



Sustainable Development Goal 4

Data to Get All Children in School and Learning

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The official and trusted source of internationally-comparable data to monitor and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4)



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SDG 4 Data Initiatives



The UIS brings together countries, donors and technical partners to meet the unprecedented demand for new types of data on education and learning.

Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4-Education 2030 (TCG) (tcg.uis.unesco.org) serves as a platform to discuss and develop SDG 4 indicators in an open, inclusive and transparent manner. The Group is composed of 38 regionally-representative members from Member States, international organizations, civil society and the Co-Chair of the Education 2030 Steering Committee.

Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) (gaml.uis.unesco.org) improves learning outcomes by supporting national strategies for learning assessments and developing internationally-comparable indicators and methodological tools to measure progress towards key SDG 4 targets. It brings together a broad range of stakeholders, including experts and decisionmakers involved in national and cross-national learning assessment initiatives, as well as donors and civil society.

Inter-Agency Group on Education Inequality Indicators (IAG-EII) (iag.uis.unesco.org) coordinates the use of household survey data for education monitoring at national, regional and global levels. It is led by the UIS, UNICEF and the World Bank while bringing together other organizations involved in the production and use of household survey data.

Cooperation agreements are forged with a wide range of partners, such as the Global Partnership for Education, OECD/Eurostat, World Bank and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to improve data quality and coverage while meeting the specific needs of countries in different regions.

How We Produce Data

We work with about 200 countries and territories to produce the most comprehensive global education database (data.uis.unesco.org). It covers all levels of education, with indicators on a wide range of topics related to school access, participation and completion, learning outcomes, teachers, as well as education quality, equity and financing.

We work directly with education ministries, other line ministries and national statistical offices to:



For SDG 4 global and thematic indicators, we work with countries and partners to develop new methodologies, identify potential sources of data and collect the underlying data.

We use three major data sources to calculate indicators:

- UIS annual education survey, which includes all UN Member States and territories;
- Household surveys; and
- Cross-national learning assessments.

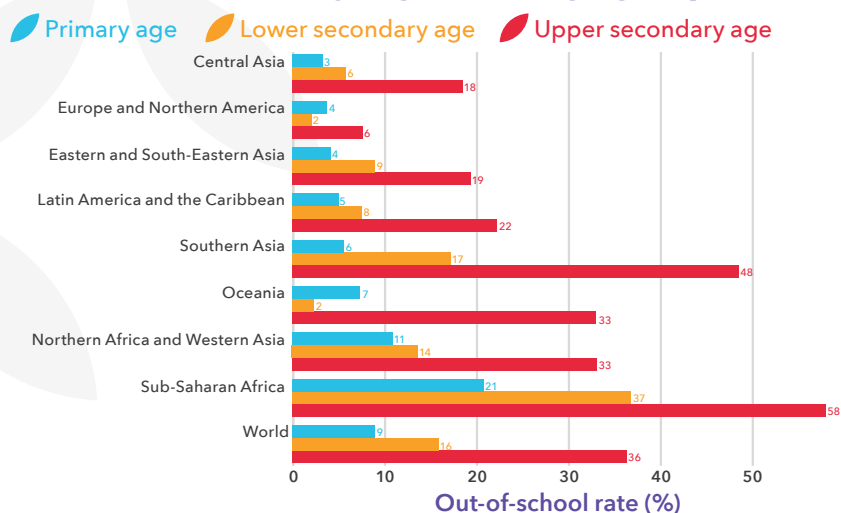
What Data Tells Us

Countries, UN agencies, donors and advocacy groups rely on UIS data, which are featured in almost every international report related to education and skills.

Among our most widely cited data:

- 1 in 5 children, adolescents and youth is out of school.
- Girls continue to face the greatest barriers: in sub-Saharan Africa, 60% of girls (aged 15-17) are out of school.
- About 750 million adults are illiterate, of which two-thirds are women.
- 6 in 10 children and adolescents are not learning a minimum in reading and mathematics - and most of them are in school.
- Many countries have more than 40 pupils per teacher in primary school.
- Households are major funders of education, covering more than one-half of their children's schooling costs in countries like Uganda and Nepal.
- Less than one-third of adults have completed primary education in many African countries.
- Less than 30% of the world's researchers are women.

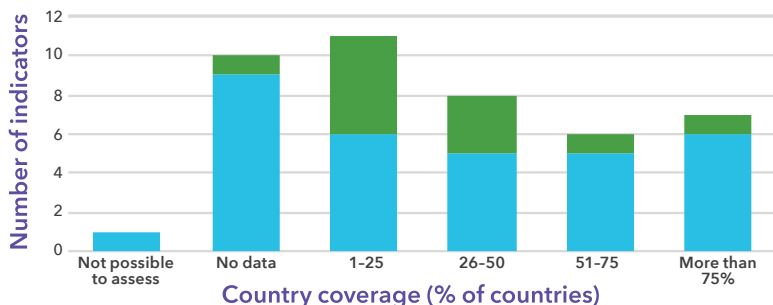
Out-of-School rate by region and age group, 2016



How We Support Countries

Availability of SDG 4 global and thematic indicators

Thematic Indicators Global Indicators



Source: Based on UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2017.

