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# Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC)

#### **Regional Ministerial Meeting**

Lima - October 30-31 2014

# Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Post-2015 Assessment and Challenges





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#### This presentation:

- 1. UNESCO action framework in the region: Education for All to 2015
- 2. Review of the status of EFA in the region
- 3. Post-2015 education: the next steps

#### **International Commitments**

# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- 2. Achieving universal primary schooling
- 3. Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women
- 4. Reducing mortality of children under five
- 5. Improving maternal health
- 6. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
- 7. Guaranteeing environmental sustainability
- 8. Promoting a global alliance for development

#### **EFA GOALS**

- Promoting early childhood care, education, and development
- 2. Providing universal, obligatory primary education, free of charge
- Promoting theoretical and practical learning for young people and adults
- 4. Halving illiteracy
- 5. Reducing disparities between boys and girls by 2005, and achieving equality by 2015.
- 6. Improving education quality.

#### **EFA/PRELAC AREAS**

- 1. Curriculum content and teaching practices
- 2. Teacher capacity building
- 3. Transformation of schools into learning communities
- 4. Management and flexibility enhancement of education systems
- 5. Social Responsibility and commitments for education



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# Goal 1: Extending and improving pre-school education

- Ensuring preparation for formal education and working as an "equaliser" - Crucial for the rest of people's lives
- In 2010 UNESCO noted a "greater visibility of early childhood in public policy agendas"
- Coverage grew from 56% in 2000 to 74% in 2012
- This level of coverage places Latin America as the second highest coverage region in the world, after North America and Western Europe



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### Goal 1: Extending and improving...

- Legal provision for access to ECCE exist in most countries, e.g. the Caribbean
- Pre-school education coverage GREW from 56% in 2000 to 74.4% in 2012
- BUT: SLOW progress, enormous heterogeneity and severe inequity, associated with economic, social, and cultural factors, particularly among indigenous persons and those living in rural areas
  - The richest 20% of the population has a higher enrolment rate than the poorest 20%
- CHALLENGE: Improving the QUALITY of programmes, especially amongst the marginalised.



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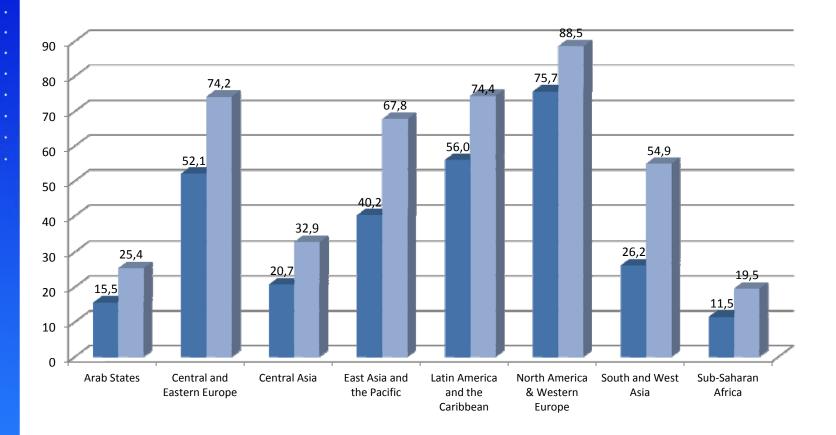
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#### **Pre-school education**

#### Pre-primary enrolment rate, both genders (%), 2000 and 2012





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#### Goal 2: Universal Primary Education - UPE

- Provides students with basic skills (functional literacy); an obligatory education level in most systems.
- The idea that this goal was achieved.....? with a rate holding stable at 92% between 2000 and 2012
- Marked contrasts between countries with almost complete coverage (Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay) and others (Guyana, Paraguay, Dominican Rep.)
- The Pareto principle: the last 5-10% is the hardest to achieve



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#### Goal 2: Universal Primary Education - UPE

- Adjusted net primary enrolment rate, slight drop:
   94% in 2000; 91% in 2012
- Marked contrasts: some countries showed strong increases - one third of countries with comparable information showed drops
- El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras made significant advances, with a major increase in access to primary education amongst children from the poorest families



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#### Goal 3: Lifelong learning

- Basic abilities and skills are not enough for the complex world of today
- Secondary school enrolment rose 13% between 2000 and 2012, from 60% to 73% - with significant increases in Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela
- In tertiary education, enrolment went from 22% in 2000 to 43% in 2010, representing the second highest growth in the world, after Central and Eastern Europe



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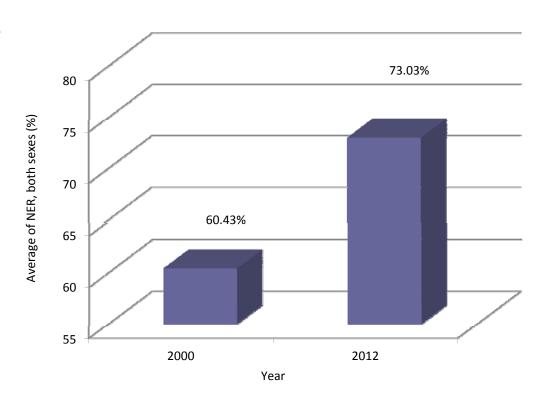
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### Goal 3: Learning for all - secondary

