

UIL webinar - Hamburg, 28 June 2021

Youth and adult literacy: better data for more efficient policies

Adult numeracy - A neglected field: Development, monitoring, capacity building

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Youth and adult literacy: better data for more efficient policies

Adult numeracy - A neglected field: Development, monitoring, capacity building

Key topics:

- 1. Numeracy matters!**
- 2. Numeracy is part of SDG 4.6. Needs & gaps**
- 3. Recommendations for action**





NIGHTLY
 NEWS



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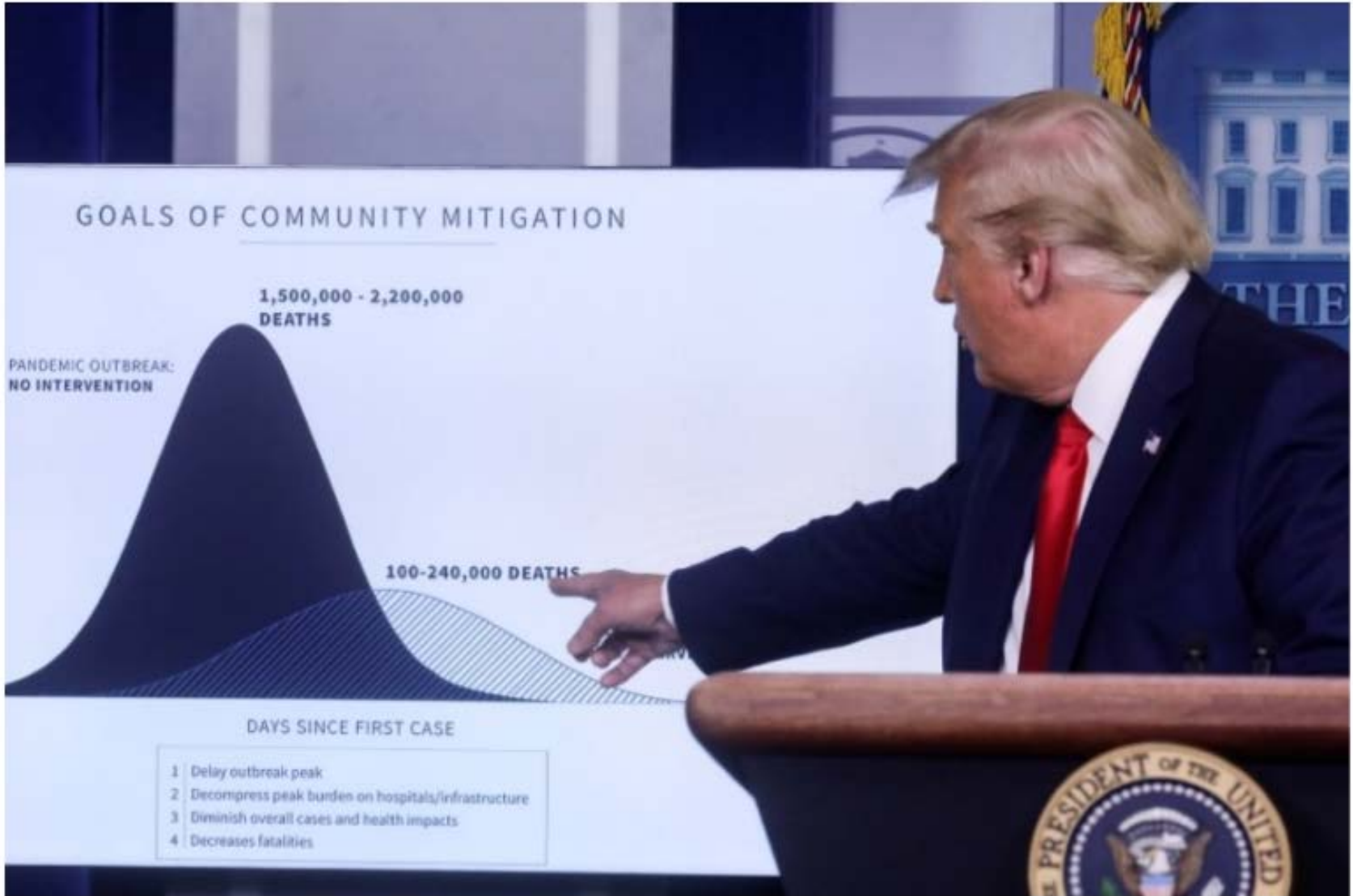


