

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Republic of Congo

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in the Republic of Congo 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 perfect. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to



complete, and there might also be corrections. Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 The Republic of Congo's population increased from 1 million in 1960, via 2.4 million in 1990, to 5.5 million in 2020.
- 2 Congo's literacy rate is 80% (15 years and older, 2018).
- 3 The so-called education index (used as part of the human development index) improved somewhat between 1990 (earlier data not available) and 2018: from 0.455 to 0.539 (it can vary between 0 and 1).
- 4 Regional inequality is consistent and low to middle-high. Performing best overall is Brazzaville. The department with the fastest development is Sangha. Performing worst overall are Kouilou and Pool. The slowest developing department is Pool.
- 5 The Mean Years of Schooling for adults improved between 1990 and 2018, from 4.4 years to 6.5 years. There is fairly high regional inequality.
- 6 The Expected Years of Schooling for children improved marginally: from 11.2 to 11.6 years. There is low regional inequality throughout the period.
- 7 Congo has had higher education institutions since the early 1970s. Currently there are about five tertiary knowledge institutions in Congo, 1 public and 4 private. There are probably around 70,000 students in Congo, and there are around 8,000 who study at universities abroad.
- 8 Congo's universities are not in the 4icu top 200 of African institutions.
- 9 Think tanks: Congo has two think tanks.
- 10 Museums: Congo has four museums, two in Brazzaville, two in Pointe-Noire.

Part 1: The Story

Republic of Congo's demographic and education development

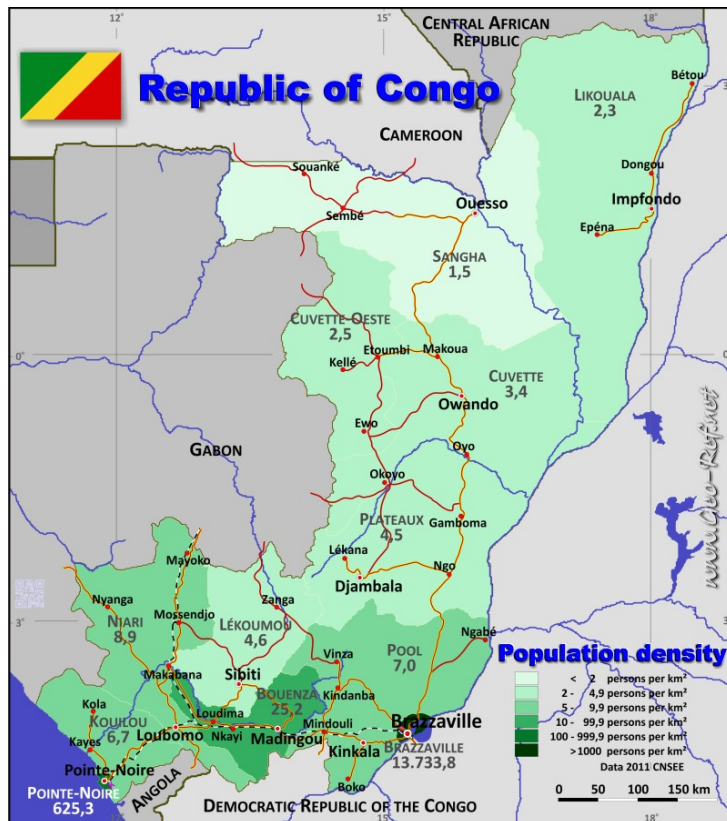
The Republic of Congo (French: République du Congo) also known as Congo-Brazzaville, the Congo Republic or simply either Congo or the Congo, is a country located in Central Africa. It is bordered by Gabon, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Angolan exclave of Cabinda, and the Atlantic Ocean.

The Republic of Congo came under French rule in the late 19th century as French Congo. It was part of French Equatorial Africa from 1910 to 1958. During the second world war, the capital Brazzaville functioned as the symbolic capital of Free France. The republic of Congo gained independence in August 1960.



