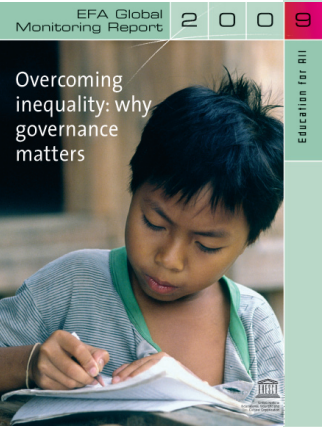


# Regional overview: Latin America and the Caribbean



*Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> stands ahead of other developing regions in Education for All. Most countries in the region have achieved universal primary education (UPE) and are witnessing a rapid expansion of both pre-primary education, and secondary and tertiary education. However, learning achievement levels remain low by international standards. Moreover, while there is little evidence of gender disparities at primary level, massive underparticipation of boys exists in secondary and tertiary education.*

*The EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009 finds that disparities based on wealth, location, gender and disability deny millions of children a good-quality education. Focusing on those being left behind, the Report explores current approaches to education governance reform. It finds that, all too often, these approaches fail the poor and disadvantaged.*

1. This is according to the EFA classification. See Table 3 for countries in the region.

## Persistent inequalities hinder progress towards EFA

### Early childhood care and education

The path towards EFA starts long before primary school. Adequate nutrition, good health and an emotionally secure, language-rich home environment during the earliest years are vital for later success in education and life. Rapid progress towards UPE cannot be sustained while progress in tackling child health problems remains slow. High levels of child mortality and malnutrition – a formidable development challenge in their own right – are also symptomatic of wider problems directly affecting education.

Indicators of child well-being are much better for Latin America and the Caribbean than for other developing regions, although strong disparities exist between and within countries.

- Estimates for 2005–2010 put the under-5 mortality rate at 27‰, a third of the developing-country average (81‰). If the decline observed between 1990 and 2006 continues, the region will meet the Millennium Development Goal pertaining to child mortality. Cuba and Chile have already reduced under-5 mortality to levels similar to those observed in developed countries. Other countries are lagging behind, including Bolivia (61‰), Haiti (72‰) and other Caribbean countries. Child mortality disproportionately affects the poor. For instance, in Bolivia and Nicaragua, child death rates are twice as high among the poorest 20% of households as they are among the wealthiest 20%.
- Undernutrition is relatively infrequent in the region. Among children under 5, 7% are underweight, 2% suffer from wasting and 16% from stunting. However, undernutrition remains an issue in several countries. In Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras and Peru, the rate of moderate and severe stunting is well above 20%, and in Guatemala it is 49%. Early stunting is associated with deficits in literacy, numeracy and educational attainment at age 18.

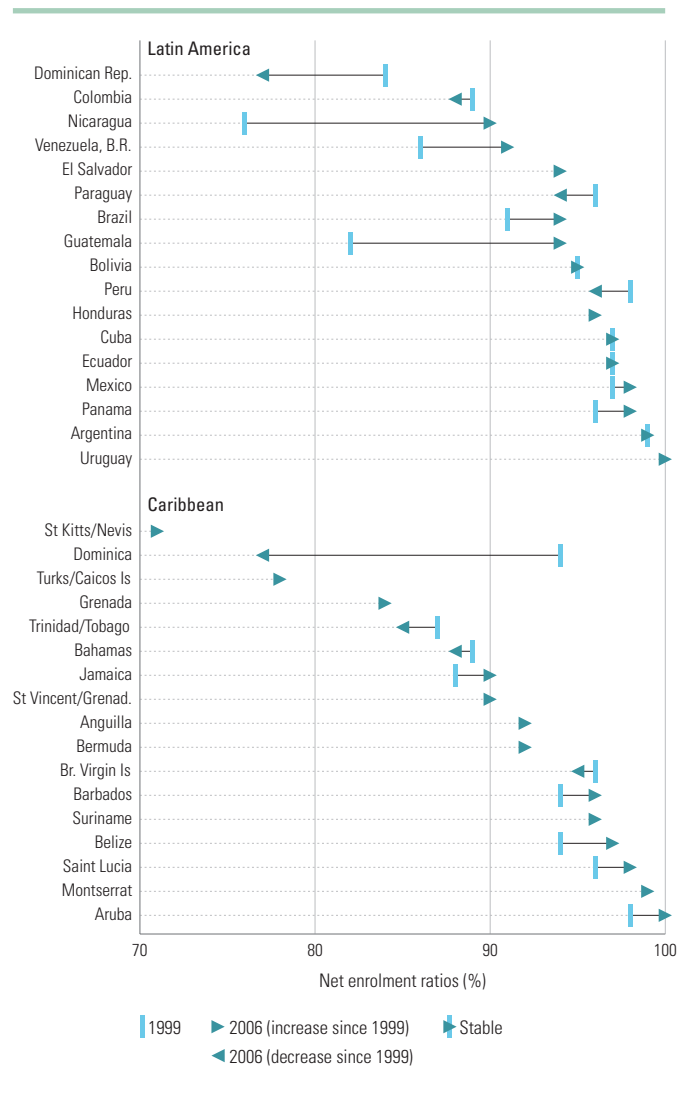


## Universal primary education

Free education is legally guaranteed in most countries (major exceptions being Colombia, Haiti and Jamaica) and the region as a whole is close to achieving UPE.

- Some 68.6 million children were enrolled in primary education in 2006; the GER was 118%. The net enrolment ratio (NER) was 94%, well above the developing country average (85%) (Figure 2). Two countries with lower enrolment ratios in 1999, Guatemala and Nicaragua, had caught up with the rest of the region by 2006 with GERs that had increased by more than twelve percentage points. The situation in the Caribbean is more problematic: in Dominica and the Dominican Republic enrolment ratios have significantly declined since Dakar.
- With 2.6 million children of primary school-going age not enrolled in 2006, Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 3.5% of the world's out-of-school children. Brazil, the only country with more than 500,000 out-of-school children in 2006, is nonetheless on track to achieve UPE by 2015. There is evidence that a majority of the region's out-of-school children (57%) will enrol late; 21% drop out early and the same percentage is unlikely to enrol without specific incentives. This suggests that tackling the out-of-school problem requires policy responses that address particular structures of disadvantage.
- School life expectancy is higher than the developing country average and has increased by a year since 1999 to thirteen years for males and fourteen for females. However, it is unevenly distributed, both between countries (from ten years in Guatemala to between thirteen and fifteen years in large countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, with a high of seventeen in the British Virgin Islands) and within countries: in 1999, 17- to 22-year-olds belonging to the poorest 20% of households in Guatemala had received only 1.9 years of education on average, as opposed to 8.3 years for those belonging to the richest 20% of households. Corresponding figures were 2.5 and 9.2 years in Nicaragua in 2001, and 6.5 and 11.1 years in Peru in 2000. Inequalities in attendance at the primary school level contribute to those disparities (Table 1).
- Income-based disparities interact with wider inequalities and markers for disadvantage related to gender, location, language and other factors. For example, rural children are less likely to attend school and more likely to drop out than their urban counterparts. Living in slums also carries a marked handicap in terms of school attendance. In Guatemala, attendance rates for children in slums were lower even than average rates in rural areas. Cultural factors such as religion and ethnicity can affect both the demand for schooling and the supply. There are large differences in school attendance and completion among linguistic groups in some countries in Central America. Overall, reaching UPE will require policies

Figure 2: Changes in primary education net enrolment ratios between 1999 and 2006



targeting the poor and marginalized. This means targeting hard-to-reach households in remote rural areas and slums that face multiple disadvantages, including chronic poverty, high mortality, and poor health and nutrition.

Child labour, ill health and disability are barriers to UPE.

