ADULT AND YOUTH LITERACY
National, regional and global trends, 1985-2015
UNESCO

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UNESCO Institute for Statistics

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The UIS was established in 1999. It was created to improve UNESCO's statistical programme and to develop and deliver the timely, accurate and policy-relevant statistics needed in today's increasingly complex and rapidly changing social, political and economic environments.

The UIS is based in Montreal, Canada.
Abstract

This document presents data by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on adult and youth literacy in 151 countries and territories from eight regions: Arab States, Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Western Europe, South and West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. The document summarises the most recent literacy rates and estimates of the illiterate population, and presents historical trends since 1985 and prospects for 2015. For 18 countries, data based on an assessment of reading skills are provided. The analysis is accompanied by a description of UIS methodology in the field of literacy statistics, including the definition of literacy, data sources and calculation methods. A statistical annex contains six tables and 151 figures with literacy data.

Keywords: literacy, disparity, Education for All (EFA), trend data, projections

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1. Introduction

This document presents data on adult and youth literacy for 151 countries and territories from eight regions:

- **Arab States**: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
- **Central Asia**: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
- **Central and Eastern Europe**: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.
- **East Asia and the Pacific**: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China; China, Macao Special Administrative Region; Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- **North America and Western Europe**: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain.
- **South and West Asia**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

These data are available in the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) Data Centre ([http://stat.uis.unesco.org](http://stat.uis.unesco.org)). The analysis in this document focuses on literacy rates and the illiterate population at regional and global levels. National data are provided in the annex but are not analysed in detail for each country. The regional classifications are those used for monitoring of the Education for All (EFA) goals.

Section 2 summarises the latest available data on adult literacy, historical trends for the period since 1985, and prospects for 2015. Section 3 summarises data on youth literacy. Section 4 contains a description of UIS methodology in the field of literacy statistics. Statistical tables on adult and youth literacy are presented in Annex I. Annex II contains figures with national trends in adult and youth literacy from 1985 to 2015.

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1 Literacy rates and estimates of the illiterate population are also available in the UIS Data Centre at [http://stats.uis.unesco.org](http://stats.uis.unesco.org).
2. Adult literacy

2.1 Adult literacy in 2011

The most recent literacy rates in the UIS database refer to the year 2011.\(^2\) Regional averages of the adult literacy rate can be calculated for all Education for All (EFA) regions, except North America and Western Europe due to the limited number of countries in the region that report literacy rates.

In 2011, the global adult literacy rate for the population aged 15 years and older was 84\% (see Statistical Table 1 and Figure 1). Two regions, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, were at or near universal literacy, with adult literacy rates of 99\% and 100\%, respectively. North America and Western Europe is also assumed to be near universal adult literacy. In East Asia and the Pacific (adult literacy rate of 95\%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (92\%) at least nine out of ten adults were able to read and write. However, the average for Latin America and the Caribbean conceals lower literacy rates in the Caribbean, where the adult literacy rate was only 69\% in 2011. Adult literacy rates were also below the global average in South and West Asia (63\%) and sub-Saharan Africa (59\%), where more than one-third of adults could not read and write.

Figure 1. Adult literacy rate by region and sex, 2011

Note: 2011 data refer to the period 2005-2011.

An examination of gender-disaggregated data reveals that in all regions with data, except Central Asia, female literacy rates were lower than male literacy rates. The gap was especially large in the Arab States (male rate of 85\% vs. female rate of 68\%), South and West Asia (male

\(^2\) Literacy data are not collected annually and the UIS therefore reports regional and global data in reference to census decades. For ease of reading, this document refers to data for the 1985-1994 census decade as data for 1990, 1995-2004 data are reported as data for 2000, and the most recent data, for the 2005-2014 census decade, are reported as data for 2011.
rate of 74% vs. female rate of 52%), and sub-Saharan Africa (male rate of 68% vs. female rate of 51%). Globally, 89% of men and 80% of women were able to read and write in 2011.

The gap between men and women is reflected in the gender parity index (GPI), the ratio of female to male literacy rates (see Statistical Table 1 and Figure 2). In South and West Asia, the GPI was 0.70, in sub-Saharan Africa it was 0.74, and in the Arab States it was 0.81 in 2011. Three regions – Central and Eastern Europe (GPI of 0.99), Central Asia (GPI of 1.00), and Latin America and the Caribbean (GPI of 0.99) – had reached gender parity. East Asia and the Pacific was close to gender parity with a GPI of 0.95. At the global level, the GPI was 0.90.

Figure 2. Gender parity index (GPI) of the adult literacy rate by region, 2011

Note: 2011 data refer to the period 2005-2011.

In absolute numbers, 774 million adults lacked basic literacy skills in 2011 (see Statistical Table 2). Three-quarters of the global illiterate population lived in only two regions: South and West Asia, with 407 million or more than one-half of all illiterate adults worldwide, and sub-Saharan Africa, with 182 million illiterate adults, nearly one-quarter of the global total. In the other regions with data, the adult illiterate population was as follows: East Asia and the Pacific (89 million), Arab States (48 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (36 million), Central and Eastern Europe (5 million), and Central Asia (0.3 million).

493 million or two-thirds of the global illiterate population were women (see Statistical Table 2). The female share of the illiterate population was greatest in Central and Eastern Europe (78%), East Asia and the Pacific (71%), the Arab States (66%), and South and West Asia (64%). In other regions, the female share of the regional illiterate population was below the global average: Central Asia (63%), sub-Saharan Africa (61%), and Latin America and the Caribbean (55%). It should be noted that the absolute number of illiterate women in Central Asia and in

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3 The gender parity index (GPI) is calculated by dividing the female literacy rate by the male literacy rate. A GPI of 0.5 indicates that the female literacy rate is one-half of the male literacy rate. A GPI of 1 indicates that the female and male literacy rates are equal. A GPI between 0.97 and 1.03 is generally considered gender parity.
Central and Eastern Europe is relatively small because these two regions have the smallest illiterate populations of all regions.

