Ethiopia

REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Ethiopia’s HE system fits the unitary model. Just under 85% of students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with the remainder attending hybrids (our classification of private providers). Enrolments quintupled between 2006 and 2018, rising from around 180,000 to 900,000. This increase in enrolment was well above the average across both the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. The number of HEIs, both public and private, increased much more slowly than enrolments and so average HEI-size increased substantially. Just under 85% of HE enrolments in Ethiopia attended public HEIs in 2018, which was below the average for the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa.

TABLE 1 — Types of higher education providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>INSTITUTIONS</th>
<th>INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PUB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Universities</td>
<td>Public universities</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrids</td>
<td>Private higher education institutions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Ethiopia, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018
PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Between 2006 and 2018, Ethiopian public spending on HE rose by over 250%, a pace substantially faster than seen across the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. Government transfers to public HEIs increased by roughly the same higher amount, but because funding growth was slower than enrolment growth, per-student funding fell from nearly USD 8,000 per year to under USD 5,000 per year – with most of the decline happening prior to 2009. Ethiopian public HE expenditures were roughly the same relative to GDP (1.7%) in 2006 and 2018, which was well above the averages for the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.
PART III: STUDENT FEES

Roughly 45% of all students at public universities in Ethiopia pay some kind of tuition fee, because these students are attending extension/evening, summer or distance undergraduate programs. “Regular” students in undergraduate programs, as well as graduate students, do not pay compulsory fees. There is insufficient data to examine fee levels in Ethiopia in any more detail.

PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

It appears that the Government of Ethiopia does offer student financial aid. However, there is insufficient data to analyse the relevant programs.

*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see Appendices A and B.*