Secondary school enrolment rose 13%, from 60% to 73%, between 2000 and 2012

Significant increases in Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela

#### Secondary school enrolment in LAC



Source: UNESCO, data extracted on 22 Sep 2014 8:35:23 AM UTC (GMT) from UIS/ISU



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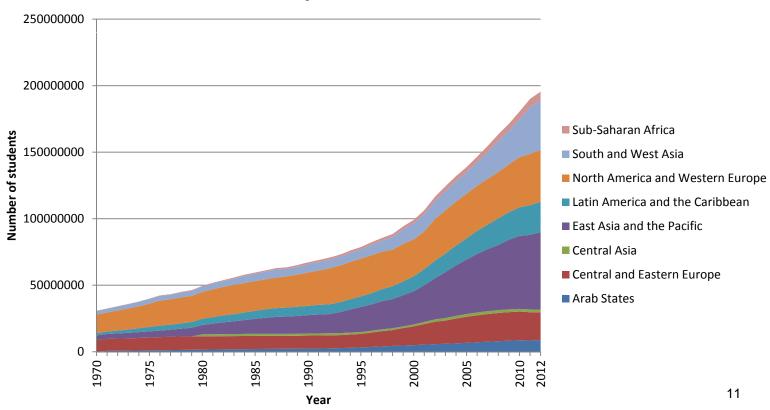
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#### **Tertiary Education**

Worldwide enrolment in tertiary education, from 99 million students to 195 million between 2000 and 2012 LAC showed a significant increase since 2000; enrolment rates went from 22.32% to 42.80%

#### **Tertiary education enrolment**



Source: UNESCO, data extracted on 22 Sep 2014 12:56 UTC (GMT) from UIS/ISU



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#### Goal 4: Universal literacy

- This represents the minimum of skills required to function in a society: the transformation of traditional literacy to functional, and now digital literacy.
- In 2012, there were some 33-40m illiterate persons, of whom 20 million were women
- In Latin America there are more illiterate women than men, while the Caribbean shows the opposite trend
- Moderate increase in adult literacy between 2000 and 2008, from 90% to 92%



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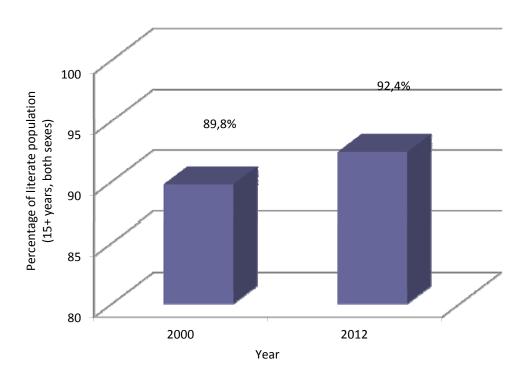
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### Goal 4: Adult literacy

- In 2012, 33 to 40 million illiterate persons.
- Close to 20 million are women
- Moderate increase in adult literacy between 2000 and 2008, from 90% to 92%
- ...the great problem of functional illiteracy

#### **Literacy in LAC**



Source: UNESCO, data extracted on 23 Sep 2014 19:54 UTC (GMT) from UIS/ISU



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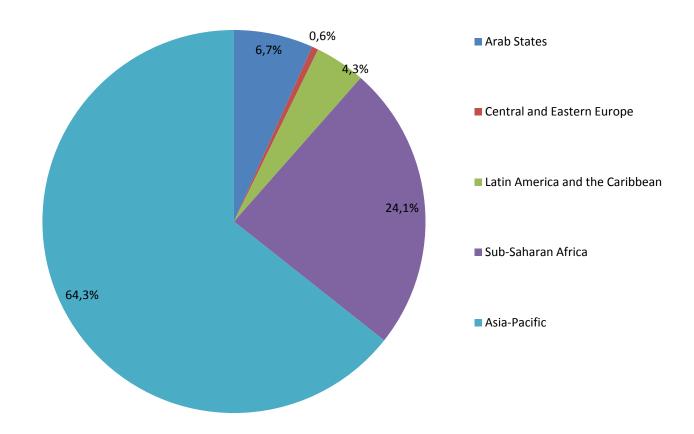
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# **Adult literacy**

Adult illiteracy by region (2012)





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#### Goal 5: Gender parity

- Equality, independent of diversities
- Amongst the inequalities of the "most unequal region in the world", gender inequality is not the most pressing: there are similar parity indices in education
- There are 15 countries in the world with fewer than 90 adolescent males in secondary education for every 100 females; half are in this region (Antigua & Barbuda, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Rep., Venezuela)



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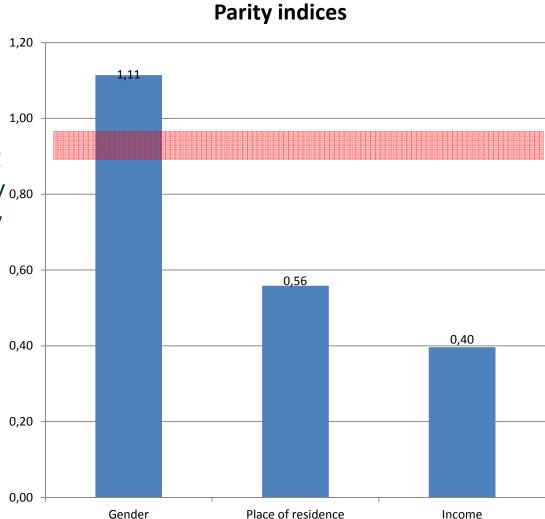
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## Goal 5: gender parity

There are 15
countries in the
world with fewer
than 90 adolescent
males in secondary 0,80
education for every
100 females; half
are in this region



Source: UNESCO, UIS/ISU



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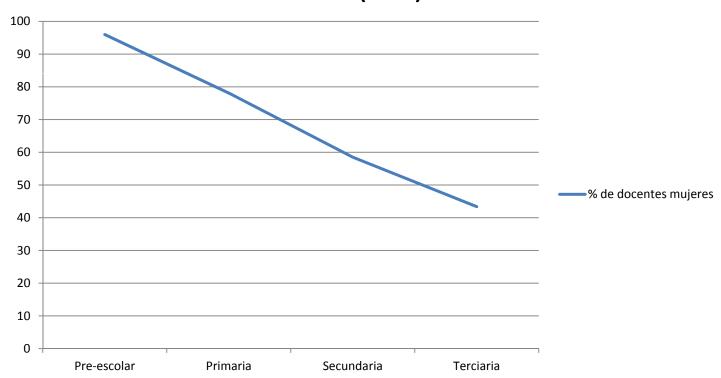
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# Feminisation of primary education (teachers)

# Female teachers in Latin America and the Caribbean by level (2012)





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#### Goal 6: Education quality – what is it?

- It defines what education should be and should do.
- Education quality has been recognised as the region's great pending challenge
- There is no exact definition for want of one,
   "learning achievement" is often used as an indicator of quality
- The definition of UNESCO Santiago (2007) serves as a framework



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### The dimensions of education quality

#### **Dimensions**

**Relevant** Adapted to the (development) needs of the

society

**Pertinent** Adapted to (learning) needs of the student

**Effective** Achieves its objectives (development and/or

learning – but in what areas?)

**Efficient.** Good use of resources: financial, material,

'human', etc.

**Equitable** Good distribution of education benefits across

the population



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### Goal 6: Education quality

The 2nd UNESCO regional study (mathematics, reading, science, for 3rd and 6th grade students) indicated that significant tranches of students fail to achieve minimum levels of skill in reading or mathematics in some countries

There are only minor differences in achievement between boys and girls

Boy achieve better results in mathematics, girls do better in reading Costa Rica, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Nuevo León

**Argentina** 

Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican R.

400

600

500



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#### The EFA situation: summary

- **UPE: stagnation,** slight reversal in enrolment from 94% in 2000 to 91% in 2012. One third of countries with comparable information showed drops.
- Access to the pre-primary level (ECCE), access and completion of secondary education and TVET are major concerns.
- Goal 6 will not be achieved: **education quality** and all of its ramifications.
- Inequity has perverse effects and sandbags socioeconomic progress. A new definition...
- **Emergent issues**: school violence, natural disasters that compromise the achievements of EFA, ICT, education to combat climate change, etc...



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### Beyond 2015: Where are we going?

- Rethinking education quality: how are different aspects of quality related? How do they interact? Teaching methods, assessment of learning and for learning, 21st century skills
- **Equity:** How to serve students who currently lack access to quality education?
- Tertiary and higher education (academic & technical / professional): going beyond basic skills to transform the region into knowledge societies



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#### **Beyond 2015: Trends**

- LAC: a region characterised as multicultural, unequal, and in 'crisis': the rapid change in the path to development brings specific challenges
- Principal pending challenge: institutional development and consolidation, with a long term outlook
- The presence of the private sector; middle income countries



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# Focuses for the post-2015 agenda

- The new post-2015 agenda must indicate what Goals and also how
- UNESCO Santiago identifies two principal areas of intervention
- Teachers, education quality (downstream), strategic development and advisory services in education policy (upstream)
- Regional groups: MERCOSUR, UNASUR, ECLAC, CARICOM, CECC/SICA, etc.



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# Thank You