



2024 CONFERENCE ON  
**EDUCATION DATA  
AND STATISTICS**

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# Preparatory meeting for the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

## Education Expenditure Indicators: What are the challenges going forward?

October - November 2023



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# Outline

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- Education Expenditure indicators framework
- How are the indicators currently measured?
- Challenges
- Agenda forward to work with Member States

# Education Expenditure indicators framework

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Indicators of education expenditure play a crucial role in **(1)** mobilizing resources for development and **(2)** promoting equity in education.

- **FFA** Government expenditure on education as a percent of GDP
- **1.a.2** Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education)
- **4.5.4** Expenditure on education per student by level of education and source of funding
- **4.5.6** Expenditure on education by source of funding (public, private, international) as a percentage of GDP

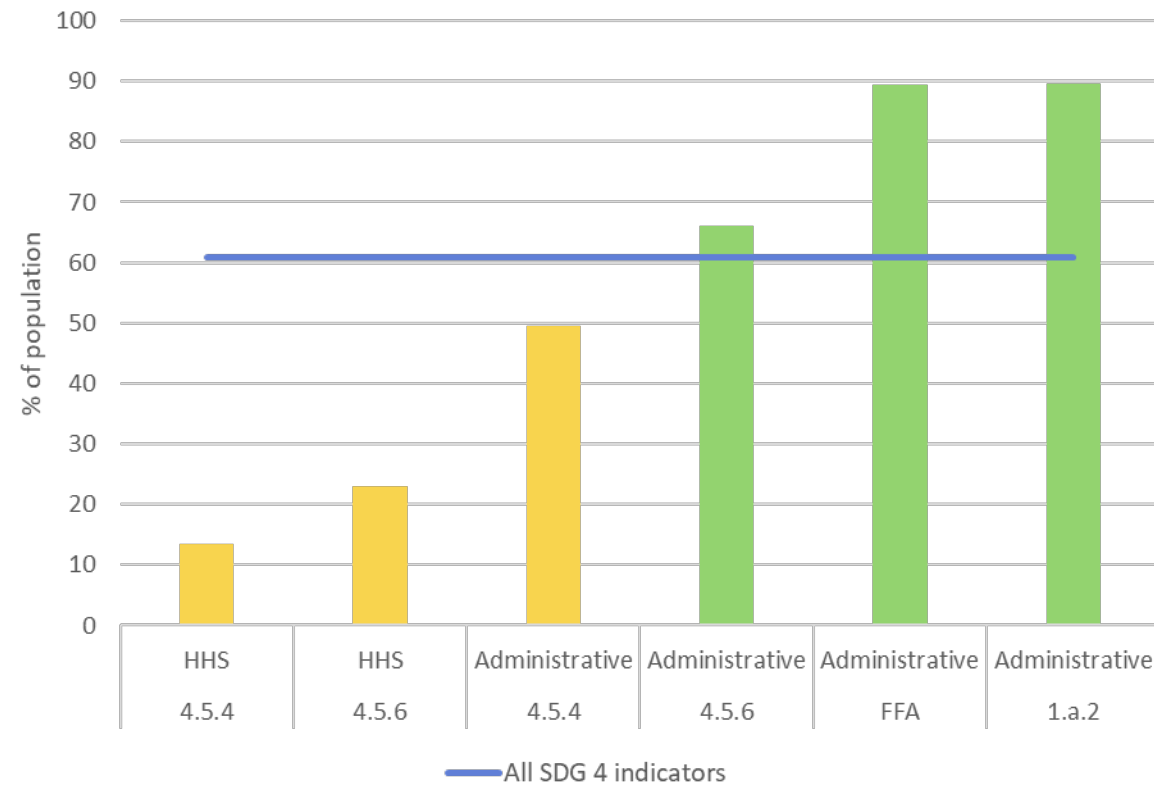
# How are the indicators currently measured?

Indicator	Data source	Metadata
<b>FFA:</b> Government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP	<b>Total government expenditure on education:</b> IMF's Government Finance Statistics (GFS) /UOE data collection or publicly available sources. <b>Gross domestic product (GDP):</b> World Bank.	<a href="https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/Metadata-FFA-1.a.gdp_.pdf">https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/Metadata-FFA-1.a.gdp_.pdf</a>
<b>1.a.2:</b> Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education)	<b>Total general government expenditure:</b> IMF's World Economic Outlook database when source of data does not include it.	<a href="https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/Metadata-1.a.2.pdf">https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/Metadata-1.a.2.pdf</a>
<b>4.5.4:</b> Expenditure on education per student by level of education and source of funding	<b>Public expenditure on education by level/International expenditure:</b> UOE based on government sources. <b>Household expenditure on education by level:</b> UOE typically based on HHS. <b>Number of pupils per level:</b> UIS country survey. <b>Purchasing Power Parity Conversion Factor:</b> IMF World Economic Outlook. <b>GDP per capita:</b> IMF WEO.	<a href="https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/09/Metadata-4.5.4.pdf">https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/09/Metadata-4.5.4.pdf</a>
<b>4.5.6:</b> Expenditure on education by source of funding (public, private, international) as a percentage of GDP	<b>Initial public expenditure on education:</b> total public expenditure on education as reported through UOE survey subtracting on-budget international expenditure. <b>Total initial international expenditure on education:</b> UOE survey; if not, ODA financing for education from OECD CRS database. <b>Initial expenditure by international sources ODA:</b> OECD CRS database. <b>Initial expenditure by international sources non-ODA:</b> total expenditure from international sources minus initial expenditure by international sources ODA. <b>Initial expenditure by private sources households:</b> UOE survey or by using household consumption on education as reported in national reports of household consumptions surveys and adjusted to a % of GDP using data on total consumption as a % of GDP. <b>Initial expenditure by private sources non-household:</b> UOE survey. <b>GDP:</b> WB current GDP in local currency units.	<a href="https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/09/Metadata_4.5.6.pdf">https://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/09/Metadata_4.5.6.pdf</a>

