

Fact Sheet October 2012

Education in Kenya

Progress towards the six Education for All goals in Kenya, Sub-Saharan Africa and the World

Indicator	Kenya		Sub-Saharan Africa	World
	1999	2010	2010	2010
Goal 1 Pre-primary gross enrolment ratio (%)	43	52	17	48
Goal 2 Primary net enrolment ratio (%)	62	83	76	89
Out of school children (million)	1.98	1.01	30.6	60.7
Goal 3 Lower secondary gross enrolment ratio (%)	65	91	47	82
Out of school adolescents (million)	...	0.03	21.7	70.6
Goal 4 Adult literacy rate* (%)	...	87	63	84
Youth literacy rate* (%)	...	93	72	90
Goal 5 Primary gender parity index	0.97	0.98	0.93	0.97
Secondary gender parity index	0.96	0.90	0.82	0.97
Goal 6 Primary pupil-teacher ratio	32	47	43	24

* Progress is reported for the periods 1985/94 (left column) and 2005/10 (right column).

Source:UIS Database

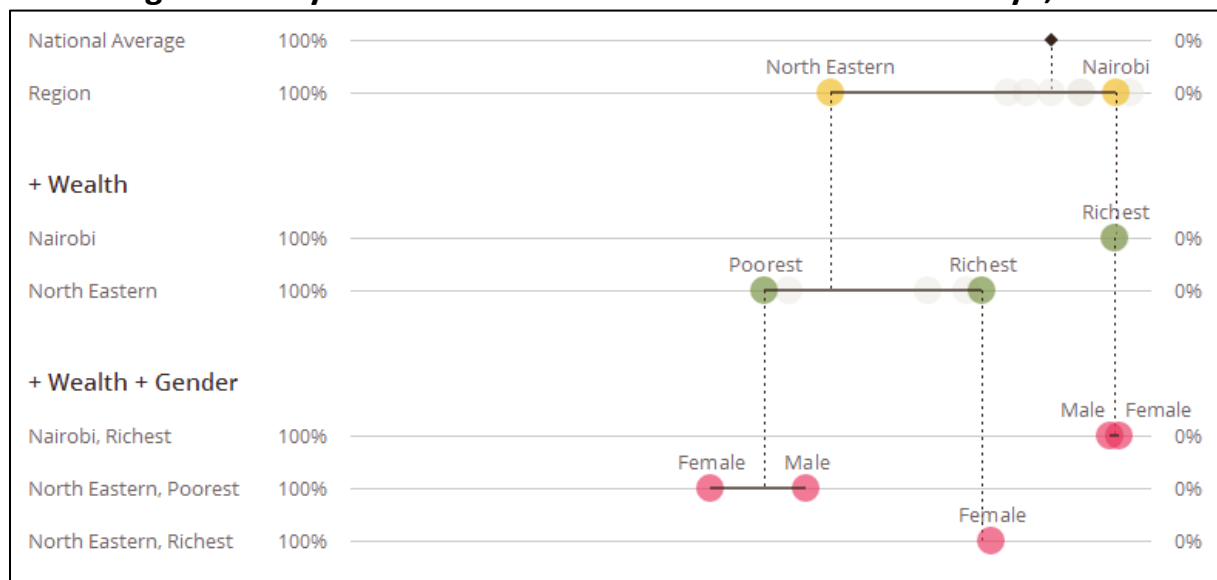
Despite progress, millions are still denied the chance to go to school

- One million children are still out of school in Kenya. While this is almost half the number in 1999, it is still the ninth highest of any country in the world.
- Primary education is not of sufficient quality to ensure that all children can learn the basics. Among young men aged 15-29 years who had left school after six years of schooling, 6% were illiterate and 26% were semi-literate. The figures are even worse for young women, with 9% illiterate and 30% semi-literate after being in school for six years.
- The proportion of semi-literate or illiterate women after six years of schooling has worsened in recent years: in 2003, 24% were in this situation, compared with 39% in 2008.

Progress in education is not reaching the marginalized

- The poor, and girls most of all, have far less chance of making it to school. In 2008, in Nairobi, almost all children from rich households had been to school, whether boy or girl. But 55% of poor girls living in the North-East had never been to school, with 43% of poor boys in the region in the same situation. This is, however, an improvement since 2003, when 71% of poor girls and 56% of poor boys in the North-East had never been to school.
- While the abolition of secondary school fees reduced the costs for households, indirect costs are still twelve to twenty times as much as the monthly income of parents in rural areas, leaving secondary school out of reach for the poorest households.
- The US\$164 that is allocated to compensate secondary schools for having abolished school fees is ten times the amount per pupil annually received by primary schools. Only a minority of children from poor rural households or urban slums make it to secondary school. The increased investment would be more equitably distributed if it were geared towards remote rural areas, slum settlements and pastoralist communities.

Percentage of 7-16 year olds who have never been to school Kenya, 2009



World Inequality Database on Education: www.education-inequalities.org

Kenya is currently showing strong commitment to funding education

- The economic downturn does not seem to have adversely affected education spending: 6.7% of Kenya's GNP was spent on education in 2010, increasing from the 5.4% spent in 1999. This strong spending helped increase the primary net enrolment ratio from 62% in 1999 to 83% in 2009.
- Compared with other sub-Saharan African countries, a relatively small proportion of the education budget is funded by aid, around 4%.

The long-term effect of neglecting education leaves a huge skills deficit among young people

- One in ten young people never completed primary school, and so struggle to find well paid work
- Over a quarter of young people has less than a lower secondary education, and lack foundation skills.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are least likely to have skills for decent work:

- 32% of young women and 27% of young men in rural areas have less than a lower secondary education.
- About 60% of Nairobi's 3 million inhabitants live in slums. In two of the poorest slums, Korogocho and Viwandani, young people make up almost a third of the population. With no secondary schools in the slums, only 19% of men and 12% of women have attended secondary school in Korogocho. Only around one in five of those aged 19-20 report having training in a trade or skill, and only half of these can use their training to earn an income.

This lack of skills will affect the lives of these young people forever:

- About 50% of men and 80% of women aged 15 to 24 in the slums have no income-generating activities. Of those who are employed, about 60% of men and 40% of women are in casual employment earning only around the poverty line. Around one-third work in the formal sector, but seldom in formal, salaried jobs. Most are in casual jobs with daily or short-term engagement.

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