Turning to national data (see Statistical Table 5), the latest UIS statistics show that in 11 countries only 50% or less of all adults had basic literacy skills in 2011 or the latest year with data: Guinea (25%); Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger (29%); Mali (33%); Chad (35%); Ethiopia (39%); Liberia and Sierra Leone (43%); Haiti (49%); and Senegal (50%). With the exception of Haiti, all countries in this group are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Of 149 countries with data, 68 had reached gender parity in adult literacy by 2011, indicated by a GPI between 0.97 and 1.03. In 77 countries, there was gender disparity against women, indicated by GPI below 0.97. In 4 of these 77 countries, the female adult literacy rate was less than one-half of the male adult literacy rate: Guinea (male rate of 37% vs. female rate of 12%, with a GPI of 0.33), Niger (male rate of 43% vs. female rate of 15%, with a GPI of 0.35), Liberia (male rate of 61% vs. female rate of 27%, with a GPI of 0.44), and Benin (male rate of 41% vs. female rate of 18%, with a GPI of 0.45). In 4 countries, there was gender disparity against men: Namibia (male rate of 74% vs. female rate of 78%, with a GPI of 1.05), Guyana (male rate of 82% vs. female rate of 87%, with a GPI of 1.06), Jamaica (male rate of 82% vs. female rate of 92%, with a GPI of 1.12), and Lesotho (male rate of 66% vs. female rate of 85%, with a GPI of 1.30).

In 10 countries, the number of illiterate adults exceeded 10 million in the latest available year with data: India (287 million), China (52 million), Pakistan (50 million), Bangladesh (44 million), Nigeria (42 million), Ethiopia (27 million), Egypt (15 million), Brazil (14 million), Indonesia (13 million), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12 million). These countries alone were home to 556 million or more than two-thirds of the 774 million illiterate adults worldwide.

2.2 Historical trends in adult literacy and prospects for 2015

In spite of persistent illiteracy, adult literacy rates have increased in all regions over the past two decades (see Statistical Table 1 and Figure 3). Globally, the adult literacy rate was 76% in 1990, 82% in 2000 and 84% in 2011. In individual EFA regions, the adult literacy rate evolved as follows:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and West Asia</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2002, the United Nations proclaimed the UN Literacy Decade for the years 2003 to 2012 (UN General Assembly, 2002a, 2002b). Regional literacy data indicate that progress between 1990 and 2000 was generally stronger than since 2000. It is therefore not possible to state unambiguously that the UN Literacy Decade had a positive impact on literacy skills among the adult population.
In three regions – Arab States, South and West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa – approximately one-half of all adults were illiterate in 1990. Since then, progress in these three regions has varied. In the Arab States, the adult literacy rate increased by 22% between 1990 and 2011. In South and West Asia, the adult literacy rate increased by 16% over the same period. In sub-Saharan Africa, progress was much more modest, with an increase in the adult literacy rate of only 6%. East Asia and the Pacific is approaching universal adult literacy, and Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia were already near universal literacy in 1990. No regionally representative data are available for North America and Western Europe.

Figure 3. Adult literacy rate of the total population by region, 1990-2015


The EFA goals, adopted at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000, call for a “50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015”. For monitoring, this goal is typically interpreted to mean a reduction of the adult illiteracy rate by 50% between 2000 and 2015 (UNESCO, 2005). EFA goals were set for countries – not regions, but for the analysis in this report, target values were also calculated at the regional and global levels. At the global level, for example, halving adult illiteracy between 2000 and 2015 implies a target adult literacy rate of 91% for the year 2015.

Adult literacy rates are projected to increase in almost all regions between 2011 and 2015 (see Statistical Table 1 and Figure 3). The exception is Central and Eastern Europe, where projections indicate a small drop in adult literacy by one-half of a percentage point. The global adult literacy rate is projected to reach 86% in 2015, meaning that the target literacy rate would be missed by 5%. As Figure 3 shows, sub-Saharan Africa is projected to be furthest from the 2015 target, with an estimated adult literacy rate of 64%, 15% below the target of 79%. South and West Asia is projected to reach an adult literacy rate of 70% in 2015, 9% below the target for 2015. Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific are projected to reach or come within one percentage point of the 2015 target.

See Section 4 for details on the calculation of target values for 2015, as well as on the UIS methodology for projection of literacy rates in 2015.
Figure 4. Adult literacy rate of the male population by region, 1990-2015

Notes: Countries are sorted by the projected literacy rate of the male adult population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994; 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004; 2011 data refer to the period 2005-2011.

Figure 5. Adult literacy rate of the female population by region, 1990-2015


Historical trends and projections of male and female adult literacy rates are shown in Statistical Table 1 and Figures 4 and 5. In regions that are making progress, it is often due to substantial improvements in literacy among women, who were typically at lower levels of literacy than men one or two decades ago. This is especially true in the Arab States, where the female and male
adult literacy rates grew by 27% and 17%, respectively, between 1990 and 2011, and in East Asia and the Pacific, where the female adult literacy rate grew by 18% between 1990 and 2011, compared to an increase of 8% in the male adult literacy rate over the same period.

The relative levels of male and female literacy are reflected in the GPI. There is no stated EFA goal of gender parity in adult literacy. However, gender parity would be reached with a GPI in the range 0.97 to 1.03. In spite of progress among women in all regions, only three regions are projected to be at gender parity in 2015 – Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean – and all three had already reached parity in 2011 (see Statistical Table 1 and Figure 6). In all other regions, gender disparity remains a concern. Globally, the GPI of the adult literacy rate is projected to be at 0.91 in 2015.

