# SDG 4 benchmarks: an update

11th Education Data and Statistics Commission meeting

28 February 2025

#25YearsOfDataInsights

# Outline

1. Background

2. Update

3. 2025 SDG 4 Scorecard

# 1. Background

## History behind the national SDG 4 benchmarks

2015 SDG 4 – Education 2030 Framework for Action: commitment to set benchmarks

2017 Finalization of SDG 4 monitoring framework

2019 Selection of seven benchmark indicators

2021 First set of benchmark submissions

2022 Transforming Education Summit endorsement

2023 First SDG 4 Scorecard

2024 Fourth set of benchmark submissions

## SDG 4 target

- 4.1 — Basic education
- 4.2 — Early childhood
- 4.3 — TVET/Higher/Adult education
- 4.4 — Skills for work
- 4.5 — Equity
- 4.6 — Adult literacy
- 4.7 — Sustainable development
- 4.a — Learning environment
- 4.b — Scholarships
- 4.c — Teachers
- 1.a — Finance
- Other

## Benchmark indicators

1. Out-of-school rate [4.1.4]
2. Completion rate [4.1.2]
3. Learning proficiency [4.1.1]
4. Pre-primary participation [4.2.2]
5. Gender gap in completion [4.5.1]

Curriculum content (in progress

6. School internet connectivity [4.a.1]
7. Trained teachers [4.c.1]
8. Public education spending as (i) %total spending (ii) %GDP [FFA1/2]

Youth participation (to be defined)

## Global initiatives

- Education in emergencies
- Foundational learning
- Gender equality
- Greening education
- Digital transformation
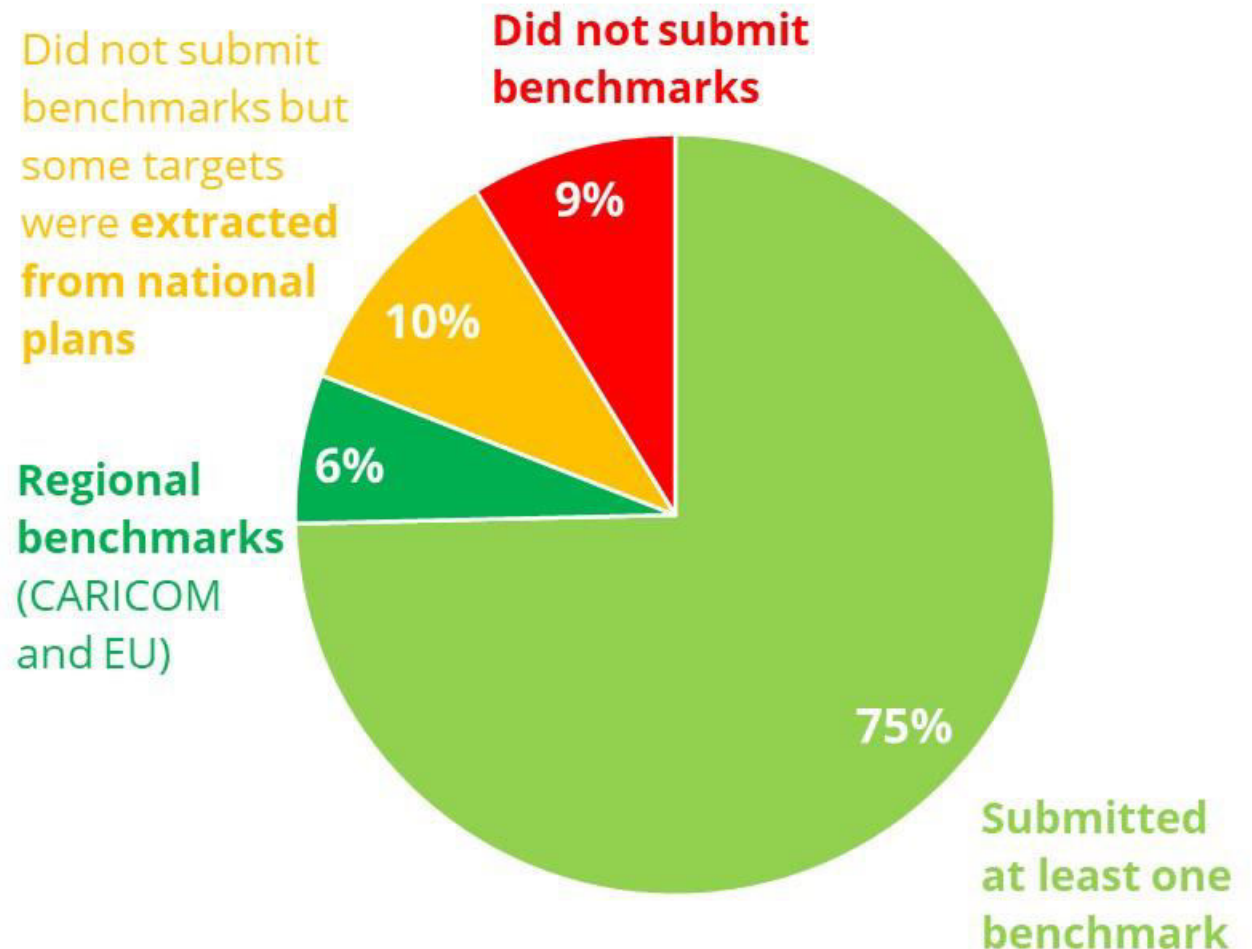- Education financing
- Youth participation

