



2024 CONFERENCE ON
**EDUCATION DATA
AND STATISTICS**

Preparatory meeting for the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

Setting and monitoring national SDG 4 benchmarks:
what are the challenges going forward?

October - November 2023



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Institute for Statistics

Outline

- What are the uses of national SDG 4 benchmarks?
- What are the benchmark indicators?
- What is the coverage of SDG 4 benchmark indicators?
- Challenges
- Agenda forward to work with Member States

What are the uses of national SDG 4 benchmarks?

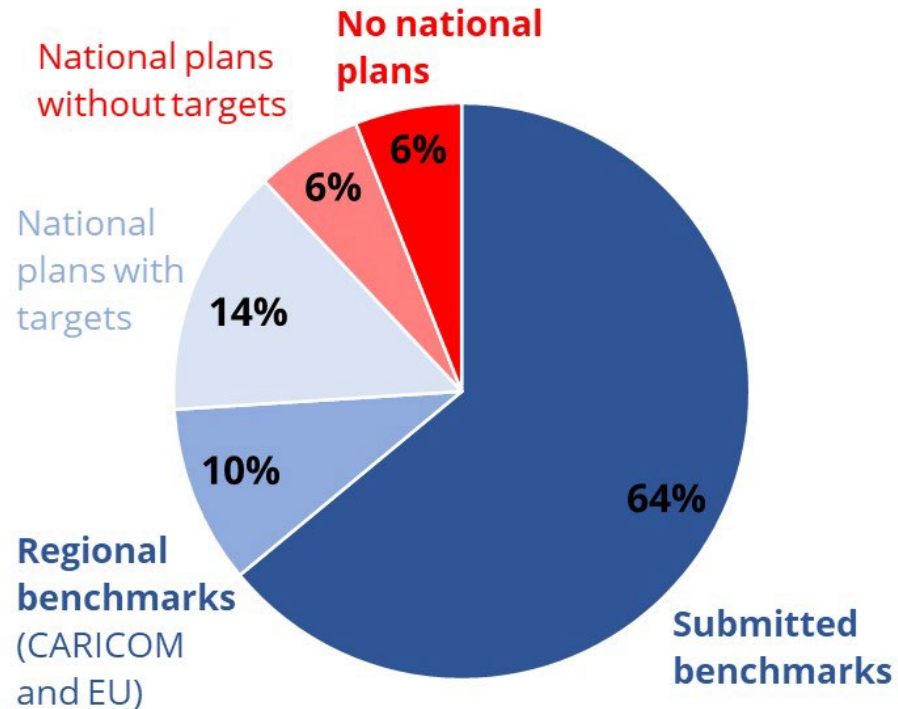
- Capture the contribution of each country to the global education goal
- Make progress monitoring context-specific, as each country's starting points
- Focus attention on data gaps on key indicators that every education system needs for management purposes
- Strengthen national planning: all plans should include targets
- Link national, regional and global education agendas: coherence and common language

What are the benchmark indicators?

