# Poverty & Equity Brief

October 2025

# TOGO

Togo saw modest poverty reduction between 2018 and 2021 with notable urban-rural disparities. The share of the population living below the national poverty line of FCFA 295,182 per person per year 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 ones, 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 Savanes and Kara, while Grand Lomé has the lowest. Importantly, the Central region recorded an increase in poverty of almost 3 percentage points, reaching 50.3 percent in 2021. Gender differences in poverty incidence 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 21.0 percent, respectively).
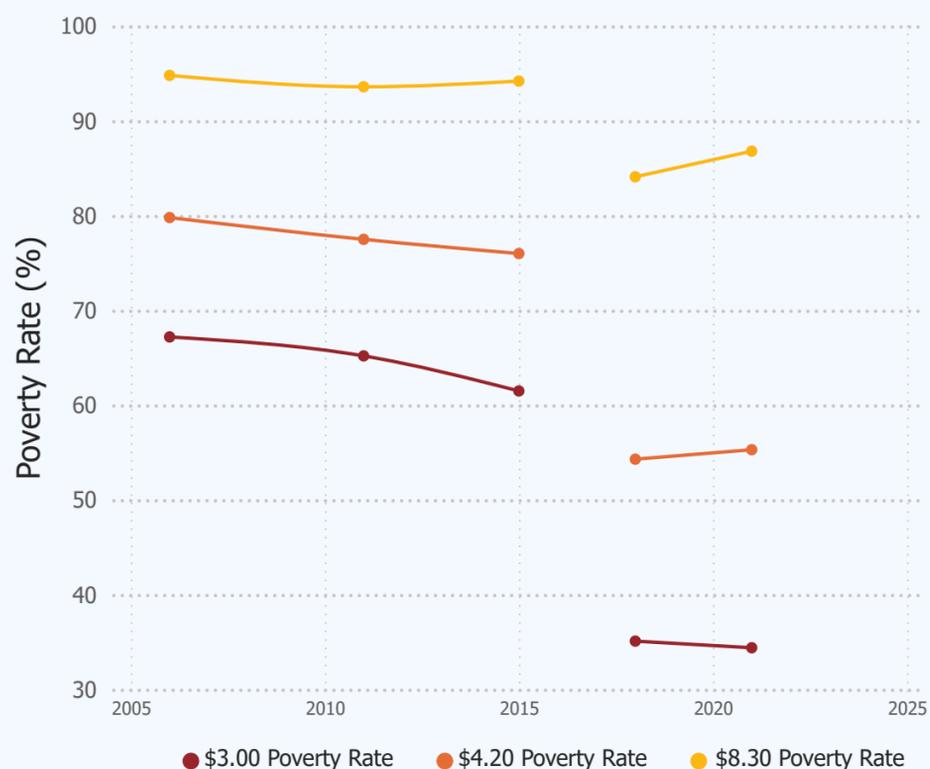
Between 2021 and 2023 extreme poverty reduction continued to be modest despite an average economic growth of 6.1 percent from 2021 to 2023 (3.6 percent per capita). Simulations using the international poverty rate (<$3.00 per person per day in 2021 PPP) suggest poverty decreased by only 0.5 percentage points per year over this period. This slow decrease in the poverty rate, combined with faster population growth, led to an additional 55,000 poor people. In 2024, with real GDP growth remaining above 5 percent (3.0 percent per capita) and inflation dropping to 2.9 percent, poverty reduction accelerated somewhat, decreasing by 1.3 percentage points to 32.4 percent, using the international extreme poverty rate.