# Challenges (1/3)

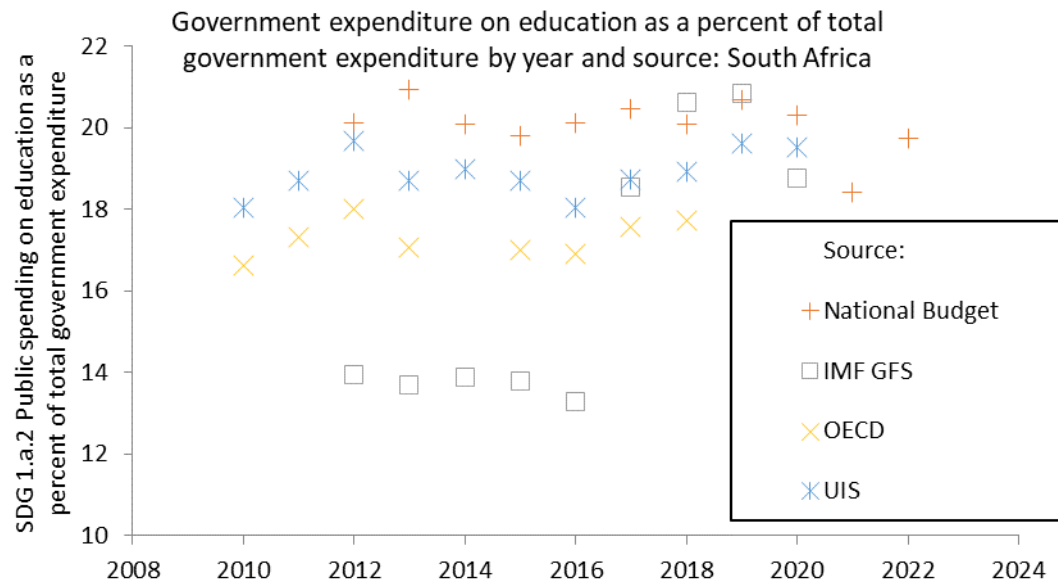
## Coverage

***Coverage of SDG 4 Expenditure indicators in terms of % of population.***

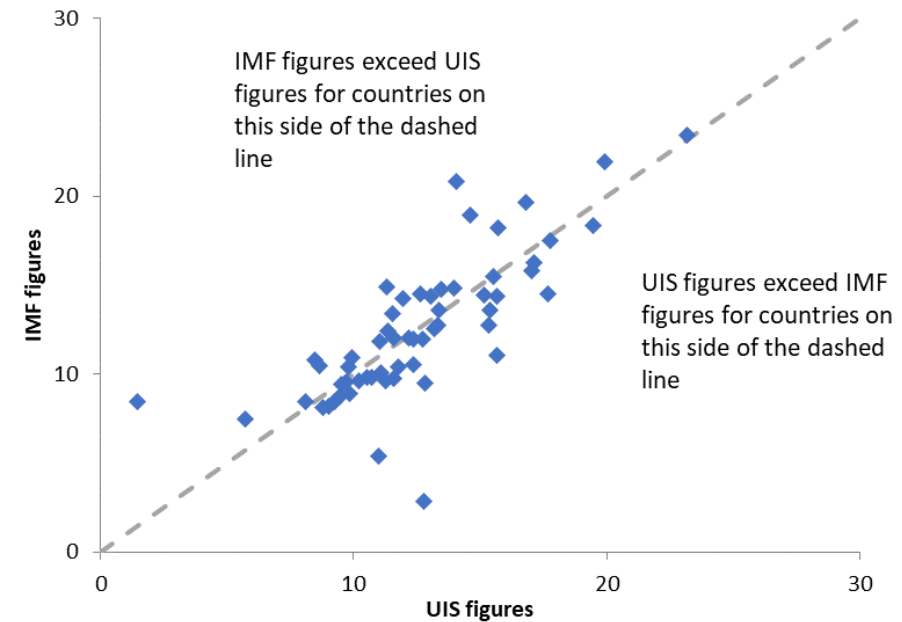


# Challenges (2/3)

## Conflicting data sources for public expenditure



IMF and UIS figures on education expenditure as a percent of total government expenditure by country using the same number for total government expenditure (i.e.: same denominator)



# Challenges (3/3)

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## Private expenditure measurement

- Due to few countries reporting household expenditure on education, the GEMR 2022 created a database on total household expenditure by countries based on household survey reports.
- Despite the new data, coverage in recent years remains low and there are a number of limitations in the data collected from household survey reports.
  - Low coverage, low frequency and issues related to the comparability across surveys.

# Agenda forward to work with Member States

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## Harmonizing FFA and SDG 1.a.2

- Create a menu of potential harmonization methods to inform decision-making.

## Simplify the data collection instruments

- Simplify or prioritize FFA and SDG indicators in the UIS expenditure questionnaire.
- Provide clear guidelines to respondents on how to obtain the data needed to fill out the fields.
- Collect metadata on the source of expenditure information for the SDG indicators or a checklist.

## Improve household expenditure data

- Develop and provide guidelines for household expenditure survey questionnaire design.
- Identify modeling approaches and now-casting to increase frequency of coverage.



# Thank you

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