Gambia

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

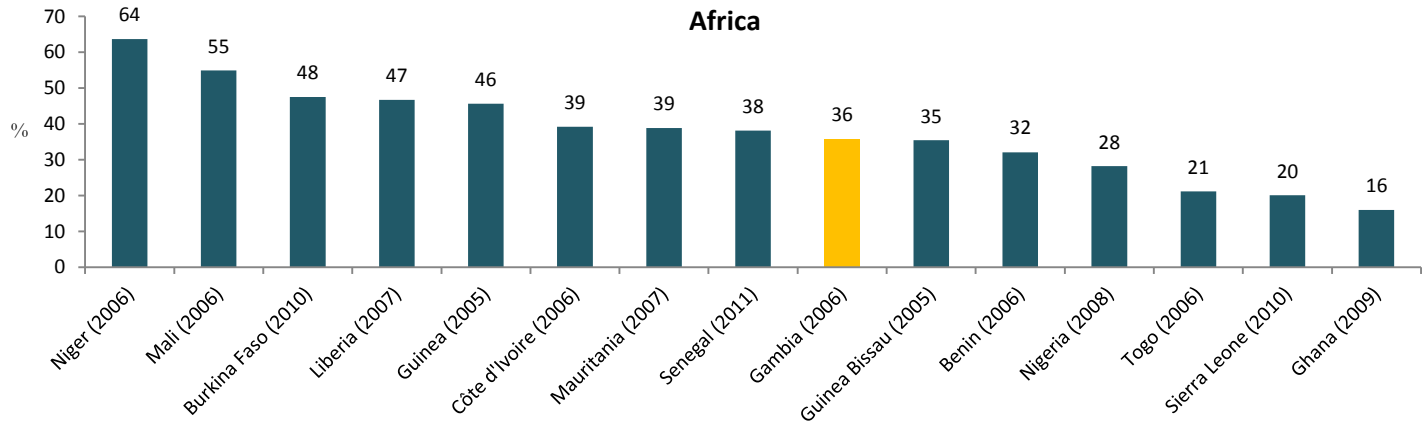| Number Out of School	Percent Out of School
114,000	**36%**

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006

Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children Ages 7-14 across Gambia

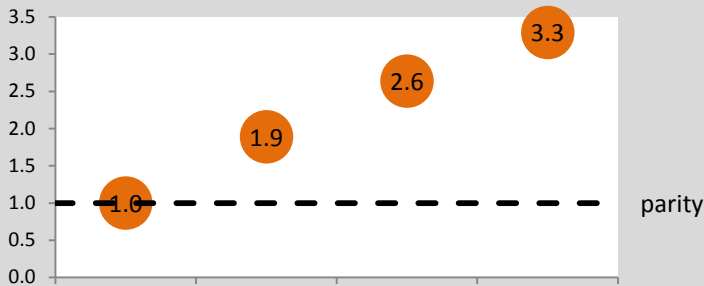*Exact estimated rates and 95% confidence intervals for estimates are provided later in the profile.*

Out of School Rates (%)
Children Ages 7-14
- 0 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 30
- 30 - 40
- 40 - 50
- 50 - 60
- 60+

