

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Equatorial Guinea

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Equatorial Guinea was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 Equatorial Guinea's population increased from 255,000 in 1960, via 419,000 in 1990, to 1.4 million in 2020.
- 2 Equatorial Guinea's literacy rate is 94% (15 years and older, 2018).
- 3 The so-called education index (used as part of the human development index) improved between 2000 (earlier data not available) and 2018: from .324 to .567 (it can vary between 0 and 1).
- 4 Regional inequality in education is consistent and high throughout the period. Annobon, Bioko has had the best position throughout the period and Wele Nzas the worst. Overall development figures are pretty much equal.
- 5 The Mean Years of Education for adults improved somewhat between 2000 and 2018, from 5.4 years to 5.6 years. There is high regional inequality throughout the period.
- 6 The Expected Years of Education for children improved somewhat as well: from 8.1 to 9.2 years. There is high regional inequality throughout the period.
- 7 Equatorial Guinea has had higher education institutions since the Spanish colonial period. Currently there are, presumably, two tertiary knowledge institutions in Equatorial Guinea, both public. There are probably around **28.000** students in Equatorial Guinea.
- 8 Equatorial Guinea's universities are not in the 4icu top 200 of African institutions.
- 9 Equatorial Guinea's think tanks: no information was found on operational think tanks.

- 10 Museums: information was found on two museum in Equatorial Guinea. One located in Malabo (Annobon, Bioko), the other in Bata (Litoral). It is unknown if the museum in Bata is operational.

Part 1: The Story

Equatorial Guinea's demographic and education development

Equatorial Guinea, officially the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (Spanish: República de Guinea Ecuatorial, French: République de Guinée équatoriale, Portuguese: República da Guiné Equatorial), is located on the west coast of Central Africa. It consists of an insular part (Annabon and Bioko) and a mainland region.

Portuguese colonization began in 1474, followed by a long history of Spanish rule (1778-1968), and partial French occupation. Between 1823 to 1843 Spain leased a naval base on Bioko island to Great Britain (in order to keep the colony more economically viable after the abolishment of slavery in 1817). However, an agreement to sell the colony as a whole to Great Britain was cancelled. Independence from Spain was gained on 12 October 1968.

Since the mid-1990s, Equatorial Guinea has become one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest oil producers. It has subsequently become the richest country in per capita terms in Africa. However, the wealth is distributed extremely unevenly, with few people benefiting from the oil riches.¹

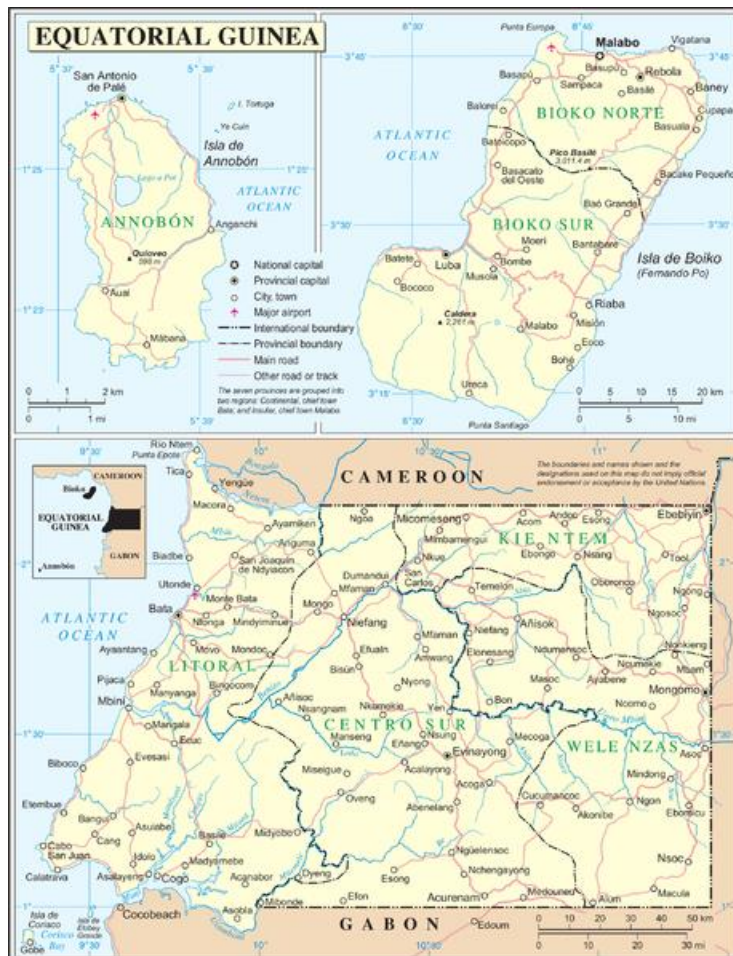
Equatorial Guinea's population increased from 255,000 in 1960 to 1.4 million in the second half of 2020. In 1960, only 26% of the population lived in cities (only 65,000 people), while the urban population has increased to 73% or 1 million people. Equatorial Guinea's largest city is Bata (population 173,000), followed by the capital Malabo (population 156,000).