Figure 6. Gender parity index (GPI) of the adult literacy rate by region, 1990-2015


Between 1990 and 2011, the adult illiterate population fell in all regions except in South and West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (see Statistical Table 2). In these two regions, improvements in the adult literacy rate were not sufficient to keep pace with population growth. The biggest decrease in the illiterate population was observed in East Asia and the Pacific, where the number of illiterate adults fell from 232 million in 1990 to 142 million in 2011. By contrast, sub-Saharan Africa saw an increase in the number of illiterate adults from 133 million in 1990 to 182 million in 2011. Globally, the illiterate population fell from 881 million in 1990 to 774 million in 2011. By 2015, the global adult illiterate population is projected to fall by a further 31 million. Nevertheless, 743 million adults are still expected to lack basic literacy skills in 2015, mainly in South and West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

For 151 countries and territories, national trends in adult literacy between 1985 (the start of the 1985-1994 census decade) and 2015 are shown in Statistical Table 6 and in the figures in Annex II. 142 countries had at least two observations between 1985 and 2011. Of these 142 countries, 12 experienced a drop in adult literacy rates: Albania, Aruba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zambia. For 1 country, Antigua and Barbuda, the adult literacy rate
remained unchanged. In the remaining 129 countries, adult literacy rates increased between the earliest and latest years with data. Overall, countries that started at a lower level of literacy typically made more progress over the past two decades than countries that were already at a relatively high level of literacy 10 or 20 years ago.

136 countries have at least two observations in the years between 2000 and 2011, the period that roughly coincides with the UN Literacy Decade (2003-2012). In 17 of these 136 countries, the adult literacy rates fell over the period of observation: Albania, Aruba, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In 2 countries, Antigua and Barbuda and Seychelles, the literacy rates were unchanged, and in the remaining 117 countries, the adult literacy rate increased between 2000 and 2011.

For some countries, the observed drop in adult literacy can be attributed to improvements in measurement. The most recent literacy rates for Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia were derived from a reading test that was administered as part of a nationally representative Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). A reading test, in which respondents are asked to read a sentence from a card, typically yields lower literacy rates than self- or household declarations that are used in most surveys and censuses to collect data on literacy. Section 4 provides more information on the reading test used in DHS surveys. In Statistical Tables 5 and 6, countries with literacy rates derived from a reading test are marked with a superscript “a” next to the country name.

The UIS estimated whether 119 countries and territories could reach the EFA goal on adult literacy by 2015 (see the table below and the figures in Annex II). 19 of the 119 countries have already reached or exceeded the goal of a 50% reduction of the adult illiteracy rate between 2000 and 2015. 17 more countries are projected to reach the goal by 2015. 54 countries are projected to be within 5 percentage points of the target adult literacy rate in 2015. Lastly, 29 countries are projected to be more than 5 percentage points from the target literacy rate in 2015, including 4 countries that are estimated to be at least 20% below the target: Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea and Mali.

The following 15 countries are excluded from the analysis of progress towards the 2015 goal because the projected literacy rates in 2015 are based on assessment data and therefore not fully comparable to the reported literacy rates in the 2000 census decade: Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. For 17 countries with literacy rates in the UIS database, no starting value in 2000 (and thus no target literacy rate) or no projection for 2015 were available to assess progress towards EFA goal 4: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bhutan, Cayman Islands, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Guyana, Lebanon, Montenegro, Netherlands Antilles, Paraguay, Portugal, Serbia, Seychelles, Spain, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

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5 For more information on DHS surveys, refer to the official DHS website at [www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com)
Countries by progress towards EFA goal 4 (50% reduction of the adult illiteracy rate between 2000 and 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries that reached the goal by 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Burundi, Chile; China, Macao Special Administrative Region; Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Maldives, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries that are likely to reach the goal by 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, China, Croatia, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Malta, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Suriname.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries that are likely to be within 5 percentage points of the target adult literacy rate in 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Oman, Panama, Peru, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries that are likely to be more than 5 percentage points below the target adult literacy rate in 2015</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Yemen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Youth literacy

3.1 Youth literacy in 2011

Youth literacy rates for the population aged 15 to 24 years were higher than adult literacy rates in all regions in 2011, reflecting increased access to primary and secondary education among younger generations (see Statistical Table 3 and Figure 7). The biggest differences between adult and youth literacy exist in South and West Asia (adult literacy rate of 63% vs. youth literacy rate of 81%), the Arab States (adult rate of 77% vs. youth rate of 90%), and sub-Saharan Africa (adult rate of 59% vs. youth rate of 70%). Youth literacy rates were highest in Central Asia (100%), Central and Eastern Europe (99%), East Asia and the Pacific (99%), and Latin America and the Caribbean (97%). As with the adult literacy rate, the average for Latin America and the Caribbean conceals a significantly lower youth literacy rate in the Caribbean sub-region, which was 82% in 2011. The global youth literacy rate was 90%, compared to an adult literacy rate of 84%.

Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean had gender parity in 2011, with nearly identical male and female youth literacy rates and GPI values between 0.98 and 1.01 (see Statistical Table 1 and Figures 7 and 8). In three regions, there was a larger gap between male and female youth literacy rates: Arab States (male rate of 93% vs. female rate of 87% and GPI of 0.93), South and West Asia (male rate of 87% vs. female rate of 75% and GPI of 0.86), and sub-Saharan Africa (male rate of 76% vs. female rate of 64% and GPI of 0.84). The global youth literacy rate was 92% for young men and 87% for young women, with a GPI of 0.94.