Kuntar
Kerewan
Janjanbureh
Kanifing
Basse
Mansakonko
Brikama
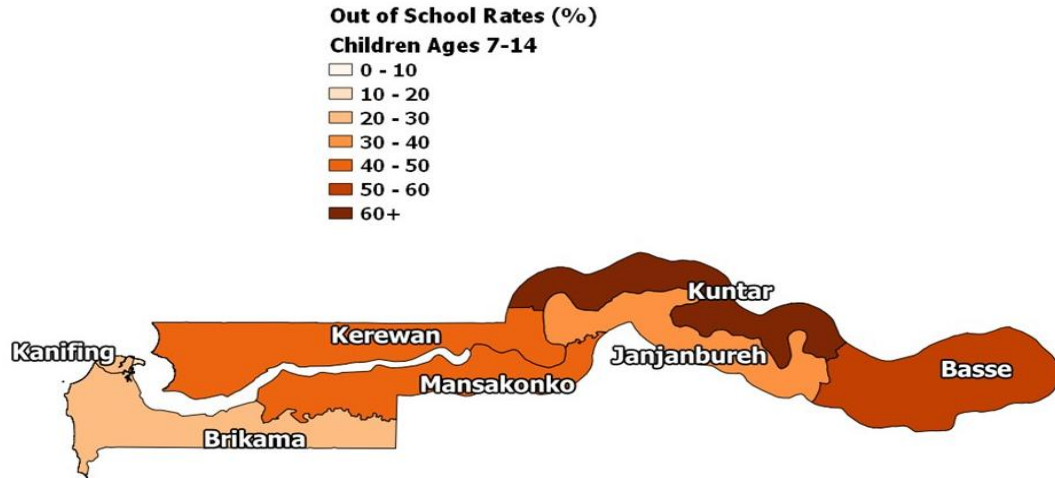
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, West Africa

Country	%
Niger (2006)	64
Mali (2006)	55
Burkina Faso (2010)	48
Liberia (2007)	47
Guinea (2005)	46
Côte d'Ivoire (2006)	39
Mauritania (2007)	39
Senegal (2011)	38
Gambia (2006)	36
Guinea Bissau (2005)	35
Benin (2006)	32
Nigeria (2008)	28
Togo (2006)	21
Sierra Leone (2010)	20
Ghana (2009)	16

The Structure of the Education System in Gambia

By national classifications, The Gambia has a 6-3-3 formal education structure that has been in place since 1996. Primary school has an official entry age of seven. In principle, primary and lower secondary school is free and compulsory. Students sit for the Gambia Basic Education Certificate Examination (GABECE) at the end of grade 9, and the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) at the end of grade 12 (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 9/2010).

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EDUCATION POLICY AND DATA CENTER
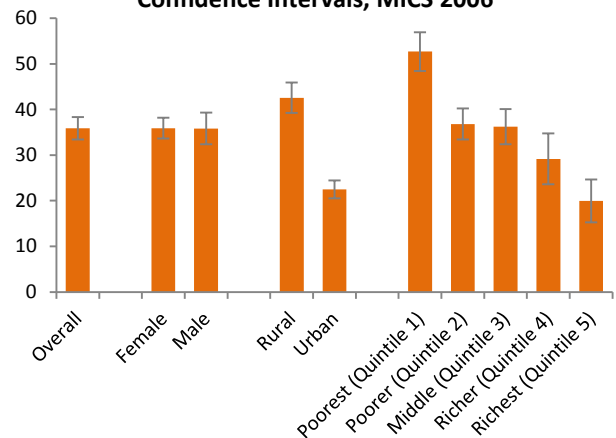*Making sense of data to improve education for development*

Parity Indices

● Parity indices provide information about the greatest sources of inequality in a population. The graph at left provides ratios of different estimates of children aged 7-14 who are out of school. It shows, for example, that the out of school rate in rural areas is 1.9 times higher than that in urban areas.

● For Gambia, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from provinces with the highest and lowest school participation rates. Children from the worst performing province are 3.3 times as likely to be out of school as children from the best.
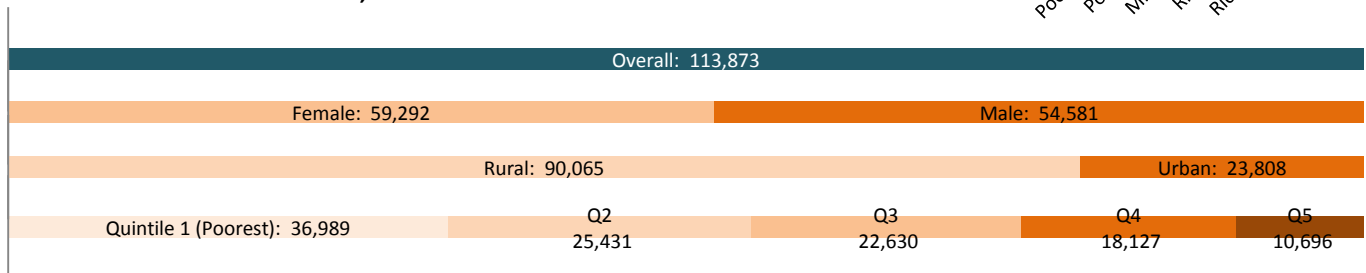
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