# 2. Update

## Countries participating

Relative to the global average of 81% (national submissions and regional organization), the regional average is balanced:

- from 75% in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania
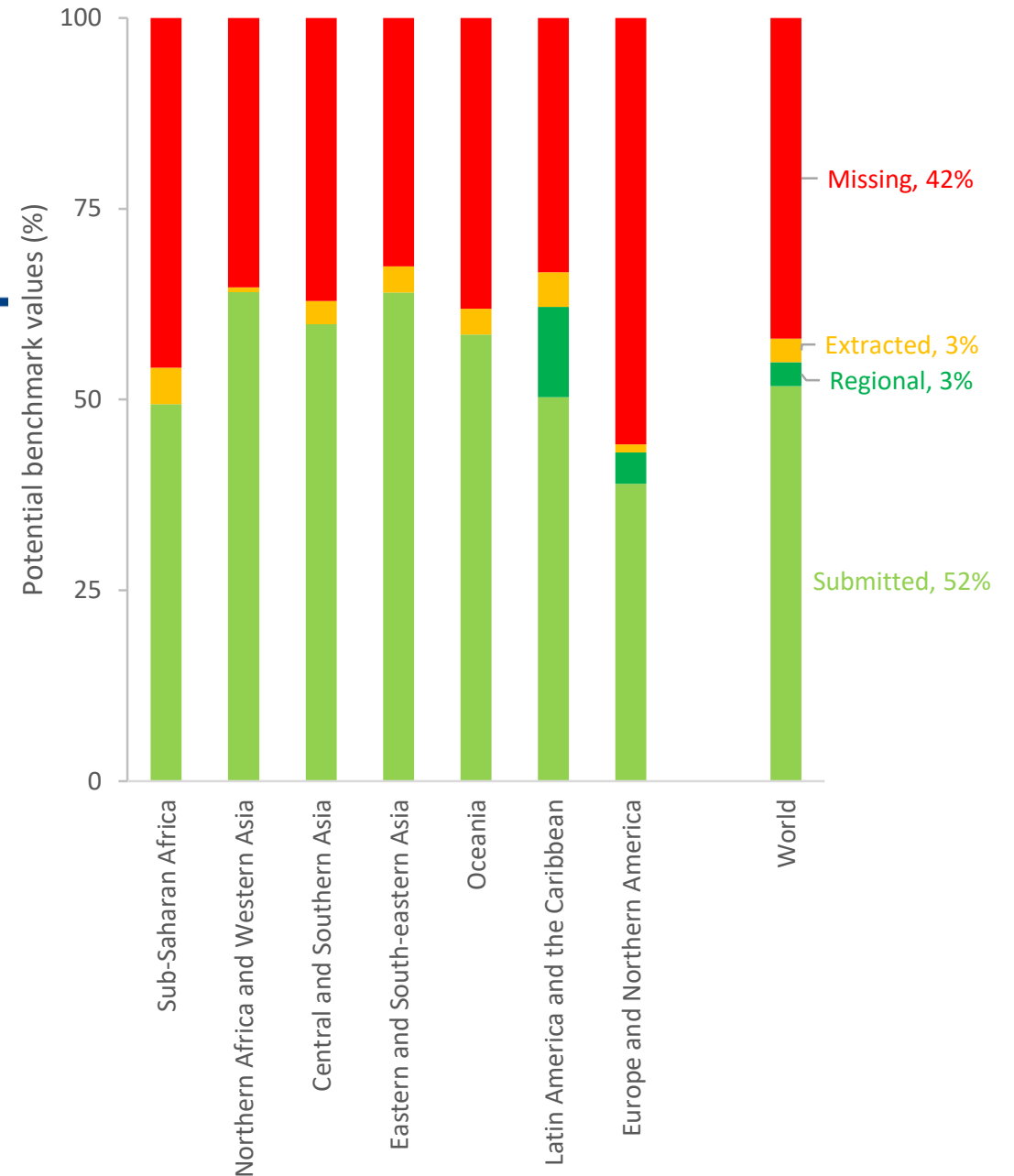- to 87% in Latin America and the Caribbean