Figure 7. Youth literacy rate by region and sex, 2011

Note: 2011 data refer to the period 2005-2011.
In spite of relatively high youth literacy rates, 123 million young men and women lacked basic literacy skills in 2011 (see Statistical Table 4). Nearly 9 out of 10 illiterate youths were concentrated in two regions: South and West Asia (62 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (48 million). In other regions, the numbers of illiterate youths were much smaller: Arab States (6 million), East Asia and the Pacific (4 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (3 million), Central and Eastern Europe (0.4 million), and Central Asia (0.05 million).

Adult illiteracy is a problem that affects more women than men in all EFA regions (see Statistical Table 2). For youth illiteracy, there is no such clear pattern. Globally, 61% of illiterate youths were female. Young women account for the majority of the youth illiterate population in the Arab States (65%), Central and Eastern Europe (59%), South and West Asia (64%), and sub-Saharan Africa (60%). On the other hand, the female proportion of the illiterate population was less than one-half in Central Asia (32%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (45%). In East Asia and the Pacific, about one-half of illiterate youths were female (51%).

The most recent national data on youth literacy are listed in Statistical Table 5. The UIS database contains youth literacy rates for 148 countries and territories for 2011 or the latest year with data since 2005. The 18 countries with the lowest youth literacy rates are all located in sub-Saharan Africa. Less than one-half of the population between 15 and 24 years were literate in Guinea (31%), Niger (37%), Burkina Faso (39%), Benin (42%), Mali (47%), Chad (48%) and Liberia (49%). In 93 of the 148 countries with data, the youth literacy rate was at least 95%. In 58 countries, the youth literacy rate had reached at least 99%.

In all but five countries, the youth literacy rate was greater than the adult literacy rate, which means that adult literacy rates will increase as older cohorts are replaced by younger and more literate cohorts in the future. The largest differences between youth and adult literacy rates (greater than 20 percentage points) were observed in Nepal (adult literacy rate of 57% vs. youth literacy rate of 82%), Haiti (adult rate of 49% vs. youth rate of 72%), Bhutan (adult rate of 53% vs. youth rate of 74%), Timor-Leste (adult rate of 58% vs. youth rate of 80%), Eritrea (adult rate
of 69% vs. youth rate of 90%), Yemen (adult rate of 65% vs. youth rate of 86%) and Bangladesh (adult rate of 58% vs. youth rate of 79%). In countries where the adult literacy rate was greater than the youth literacy rate – Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Mongolia and Romania – the difference was less than 2 percentage points and all are near universal adult and youth literacy.

100 of the 148 countries and territories with data had reached gender parity in youth literacy by 2011 (indicated by a GPI between 0.97 and 1.03), compared to 68 of 149 countries that had reached gender parity in adult literacy (see Section 2.1). In 40 countries, young women were less likely to be able to read and write than young men (see Statistical Table 5). The biggest disparities were observed in 12 countries in sub-Saharan Africa with GPI values ranging from 0.44 to 0.77: Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Of the 40 countries with gender disparities to the disadvantage of women, 27 were located in sub-Saharan Africa, 6 in the Arab States, 4 in South and West Asia, 2 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 1 in East Asia and the Pacific. In 8 countries, young men were less likely to be literate than young women, as indicated by GPI values greater than 1.03: Bangladesh, Botswana, Jamaica, Lesotho, Namibia, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2011, the number of illiterate youths exceeded 1 million in 21 countries. Of these 21 countries, 7 had an illiterate youth population greater than 2 million: India (41 million), Pakistan (11 million), Nigeria (10 million), Ethiopia (7 million), Bangladesh (6 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4 million), and the United Republic of Tanzania (2 million). These 7 countries combined were home to 82 million of the 123 million young men and women worldwide who lacked basic literacy skills.

The female share of the youth illiterate population ranged from 8% in Uzbekistan to 86% in Yemen (see Statistical Table 5). In 129 of 147 countries with data, the female share of illiterate youths was smaller than the female share of illiterate adults.

### 3.2 Historical trends in youth literacy and prospects for 2015

Similar to adult literacy rates, youth literacy rates have been on the increase over the past two decades (see Statistical Table 3 and Figure 9). The global youth literacy rate was 83% in 1990, 87% in 2000 and 90% in 2011. Across EFA regions, the youth literacy rate evolved as follows:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and West Asia</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
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As noted in Sections 2 and 4, the UIS calculates regional averages per census decade. The years 1990 and 2000 are used as shorthand references to the census decades 1985-1994 and 1995-2004. The most recent data from the current census decade, 2005-2014, are presented as data for 2011.
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia were already at or near universal literacy in 1990. Youth literacy rates in East Asia and the Pacific rose from 95% in 1990 to 99% in 2011, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 93% to 97% over the same period. The three regions with the lowest youth literacy rates in 1990 followed different trends over the following two decades. In South and West Asia, the youth literacy rate increased by 21% between 1990 and 2011. In the Arab States, the youth literacy rate increased by 16% between 1990 and 2011. Sub-Saharan Africa, which had a higher youth literacy rate than South and West Asia in 1990, has not managed to keep up; in this region, the youth literacy rate grew by only 4%, from 66% in 1990 to 70% in 2011. No regionally representative data on youth literacy are available for North America and Western Europe.

Youth literacy rates are projected to increase further between 2011 and 2015, although there is not much room for improvement in the regions that are already near universal youth literacy: Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. For other regions, the projected youth literacy rates in 2015 are as follows: Arab States (91%), South and West Asia (88%), and sub-Saharan Africa (74%). The global youth literacy rate is projected to be 92% in 2015.

