



**UNESCO AND PARTNERS PRE-EVENT MEETING  
ON THE MARGINS OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARFSD-6)**

**ACCELERATING ATTAINMENT OF SDG4 AND CESA TARGETS  
TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**

**Monday, February 24, 2020 / PM Session  
KALUNDU ROOM, ELEPHANT HILLS, VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE  
10 Years to the Attainment of SDG4 Targets ... Where Are We?**

## 1. Background

It is now only ten more years to go to the end of the SDG4 target date for the attainment of the SDG4 targets in Education. It is therefore relevant to pose the following questions: Where are we? Are we set to achieve the targets? How are countries faring? Indications are that with the current rate of progress or way of doing business, African countries are unlikely to attain the SDG4 targets. According to UIS<sup>1</sup>, a total of 202 million children and adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa have not achieved minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. This is primarily due to lack of or inadequate access to education as well as the poor quality of learning opportunities. There is indeed a learning crisis on the continent and refugees and IDPs, girls, rural populations including people living with disability bear the brunt of this reality.

Although **education** is largely acknowledged as **a key enabler** for almost all the other 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it appears that five years after the adoption of SDGs in 2015, Africa continues to face the greatest challenges regarding the pace of progress towards realizing the SDG4 and CESA targets. For UNESCO, as the Lead Agency for SDG4 and Africa being one of the two global priorities aside Gender, the situation calls for a much closer and more regular monitoring and reporting on Africa's progress in Education. This was underlined by UNESCO Regional Offices during their internal coordination meetings at the margins of the last AUC STC-EST Meeting in Addis on the 10-12 December 2019. In this regard, it was agreed to produce an annual Status of Education in Africa Report, which will be presented and shared with partners at the margins of regional and continental meetings like the ARFSD-6, scheduled to take place in Zimbabwe in February 2020. Such a report will assist in tracking countries and target

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<sup>1</sup> UIS Fact Sheet No. 46 September 2017

populations to determine the extent to which they are on track to achieve the SDG4 and CESA targets and corrective measures taken to address the situation.

## 2. Overarching Frame and Thrust of the Pre-Event Meeting

The Status of Education in Africa Report will be based on monitoring & evaluation data/tools drawn from GEMR, UIS and the outcome of the Nairobi Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting meeting, which took place from December 17-19 2019. The UNESCO and Partners Pre-Event Meeting on the Status of Education in Africa will involve key partners such as AUC, UNICEF and UNHCR, and others involved in the business of education in Africa. It is proposed to stay with the theme of “Leaving No One Behind” focusing on Out-of-School Children (OOSC) from ECCE/ECD to Secondary School levels. OOSC will be disaggregated into the following categories:

1. Girls – Gender equality
2. Rural populations
3. Refugees/IDPs

This will allow partners to see themselves in the event and sustain their interest in supporting the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on SDG4 and CESA. Other relevant partners such as UNFPA, UN Women, World Bank and ILO, among others, will be encouraged to participate in the coalition of partners. UNESCO will address monitoring, evaluation and reporting with UIS/IIEP-Pole de Dakar focusing on data, key progress accelerators, indicators to monitor; UNICEF will focus on girls and UNHCR will address refugees and IDPs; and the AUC will focus on the status of implementation.

### **Key questions to attend to in this regard will include:**

What do we do about OOSC? How do we monitor, evaluate and report? What is the status of implementation of the CESA Education priority areas? What are the policy and implementation gaps to be addressed to realize CESA? How can we (partners) work with the AUC to distill and incorporate the result of their implementation?

In this regard, there will be three (3) breakout groups which will come up with 3-5 recommendations on what to do about OOSC, to accelerate progress towards attainment of SDG4 & CESA targets and more importantly, how to monitor and report on progress.

## 3. Objectives of the Pre-Event Meeting

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. Come up with plausible recommendations for acceleration of progress towards the achievement of SDG4 and CESA targets.
2. Building a coalition of partners for the development of an annual Africa Education Report (SDG4-CESA Monitoring Report).
3. Resource mobilization and financing possibilities targeting countries that are furthest behind.

#### **4. Expected results**

The expected outcomes of the meeting include the following:

1. A set of recommendations for the acceleration of progress towards the achievement of SDG4 and CESA targets.
2. A coalition of partners for the development of an annual Africa Education Report (SDG4-CESA Monitoring Report) established.
3. Commitment of partners to mobilize resources and financing to support countries furthest behind.

#### **4. Target Audience**

This Pre-meeting event targets partners working in the area of SDG4 and CESA, notably UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, IGAD and civil society organizations (CSO) working in close collaboration with the AUC/African Union.

#### **5. Date & Venue**

Monday, February 24, 2020 / PM session

Kalundu Room, Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe