



United Nations
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

UNESCO Bangkok
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and Pacific
Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and Pacific



Fact and Figures for East Asia from the 2007 Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report

*Each year, the **Global Monitoring Report** tracks progress towards the six goals of Education for All endorsed by countries at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in 2000. This year, the report draws on country data submitted to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics covering the school year ending 2004.*

Overall progress

47 countries, out of 125 countries with data, have achieved or are close to achieving the measurable EFA goals of primary education, adult literacy, gender parity and quality of education, which make up the components of the **EFA Development Index or EDI**. Only two countries in the region are in this category: the Republic of Korea which ranks 10 with a .988 EDI, and China which ranks 43 with a .954 EDI.

Five East Asian countries have a medium EDI, which means they may have high scores in some EFA components but are low in others. Indonesia ranks 58 (.938 EDI); Malaysia ranks 62 (.934 EDI); Viet Nam ranks 70 (.910 EDI); the Philippines ranks 75 (.897 EDI); and Myanmar ranks 88 (.860 EDI).

More worrisome are Cambodia, which ranks 101 with a .774 EDI, and Lao PDR which ranks 103 with .741 EDI. Both need significant improvements in the EDI components to meet EFA by 2015.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Some 738 million children - **11% of the total world population** – are in the 0-5 age group. Their number is expected to reach 776 million by 2020.

Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR and Myanmar have among the highest **infant mortality rates** in the region, with 95 children dying between birth and 1 year of age for every 1,000 live births in Cambodia, 94 in Timor-Leste, 88 in Lao PDR, and 75 in Myanmar.

Worldwide, about 86 of every 1,000 children born in recent years will not reach age 5. In East Asia, 44 of every 1,000 live births will not reach the age of 5. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar have the highest **under-5 mortality rates**, with over 100 children for every 1,000 newborns not reaching the age of 5.

124 million children are **enrolled in pre-primary education** globally with developed countries having a 77 per cent gross enrolment rate (GER). In East Asia, the average number of young children enrolled in pre-primary education is 40 per cent. Among countries in East Asia, Malaysia has the highest GER of 108 per cent, with Lao PDR and Cambodia having the lowest at 8 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively, highlighting the considerable gap between countries in the region. The GER can exceed 100 per cent due to early or late entry in school, and/or grade repetition.

Children who learn in their **mother tongue** for 6 to 8 years from pre-school through the early primary grades perform better than those who start in the official language. Countries including Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam have developed effective bilingual early childhood programmes that have influenced practices in the first years of primary education.

Primary education

While enrolments have been increasing in other regions, **net enrolment ratios (NER) in primary education** in East Asia dropped by 2 percentage points to 94 per cent in 2004

from the 1999 level. Malaysia (98 to 93 per cent) and Viet Nam (96 to 93 per cent) saw significant drops in their enrolment figures. China's NER also dropped from 97 per cent in 1991 to 94% in 2002.

77 million children globally are not enrolled, 9.298 million of whom live in East Asia. While the number of *out-of-school children* fell in other regions, it has risen in East Asia from 6.4 million in 1999. Most out-of-school children come from the rural areas, belong to poorer households and have mothers who have no education.

The Philippines, Myanmar and Viet Nam are among the 28 developing countries worldwide with over 500,000 out-of-school children. No data is available for China.

Gender

There are now 94 girls in primary school for every 100 boys globally. The average in East Asia is higher than the global average with 99 girls for every 100 boys in primary school, indicating *gender parity*. But Thailand has a 95:100 ratio; Viet Nam, 93:100; Cambodia, 92:100; Lao PDR 88:100; and Myanmar has more girls in school for every 100 boys with a 102:100 ratio.

Literacy

One in five adults – 781 million globally – *lack basic literacy skills*. East Asia alone has 124 million people aged 15 and above who lack basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, 71 per cent of whom are women indicating a substantial imbalance in literacy skills between the sexes.

Quality

Cambodia and Lao PDR are the only two countries in East Asia with *public spending for education* less than 3% of GNP, although much improvement has been seen in their spending since 1999. UNESCO recommends countries allot an equivalent to 6% of their GNP to public spending for education.

The *pupil/teacher ratio* (PTRs) in primary education has declined in East Asia from an average of 31 students per teacher in 1999, to 23 for one teacher in 2004. But some countries in the region still have over 40 students per teacher.

For more information or to read the full report, visit the EFA Global Monitoring Report website: www.efareport.unesco.org

***East Asia countries covered in the report are:**

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao (China), Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam

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