The UNESCO Institute for Statistics is the custodian of cross-national education data and indicators. From the Education for All to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, the Institute has continuously improved its capacity to achieve its mandate and to provide the global education community with quality international education statistics, produced and validated in collaboration with UNESCO Member States. The first UIS Survey of Formal Education was launched in 2000 and has since remained one of the main official data collection mechanisms that underlie the production of international education indicators.

For all UNESCO Member States.
Today, the UIS Survey of Formal Education is sent annually to 163 Member States and territories and is comprised of four questionnaires: Questionnaire A (QA) on Students and Teachers (ISCED 0-4), Questionnaire B (QB) on Educational Expenditure (ISCED 0-8), Questionnaire C (QC) on Students and Teachers (ISCED 5-8), and the ISCED Questionnaire which collects data on National Education Systems. The Survey of Formal Education is complemented by the UOE data collection for 47 OECD countries and partner countries, as well as by the UIS dynamic template.

Informs 21 SDG 4 Global and Thematic indicators.
Together, the four questionnaires provide the data that underlie twenty-one SDG 4 global and thematic indicators, informing SDG targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 4.a, and 4.c as well as two global education finance indicators.

Adapts to global needs and Member States demands.
For the first time this year, and to respond to demands from Member States made through the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG4 Indicators (TCG), the Survey of Formal Education will collect national data on population (DEM). This will provide Member States with the option to request the use of their population data in the calculation of international indicators under the condition that the data provided meet global quality requirements. An additional table on teachers by highest level of education achieved has also been added following the adoption of a minimum global qualification standard by the TCG.
How to make sure your country reports on key SDG 4 indicators?
This year the Survey of Formal Education will be launched the week following the Conference on Education Data and Statistics. Each Member State will receive all relevant questionnaires as well as links to accompanying resources.
If your country has not reported to the Survey of Formal Education in 2023, you can still access your questionnaires at https://uis.unesco.org/uis-questionnaires by selecting your country. The instruction manual and other supporting documents are also available at the same link under 2023 Survey of Formal Education. Should you have any questions or need for support regarding your country's participation to the Survey of Formal Education, please contact the UIS by email at uis.survey@unesco.org.

When will indicators for your country be published?
Upon reception of your country’s responses to the Survey, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics will process and validate the data with national focal points. Provisional indicator values will also be communicated prior to official releases. Updates of administrative data-based indicators in UIS database, available at http://sdg4-data.uis.unesco.org/ and http://data.uis.unesco.org/, are typically made at the end of February for the UIS data refresh and mid-September for the main data release which includes updated values for regional aggregates. The UIS calendar is provided below and also highlights when global SDG 4 indicators are updated by the United Nations Statistical Division and used in SDG Global Monitoring events.

#Data4Education
For more information: https://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-questionnaires