Source: <https://www.wikiwand.com/nl/Congo-Brazzaville>

Congo's population increased from around 1 million in 1960 to 5.5 million in the second half of 2020. In 1960, only 32% of the population lived in cities (only 328,000 people), while the urban population has increased to 70% or 3.9 million people today. Congo's largest city is the capital Brazzaville (population 1.3 million), followed by Pointe-Noire (population 659,000). At 342,000 km² Congo ranks 27th on area size. Congo has an average population density of 16 km² (compared to about 511 km² in the Netherlands). The population is unevenly distributed. The population density in Brazzaville is 9,059/km².



Source: <http://www.geo-ref.net/en/cog.htm>

Congo's life expectancy increased from 45 years for males and 50 years for females in 1960 to 64 years for males and 68 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 19.2 years in 1960 to 16.9 years in 1980 (lowest year). Since then, it started to increase and is presently 19.2 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 5.8 live-born children, which increased to 6.3 in 1975. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 4.5 live-born children¹.

Literacy and enrolment

Congo's adult literacy rate is (2018) 80%: men 86% and women 75%. Of the youth (15-24 years old) 72,000 males and 104,000 females were regarded as illiterate in 2018. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 211,000 for males and 391,000 for females.

Congo's population of primary school age children (6-11 years) is about 859,000 children². Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 15 (10 years). 88% of the primary school age group attended primary school in 2012 (later data are unavailable). Children with the age to attend secondary school (12-18) are 806,000. 53% (gross) are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2012): females 49% and males 56%. Finally, 433,000 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 19 and 23). The gross enrolment rate for tertiary education is 13% in 2017, with females at 10%, and males at 15%. This would mean that there are around 70,000 students in Congo's higher education institutions. According to Campusfrance there were around 8,800 Congolese students in

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/congo-population/>

² <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/cg>

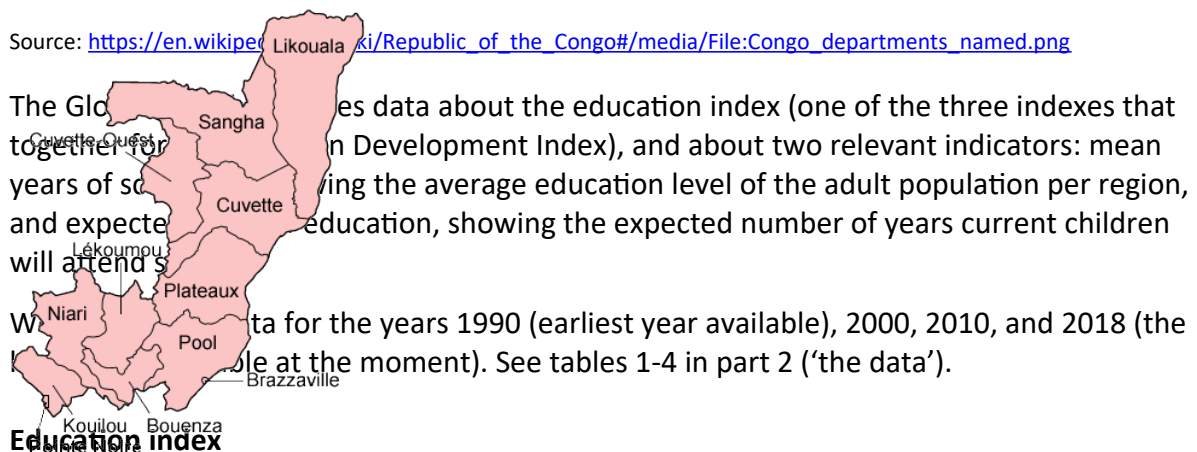
international mobility in 2016. The most popular destinations are France (though percentages are dropping) and Morocco. Up and coming are India, Ghana, USA, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Canada.³

Regional differentiation of education results, 1990-2018

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 1990 and 2018, for the 12 departments of the Republic of Congo:

- Bouenza
- Brazzaville
- Cuvette
- Cuvette Ouest
- Kouilou
- Lekoumou
- Likouala
- Niari
- Plateaux
- Pointe-Noire
- Pool
- Sangha

Source: https://en.wikipedia/wiki/Republic_of_the_Congo#/media/File:Congo_departments_named.png



The education index in nearly all of Congo's departments decreased between 1990 and 2000 (see table 1 in part 2). It is possible that there is a correlation with the civil wars from 1993-1994 and from 1997 to 1999. The education index improved in all department between 2000 and 2018. Performing best throughout the whole period is Brazzaville, though the fastest development took place in Sangha (north Congo). Performing worst up to 2018 is Kouilou (south Congo), followed by Pool (southeast Congo) in 2018, which is also the slowest developing department. Regional inequality is consistent and fairly low.

There does not appear to be a clear correlation between the education index and population growth. The department performing best throughout, Brazzaville, also has the highest population, though not the highest population growth. We compare 1990 with 2018. See table 2 in part 2.

Mean years of schooling for adults

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,

³ https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite_pays/en/congo_en.pdf

excluding years spent repeating individual grades”.⁴

The educational standard of the adult population of Congo has improved in all of the departments in the period 1990-2018 (see table 3 in part 2), though not all departments show a continuous upward trend throughout the period.

Regional inequality has been fairly high. Performing best overall is Brazzaville. The department with the fastest development is Kouilou, which performed the worst in 1990 and 2000, followed by Plateaux (2010) and Pool (2018). The slowest developing department is Likouala (north Congo).

Expected years of schooling for children

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”.⁵

For Congo’s children educational prospects have improved in all of the regions (see table 4 in part 2), though again there is an obvious decline between 1990 and 2000. Regional inequality has been consistently low throughout the period. Performing best overall is Brazzaville. The region with the fastest development is Sangha. Performing worst overall is Kouilou. The slowest developing department is Pool.

Historical Development of Private and Public Universities in the Republic of Congo

Congo currently has five institutes for tertiary education, one public, four private. Congo is not featured in the 4icu top 200 of African institutes.

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Private	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	4
Total	0	0	1	1	1	3	4	4	4	5

(Sources: see part 2, tables 5 and 6)

Public Universities

Congo currently has one public institution for tertiary education.



⁴ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

⁵ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

Université Marien Ngouabi⁶

The Université Marien Ngouabi was established in 1971 as the Université de Brazzaville. Following the assassination of President Marien Ngouabi on 18 March 1977, the university was renamed in his honor on 28 July 1977.

The construction of a brand new public university, Université DENIS SASSOU NGUESSO, is underway. This university will be located at Kintele (just outside Brazzaville). The reason for the construction of this university according to the website: *Congo has a public university, the Marien NGOUABI University. This University inherited structures dating from the colonial era and belonging to other institutions or organizations (Ministries of Health, Mines, Civil Aviation, Primary and Secondary Education, etc.). The establishments are scattered throughout the city without any possibility of extension. The Marien NGOUABI University, designed for 600 students, now has 35,000, or 2% of the population of Brazzaville. Its low intake capacity and the lack of educational and scientific equipment motivated the Head of State to include the construction of a modern university in his social project "The Way of the Future".* (<https://www.udsn.cg/en/a-propos-de-l%27udsn>)

Private Universities

Congo has four private institutions for tertiary education. Private education started in the second half of the 1990s. One of the institutions has a Christian affiliation.



Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et d'Administration des Entreprises⁷

Congo's eldest private institution is the Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et d'Administration des Entreprises, established in 1993.

From their website: *L'ESGAE s'est positionnée dans le domaine de formation consacrée à la gestion et à l'administration de l'entreprise dans un pays longtemps placé sous l'emprise de l'économie étatique et dont le tissu économique déjà dégradé va subir une importante destruction à cause des conflits socio-politiques à répétition de 1993-1994 et 1997-1999. L'École sera très affectée par ces conflits armés des années 1997, 1998, 1999 du fait de sa localisation dans la zone des principaux affrontements. Elle a subi des pillages et la destruction de certaines infrastructures*⁸.

