Proposal for the replacement of global indicator 4.6.1

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Introduction

• **SDG Target 4.6**: by 2030, ensure all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve **literacy** and **numeracy**.

• **Global Indicator**: SDG Indicator 4.6.1 measures the proportion of the population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in **functional (a) literacy** and (b) **numeracy** skills, by sex.

• **Thematic Framework**: includes SDG Indicator 4.6.2, defining **literacy** as "the ability to read and write, with understanding, a short, simple sentence about one's everyday life."
Global Indicator 4.6.1

- **Data sources**: adult learning assessments like PIAAC, STEP, and national adult literacy surveys.
- **Mini LAMP assessment**: developed by UIS for low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- **Data coverage**:
  - Limited, with data available from only fifteen countries since 2015.
  - Mostly from PIAAC's first cycle, implemented on a ten-year cycle.
  - High financial and technical requirements restrict data collection to upper-middle and high-income countries.
  - Unlikely to improve data coverage significantly before 2030.
- **PIAAC cycles**:
  - **2nd cycle (2022-2029)**: data collection ongoing, with results expected from OECD members in 2024.
Thematic Indicator 4.6.2

• **Coverage:**
  o UIS publishes data on youth and adult literacy rates for 143 countries from 2015 onwards.
  o Except for North America, Europe, and Oceania, regional coverage exceeds 50%.

• **Data sources:**
  o Population and housing censuses:
    o Key source for many countries.
    o Collected every ten years, including demographic and socio-economic characteristics.
  o National sample surveys:
    o Household or individual surveys with literacy modules.
    o Frequency varies, e.g., quarterly in the EU, less frequent in low-income countries.
  o International sample surveys:
    o Surveys like MICS and DHS, designed for international and national policy needs.
    o Modules may be added to national surveys.
Thematic Indicator 4.6.2 (cont.)

- **Data collection/production methods**
  - UIS literacy survey:
    - Collects detailed literacy data by age, sex, and location.
    - Includes metadata for better interpretation of results.
  - Estimates from survey microdata:
    - Calculated by UIS and partners (GEM Report team and ECLAC).
  - UIS modelled data (GALP):
    - Produces estimates when recent observed data are unavailable.
    - Projects future literacy rates using demographic data and regression models.
Proposal

- Replace global indicator 4.6.1 with thematic indicator 4.6.2
- Produce model data estimates for the literacy rate indicator
- Maintain monitoring of functional literacy and numeracy and downgrade the indicator to SDG 4 thematic framework
Thank you

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