The national Gini index, a measure of inequality, decreased from 38.1 in 2018 to 37.9 in 2021 (the latest survey year), indicating improved consumption equality. As mentioned, persistent rural-urban poverty remains, and this is also the case in access to basic services such as electricity. Specifically, while rural access to electricity improved by almost 7 percentage points between 2018 and 2021, reaching 34.1 percent, this figure remains considerably low 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.
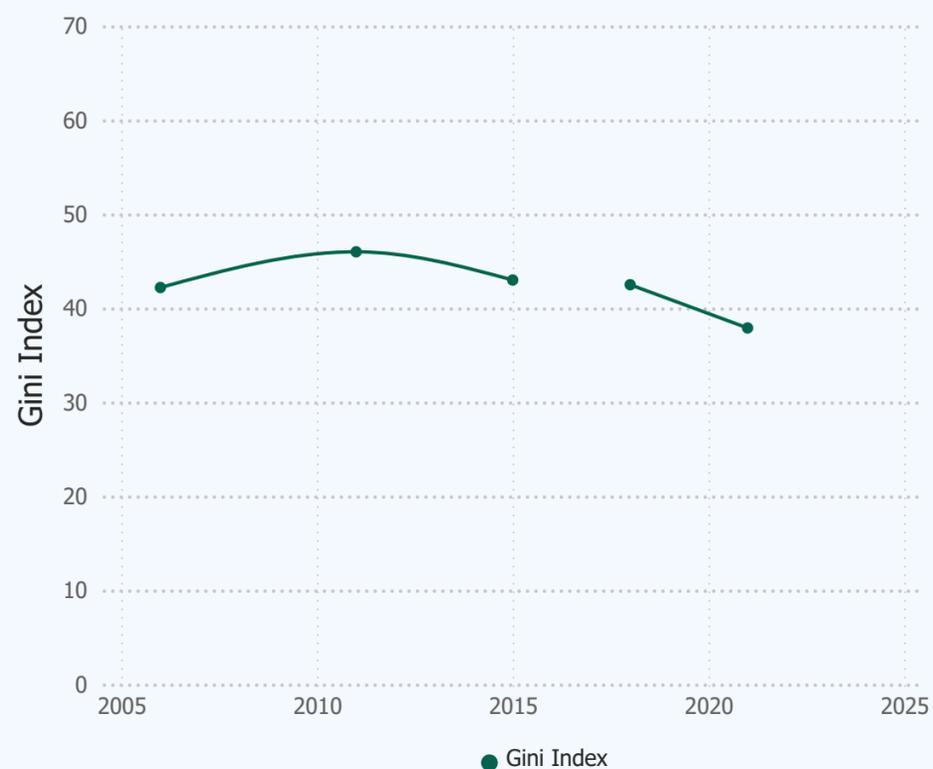
Moderate and stable economic growth combined with easing inflation are projected to further decrease extreme poverty by 3.5 percentage points between 2025 and 2027. Nevertheless, with rising regional instability and climate pressures, achieving more inclusive growth and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations will necessitate reducing spatial disparities in social service access while creating a more enabling environment for private investment to create jobs and raise productivity, especially in the agricultural sector. This will need to be complemented by skill development to meet labor market needs.

| $3.00 Poverty Rate 2021 | $8.30 Poverty Rate 2021 | Gini Index 2021 | Prosperity Gap 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **34.4%** | **86.8%** | **37.9** | **8.6** |



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 ($3.00/day) | 3,055.8 | 34.4 | 2021 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line ($4.20/day) | 4,910.8 | 55.3 | 2021 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line ($8.30/day) | 7,709.8 | 86.8 | 2021 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 44.3 | 2021 |

# Group and Multidimensional Poverty

| Poverty by Group | Poverty Rate (%) |
|---|---|
| Urban population | 11.0 |
| Rural population | 52.0 |
| Males | 34.3 |
| Females | 34.5 |
| 0 to 14 years old | 42.4 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 28.4 |
| 65 and older | 32.2 |
| Without education (16+) | 46.1 |
| Primary education (16+) | 30.9 |
| Secondary education (16+) | 18.9 |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 2.9 |

| Multidimensional Poverty Components | (% of Pop.) |
|---|---|
| Daily income less than US$3.00 per person | 34.4 |
| At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school | 12.4 |
| No adult has completed primary education | 29.3 |
| No access to limited-standard drinking water | 23.7 |
| No access to limited-standard sanitation | 77.6 |
| No access to electricity | 32.1 |

**Note:**
N/A denotes a missing/removed value, while N/A* refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.
The rates in the Poverty by Group table above are shown at the $3.00 international line.
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.

## 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.

The welfare measure for poverty estimation is annual consumption per capita, spatially and temporally deflated. A new national poverty line - FCFA 295,182 per person per year - was constructed in 2021/22 instead of using inflation to update the value of the food basket used for the 2018/19 line, as the CPI may not accurately measure 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 seasonal 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 in contrast to 2018/19.

## 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.