

# SDG 4 Benchmarks

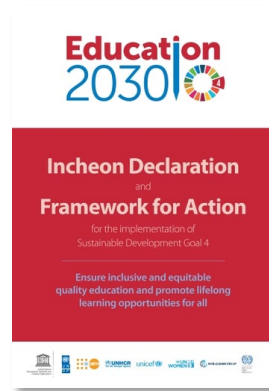


A common framework of global, regional and national priorities to improve education program quality, efficiency & impact





There is global commitment to honor the Education 2020 Framework for Action call to foster improvements in education outcomes



## Education 2030 Framework for Action, 2015

Called on countries to establish “appropriate intermediate benchmarks (e.g., for 2020 and 2025)” for the SDG indicators, seeing them as “indispensable for addressing the accountability deficit associated with longer-term targets” (§28).



## Global Education Meeting, 2020

“We request UNESCO and its partners, together with the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, to ... accelerate the progress and propose relevant and realistic benchmarks of key SDG 4 indicators for subsequent monitoring” (§10).





# Benchmarks will improve outcomes through enhanced...

## Alignment

- On a **focused set of global priority policy areas** for education
- On **regional benchmarks** as a minimum for each policy area
- On **national benchmarks** for countries to achieve, aligned to regional 'minimum floors'

## Commitment

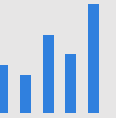
- **From countries** at the political level to work towards the benchmarks
- **From regional bodies** to **oversee country progress and peer learnings**
- From donors to **mobilize resources** to support ongoing progress

## Monitoring

- **Country capability and capacity** to regularly report results (e.g. via EMIS)
- Using dashboards to **identify 'bright spots' and best-practices**
- Support aimed at fixing **low performance, bottlenecks, and cross-cutting issues**

## Accountability

- **Focus on improvement** through routine country reporting
- Based on **country ownership** to make improvements
- On partners and donors for provision of **targeted support based on evidence**



Each component is underpinned by a focus on ensuring regular, reliable, and high-quality education data at global, regional and country-levels



**Benchmarks  
provide focus on a  
small number of  
priority policy  
areas linked to  
the achievement  
of SDG4**

1.



**Basic education**

2.



**Pre-primary**

3.



**Teachers**

4.



**Expenditure**

5.



**Equity**





# Benchmark targets will be set at global, regional and national levels for each priority policy area

## Priority Policy Areas



**GLOBAL**  
SDG 4 Benchmark Indicators



**REGIONAL**



**NATIONAL**



**Basic education**

- 4.1.1 Minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics
- 4.1.2 Completion rate
- 4.1.4 Out-of-school rate

**Definition of the regional minimum levels for global indicators**

**Definition of national commitment for global indicators**



**Pre-primary**

- 4.2.2 Participation in organized learning a year before primary education entry



**Indicators selected from regional frameworks:**

**Indicators selected from National Frameworks**



**Qualified teachers**

- 4.c.1 Qualified teachers



**Expenditure**

- 1.a. 2/FFA Education expenditure - (% GDP / % budget)



**Equity**

**Equity**

- Africa – CESA Continental Framework
- Arab States
- Asia/Pacific
- Europe/North America
- Latin America/Caribbean
- EC/COE





# Regular monitoring against benchmarks will drive commitment and focus on where investments are needed

## Regional Benchmarking approach

 **Policy Priority Areas  
SDG Global Targets**

 **SDG 4 Benchmark  
Indicators**

**Policy gaps**

National commitments

**Data gaps**

National commitments



**Missions**  
(e.g., 100m children learning)

**Global Data Coalition**



## Increased international commitment on learning data

**Alignment and coordination**

**Financial Resources**

**Global Public Goods**

## Solutions and means of implementation

### Solutions

- Cross-cutting analysis
- Education strategies
- Policies initiatives
- Support mechanisms
- Improved processes issues and challenges

### Means of implementation:

- Funding
- Program design
- Implementation
- Results
- Investment in data systems



