

Nigeria



REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Nigerian HE system loosely follows the North American model. Over 70% of students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with most of the rest in short-cycle HEIs. Enrolments nearly doubled between 2006 and 2018, rising from just over 1.4 million students to just under 2.8 million. This rise was punctuated by a three-year drop leading up to 2010, which coincided with a period of significant academic labour unrest that closed many campuses for months at a time. Overall enrolment growth was about even with that across the rest of the Global South, but slower than across the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. The number of HEIs also doubled over the same period, causing Nigerian HEIs to remain roughly the same size on average. Just under 95% of students attended public providers in 2018, which was above 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	89	75	164
Hybrids	National Teacher's Institute	1	0	1
Short-cycle HEIs	Education colleges; polytechnics; monotechnics	233	120	353

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

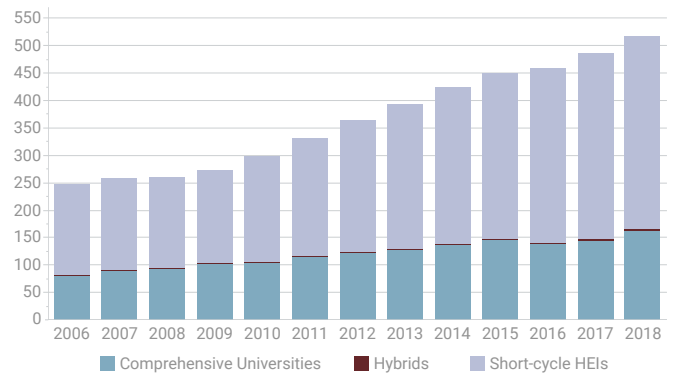


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

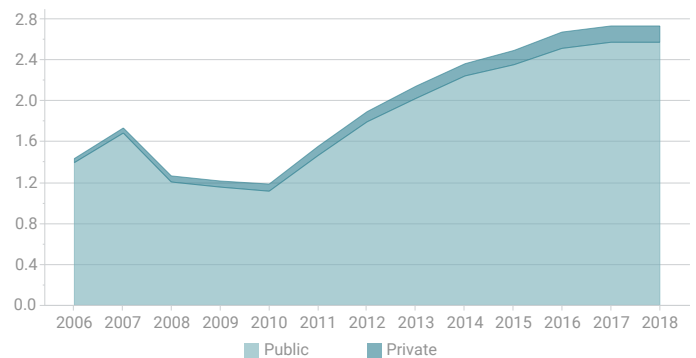


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Nigeria, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

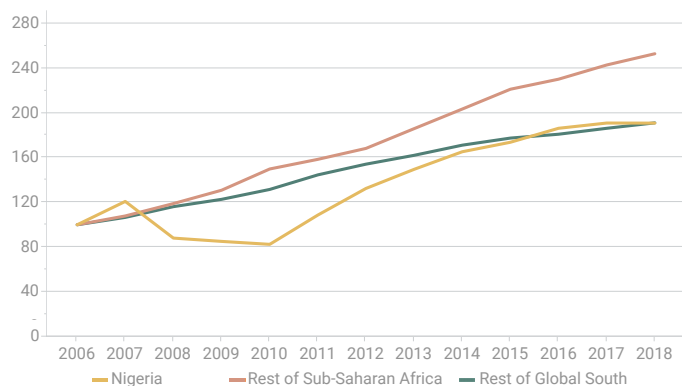


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Nigeria and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

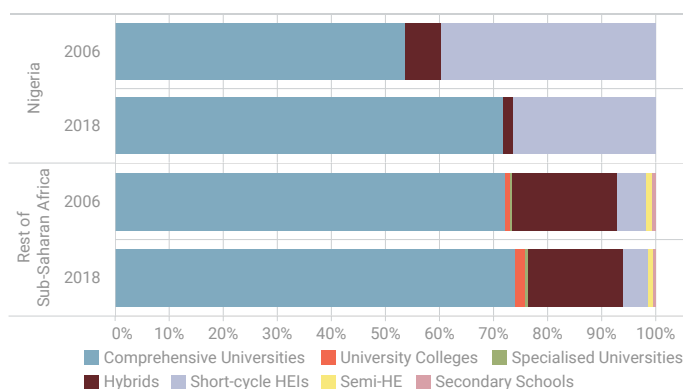


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Nigeria and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2018