Historical trends and projections of male and female youth literacy rates are shown in Statistical Table 3 and Figures 10 and 11. A comparison of the trends in Figures 10 and 11 makes clear that the female youth literacy rate often increased by a larger margin than the male youth literacy rate over the past two decades. This is especially true in the Arab States and in South and West Asia. In the Arab States, the female youth literacy rate grew by 22% between 1990 and 2011 and the male youth literacy rate by 10%. In South and West Asia, the female and male youth literacy rates grew by 26% and 17%, respectively. In Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia and the Pacific, and sub-Saharan Africa, the increase in the female youth literacy rate was also greater than the increase in the male youth literacy rate, but by a relatively small
margin between 1 and 4 percentage points. At the global level, the male youth literacy rate grew by 5% between 1990 and 2011 and the female youth literacy rate by 8%.

**Figure 10. Youth literacy rate of the male population by region, 1990-2015**

![Graph showing literacy rates by region for male youth population, 1990-2015.](image)

**Notes:** Countries are sorted by the projected literacy rate of the male youth population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994; 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004; 2011 data refer to the period 2005-2011.


**Figure 11. Youth literacy rate of the female population by region, 1990-2015**

![Graph showing literacy rates by region for female youth population, 1990-2015.](image)

**Notes:** Countries are sorted by the projected literacy rate of female youth population in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994; 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004; 2011 data refer to the period 2005-2011.

Historical trends and projections of the GPI of the youth literacy rate are shown in Statistical Table 3 and Figure 12. Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean already had gender parity in 1990. East Asia and the Pacific started out at a level of moderate gender disparity in 1990 (with a GPI of 0.96) but has reached a GPI of 1.00. The Arab States and South and West Asia have made great strides towards gender parity and are projected to reach a GPI of 0.95 by 2015. There has also been progress in sub-Saharan Africa, but young women continue to be more likely to be illiterate than young men. Nonetheless, the GPI of the youth literacy rate in this region is projected to reach 0.90 by 2015. The world as a whole is projected to reach gender parity by 2015, with a GPI of 0.97, up from 0.90 in 1990 and 0.94 in 2011.

Figure 12. Gender parity index (GPI) of the youth literacy rate by region, 1990-2015


The number of illiterate youths fell between 1990 and 2011 in five of seven EFA regions with data (see Statistical Table 4). The youth illiterate population fell by 34 million in South and West Asia, 16 million in East Asia and the Pacific, 4 million in the Arab States, 3 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 0.6 million in Central and Eastern Europe. By contrast, the illiterate population of sub-Saharan Africa grew by 13 million between 1990 and 2011, which means that the increase in the youth literacy rate over this period has not kept pace with population growth. For Central Asia, UIS data show a negligible increase in the youth illiterate population. Globally, the youth illiterate population fell from 168 million in 1990 to 123 million in 2011, and it is projected to fall to 98 million by 2015.

For 150 countries and territories, national trends in youth literacy between 1985 (the start of the 1985-1994 census decade) and 2015 are shown in Statistical Table 6 and in the figures in Annex II. 140 countries had at least two observations between 1985 and 2011. Of these 140 countries, 27 experienced a drop in the youth literacy rate; for 16 of these countries the decrease was at least 3 percentage points: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. On the other hand, 60 countries saw an increase in the youth literacy
rate by at least 3 percentage points between 1985 and 2011. The greatest increases were observed in Burundi (35%), Bangladesh (34%), Nepal (33%), Chad (31%), Senegal (27%) and Egypt and Yemen (26%).

134 countries have at least two observations in the years between 2000 and 2011. In 32 of these 134 countries, the youth literacy rate fell over the period of observation; in 13 of these countries, the youth literacy rate fell by at least 3 percentage points: Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In 38 countries, the youth literacy rate increased by at least 3 percentage points between 2000 and the latest year with data available.

As mentioned in Section 2.2 in relation to the adult literacy rate, for some countries the fall in the youth literacy rate in the most recent decade can be explained by improvements in measurement due to the application of a reading test instead of self- or household declarations. The countries for which the most recent literacy rates are based on a reading test include: Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. These countries are clearly marked in Statistical Tables 5 and 6. For more information on the reading test, refer to Section 4.

Unlike the EFA goal to halve adult illiteracy rates by 2015, there is no EFA goal for youth literacy. Nonetheless, the UIS has generated projections of youth literacy rates in 2015 for 146 countries and territories. 82 countries are expected to be close to universal youth literacy, with projected literacy rates between 98% and 100% (see Statistical Table 6 and the figures in Annex II). In 23 other countries, at least nine out of ten youths are expected to be literate by 2015. At the same time, in 9 countries, fewer than two out of three youths are projected to be able to read and write by 2015: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Zambia.
4. Methodology

Literacy is traditionally defined as the ability to read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement about one’s everyday life (UN, 2008). Questions in population censuses and sample surveys typically rely on this definition of literacy, although there is some variation in the questionnaires. Conventional literacy statistics that divide the population into two groups based on this definition – one that is literate and one that is illiterate – are widely available and useful for the tracking of global progress towards universal literacy.

Through its annual literacy survey, the UIS collects data on literacy that match the UN (2008) definition. Country respondents report the literate and illiterate populations by age, sex and – where available – location (urban or rural). In addition, the UIS extracts data on literacy from nationally representative household surveys, including the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). Detailed information on data sources and the definition of literacy used in each source is available in the UIS Data Centre.

Because censuses and surveys are not carried out annually, and because literacy rates change more slowly over time than indicators like school enrolment rates, the UIS reports literacy statistics per census decade. The current census decade covers the years 2005 to 2014. The two previous census decades were 1995 to 2004 and 1985 to 1994. Within each decade, the most recent available literacy rate for a country is used for the reporting of national data and the calculation of regional averages. For ease of reading, the present document refers to data for the current census decade as data for 2011. Data from 1995 to 2004 are reported as data for 2000, and data from 1985 to 1994 are reported as data for 1990. Statistical Tables 5 and 6 and the figures in Annex II indicate the exact years in which literacy data were collected in each country.

