

**XVIII. ADDRESSING THE MDGS AND TARGETS FOR EDUCATION AND GENDER
COMMENTS ON SELECTED ASPECTS LINKED TO THE
ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

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MDGS AND TARGETS FOR EDUCATION AND GENDER

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: *(Target 3: Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling)*

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: *(Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015)*

A. BACKGROUND

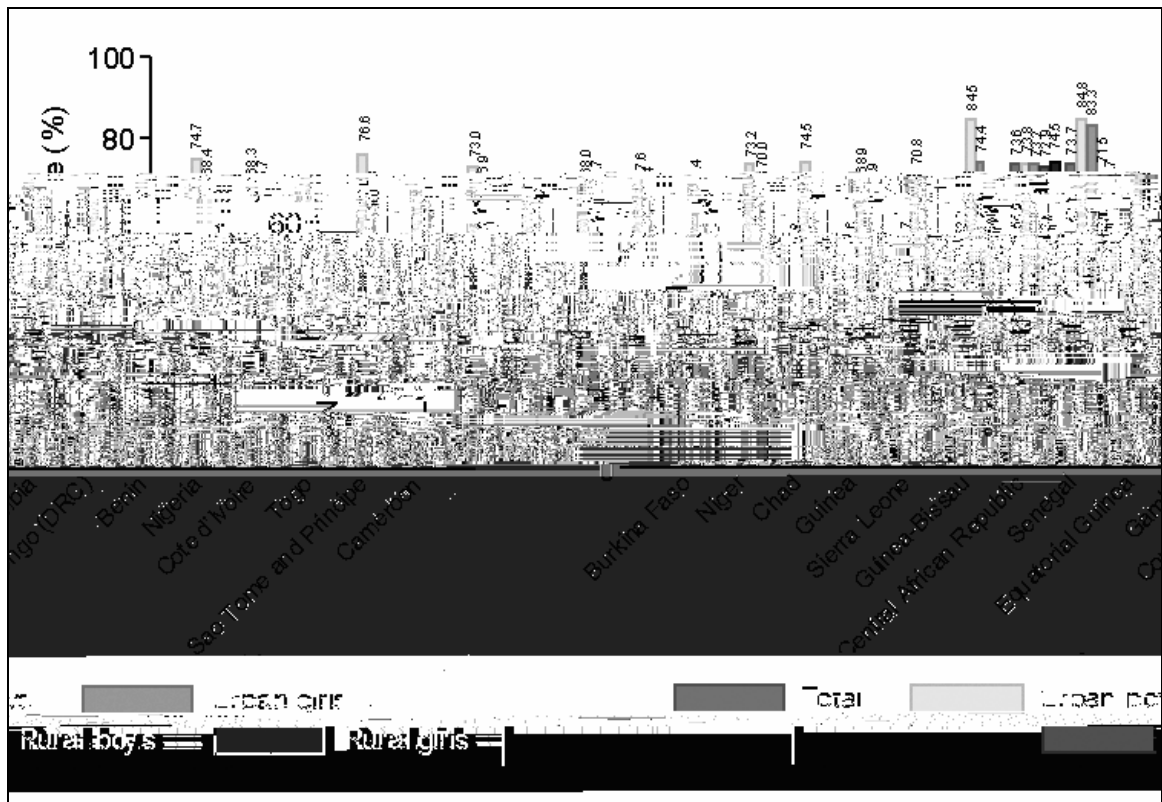
The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) present a set of eight interlinked goals and accompanying targets which together aim at rooting out poverty, with the ambitious aim of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. Integrated approaches are critical to ensuring that poverty is addressed in all of its multiple dimensions—social, economic, and political—including through a focus on capacity-building and empowerment of poor people as actors in their own development.

with other factors to contribute to the achievement of a number of related MDGs. Improved access to education for girls in particular is one dimens

Based on the growing body of empirical evidence, it has been estimated that countries that fail to meet the MDG on gender are likely to face considerable costs in terms of foregone economic growth (0.1–0.3 per cent lower per capita growth) as well as reduced rates of reduction in fertility (0.1–0.4 more children per women); child mortality (an average of 14/1000 higher rates of under-five mortality); and under-nutrition (2.4 percentage points higher prevalence of underweight children under age five) (Abu Gaida and Klasen, 2002). Universal basic education of good quality without discrimination is thus unquestionably a key to reducing both the structural causes of poverty and its effects and to building processes for sustained and equitable development. Achieving the education targets is thus crucial for the achievement of the other MDGs.

C.

Figure XVIII.1. Disparity in net primary school attendance rates: Western and Central Africa



Source:

E. THE IMPORTANCE OF

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