Equatorial Guinea's life expectancy increased from 36 years for males and 39 years for females in 1960 to 59 years for males and 61 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 22.4 years in 1960 to 18.9 years in 1995 (lowest year). Since then, it started to increase and is presently 22.3 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 5.7 live-born children, which increased to 6.0 in 1990. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 4.5 live-born children².

With 28,051 km² Equatorial Guinea ranks 44th on area size. The population is unevenly distributed. Density is >500 per km² on Bioko Norte (around the capital of Malabo) and Annabon, and <15 km² in Centro Sur.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatorial_Guinea

² <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/equatorial-guinea-population/>



Source: <https://nl.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bestand:Un-equatorial-guinea.png>

Literacy and enrolment

Equatorial Guinea’s adult literacy rate is (2018) 94%: men 96% and women 91% (2010). Of the youth (15-24 years old) 2,200 males and 1,300 females were regarded as illiterate in 2010. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 9,300 for males and 24,000 for females.

Equatorial Guinea’s population of primary school age children (7-12 years) is about 177,000 children³. Education is compulsory from age 7 to age 12 (6 years). Currently, 44% of the primary school age group attends primary school (2015). Children with the age to attend secondary school (13-18) are 144,000. 20% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2005)⁴: females 18% and males 23%. Finally, 101,000 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 19 and 23). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education were estimated at 2% in 2000, with females at 1%, and males at 2%⁵. This would mean that there are about 2,000 students in Equatorial Guinea’s higher education

³ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/gg>

⁴ <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/equatorial-guinea/school-enrollment>

⁵ https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.TER.ENRR?end=2000&locations=GQ&most_recent_year_desc=false&start=1982

institutes. According to CampusFrance there are 1,300 students abroad, mainly in Spain and in the USA⁶.

Regional differentiation of education results, 2000-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 2000 and 2018, for five areas of Equatorial Guinea:

Annobon & Bioko

Centro Sur

Kie Ntem

Litoral

Wele Nzas



Sources: <http://www.mapsopensource.com/equatorial-guinea-map.html>

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools. This excludes the religious schools and only deals with the official, state-based, school system.

We present the data for the years 2000 (earliest year available), 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 1-4 in part 2 ('the data').

Education index

The education index has improved marginally in all of Equatorial Guinea's regions between 2000 and 2018 (see table 1 in part 2). As there is so little difference between the regions there is no clear indication as to which regions developed the fastest. Overall, the region

⁶ https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite_pays/en/guinee_equatoriale_en.pdf

performing best is Annobon, Bioko. The region performing the worst is Wele Nzas. The slowest developing region, though marginally, is Litoral. Regional inequality is relatively high and very consistent.

As there is so little to no difference in development figures it is difficult to say if there is a relation with population growth in the regions. We compare 2000 with 2018. See table 2 in part 2.

Mean years of education

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades".⁷

The educational standard of the adult population of Equatorial Guinea has improved marginally in all of the regions in the period 2000-2018 (see table 3 in part 2). Regional inequality has been consistently high throughout the period. Annobon, Bioko scores the highest throughout the period. Wele Nzas scores the lowest.

Expected years of education

UNDP defines the 'expected years of schooling' as the: "Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life".⁸

For Equatorial Guinea's children educational prospects have improved in all of the regions (see table 4 in part 2). Regional inequality has been consistently high throughout the period. Annobon, Bioko scores the highest throughout the period and had the fastest development though marginally. Wele Nzas scores the lowest.

Historical Development of Private and Public Universities in Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea currently has 2 public universities. Neither institution is in the 4icu top 200 list of African universities.

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

(Sources: see part 2)

⁷ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

⁸ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>



Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial⁹



Public Universities

Equatorial Guinea has at least two known public institutions for tertiary education.

The *National University of Equatorial Guinea* (UNGE, Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial in Spanish). Established in 1935 as an Indigenous Colonial Institute, elevated to Indigenous Higher School in 1943. Established in its current form in 1995 by incorporating the University School of Teacher Training of Malabo, the University School of Agricultural, Fisheries and Forest Studies, the University School of Teacher Training of Bata and the University School of Health and Environment. In 1998 the University School of Administration was incorporated into the structure of UNGE and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was created that year. In 2001 the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the University School of Engineering and Technique were created.