Regional averages are only published if publishable data at the national level are available for at least 33% of the combined population of a region or country group. In the case of the youth literacy rate, publishable data must be available for at least 33% of the regional population aged 15 to 24 years. In the case of the adult literacy rate, publishable data must be available for at least 33% of the regional population aged 15 years and older. In Statistical Tables 1 to 4 in Annex I, regional values are missing for three country groups due to a lack of data: Pacific, North America and Western Europe, and developed countries.

Target values for the EFA goal of reducing the adult illiteracy rate by 50% between 2000 and 2015 were calculated by the UIS for this report, because there is no set of official target values for this indicator. To identify the target values for each country, the UIS takes the latest literacy rate reported in the 2000 census decade and adds half of the difference between 100% and the literacy rate in 2000. For example, if the adult literacy rate in a country was 60% in 2000, the target is set at 60% + (100% - 60%) / 2 = 80%. Ideally, the target value should be set in reference to the adult literacy rate in the year 2000, but in some cases literacy rates from years before or after 2000 were used to calculate the target values. Given that the adult literacy rate is a slow-moving indicator, the deviation from the exact target value (based on the unknown adult literacy rate in 2000) can be assumed to be small in such cases.

8 Go to http://stats.uis.unesco.org, click on "Predefined Tables", click on "Literacy and Educational Attainment", and download the file “General metadata on national literacy data".
Projected literacy rates in 2015 are calculated by the UIS with its Global Age-Specific Literacy Projections (GALP) model (Lutz and Scherbov, 2006). In GALP, regression analysis is applied to age-disaggregated literacy data, in combination with demographic data by the UN Population Division (UN Population Division, 2011), to determine the likely evolution of literacy rates based on past trends. The literacy rate is a relatively stable indicator that covers large segments of a country’s population: 15- to 24-year-olds in the case of the youth literacy rate and persons aged 15 years and older in the case of the adult literacy rate. For this reason, GALP projections are highly reliable, especially if the period of projection extends only a few years into the future.

To calculate the illiterate population, the UIS applies the literacy rates in its database to population estimates by the UN Population Division (2011). The estimates of the illiterate population and the female share of illiterate youths and adults correspond to the year in which literacy data were collected. In the case of projections, GALP estimates of the literacy rate for a given year are applied to population estimates for that year to arrive at estimates of the illiterate population. If the adult or youth illiterate population of a country is estimated to number less than 100, it is reported as “nil or negligible” in Statistical Tables 5 and 6.

Recent innovations have tried to address certain weaknesses in the current collection of literacy data. The first such weakness is linked to the fact that the ability to read and write is most often self-reported by survey respondents. The second weakness is linked to the dichotomous nature of traditional literacy statistics, which divide populations into two parts: one that is literate and one that is illiterate.

Reporting of literacy skills by survey respondents for themselves and other members of a household may lead to an overestimation of literacy rates. To obtain more accurate information on literacy skills, some surveys – including recent DHS and MICS surveys – have begun to apply a simple reading test (ICF International, 2012; UNICEF, 2006). A sample of all household members, usually women aged 15 to 49 years and men aged 15 to 59 years, are asked to read a card with a short, simple sentence in their language. The test is only administered to respondents who did not attend secondary or higher education, because the latter are assumed to be literate. Example sentences used in MICS surveys include: “The child is reading a book” and “The rains came late this year”.

The result of the reading test is recorded as one of three outcomes: i) cannot read at all; ii) able to read only parts of the sentence; or iii) able to read the whole sentence. A comparison of data collected with both methods (self-reporting and reading test) shows that the number of persons who can read a simple sentence is usually lower than the number of persons who claim to be able to read and write. In UIS statistics based on such reading tests, only persons who can read an entire sentence are counted as literate. Respondents who cannot read or who can read only parts of a sentence are considered illiterate. To calculate adult literacy rates for the population aged 15 years and older, the literacy rates of age groups without literacy data (for example, women aged 50 years and older and men aged 60 years and older) are imputed through regression analysis.

In this report, some literacy rates for Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were derived from a DHS reading test. A reading test is a more precise measure of an individual’s literacy skills and typically yields lower literacy rates than the self- or household declarations used in most censuses and surveys, which explains the observed drop in literacy rates for some years in countries like Benin (see Figure 25), Kenya (see Figure 81), Liberia (see Figure 88), Namibia
(see Figure 105), Sao Tome and Principe (see Figure 127), or Zambia (see Figure 162). Adult and youth literacy rates based on a reading test are marked in Statistical Tables 5 and 6 with a superscript “a” next to the country name. These literacy rates are also distinguished from literacy rates based on self- or household declarations in the figures with national trend data in Annex II. Care should be taken when analysing trends over time and in interpreting the results.

