Monitoring & reporting – March 2018

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

Recommendations

Global indicator frameworks, monitoring and reporting

This paper is an extract from the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee 4th Meeting Report. The report summarized the deliberations, the main recommendations adopted, and the decisions made at the 4th meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (Paris, 28 February - 2 March 2018).

Follow-up and review based on robust monitoring, reporting and evaluation policies, systems and tools are essential for the achievement of SDG4-Education 2030. The measurement, monitoring and reporting agenda for SDG4 is ambitious given its expanded scope in at least three aspects: levels of education covered, focus on learning outcomes, and commitment to reducing inequality in education. These features, together with the relatively large number of indicators required for monitoring and reporting on SDG 4, pose considerable challenges for countries in monitoring progress towards SDG 4.

An assessment of data availability by SDG4 target and indicator conducted by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) shows that the coverage rate worldwide is low (less than 40%) for nearly half of the 43 thematic indicators, and in some cases, there are no data available at all. The coverage rate is particularly low for six targets — 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.a and 4.c. This low coverage points to the critical need for adequate investment in both data collection and statistical capacity development for monitoring and reporting on SDG4 implementation.

As a result, countries and the international community seek guidance in the following aspects:

✓ Strategies for increasing the SDG 4 data coverage at the country level;
✓ Improved methodology for several indicators in the SDG4 monitoring framework;
✓ Strategies for reporting during the interim period until the methodological developments are finalized and/or the guidelines are available; and
✓ Approaches for support and coordination, both technically and financially, in order to enhance the efficiency and synergy of data collection efforts among stakeholders.
Review, monitoring and reporting at national and cross-national levels

The SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee recognizes the importance of monitoring and reporting at the national and cross-national levels as an integral part of policy, planning and implementation of SDG4. It advocates for addressing the data gaps needed to monitor the holistic agenda, as well as adequate financing and strengthened coordination across various stakeholders. It recommends the following actions at national, regional and global levels:

At national level

✓ Governments are encouraged to strengthen data collection, analysis and reporting efforts on the 11 SDG4 global indicators, for monitoring progress at national and cross-national levels. Governments and their partners are encouraged to strengthen and/or develop holistic national evaluation and learning assessment systems that include formative and summative components (if not already in place) and make plans to participate in cross-national assessment programmes, as appropriate. They are also encouraged, as appropriate, to implement combined multipurpose surveys (household and/or school-based) to address data and information gaps in key areas for monitoring the implementation and outcomes of SDG4.

✓ In order to strengthen accountability, governments are encouraged to report publicly on progress towards national education policy goals on a regular basis, linking them, to the extent possible, to regional and global commitments. Such reporting can be used as key sources for the education section of their SDG Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

At regional and cross-national levels

✓ Regional and other cross-national coordination mechanisms and organizations with their Member States are encouraged to develop regional and/or sub-regional monitoring and reporting frameworks, including the setting of regional benchmarks, as feasible and contextually appropriate. These frameworks should build on the SDG4 Thematic Indicator Framework, taking into account national priorities, and working closely with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring Report.

✓ Regional and other cross-national coordination mechanisms and organizations are encouraged to strengthen their support to countries in their monitoring and reporting efforts taking into account national priorities, resources, and capacity and implementation needs through peer learning, sharing of experiences, resource mobilization and capacity development. They are also encouraged to harmonize different initiatives at the regional and sub-regional levels.

At global level

✓ As an integral part of policy planning and implementation, the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee advocates for the investment case for SDG4 monitoring and data collection of US$ 280 million/year, as estimated by the Technical Cooperation Group. The Steering Committee also advocates for predictable financing of the institutions that contribute to producing global public goods and which have a UN mandate to collect data and monitor SDG4, as well as those that provide national capacity development in using the data for policy and planning. The Steering Committee calls for countries, donors, UN agencies and relevant stakeholders to work in a coordinated manner, building on agreed responsibilities and shared cost.
The SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee is the global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Its primary objective is to harmonize and strengthen support to countries and their partners for the realization of the global education goal and targets. The Steering Committee is composed of members representing a majority from countries, the World Education Forum 2015 convening agencies (UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, ILO, the World Bank), the Global Partnership for Education, the OECD, regional organizations, teacher organizations, civil society networks, the private sector, foundations and youth organizations.

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee Secretariat
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris France

education2030@unesco.org
www.sdg4education2030.org
@Education2030UN