TARGET 4.6

4.6.2 Youth/adult literacy rate



Concept

The literacy rate indicates the proportion of a given population that has a minimum basic level of reading and writing skills, crucial to achieving higher levels of literacy and numeracy as aspired to by target 4.6.



Definition

Percentage of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) and adults (aged 15 years and older) who have the ability to both read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement about everyday life.

The literacy rate as defined here is a binary indicator: persons are either literate (meaning they have at least a minimum of reading and writing skills) or illiterate. In fact, there is a continuum of literacy skills that is not captured by literacy rates, based on a division of the population into literate and illiterate persons. The binary literacy rate also conveys no information on functional literacy skills, i.e. the application of reading and writing in daily life.

Calculation method

Number of literate persons

Indicator =

Population of the same age group

The literacy rate is calculated by dividing the number of literate persons by the total number of persons in the same age group, excluding persons with unknown literacy status.



Interpretation

The literacy rate measures the ability to read and write a "simple statement about everyday life" and is therefore an indicator of the presence or lack of minimum literacy skills in a population. Literacy rates at or near 100% indicate that (nearly) every adult or youth is able to read and write, at least at a basic level.



Data sources

National data on literacy are typically collected through self or household declaration in household surveys or population censuses that rely on the "able to read and write a simple statement" definition of literacy, although the questions asked in surveys vary between countries.

7 http://dhsprogram.com/

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and <u>MICS⁸</u> have moved from self or household declaration to simple assessments in the form of a reading test, in which respondents are asked to read a simple sentence written in their language.

4.6.3 Participation rate of illiterate youth/adults in literacy programmes

Concept

As the global indicator focuses on youth and adult proficiency in literacy and numeracy, the emphasis of thematic indicator 4.6.3 is on participation in literacy programmes instead of literacy proficiency. The indicator provides a more dynamic measure of the country's efforts to improve the global indicator.



Definition

Number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) and adults (aged 15 years and older) participating in literacy programmes expressed as a percentage of the illiterate population of the same age.

+%

Calculation method

Number of persons participating in literacy programmes

Indicator =

Number of illiterate persons of the same age group

The indicator is calculated as the number of illiterate persons in the relevant age group participating in literacy programmes expressed as a percentage of the illiterate population of the same age.



Interpretation

🔆 A high value indicates...

a high degree of coverage of the illiterate population by the programmes designed to reach that specific group. The theoretical maximum value is 100%. Increasing trends can be considered as reflecting improved coverage by the literacy programmes of their target population.



Administrative or household data on participation in literacy programmes for the defined age groups, combined with illiterate population estimates for the same age groups. The UIS has already developed and implemented a methodology to collect and compare national data for this indicator with the UIS survey on literacy programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (UIS/LAC).

8 http://mics.unicef.org/

2. Thematic indicators