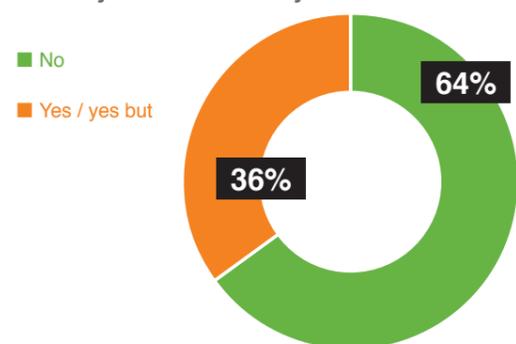


64 % OF THE YOUNG ACTIVISTS THINK THAT SCHOOL DOES NOT PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

Some issues identified at the occasion of the Accra Youth Forum and the online consultation are tackling specifically gender equality at school:

- Persistent gender stereotypes at school, including among teachers
- A school environment sometimes not adapted to girls
- Sexual harassment from the boys and from the teachers themselves

According to you, do schools promote equality between girls and boys in your country?



“ The teachers themselves are not sensitized to gender equality and contribute to widen the gap between boys and girls, and to infringe on girls rights ”

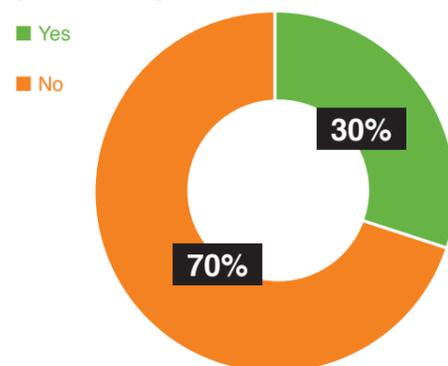
Kankou, 20 years old, Guinea.

70 % OF THE YOUTH THINK THAT THE EXISTING TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAININGS DO NOT ENCOURAGE YOUTH'S INSERTION INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

The main recommendations for a quality technical and vocational training identified through the online consultation:

- 32% of the young leaders mention the necessary adaptation of the curricula to the labour market reality
- 30% of the activists recommend increasing the number of training centres and to provide more and better training material
- 24,5 % of them recommend improving the vocational training contents and to ensure a better training of trainers, including through an improved control of the quality of the provided trainings
- 21% of the young activists recommend to improve the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) public policies

According to you, do the existing technical and professional trainings encourage youth's insertion on the labour market in your country ?



The activists from the Accra Youth forum also identified challenges which enrich the online consultancy:

- The lack of job opportunities on the labour market compared to the needs is still an important issue.
- The technical and vocational training is not well promoted amongst the youth
- Young entrepreneurs do not have access to technical and financial support to start their businesses.
- The technical and vocational trainings remain expensive for the poorest families.



West and Central Africa Youth Consultation ahead of the G7 joint meeting of Education and Development ministers of the 5th of July 2019 Summary report

The G7 state members, the European Union and their West and Central African partners have expressed their will to know the concerns and recommendations of the young leaders in the sub-region. The main topics discussed were :

- issues, challenges and levers for an equal access of girls to quality education and for an education promoting gender equality
- The quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to support socio-economic inclusion of young people

To collect these answers, the state of France mandated the Coalition Education, a collective of 19 civil society organizations committed to the right to education. The youth consultation has targeted youth led organisations/young leaders from West and Central Africa sub-region.

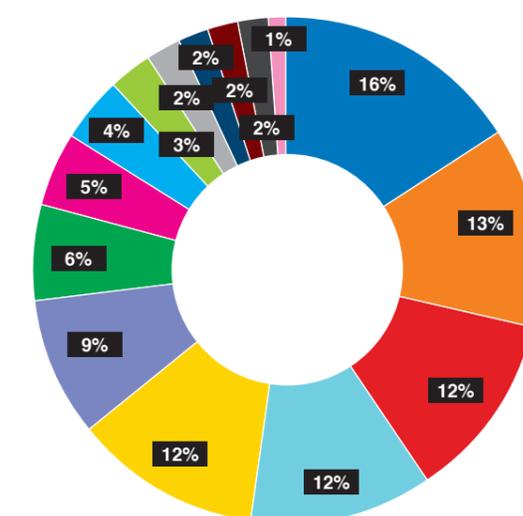
The young leaders could answer to an online consultation between the 1st of March to the 25th of May 2019, and the data collection and analysis was enriched by a workshop organised by Plan International on the 11th of April 2019, in Accra. This forum gathered about 50 West and Central African young leaders.

WHO ARE THE YOUNG LEADERS CONSULTED?

657 young leaders from 19 countries answered to the online consultation. This success provided a rich and complex data base. The G5 countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger et Chad) and the Senegal¹ are well represented (39% of the answers), especially Mali (77 respondents) and Senegal (76 respondents).