● More girls (36% or 59,292) are out of school than boys (35.8% or 54,581) in Gambia.

● Out of school rates for children from rural areas (43%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (22%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (90,065) than in urban areas (23,808).

● Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (53%).

Rates of Out of School Children (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2006

Numbers of Out of School Children, MICS 2006

Overall: 113,873

Female: 59,292   Male: 54,581

Rural: 90,065   Urban: 23,808

Quintile 1 (Poorest): 36,989   Q2 25,431   Q3 22,630   Q4 18,127   Q5 10,696

About Data Sources

All out of school estimates presented in this profile are EPDC extractions of MICS data. MICS Surveys are led by UNICEF and are conducted every several years. They collect information on health, education, and other topics for households and individuals residing in those households. The 2006 Gambia MICS Survey is representative at the national and subnational level. For more information, please see http://www.childinfo.org/mics.html.

Estimates of out of school children from household surveys can be expected to differ from administrative estimates, such as those from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and national government agencies, because of differences between these sources in data collection and estimation methods for measuring school participation. For more information on the differences between these data sources, please see www.epdc.org.

Out of School Children by Subnational Regions

● The subnational region with the highest percentage of children out of school is Kuntaur (62%). Banjul has the lowest rate of school non-participation (19%).

● The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Basse (23,047). Banjul has the lowest numbers of out of school children (1,393).

Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2006
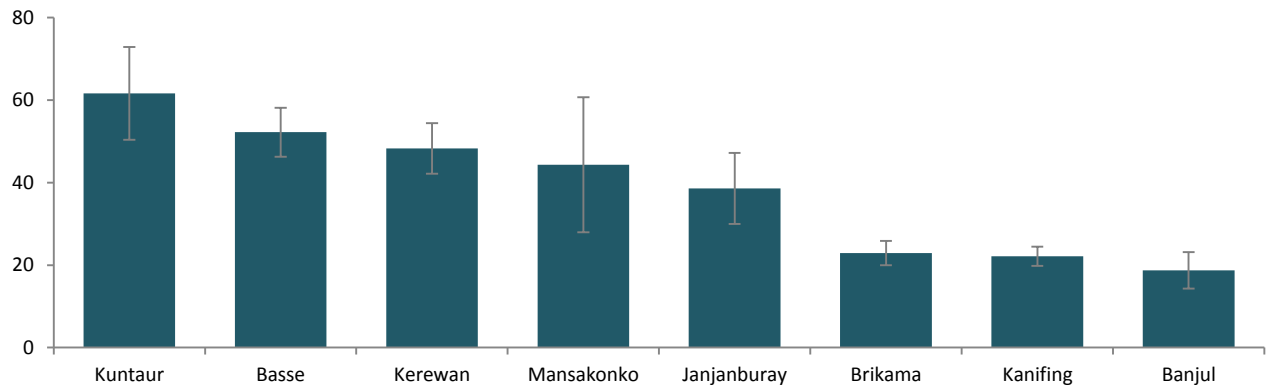
Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2006
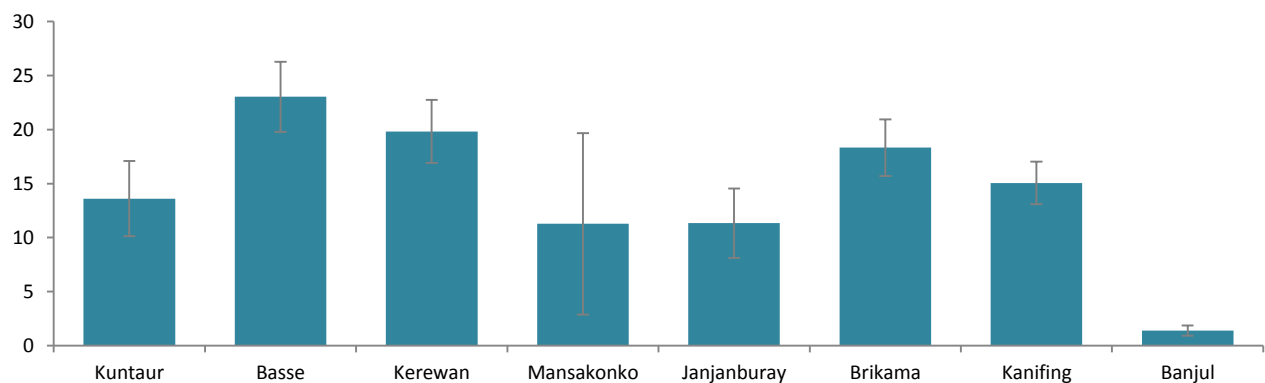