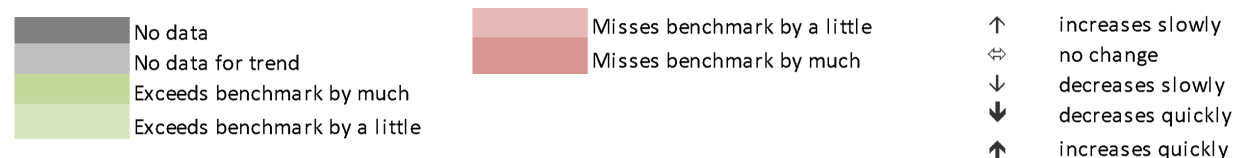
# Dashboards and regular monitoring reports will be used to visualize progress at country and regional levels

- A **global benchmark dashboard** visualizes progress at all levels
- Allows **comparison** and **identification of 'bright spots'**
- **Intuitive, and usable** for stakeholders at all levels
- Countries are trained to **ensure effective-use**
- All stakeholders will have access, ensuring **transparency and accountability**

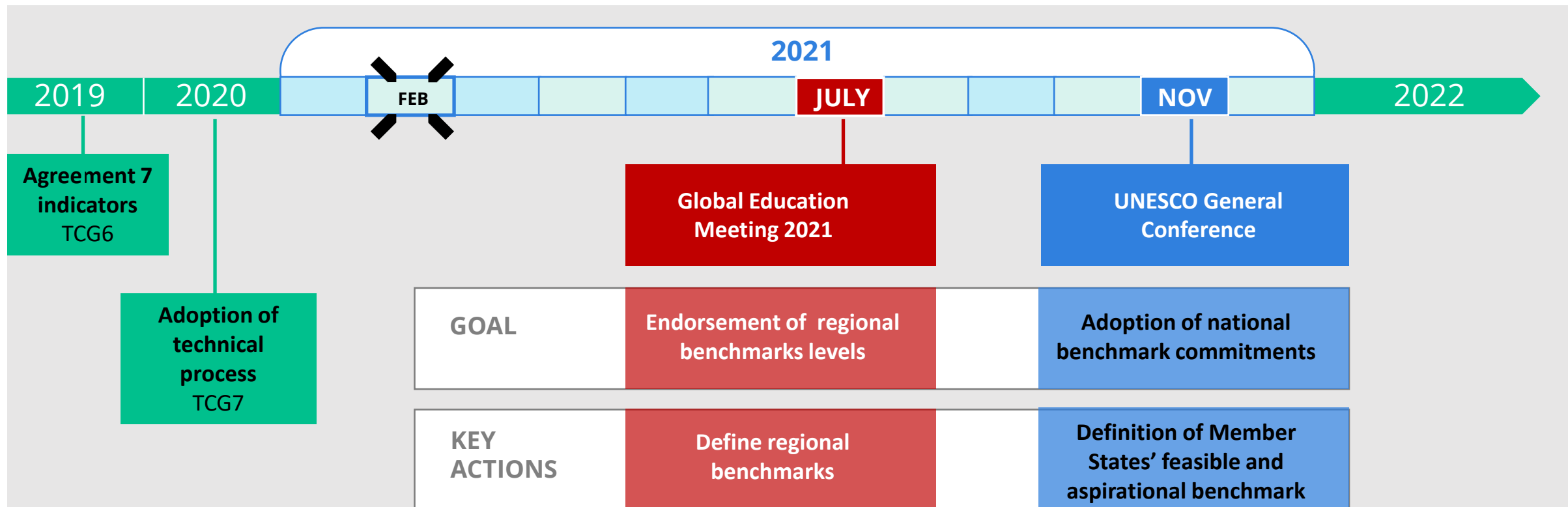
## Indicative example of dashboard functionality



