2024 CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION DATA AND STATISTICS

Preparatory meeting for the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

Using surveys to monitor SDG 4: what are the challenges going forward?

October - November 2023

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Outline

- What are the uses and limitations of HHS?
- What survey tools are available?
- What indicators can be produced from HHS?
- Multiple donors: how does the UIS compile data?
- What is the coverage?
- Challenges and potential solutions
- Agenda forward to work with Member States

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What are the uses and limitations of HHS?

Disaggregation: e.g., sex, ethnic group, disability status, and socioeconomic context.

Consistency: Provides both numerator and denominator, addressing limitations in administrative data.

Representativeness: Surveys with a nationally representative sample frame can collect other information than administrative data cannot capture; e.g., skills and non-formal training of youth/adults.

Costly when no regular survey program: Producing educational indicators may not be cost-effective when compared to using available educational records.

Challenges in comparability: Non-standardized educational levels; reasons for non-attendance not collected (e.g., vacation); limited adult participation indicators (truncate at 24 years old or simply do not ask)

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What survey tools are available?

Source	Typical frequency	Typical education questions	Typical training questions
Population census	Every 10 years	School attendance Educational attainment Literacy status	Participation in technical and vocational training programs Certifications or qualifications obtained
National household surveys	Annual or less frequent	As population census, plus: Education spending ICT skills	As population census
Multi-purpose cross-national household survey programs	Every 5 years (e.g., DHS, MICS)	Child development School attendance Learning (MICS) ICT skills (MICS) Adult literacy	
Labour force surveys	Annual or more frequent	As population census, plus: Skills and competencies	As Population census but more detailed questions
School surveys	Every 5 to 10 years	School health and nutrition	

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What indicators can be produced from HHS?

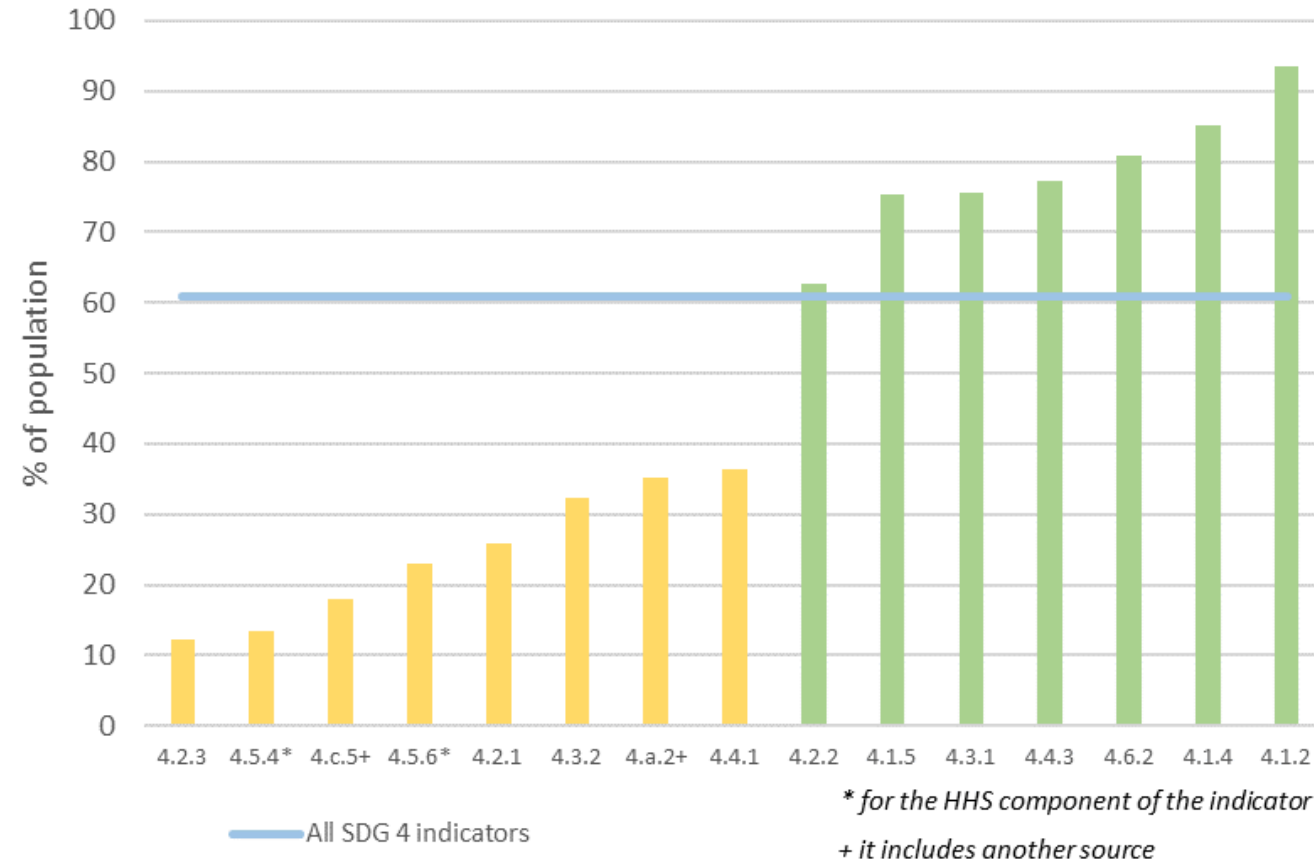| Indicator name	Type
4.1.0 Proportion of children/young people prepared for the future, by sex	Thematic
4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	Global
4.1.4 Out-of-school rate (1 year before primary, primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	Thematic
4.1.5 Percentage of children over-age for grade (primary education, lower secondary education)	Thematic
4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex.	Global
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Global
4.2.3 Percentage of children under 5 years experiencing positive and stimulating home learning environments	Thematic
4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	Global
4.3.2 Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education, by sex	Thematic
4.3.3 Participation rate in technical and vocational programmes (15- to 24-year-olds), by sex	Thematic
4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	Global
4.4.3 Youth/adult educational attainment rates by age group and level of education	Thematic
4.5.4 Expenditure on education per student by level of education and source of funding	Thematic
4.5.6 Expenditure on education by source of funding (public, private, international) as a percentage of GDP	Thematic
4.6.2 Youth/adult literacy rate	Thematic
4.a.2 Percentage of students experiencing bullying in the last 12 months in a) primary and b) lower secondary education	Thematic
4.c.5 Average teacher salary relative to other professions requiring a comparable level of qualification	Thematic

