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Update on Regional and National Benchmark Values for the SDG 4 Indicators

Asia and Pacific

8th meeting of the TCG
2 November 2021



Regional process of benchmarks in Asia and Pacific

Regional Preparatory Meeting on Regional Benchmarks, October 2020

- Discussed the rationale of benchmarks
- Political and technical processes

Output:

- Agreed to undertake the regional benchmarks process in Asia and Pacific
- UNESCO Bangkok through Learning 2030+ network to lead and coordinate the exercise
- SEAMEO, SPC, SAARC, UNICEF EAPRO, UNICEF ROSA as partners
- Agreed on timeline and regional processes

Regional process of benchmarks in Asia and Pacific

Establishing Regional Minimum Benchmarks

November 2020

Technical Team

March and April 2021

Five sub-regional technical consultations

June 2021

Online country consultation

Output:

- Agreement on the Regional Minimum Benchmark values
- Agreement on the Regional additional benchmarks indicators

GEM July 2021, Agree on Regional Minimum Benchmarks and national processes

Establishing National Benchmark values

August, 2021

Invitation to MS to provide inputs

September, 2021

3 Sub regional orientation meetings

Sept- Oct 2021

National consultations to establish values

- At least 70% of the countries in the region completed or will complete template and submit to UIS in 2021
- The rest will submit in 2022

Additional regionally relevant indicators for the AP region

In addition to regional benchmarks, Member States also agreed to include 4 additional regionally relevant indicators for the AP regional benchmarking indicators framework:

- Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training;
- Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education;
- Participation rate in technical and vocational education programmes;
- Proportion of students in tertiary education in the STEM field.

Regional benchmarking at a glance

Annex 3: Minimum sub regional levels for the benchmarks indicators

Indicators/Regions	Minimum Regional Value at Baseline	Regional Average at Baseline	2025 Minimum regional benchmark	2030 Minimum regional benchmark	2025 Average of National Feasible Values	2030 Average of National Feasible Values
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education)						
Asia - Central	12.2	16.1	15.0	15.0	20.0	20.0
Asia - East	8.4	13.3	15.0	15.0	20.0	20.0
Asia - South East	8.6	13.7	15.0	15.0	20.0	20.0
Asia - South and West	11.0	13.2	15.0	15.0	20.0	20.0
Pacific	10.7	13.6	15.0	15.0	20.0	20.0
1.a.GDP Government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP						
Asia - Central	2.8	5.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
Asia - East	3.0	3.3	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
Asia - South East	1.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
Asia - South and West	1.5	3.3	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
Pacific	2.0	4.7	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
4.1.1.a Proportion of students in Grade 2 or 3 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics						
Asia - Central			57.2	69.2	60.8	76.7
Asia - East	83.4	84.6	97.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Asia - South East			75.2	87.3	87.7	100.0
Asia - South and West	14.5	46.1	45.2	57.2	72.2	88.1
Pacific	70.2	70.5	53.1	65.2	88.8	99.4

4.1.1.a Proportion of students in Grade 2 or 3 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading
http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/08/Summary-report_Regional-benchmarks_AsiaPacific_FINAL-Outcomes_20210723.pdf

**The regional
benchmarking
process
mobilized strong
political support
in the region**

Forum	Dates
ASEAN Meeting of Senior Official of Ministry of Education (SOMED) on Inception Workshop of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025	21 January 2021
Forum of Education Minister's Meeting (FedMM)	13-14 April 2021
SEAMEO Congress	28-29 April 2021

Benefits and relevance of the benchmarking process for the Asia and Pacific Region

As a Process

- To link global and national targets and to monitor the progress e.g. Regional Minimum benchmarks and national benchmarks.

As a Strategy

- To identify regional policy priorities to achieve SDG4 in all countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

As an Alignment with the Sub-Regional Education Frameworks

- Strengthening common understanding among the partners and aligning the global benchmark indicators with regional indicators.

