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Institute for Statistics

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

METADATA

Target 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

4.c.3 Percentage of teachers qualified according to national standards, by level of education and type of institution

Definition

Percentage of teachers by level of education taught (pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education) who have at least the minimum academic qualifications required for teaching their subjects at the relevant level in a given country, in a given academic year. Ideally the indicator should be calculated separately for public and private institutions.

Purpose

Teachers play a key role in ensuring the quality of education provided. Ideally all teachers should receive adequate, appropriate and relevant pedagogical training to teach at the chosen level of education and be academically well-qualified in the subject(s) they are expected to teach. This indicator measures the share of the teaching work force which is academically well-qualified.

Calculation method

The number of teachers in a given level of education in a given academic year who are qualified is expressed as a percentage of all teachers in that level of education in that academic year.

$$PQT_{n,t} = \frac{QT_{n,t}}{T_{n,t}}$$

where:

$PQT_{n,t}$ = percentage of qualified teachers at level **n** of education in year **t**

$QT_{n,t}$ = qualified teachers at level **n** of education in year **t**

$T_{n,t}$ = total teachers at level n of education in year t
 n = 02 (pre-primary), 1 (primary), 2 (lower secondary), 3 (upper secondary) and 23 (secondary)

Interpretation

A high value indicates that students are being taught by teachers who are academically well qualified in the subjects they teach.

Type of data source

Administrative data.

Disaggregation

By sex, level of education and type of institution (public/private). Location is not currently collected at the global level but this could be considered in the future.

Data required

Number of teachers at each level of education who are qualified and total number of teachers at each level in a given academic year.

Data sources

Administrative data from schools and other organized learning centres.

Quality assurance

The indicator should be based on available data on qualified teachers for the given level of education, from all types of educational institutions in the country (public and private). The UIS sets standards and maintains the global database used to produce this indicator.

Limitations and comments

It is important to note that national academic qualification requirements can vary from one country to the next. This variability between countries lessens the usefulness of global tracking because the indicator would only show the percent reaching national standards, not whether teachers in different countries have similar levels of academic qualifications. To address this limitation, the UIS has initiated in 2019 the development of an international classification of teacher training programmes that can be used for comparisons of such programmes across countries.