**Quality education**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

While most children are enrolled in primary education, fewer enroll at the secondary and tertiary levels.

Gross enrollment ratio, 2015 (%)

![Chart of enrollment ratios](chart)

Not all children attend school at the right age, and so gross enrollment rates can exceed 100 percent.

Gross primary enrollment ratio, 2015 (%)

![Chart of correct age for school year](chart)

Despite its importance, enrollment in pre-primary education is not universal.

Gross pre-primary enrollment ratio, most recent value in 2011–16 (%)

![Map of enrollment ratios](map)

Children with a pre-primary education have better attendance and achievement in primary school. (WDR 2018)

One in five children in low-income countries is enrolled in pre-primary education... …compared with one in three in lower-middle-income countries.

Over 75 percent of young children in upper-middle- and high-income countries attend pre-primary schools.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. World Development Indicators (SE.PRM.ENRR).
Education is an investment. All governments bear some responsibility for funding education; median spending on education worldwide is 5 percent of GDP.

Government spending on education, by country and regional median, most recent value in 2011–16 (% of GDP)

Many primary schools in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to basic facilities that support learning, and many children are taught by teachers without qualifications.

Primary schools with access to facilities, and trained teachers, most recent value in 2010–14 (%)

Large class sizes are common in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

Average number of pupils per teacher, 2015

Note: Excludes Micronesia which is an outlier. Middle East & North Africa median value is from 2008.
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. World Development Indicators (SE.XPD.TOTL.GD.ZS).

Note: Dataset limited to Sub-Saharan Africa. Only countries with data on all four dimensions shown.
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, EdStats, and World Development Indicators (UIS.AFR.SCHBSP.1.PU.WELEC; UIS.AFR.SCHBSP.1.PU.WSTOIL; UIS.AFR.SCHBSP.1.PU.WPOWAT; SE.PRM.TCAQ.ZS).

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. World Development Indicators (SE.PRM.ENRL.TC.ZS; SE.SEC.ENRL.LO.TC.ZS; SE.SEC.ENRL.UP.TC.ZS).
Gender gaps in early education completion have closed, except in low-income countries, where completion rates are about 5 percentage points higher for boys.

Completion rate (% of relevant age group)

The relative share of male and female students enrolled in education varies substantially between countries, especially at the tertiary level.

Gender parity index (GPI) in gross school enrollment, by country, 2015

Tunisia’s gross tertiary enrollment rate is 43 percent for women, but only 26 percent for men. Dividing the two figures gives the GPI of 1.65.

Note: Qatar’s tertiary GPI of 6.95 is excluded as an outlier because of the large share of men in the general population.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. WDI (SE.PRM.CMPT.MA.ZS; SE.PRM.CMPT.FE.ZS; SE.SEC.CMPT.LO.MA.ZS; SE.SEC.CMPT.LO.FE.ZS).

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. World Development Indicators (SE.ENR.PRIM.FM.ZS; SE.ENR.SECO.FM.ZS; SE.ENR.TERT.FM.ZS).
Girls enrolled in school are less likely to become pregnant as teenagers. Between 1990 and 2014 every region saw an increase in the share of girls enrolled in secondary school and a decline in adolescent fertility rates.

Adolescent fertility rate, by country (births per 1,000 women ages 15–19)

While higher rates of school enrollment are correlated with lower fertility rates, other factors such as access to contraception and lower child mortality also play a role.

Adolescent fertility rate, by region, 1990–2014 (births per 1,000 women ages 15–19)

Source: UN Population Division and UNESCO Institute for Statistics. World Development Indicators (SE.SEC.ENRR.FE; SP.ADO.TFRT).