

Dr. Mary Cliftom, Training Literacy researcher, ActionAid International

Education Action 25 | **25**

**Government spending on adult education and adult literacy
as a percentage of the education budget**

Country	Year	% of education budget spent on adult education	% of education budget spent on adult literacy
Africa			
Cape Verde	2005	8.71%	
Chad	2001		1.58%
Equatorial Guinea	2008	19.50%	0.65%
Eritrea	1997		
Gambia	2008	0.30%	
Ghana*	2015	1.30%	
Guinea	1990-2000	0.02%	
Kenya	1998-2008	Less than 1%	
Malawi	2007-2008		0.15%
Mali	2008	1.40%	
Mauritania	2005		0.36%
Mozambique*	2010	0.70%	
Namibia*	2007/2008	3.08%	
Nigeria	2008	1.41%	
Rwanda	2008		0.50%
Senegal	2008		0.70%
Sierra Leone*	2007	0.10%	
South Africa	2009		2.07%
Zambia	2010		0.01%
Asia			
Cambodia	2008	2%	
China	2006	1.86%	
India	2008		0.02%
Lao	2006-07	1%	
Nepal	2005/6	1.13%	
Pakistan	2009-2010		0.37%
Papua New Guinea	2005	4.60%	
Thailand	2007	1.73%	
Vietnam	2005	2.83%	
Latin America			
Bolivia	Annually	3.22%	
Brazil	2008		0.82%
Columbia	2008		0.26%
Costa Rica	Annually	0.02%	
Dominican Republic	2008	2.72%	
Guatemala	Annually		Less than 1%
Jamaica	2007	0.78%	
Peru*	2011	7.27%	
St Lucia	2007/8	14%	

■ Where there are spaces, no figures are available ■ Countries with a * next to the name show planned spending from Education Sector Plans
 ■ The full collection of figures is available at: <http://www.reflect-action.org/financingliteracy>

to adult education and adult literacy as a percentage of the education budget and these include Pakistan, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, China and the Gambia.

- For some of these countries (e.g. Nigeria and China) real spending on adult education has actually increased while the proportion spent has decreased. For others (such as Pakistan and Malawi) there have been real decreases in

spending on adult education. However, even where spending has increased in real terms, decreasing percentages still indicate that adult education is being deprioritised relative to other sectors and is therefore not receiving the benefits of increasing overall funds to education.

- Some countries (such as Vietnam and Ghana) have increased real spending on adult

literacy or education in line with increased overall allocations to education, but have kept the percentage spent at a fixed allocation (1.3% on adult education in Ghana and 2.83% on adult education in Vietnam).

- In some cases, decreases in spending have been explicitly linked to pressure to divert resources away from adult education to the primary sector.