

Benchmarks for SDG 4 Indicators

From a neglected commitment to global implementation roadmap

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Commitment

Education 2030 Framework for Action, 2015

Called on countries to establish “appropriate intermediate **benchmarks** (e.g. for 2020 and 2025)” for the SDG indicators, seeing them as “indispensable for addressing the accountability deficit associated with longer-term targets” (§28).

Global Education Meeting, 2020

“We request UNESCO and its partners, together with the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, to ... accelerate the progress and propose relevant and realistic **benchmarks** of key SDG 4 indicators for subsequent monitoring” (§10).



Proposed benchmark indicators

7 indicators to benchmark were adopted by the TCG in 2019, which satisfy the principles of **efficiency** and **relevance**

- ▶ **4.1.1 Minimum learning proficiency in reading and maths**
- ▶ **4.1.2 Completion rate**
- ▶ **4.1.5 Out-of-school rate**
- ▶ **4.2.2 Participation rate one year before primary**
- ▶ **4.c.1 Trained teachers**
- ▶ **Education expenditure as share of GDP/total expenditure**
- ▶ **Equity indicator (to be defined)**



Political process: the approach

Benchmarks are relevant to (sub-)regional organizations:

- ▶ **harmonize** (sub) regional and global monitoring framework
- ▶ **develop** data collection strategies
- ▶ **monitor** (sub) regional SDG 4 progress
- ▶ **set** indicator reporting standards and processes

(Sub-)regional organizations have a role to play:

- ▶ **engage** in technical discussions on benchmarks
- ▶ **suggest** additional regional relevant indicators
- ▶ **organize** follow up with their Member States for feedback
- ▶ **ensure** high-level political endorsement of benchmarks

Two aspects of **flexibility**:

- ▶ **Any** willing regional organization can lead the process
- ▶ Regional organizations may set **additional** benchmarks



Technical process: the approach

In increasing order:

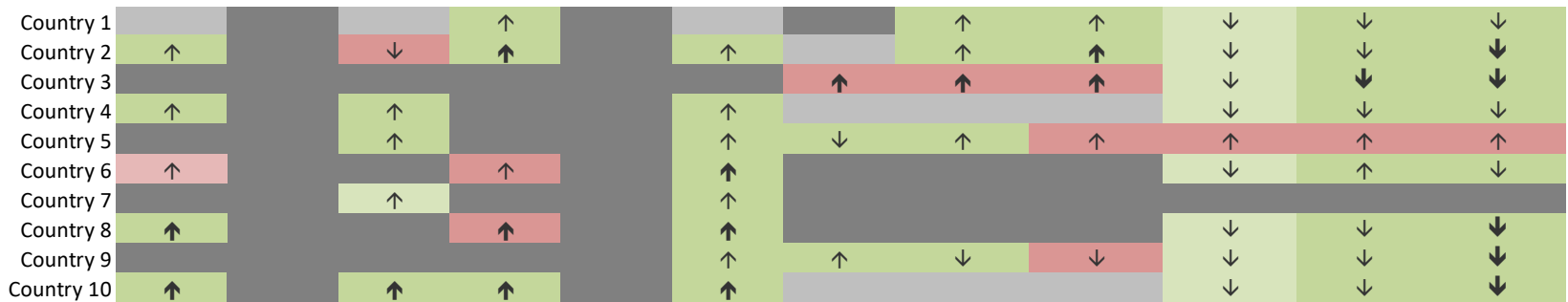
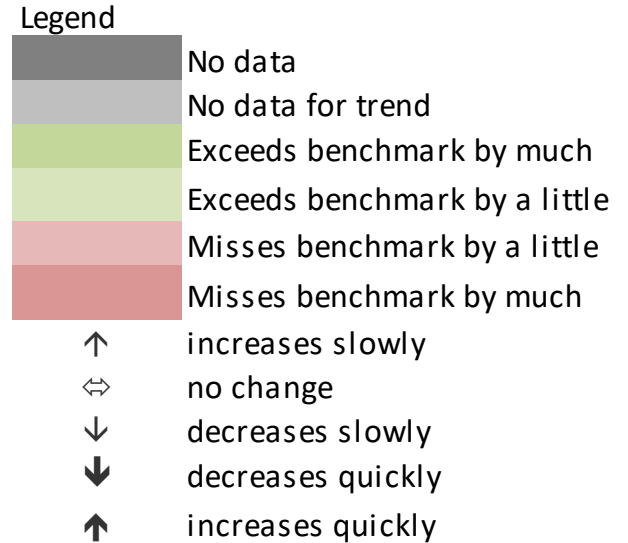
- ▶ A common regional minimum benchmark for all countries
= equal to the feasible progress the country/-ies furthest behind can make
- ▶ A country-specific feasible benchmark
(equal to or above the minimum benchmark level)
= based on its initial condition and a measure of feasible progress (e.g., based on progress of average country)
- ▶ An optional country-specific and country-set benchmark
= based on country's willingness and ambition to commit



Communicating progress

While benchmark is defined as level, rate of progress is also monitored for information; a **dashboard** distinguishes:

- ▶ if benchmark is **reached** or **not** (lack of data is marked by **grey**)
- ▶ if value of indicator is increasing **↑** (**fast ↑**) or decreasing **↓** (**fast ↓**)





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