Did not submit benchmarks but some targets were **extracted from national plans**

**Did not submit benchmarks**

9%

10%

**Regional benchmarks** (CARICOM and EU)

6%

75%

Submitted at least one benchmark

# 2. Update

## Benchmark value coverage

Relative to the global average of 55% (national submissions and regional organization), the regional average is balanced:

- from 43% in Europe/Northern America

- to 64% in Northern Africa/Western Asia and Eastern/South-eastern Asia
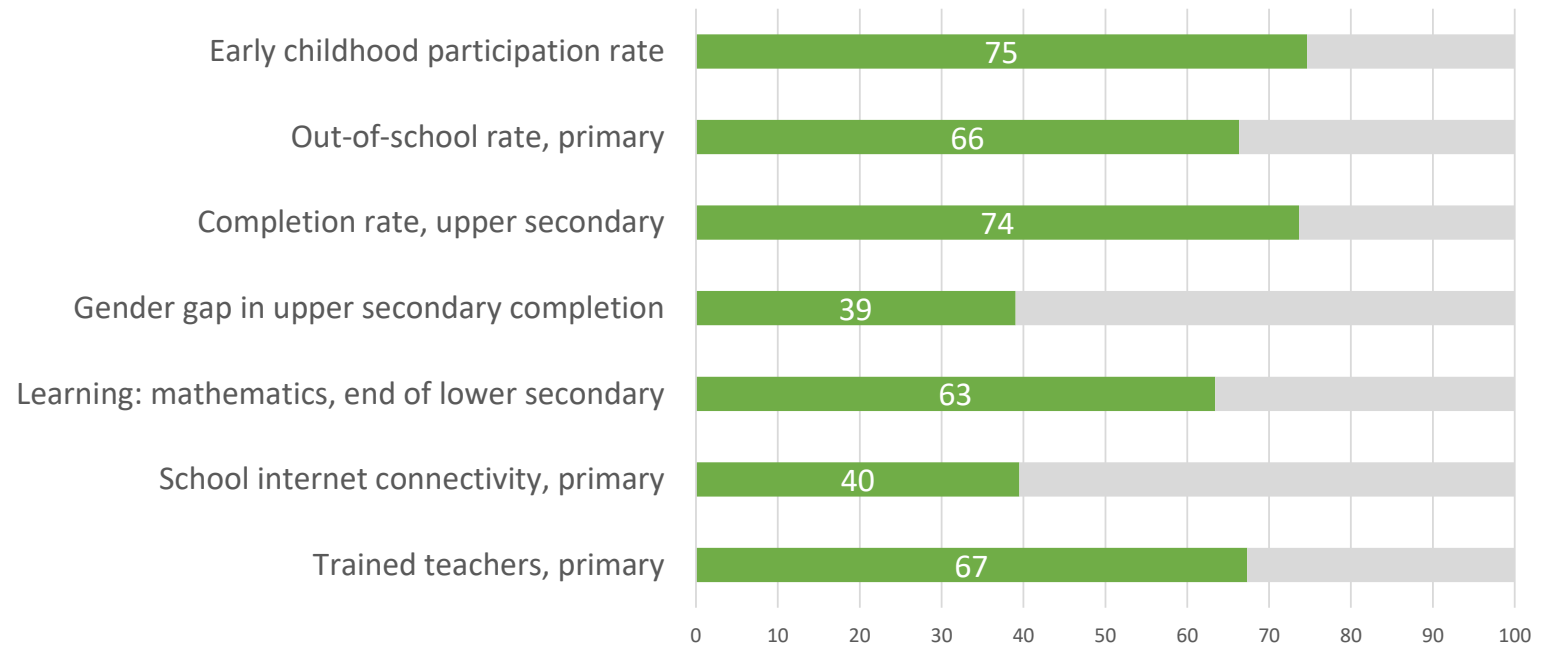
# 2. Update