- Among developing regions, Latin America and the Caribbean has witnessed the most rapid decline in the incidence of child labour since 2000. However, household survey data show that in countries including Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, working children face an attendance disadvantage of at least 30%. Practical measures are needed to reduce the pressures that force poor households to augment their income or labour supply through child work as well as to strengthen incentives for sending children to school.

**Table 1: Primary net attendance rate by wealth quintile in six Latin American countries**

| Country        | Survey year | Net attendance rate (%) | % of primary school-age group not attending | Distribution of those not attending primary school (%) |    |    |    |                     |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|--|----|----|----|---------------------|
|                |             |                         |   | Q1 poorest quintile                                    | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 richest quintile |
| Peru           | 2000        | 95                      | 5   | 43   | 28 | 16 | 8  | 5                   |
| Colombia       | 2005        | 94                      | 6   | 42   | 21 | 15 | 13 | 10                  |
| Dominican Rep. | 2002        | 91                      | 9   | 37   | 23 | 17 | 13 | 10                  |
| Guatemala      | 1999        | 82                      | 18  | 41   | 26 | 20 | 9  | 4                   |
| Haiti          | 2005        | 80                      | 20  | 47   | 27 | 16 | 6  | 4                   |
| Nicaragua      | 2001        | 80                      | 20  | 50   | 26 | 13 | 8  | 3                   |

- Inadequate nutrition and poor health continue to undermine educational opportunity once children are in school, trapping them in a vicious cycle of cumulative disadvantage. Reversing this cycle requires public health interventions, some of which can be initiated through schools.
- Children with disabilities are among the most marginalized and least likely to go to school. Evidence from household surveys indicates that among children aged 6 to 11 the difference in primary school attendance rates between those with and those without disabilities ranges from twenty-eight percentage points in Jamaica to thirty-six in Colombia and fifty-seven in Bolivia. Speeding up progress towards UPE will require a far stronger focus on public policies facilitating access, and on political leadership to change attitudes.

There is scope for improving the internal efficiency of the primary school system.

- While for the region as a whole the median survival rate to the last primary grade reaches 85%, dropout remains a major issue in some countries, including the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, where the survival rate was below 70% in 2005 (and only 50% in Nicaragua). The end of grade 1 is a critical point in those countries as well as in Colombia and Ecuador, where more than 10% of students do not enrol in grade 2. Over-age students are particularly prone to drop out, especially in the higher grades: data from household surveys collected in Colombia and Peru show that being two years over age more than halves the chances of survival.
- Grade repetition is another issue. In 2006, the median percentage of primary school students who were repeating grades was 4.1% for Latin America and the Caribbean as whole (2.9% for the Caribbean and 6.4% for Latin America). The incidence of grade repetition is highest in Suriname (20.3%) and Brazil (18.7%). Grade repetition is inequitable: it increases the direct and opportunity costs of schooling, a burden that is heaviest for the poorest households and may lead to dropout. It is also inefficient: governments in the region spend an estimated US\$12 billion annually as a result of grade repetition, as they have to provide for additional school places.

## Secondary education and beyond

Increasing participation in secondary and tertiary education is an explicit part of the Dakar commitment to EFA and of the Millennium Development Goal on gender parity and equality. It also provides further incentives for children to complete primary schooling, expands the supply of qualified teachers, and improves knowledge and skills for the labour market.

As most Latin American and Caribbean countries have achieved UPE, expanding secondary and tertiary education has become a key policy concern for the region, especially in terms of equity. Indeed, the returns to primary education have decreased as national skill deficits have shifted to higher levels of education, and the transitions to lower and upper secondary education and to tertiary education feature marked disparities, in particular linked to wealth and ethnicity.

- The transition rate from primary to lower secondary education was quite high for the region as a whole (median of 93% in 2005), although it remained problematically low in a number of countries, notably including Honduras (71%), Ecuador (78%), Brazil (81%) and Uruguay (81%).
- Latin America and the Caribbean had 59.0 million secondary students in 2006 and a GER of 89%, up from 80% in 1999. In Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the secondary GER increased by more than twenty percentage points over the period. In Argentina, the reported GER decreased from 94% in 1999 to 84% in 2005. However, this decline is a result of the exclusion of adult education from the secondary total enrolment statistics after 2003. The secondary NER increased slightly during the period, from 76% to 78%.
- The discrepancy between the regional GER of 89% and the NER of 70% in 2006 points to internal efficiency issues. NERs remain low in some countries of South America (Colombia 65%, Ecuador 57%), in the Caribbean states (40% for the subregion) and in Central America (Guatemala 38%, Nicaragua 43%).
- The transition from lower to upper secondary education is another key concern: the GER for lower secondary

education was as high as 102% for the region as a whole in 2006, but for upper secondary education it reached only 74%.

- Within-country inequalities are greater in secondary education than in primary. Recent household surveys show that the attendance rate of children belonging to the wealthiest 20% of households is much higher than the rate for the poorest 20% – by 1.2 to 1.3 times in Colombia, Haiti and Peru, and 2.4 in Nicaragua.
- Speaking an indigenous or non-official language remains another core marker for disadvantage. For example, in Bolivia, 68% of Spanish speakers aged 16 to 49 have completed some secondary education, compared with one-third or fewer of Aymara, Guarani and Quechua speakers.
- Household surveys between 2000 and 2005 showed a steady increase in the percentage of students being promoted at the appropriate age in both primary and secondary education. The overall percentage of students aged 15 to 19 having achieved timely promotion at the primary level increased from 43% to 66%. Advances for the cohort aged 10 to 14 were proportionately more beneficial for low-income students, with the rich-poor gap narrowing. Convergence was much less evident at the secondary level. In 2005, some 88% of children in the richest decile moved steadily through school without interruption, compared with 44% of the poorest decile.

Tertiary education has expanded rapidly during the 2000s.

- Latin America and the Caribbean had 16.2 million tertiary students in 2006, thus accounting for more than one in nine of the world's university-level students. The average tertiary GER went up from 21% in 1999 to 31% in 2006, but it varies greatly, from 3% in Belize to 88% in Cuba. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela account for the bulk of students in the region.
- At the entry point to tertiary education, the compound effects of inequalities in access to and completion of basic education, and progression through secondary education, become most visible. The university participation rate for black Brazilians aged 19 to 24 is 6%, compared with 19% for white Brazilians. In other words, being born with black skin in Brazil reduces your chance of reaching university by a factor of three. This is the culmination of disadvantage rooted in poverty, social discrimination and the filtering effect of inequality at lower levels of the education system.

## Learning needs of young people and adults

Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have yet to address the third EFA goal: meeting the learning needs of young people and adults through lifelong learning programmes and skills acquisition.

- Millions of youth either never attended school or dropped out before acquiring basic skills and nearly 37 million adults in the region are illiterate. Given the pressure to extend basic education cycles beyond primary schooling and to expand secondary education systems, non-formal education is likely to continue to be neglected by government.
- Indeed, many governments give little priority to the learning needs of youth and adults in their education strategies and policies. Inadequate public funding hampers provision and weak monitoring obscures learning deficits among adults. The fact that no quantitative targets were established at Dakar, apart from the main literacy target, contributes to a perceived lack of urgency.
- Adult learning programmes are found in a myriad of formal, informal and non-formal settings. Many large-scale literacy programmes, often extending to life skills (e.g. in health or civic rights), livelihoods (income generation, farming) and/or equivalency education, are supported by international non-government organizations, and bilateral and multilateral agencies. For example, in Mexico non-formal provision is seen principally in terms of adult education.
- There is a strong case for clarifying the purpose of lifelong learning provision, improving data flows and, especially, strengthening political commitment in this area. As a first step towards more effective monitoring, improved information is needed about how different stakeholders define adult learning needs, which groups are targeted, what types of skills are taught, how programmes are implemented and if they are sustainable given current funding sources.

## Adult literacy

Literacy expands people's choices, gives them more control over their lives, increases their ability to participate in society and enhances self-esteem. Adult literacy has long been much more prevalent in Latin American and the Caribbean than in other developing regions, but it is now progressing more slowly.

- In 2000–2006 there were still some 36.9 million adult illiterates in the region, a reduction of about 7% as compared with 1985–1999 (39.6 million). The figure is projected to continue to decline to 31.2 million by 2015. Owing to the size of its population, Brazil alone accounts for more than a third of the region's illiterates (14.2 million), followed by Mexico (6.0 million).
- The regional adult literacy rate went up from 87% in 1985–1994 to 91% in 2000–2006 and is projected to reach 93% by 2015. Quicker progress occurred in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador, where adult literacy rates increased by more than eight percentage points over the period.





participation especially in the Caribbean, where the GPI of the tertiary GER was 1.69 in 2006, compared with 1.15 in Latin America.

- Within countries there is a strong association between poverty and gender inequalities in education. These disparities are inversely related to wealth: they rise for girls born into the poorest households, for example in Bolivia, with the disadvantage being greater in secondary than in primary education. Poverty often interacts with other markers of disadvantage, such as being born into a group that is indigenous, a linguistic minority or geographically isolated, and thus magnifies gender disparities. For example, indigenous girls in Guatemala are less likely to be enrolled than other demographic groups. At age 7, only 54% of indigenous girls are in school, compared with 71% of indigenous boys and 75% of non-indigenous girls. By age 16, only a quarter of indigenous girls are enrolled, compared with 45% of boys. Poverty has a magnifying effect, with only 4% of 'extremely poor' indigenous girls aged 16 attending school, compared with 45% of their 'non-poor' counterparts.

Reducing gender disparities in formal education does not automatically translate into gender equality in educational opportunities and outcomes. Girls and boys achieve different outcomes not just in overall performance, but also by subject. Differences in education systems and classroom practices partly explain this, but such school-based factors interact with wider social, cultural and economic forces that also influence expectations, aspirations and performances along gender lines. Four distinctive themes emerge from a compilation of recent research and assessments:

- Girls continue to outperform boys in reading literacy and language arts. The 2006 Segundo Estudio Regional Comparativo y Explicativo (SERCE) assessment, conducted in Latin America, found that girls did significantly better than boys in reading achievement in grades 3 and 6 in half of the sixteen participating countries.
- Girls are catching up with boys in mathematics at all grades in both primary and secondary education. In SERCE, eight countries<sup>2</sup> revealed gender differences in mathematics, most of them small, in favour of boys in grade 3.
- While boys tend to maintain an advantage, the science gap is often small. In SERCE, sixth-grade boys outperformed girls in science in Colombia, El Salvador and Peru. In the remaining countries (Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay) gender differences were mixed and not statistically significant.
- Girls and boys favour different subjects in tertiary education. Despite the increase in female participation in tertiary education, some subject areas remain male domains. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the median share

of females enrolled in science was 45% in 2006, falling to 25% in engineering. By contrast, women are much more represented in fields long considered 'feminine', such as education (71%), humanities and arts (65%). Recent studies indicate that complex socialization processes influence gender differences in choice of subject areas. They include poor career counselling, lack of role models, negative family attitudes, fear of mathematics and fear of being in the minority.

Recent research underlines a strong association between the degree of gender equality in society at large and the size of gender gaps in mathematics achievement. Teacher attitudes and practices that translate into different treatments of boys and girls can also affect cognitive development and reinforce gender stereotyping. So can gender biases in textbooks.

Female teachers can serve as role models for young girls, potentially countering gender stereotypes. In Latin America and the Caribbean, as elsewhere, female teachers tend to be more represented in lower levels of education while the reverse is true at higher levels. They also tend to be clustered in urban schools. A recent survey in eleven middle-income countries shows that pupils in rural primary schools are more likely than urban pupils to be taught by male teachers. This is particularly the case in Paraguay and Peru. Rural girls thus have less chance of contact with female role models who might raise their expectations and self-confidence.

## Quality of education

Getting all children through a full basic education cycle is an important goal, but the ultimate purpose of schooling is to provide children with an education that equips them with the skills, knowledge and wider perspectives they need to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of their countries. Delivery of good-quality education is ultimately contingent on what happens in the classroom, and teachers are on the front line. The profile of teachers, and the governance systems through which they are recruited, trained and deployed, have a critical bearing on learning outcomes and on equity.

Improving the quality of education constitutes a major challenge for school systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. First, while pupil/teacher ratios (PTRs) are not very high, many schools suffer from a lack of equipment.

- PTRs are below developing-country averages and close to world averages. In recent years, student cohort size has declined while the number of teachers has increased. In 2006 the average PTR was 21:1 at pre-primary level (968,000 pre-primary teachers for the whole region), 23:1 in primary schools (3.0 million teachers) and 16:1 in secondary schools (3.6 million teachers). There are 1.2 million teachers in tertiary education. Overall shortages

2. Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru.

of primary school teachers still exist in some countries: for example, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua have PTRs above 30:1.

- Teacher training remains insufficient. The median shares of trained teachers are 64% in pre-primary education, 80% in primary education and 66% in secondary education. The shortage of trained teachers is particularly acute in several Caribbean states, where fewer than 70% of primary school teachers received pedagogical training.
- The deployment of teachers is influenced by location, wealth and type of school. PTRs tend to be higher in urban than in rural areas, but untrained teachers are often concentrated in poor rural areas. For example, in Bolivia, teachers hired on contracts who are not required to have a teaching degree or teaching experience (*interinos*) make up 19% of the total teaching force but 56% of teachers in rural areas.
- Shortages of trained teachers are one part of the problem. Other factors affecting the quality of teaching and learning include teacher absenteeism<sup>3</sup> and low teacher morale related to poor salaries and working conditions. In Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, for example, less than a third of fourth graders had teachers who thought their pay was adequate. Motivation tends to be lower among teachers with large classes and in schools that are poorly resourced or attended by disadvantaged pupils. Such negative factors need to be offset and teacher governance reforms are an integral part of the solution.
- School equipment is insufficient in a number of countries in the region and represents a serious constraint on the quality of education. Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru have many primary schools lacking several or all of the following: sufficient toilets, potable water, libraries, books and computer rooms. Poorly equipped schools tend to be attended by children from poorer households, exacerbating underlying inequalities in opportunity.

Second, assessment tests point to low and unequal achievement:

- SERCE 2006 assessed reading and mathematics in grade 3, and reading, mathematics and science in grade 6. Overall, countries fell into four categories:
  - 1) Cuba, whose students outperformed those from other countries in almost all subjects and grade levels.
  - 2) A small group of other consistently high-performing countries, including Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay.
  - 3) A large group of relatively poor-performing countries that included the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.
  - 4) Countries in the middle, notably Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, where pupil achievements varied by subject and grade. For the last three groups, within-country differences in achievement by location and gender were often marked. For example, among poor-performing countries, rural-urban differences were considerably more pronounced in El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru than in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Panama.
- In the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala, half or more of grade 3 students were found to have very low reading levels: they could not recognize the addressee of a family letter or decipher the meaning of a simple text in Spanish.
- A recent assessment in Peru found that as few as 30% of children in grade 1 and only about half in grade 2 could read simple passages from a grade 1 textbook.
- The median PISA 2001 scores of Brazilian and Peruvian students, placed on a scale alongside those of students from Denmark, France and the United States, were situated in the lowest 20% of the latter countries' distribution. PISA 2006 science results showed students from developing countries being much more likely to figure in the lowest achievement levels. Over 60% of students from Brazil, but fewer than 10% in Canada and Finland, scored at or below level 1, the lowest level in the PISA science ranking.

3. In Peru the economic costs of teacher absenteeism represent 10% of current expenditure in primary education.







The decentralization of education from federal to provincial governments was an important feature of institutional reform in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 1990s. Yet *financial decentralization* can exacerbate the gaps between rich and poor areas. Central governments need to retain a strong role in redistributing financial resources from richer to poorer areas, or financing gaps in education are likely to widen:

- In Argentina, the transfer of responsibility for secondary schools from federal to provincial level was accompanied by a system of federal tax transfers. Detailed evaluations of the decentralization process have identified many benefits. Nationally, decentralization appears to have improved local participation, strengthened monitoring and improved learning standards. However, the results have not been uniform. Test scores point to a widening gap between wealthier provinces with strong government capacity and poorer provinces with low administrative and institutional capacity; the latter performed worse under decentralization. In other words, national efficiency has improved, but at the expense of equity.
- When Brazil devolved authority from a highly centralized system to states and municipalities in the mid-1990s, it created FUNDEF to reduce the large national inequalities in per-student spending. State and municipal governments were required to transfer a proportion of their tax revenue to FUNDEF, which redistributed it to state and municipal governments that could not meet specified minimum levels of per-student expenditure. FUNDEF has not prevented wealthier regions from increasing their overall spending more rapidly than poorer regions, but it has played a highly redistributive role. It has also increased both the absolute level of spending and the predictability of transfers, notably for poor states and municipalities in the north and north-east. There is strong evidence that FUNDEF has been instrumental in reducing class size, improving the supply and quality of teachers, and expanding enrolment. At municipal level, data show that the 20% of municipalities receiving the most funds from FUNDEF were able to double per-pupil expenditure between 1996 and 2002 in real terms.
- In Colombia, decentralization of government finance in the 1990s significantly improved the equity of intergovernment transfers. Before decentralization, transfers from central government were based on historical transfer patterns that favoured wealthier provinces. Under the reforms, historical allocations were replaced by a formula that allocated resources on the basis of population, with adjustments for health and education provision.

## Choice, competition and voice: school governance reform and EFA

School governance reforms aim to strengthen the voices of the poor and increase their choices by transferring responsibility to communities, parents and private providers. An overarching lesson from this experience is that such reforms are not a substitute for governments' taking responsibility to ensure that the public education system is of good quality.

*School-based management* describes a range of reforms aimed at giving teachers, parents and communities more autonomy over decision-making in schools. In some cases these reforms have improved learning achievements and strengthened equity. More often, though, there is limited evidence of improvement in either learning outcomes or teaching practices.

- The most detailed school-based management evaluations come from Latin America. Regional evidence points to some positive effects on attainment. Some studies have found an association between delegation of management functions and reduction of school repetition and dropout. Learning outcomes are more variable, with marked differences among countries. A study of mathematics and language performance among grade 3 students found that EDUCO schools in El Salvador appeared to score lower than traditional schools. However, after controlling for background, the differences disappeared and EDUCO pupils scored slightly higher in language tests, on average. On the other hand, evaluations in Honduras of schools in the Programa Hondureño de Educación Comunitaria (PROHECO) concluded that delegation of decision-making was not associated with significant changes in learning achievement.
- Findings from Latin America show that school-based management reforms can result in improved teacher motivation, as indicated by reduced absenteeism, more time meeting with parents and more hours spent at school. However, evidence from a wide range of country experiences suggests that teaching practices in schools with more autonomy do not differ significantly from those in other schools. This is sometimes because central authorities maintain de facto control over decisions.
- School-based management initiatives are likely to be most successful when they are driven by demand from below. However, community participation can be a double-edged sword from an equity perspective, especially when it involves competition for resources. Schools with committed principals and organized communities are in a stronger position to exploit opportunities than those without. Evidence from Mexico's Programa Escuelas de Calidad (PEC) illustrates the point: voluntary participation by itself resulted in a selection of schools that were neither located in the poorest communities nor among the lowest performers. An important lesson is that voluntary participation has to be supported by measures that strengthen equity.



performance-related pay system, the Sistema Nacional de Evaluación del Desempeño, rewards the schools that show the greatest progress in student achievement, giving them a financial bonus for teachers equivalent to about half a month's salary. Schools are stratified within regions by socio-economic status and other external factors that affect school performance. This ensures that competition is among comparable establishments. However, the design has some inherent flaws. It rewards schools that are already doing well rather than those that are improving yet still need to do better. Similar problems have emerged in Mexico. In this case, a long-standing programme, the Carrera Magisterial, allows teachers to move up in pay level based on assessment of a range of criteria, including their students' performance. Unfortunately, the approach has encouraged teachers to focus on the best-performing students. The experience of Chile and Mexico is instructive in other ways, too. While the introduction of performance-related pay was highly controversial in both countries, the impact of the pay incentives on learning achievement has been minimal. This is partly because only a small minority of teachers has any real likelihood of receiving a reward, whether a bonus in Chile or a promotion in Mexico.

- Using information from *learning assessments to monitor* quality standards and equity is one of the keys to improved learning outcomes. Increasingly, information from learning assessments is being used to identify problems and inform policy, with encouraging results. For instance, Uruguay has managed to improve learning outcomes rapidly in recent years. Its quality improvement efforts have been informed by sample-based assessments aimed at strengthening pedagogical management in schools. By combining the assessments with cluster-based teacher training and support, spread over the whole school year, education authorities have turned information into policy practice. Evidence suggests that learning outcomes in certain grades improved by 30% over six years. Special measures have been taken to improve the functioning of weaker schools. Important moves towards redressing learning disparities have included targeting financial resources primarily on the basis of poverty rather than test results, and using test results to provide targeted support to teachers in weaker schools and districts.
- *School supervision* is an essential aspect of monitoring, not only to oversee teacher and school performance but also to identify and support needed quality improvements.

## An integrated approach to education and poverty reduction

Sustained progress towards EFA depends on the effective integration of education planning into wider poverty reduction strategies, for an obvious reason: poverty, poor nutrition and ill health are formidable barriers to success in education.

*Poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs)* are failing to make the connection between education and poverty reduction because of their weak link to the EFA agenda, limited consideration for equity in target-setting, a disconnect with broader governance reform and poor integration of cross-sectoral approaches.

*Social protection programmes* are making a strong contribution to education by addressing problems in health, nutrition and child labour. Part of the success of social protection programmes in improving educational outcomes for the poor and disadvantaged comes from their effectiveness in channelling resources to target groups. A recent study on programmes in Brazil (Bolsa Família), Chile (Solidario) and Mexico (Oportunidades) found that about 60% of transfer funds flowed to the poorest 20% of the population. Conditional cash transfers have materially increased equity in the income distribution. The success of social protection programmes is increasingly recognized. Oportunidades even offers a rare example of policy transfer from a developing country to a developed country: New York City, in an effort to help some of its most deprived people escape poverty traps that cross generations, is experimenting with a model based on the Mexican programme.

Political commitment, together with *consultation processes* that provide opportunities for civil society organizations to participate in policy discussions, is crucial. The challenge is to extend participation to make sure the voices of the poor and vulnerable are heard.





## Acronyms

EDI: EFA Development Index

EDUCO: Educación con la Participación de la Comunidad (El Salvador)

EFA: Education for All

EIIIG: EFA Inequality Index for Income Groups

FUNDEF: Fundo de Manutenção e Desenvolvimento do Ensino Fundamental e de Valorização do Magistério (Brazil)

GEI: Gender-specific EFA index

GER: gross enrolment ratio

GPI: Gender parity index

NER: net enrolment ratio

PISA: Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD)

PTR: pupil/teacher ratio

SERCE: Segundo Estudio Regional Comparativo y Explicativo

TIMSS: Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

UPE: universal primary education

Table 3: Latin America and the Caribbean, selected education indicators

| Country or territory     | Total population (000) | Compulsory education (age group) | EFA Development Index (EDI) | Adult literacy rate (15 and over) |           |                        |           | Early childhood care and education |                                  |                         |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|                          |                        |                                  |                             | 1985–1994 <sup>1</sup>            |           | 2000–2006 <sup>1</sup> |           | Child survival and well-being      |                                  | Pre-primary education   |                        |
|                          |                        |                                  |                             | Total (%)                         | GPI (F/M) | Total (%)              | GPI (F/M) | Under-5 mortality rate (‰)         | Moderate and severe stunting (%) | GER                     |                        |
|                          |                        |                                  |                             |                                   |           |                        |           |                                    |                                  | 2005–2010               | 1996–2006 <sup>1</sup> |
|                          |                        |                                  |                             |                                   |           | Total (%)              | Total (%) |                                    |                                  |                         |                        |
| <b>The Caribbean</b>     |                        |                                  |                             |                                   |           |                        |           |                                    |                                  |                         |                        |
| Anguilla                 | 12                     | 5-17                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | 103                    |
| Antigua and Barbuda      | 84                     | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | ...                    |
| Aruba                    | 104                    | 6-16                             | 0.981                       | ...                               | ...       | 98                     | 1.00      | 20                                 | ...                              | 99                      | 99                     |
| Bahamas                  | 327                    | 5-16                             | 0.921                       | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 17                                 | ...                              | 12                      | ...                    |
| Barbados                 | 293                    | 5-16                             | 0.943                       | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 11                                 | ...                              | 74                      | 94                     |
| Belize                   | 282                    | 5-14                             | 0.913                       | 70                                | 1.00      | ...                    | ...       | 20                                 | 18                               | 27                      | 34                     |
| Bermuda                  | 64                     | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | ...                    |
| British Virgin Islands   | 22                     | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | 62                      | 93                     |
| Cayman Islands           | 46                     | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | ...                    |
| Dominica                 | 68                     | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | 80                      | <b>77</b>              |
| Grenada                  | 106                    | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 41                                 | ...                              | 93                      | <b>81</b>              |
| Guyana <sup>4</sup>      | 739                    | 6-15                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 57                                 | 11                               | 124                     | 99                     |
| Haiti                    | 9 446                  | 6-11                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 72                                 | 24                               | ...                     | ...                    |
| Jamaica                  | 2 699                  | 6-11                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | 85                     | 1.13      | 17                                 | 3                                | 78                      | <b>92</b>              |
| Montserrat               | 6                      | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | 91                     |
| Netherlands Antilles     | 189                    | 6-15                             | ...                         | 95                                | 1.00      | 96                     | 1.00      | 17                                 | ...                              | 111                     | ...                    |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis    | 50                     | 5-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | <b>99</b>              |
| Saint Lucia              | 163                    | 5-15                             | 0.942                       | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 16                                 | ...                              | 70                      | 69                     |
| St Vincent/Grenad.       | 120                    | 5-15                             | 0.901                       | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | 28                                 | ...                              | ...                     | <b>88</b>              |
| Suriname                 | 455                    | 6-12                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | 90                     | 0.95      | 35                                 | 10                               | ...                     | 84                     |
| Trinidad and Tobago      | 1 328                  | 5-11                             | 0.941                       | 97                                | 0.98      | 99                     | 0.99      | 18                                 | 4                                | 58                      | <b>85</b>              |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | 25                     | 4-16                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | ...                    | ...       | ...                                | ...                              | ...                     | <b>118</b>             |
| <b>Latin America</b>     |                        |                                  |                             |                                   |           |                        |           |                                    |                                  |                         |                        |
| Argentina <sup>5</sup>   | 39 134                 | 5-14                             | 0.956                       | 96                                | 1.00      | 98                     | 1.00      | 16                                 | 4                                | 57                      | <b>66</b>              |
| Bolivia                  | 9 354                  | 6-13                             | 0.915                       | 80                                | 0.82      | 90                     | 0.89      | 61                                 | 27                               | 45                      | 50                     |
| Brazil                   | 189 323                | 7-14                             | 0.901                       | ...                               | ...       | 90                     | 1.01      | 29                                 | 11                               | 58                      | <b>69</b>              |
| Chile                    | 16 465                 | 6-13                             | ...                         | 94                                | 0.99      | 96                     | 1.00      | 9                                  | 1                                | 77                      | 55                     |
| Colombia                 | 45 558                 | 5-14                             | 0.905                       | 81                                | 1.00      | 92                     | 1.00      | 26                                 | 12                               | 37                      | 40                     |
| Costa Rica               | 4 399                  | 6-15                             | ...                         | ...                               | ...       | 96                     | 1.00      | 11                                 | 6                                | 84                      | 70                     |
| Cuba                     | 11 267                 | 6-14                             | 0.981                       | ...                               | ...       | 100                    | 1.00      | 7                                  | 5                                | 109                     | 113                    |
| Dominican Republic       | 9 615                  | 5-13                             | 0.824                       | ...                               | ...       | 89                     | 1.01      | 33                                 | 7                                | 32                      | 32                     |
| Ecuador                  | 13 202                 | 5-14                             | 0.919                       | 88                                | 0.95      | 92                     | 0.98      | 26                                 | 23                               | 64                      | 90                     |
| El Salvador              | 6 762                  | 7-15                             | 0.867                       | 74                                | 0.92      | 84                     | 0.93      | 29                                 | 19                               | 43                      | 51                     |
| Guatemala                | 13 029                 | 7-15                             | 0.819                       | 64                                | 0.80      | 72                     | 0.86      | 39                                 | 49                               | 46                      | 29                     |
| Honduras <sup>4</sup>    | 6 969                  | 6-11                             | 0.887                       | ...                               | ...       | 83                     | 1.01      | 42                                 | 25                               | ...                     | 38                     |
| Mexico                   | 105 342                | 6-15                             | 0.956                       | 88                                | 0.94      | 92                     | 0.96      | 20                                 | 13                               | 74                      | 106                    |
| Nicaragua <sup>4</sup>   | 5 532                  | 6-12                             | 0.799                       | ...                               | ...       | 80                     | 1.02      | 26                                 | 20                               | 27                      | 52                     |
| Panama                   | 3 288                  | 6-11                             | 0.941                       | 89                                | 0.99      | 93                     | 0.99      | 24                                 | 18                               | 39                      | 67                     |
| Paraguay                 | 6 016                  | 6-14                             | 0.935                       | 90                                | 0.96      | 94                     | 0.98      | 38                                 | 14                               | 29                      | <b>34</b>              |
| Peru                     | 27 589                 | 6-16                             | 0.931                       | 87                                | 0.88      | 89                     | 0.89      | 29                                 | 24                               | 55                      | 68                     |
| Uruguay                  | 3 331                  | 6-15                             | 0.963                       | 95                                | 1.01      | 98                     | 1.01      | 16                                 | 11                               | 60                      | 79                     |
| Venezuela, B. R.         | 27 191                 | 6-15                             | 0.934                       | 90                                | 0.98      | 93                     | 0.99      | 22                                 | 13                               | 45                      | 60                     |
|                          | <b>Sum</b>             |                                  |                             | <b>Weighted average</b>           |           |                        |           | <b>Weighted average</b>            |                                  | <b>Weighted average</b> |                        |
| Latin America/Caribbean  | 559 994                | ...                              | ...                         | 87                                | 0.98      | 91                     | 0.98      | 27                                 | 16                               | 56                      | 65                     |
| Caribbean                | 16 628                 | ...                              | ...                         | 66                                | 1.02      | 74                     | 1.05      | 56                                 | ...                              | 65                      | 79                     |
| Latin America            | 543 365                | ...                              | ...                         | 87                                | 0.97      | 91                     | 0.98      | 26                                 | ...                              | 55                      | 64                     |
| Developing countries     | 5 284 165              | ...                              | ...                         | 68                                | 0.77      | 79                     | 0.85      | 81                                 | 32                               | 27                      | 36                     |
| World                    | 6 578 149              | ...                              | ...                         | 76                                | 0.85      | 84                     | 0.89      | 74                                 | 31                               | 33                      | 41                     |

Source: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009, statistical tables; UNESCO Institute for Statistics; CRS online database (OECD-DAC, 2008).

| Primary education    |           |                  |             |                                     |                                       |      |                       |                                  |           | Country or territory     |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| NER total (%)        |           | GPI of GER (F/M) |             | Out-of-school children <sup>2</sup> | Survival rate to last grade total (%) |      | % of trained teachers | Pupil/teacher ratio <sup>3</sup> |           |                          |
| 1999                 | 2006      | 1999             | 2006        |                                     | 2006 (000)                            | 1999 |                       | 2005                             | 2006      |                          |
|                      |           |                  |             |                                     |                                       |      |                       |                                  |           |                          |
| <b>The Caribbean</b> |           |                  |             |                                     |                                       |      |                       |                                  |           |                          |
| ...                  | 92        | ...              | 0.99        | 0.1                                 | ...                                   | 93   | 64                    | 22                               | 17        | Anguilla                 |
| ...                  | ...       | ...              | ...         | ...                                 | ...                                   | ...  | ...                   | ...                              | ...       | Antigua and Barbuda      |
| 98                   | 100       | 0.99             | 0.98        | 0.04                                | 97                                    | 96   | 99                    | 19                               | 18        | Aruba                    |
| 89                   | 88        | 0.98             | 1.00        | 4                                   | ...                                   | 81   | 89                    | 14                               | 15        | Bahamas                  |
| 94                   | 96        | 0.98             | 0.98        | 0.8                                 | 94                                    | 97   | <b>73</b>             | 18                               | 15        | Barbados                 |
| 94                   | 97        | 0.97             | 0.97        | 0.4                                 | 77                                    | 92   | 39                    | 24                               | 23        | Belize                   |
| ...                  | 92        | ...              | 0.85        | 0.3                                 | ...                                   | 86   | 100                   | ...                              | 8         | Bermuda                  |
| 96                   | 95        | 0.97             | 0.97        | 0.1                                 | ...                                   | ...  | 74                    | 18                               | 15        | British Virgin Islands   |
| ...                  | ...       | ...              | ...         | ...                                 | ...                                   | 78   | 97                    | 15                               | 12        | Cayman Islands           |
| 94                   | 77        | 0.95             | 1.02        | 1.9                                 | ...                                   | 88   | 64                    | 20                               | 17        | Dominica                 |
| ...                  | <b>84</b> | ...              | <b>0.96</b> | <b>2</b>                            | ...                                   | ...  | <b>67</b>             | ...                              | <b>18</b> | Grenada                  |
| ...                  | ...       | 0.98             | <b>0.99</b> | ...                                 | 93                                    | ...  | <b>57</b>             | 27                               | <b>28</b> | Guyana <sup>4</sup>      |
| ...                  | ...       | ...              | ...         | ...                                 | ...                                   | ...  | ...                   | ...                              | ...       | Haiti                    |
| 88                   | <b>90</b> | 1.00             | <b>1.00</b> | <b>31</b>                           | ...                                   | ...  | ...                   | ...                              | <b>28</b> | Jamaica                  |
| ...                  | 99        | ...              | 1.00        | 0.0                                 | ...                                   | ...  | 77                    | 21                               | 17        | Montserrat               |
| ...                  | ...       | 0.95             | ...         | ...                                 | 84                                    | ...  | ...                   | 20                               | ...       | Netherlands Antilles     |
| ...                  | <b>71</b> | ...              | <b>1.20</b> | <b>2</b>                            | ...                                   | ...  | <b>64</b>             | ...                              | <b>15</b> | Saint Kitts and Nevis    |
| 96                   | 98        | 0.98             | 0.94        | 0.2                                 | ...                                   | 96   | 80                    | 22                               | 24        | Saint Lucia              |
| ...                  | <b>90</b> | ...              | <b>1.06</b> | <b>1.2</b>                          | ...                                   | ...  | <b>74</b>             | ...                              | <b>18</b> | St Vincent/Grenad.       |
| ...                  | 96        | ...              | 1.00        | 1.9                                 | ...                                   | ...  | ...                   | ...                              | 16        | Suriname                 |
| 87                   | <b>85</b> | 1.00             | <b>0.98</b> | <b>15</b>                           | ...                                   | 84   | 81                    | 21                               | <b>17</b> | Trinidad and Tobago      |
| ...                  | <b>78</b> | ...              | <b>1.04</b> | <b>0.5</b>                          | ...                                   | ...  | <b>82</b>             | 18                               | <b>15</b> | Turks and Caicos Islands |
| <b>Latin America</b> |           |                  |             |                                     |                                       |      |                       |                                  |           |                          |
| 99                   | <b>99</b> | 1.00             | <b>0.99</b> | <b>36</b>                           | 89                                    | 87   | ...                   | 22                               | <b>17</b> | Argentina <sup>5</sup>   |
| 95                   | 95        | 0.98             | 1.00        | 52                                  | 80                                    | 82   | ...                   | 25                               | 24        | Bolivia                  |
| 91                   | <b>94</b> | 0.94             | <b>0.94</b> | <b>597</b>                          | ...                                   | 80   | ...                   | 26                               | <b>21</b> | Brazil                   |
| ...                  | ...       | 0.97             | 0.95        | ...                                 | 100                                   | 98   | ...                   | 32                               | 26        | Chile                    |
| 89                   | 88        | 1.00             | 0.99        | 367                                 | 67                                    | 82   | ...                   | 24                               | 28        | Colombia                 |
| ...                  | ...       | 0.98             | 0.99        | ...                                 | 88                                    | 90   | 88                    | 27                               | 20        | Costa Rica               |
| 97                   | 97        | 0.97             | 0.97        | 27                                  | 93                                    | 97   | 100                   | 12                               | 10        | Cuba                     |
| 84                   | 77        | 0.98             | 0.95        | 255                                 | 71                                    | 61   | 88                    | ...                              | 23        | Dominican Republic       |
| 97                   | 97        | 1.00             | 1.00        | 11                                  | 75                                    | 76   | 71                    | 27                               | 23        | Ecuador                  |
| ...                  | 94        | 0.96             | 0.96        | 39                                  | 62                                    | 67   | 94                    | ...                              | 40        | El Salvador              |
| 82                   | 94        | 0.87             | 0.93        | 82                                  | 52                                    | 63   | ...                   | 38                               | 31        | Guatemala                |
| ...                  | 96        | ...              | 0.99        | 33                                  | ...                                   | 81   | 87                    | ...                              | 28        | Honduras <sup>4</sup>    |
| 97                   | 98        | 0.98             | 0.97        | 73                                  | 87                                    | 92   | ...                   | 27                               | 28        | Mexico                   |
| 76                   | 90        | 1.01             | 0.98        | 72                                  | 46                                    | 50   | 74                    | 34                               | 33        | Nicaragua <sup>4</sup>   |
| 96                   | 98        | 0.97             | 0.97        | 3.7                                 | 90                                    | 85   | 91                    | 26                               | 25        | Panama                   |
| 96                   | <b>94</b> | 0.96             | <b>0.97</b> | <b>43</b>                           | 73                                    | 84   | ...                   | ...                              | 28        | Paraguay                 |
| 98                   | 96        | 0.99             | 1.01        | 33                                  | 83                                    | 85   | ...                   | ...                              | 22        | Peru                     |
| ...                  | 100       | 0.99             | 0.97        | 0.1                                 | ...                                   | 92   | ...                   | 20                               | 20        | Uruguay                  |
| 86                   | 91        | 0.98             | 0.98        | 226                                 | 88                                    | 90   | <b>84</b>             | ...                              | <b>19</b> | Venezuela, B. R.         |
| Weighted average     |           | Weighted average |             | Sum                                 | Median                                |      |                       | Weighted average                 |           |                          |
| 92                   | 94        | 0.97             | 0.97        | 2 631                               | 84                                    | 85   | 80                    | 26                               | 23        | Latin America/Caribbean  |
| 75                   | 72        | 0.98             | 0.99        | 617                                 | ...                                   | ...  | 74                    | 24                               | 22        | Caribbean                |
| 93                   | 95        | 0.97             | 0.97        | 2 014                               | 81                                    | 84   | 88                    | 26                               | 23        | Latin America            |
| 81                   | 85        | 0.91             | 0.94        | 71 911                              | ...                                   | 81   | 85                    | 27                               | 28        | Developing countries     |
| 82                   | 86        | 0.92             | 0.95        | 75 177                              | ...                                   | 88   | ...                   | 25                               | 25        | World                    |

Data underlined are for 2003.

Data in italics are for 2004.

Data in bold italics are for 2005.

Data in bold are for 2007 or 2006 for survival rate to last grade.

1. Data are for the most recent year available during the period specified.

2. Data reflect the actual number of children not enrolled at all, derived from the age-specific enrolment ratios of primary school age children, which measure the proportion of those who are enrolled in either primary or secondary school (total primary NER).

3. Based on headcounts of pupils and teachers.

4. Fast Track Initiative (FTI): countries with endorsed sector plans.

5. The apparent decrease in total secondary education enrolment between 1999 and 2005 is essentially due to a change in data reporting. Since 2003, programmes designed for people beyond the regular school age (e.g. adult education) have been excluded from the figures for secondary enrolment, leading to a reported decline in the GER. The secondary NER has increased over the period in question.

Table 3 (continued)

| Country or territory     | Secondary education    |             |                        |             |                        |           |            |             | Tertiary education |             |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                          | GER in lower secondary |             | GER in upper secondary |             | GER in total secondary |           |            |             | GER                |             |
|                          | 2006                   |             | 2006                   |             | 1999                   |           | 2006       |             | 2006               |             |
|                          | Total (%)              | GPI (F/M)   | Total (%)              | GPI (F/M)   | Total (%)              | GPI (F/M) | Total (%)  | GPI (F/M)   | Total (%)          | GPI (F/M)   |
| <b>The Caribbean</b>     |                        |             |                        |             |                        |           |            |             |                    |             |
| Anguilla                 | 82                     | 0.98        | 84                     | 1.10        | ...                    | ...       | 83         | 1.02        | 5                  | 4.86        |
| Antigua and Barbuda      | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...       | ...        | ...         | .                  | .           |
| Aruba                    | 119                    | 0.88        | 88                     | 1.20        | 99                     | 1.07      | 100        | 1.04        | 32                 | 1.56        |
| Bahamas                  | 95                     | 0.99        | 86                     | 1.03        | 79                     | 0.99      | 91         | 1.01        | ...                | ...         |
| Barbados                 | 100                    | 0.99        | 105                    | 1.11        | 100                    | 1.05      | 102        | 1.04        | ...                | ...         |
| Belize                   | 87                     | 1.05        | 61                     | 1.09        | 64                     | 1.08      | 79         | 1.06        | 3                  | 2.43        |
| Bermuda                  | 91                     | 0.96        | 79                     | 1.15        | ...                    | ...       | 84         | 1.06        | ...                | ...         |
| British Virgin Islands   | 115                    | 1.10        | 93                     | 1.18        | 99                     | 0.91      | 107        | 1.13        | <b>75</b>          | <b>2.28</b> |
| Cayman Islands           | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...                | ...         |
| Dominica                 | 125                    | 0.87        | 78                     | 1.29        | 90                     | 1.35      | 106        | 0.98        | .                  | .           |
| Grenada                  | <b>102</b>             | <b>0.96</b> | <b>97</b>              | <b>1.17</b> | ...                    | ...       | <b>100</b> | <b>1.03</b> | .                  | .           |
| Guyana <sup>4</sup>      | ...                    | ...         | 68                     | 1.01        | 82                     | 1.02      | 105        | 0.98        | 12                 | 2.17        |
| Haiti                    | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...                | ...         |
| Jamaica                  | <b>93</b>              | <b>1.00</b> | <b>77</b>              | <b>1.11</b> | 88                     | 1.02      | <b>87</b>  | <b>1.03</b> | ...                | ...         |
| Montserrat               | 131                    | 0.80        | 115                    | 1.39        | ...                    | ...       | 125        | 0.98        | .                  | .           |
| Netherlands Antilles     | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...         | 92                     | 1.16      | ...        | ...         | ...                | ...         |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis    | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...         | ...                    | ...       | <b>105</b> | <b>0.91</b> | .                  | .           |
| Saint Lucia              | 94                     | 1.15        | 78                     | 1.26        | 71                     | 1.29      | 87         | 1.19        | 10                 | 5.46        |
| St Vincent/Grenad.       | <b>90</b>              | <b>1.16</b> | <b>54</b>              | <b>1.46</b> | ...                    | ...       | <b>75</b>  | <b>1.24</b> | .                  | .           |
| Suriname                 | 96                     | 1.18        | 54                     | 1.97        | ...                    | ...       | 77         | 1.37        | ...                | ...         |
| Trinidad and Tobago      | <b>79</b>              | <b>1.03</b> | <b>73</b>              | <b>1.07</b> | 77                     | 1.10      | <b>76</b>  | <b>1.05</b> | <b>11</b>          | <b>1.28</b> |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | <b>86</b>              | <b>0.95</b> | <b>85</b>              | <b>0.92</b> | ...                    | ...       | <b>86</b>  | <b>0.94</b> | .                  | .           |
| <b>Latin America</b>     |                        |             |                        |             |                        |           |            |             |                    |             |
| Argentina <sup>5</sup>   | <b>102</b>             | <b>1.05</b> | <b>67</b>              | <b>1.21</b> | 94                     | 1.07      | <b>84</b>  | <b>1.11</b> | <b>64</b>          | <b>1.45</b> |
| Bolivia                  | 93                     | 0.96        | 77                     | 0.96        | 78                     | 0.93      | 82         | 0.96        | 41                 | ...         |
| Brazil                   | <b>114</b>             | <b>1.05</b> | <b>95</b>              | <b>1.19</b> | 99                     | 1.11      | <b>105</b> | <b>1.10</b> | <b>25</b>          | <b>1.30</b> |
| Chile                    | 99                     | 0.97        | 87                     | 1.05        | 79                     | 1.04      | 91         | 1.02        | 47                 | 1.00        |
| Colombia                 | 90                     | 1.08        | 66                     | 1.19        | 70                     | 1.11      | 82         | 1.11        | 31                 | 1.09        |
| Costa Rica               | 104                    | 1.03        | 60                     | 1.15        | 57                     | 1.09      | 86         | 1.06        | <b>25</b>          | <b>1.26</b> |
| Cuba                     | 96                     | 0.97        | 91                     | 1.07        | 77                     | 1.07      | 94         | 1.02        | 88                 | 1.65        |
| Dominican Republic       | 79                     | 1.13        | 64                     | 1.25        | 57                     | 1.24      | 69         | 1.20        | 35                 | 1.59        |
| Ecuador                  | 77                     | 0.98        | 58                     | 1.07        | 57                     | 1.03      | 68         | 1.02        | ...                | ...         |
| El Salvador              | 80                     | 1.01        | 48                     | 1.10        | 52                     | 0.98      | 65         | 1.04        | 21                 | 1.21        |
| Guatemala                | 58                     | 0.87        | 46                     | 1.01        | 33                     | 0.84      | 53         | 0.92        | 9                  | 0.82        |
| Honduras <sup>4</sup>    | <b>65</b>              | <b>1.18</b> | <b>93</b>              | <b>1.45</b> | ...                    | ...       | <b>76</b>  | <b>1.30</b> | 17                 | 1.41        |
| Mexico                   | 112                    | 1.04        | 61                     | 1.00        | 70                     | 1.01      | 87         | 1.02        | 26                 | 0.93        |
| Nicaragua <sup>4</sup>   | 73                     | 1.07        | 54                     | 1.29        | 52                     | 1.19      | 66         | 1.14        | ...                | ...         |
| Panama                   | 84                     | 1.03        | 55                     | 1.17        | 67                     | 1.07      | 70         | 1.09        | 45                 | 1.61        |
| Paraguay                 | <b>79</b>              | <b>1.01</b> | <b>53</b>              | <b>1.05</b> | 58                     | 1.04      | <b>66</b>  | <b>1.03</b> | <b>26</b>          | <b>1.13</b> |
| Peru                     | 109                    | 1.05        | 72                     | 0.97        | 84                     | 0.94      | 94         | 1.03        | 35                 | 1.06        |
| Uruguay                  | 109                    | 1.08        | 93                     | 1.26        | 92                     | 1.17      | 101        | 1.16        | 46                 | 1.68        |
| Venezuela, B. R.         | 87                     | 1.08        | 61                     | 1.23        | 56                     | 1.22      | 77         | 1.12        | 52                 | ...         |
| <b>Weighted average</b>  |                        |             |                        |             |                        |           |            |             |                    |             |
| Latin America/Caribbean  | 102                    | 1.04        | 74                     | 1.12        | 80                     | 1.07      | 89         | 1.07        | 31                 | 1.16        |
| Caribbean                | 72                     | 1.02        | 43                     | 1.05        | 53                     | 1.03      | 57         | 1.03        | 6                  | 1.69        |
| Latin America            | 103                    | 1.05        | 76                     | 1.13        | 81                     | 1.07      | 91         | 1.07        | 32                 | 1.15        |
| Developing countries     | 75                     | 0.94        | 46                     | 0.93        | 52                     | 0.89      | 60         | 0.94        | 17                 | 0.93        |
| World                    | 78                     | 0.95        | 53                     | 0.95        | 60                     | 0.92      | 66         | 0.95        | 25                 | 1.06        |