According to Wikipedia, Equatorial Guinea has a second public institution for tertiary education: the *Enrique Nvó Okenve National College* (Colegio Nacional Enrique Nvó Okenve). It was established in 1959 as Centro Laboral La Salle de Bata. The current president of the country, Obiang, is an alumnus of this college. It is unclear if this institution is still operational today. No further information was found apart from the Wikipedia page¹⁰, and there is no campus photo or logo to be found.

Regional distribution of Equatorial Guinea's Universities

Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial has its main campus in Malabo (region Annonbon, Bioko). Colegio Nacional Enrique Nvó Okenve presumably has its main seat in Bata (region Litoral)

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions

The 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report did not provide any information on think

⁹ Source: http://unge.education/main/?page_id=31

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colegio_Nacional_Enrique_Nv%C3%B3_Okenve

tanks in Equatorial Guinea. A further internet search also did not yield any information.



Museum of Modern Art Equatorial Guinea¹¹

Museums in Equatorial Guinea

We found information on two museums in Equatorial Guinea (see part 2, table 7). The Museum of Modern Art Equatorial Guinea is located in Malabo. It is unclear if the other museum, the Claretian Mission Ethnological Museum, is operational. It is also unclear where it is located. Presumably in Bata as that city celebrated 100 Years of Claretian Presence in 2019.

¹¹ Source: <https://moma.org/directory/museum-of-modern-art-equatorial-guinea/>

Part 2: the data

Table 1: Equatorial Guinea: Education index 2000-2018¹²

Region	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Annobon, Bioko	0.605	0.659	0.663	1.10
Centro Sur	0.278	0.303	0.305	1.10
Kie Ntem	0.332	0.361	0.364	1.10
Litoral	0.446	0.484	0.487	1.09
Wele Nzas	0.270	0.294	0.296	1.10
Total	0.402	0.438	0.441	1.10
Inequality	2.2	2.2	2.2	

Table 2: Equatorial Guinea: changes in regional population between 2000 and 2018; population numbers in millions

Region	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Annobon, Bioko	0.13	0.20	0.28	2.15
Centro Sur	0.08	0.13	0.18	2.25
Kie Ntem	0.12	0.19	0.26	2.20
Litoral	0.19	0.30	0.42	2.21
Wele Nzas	0.08	0.13	0.18	2.25
Total	0.61	0.94	1.31	2.15

Table 3: Equatorial Guinea: Regional data for 'mean years of education

Region	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Annobon, Bioko	8.07	8.23	8.35	1.03
Centro Sur	3.71	3.79	3.84	1.04
Kie Ntem	4.43	4.51	4.58	1.03
Litoral	5.94	6.05	6.14	1.03
Wele Nzas	3.60	3.68	3.73	1.04
Total	5.36	5.47	5.55	1.04
Inequality	2.2	2.2	2.2	

Table 4: Equatorial Guinea: Regional data for 'expected years of education

Region	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Annobon, Bioko	12.1	13.9	13.9	1.15
Centro Sur	5.57	6.37	6.37	1.14
Kie Ntem	6.64	7.59	7.59	1.14
Litoral	8.91	10.2	10.2	1.14
Wele Nzas	5.41	6.18	6.18	1.14
Total	8.05	9.20	9.20	1.14

¹² The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Inequality	2.2	2.2	2.2	
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Table 5: Public universities in Equatorial Guinea

University	Year of establishment	Location	Rank 4icu (2019)
Colegio Nacional Enrique Nvó Okenve	1959	Bata (and Malabo)	Not referred
Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE) (http://unge.education/main/)	1995	Malabo (and branch campus in Bata)	Country 1 Worldwide: 11076

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, <https://www.4icu.org/>, World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available).

Table 6: Regional distribution of universities in Equatorial Guinea

Provinces (and city)	Public	Private	Total	Number per million inhabitants
Annobon, Bioko (Malabo)	1	0	1	3.6
Centro Sur	0	0	0	0
Kie Ntem	0	0	0	0
Litoral (Bata)	1	0	1	2.4
Wele Nzas	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2	1.5

For the last column we used the population numbers as given in table 2.

Table 7: Museums in Equatorial Guinea

Museums	websites	Location
Claretian Mission Ethnological Museum		Bata (Litoral)?
Museum of Modern Art Equatorial Guinea		Malabo

(Source: Wikipedia, Google) Not included: cultural centres

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