## Indicator coverage

### High-coverage indicators

- 74% completion rate
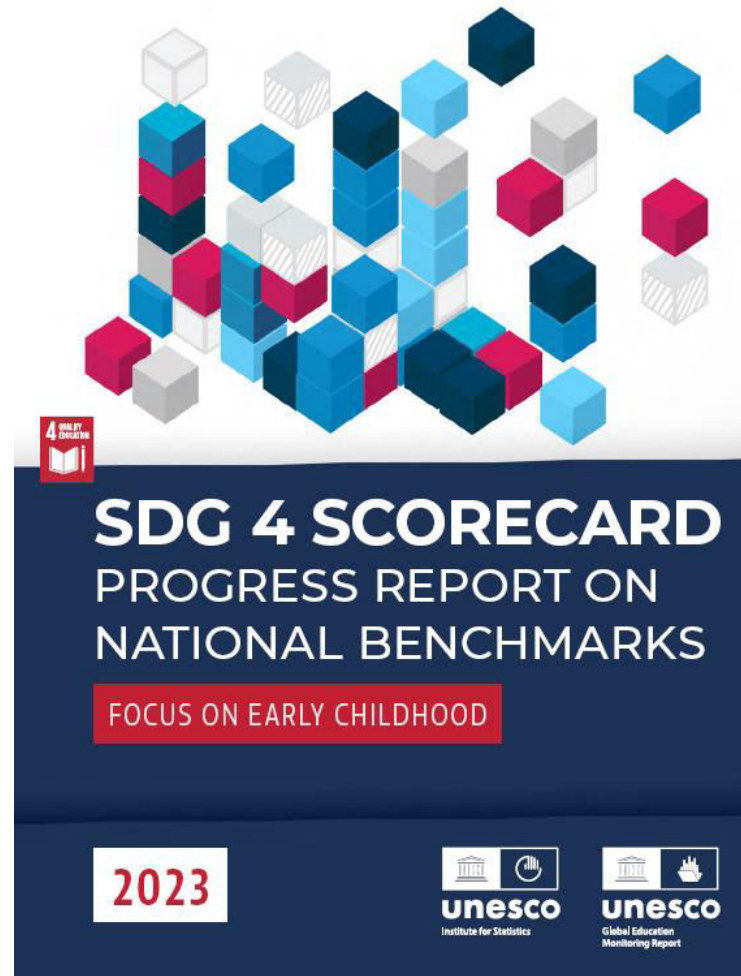- 75% early childhood participation