Source: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009, statistical tables; UNESCO Institute for Statistics; CRS online database (OECD-DAC, 2008).

| Education finance                                 |             |  |  | Country or territory     |
|---|-------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Total public expenditure on education as % of GNP |             | Total aid to basic education (constant 2006 US\$ millions) | Total aid to basic education per primary school-age child (constant 2006 US\$) |                          |
| 1999  | 2006        | 2005–2006 annual average                                   | 2005–2006 annual average   |                          |
| <b>The Caribbean</b>                              |             |  |  |                          |
| ...   | <b>4.0</b>  | 0  | 0  | Anguilla                 |
| 3.5   | ...         | 0  | 0  | Antigua and Barbuda      |
| ...   | <b>5.1</b>  | 0  | 0  | Aruba                    |
| ...   | ...         | ...  | ...  | Bahamas                  |
| 5.3   | <b>7.2</b>  | 0.0  | 0.4  | Barbados                 |
| 5.7   | <i>5.8</i>  | 0.4  | 9  | Belize                   |
| ...   | 1.2         | ...  | ...  | Bermuda                  |
| ...   | 4.0         | ...  | ...  | British Virgin Islands   |
| ...   | 2.9         | ...  | ...  | Cayman Islands           |
| 5.5   | ...         | 0.1  | 8  | Dominica                 |
| ...   | <u>6.0</u>  | 6  | 346  | Grenada                  |
| 9.3   | 8.6         | 3  | 27   | Guyana <sup>4</sup>      |
| ...   | ...         | 17   | 12   | Haiti                    |
| ...   | <b>5.6</b>  | 5  | 13   | Jamaica                  |
| ...   | ...         | 0  | 0.0  | Montserrat               |
| ...   | ...         | ...  | ...  | Netherlands Antilles     |
| 5.6   | <b>10.8</b> | 0  | 0.0  | Saint Kitts and Nevis    |
| 8.0   | 7.1         | 0.5  | 24   | Saint Lucia              |
| 7.2   | <b>8.8</b>  | 0.1  | 9  | St Vincent/Grenad.       |
| ...   | ...         | 3  | 60   | Suriname                 |
| 3.9   | ...         | 0.0  | 0.1  | Trinidad and Tobago      |
| ...   | ...         | 0.9  | 149  | Turks and Caicos Islands |
| <b>Latin America</b>                              |             |  |  |                          |
| 4.6   | <i>4.0</i>  | 9  | 2  | Argentina <sup>5</sup>   |
| 5.8   | <u>6.6</u>  | 28   | 20   | Bolivia                  |
| 4.0   | <i>4.1</i>  | 10   | 0.7  | Brazil                   |
| 4.0   | 3.6         | 2  | 1  | Chile                    |
| 4.5   | 4.9         | 7  | 1  | Colombia                 |
| 5.5   | 4.9         | 1  | 2  | Costa Rica               |
| 7.7   | 9.3         | 0.5  | 0.6  | Cuba                     |
| ...   | 3.9         | 23   | 19   | Dominican Republic       |
| 2.0   | ...         | 8  | 4  | Ecuador                  |
| 2.4   | 3.2         | 7  | 8  | El Salvador              |
| ...   | 2.6         | 20   | 10   | Guatemala                |
| ...   | ...         | 30   | 27   | Honduras <sup>4</sup>    |
| 4.5   | <b>5.6</b>  | 4  | 0.3  | Mexico                   |
| 4.0   | <u>3.3</u>  | 58   | 69   | Nicaragua <sup>4</sup>   |
| 5.1   | <i>4.1</i>  | 0.5  | 1  | Panama                   |
| 5.1   | <i>4.1</i>  | 6  | 7  | Paraguay                 |
| 3.4   | 2.7         | 12   | 3  | Peru                     |
| 2.8   | 3.0         | 0.6  | 2  | Uruguay                  |
| ...   | 3.7         | 0.7  | 0.2  | Venezuela, B. R.         |
| <b>Median</b>                                     |             | <b>Sum</b>   | <b>Weighted average</b>  |                          |
| 4.9   | 4.1         | 279  | 5  | Latin America/Caribbean  |
| ...   | 5.8         | ...  | ...  | Caribbean                |
| 4.5   | 4.0         | ...  | ...  | Latin America            |
| 4.5   | 4.4         | 3 595  | 6  | Developing countries     |
| 4.5   | 4.9         | 4 376  | 8  | World                    |

Data underlined are for 2003.

Data in italics are for 2004.

Data in bold italics are for 2005.

Data in bold are for 2007 or 2006 for survival rate to last grade.

<sup>1</sup> Data are for the most recent year available during the period specified.

<sup>2</sup> Data reflect the actual number of children not enrolled at all, derived from the age-specific enrolment ratios of primary school age children, which measure the proportion of those who are enrolled in either primary or secondary school (total primary NER).

<sup>3</sup> Based on headcounts of pupils and teachers.

<sup>4</sup> Fast Track Initiative (FTI): countries with endorsed sector plans.

<sup>5</sup> The apparent decrease in total secondary education enrolment between 1999 and 2005 is essentially due to a change in data reporting. Since 2003, programmes designed for people beyond the regular school age (e.g. adult education) have been excluded from the figures for secondary enrolment, leading to a reported decline in the GER. The secondary NER has increased over the period in question.

## Regional overview: Latin America and the Caribbean



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