

Poverty & Equity Brief

October 2024

TOGO

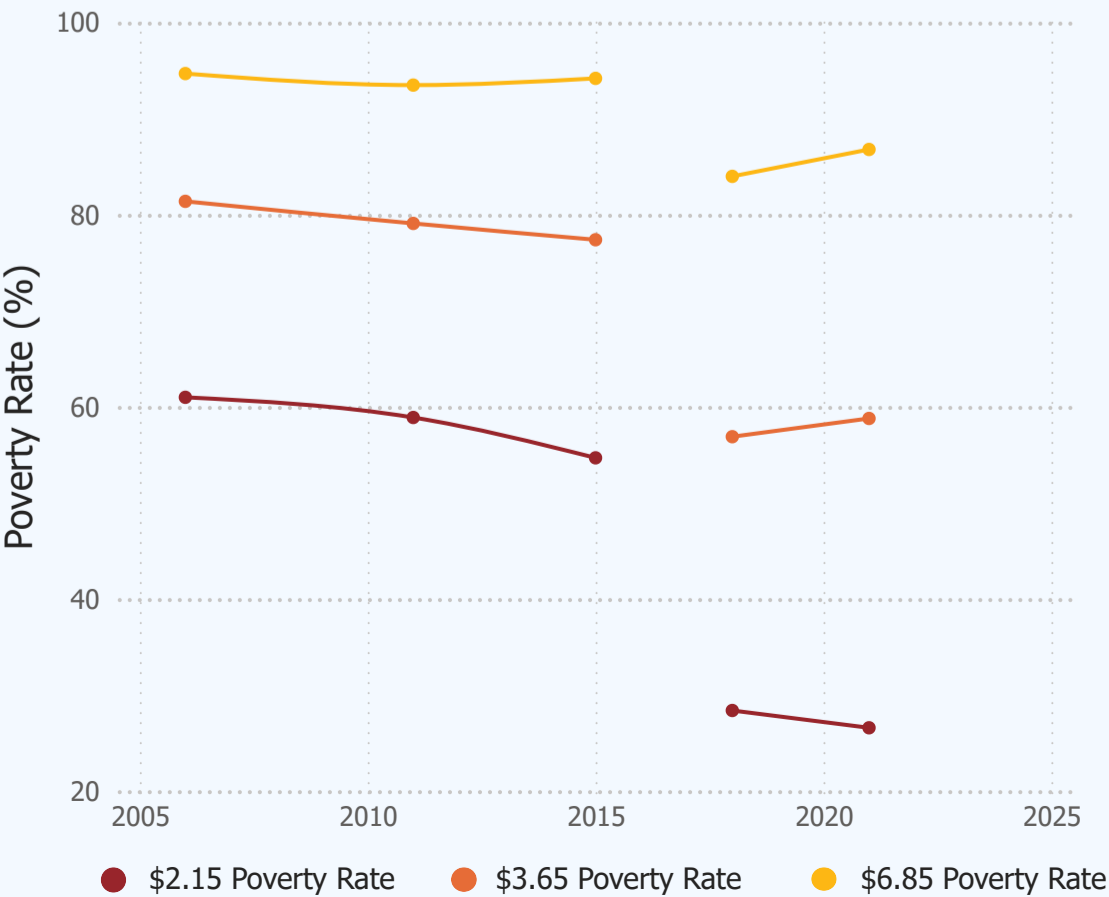
Togo saw modest poverty reduction between 2018 and 2021, with notable urban-rural disparities. The national poverty rate dropped slightly from 45.5 percent to 43.8 percent, with urban areas experiencing a more significant decline of 1.9 percentage points (to 24.6 percent in 2021) than rural areas, where poverty declined by just 0.6 percentage points (to 58.2 percent in 2021). Regional disparities in poverty persist, with the highest rates in the Savanes and Kara regions, while Grand Lomé has the lowest. Importantly, the Central region experienced a reversal in poverty reduction, recording an increase of almost 3 percentage points, reaching 50.3 percent in 2021. Gender-based differences in poverty incidence in terms of household composition are also high. For example, in 2021, the poverty rate in households with a single female adult was more than double that of households with a single male adult (45.5 percent and 21 percent, respectively).