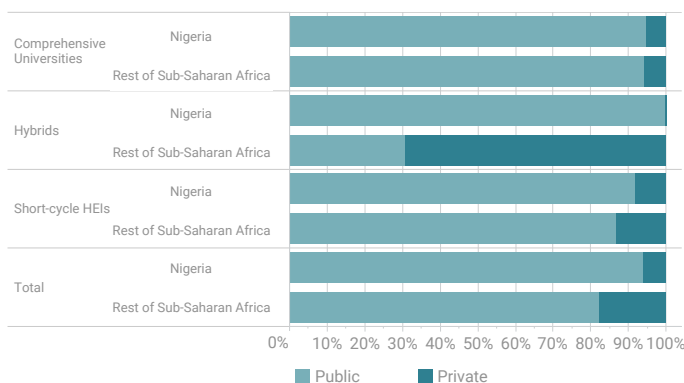
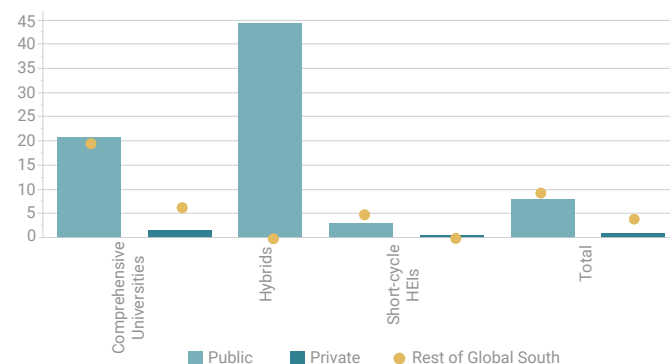


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Nigeria and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Nigeria doubled in between 2006 and 2010. Slower growth continued until 2014, before spending dropped by a third over the next three years. Oil price fluctuations do much to explain these patterns. Ultimately, total public expenditures were about 80% higher in 2018 than in 2006. Transfers to public HEIs followed a similar path, but fell slightly on a per-student basis as enrolments grew more quickly. Relative to GDP, Nigerian public spending on HE was slightly higher in 2018 than in 2006 at just under 0.5%, still below the averages for the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.

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

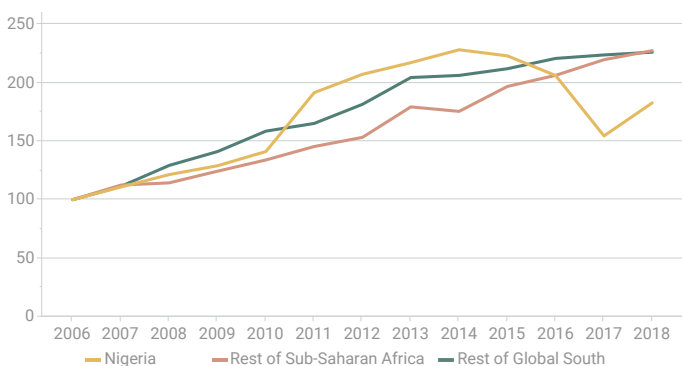


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Nigeria, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

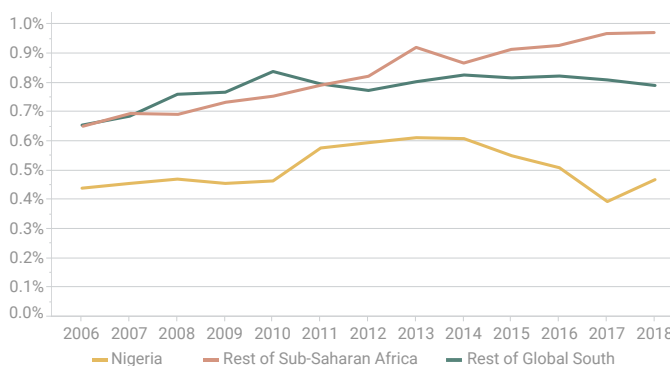


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Nigeria and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

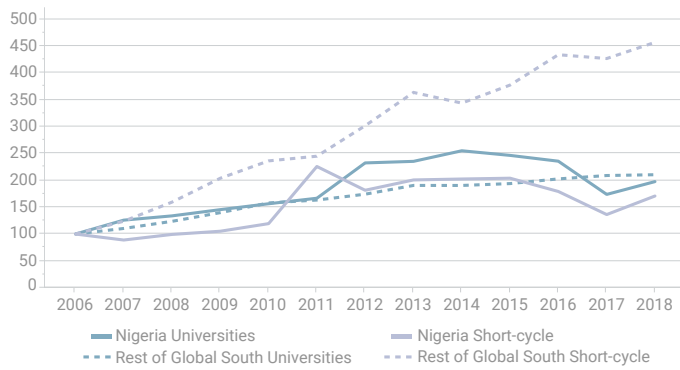
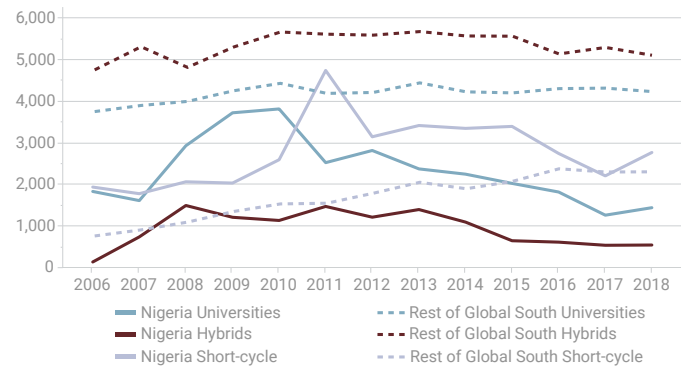