Today, countries are collecting less than one-half of the data needed to produce SDG 4 global and thematic indicators.

In response, we offer a range of capacity-development tools and services to help countries:

- Collect, analyse and report data based on international standards;
- Assess their specific data needs for policymaking;
- Identify relevant data sources;
- Evaluate the quality of existing data and map gaps; and
- Build their own national strategies for the development of education statistics.

We offer various options to meet the specific needs of countries and donors. With sufficient funding, countries and partners can:

- Join UNESCO's Capacity Development for Education Programme (CapED), which includes a series of UIS projects to bridge the gap between SDG 4 data and policy;
- Start a new project at the country or regional level, such as an extra-budgetary project to improve education data in Small Island Developing States of the Pacific; or
- Organise field visits or technical assistance by distance.



More information available at on.unesco.org/CapBuildingweb

Why the World Needs More & Better Data



Quality data fuel the policies and investments needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4). The ambitious nature of the goal demands more and better data to get all children in school and learning by 2030.

Countries and development partners rely on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to develop the indicators, standards and tools needed to respond to the rising demand for data at national, regional and global levels. The UIS is the custodian agency for data to monitor progress towards SDG 4.

Key services:

Collecting, producing and analysing internationally-comparable data;

Developing and maintaining methodologies and standards that reflect the priorities and contexts of countries at all stages of development;

Reinforcing the capacities of national statistical offices and line ministries to produce and use high-quality data; and

Disseminating data as a public good for monitoring and policymaking purposes.



Who Uses Our Data and How?



From databases to quick guides - we offer a wide range of products to meet the needs of countries, donors, technical partners, researchers and civil society groups.

With UIS data:

The UN system monitors progress towards SDG 4 and related goals;

Countries can benchmark their progress towards development goals;

Countries and international organizations have the evidence base to set priorities and target policies;

Donors can direct resources to the most urgent needs;

Flagship international reports and databases, such as the Global Education Monitoring Report, Human Development Report, Education at a Glance and World Development Indicators, examine trends; and

Civil society groups have the “hard facts” to mobilise support for quality education for all.

Go straight to the source with the UIS Global Education Database

Our global education database includes:

All levels of education for about 200 countries and territories;

SDG 4 global and thematic indicators;

Indicators on critical issues related to participation and completion of education, learning outcomes, teachers, education financing and more;

Equity measures with parity indices and data disaggregated by sex, wealth and location; and

Historical time series data and regional averages.



Laying the foundation for internationally-comparable data

Examples of our methodological and standard-setting work:

- International Standard Classification of Education;
- National Education Accounts;
- Handbook on Measuring Equity in Education; and
- Guidance for countries on indicator calculation.

Tools to explore the data

Automatically updated with the latest available data:

- SDG 4 Country Profiles: easy-to-understand charts and graphs;
- SDG 4 Data Explorer: see the trends across countries, regions and time, and explore measures of equality.

Promoting data use

We offer a wide range of publications:

- SDG 4 Data Digest shows how countries can improve the quality of their data;
- Information papers and fact sheets address issues such as out-of-school children and learning;
- Quick guides explain how to produce and interpret data; and
- Blogs explore the latest developments.



For SDG 4 data and publications, go to on.unesco.org/SDG4web

Learning Crisis

UIS data have revealed a global learning crisis that jeopardises the future of millions of children and adolescents. While sounding the alarm, we are also developing new indicators to help policymakers deliver quality education for all.

Globally, 6 out of 10 children and adolescents are not learning a minimum in reading and mathematics. Most of them are in school, underscoring the urgent need to improve the quality of education.

UIS data also show that there has been virtually no progress in recent years to reduce the global number of children, adolescents and youth out of school - with more than 260 million denied the right to education.

There is no time to lose in efforts to monitor and achieve SDG 4. To this end, the UIS develops new indicators to track the quality, equity and financing of education.



Globally, 6 out of 10 children and adolescents are not learning a minimum in reading and mathematics.

1 in 5 children, adolescents and youth are not in school



For more information, visit on.unesco.org/LearningOutcomesweb

UIS in Numbers

Based in Montreal, the UIS has regional advisors to assist countries in several UNESCO Field Offices.

Key Facts

- More than 200 countries and territories are involved in our annual education survey.
- We are in regular contact with more than 1,200 statisticians and managers in national statistical offices and line ministries around the world.
- We work with more than 100 international and regional organizations, research institutions and civil society groups to develop SDG 4 data.
- We have trained about 500 national statisticians and policy planners from about 115 countries on how to collect and report SDG 4 data in 2016-17.
- About 250 statisticians and policy planners from 16 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as sub-Saharan Africa have participated in our SDG 4 capacity-development programmes.
- We have developed about 25 diagnostic and capacity-development tools to help countries improve the quality of their education data.
- Nearly ALL international development reports, databases and indices on education and skills feature our data.

Connect with us

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