Bringing Coconut Farmers into the 21st Century Through Mobile Agriculture

Bringing Coconut Farmers into the 21st Century Through Mobile Agriculture – Food Ta



Pakistan, Karachi: protest against climate change, pollution



Government Actions on a global health crisis

1. Numeracy matters!

**2. Numeracy is part of SDG 4.6.
Many needs & gaps**

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education & promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

By 2030, ensure that...

	Target	Indicator / metric
4.6	...all <u>youth</u> and a substantial proportion of <u>adults</u> , both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	4.6.1 <u>Proportion</u> of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) <u>numeracy</u> skills, by sex
4.1all <u>girls and boys</u> complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to effective learning outcomes	4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in Grade 2-3; (b) at end of primary education; (c) at end of lower secondary education, achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading (ii) mathematics, by sex

Literacy (UNESCO, 2004)

“... The ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and **compute**, using printed & written materials associated with varying contexts. ...involves a continuum...”

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Numeracy (short definition):

The willingness and ability to **engage and manage** the mathematical (and statistical & risk-related) demands of diverse situations in adult life.

Numeracy domains:

Finance & commerce

Workplace

Digital

Health

Civic,

K-12 (formal schooling) vs. 15+ (Adult education)

Different needs/gaps / Different policy interventions

Current monitoring sources

Numeracy of adults - for SDG 4.6

31 Low-, **53** Lower-middle, **56** Upper-middle, **78** High-

- ▶ **None:** Self-report (literacy) Sign name, Write sentence
Proxy: Years of school=4+ Education credentials
- ▶ **Direct measures - Adults (16-65):** (Cognitive tests)
 - **Int'l:** **PIAAC** (OECD: 40+), **LAMP** (UNESCO: 4)
 - **National:** IVQ (France), SfL (UK), Kenya, Bangladesh
- ▶ **Direct measures - Pupils / schools**
 - **Int'l:** PISA (78), PISA-D (15), ...
 - **National:** Most countries / Regional

Numeracy rates - some PIAAC countries (2013-16)

	Below Level 1	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3/4/5
Chile	31	31	26	12
Jakarta	26	34	29	11
Turkey	20	30	33	15
Israel	11	20	30	36
OECD avg	7	16	34	43
Australia	6	14	32	46
Germany	5	14	32	49
Finland	3	10	29	58

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Numeracy rates - LAMP countries (2009)

Country	% of all adults at Level 1 num	% of all adults at Level 2 num	% of all adults at Level 3 num	% of Males & Females Level 1	% with <i>primary</i> education at Level 1
Jordan	25	45	30	M = 17 F = 34	55
Mongolia	17	45	38	M = 17 F = 17	65
Palestine	36	42	22	M = 26 F = 46	97
Paraguay	24	42	34	M = 21 F = 27	51

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3.

**We need to take action!
Recommendations
(and challenges...)**

**See UIL Policy Brief #13 for more ideas
and relevant documents**

Adult numeracy - SDG 4.6

- A. **Learning:** Adopt a long-range national **adult skills strategy**.
Adult Numeracy as a stand-alone topic, all 5 domains:
Finance and commerce, Workplace, Digital, Civic, Health
- B. **Monitoring:** Think creatively how to develop a monitoring approach that fits your demographic and linguistic diversity
 - **Direct:** Int'l (e.g., mini-LAMP), National / Regional
 - **Simpler:** short module (current survey) + Self-ratings
- C. **Capacity-building (Learning & Monitoring)**
Invest in developing national or regional capacity to understand & develop *adult* numeracy - and to monitor it.
- D. **Long-range plan, sustainable funding & team**

Thank you ! Merci !

**Questions? Comments? Better ideas?
Contact me!**



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