

Day of the African Child - June 16, 2014



**How long it will take to complete basic
education depends on which African
child you are**



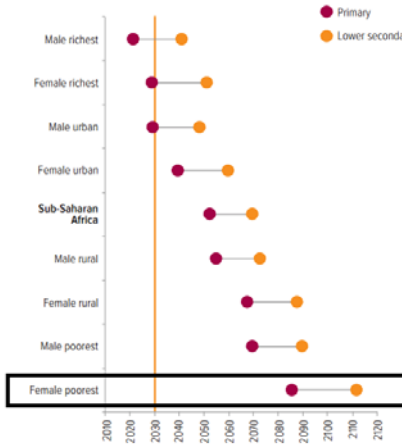
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Picture/Karel Prinsloo/ ARETE

African girl from a poor household

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



Girls are the furthest behind of all children in sub-Saharan Africa: on current trends, while the richest girls are projected to achieve universal primary completion by **2029**, the poorest girls will not get to zero until **2086**.

On average, girls in the region will achieve universal lower secondary completion by **2075**. Girls from the poorest fifth of families are not expected to achieve it until the next century – **2011**, fifty years after the girls from the richest fifth of families.

Credit: Hofer/UNESCO



African boy from a poor household

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



If recent trends continue, the poorest boys in the region will not achieve universal primary completion until **2069**, forty-five years after the richest boys in the region. They will not achieve universal lower secondary education until **2089**.

In Niger, on current trends, the richest boys will all be completing primary education in 2060, but the poorest boys, like the boy in this picture from the Maradi region, are not expected to achieve the target until 2095.

Credit: Tagaza Djibo/UNESCO



African girl from a rural area

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



If recent trends continue, girls living in rural areas in the region will not achieve universal primary completion until **2068**, thirteen years after rural boys. They will not achieve universal lower secondary education for a further twenty years – **2087**.

Caroline in grade 5 poses inside her classroom at her school in Turkana, Kenya.

“When I finish school, I will help my parents. I would like to be a doctor. I want to treat people. I am studying in order to help my parents.”

Credit: Karel Prinsloo/ ARETE



African boy from a rural area

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



If recent trends continue, boys living in rural areas in the region will not achieve universal primary completion until **2055**.

They will not achieve universal lower secondary education until **2073**.

Boys like this one in rural Uganda are expected to all be completing primary education in **2059**. Their urban counterparts will have reached the target over two decades earlier.

A nomadic boy attending school in northeastern Uganda
Credit: Hofer/UNESCO



African children on average

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



On average, if recent trends continue, the region will not achieve universal primary completion until **2052**, more than 35 years after the Dakar target and two decades after the likely target date for the post 2015 goals.

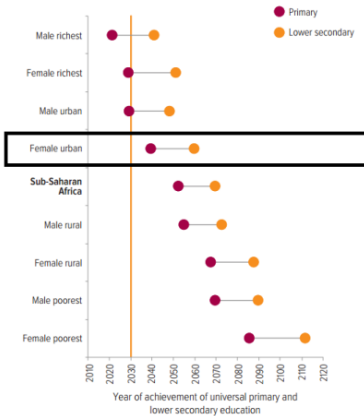
Universal lower secondary school completion will be achieved in **2069** in sub-Saharan Africa, several decades after the new target for global education goals under discussion.

School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Credit: Petterik Wiggers/Panos Pictures
London UK



African girl from an urban area

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



If recent trends continue, girls living in urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa will not achieve universal primary completion until **2039**.

They are not expected to achieve universal lower secondary education until **2059**.

Universal primary completion for girls living in an urban area in Liberia is expected to be achieved by **2048**. This is over twenty years after their male counterparts, but about thirty years before girls living in rural areas in the country.

Credit: Glenna Gordon/UNESCO



African boy from an urban area

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



If recent trends continue, boys living in urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to complete primary education by **2029**.

These boys are expected to complete lower secondary education by **2048**.

In Ethiopia, urban boys, like the one pictured here, are expected to reach the target of universal primary completion in **2034**. This is more than a decade earlier than the projections for rural boys in the country - **2048**.

School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Credit: Petterik Wiggers/Panos



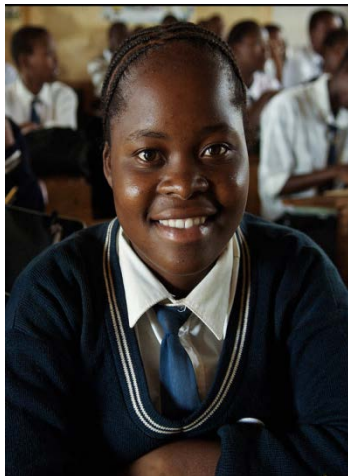
African girl from a rich household

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa



If recent trends continue, girls from the richest households in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to complete primary education by **2029**. They are expected to complete lower secondary education by **2051**.

In Namibia, girls living in the richest households have been completing primary school since **1996**. By contrast, girls living in the poorest households in the country have to wait another thirty years and will only reach the target in **2044**.



Credit: Star for Life

African boy from a rich household

Projected year of achieving primary and lower secondary completion in excess of 97%, by population group, sub-Saharan Africa

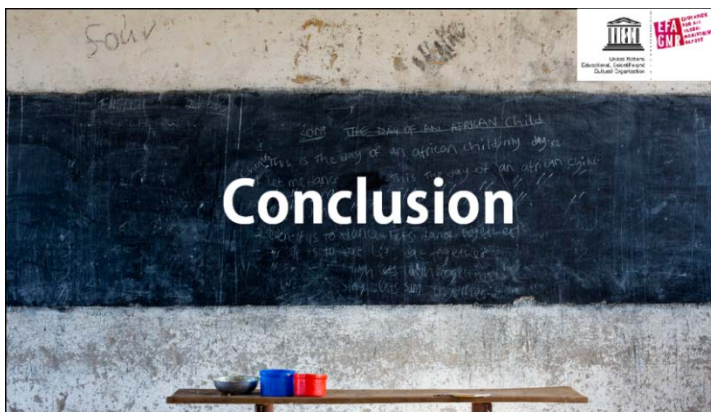


If recent trends continue, boys from the richest households in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to complete primary education by **2021**. They are expected to complete lower secondary education by **2040**.

In Nigeria, wealth plays a huge part in deciding a child's education chances. All boys from the richest households in the country have been completing primary school since **1998**. Boys from the poorest households, however, are not expected to reach the target until **2060**.



Credit: Carla Gomez Monroy.



These projections are extremely disconcerting. They clearly show that your education chances currently depend upon which African child you are - a boy, a girl, your wealth, and where you live. These trends show that, in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the last mile to universal primary education will not be covered in this generation unless concerted efforts are taken to support the children who are the most disadvantaged.

However, these trends can be changed if governments, aid donors and the international community take concerted action to make education available to all, including the marginalised.

This shows how vital it is that we track progress towards education goals for the most disadvantaged groups after 2015, and put policies in place that maintain and accelerate progress by redressing imbalances.