



**2008 World Congress
& International Association of
Colleges Conference**

African Experiences
French West Africa

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Some Data



Total population:	88 millions
Secondary school completion:	45%
Literacy rate:	45%
Tertiary enrolment:	3.4%
Education budget:	15%
Vocational training:	End of PS
Duration:	3-6 years

Benin

Mali

Senegal

Gabon

Burkina Faso Cote d'Ivoire

Niger

Togo

Mauritania

Guinea



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Colonial Legacy

- Elitist & very selective education
- Technical and vocational schools = clerical and administrative personnel
- Students were those who were not “smart” enough for general education
- Majority of the schools were to train low level farmers
- Reflection of extremes

“ Colonial duty and political necessity impose a double task on our education work: on the one hand it is a matter of training an indigenous staff destined to become our assistants throughout the domains, and to assure the ascension of a carefully chosen elite, and on the other hand it is a matter of educating the masses, to bring them nearer to us and to change their way of life.”

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Transitional Phase

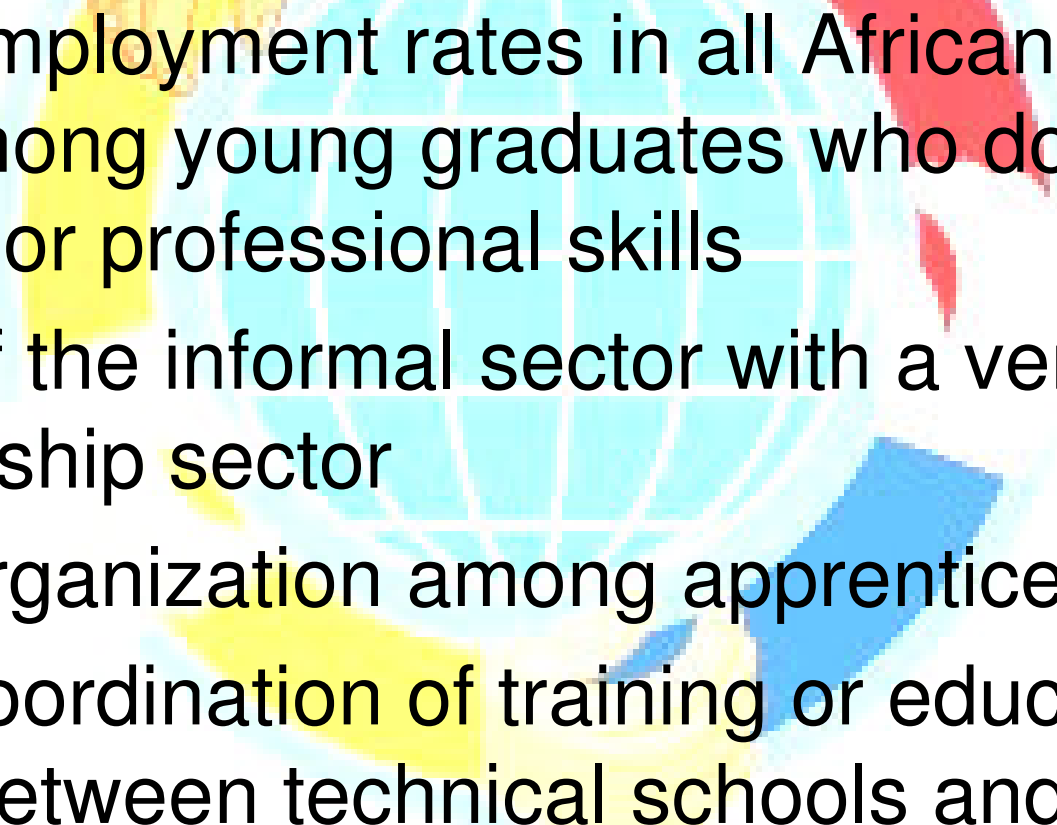
- 10 years after independences- imbalances
- Financial crisis of the 1980s
- Increased calls for vocational education
- Models did not allow for tertiary education pathways

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Landscape Today

- Of 100 children who enroll in the first year of primary education, only 30 will continue with either secondary education or some form of vocational training
- 3 may pursue tertiary level education and training.
- The Rise and Fall of Vocational Education
- Some success stories in **Ghana**; South Africa; Tanzania; Namibia; Botswana & Zambia

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Issues

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- High unemployment rates in all African countries notably among young graduates who do not have any technical nor professional skills
 - Growth of the informal sector with a very dynamic apprenticeship sector
 - Lack of organization among apprenticeships
 - Lack of coordination of training or educational offerings between technical schools and universities

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Issues (con'td)

- Stigma about the value and usefulness of technical education
- Governance of the technical schools- Ministries of Education; Youth; Labor; Industry
- Lack of funding
- Single expertise area of focus
- Limited access for older learners and women
- Most are located in cities

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Useful reminders- Fresh awareness

- There is a much closer link between technical Education and economic development
& poverty reduction (*Benavo; African Union*)
- Technical Education closely espouses Goal # 3 of EFA

“To position TVET programmes and TVET institutions in Africa as vehicles for regional cooperation and integration as well as socio-economic development as it relates to improvements in infrastructure, technological progress, energy, trade, tourism, agriculture and good governance.”

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High cost of vocational education

- Business partnerships
- Regional Approach



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Relevancy

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- Labor market analysis and skill identification
 - Enterprise-based training
 - Partnership with businesses

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Governance, image and access

- Repair image (pathway to tertiary education)
- Stable governance to signal commitment
- Increase access
- Data (collection) for action

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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