The national Gini index, a measure of inequality, decreased from 38.1 to 34.1, indicating improved consumption equality. Nevertheless, a persistent rural-urban divide remains, as evidenced by differences in access to basic services such as electricity. Specifically, while rural access to electricity improved by almost 7 percentage points, reaching 34.1 percent in 2021, this figure remains considerably lower compared to the urban access rate, which rose from 88.7 percent in 2018/19 to 92.8 percent in 2021. This underscores the need for inclusive investment that favors access to basic services for the rural population.

Despite economic resilience after enduring a series of shocks since the COVID-19 pandemic, with an average growth of 6.1 percent from 2021 to 2023, there have been setbacks in the progress of extreme poverty reduction. Specifically, the \$2.15/day international poverty rate reached 27.5 percent in 2022, up by 0.9 percentage points from 2021, corresponding to over 130,000 additional Togolese being pushed into poverty. Poverty is estimated to have marginally decreased to 27.2 percent in 2023 and is expected to continue a downward trajectory, reaching 23.5 percent by 2026, driven by moderate and stable economic growth combined with easing inflation. However, with rising regional instability and climate pressures, achieving more inclusive growth and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations will necessitate a fiscal consolidation strategy that supports growth while safeguarding key investments and social programs. Additionally, structural reforms to enhance private investment and job creation, along with climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable value chains, are critical to bridging the rural-urban gap and driving structural transformation in the face of climate change.



Poverty Rate



Inequality



Poverty at Different Lines

Poverty Line	Number of Poor (Thousands)	Rate (%)	Year
National Poverty Line	3,786.4	43.8	2021
International Poverty Line (\$2.15/day)	2,298.8	26.6	2021
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$3.65/day)	5,085.2	58.8	2021
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$6.85/day)	7,507.0	86.8	2021
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		43.9	2021

Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	7.1	Daily income less than US\$2.15 per person	26.6
Rural population	41.3	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	12.4
Males	26.5	No adult has completed primary education	29.6
Females	26.7	No access to limited-standard drinking water	26.3
0 to 14 years old	33.2	No access to limited-standard sanitation	86.2
15 to 64 years old	21.6	No access to electricity	32.1
65 and older	24.7		
Without education (16+)	37.3		
Primary education (16+)	23.2		
Secondary education (16+)	13.2		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	N/A*		

Note:

Data for the "Poverty by Group" table is derived from a 2021 survey and data for the "Multidimensional Poverty Components" table is derived from a 2021 survey. The rates in the "Poverty by Group" table above are shown at the \$2.15 international line.

"N/A" denotes a missing/removed value, while "N/A*" refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.

Poverty Data & Methodology

Togo conducted the second round of the Enquête Harmonisée sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages (EHCVM) in 2021/22, a standardized household survey for WAEMU countries. This is an initiative of the WAEMU Commission, supported by the World Bank, and features comparable questionnaires and methodologies.

The welfare measure for poverty estimation is annual consumption per capita, spatially and temporally deflated. A new national poverty line was constructed in 2021/22 instead of using inflation to update the 2018/19 line as the CPI may not be accurately measuring the increased cost of living due to a variety of price shocks experienced between 2018 and 2021. The new poverty line follows the same cost of basic needs approach, with the food poverty line reflecting the cost of a basket of foods providing 2,300 kilocalories. The non-food-poverty line is a portion of the non-food consumption expenditure of households located around the food poverty line. The sum of the two poverty lines gives the national poverty line.

The timing of the implementation of the 2018/19 and 2021/22 surveys was not identical, and different methods for adjusting for the cost of living were applied. In addition, the 2021/22 welfare aggregate excludes hospitalization expenditures.

Harmonization

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.