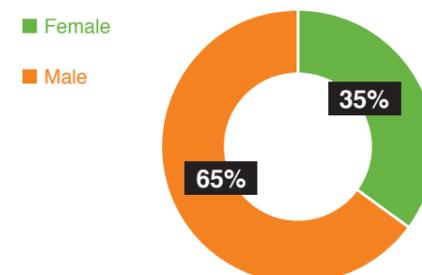
- 16% Guinea
- 13% Cameroon
- 12% Mali
- 12% Senegal
- 12% Bénin
- 12% Ivory Coast
- 9% Burkina Fasso
- 6% Niger
- 5% Togo
- 4% Chad
- 3% Nigeria
- 2% Ghana
- 2% Mauritania
- 2% Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 1% Republic of the Congo
- 0% Central African Republic
- 0% Liberia
- 0% Sierra Leone
- 0% The Gambia

Breakdown per country

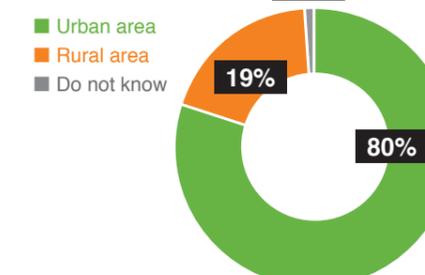


¹ Countries invited to participate in the G7 joint meeting on Education and Development

Breakdown per gender



Where do they come from ?



Average age:
26 years old

Youngest respondent:
15 years old

Oldest respondent:
30 years old

86 % OF THE RESPONDENTS STATE THAT THE ACCESS TO EDUCATION IS UNEQUAL FOR GIRLS AND BOYS, OR ACKNOWLEDGE KEY OBSTACLES TO AN EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION:

11 % of the young leaders talk about greater obstacles to an equal access to education in rural areas than in urban areas.

8 % of the young leaders mention greater difficulties to an equal access to secondary education compared to primary education.

“ In my country, girls and boys are entitled de jure to an equal access to school, but de facto, they are a minority at school and they are less encouraged to go to school than boys ”

Djata, 21 years old, Ivory Coast.

Obstacles identified at the Accra Youth Forum (April 2019):	Obstacles identified through the online consultation:	
	Obstacles	Number of young activists mentioning the obstacle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cultural and religious beliefs contribute to deprive girls from education. According to these beliefs, the primary education is enough for girls. ■ Child marriage implies that girls do not need a secondary education. ■ Domestic work ■ Child labor (street vending is common among girls) ■ Lack of infrastructures : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools are too far, which can lead girls to give up on school - The lack of sanitation facilities adapted to menstrual periods (no female toilets, or no toilets doors) ■ Poor families prefer to pay for their boys' education rather than for the girls', who are meant to marry. 	Social norms and gender roles	288
	Child marriage	261
	Economic factors	172
	Early pregnancies	107
	Domestic work	90
	Lack of awareness raising, parents' ignorance	62
	Sexual abuses and harrassment	58
	Lack of schools and inadequate infrastructures	55
	Disadvantageous political and legal contexts	30
	Child labor	23
	Religion	16
	Lack of support for girls	10
	Insufficient quality of education	9

44 % of the young leaders state that gender social norms are an obstacle to an equal access to education. For the youth, this refers in the first place to the acceptance of the inferiority of the girls and their role in society.

40 % of young respondents mention child marriage as an obstacle to an equal access to education.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

■ Recommendations identified by the leaders from the Accra Youth forum:

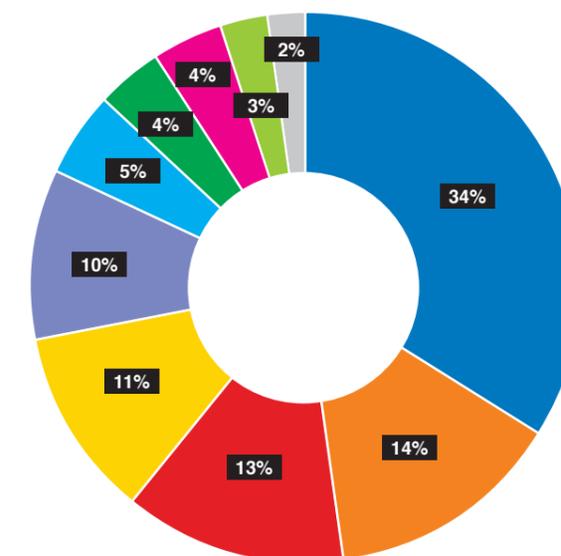
- Implementing Gender equality awareness-raising strategies
- Increasing the number of school infrastructures in rural areas
- Creating scholarships to retain girls' at school
- Improving sanitation facilities at school, especially in rural areas
- Promoting the recruitment of female teachers

■ Recommendations identified through the online consultation:

Recommandations	Number of respondents who mention the recommendation
Awareness-raising	402
Improving access to school and infrastructures	164
Scholarships for girls, fighting poverty	157
Effective free schooling	129
Effective punishment of sexual abuses and improvement of the child protection system	113
Improvement of quality of education and training of teachers	57
Technical and vocational training and insertion strategies	52
Mandatory education	42
Promoting female leadership	35
Sexual and reproductive health	22

Breakdown per type of recommendations for an equal access to education for girls and boys

- Awareness-raising
- Improving access to school and infrastructures
- Grants for girls, fighting poverty
- Actual free school
- Punishing sexual abuses and improving child protection systems
- Improving the quality of education and training of teachers
- Professional training and insertion
- Mandatory education
- Promoting female leadership
- Sexual and reproductive health



61 % of the young activists recommend taking action through awareness-raising

“ Parents, especially the vulnerable social strata, should be sensitized to the importance of school enrolment for girls ”

Issa, 30 years old, Niger.