⁶ Source: <https://www.umng.cg/?q=en/node/78>

⁷ Source: <https://www.esgae.org/>

⁸ <https://www.esgae.org/index.php?page=histo>

Regional distribution of Congo's Universities

Three of Congo's tertiary knowledge institutions are located in Brazzaville, two in Pointe-Noire (see table 7 in part 2).

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report there is one think tank in the Republic of Congo: *Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Analyses et Politiques Economiques* (CERAPE), located in Brazzaville.

Internet search resulted in a second think tank, Carrefour du Congo.

The Republic of Congo is also represented in the **Think Tank Club 2030 Afrique: Le Think Tank Club 2030 Afrique produit des rapports, des études, des analyses grâce à son pôle d'experts à destination des gouvernements africains**⁹.

See part 2, table 8 for an overview of Think Tanks.

Museums in Congo



Musée National du Congo (Brazzaville)¹⁰



Musée Cercle Africain (Pointe-Noire)¹¹

According to Wikipedia there are four museums in Congo, two in Brazzaville, two in Pointe-Noire (see part 2, table 9).

⁹ <http://club-2030.com/>

¹⁰ Source: https://www.tripadvisor.nl/Attraction_Review-g294189-d481230-Reviews-Musee_National_du_Congo_National_Museum_of_Congo-Brazzaville.html

¹¹ Source: https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vivreaucongo.com%2Fbonnes-adresses%2Fmusee-du-cercle-africain%2F&psig=AOvVaw1lsc_OJr2umGTARirSodx-&ust=1607442168517000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRqFwoTCPiZjPGavO0CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP

Part 2: the data

Table 1: Republic of Congo: Education index 1990-2018¹²

Department	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bouenza	0.418	0.410	0.424	0.437	1.05
Brazzaville	0.518	0.523	0.564	0.606	1.17
Cuvette	0.443	0.434	0.492	0.507	1.14
Cuvette Ouest	0.433	0.425	0.475	0.474	1.09
Kouilou	0.344	0.337	0.374	0.405	1.18
Lekoumou	0.380	0.373	0.413	0.418	1.10
Likouala	0.450	0.447	0.465	0.481	1.07
Niari	0.399	0.392	0.442	0.476	1.19
Plateaux	0.397	0.388	0.424	0.455	1.15
Pointe-Noire	0.481	0.484	0.525	0.549	1.14
Pool	0.384	0.375	0.407	0.397	1.03
Sangha	0.363	0.361	0.429	0.476	1.31
Total	0.455	0.454	0.500	0.539	1.18
Inequality	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	

Table 2: Republic of Congo: changes in regional population between 1990 and 2018; population numbers in millions

Department	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bouenza	0.27	0.36	0.47	0.35	1.30
Brazzaville	0.75	1.00	1.49	2.02	2.70
Cuvette	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.19	1.90
Cuvette Ouest	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	1.33
Kouilou	0.10	0.13	0.12	0.12	1.20
Lekoumou	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.11	1.40
Likouala	0.12	0.16	0.19	0.21	1.75
Niari	0.24	0.31	0.27	0.27	1.13
Plateaux	0.13	0.17	0.17	0.19	1.46
Pointe-Noire	0.36	0.48	0.91	1.25	3.47
Pool	0.13	0.17	0.27	0.36	2.77
Sangha	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.10	3.33
Total	2.36	3.13	4.27	5.24	

Table 3: Republic of Congo: Regional data for 'mean years of schooling' for adults

Department	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bouenza	3.56	4.53	4.49	4.51	1.26
Brazzaville	5.47	6.97	7.33	7.86	1.43
Cuvette	3.66	4.67	5.58	5.45	1.48

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.

