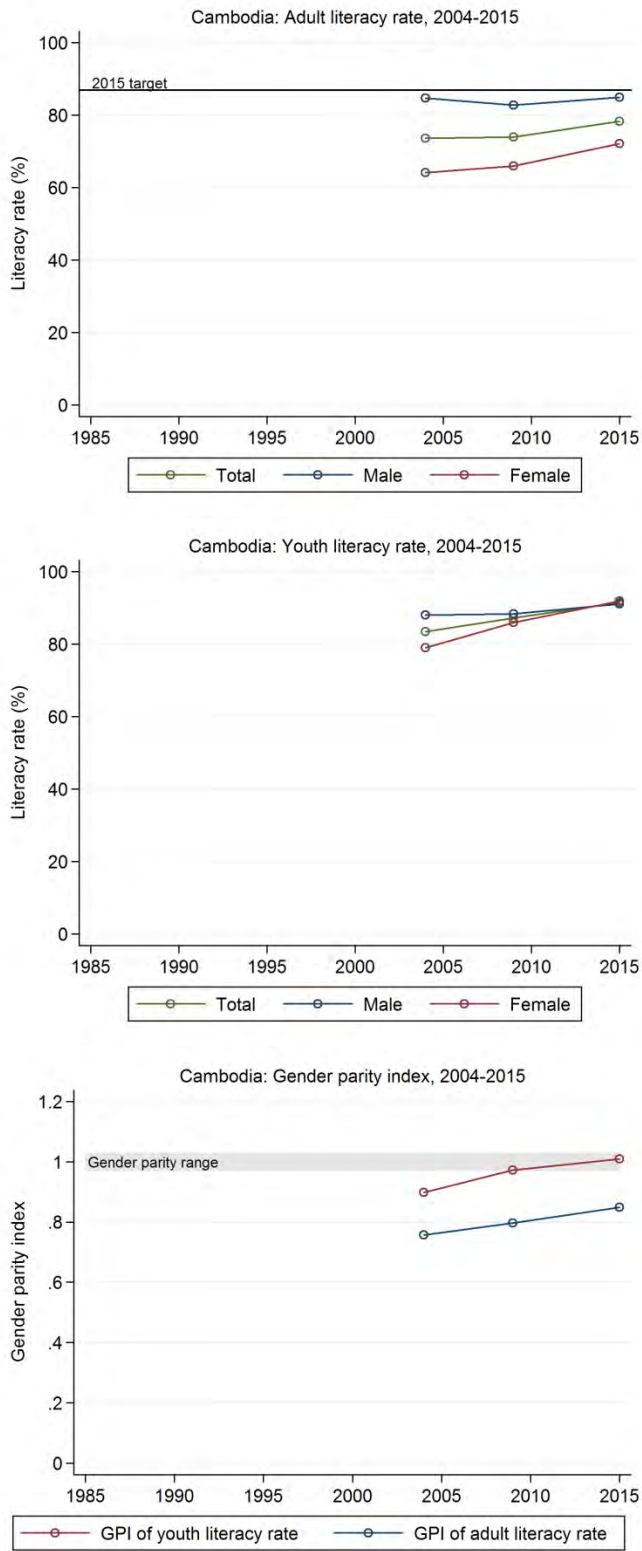
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 16: Burkina Faso



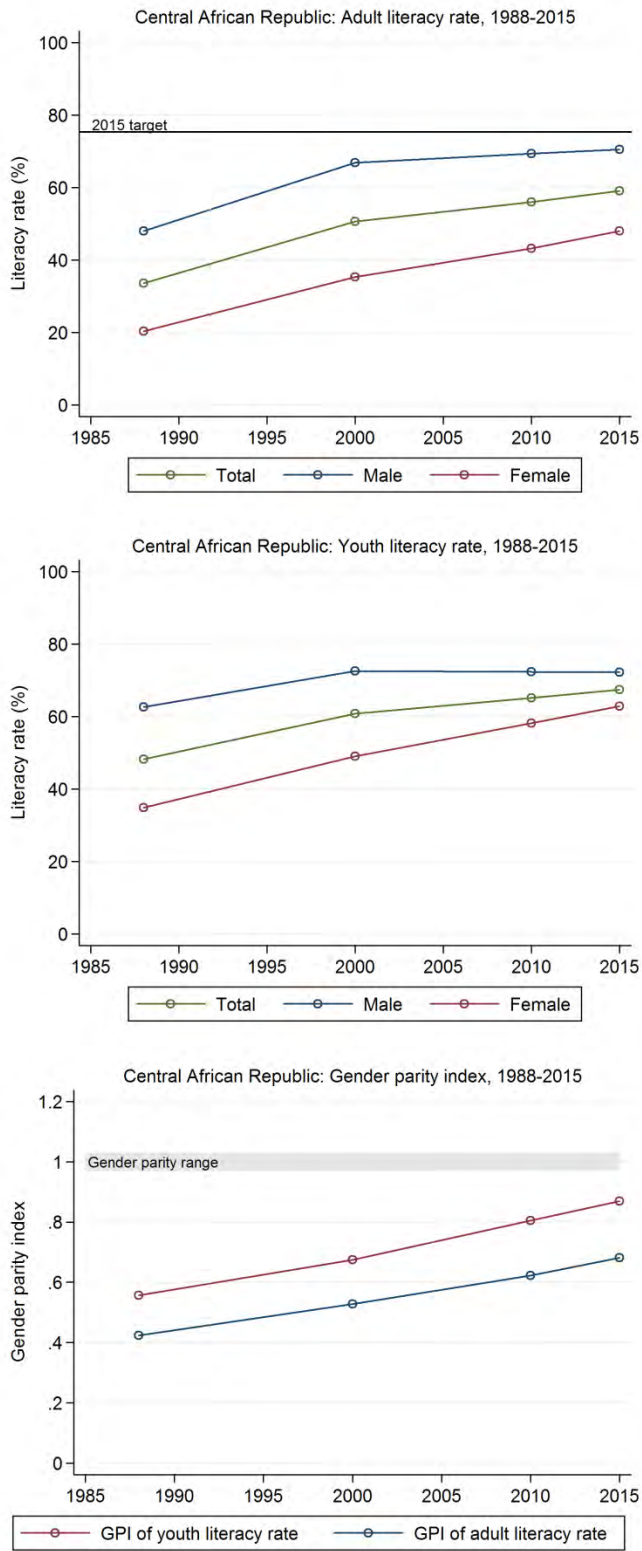
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 17: Cambodia



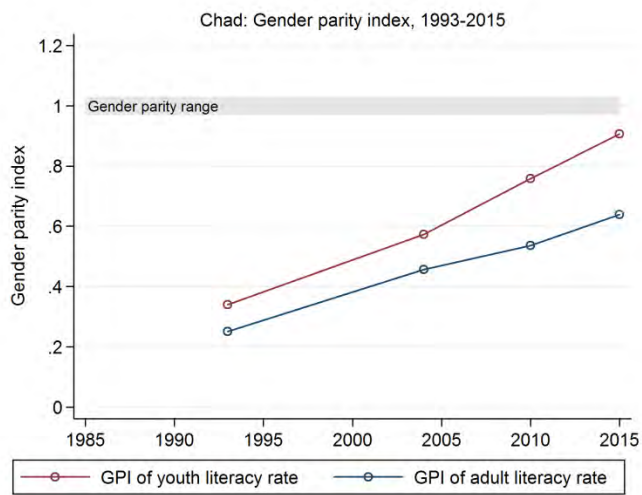
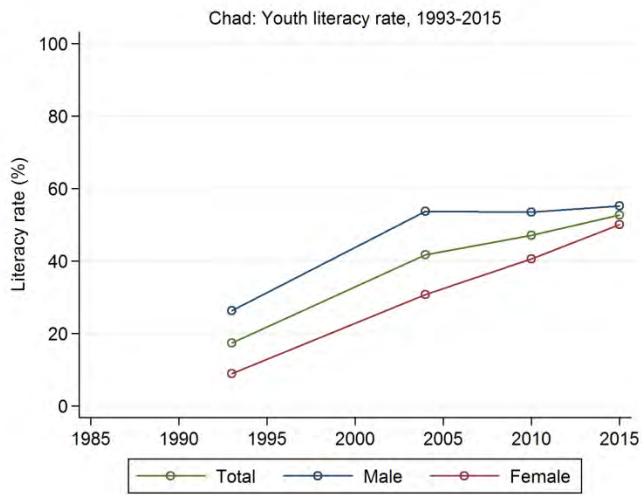
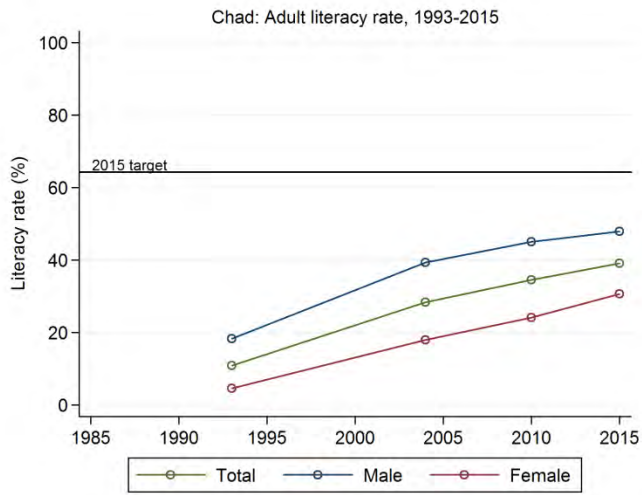
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 18: Central African Republic



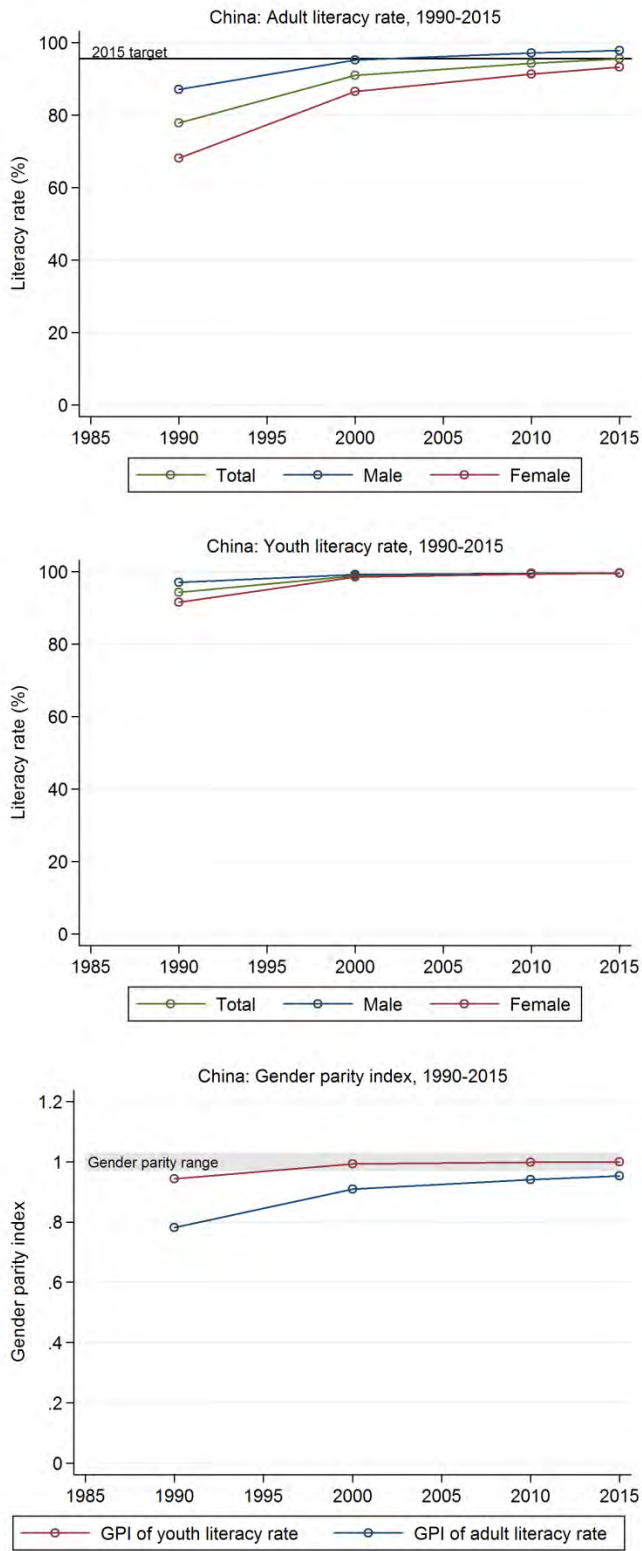
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 19: Chad



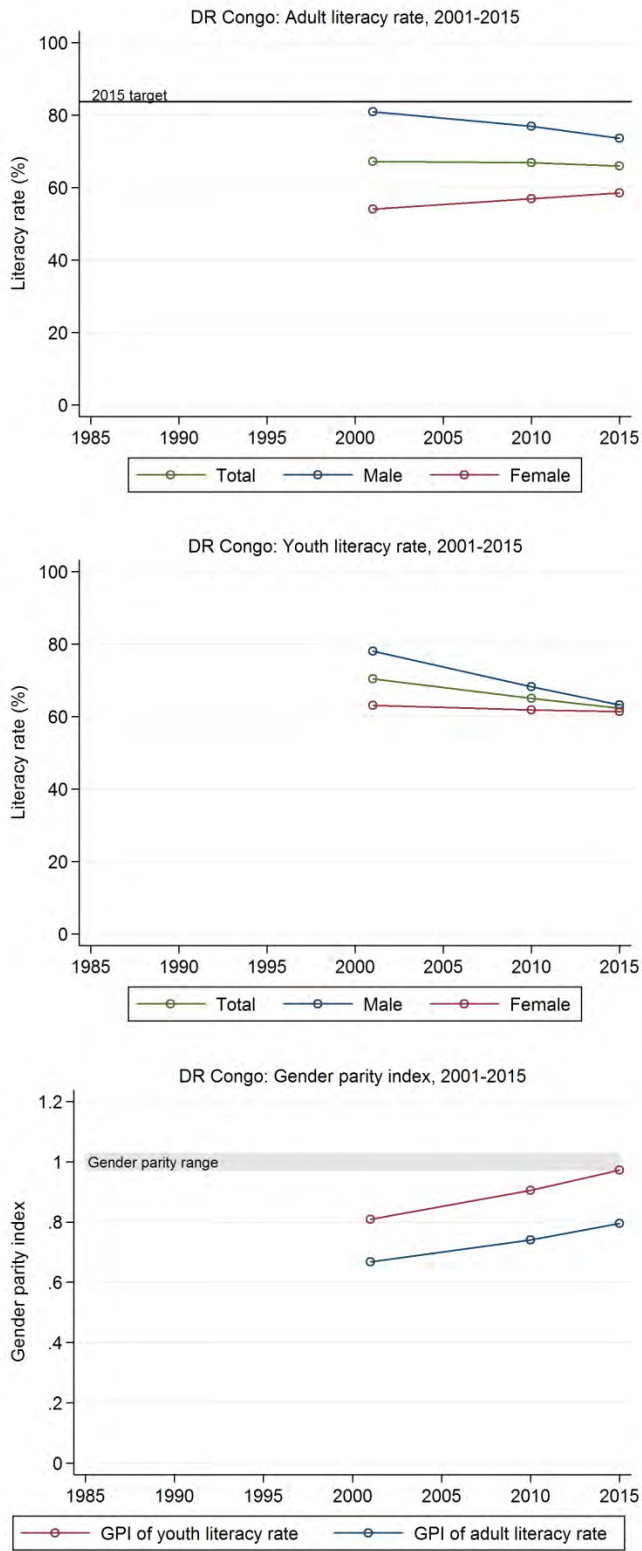
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 20: China



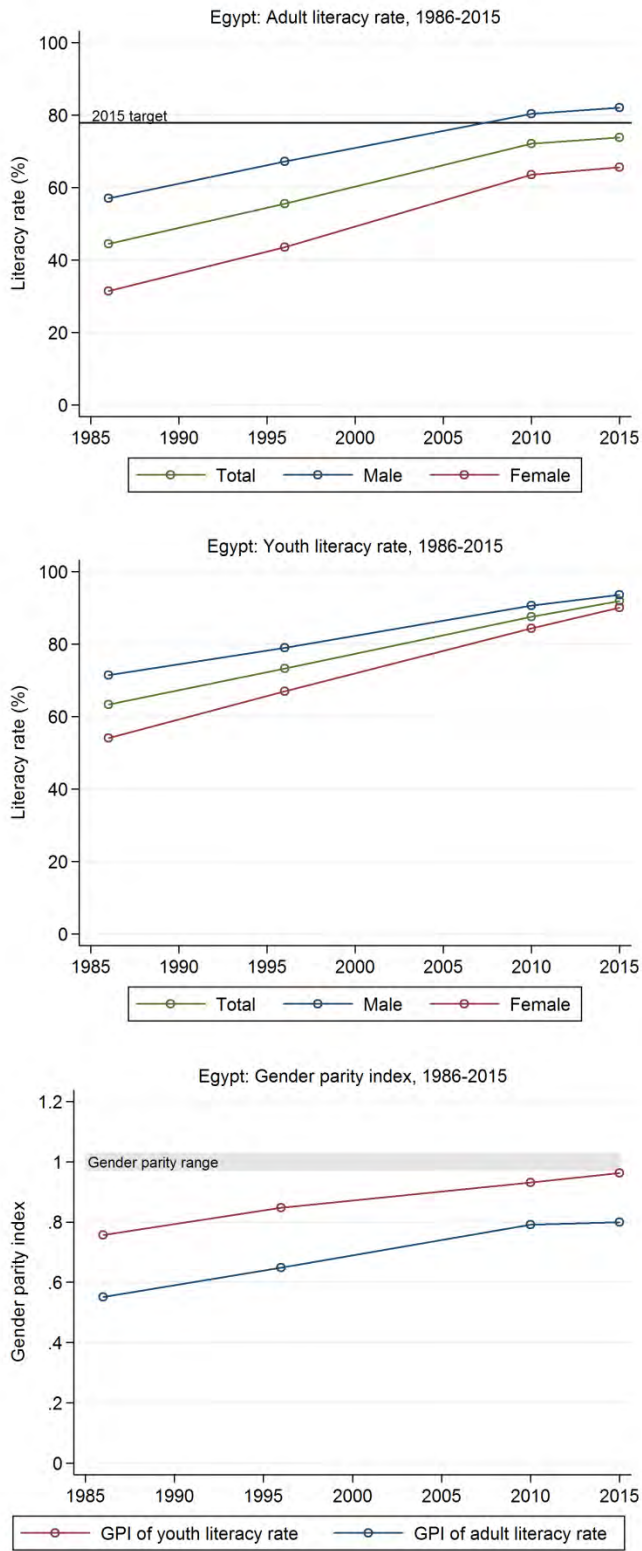
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 21: Democratic Republic of the Congo



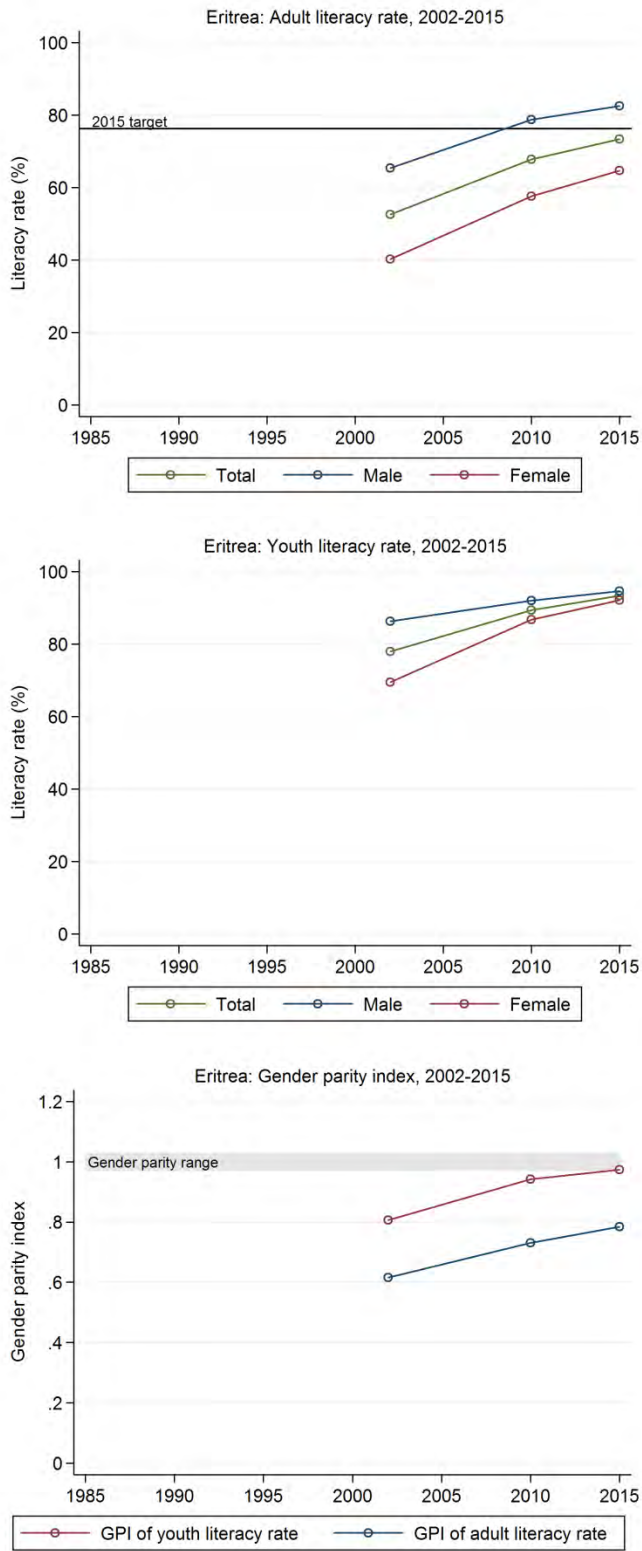
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 22: Egypt



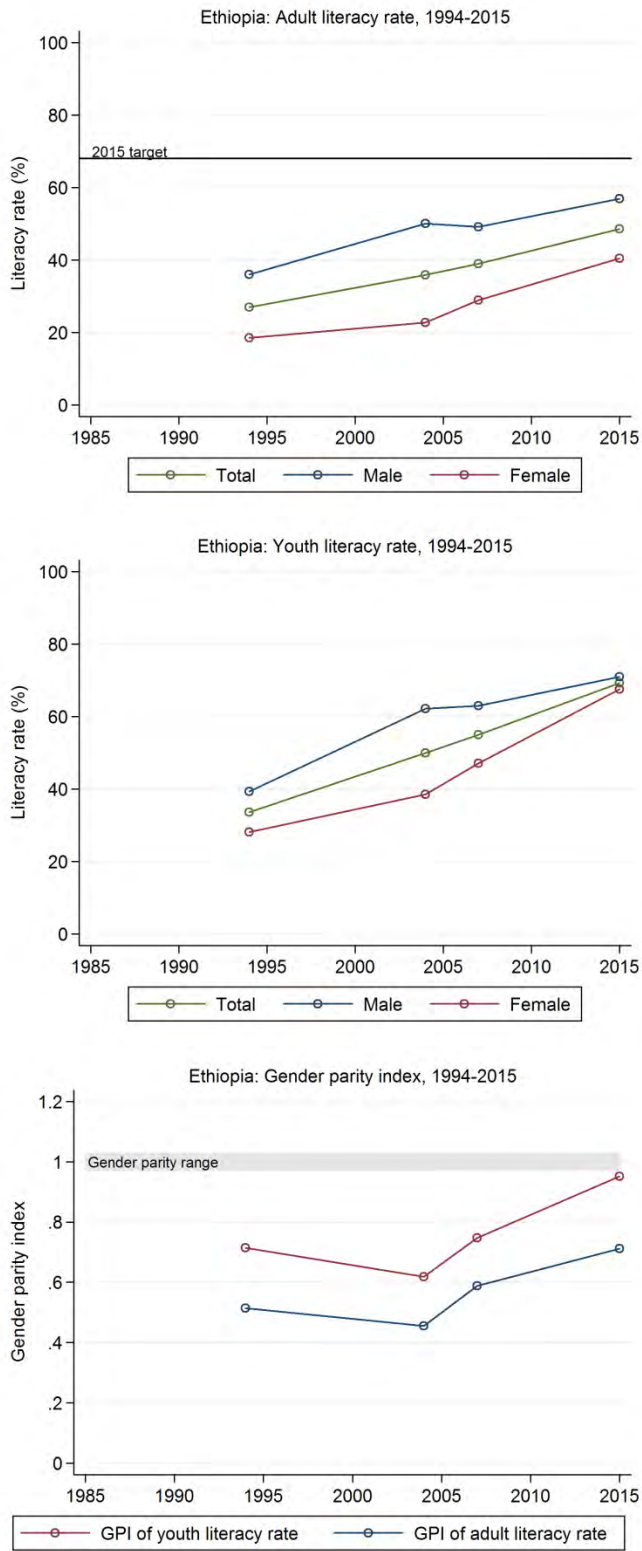
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 23: Eritrea



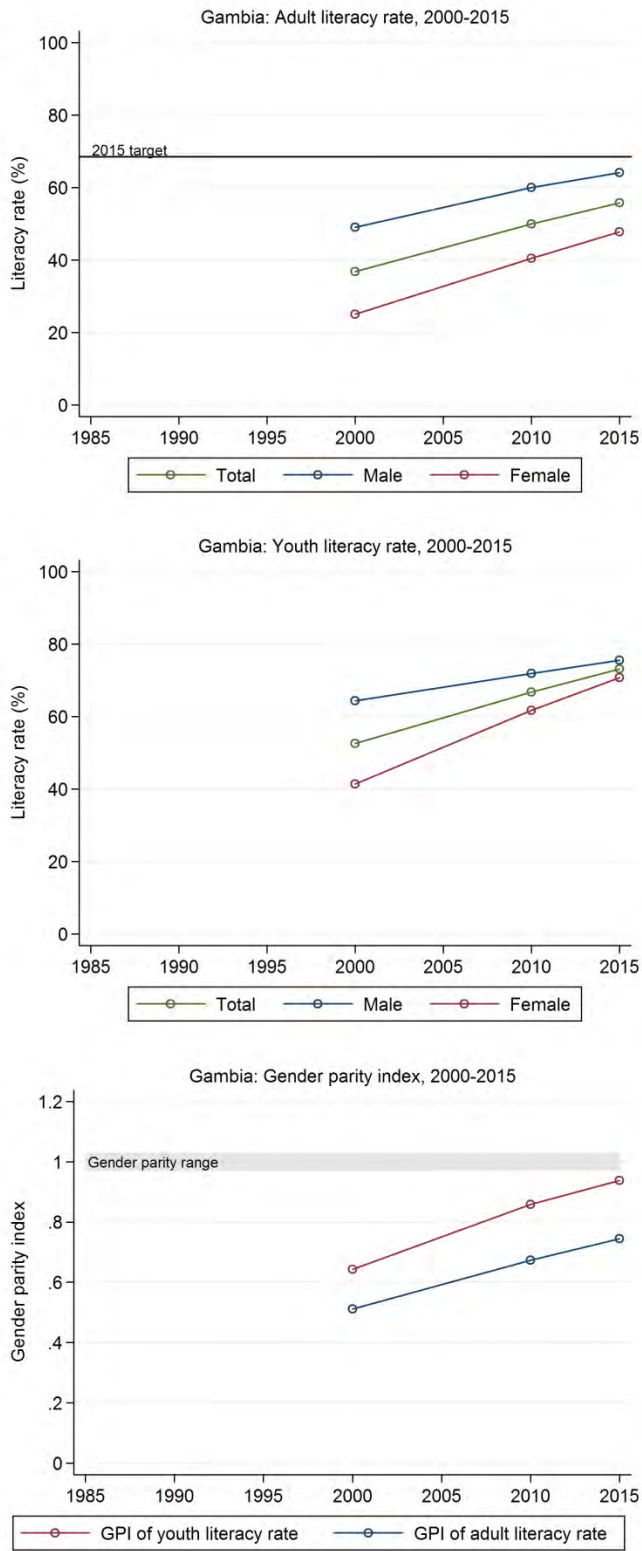
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 24: Ethiopia



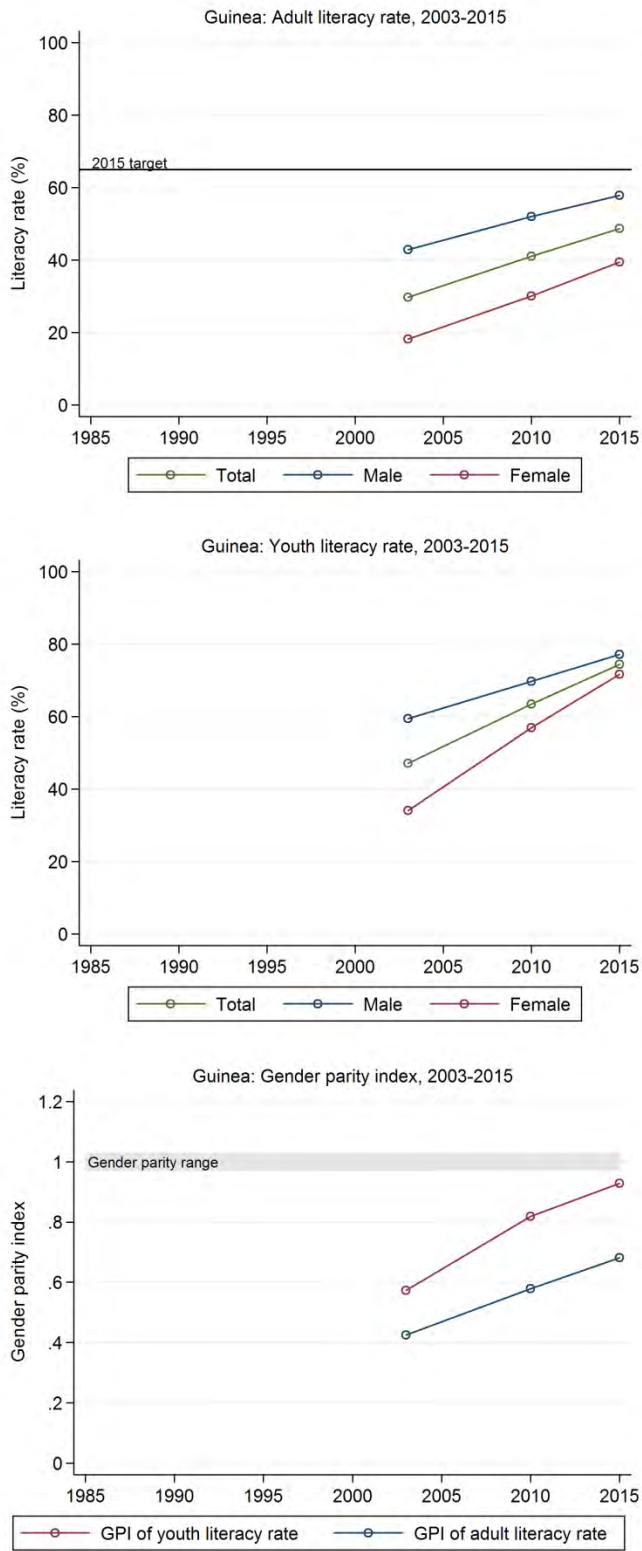
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 25: Gambia



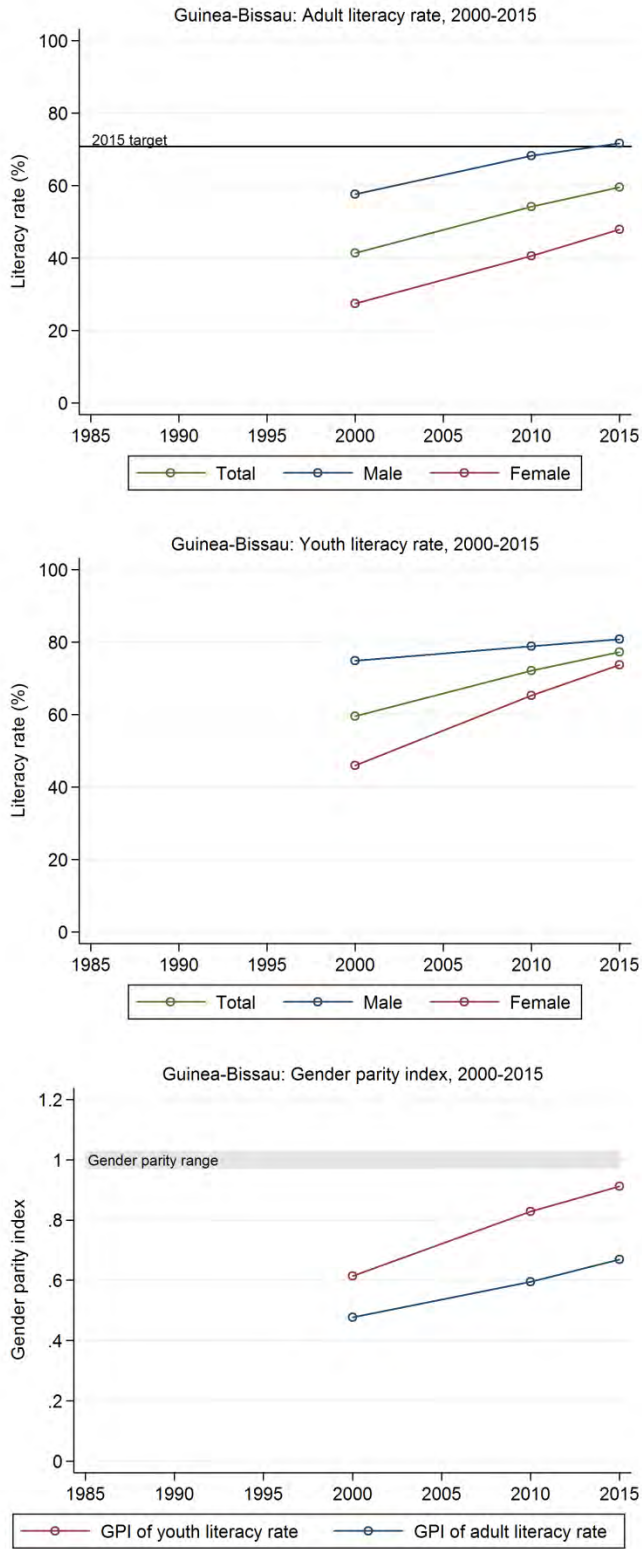
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 26: Guinea



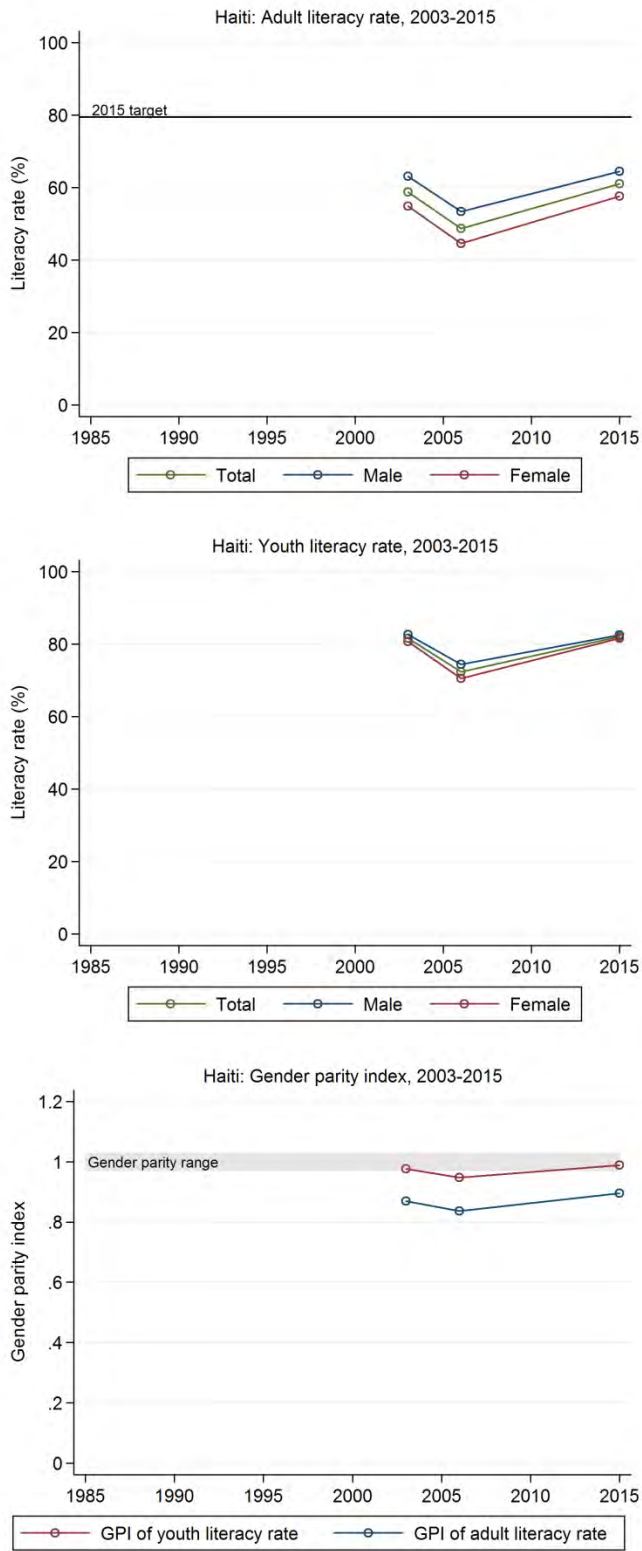
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 27: Guinea-Bissau



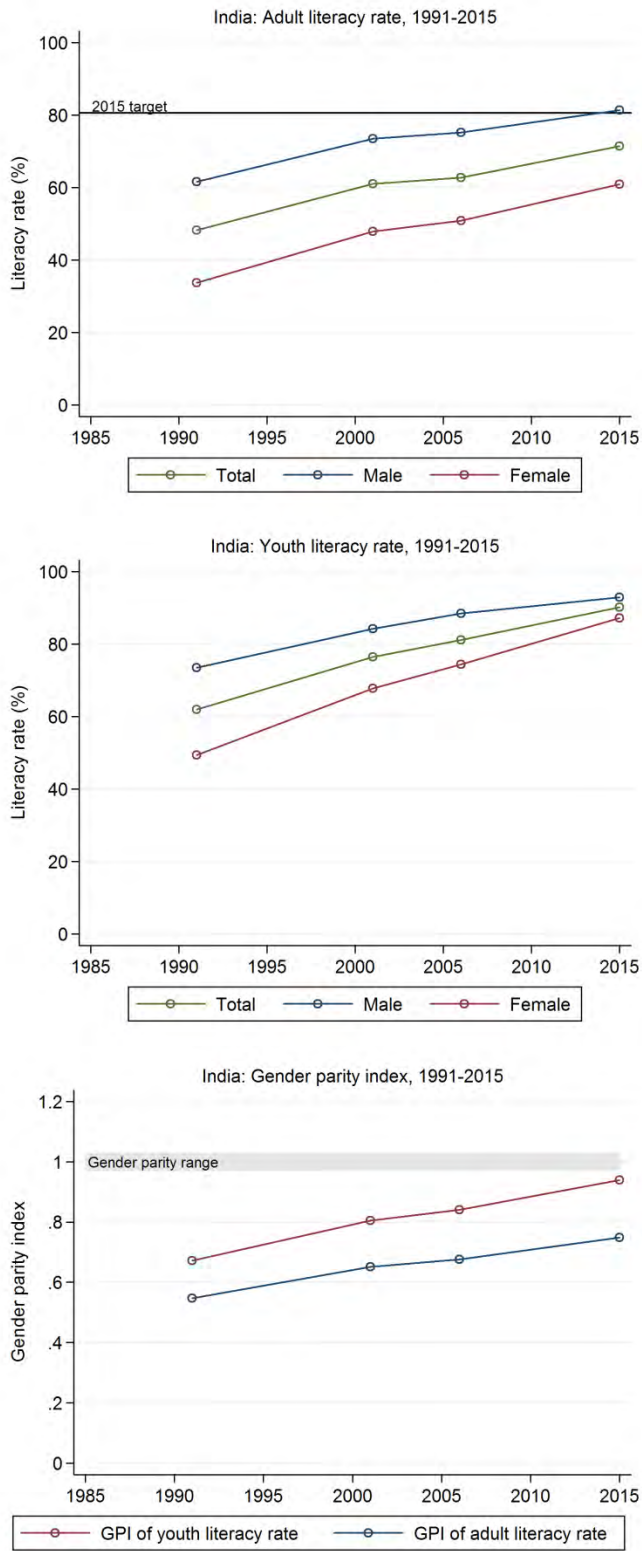
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 28: Haiti



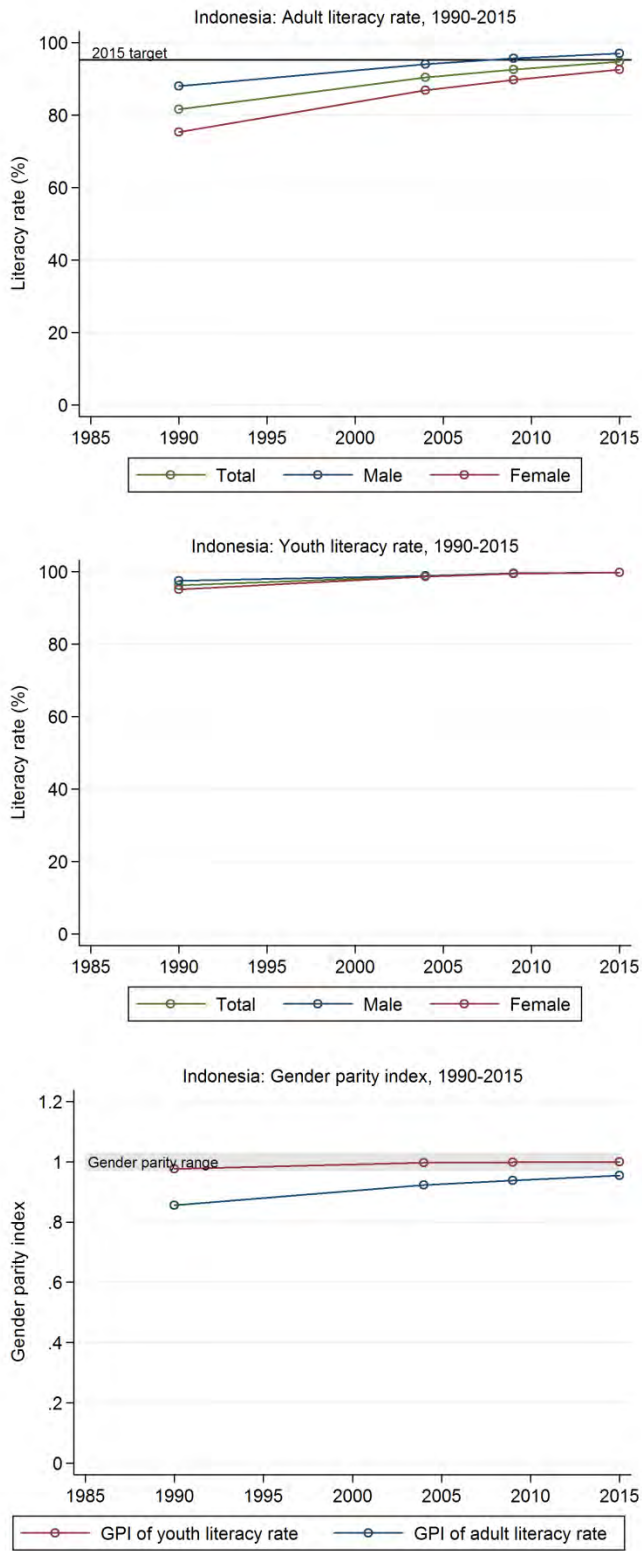
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 29: India



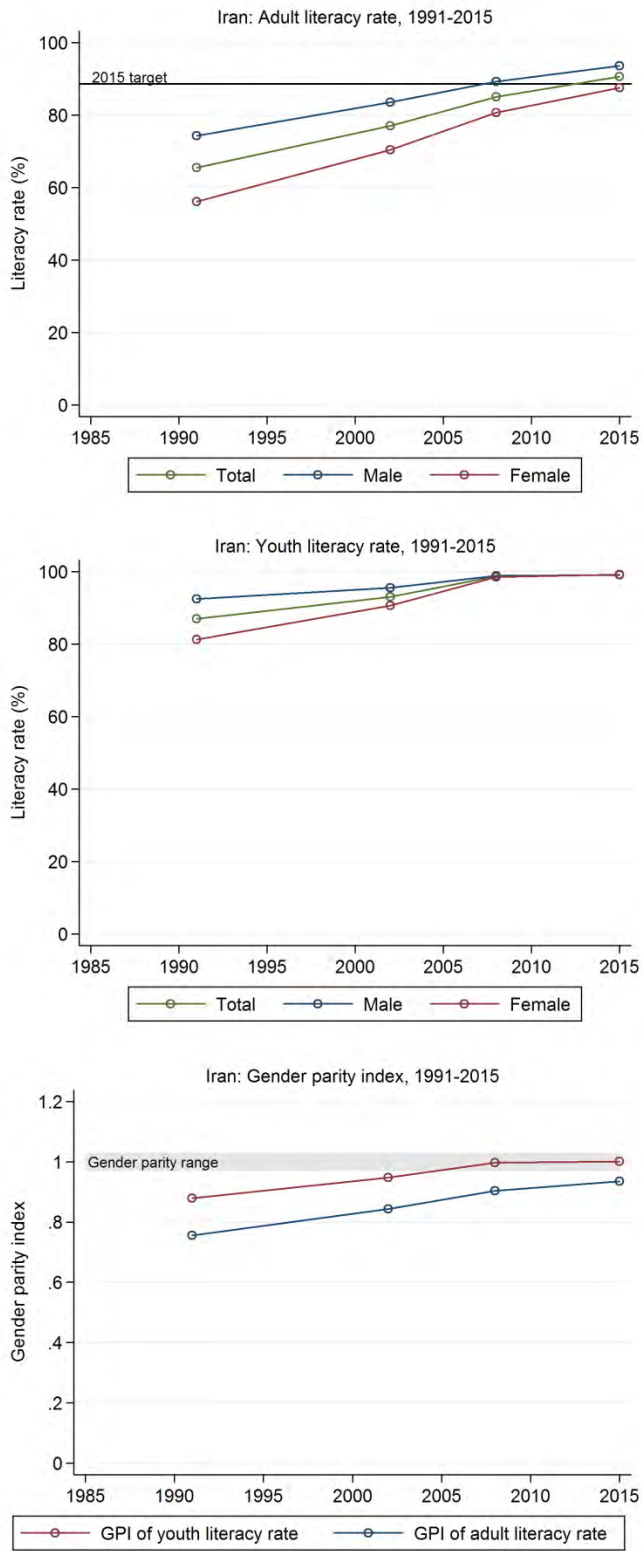
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 30: Indonesia



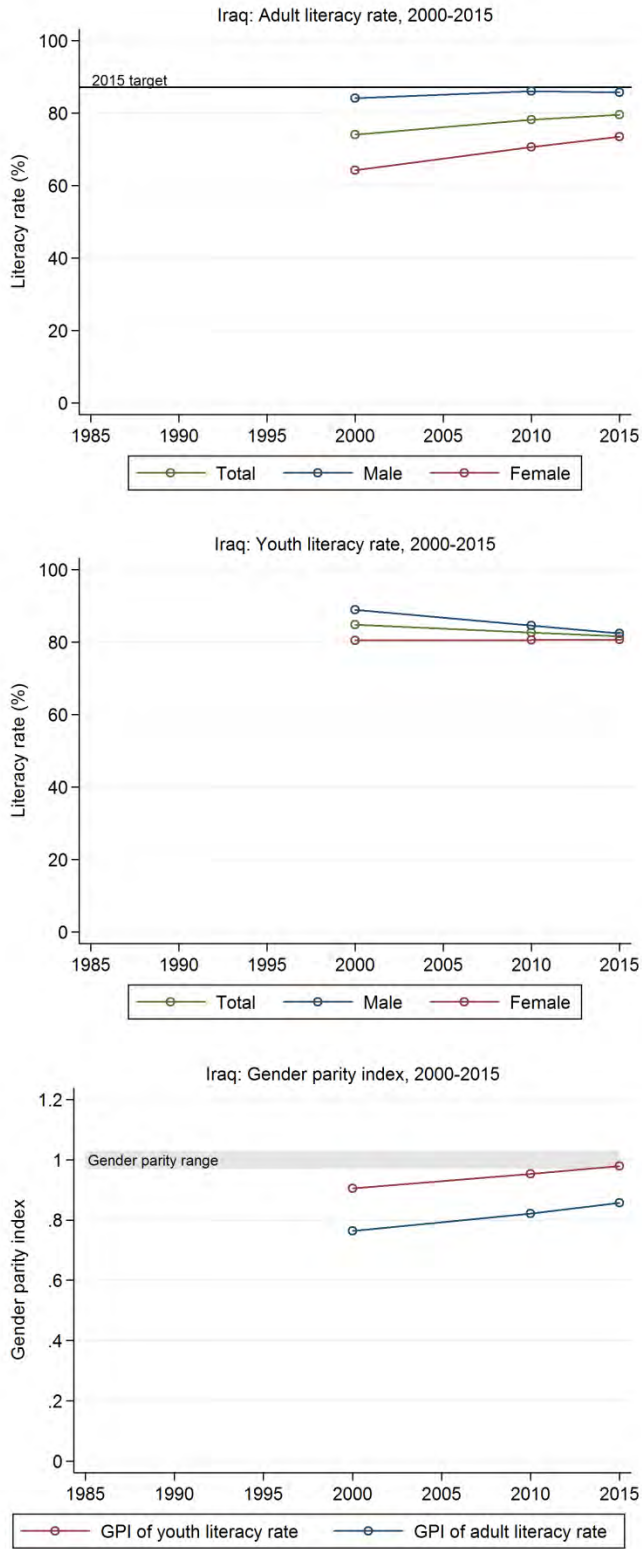
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 31: Iran (Islamic Republic of)



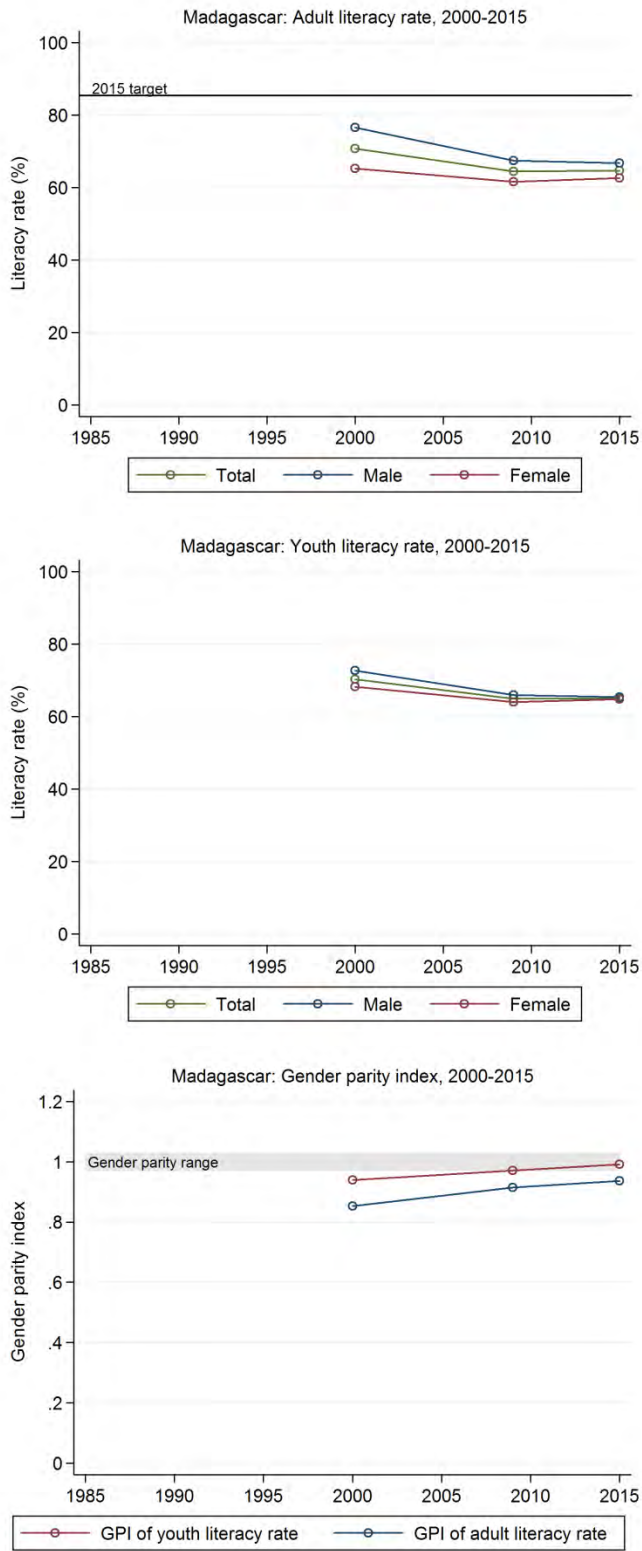
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 32: Iraq



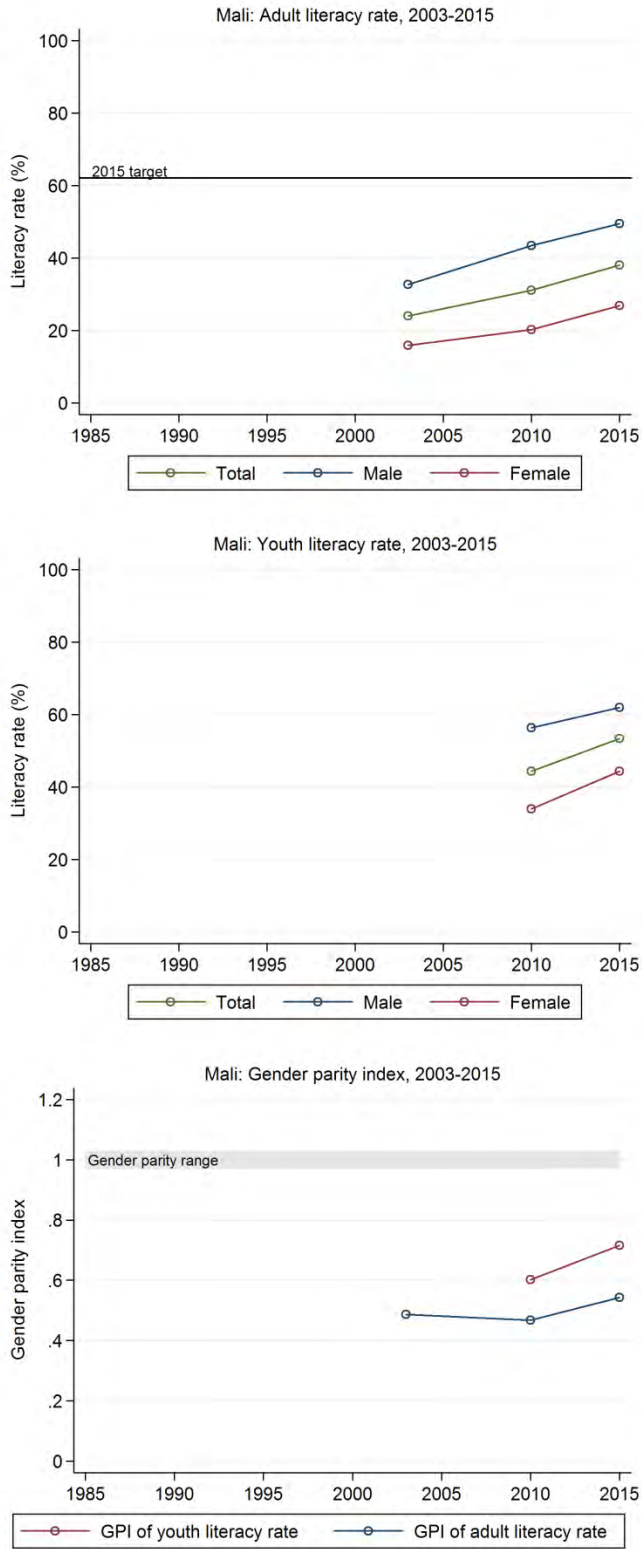
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 33: Madagascar



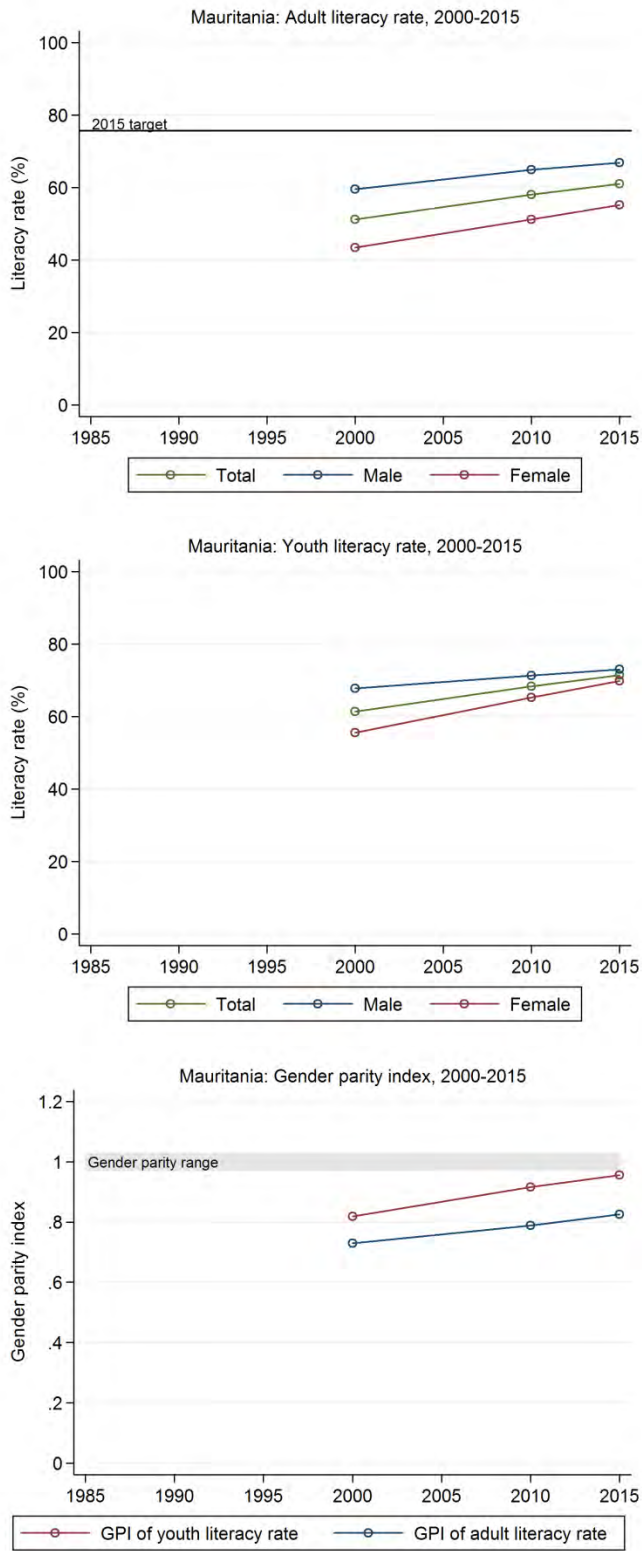
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 34: Mali



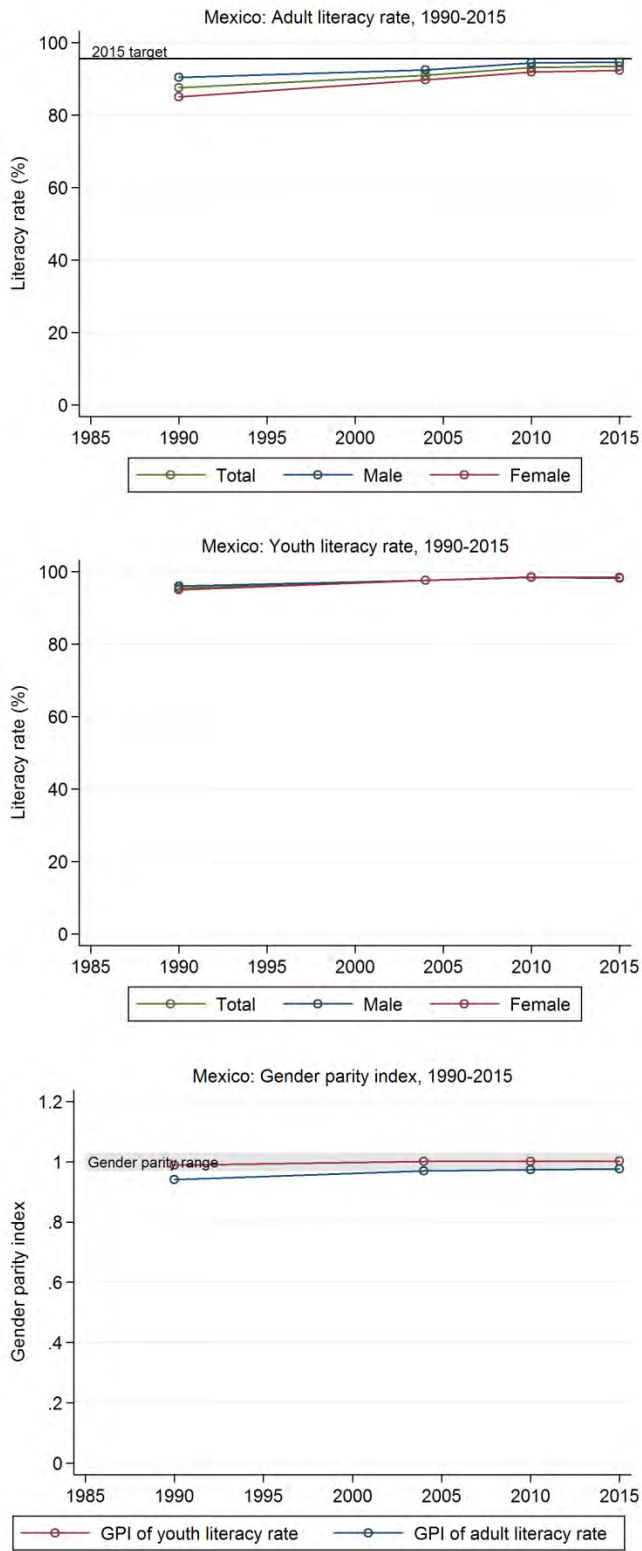
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 35: Mauritania



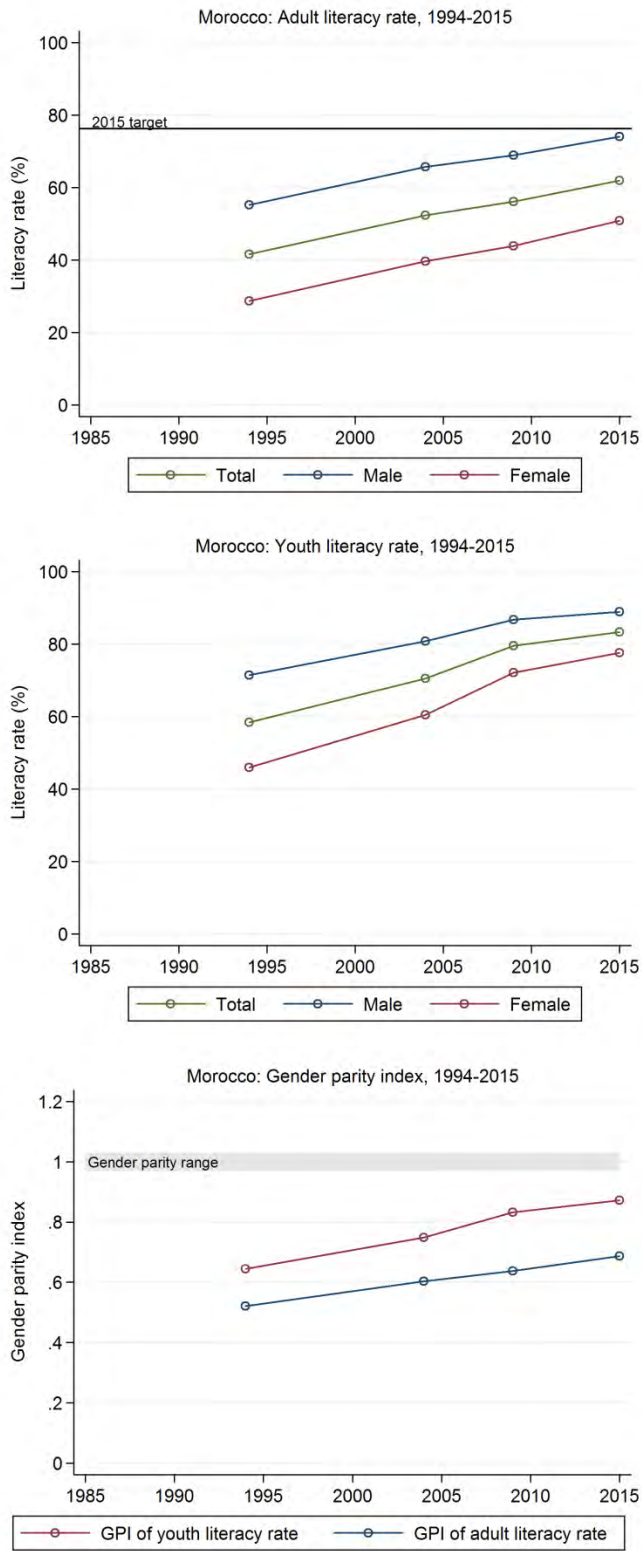
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 36: Mexico



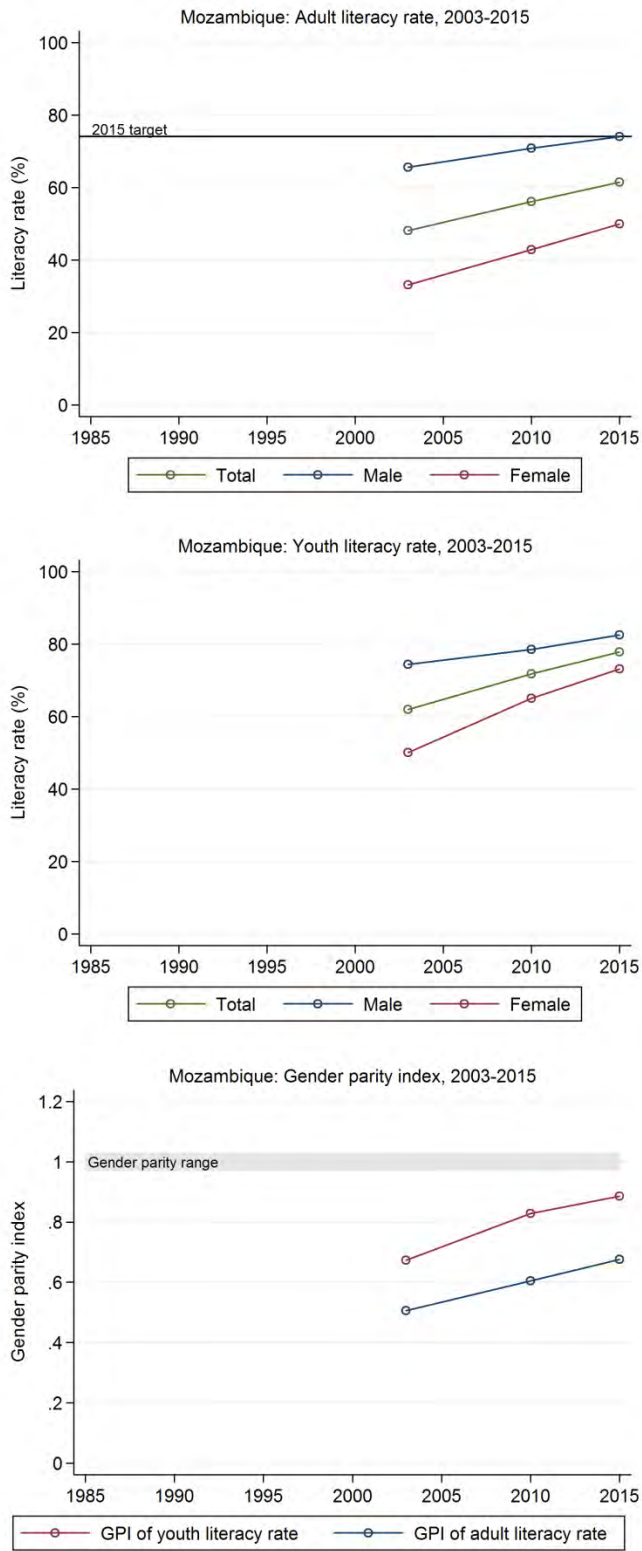
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 37: Morocco



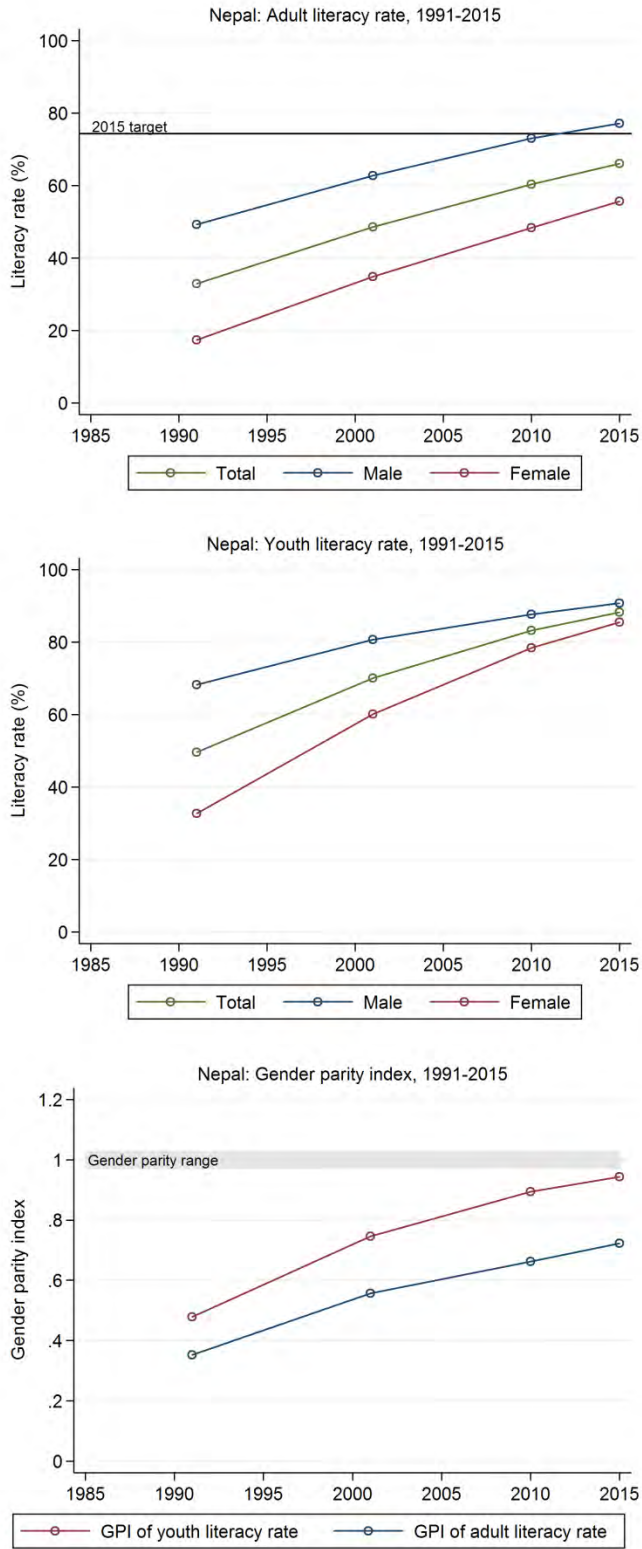
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 38: Mozambique



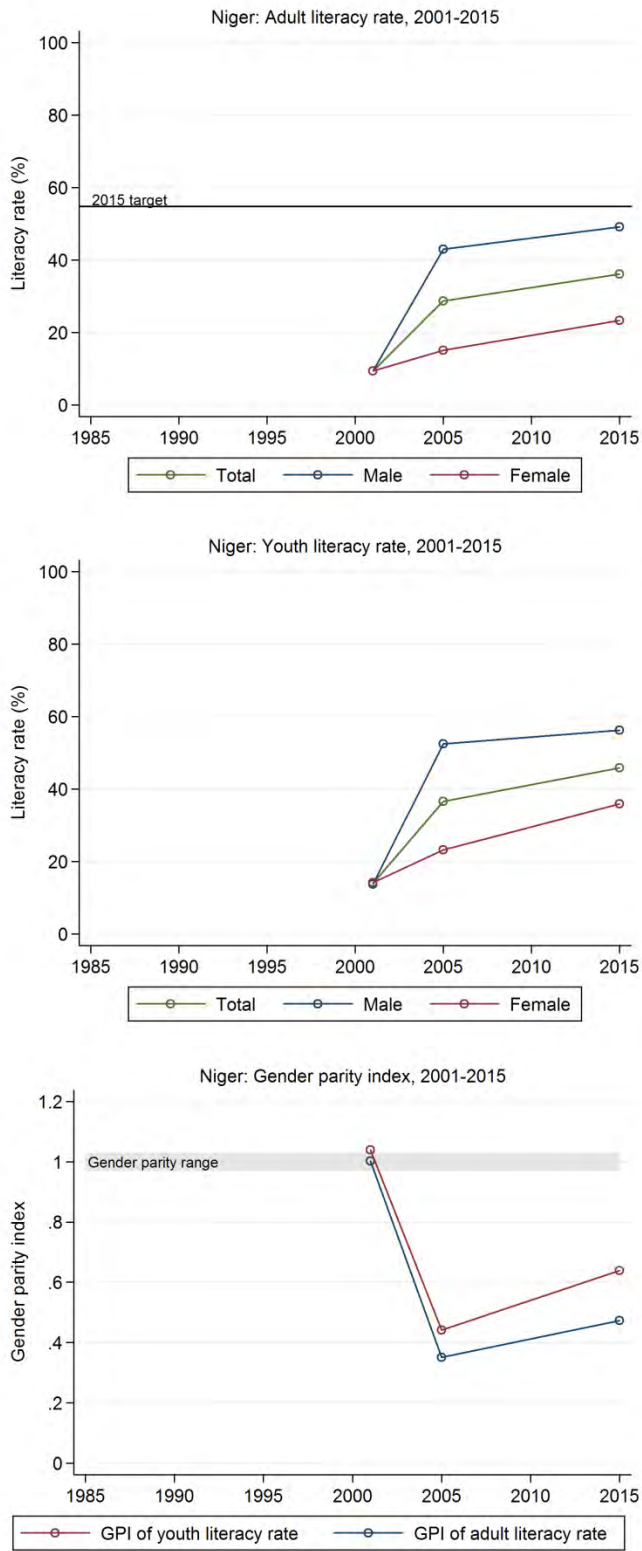
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 39: Nepal



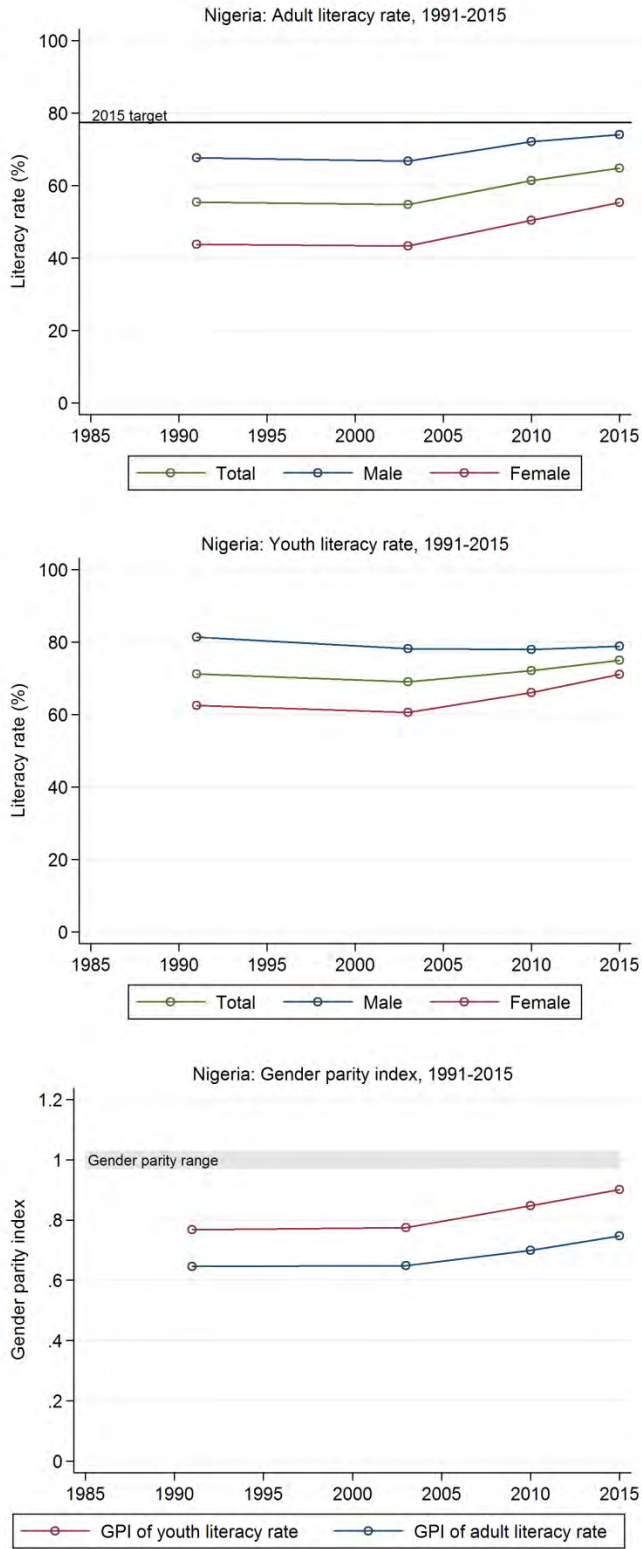
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 40: Niger



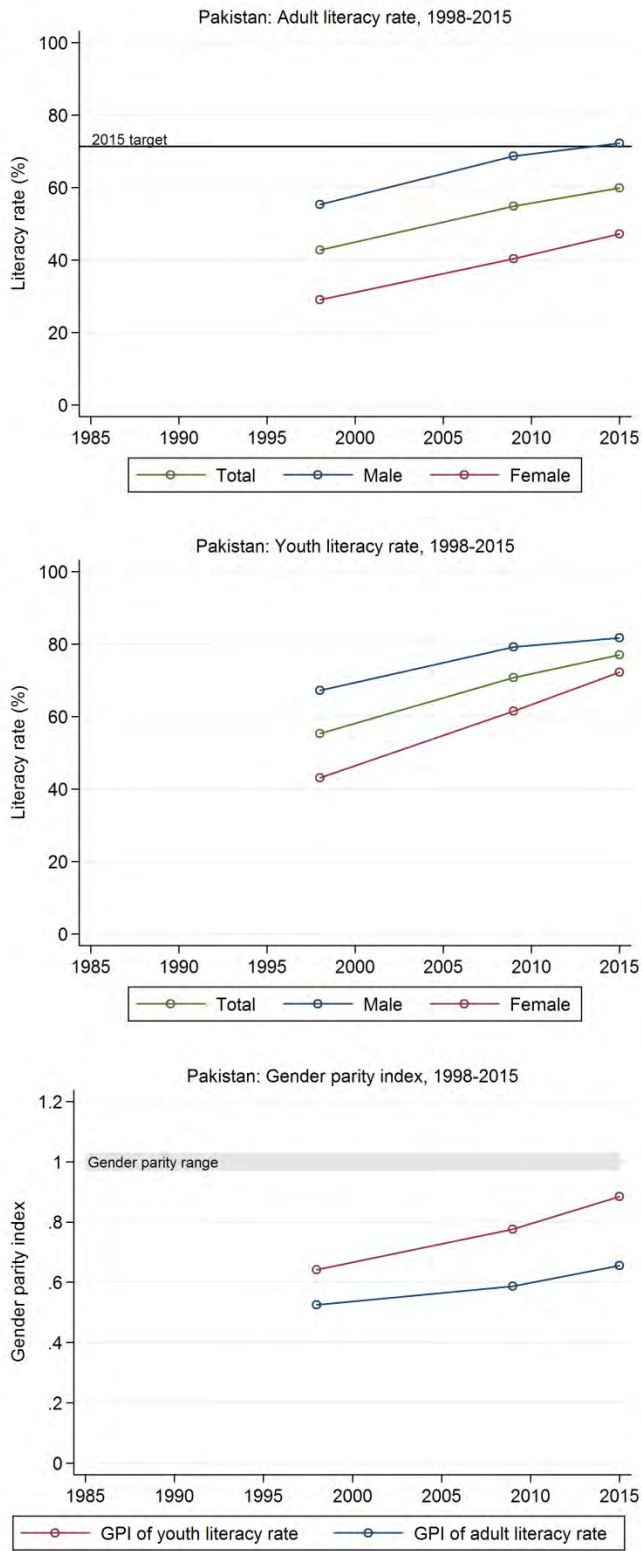
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 41: Nigeria



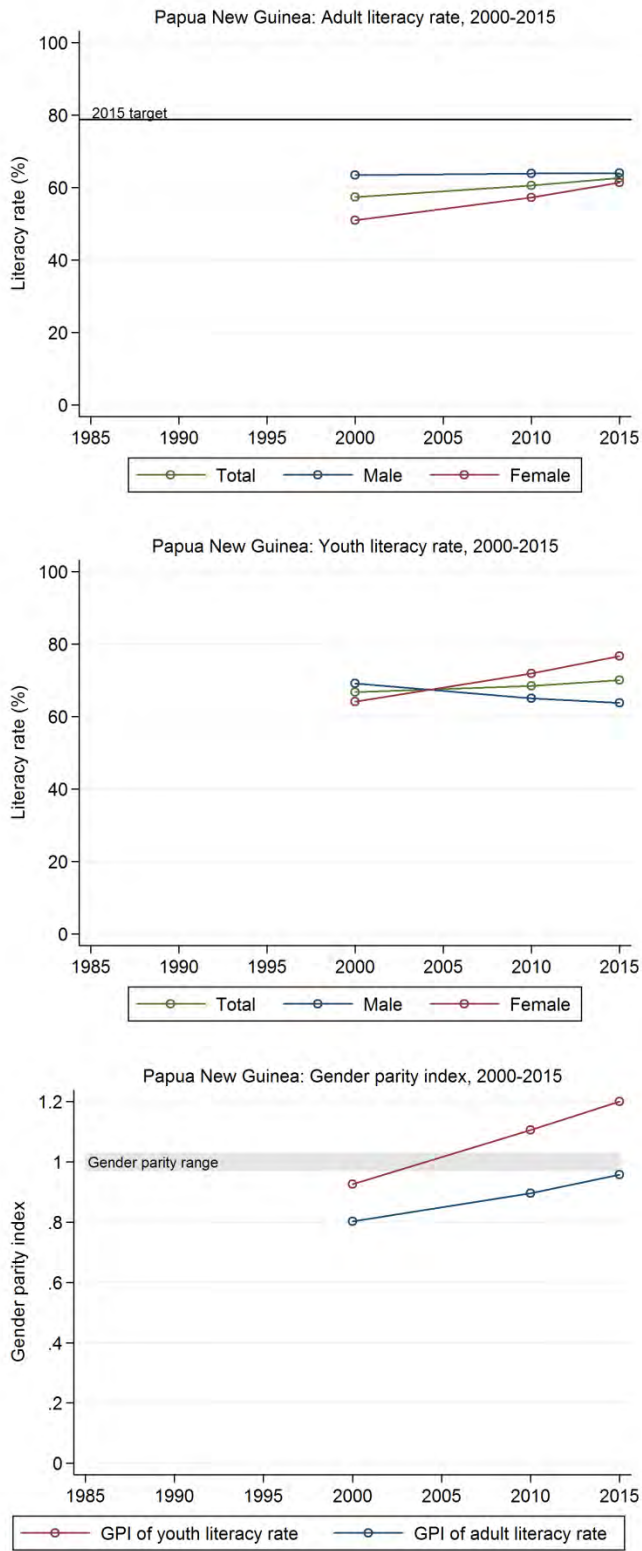
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 42: Pakistan



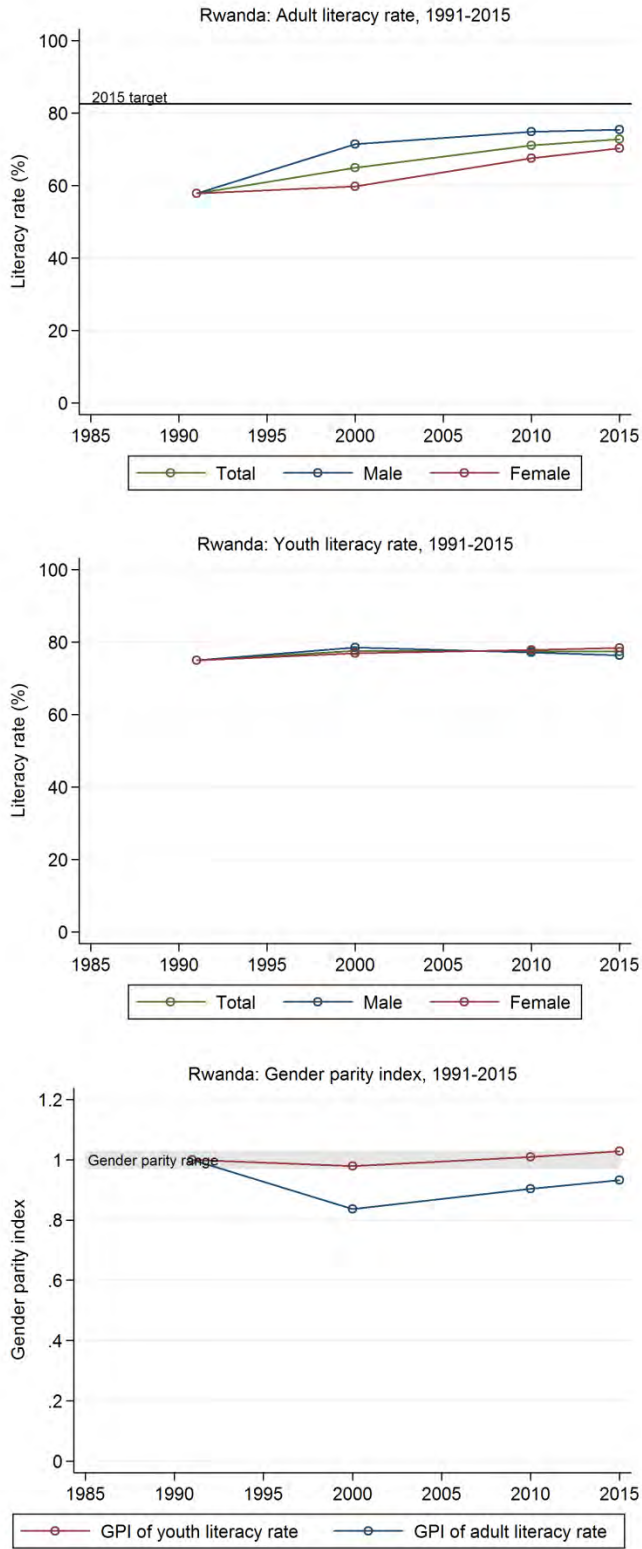
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 43: Papua New Guinea



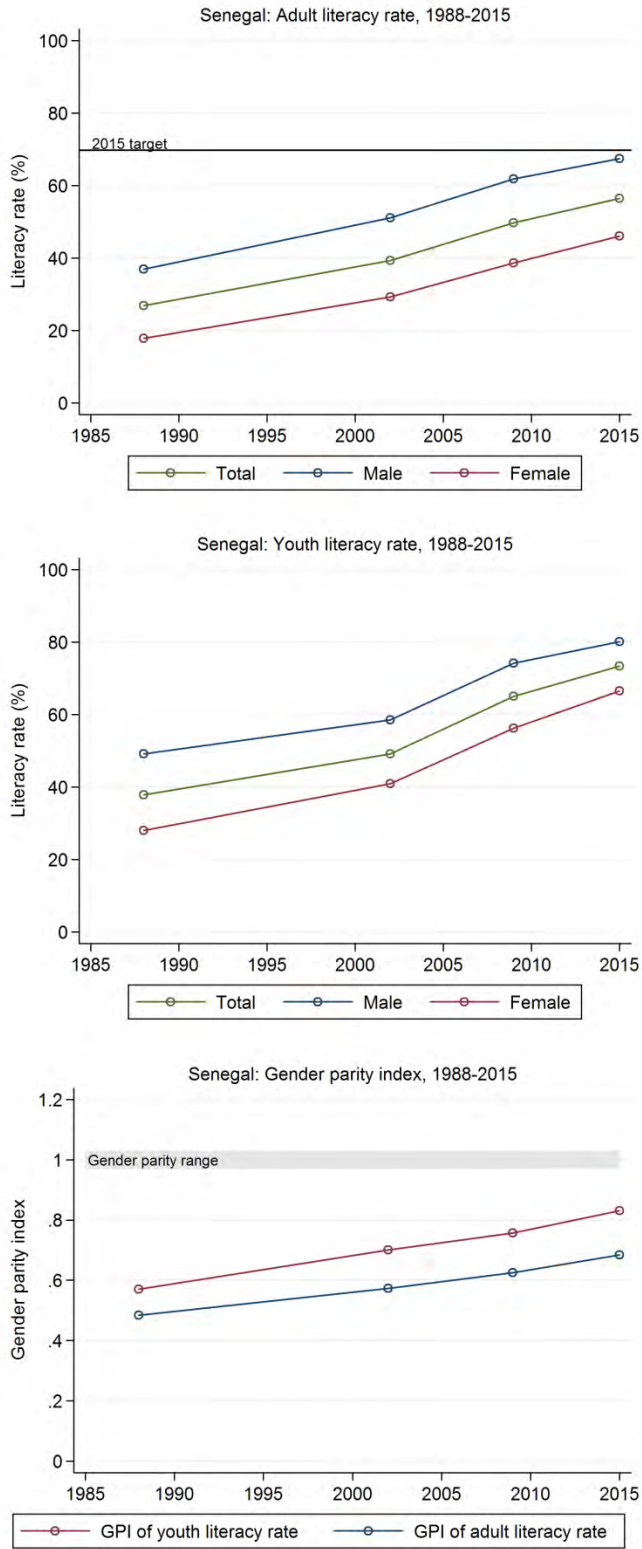
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 44: Rwanda



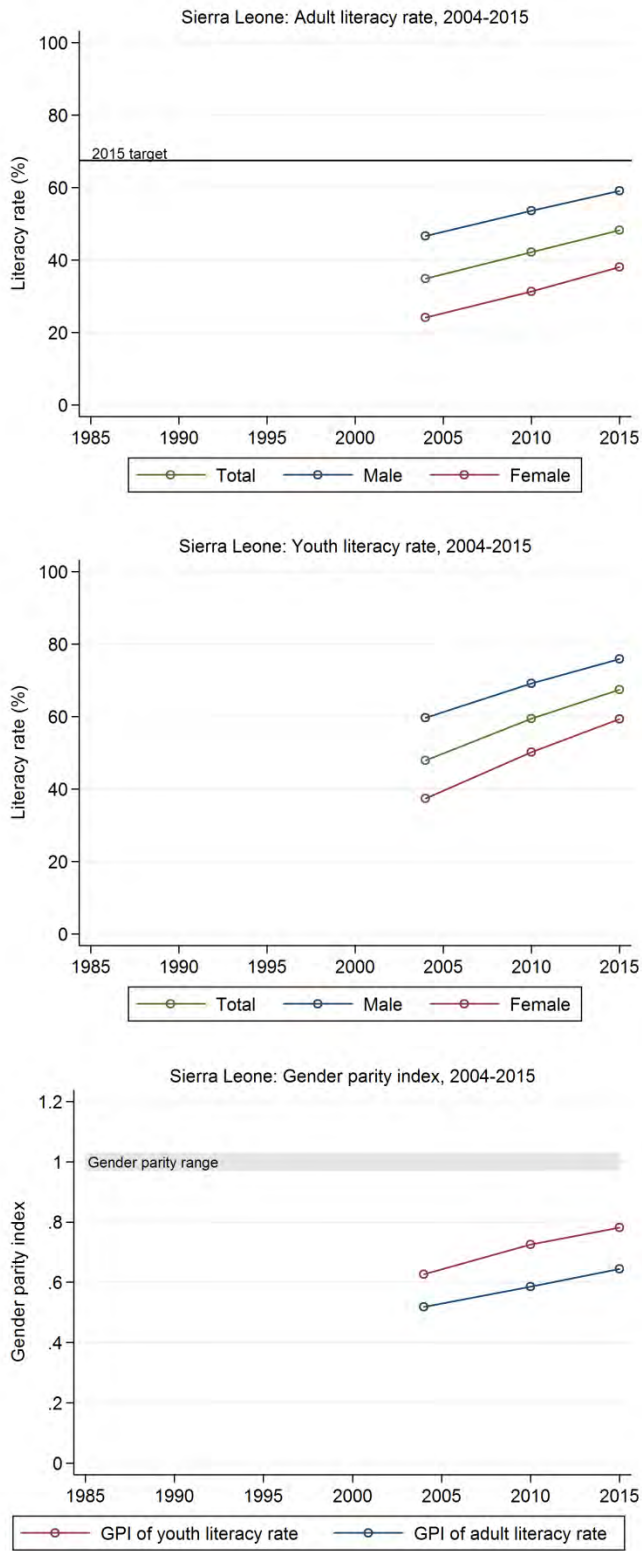
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 45: Senegal