### Low-coverage indicators

- 39% completion gender gap
- 40% internet connectivity

Coverage increased by 5 percentage points in 2024

| Indicator | Value |
|---|---|
| Early childhood participation rate | 75 |
| Out-of-school rate, primary | 66 |
| Completion rate, upper secondary | 74 |
| Gender gap in upper secondary completion | 39 |
| Learning: mathematics, end of lower secondary | 63 |
| School internet connectivity, primary | 40 |
| Trained teachers, primary | 67 |

# 3. SDG 4 Scorecard

2023 and 2024 editions

# 3. SDG 4 Scorecard

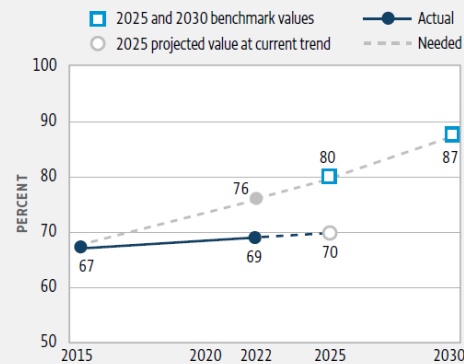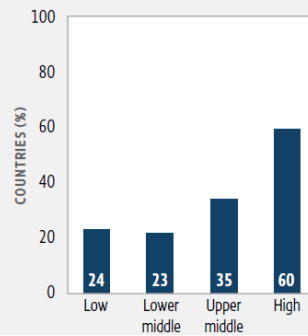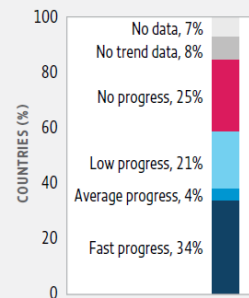## Summary reporting of country progress

**PROGRESS ASSESSMENT**

*Classification of country progress towards the 2025 benchmark values*

*Share of countries with data that achieved fast progress, by country income group*

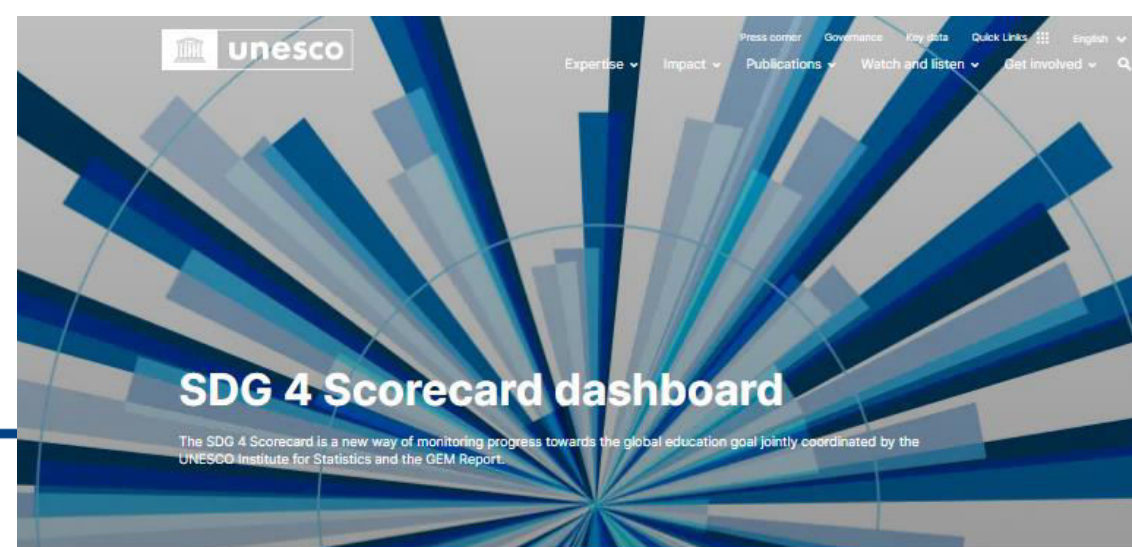*Baseline (2015), latest value (2022) and benchmarks (2025/30), actual and needed trajectory*