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Multiple donors: how does the UIS compile data?

Data source/provider	Indicators
UIS Literacy and Educational Attainment Survey: Administers bi-annually two questionnaires and countries submit responses, drawing on household surveys.	4.4.3 4.6.2
UIS Education Standards and Methodology Section: Processes micro-data from household surveys, mainly DHS and MICS.	4.1.2, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.4.3, 4.5.4, 4.5.6, 4.6.2
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Processes micro-data from household surveys for Latin American countries.	4.1.2, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.4.3 4.6.2
Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report: Processes micro-data from household surveys.	4.1.2, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.2.2, 4.6.2
International Labour Organization (ILO): Provides labour force survey microdata that are processed by UIS.	4.3.1, 4.c.5 (denominator)
UNICEF: Collects and processes multi-purpose microdata on early childhood development and learning environments.	4.2.1, 4.2.3
International Telecommunication Union (ITU): Processes national household survey microdata on ICT skills.	4.4.1
World Health Organization (WHO): Collects and processes multi-purpose microdata from two surveys (Health Behavior in School-Aged Children survey and Global School-based Student Health Survey) on school health.	4.a.2

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What is the coverage?

Coverage of SDG 4 indicators produced from HHS in terms of % of population.

* for the HHS component of the indicator

+ it includes another source

All SDG 4 indicators

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Challenges and potential solutions

Challenge	Solution
▪ Non-Harmonized Survey Instruments	▪ Cover all major national education programs and align with ISCED
▪ Differing Reference Periods	▪ Align reference with SDG 4 indicators
▪ Quality and Comparability of Background Information	▪ Collect internationally consistent contextual information
▪ Varying Literacy Measurements	▪ Administer simple enumerator-assessed literacy tests
▪ Difficulty in Collecting Accurate Expenditure Data	▪ Develop data collection guidelines
▪ Limited Access to Survey Data	▪ Ensure secure access to data files and publish comprehensive metadata

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Agenda forward to work with Member States

Standardized Survey Instruments

- Alignment with ISCED.
- Link survey questions to specific school years (SDG 4 reference periods).
- Include respondent's birth month and interview date.

Guidelines for Processing

- Produce data production guidelines.

HHS Data Repository

- Establish a repository for survey and census data.
- Ensure accessibility while maintaining data security.

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