### Legend



# With your support we are on track to endorse the regional benchmarks approach by November 2021



## ACTIVITIES AT REGIONAL FORA

Technical meetings on feasibility and levels

Political endorsement

Definition of **additional indicators** for regional monitoring

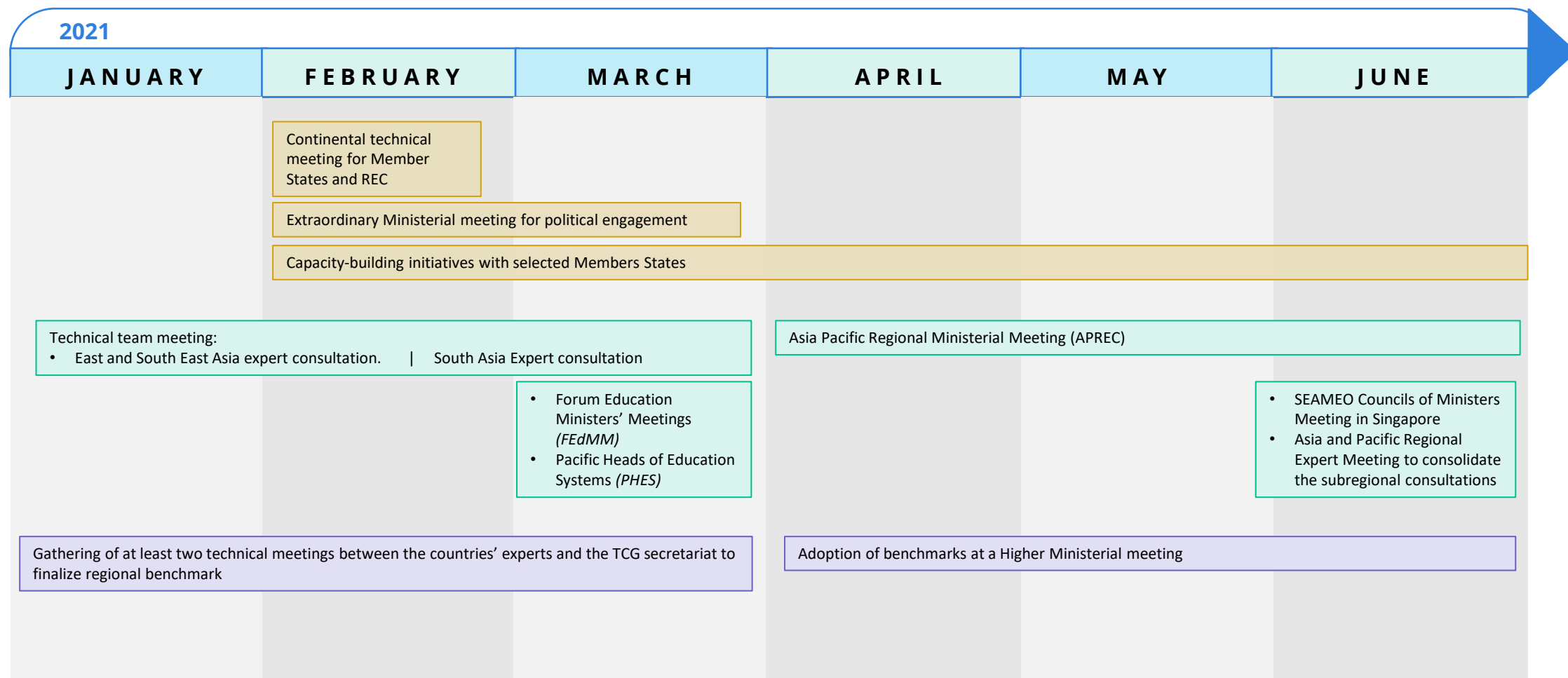


<http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/benchmarks/>





# Regional bodies supported by the UIS are working with countries towards definition of benchmarks level



While regional benchmarks plug important gaps, **further investments in data to support SDG4 monitoring are key**



## Data availability

- Expand **scope and country coverage** of learning assessments
- Increase **coverage and frequency** of household surveys
- **Strengthen administrative systems**
- **Methodological developments needed to make full use of data**



## Data Quality

- Strengthen country's **administrative systems**
- Expand country **coverage and scope of learning assessments**, and increase alignment with international standards and procedures



## Mutual Accountability

- Countries and donors to **invest in learning assessments**
- Countries and donors to **use UIS to establish data-funding coordination / broker mechanism**
- Countries and donors to **establish systematic review through policy mapping and peer learning mechanisms**



# UIS' unique position ensures it can convene, coordinate, innovate and 'broker' support to fill gaps

## Facilitator



### Countries SOs

- Assistance
  - Technical
  - Financial
- Report SDGs



### Donors SOs

- Priority areas
- Innovation
- Data for investment



## UIS Strategic Objectives (SOs)

- Global leadership SDG4 reporting
- Strengthening capacity to monitoring SDG4 targets
- Respond to policy needs based on research, foresight and innovation