*Early childhood education attendance*

Chart 1 (COUNTRIES (%)):
- No data, 7%
- No trend data, 8%
- No progress, 25%
- Low progress, 21%
- Average progress, 4%
- Fast progress, 34%

Chart 2 (COUNTRIES (%) – Share achieving fast progress):
- Low: 24
- Lower middle: 23
- Upper middle: 35
- High: 60

Chart 3 (PERCENT, trajectory 2015–2030):
- 2025 and 2030 benchmark values
- 2025 projected value at current trend
- Actual
- Needed
- 67 (2015), 76 (2022), 69, 80 (2025), 70, 87 (2030)

| | Low income | Lower middle income | Upper middle income | High income |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fast progress** | Burkina Faso, Burundi, Madagascar, Sierra Leone | Benin, Bhutan, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Jordan, Solomon Islands, Ukraine, Viet Nam | Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent/Grenadines, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu | Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong SAR, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay |
| **Average progress** | Central African Republic | Angola, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco | Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Fiji | Slovenia |
| **Slow progress** | Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Rwanda | Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Djibouti, Egypt, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe | Albania, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Malaysia, Maldives, Niue, North Macedonia, Palestine, Russian Federation, Suriname, Türkiye, Venezuela, B. R. | Chile, Czechia, Estonia, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Turks and Caicos Islands |
| **No progress** | Eritrea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Yemen | Algeria, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Honduras, Lebanon, Lesotho, Micronesia, F. S., Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Vanuatu | Armenia, Belize, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Equat. Guinea, Grenada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Paraguay, Serbia, South Africa, Tokelau | Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Canada, Cayman Islands, China, Macao SAR, Cook Islands, Hungary, Kuwait, Malta, Nauru, New Zealand, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, United States |
| **No data for trend** | D. R. Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Sudan, Uganda | Bolivia, P. S., Eswatini, Kenya, Kiribati, Nicaragua, Tunisia | Georgia, Iraq, Montserrat, Palau | Anguilla, Aruba, Curaçao |
| **No data** | Afghanistan, DPR Korea, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia | Haiti, Mauritania, Nigeria, Zambia | China, Gabon, Libya, Turkmenistan | Monaco, Saint Kitts and Nevis |

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Education Data and Statistics Commission

# 3. SDG 4 Scorecard

SDG 4 Scorecard dashboard



The SDG 4 benchmark process, supported by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring Report, responds to the Education 2030 Framework for Action which had called on countries to establish 'appropriate intermediate benchmarks ... for addressing the accountability deficit associated with longer-term targets.'

Overall, 79% of countries have submitted benchmarks, or national targets, to be achieved by 2025 and 2030 for at least one of eight SDG 4 indicators. Apart from the public expenditure indicators, for which there is a common benchmark for all countries, the two benchmark indicators with the highest submission rates are the early childhood education participation rate (72%) and the completion rate (65%). The two indicators with the lowest submission rates are the gender gap in upper secondary completion (36%), and school internet connectivity (32%).



https://www.unesco.org/en/sdg4scorecard-dashboard

# 3. SDG 4 Scorecard

## 2025 edition

- Update on progress towards the 2025 benchmarks

- Focus on the out-of-school rate
  - o Indicators used
  - o Identification of trends – and the use of estimations from multiple sources
  - o Updates on out-of-school rates and numbers
  - o Indicative policies to reduce out-of-school rates

# THANK YOU

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