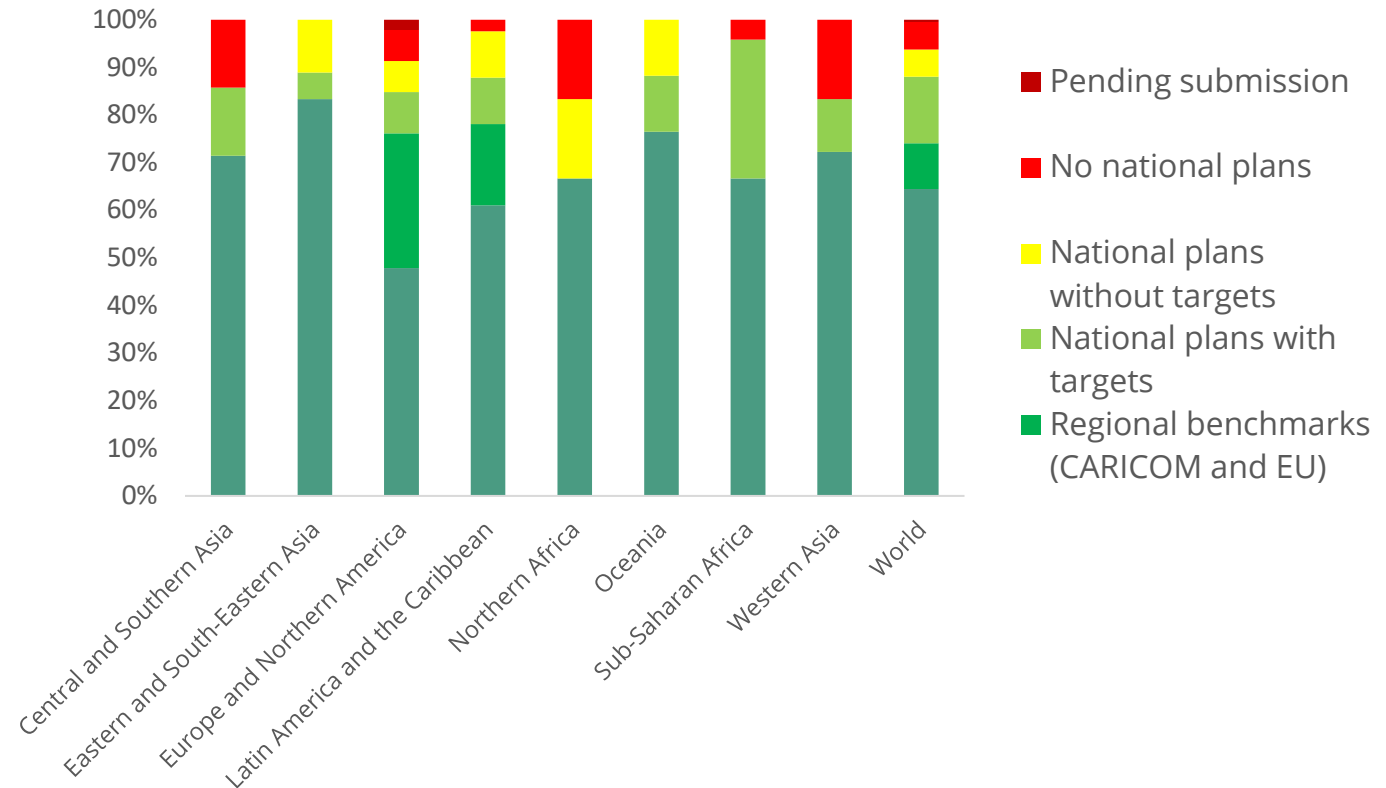
Priority policy area	SDG 4 benchmark indicator	Number of benchmarks
Basic education	4.1.1 Minimum proficiency in reading/maths	6
	4.1.2 Completion rate	3
	4.1.4 Out-of-school rate	3
Pre-primary	4.2.2 Participation in organized learning a year before primary education entry	1
Teachers	4.c.1 Teachers with minimum required qualifications	4
Expenditure	1.a.2/FFA Education as % budget / % GDP	2
Equity	Gender gap in upper secondary completion rate	1
Connectivity	Proportion of schools with access to Internet for pedagogical purposes	4

What is the coverage of SDG 4 benchmark indicators?

Participation in national benchmarking process



Benchmarks status at the regional level



Challenges

Missing benchmarks

- Countries that only submitted national targets for some benchmark indicators.
- Countries that are yet to participate in the national SDG 4 benchmarking process.

Quality of benchmarks

- National targets may indicate a level of ambition that is too high or too low.

Monitoring progress

- Benchmark setting varies by indicator and is still low for some indicators, as well as benchmark progress reporting.
- The availability and updating of data has low frequency.
- Insufficient exchange with countries when methodological clarifications are needed.

Agenda forward to work with Member States

A sustained communication campaign

- Familiarize ministries of education and the general public with national SDG 4 benchmarks
- Improve the GEO website

Introduction of an assessing process

- Give countries the opportunity to receive transparent updates on the assessment of their progress and to contest, seek clarifications or propose corrections to this assessment.

Introduction of a linking process

- A process that links assessment of progress to the monitoring of laws and policies

Thank you

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