Cuvette Ouest	3.63	4.63	4.77	4.85	1.33
Kouilou	2.85	3.64	4.25	4.57	1.60
Lekoumou	3.20	4.08	4.07	4.00	1.25
Likouala	4.26	5.42	5.24	5.26	1.23
Niari	3.45	4.39	5.10	5.22	1.51
Plateaux	3.27	4.17	4.16	4.46	1.36
Pointe-Noire	5.00	6.37	6.86	7.02	1.40
Pool	3.09	3.93	4.56	4.29	1.38
Sangha	3.38	4.31	4.70	4.94	1.46
Total	4.35	5.55	6.09	6.50	1.49
Inequality	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	

Table 4: Republic of Congo: Regional data for 'expected years of schooling' for children

Department	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bouenza	10.8	9.33	9.86	10.3	0.95
Brazzaville	12.1	10.5	11.5	12.4	1.02
Cuvette	11.6	10.0	11.0	11.7	1.00
Cuvette Ouest	11.2	9.73	11.4	11.3	1.00
Kouilou	8.97	7.78	8.35	9.08	1.01
Lekoumou	9.84	8.53	9.98	10.2	1.03
Likouala	11.1	9.60	10.5	11.0	1.00
Niari	10.2	8.86	9.80	10.9	1.06
Plateaux	10.4	8.97	10.3	11.0	1.05
Pointe-Noire	11.3	9.79	10.7	11.3	1.00
Pool	10.1	8.78	9.19	9.14	0.90
Sangha	9.00	7.81	9.80	11.2	1.24
Total	11.2	9.68	10.7	11.6	1.03
Inequality	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	

Table 5: Public universities in the Republic of Congo

University	Year of establishment	Location	Rank 4icu (2019)
Université Marien Ngouabi (UMNG) (https://www.umng.cg/)	1971	Brazzaville	Worldwide rank 10638. Country rank 1

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

Table 6: Private universities in the Republic of Congo

University	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation	Rank 4icu (2019)
Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et d'Administration des Entreprises (ESGAE) (https://www.esgae.org/)	1993	Brazzaville	No	Not referred
Université Libre du Congo (ULC)	1995	Brazzaville	No	Not

(https://universitelibreducongo.org/)				referred
Institut Supérieur de Technologie d'Afrique Centrale (IST-AC) (https://ucac-icy.net/facultes-ecoles-et-etablisements-ucac/institut-ucac-icam/) Part of the Université Catholique de l'Afrique Centrale (based in Cameroon). Students chosen for the second cycle of engineering training go to the Douala campus.	2002	Pointe-Noire	Christian (catholic)	Not referred
École Supérieure de Commerce et d'Industrie du Congo (ESCIC) (https://www.escic-cg.com/)	?	Pointe-Noire	No	Not referred

Sources: see table 5

Table 7: Regional distribution of universities in the Republic of Congo

Department	Public	Private	Total	Number per million inhabitants
Bouenza	0	0	0	0
Brazzaville	1	2	3	1.5
Cuvette	0	0	0	0
Cuvette Ouest	0	0	0	0
Kouilou	0	0	0	0
Lekoumou	0	0	0	0
Likouala	0	0	0	0
Niari	0	0	0	0
Plateaux	0	0	0	0
Pointe-Noire	0	2	2	1.6
Pool	0	0	0	0
Sangha	0	0	0	0
Total	1	4	5	1.0

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

Table 8: Think tanks in the Republic of Congo

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Analyses et Politiques Economiques (CERAPE) (https://www.cerape.org/)	2002	Brazzaville

<p>Carrefour du Congo https://www.facebook.com/carrefour.congo.bz/?ref=page_internal Cercle d'Action et de Réflexion pour la Refondation l'Unité et le Renouveau du Congo</p>	<p>2015?</p>	<p>Brazzaville?</p>
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Table 9: Museums in the Republic of Congo

Museums	websites	Location
Musée National du Congo		Brazzaville
Musée Marien Ngouabi		Brazzaville
Mâ-Loango Regional Museum		Pointe-Noire
Musée Cercle Africain		Pointe-Noire

(Source: Google) Not included: cultural centres

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