Uses of national SDG 4 benchmarks

▶ Capture the contribution of each country to the global education goal

▶ Make progress monitoring context-specific, per countries' starting points

▶ Link national, regional and global education agendas: coherence and common language

▶ Focus attention on data gaps on key indicators that every education system needs for management purposes

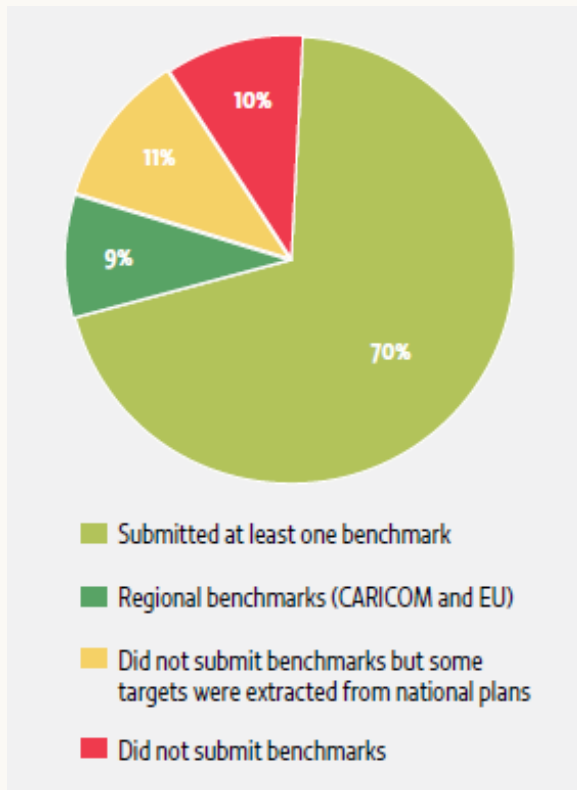▶ Strengthen national planning: all plans should include targets
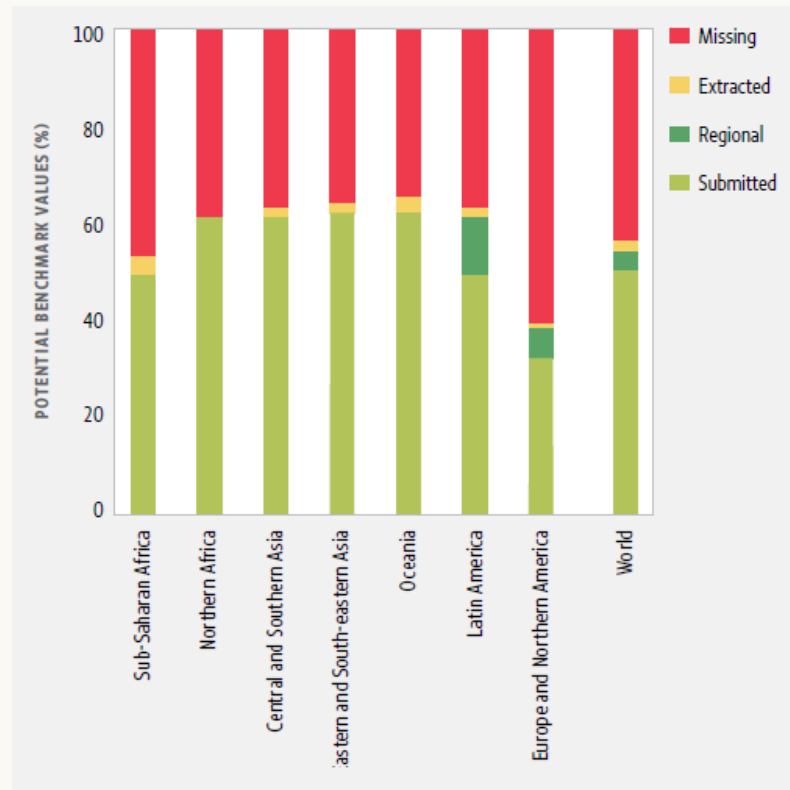
Benchmark indicators

Policy area	SDG 4 benchmark indicator	Levels
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	**4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to Internet for pedagogical purposes**	**4**

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Coverage of SDG 4 benchmark indicators

Participation in benchmarking process

Pie chart:
- 70% — Submitted at least one benchmark
- 9% — Regional benchmarks (CARICOM and EU)
- 11% — Did not submit benchmarks but some targets were extracted from national plans
- 10% — Did not submit benchmarks

Distribution of potential 2025 benchmark values

Stacked bar chart with y-axis "POTENTIAL BENCHMARK VALUES (%)" (0–100) and categories: Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-eastern Asia, Oceania, Latin America, Europe and Northern America, World. Legend: Missing, Extracted, Regional, Submitted.

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 (gender gap in completion; school internet connectivity)
  - Availability and updating of data
  - Insufficient exchange with countries when clarifications are needed

Agenda forward to work with Member States

▶ Carry out a sustained communication campaign
  ▪ Familiarize ministries of education and the public with national SDG 4 benchmarks
  ▪ Clarify indicator definitions and data sources
  ▪ Improve data availability on the benchmark indicators
  ▪ Improve the benchmark data browser website
  ▪ Improve national sector plan target setting

▶ Introduce an assessment process
  ▪ Give countries the opportunity to receive transparent updates on assessment of their progress and to contest, seek clarifications or propose corrections to this assessment

▶ Introduce a linking process
  ▪ Develop a process that links assessment of progress to the monitoring of laws and policies influencing the pace of movement toward national targets

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Proposed decision (1)
National SDG 4 benchmarks: challenges and solutions

▶ *Noting* the information presented in the report 'National SDG 4 benchmarks: Challenges and ways forward' (1 UIS/EDS/9);

▶ *Welcoming* the efforts of Member States to fulfil the commitment they made in 2015 to set SDG 4 benchmarks;

▶ *Acknowledging* the release of the second SDG 4 Scorecard that monitors progress towards the national SDG 4 benchmarks;

▶ *Noting* the decision of the SDG 4 High-level Steering Committee to have three additional benchmark indicators developed to reflect the priorities of the Transforming Education Summit;

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Proposed decision (2)
National SDG 4 benchmarks: challenges and solutions

The UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

▶ *invites* Member States to complete submission of national benchmarks, especially on the equity indicator, and to include them consistently in national sector plan, regional dialogue, and global cooperation processes

▶ *invites* the UIS to strengthen its efforts to improve the quality of the benchmark database

▶ *invites* the UIS and the GEM Report to propose a mechanism enabling countries to seek clarifications and propose corrections to the SDG 4 Scorecard assessment

▶ *requests* the TCG/EDS Commission to:

  ▪ refine and approve the proposed SDG 4 Scorecard review mechanism