Why Ages 7-14?

EPDC presents data for ages 7-14. This age group captures the bulk of basic compulsory education in most countries, aids cross-national comparability of estimates, and conveys the normative international frameworks set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and supported by the ILO Minimum Age Convention.

Out of School Rates by Age and Sex

● The official primary school entry age in Gambia is age 7. At that age, 56% of girls and 59% of boys are out of school.

● At age 15, 40% of girls and 36% of boys are out of school.

● School participation is highest for girls at age 11 and for boys at age 13.

Out of School Rates, by Age and Sex
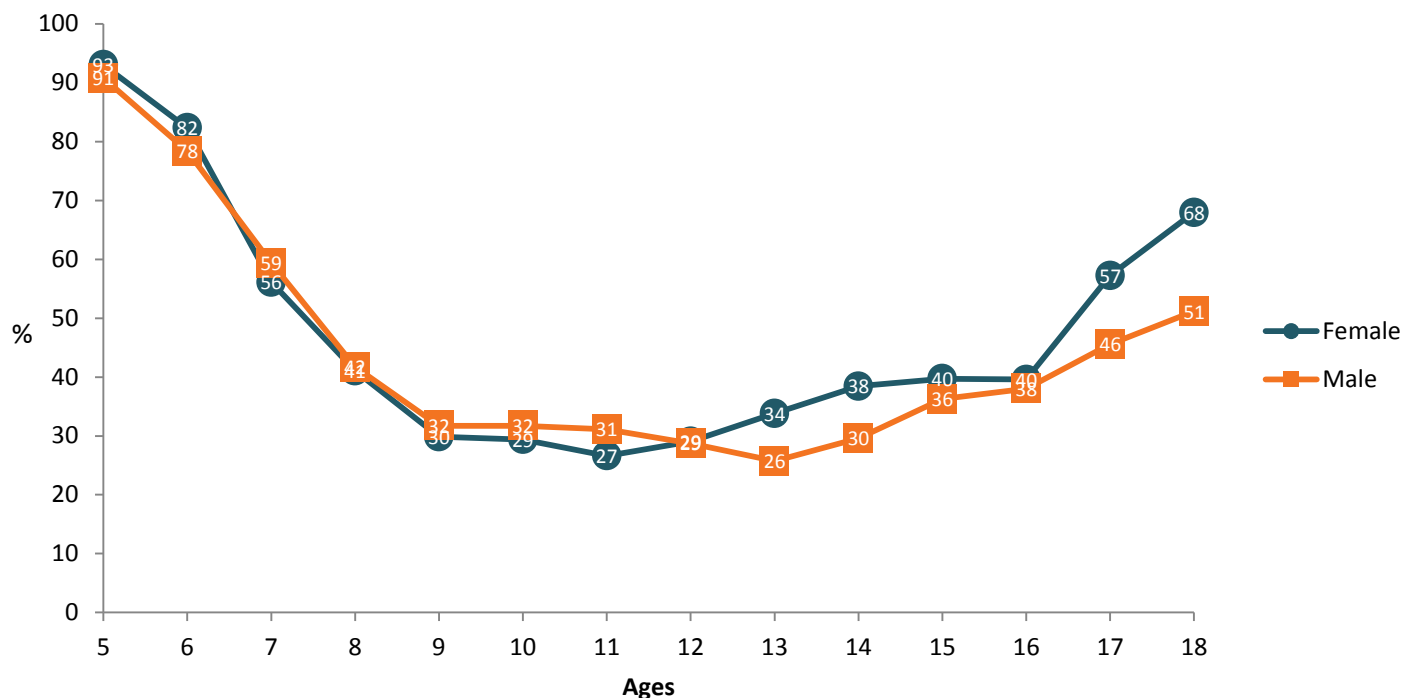
Summary of EPDC Methodology on Measuring Out of School Children