Another development in recent years is an increased emphasis on functional literacy and a view of literacy as a continuum of skills that cannot be fully captured with traditional dichotomous measures of literacy. For this reason, the UIS has developed the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) (UIS, 2009). LAMP allows countries to assess the full spectrum of their populations’ literacy skills through a standardised assessment of reading and numeracy. The first international report by LAMP with results from four countries – Jordan, Mongolia, Palestine and Paraguay – is expected to be released in 2013 (UIS, 2011).
5. References


Annex I. Statistical tables

Table 1. Adult (aged 15+ years) literacy rate (%) and gender parity index by region, 1990-2015

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Table 2. Adult (aged 15+ years) illiterate population (000) and female percentage of illiterate population by region, 1990-2015

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Table 4. Youth (aged 15-24 years) illiterate population (000) and female percentage of illiterate population by region, 1990-2015

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Table 5. Adult and youth literacy by country, 2011 or latest available year

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North America and Western Europe

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| Belgium                       |      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Canada                        |      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cyprus                        | 2011 | 98.7 | 99.3 | 98.1 | 0.99 | 12 | 71.8 | 99.8 | 99.8 | 99.8 | 1.00 | 0.3 | 42.5 | ... | ... |
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**Notes:** … No data available. - Magnitude nil or negligible. . Not applicable. * UIS estimation. ** Data based on reading test in a national household survey. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013. All data are for the latest year with data in the current census decade (2005-2014). Additional information on national data sources is available in the UIS Data Centre at http://stats.uis.unesco.org (click on “Predefined Tables”, “Literacy and Educational Attainment”, “General metadata on national literacy data”).
Table 6. Adult and youth literacy by country, 1985-2015

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Table 6 (cont.)

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| | MF | F | GPI | MF (000) | % F | MF | F | GPI | MF (000) | % F |
| El Salvador | 2006 | 83.6 | 86.7 | 81.0 | 0.93 | 649 | 62.7 | 95.0 | 94.4 | 95.5 | 1.01 | 63 | 45.1 |
| El Salvador | 2007 | 82.0 | 84.9 | 79.7 | 0.94 | 722 | 61.3 | 93.6 | 93.2 | 93.9 | 1.01 | 82 | 47.7 |
| El Salvador | 2008 | 84.0 | 87.1 | 81.4 | 0.93 | 654 | 62.9 | 96.0 | 95.4 | 96.5 | 1.01 | 52 | 43.6 |
| El Salvador | 2009 | 84.1 | 86.8 | 81.8 | 0.94 | 658 | 62.0 | 95.0 | 94.7 | 95.3 | 1.01 | 66 | 47.1 |
| El Salvador | 2010 | 84.5 | 87.1 | 82.3 | 0.94 | 653 | 61.8 | 96.0 | 95.7 | 96.4 | 1.01 | 53 | 45.6 |
| El Salvador | 2015 | 87.6 | 88.8 | 85.7 | 0.95 | 565 | 62.3 | 97.4 | 97.1 | 97.8 | 1.01 | 36 | 42.6 |
| Grenada | 2005 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,921 | 61.0 | 76.0 | 81.7 | 70.7 | 0.87 | 46 | 62.0 |
| Guatemala | 2002 | 69.1 | 75.4 | 63.3 | 0.84 | 2,055 | 62.1 | 82.2 | 86.4 | 78.4 | 0.91 | 422 | 63.2 |
| Guatemala* | 2011 | 75.9 | 81.2 | 71.1 | 0.88 | 2,090 | 63.1 | 87.4 | 89.3 | 85.6 | 0.96 | 377 | 58.0 |
| Guatemala* | 2015 | 78.4 | 83.2 | 74.1 | 0.89 | 2,127 | 63.0 | 89.2 | 90.5 | 87.9 | 0.97 | 361 | 56.0 |
| Guyana* | 2009 | 85.0 | 82.4 | 87.3 | 1.06 | 75 | 42.6 | 93.1 | 92.4 | 93.7 | 1.01 | 9 | 44.7 |
| Guyana* | 2015 | 88.0 | 86.5 | 89.4 | 1.03 | 66 | 44.3 | 94.4 | 94.0 | 94.8 | 1.01 | 9 | 44.7 |
| Haiti | 2003 | 58.7 | 63.1 | 54.9 | 0.87 | 2,281 | 56.2 | 81.6 | 82.7 | 80.7 | 0.98 | 359 | 52.7 |
| Haiti* | 2006 | 48.7 | 53.4 | 46.4 | 0.84 | 3,028 | 55.4 | 72.3 | 74.4 | 70.5 | 0.95 | 570 | 53.5 |
| Haiti* | 2015 | 61.0 | 64.4 | 57.7 | 0.89 | 2,748 | 55.4 | 82.1 | 82.5 | 81.6 | 0.99 | 391 | 51.5 |
| Honduras | 2001 | 80.0 | 79.8 | 80.2 | 1.01 | 738 | 50.1 | 88.9 | 86.9 | 90.9 | 1.05 | 145 | 41.2 |
| Honduras | 2007 | 83.6 | 83.7 | 83.5 | 1.00 | 721 | 51.2 | 93.9 | 92.7 | 95.1 | 1.03 | 93 | 40.3 |
| Honduras | 2010 | 84.8 | 84.8 | 84.7 | 1.00 | 733 | 50.7 | 95.2 | 94.4 | 95.9 | 1.02 | 78 | 42.2 |
| Honduras | 2011 | 85.1 | 85.3 | 84.9 | 1.00 | 735 | 51.3 | 95.9 | 94.9 | 96.9 | 1.02 | 67 | 37.3 |
| Honduras* | 2015 | 88.5 | 88.4 | 88.6 | 1.00 | 636 | 50.2 | 97.2 | 96.2 | 98.1 | 1.02 | 49 | 32.3 |
| Jamaica | 1999 | 79.9 | 74.1 | 85.9 | 1.16 | 341 | 36.3 | 91.6 | 87.3 | 96.3 | 1.10 | 38 | 23.0 |
| Jamaica* | 2011 | 87.0 | 82.1 | 91.8 | 1.12 | 254 | 32.6 | 95.6 | 92.9 | 98.5 | 1.06 | 22 | 17.1 |
| Jamaica* | 2015 | 88.7 | 84.0 | 93.1 | 1.11 | 234 | 31.4 | 96.5 | 94.2 | 98.9 | 1.05 | 19 | 16.1 |
| Mexico | 1990 | 87.6 | 90.3 | 85.0 | 0.94 | 6,437 | 61.9 | 95.4 | 96.0 | 94.9 | 0.99 | 832 | 56.2 |
| Mexico | 2000 | 90.5 | 92.6 | 88.7 | 0.96 | 6,295 | 61.4 | 96.6 | 96.8 | 96.5 | 1.00 | 674 | 52.3 |
| Mexico | 2002 | 90.3 | 92.0 | 88.7 | 0.96 | 6,728 | 59.6 | 97.6 | 97.9 | 97.3 | 0.99 | 474 | 57.4 |
| Mexico | 2004 | 91.0 | 92.4 | 89.6 | 0.97 | 6,472 | 59.1 | 97.6 | 97.5 | 97.6 | 1.00 | 480 | 49.6 |
| Mexico | 2005 | 91.6 | 93.2 | 90.2 | 0.97 | 6,109 | 60.2 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 1.00 | 467 | 50.8 |
| Mexico | 2006 | 91.7 | 93.9 | 90.8 | 0.96 | 6,102 | 63.7 | 97.9 | 98.1 | 97.7 | 1.00 | 418 | 56.5 |
| Mexico | 2007 | 92.8 | 94.4 | 91.4 | 0.97 | 5,427 | 62.1 | 98.2 | 98.2 | 98.1 | 1.00 | 370 | 51.7 |
| Mexico | 2008 | 92.9 | 94.8 | 91.5 | 0.97 | 5,440 | 62.5 | 98.4 | 98.4 | 98.4 | 1.00 | 329 | 51.4 |
| Mexico | 2009 | 93.4 | 94.9 | 92.1 | 0.97 | 5,152 | 62.1 | 98.5 | 98.7 | 98.4 | 1.00 | 304 | 55.4 |
| Mexico | 2010 | 93.1 | 94.4 | 91.9 | 0.97 | 5,561 | 60.5 | 98.4 | 98.4 | 98.5 | 1.00 | 325 | 48.6 |
| Mexico | 2011 | 93.5 | 94.8 | 92.3 | 0.97 | 5,300 | 60.8 | 98.5 | 98.4 | 98.5 | 1.00 | 322 | 48.8 |
| Mexico* | 2015 | 94.3 | 95.4 | 93.2 | 0.98 | 5,011 | 60.8 | 98.8 | 98.7 | 98.9 | 1.00 | 254 | 45.0 |
Table 6 (cont.)

