Technical Workshop on the SDG4 Benchmarking Process – Phase 2
Introducing the Seventh Indicator on Equity

Thursday 21st April 2022, 12:00 – 13:00 Beirut Time (Online Workshop)

Concept Note

Background
The benchmarking process is a key strategy that supports the data and monitoring function in the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GCM). The benchmarks spell out a global level of ambition that should encourage countries to strive for accelerated progress being applicable to all countries, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

In August 2021, UNESCO invited countries to submit national benchmark values for six of the seven indicators selected for benchmarking for 2025 and 2030. Countries were requested to submit the targets, mainly from their national education sector plans, in templates provided by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to facilitate the exercise. These templates also included baseline values, regional values and indicative minimum and feasible benchmarks to assist countries in the establishment of their own national benchmarks.

In the Arab region, all 19 Member States participated extensively in the regional benchmark-setting exercise through an inclusive process in setting and endorsing the regional benchmarks. Following the endorsement of regional benchmarks, the process of setting national benchmarks was initiated. In order to assist the technical teams in each Arab country, UNESCO delivered two sets of technical workshops on SDG4 indicators and indicator measurement and set up bilateral meetings with the Member States. In the Arab states, a total of 16 Member States set national benchmarks for SDG4 indicators and submitted them to UNESCO/UIS.

Objectives
As part of the national and regional SDG4 benchmarking process, a major milestone was achieved in 2021: almost all the Arab countries engaged in the process of defining their voluntary contribution to the achievement of the common global SDG4 targets. Building on these achievements, a second phase of the benchmarking process will be initiated in 2022 to submit benchmark values for the seventh indicator on equity, the gender gap in upper secondary completion by all countries, which was not included as part of the national benchmark in 2021. During this second phase, countries will also get the chance to review the benchmarks they submitted in 2021, especially in light of potential new information related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In collaboration with UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) – the responsible agency for providing the technical support to member countries in the development of national benchmarks, UNESCO Beirut will hold a workshop to support countries in the benchmarking process by clarifying the understanding and calculation of indicators, including the new indicator on equity. In addition, the workshop will aim to support Member States to be technically prepared for the review of the national benchmarks submitted in 2021.
**Objective:** The Technical Workshop will aim to clarify understanding and calculation of indicators, including the seventh indicator on equity and to support Member States in their review of the national benchmarks submitted in 2021 and submission of the seventh indicator.

**Format**
The workshop will be conducted online on Thursday April 21st with one main session to give an overview of the Benchmarking Process, SDG4 Indicators, Concepts, and Methodologies and present the results of phase 1, the next Steps and the needed resources to assist the Member States. The workshop will include time for discussions and Q&A. Participants will be required to register prior to the workshop.

**Workshop language**
The presentations will be conducted in English with Arabic interpretation. Q&A may be conducted in either language. Simultaneous interpretation will be available.

**Training material:**
Selected key documents will be distributed to participants before the workshop. The report and the presentations will be distributed after the workshop.

**Target countries:**
All 19 member states in the Arab region are invited to participate to the Benchmarking exercise – Phase 2, with a recommendation that the SDG4 National Focal Point, responsible person for indicator measurement and/or responsible person for SDG4 policies to attend.

**Proposed agenda:**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:05</td>
<td>Welcome and Objectives of the Workshop</td>
<td><em>Ms. Hana Yoshimoto</em>, Chief of Education/Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO Beirut</td>
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<td>12:05 – 12:45</td>
<td>Overview of the Benchmarking Process, SDG4 Indicators, Concepts, Methodologies, Results of phase 1, Next Steps, Resources to assist Member States</td>
<td><em>Ms. Silvia Montoya</em>, Director UIS, <em>Mr. Manos Antoninis</em>, Director Global Education Monitoring Report</td>
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<td>12:45 – 12:55</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>12:55 - 13:00</td>
<td>Concluding Remarks</td>
<td><em>Ms. Hana Yoshimoto</em>, Chief of Education/Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO Beirut</td>
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