

SDG 4 Quality Education

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Career/Experiment:

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- UNESCO is the United Nations Education Science Scientific and Cultural Organization
- It was founded in 1945 to help create the conditions for a more peaceful world, following the Second World War.
- works to "...build the defences of peace in the minds of women and men"
- That means building understanding between people, organizations and countries in the fields of Education, Science, Culture and Communication

Lecture overview

- Brief Description of the SDG 4: Summary of targets & indicators and links to other SDGs Progress made
- Current State of implementation and progress
- Key issues & challenges related to achieving partnerships between and within countries
- Suggested action areas for young people to engage and contribute

Q1: What is SDG 4 and why does it matter for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs?

- High-quality education in hardware and software
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved.
- Life-long learning+ on-line learning

Q1-1: The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, the 2030

Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

Q2: What does SDG 4 entail in terms of targets & Indicators?

- SDG 4: Quality Education
 - "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"
 - Contains 10 targets and measured by 11 indicators
 - There are 7 outcome oriented targets, 3 "means of achieving targets" targets are:
 - ◆ Target 4.1: free premium secondary education
 - ◆ Target 4.2: equal access to Quality pre-primary education
Basic + technical education
 - ◆ Target 4.3: affordable Technical vocational and higher education
 - ◆ Target 4.4: increased number of people with relevant skills for financial Target success
 - ◆ Target 4.5: elimination of all discrimination in education
 - ◆ Target 4.6: universal literary and numeracy
 - ◆ Target 4.7: education for sustainable development and global citizenship
Action on the ground
 - ◆ Target 4.a: build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools
Inclusive and safe schools, qualified teachers
 - ◆ Target 4.b: expand higher education scholarships for developing countries
 - ◆ Target 4.c: increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries
- We are all together, people + community + organizations, business, governments
- Leaving no one behind
- Website ¹

Q3: How much progress have we made concerning SDG 4 since the launching of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016?

- Ideas, actions, funding
- We should be optimistic, as there has been great progress, even as the world's

¹ Details of specific targets and indicators can be referred to at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>

population has grown to over 8 billion people (UN figures, November 2022).

- For example, According to the UN, enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91 percent.
- But there are huge challenges and no SDG 4 education targets have been fully met.
- Measuring what count, not just numbers
- Need more commitment and much more to be done
- The last-mile problem: the poorest, most vulnerable...

Q4: What are the key challenges in implementing this particular SDG between countries and within country?

- Progress made
 - While there has been some progress towards the targets of SDG 4, progress has generally been insufficient to achieve SDG 4 by 2030 - even before the impact of COVID-19.
 - Progress has been uneven (wealth, government commitment to education), with rates of progress varying significantly across and within countries.
 - For some population subgroups the 2030 targets have already been met, but for too many the promise of inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning remains distant.
 - Need to reach out to those who are poor, without resources, to measure their needs, provision offered to the most needing.
- Challenges²
 - Without acceleration, universal access to pre-primary or secondary education, as well as the general provision of high quality education as espoused across SDG 4's targets, are unlikely to be met for the majority by 2030.
 - "The shift towards online education, and flexible learning approaches inspired by creative responses to COVID-19, has shown that there is still a need to address the digital divide as inequities in education through alternative modes of learning, teaching and training."

Q4-1: Key facts

- 70% of countries allocate less than 4% of their GDP to education
- 771 million young people and adults lack basic literacy skills
- 69 million teachers must be recruited to achieve universal primary and secondary

² UNESCO/UNICEF, 5-year progress review of SDG 4 - Education 2030 in Asia- Pacific
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379173>

education by 2030

- 244 million children and youth are out of school globally

Q4-2: UNESCO/UNICEF Recommendations

- Build education systems that embrace relevance and flexibility, and have equity and learning at their core.
- Remove barriers that hinder equity, inclusion and quality in education
- Ensure an adequate and equitable supply of motivated, supported, qualified, resourced and empowered teachers.
- Increase and ensure the equitable supply of suitable infrastructure, physical and digital resources, from basic necessities to digital technologies.
- Strengthen monitoring and use of data on the levels of learning and the conditions for learning. #measure_what_count
- Increase investment in education and ensure efficient and equitable resource allocation, as well as accountability in expenditures.
- Strengthen and broaden partnerships across all actors in education from parents and caregivers, to international organizations and the private sector.

Q5: Are there good examples in implementing this SDG goal 4?

For instance, improving the quality of Teachers (Target 4.c)?

- The need is to develop a new, clear strategy on global teacher policy
 - Teachers need to be at the centre of all education reforms starting from the design phase, and they must be adequately supported and resourced to carry out their expected roles. It is also crucial that the available teaching force is equitably allocated and managed to ensure that the most disadvantaged learners are prioritized.
 - Pre COVID-19, significant teacher training reforms, including competency-based education with a stronger focus on skills building, digital education, and a more student-centred pedagogy, were already needed to address the learning crisis and the changing nature of education.
 - Driving global commitments to prioritise resources that address the chronic under-provision of qualified, well-trained, and well- resourced teachers in low- and lower-middle income countries, paying attention to diversity of the workforce, including women and people with disabilities.
 - Recognising teacher trade unions as global partners in the recruitment and retention of teachers, policymaking and in enhancing the status of the teaching profession is a key building block.
 - It is vital to champion investment and support for teachers by Mobilising

the G7 and wider international community to back national governments in the recruitment and training of 1.8 million new teachers by 2026, as a minimum, to progress the global education targets endorsed by the G7.

Q6: What actions do you suggest for young people to engage or participate in order to promote SDG 4?

- Get active and with your place of learning
- Discuss it your fellow students, friends and family
- Get involved in the Global Campaign for Education³ and Send My Friend to School⁴
- Join the SDG 4 Youth Network⁵
- Look at the UNESCO and UN SDG websites⁶
- Continuous opportunities to learn

³ <https://campaignforeducation.org/en/>

⁴ <https://sendmyfriend.org/>

⁵ <https://www.sdg4education2030.org/sdg4-youth-network>

⁶ <https://www.unesco.org/en/education/education2030-sdg4>