In 2001 US$784 billion were spent on primary education around the world, when adjusted for purchasing power. The territory where the largest amount was spent is the United States; the spending was 28% of all spending in the world. In contrast, in Nigeria only 0.28% of all world spending was spent on primary education.

There is a distinct difference in the spending on primary education per child between regions. The average spending in Japan, North America and Western Europe is often much more than three times the spending in other regions. Central Africa has the lowest rate of primary school enrolment and also the lowest spending.

Territory size shows the proportion of all spending on primary education worldwide that is spent there, when measured in purchasing power parity US$.

“The question is whether or not they will have teachers in class for the whole year.”

Mulima Kufekisa Akapelwa, 2005