

UIS data on “a learning crisis”

More than 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, according to a new UIS paper which presents the first estimates for SDG Target 4.1. About two-thirds of these children are in school, highlighting the critical need to improve the quality of education, while expanding access to ensure that no one is left behind. The new paper presents a range of data and explores measurement issues, especially related to benchmarking. [Read more](#)

GAML 4 – an event not to miss

The fourth GAML meeting will take place on 28-29 November 2017 in Madrid and will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) with support from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain. Participants will discuss and take crucial decisions on concrete measurement strategies for learning- and skill-related indicators and work plans until the end of 2018. All GAML members are invited to participate. [Read more](#) about the meeting and [register on-line](#) before 1 November.

On the road to monitor learning better

Following the meeting of directors of all regional and international learning assessments in June 2017 (Washington D.C.), in September the UIS brought together technical experts from organizations running cross-national assessments (CNA) to find ways to improve the coverage and comparability of data needed for SDG Indicator 4.1.1. The discussion, hosted by IEA-Hamburg, focused on several issues, including interim reporting arrangements, benchmarking options and how to link the different assessments. Outcomes of the meeting will feed into the strategy for SDG Indicator 4.1.1 to be presented at GAML 4. [Read more](#)

To gather information on the financing of large-scale learning assessments in countries and potential sources of support, the UIS has launched two new surveys. As part of a joint endeavor with the Global Partnership for Education, the surveys will help to track which countries have data to monitor SDG Target 4.1 and which countries need assistance to produce such data. [Read more](#)

Monitoring progress on early childhood education and functional literacy

In order to discuss the strategic proposals for measuring early childhood development (SDG Target 4.2) and functional literacy of youth and adults (SDG Target 4.6), the GAML Secretariat in partnership with GAML Task Force Chairs is planning two expert meetings in the next few weeks. Task Force 4.2 will convene in late October in Washington D.C., while Task Force 4.6 will meet in early November in Paris.





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Developing indicators not covered by GAML

GAML Task Forces are working only on a few of the [indicators that need further development](#). Others are handled by the TCG Working Group 1 on Indicator Development and the TCG Secretariat in collaboration with various partners.

The Working Group will soon receive proposals for several indicators for review: 4.7.1 (global citizenship education and education for sustainable development), 4.7.2 (HIV and sexuality education) and 4.a.2 (bullying) and 4.a.3 (attacks on schools). Development steps for several other indicators have been identified and the work is being undertaken. External experts are already developing proposals for Indicators 4.3.1 (participation in education and training), 4.5.2 (language of instruction), 4.5.3 (expenditure on disadvantaged groups) and 4.6.3 (participation in literacy programmes).



A handful of indicators remain still to be addressed. Among them, there are three for which the Working Group is still actively seeking experts to develop: 4.a.1 (d) (adapted infrastructure for disabled students), 4.c.5 (teachers' salaries relative to other professions) and 4.c.7 (in-service training of teachers).

TCG 4 – confirming measurement strategies

Endorsement of the GAML 4 results will be on the agenda of the fourth meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4-Education 2030 (TCG) to take place on 17-18 January 2018 in Dubai, UAE. The TCG 4 meeting will be hosted by the Regional Center for Educational Planning (RCEP) with the support of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS). TCG working groups will meet a day before – on 16 January – to finalise their inputs for the plenary discussions. [Read more](#) about the meeting and [register on-line](#) before 1 November.

Better communication through revamped websites

Following a recommendation from the GAML Strategic Planning Committee to improve the communication of GAML information to external and internal stakeholders, the Secretariat has updated the [GAML website](#), which now features key documents and resources, as well as succinct information on the Task Forces and the events held by the Alliance. At the same time, a shared project space was set-up for on-line collaboration within the Task Forces, which is accessible by registration only. The [TCG website](#) has also undergone some ameliorations to better present the Group's activities and products.



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Upcoming events (October 2017 – February 2018)

- 23.10.2017 Virtual meeting of the Task Force 4.2
- 26.10.2017 Virtual meeting of the TCG Working Group 2 on Capacity Development
- 27.10.2017 Virtual meeting of the GAML Strategic Planning Committee
- 27.10.2017 Expert meeting of the Task Force 4.2 (Washington, D.C./USA)
- 31.10.2017 Virtual meeting of the TCG Working Group 3 on Country Reporting
- 7-8.11.2017 Expert meeting of the Task Force 4.6 (Paris/France)
- 11-14.11.2017 6th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs¹ (Manama/Bahrain)
- 27.11.2017 Meeting of the GAML Strategic Planning Committee (Madrid/Spain)
- 28-29.11.2017 GAML 4 (Madrid/Spain)
- 16.01.2018 Meeting of the TCG Working Groups (Dubai/UAE)
- 17-18.01.2018 TCG 4 (Dubai/UAE)
- 21-23.02 2018 SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (SC) meeting (Paris/France)

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