

Benin



REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Also included in this region: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte-d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Beninese HE system loosely follows the French model. Roughly 85% of all HE students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with the rest in hybrid institutions. HE enrolments in Benin increased by over 180% between 2006 and 2018. This enrolment growth was larger than the averages across the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. The number of HEIs in the country also increased in this period, but at a slower rate, meaning that Beninese HEIs increased in size. Just under 75% of enrolments in Benin were with public providers in 2018, which was below the average for the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

| CATEGORY | INSTITUTIONS | INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018 | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| | | PUB. | PRIV. | TOTAL |
| Comprehensive Universities | Universities | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Hybrids | Centres privés d'enseignement supérieur (other than universities) | 0 | 87 | 87 |

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

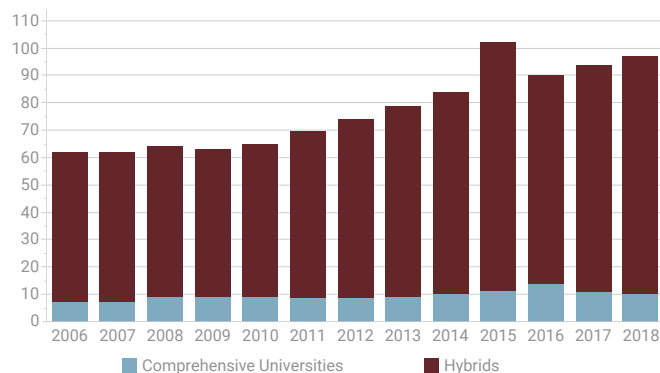


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

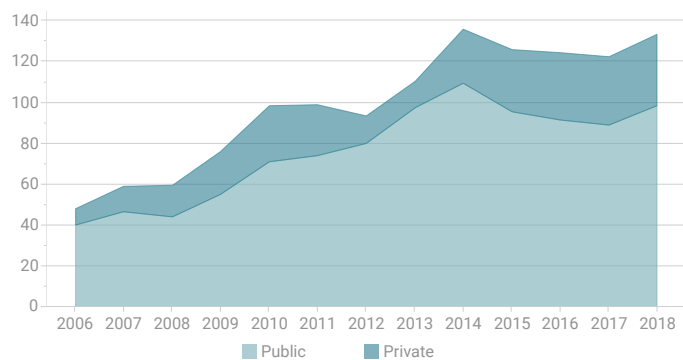


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Benin, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

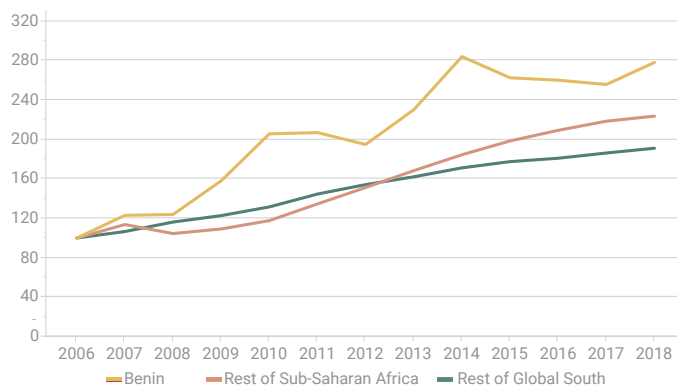


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Benin and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

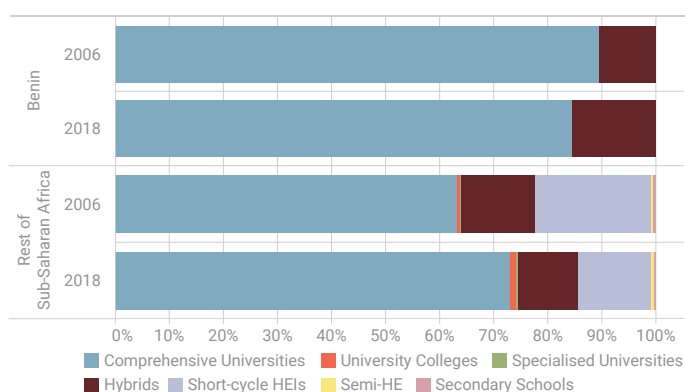


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Benin and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2018

