



Technical Cooperation Group  
9<sup>th</sup> meeting  
22-24 November 2022

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WG/F/1

## **WORKING GROUP ON FINANCE**

### **CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA**

**22 November 2022**

## Background

The working group on finance will discuss a couple of issues this year. First, the progress in the status of finance indicators will be presented. This will include an update on the custodianship of SDG indicator 1.a.2 or the 'proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)'. Then a new finance indicator will be proposed and discussed: the total initial financing for education as a percent of GDP by financing unit.

Regarding the **custodianship of SDG indicator 1.a.2** and after several months of discussions, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG SDG) recently reached the decision that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) will co-custody this indicator and that the priority of source for reporting will be IMF for its three components. Up until now, the UIS was the only custodian and data provider of the indicator for the education component. The main reason of the change is the advantage that the IMF has in reporting on the three components and ensuring consistency in the reporting. The two organizations have different methodologies and hence the need for harmonization. The IMF has coverage and trends for most OECD countries in addition to some countries outside the region but with a much lower coverage. Starting March 2023, the data reported by ministries of finance to the IMF will be prioritized for global reporting over the data reported to UIS/OECD by ministries of education, in case the information for a given country and year is in IMF database. Use of information to fill gaps will be carefully weighed to ensure consistency of trends.

During the meeting, **a new finance indicator will be proposed by the UIS: the total initial financing for education as a percent of GDP by financing unit.** The monitoring framework for education financing includes indicators on public expenditure nationally as a percent of GDP and on spending per student (SDG 4.5.4) by source. However, the framework does not include currently expenditure nationally by households or by source more broadly. The proposed indicator will measure the total amount of both public and private expenditure on education, understand the source of expenditure, and measure the indicator using data that can be feasibly collected.

## Objectives of the meeting

The meeting has the following objectives this year:

- Present an update on finance indicators and in particular the custodianship of SDG 1.a.2 and the implications for reporting.
- Explore a potential new indicator, the total initial financing for education as a percent of GDP by financing unit

Recommendations will be presented to the TCG meeting which will be held on 24 November.

## Meeting modalities

The working group on education finance will be held virtually in English, with simultaneous interpretation to French and Spanish. The links to the TCG meetings are posted on the TCG 9 meeting webpage at: <https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/9th-meeting-of-the-tcg/>

Date: Tuesday 22 November 2022

Time: 13:00 to 13:50 (Montreal time<sup>1</sup>)

## Agenda

The first presentation of the working group will update participants on the status of finance indicators, including the custodianship of SDG indicator 1.a.2. Then, a proposal for a new finance indicator will be discussed – the total initial financing for education as a percent of GDP by financing unit.

Topic	Speaker/Presenter	Duration (in minutes)
Opening/Welcome/Agenda	Chair	5
Update on the progress in finance indicators and custodianship of 1.a.2	UIS	15
Questions and answers		5
Total initial financing for education as a percent of GDP by financing unit: Proposed Indicator	UIS	15
Questions and answers		5
Closing remarks	Chair	5

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<sup>1</sup> The hours are indicated in Montreal time. Please check the correct hour in your time zone at <https://bit.ly/3DgxrXD>.