SDG 4 Benchmarks

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

Silvia Montoya  Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics  February, 2021
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
- Of partners and donors for provision of **targeted support based on evidence**
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic education</th>
<th>Global Benchmark Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1 Minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.2 Completion rate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.4 Out-of-school rate</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-primary</th>
<th>Regional Benchmark Indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2 Participation in organized learning a year before primary education entry</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>National Benchmark Indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.c.1 Qualified teachers</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.a. 2/FFA Education expenditure - (% GDP / % budget)</td>
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<table>
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### Definition of the regional minimum levels for global indicators

Indicators selected from regional frameworks:
- Africa – CESA Continental Framework
- Arab States
- Asia/Pacific
- Europe/North America
- Latin America/Caribbean
- EC/COE

### Definition of national commitment for global indicators

Indicators selected from National Frameworks
Regular monitoring against benchmarks will drive commitment and focus on where investments are needed.

**Policy Priority Areas**
- SDG Global Targets

**SDG 4 Benchmark Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy gaps</th>
<th>Data gaps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National commitments</td>
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**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

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

**Global Data Coalition**
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**
Thank you.

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