Challenges

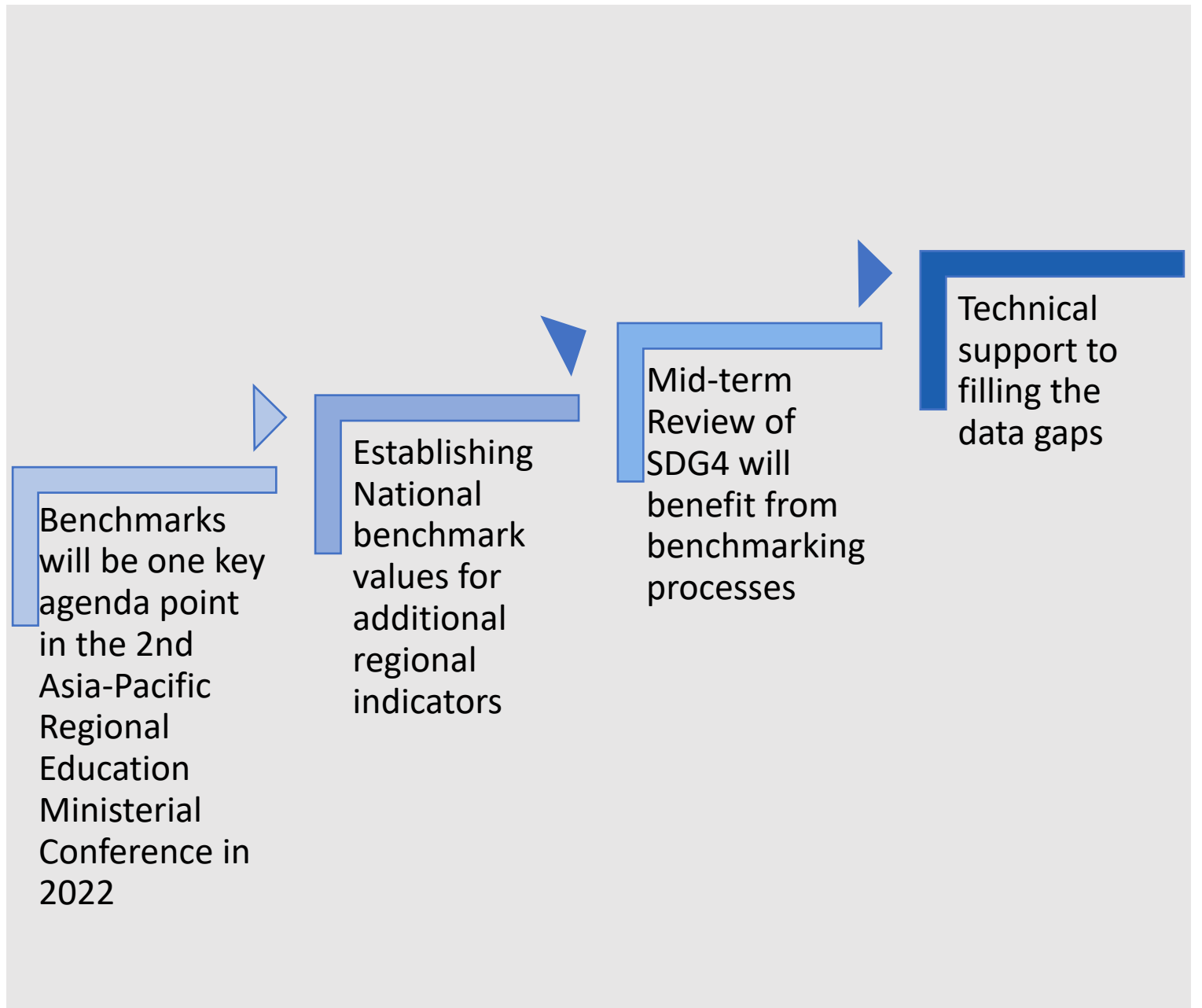
Lack of unified regional education framework

Extra efforts needed to reach out to and agreeing on processes with countries where there is no regional framework

Countries lack benchmark targets for all the indicators for both 2025 and 2030

Getting approval for the national benchmark values from higher authority is a very political process and takes time

Future direction and Use of Benchmark values in AP Region





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Conclusion:

The Benchmarks process *has revived the SDG4 momentum* in the Asia-Pacific region. The process has generated dialogues in many Member States on what they can and aim to achieve by 2030, as well as policies and strategies needed to facilitate the achievement of those targets.

Thank you

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Margarete Sachs-Israel
Chief, Section for Inclusive Quality Education
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
UNESCO Bangkok