In this profile, EPDC presents estimates of the proportion and number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 using household survey data. Along with relative and absolute estimates of out of school children, EPDC provides 95% confidence intervals for each estimate.

To create estimates of the proportion of out of school children for a particular school year, EPDC used birthdate information to identify children who were of a particular age range (7-14) on the month that the school year began. Children who had attended primary school or higher at any time during the school year were classified as 'in school;' Children who had not attended school at any time during the school year, or who had attended pre-school during that reference period were classified as 'out of school.' The proportion of children who are out of school is calculated as the number of children within the 7-14 age range who were classified as out of school divided by the number of children within the same age range.

To obtain the number of out of school children, the out-of-school rate is then applied to the estimated population of the same age range from the UN Population Division (EPDC obtained single-age population estimates to build the correct age range). UN Population Division figures are provided for mid-year each year, and EPDC uses the population figures from the year closest to the start of the school year in each country. Depending on a country's main academic calendar, the population figure may be from the year before the school participation year.

For more information on measurement of out of school children, please see the EPDC website at www.epdc.org.

EPDC Estimated Rates and Numbers of Out of School Children based on MICS 2006 Presented with 95% Confidence Intervals

	Lower limit of 95% confidence interval	Estimated proportion of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 (%)	Upper limit of 95% confidence interval	Lower limit of 95% confidence interval	Estimated number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 (#)	Upper limit of 95% confidence interval
National	33	**36**	38	102,781	**113,873**	124,965
Sex						
Female	34	**36**	38	54,574	**59,292**	64,010
Male	32	**36**	39	46,568	**54,581**	62,594
Area						
Rural	39	**43**	46	79,279	**90,065**	100,851
Urban	21	**22**	24	21,220	**23,808**	26,396
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	48	**53**	57	31,510	**36,989**	42,467
Poorer Quintile	33	**37**	40	22,130	**25,431**	28,732
Middle Quintile	32	**36**	40	18,838	**22,630**	26,422
Richer Quintile	24	**29**	35	12,631	**18,127**	23,624
Richest Quintile	15	**20**	25	7,418	**10,696**	13,974
Regions						
Kuntaur	50	**62**	73	10,120	**13,608**	17,097
Basse	46	**52**	58	19,801	**23,047**	26,294
Kerewan	42	**48**	54	16,927	**19,833**	22,739
Mansakonko	28	**44**	61	2,873	**11,275**	19,677
Janjanburay	30	**39**	47	8,115	**11,328**	14,542
Brikama	20	**23**	26	15,710	**18,332**	20,954
Kanifing	20	**22**	24	13,094	**15,056**	17,019
Banjul	14	**19**	23	915	**1,393**	1,871