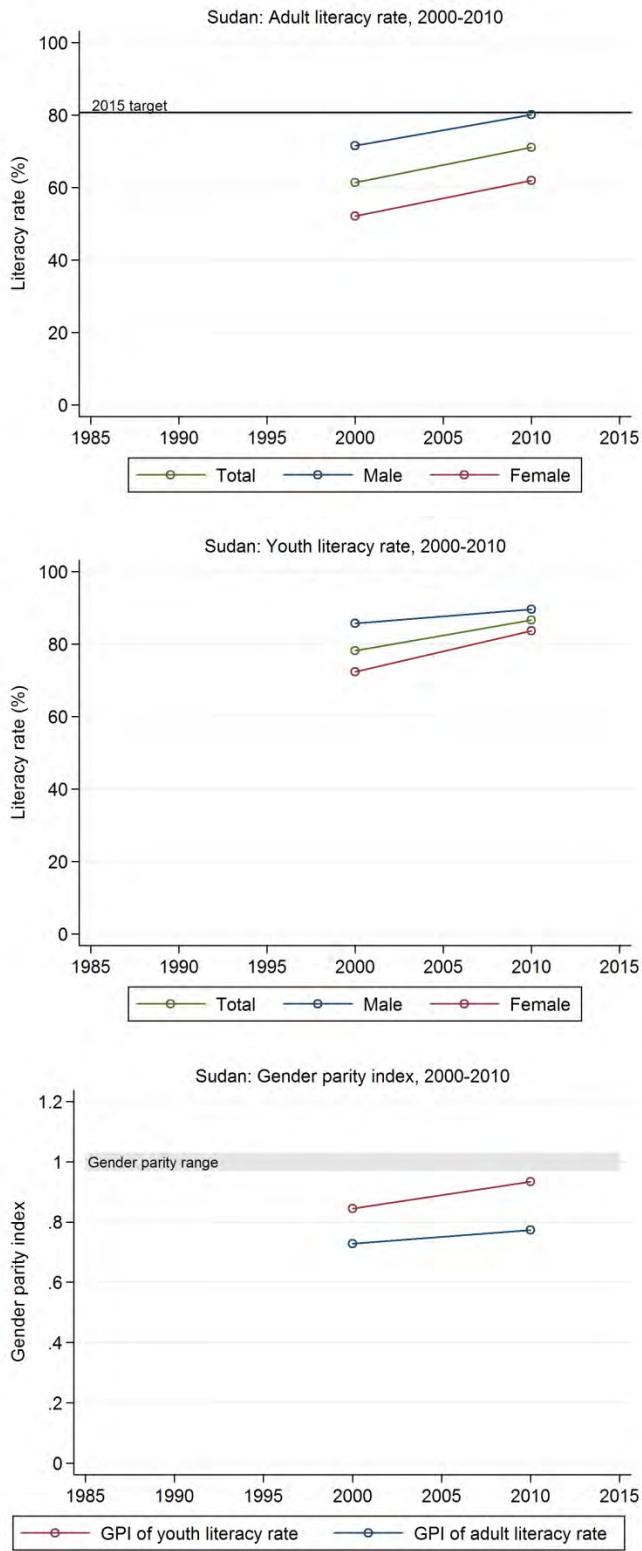
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 46: Sierra Leone



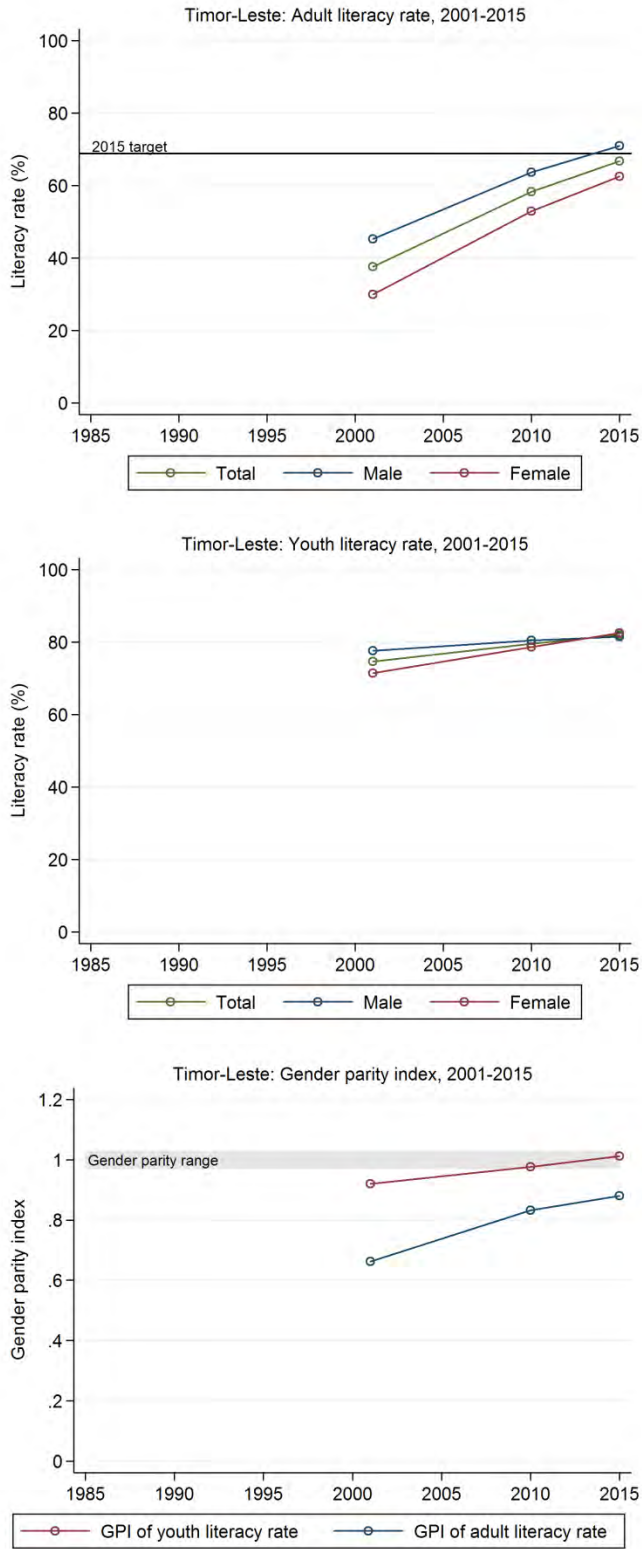
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 47: Sudan



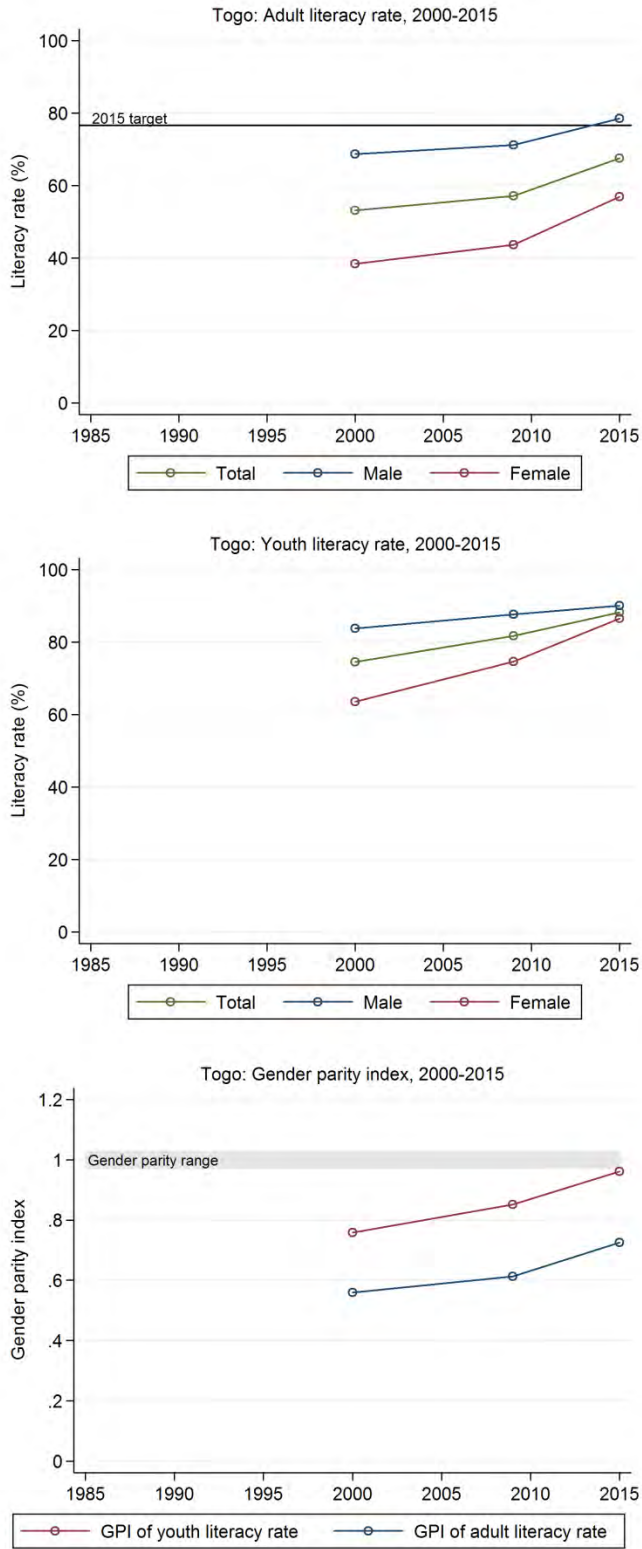
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 48: Timor-Leste



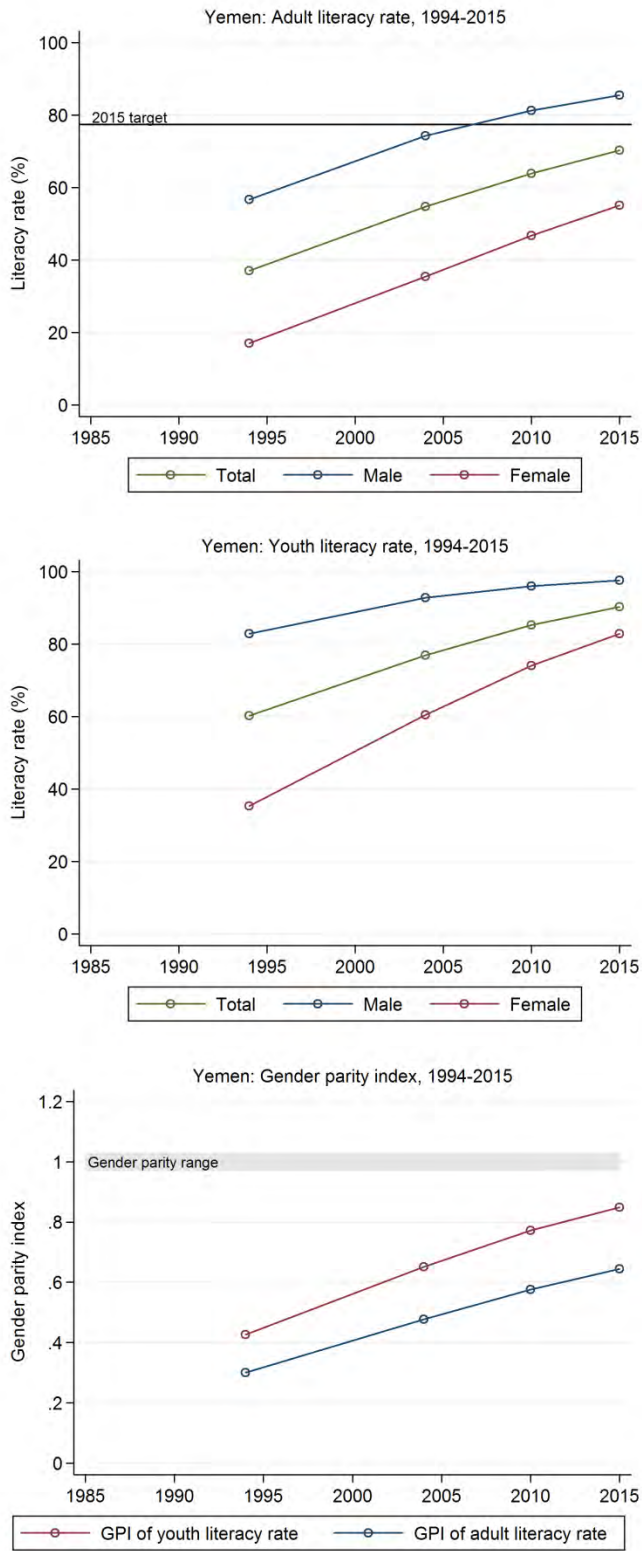
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 49: Togo



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.

Figure 50: Yemen



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2012.