

8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the TCG

Update on the National Benchmarking  
Regional Process

ARAB REGION



## Efforts to fill in data gaps and adjust to the shift in education:

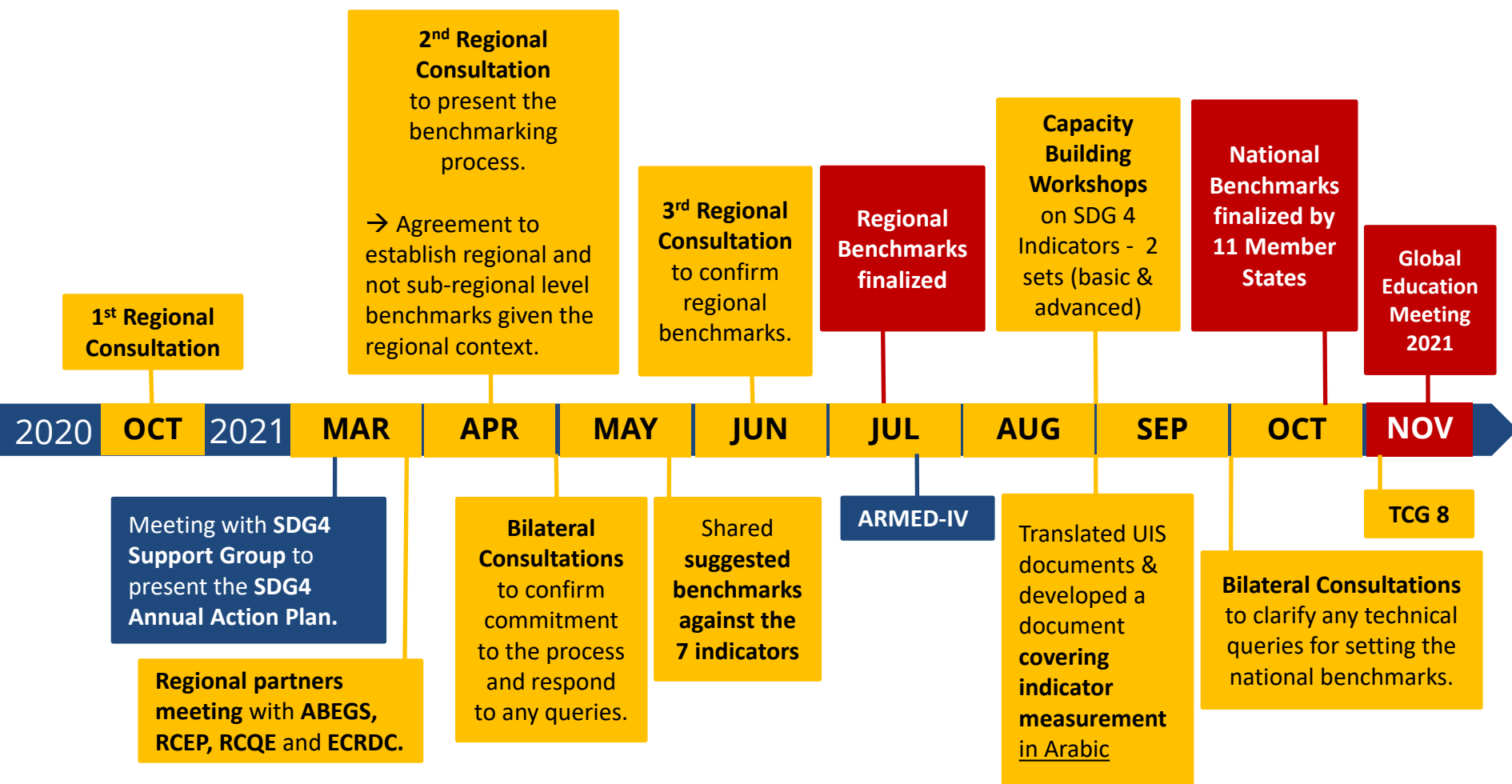
- Arab countries individually took the lead in adjusting and adapting to the ongoing shift in education sector as a result of the impact of COVID-19.
- The focus areas of interventions to react to the pandemic included:
  - **Support to teachers** in adapting to new learning models such as hybrid and online learning through capacity building;
  - Provision of **learning solutions** to ensure learning never stops and that education can continue outside the classroom online;
  - Adapting **learning assessments** to take into consideration changes in learning progress and learning modalities; and
  - **Quality assurance** of online and hybrid learning modalities.
- **Arab Regional SDG 4 Progress Report** finalized (to be disseminated)
- **Arab Regional Learning Loss Report** being finalized (in partnership among UNESCO, UNICEF, and WB)

## The AR-MED IV took place in July 2021 with the attendance of over 120 people:

- Focus on “Education Resilience” with the main objectives being:
  - Present the **SDG4 progress** for the Arab Region;
  - **Identify challenges** affecting progress of SDG4, including lessons learned, promising practices, opportunities emerging due to COVID-19 as well as opportunities through **discussing innovative and promising approaches** in the region especially related to crisis management and planning;
  - Discuss issues and solutions related to **monitoring the targets, data gaps and enhancing reporting**;
  - **Re-enforce regional commitment** on moving forward on achieving Education 2030 Agenda.

### OUTPUT:

AR-MED IV emerged with concrete suggestions as a way forward through **national action plans** for accelerating SDG4 progress at country level. The action plans developed by member state establish commitment to progress as well as harness regional ownership to the process.



*\* Arab regional benchmarks will be used by 13 Member States, not 19. Countries from the Africa continent will join the Africa continental benchmarking exercise.*

**During bilateral meetings with member states capacity building was requested, UNESCO Beirut worked to:**

- **Survey disseminated** following the regional consultation to identify areas of support needed by member states for SDG4 monitoring and reporting.
- **Two workshops held on SDG4 Indicator Measurement:**

**Preparatory workshop  
for National  
Benchmarking Exercise.**  
– (August 2021)

**Advanced workshop for  
National Benchmarking  
Exercise.**  
– (September 2021)

*Key topics covered during the workshops:*

1. Understanding SDG4 indicators, concepts and methodologies,
2. Use of Household Surveys and other sources of data and
3. Selecting national benchmarks.

*\* Capacity building was aimed at the all 19 member states of the region.*

Member States that have submitted:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ <b>Algeria</b>    | ✓ <b>Morocco</b>   |
| ✓ <b>Bahrain</b>    | ✓ <b>Oman</b>      |
| ✓ <b>Jordan</b>     | ✓ <b>Palestine</b> |
| ✓ <b>Kuwait</b>     | ✓ <b>Sudan</b>     |
| ✓ <b>Lebanon</b>    | ✓ <b>Syria</b>     |
| ✓ <b>Mauritania</b> | ✓ <b>Iraq</b>      |

Lessons Learnt:

- Certain indicators, especially 4.1.1, remain unclear. Further support is needed in breaking them down so that members states can adequately monitor and report on them;
- Additional technical support is needed in 'reporting' on SDG4;
- Data related to education financing remains weak; and
- Capacity building is needed to strengthen data collection and measurement.





**Thank you**

