

By: Siena Miller

## Access to Education: How Bad Will it Get Until it's Fixed?

In a conversational debate, the African Union conversed about how they were going to improve the pressing matter of school funding gaps and teacher shortages in rural areas. One of the main agreements of the debate was that they were, for the most part, stronger together. In order to succeed, they needed to act as a team.

The main topics they focused on were where how they were going to get the funding for their solutions, successfully train teachers, and how to convince students and teachers to show up. Education in Africa is a difficult matter to fix due to the lack of resources available. For years, African countries have struggled with reaching rural areas. Since they have struggled so much, there has been a huge gap in education. Although they knew they needed to work together to fix the problem, they had mixed opinions on how to successfully do it. There were many different ideas about funding, infrastructure, how to find qualified teachers, and how to keep the teachers from leaving. The topic of funding was one of the hottest topics. While most wanted to have foreign support and big corporations, others wanted to refrain from using foreign support and wanted to try using less known organizations. Another conflict that showed up was how to train unqualified teachers. Some wanted to use technology and get help from foreign courses, while others wanted to set up teaching hubs and provide money to those who were planning on being a teacher.

**“Education is not a privilege, it’s a human right”**

**-Mali**

Although some were similar, many of the solutions that were brought up differed from one another. Gabon wished to require new teachers to go to rural schools for at least a semester. Others like Sudan and Niger wanted to implement technology into schools to provide foreign help. Many countries also wished to find a way to help connect the country, like transportation. Many countries like Mauritania wanted to create a locked box program to make sure moving funds were going to the correct place. In conclusion, Africa has been facing a big problem, and the countries have been trying to fix it. Despite much debate, they are still yet to solve this pressing issue.



### CRISIS UPDATE

Breaking news shocked the African Union after learning that there are reports of biochemicals being released by a terrorist group in regions of Sahel. This tragic attack has left hundreds critically ill with severe respiratory and neurological symptoms. This first started out when people on public streets started vomiting and collapsing on the ground. In precaution, authorities have warned the public from entering until more is known.

**“9 out of 10 kids in Gabon are illiterate”**  
**-Kuwait**