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, inn Nigeria and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

We classify Nigerian higher education as a token fee-charging regime. However, there is insufficient data to analyze student fees in greater detail.

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PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Nigeria is grant-only, and what grants that we can track are relatively small. Only about two out of every thousand students benefitted from these grants in 2018, while the average value of grants disbursed fell substantially over our period of interest due to inflation. In GDP terms, total student aid disbursements were equal to less than 0.001% of GDP in 2018, which was the lowest recorded figure in the world.

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

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Federal Scholarship Board scholarships for Nigerian students	Merit-based with gender balancing	2,690	3,358,942

FIGURE 11 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product in Nigeria, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

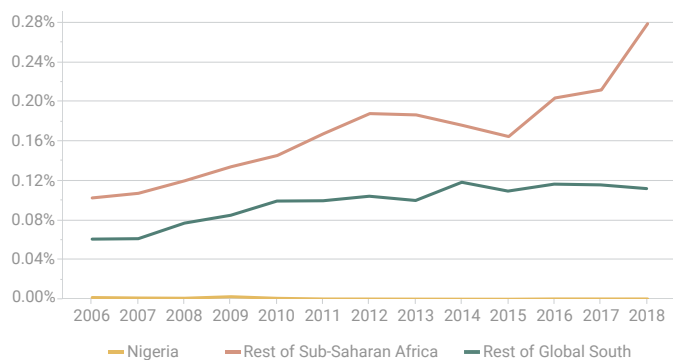


FIGURE 12 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Nigeria and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

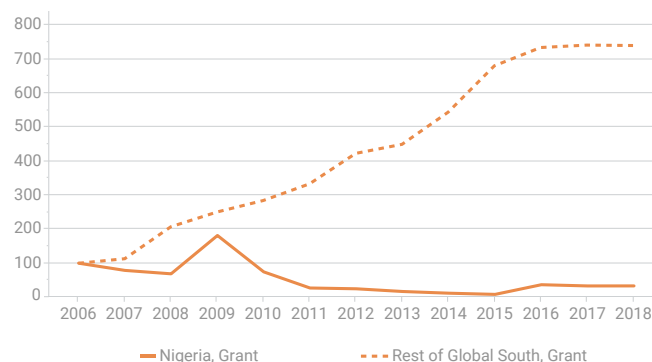


FIGURE 13 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Nigeria and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

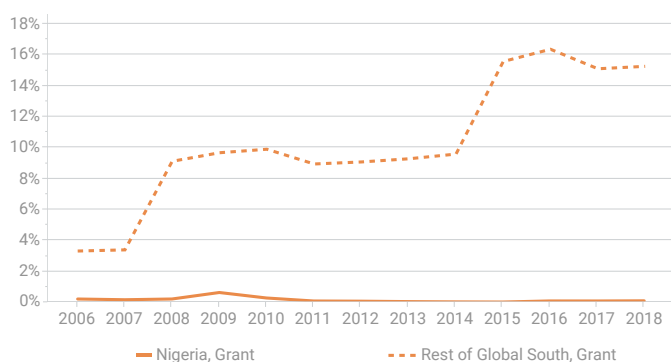
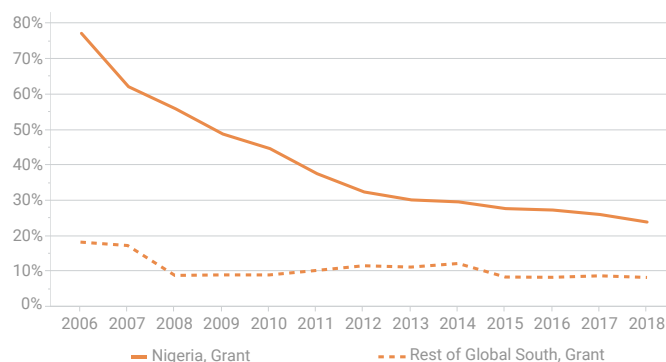


FIGURE 14 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Nigeria and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



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