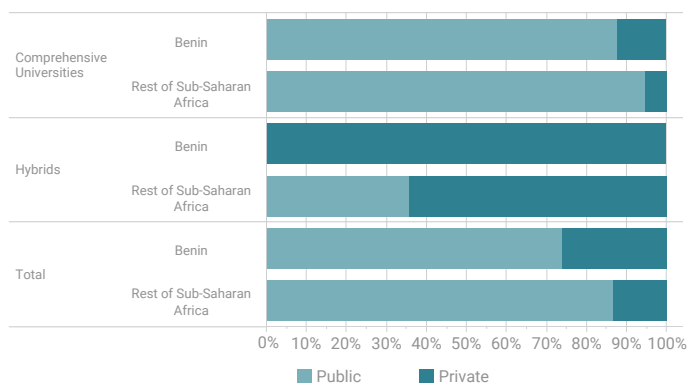
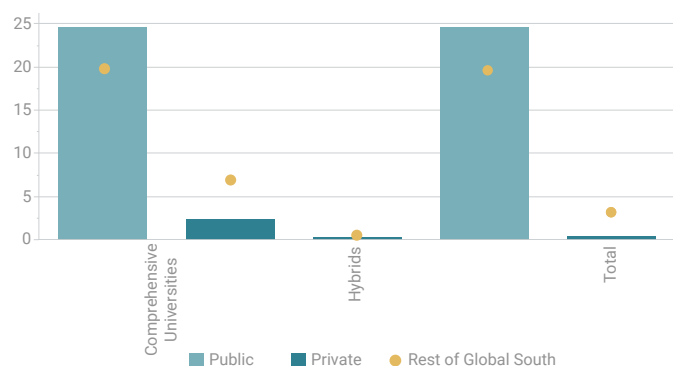


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Benin and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Benin increased by 75% in real terms between 2006 and 2018, a pace somewhat behind the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. Public transfers to universities increased somewhat more quickly than overall public expenditures, in fact keeping up with growth in student numbers (unlike overall public HE spending). This resulted in funding remaining relatively consistent at USD 1,500 per student per year. Benin’s public spending on HE was around 0.8% in 2018, matching the averages across the rest of sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. This level matched that of 2006, but was lower than the peak of 1.2% in 2012.

FIGURE 7 – Change in real total public spending on higher education Benin, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

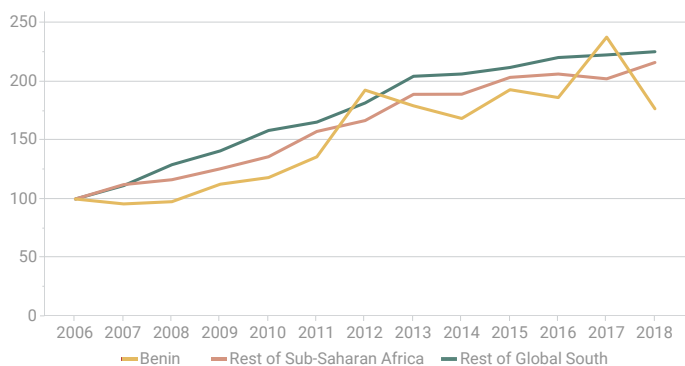


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Benin, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

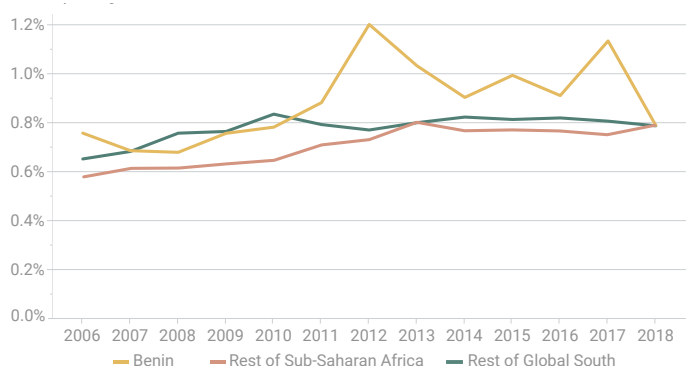


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type, Benin and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