### Products for identifying data gaps

- Global Education Database
- Indicator Heat Maps
- Country Profiles

### Monitoring Benchmarks

- Regional Reports
- Policy Analysis
- Investment Case

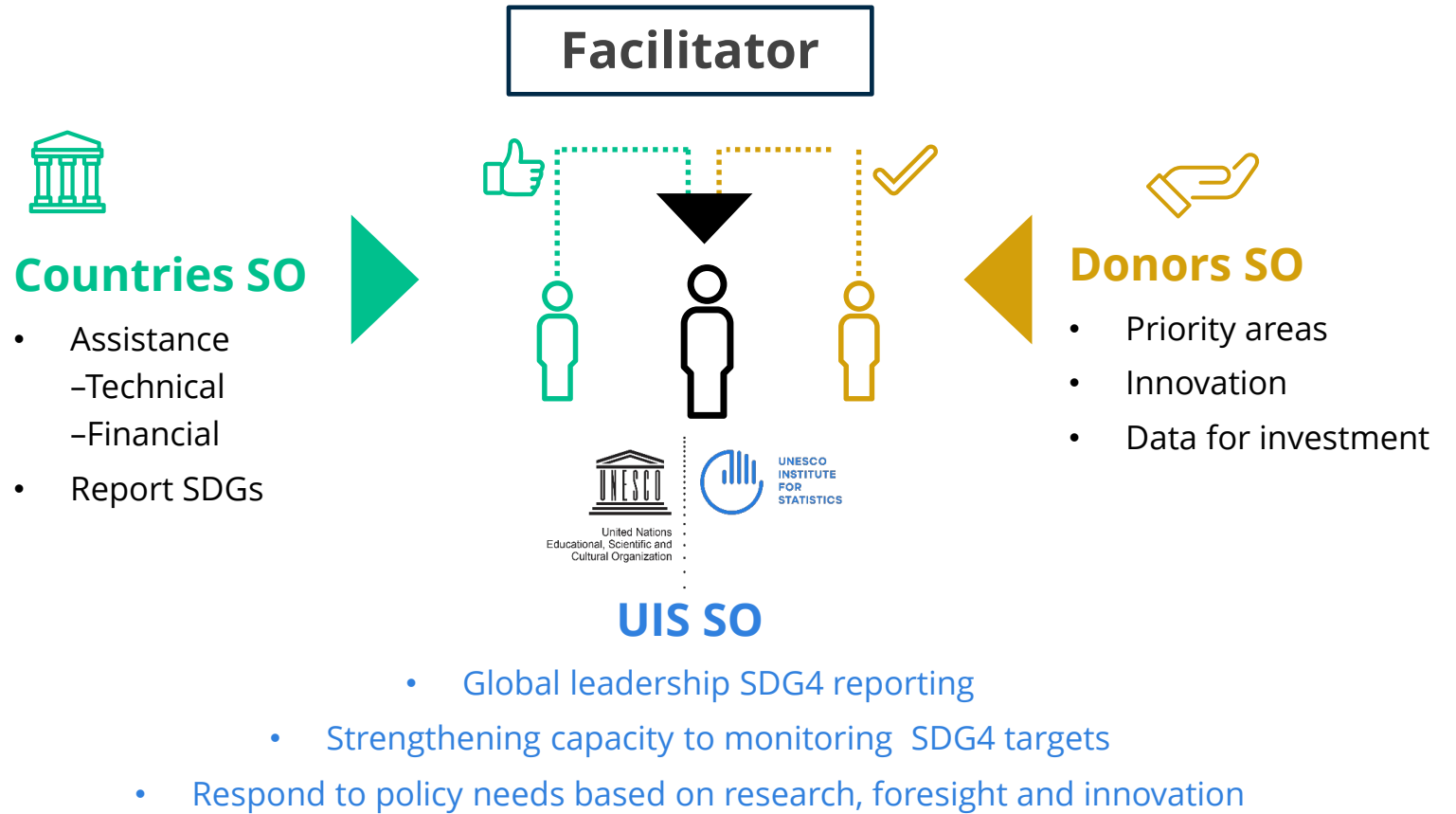
### Data production tools

- Operational Guide & EMIS
- Buyers Guide
- Innovations in Learning
- Outcomes methodology
- COVID-19 Surveys

### International brokerage

- Technical Cooperation Group
- Global Alliance to Monitor Learning
- Working Group on COVID
- LA Virtual Register of donor commitments

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# Thank you.

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