Central Asia Sub-Regional Training Workshop on "Strengthening National Capacities in Education Data and Statistics for Evidence-based Policymaking, Planning and Monitoring of SDG 4"

29 November- 1 December 2022, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Context

The Sustainable Development Goals and the Education 2030 Framework for Action have put ambitious targets for the countries globally to achieve high-quality education for all moving from access and participation to ensuring the availability of quality education for all. To achieve this ambition, data and monitoring play a vital role in devising national policies and strategies to achieve the targets by 2030.

The SDG 4 monitoring framework has given the central responsibility of monitoring to Member States to track their country's progress towards achieving SDG 4. Member States are responsible for developing their monitoring system, developing indicators and data collection mechanisms to ensure quality data is available for timely planning and developing appropriate policies, including monitoring of the national statements in relation to Transforming Education Summit in 2022. Global and regional education data depend on the country's capacity in producing the data, the data coverage and its availability for analysis and usefulness. The data production at the country level should be relevant for the country's policymaking and planning and to assess the progress. On the contrary, the lack of data causes a negative consequence for policymaking and planning in the country.

Many countries in the region still facing the issues of fragmented education data system causing difficulty in compiling data for various sub-sectors of education. Household data is one of the key data source monitoring SDG 4. However, coverage and frequencies of household surveys are limited, and they are not used for planning or monitoring purposes to the extent they could be. There is also lack of large-scale learning assessment data which inadvertently causes difficulty in monitoring learning outcomes. Furthermore, lack of capacities in data processing skills, understanding of the methodologies, data definitions, and interpreting the data hinders the full use of data to make policy decisions and to identify key areas of attention.

In this regards, UNESCO/UIS have been closely working with member states in strengthening national capacities in education data collection, compilation, and use of data for policy making, planning, and monitoring by providing appropriate tools, methodologies, guidelines etc. In this connection, UIS in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok is planning to organize a Regional Training programme to build national capacities in the education data and statistics to improve the regional and national policies, planning and monitoring in the region.

Purpose and Objectives

The main purpose of the training workshop is to develop appropriate skills and capacities of the Member states from Central Asia in using UIS tools and methodologies in producing education data and indicators for quality planning, monitoring and decision making. Specific objectives of the training workshops are:
- To introduce and train key focal persons from Member States on UIS tools and methodologies including International Standard Classification for Education (ISCED) for producing quality data, statistics, and indicators for SDG4 monitoring particularly focusing on benchmark indicators;
- To discuss and share experiences on strengthening education data systems in improving education data in the countries;
- To train focal persons undertaking data analysis for generating policy relevant information using SDG4 indicators and other national indicators;

- To review and discuss on the benchmark exercise in the region, key challenges and its use for monitoring SDG4 policy gaps and data gaps;
- To discuss and orient participants on the processes and approaches of national SDG4 mid-term reviews (MTR) using national benchmark indicators.
- To discuss the future training needs of the participants ij monitoring SDG4 at national levels and prepare follow up plan to address them
- To review and finalization of the country data submitted to UIS

Key Expected Learning Outcomes

After the completion of the training, participants would be able to:
- Use the SDG 4 monitoring frameworks and indicators with their definition, methodologies, interpretation, limitation;
- Demonstrate calculation of the SDG4 indicators following UIS methodologies;
- Apply international standards e.g., ISCED and other standards in production and reporting of data at international level;
- Explain and analyze the Regional and national indicator benchmark and gaps in data and policies in achieving the benchmarks by 2030;
- Perform data analysis using various indicators for policy discussions and planning and monitoring;
- Provide/submit quality data to UIS through different tools;
- Facilitate the process of Mid-Term Review of SDG4 at national and regional level and use of benchmark indicators in the review process

Training Workshop Approaches and Methodologies

The training workshop will be organized in following interactive and participatory methods. Some of the key methods will be used in the workshops are:

- Presentation and lectures
- Case studies
- Experiences sharing
- Group works and discussions
- Hands on exercises
- Etc.

Training workshop participants

The workshop will be attended by key education data focal persons in the countries. 3 participants from each country who have been working on education statistics particularly with the responsibility in submitting data to UIS and officials from planning unit with responsibility formulation of plans will be invited for the training. Countries who wish to send more participants with their own cost are most welcome. The countries of the region include- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Certification

In the completion of the training, successful participants will be tendered with the Certificates of Participation.

Duration and Time

The training will be organized during 29 November – 1 December 2022 (tentative) in Almaty, Kazakhstan.