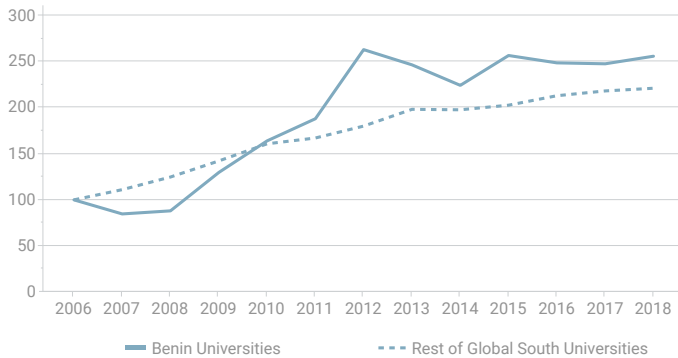
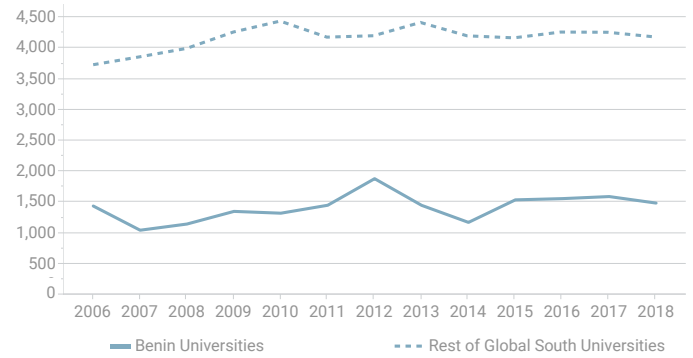


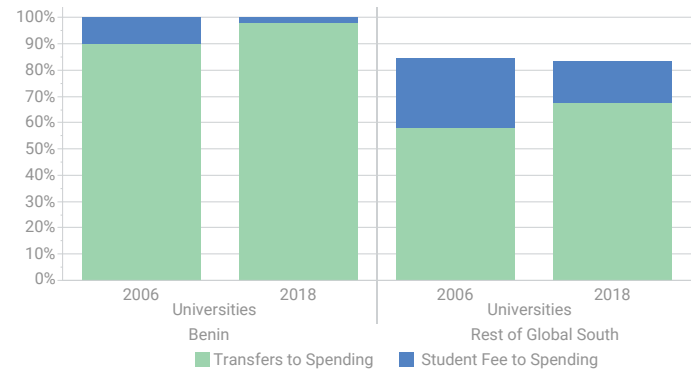
FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Benin and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



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FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Benin and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

In 2009, the Government of Benin introduced a free-tuition policy, whereby only students receiving government grants would be required to pay compulsory fees – essentially these students also have free tuition, just the cost is deducted from their grants. We therefore classify Benin as a mix of an inclusive free public and privileged public HE system. Prior to this policy change, all students were charged a standard fee. Over the period of interest, the average revenue per fee-paying student stayed relatively consistent at under USD 200 per year at public HEIs.

FIGURE 12 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Benin, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018

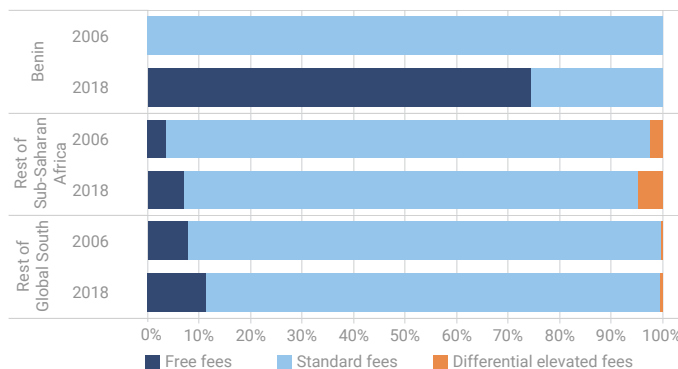
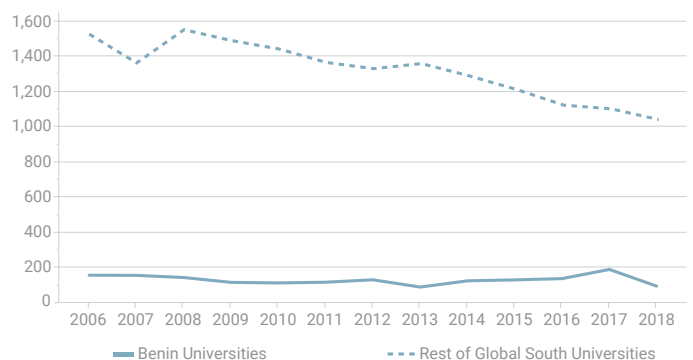


FIGURE 13 – Fee revenues per student paying typical rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Benin operates an Oeuvres Universitaires model of government student financial aid. Grants predominated over the period of interest, while about 2% of the student population benefitted from housing subsidies. While overall grant recipient numbers increased in absolute terms between 2006 and 2018, they declined relative to total enrolments. Average reported grants also greatly decreased in size since 2016, although it is unclear if this reflects a real policy change or a reporting issue. In GDP terms, total student aid disbursements in 2018 were less than 0.04% of GDP, far below the averages for both the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.

TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

| CATEGORY | PROGRAMS | BASIS OF ALLOCATION | RECIPIENTS | AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD) |
|------------------|--|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Grants | Bourses and secours universitaires | Need and merit based | 25,114 | 8,581,882 |
| Residence spaces | Oeuvres universitaires model | ND | 3,220 | ND |
| Other | Health, meals and transportation support | ND | ND | ND |

FIGURE 14 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in Benin, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

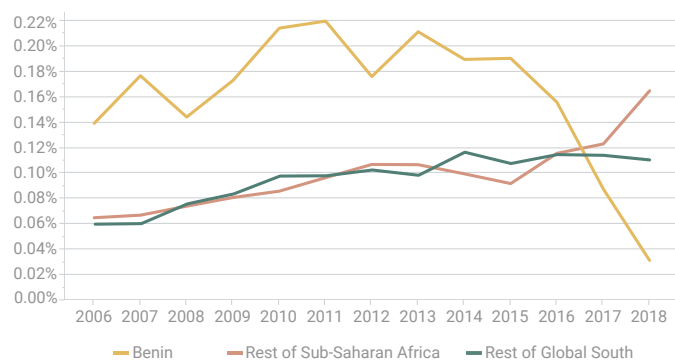


FIGURE 15 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Benin and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

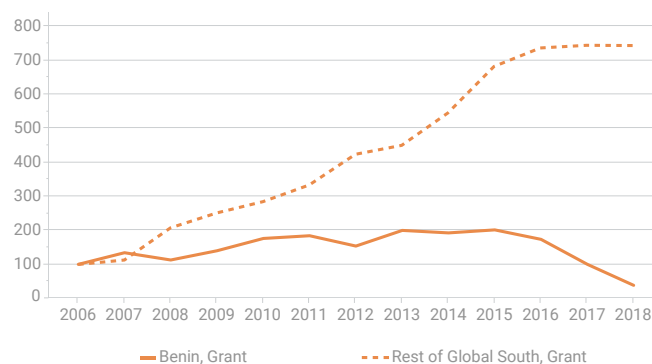


FIGURE 16 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Benin and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

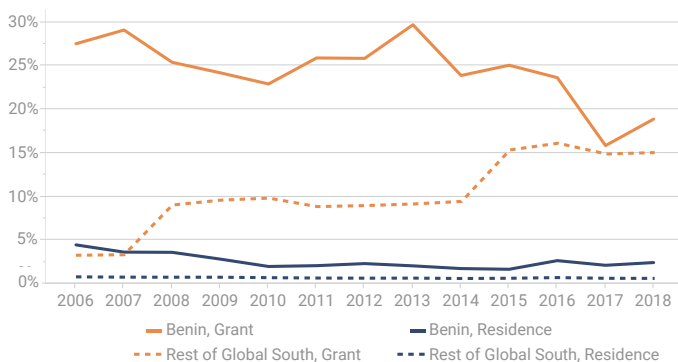
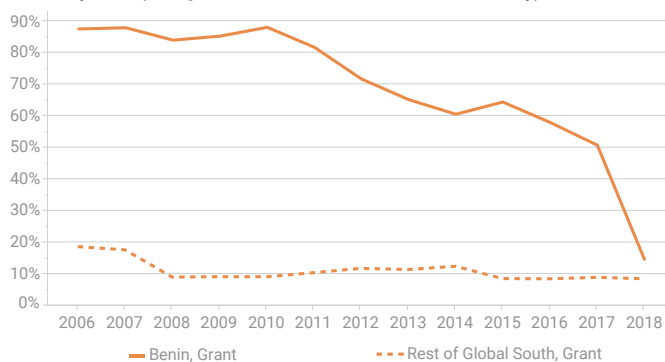


FIGURE 17 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Benin and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



***Note:** For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).