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| Cyprus                       | 2001 | 96.8 98.6 95.1 0.96 | 24 78.1          | 99.8 99.7 99.8 1.00 | 0.4 38.5          |
| Cyprus                       | 2011 | 98.7 99.3 98.1 0.99 | 12 71.8          | 99.8 99.8 99.8 1.00 | 0.3 42.5          |
| Cyprus*                      | 2015 | 99.1 99.5 98.6 0.99 | 9 70.8           | 99.9 99.8 99.9 1.00 | 0.2 41.1          |
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| Greece                       | 2001 | 96.0 97.8 94.2 0.96 | 376 73.3         | 98.9 98.9 99.0 1.00 | 16 45.5          |
| Greece*                      | 2011 | 97.3 98.4 96.3 0.98 | 262 70.1         | 99.4 99.4 99.3 1.00 | 8 53.6           |
| Greece*                      | 2015 | 97.7 98.5 97.0 0.98 | 221 68.3         | 99.4 99.5 99.4 1.00 | 6 56.3           |
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| Italy*                       | 2015 | 99.2 99.4 99.0 1.00 | 444 62.9         | 99.9 99.9 99.9 1.00 | 4 45.8           |
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* = data from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) survey

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Notes:
- No data available.
- Magnitude nil or negligible.
- Not applicable.
- UIS estimation.
- Data based on reading test in a national household survey.

Annex II. Figures with national literacy trends, 1985-2015

Figure 13. Albania
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 14. Algeria
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 15. Angola

Angola: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2015

Angola: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2015

Angola: Gender parity index, 2001-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 16. Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2011

Antigua and Barbuda: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2011

Antigua and Barbuda: Gender parity index, 2001-2011

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 17. Argentina

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 18. Armenia

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 19. Aruba

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 20. Azerbaijan

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 21. Bahrain

Bahrain: Adult literacy rate, 1991-2015

Bahrain: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Bahrain: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 22. Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Adult literacy rate, 1991-2015

Bangladesh: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Bangladesh: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 25. Benin

Benin: Adult literacy rate, 1992-2015

Benin: Youth literacy rate, 1992-2015

Benin: Gender parity index, 1992-2015

Figure 26. Bhutan

Bhutan: Adult literacy rate, 2005-2015

Bhutan: Youth literacy rate, 2005-2015

Bhutan: Gender parity index, 2005-2015

Note: Literacy rates for 2006 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census. 
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 27. Bolivia


Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 28. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 29. Botswana


Botswana: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 30. Brazil

Brazil: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Brazil: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Brazil: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 31. Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam: Adult literacy rate, 1991-2015
- Total
- Male
- Female

2015 target

Literacy rate (%)


Total Male Female

Brunei Darussalam: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015


Total Male Female

Brunei Darussalam: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Gender parity range


GPI of youth literacy rate GPI of adult literacy rate

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 32. Bulgaria

Bulgaria: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2015

2015 target

Literacy rate (%)


Total Male Female

Bulgaria: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2015


Total Male Female

Bulgaria: Gender parity index, 2001-2015

Gender parity range


GPI of youth literacy rate GPI of adult literacy rate

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 33. Burkina Faso


Burkina Faso: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Burkina Faso: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 34. Burundi

Burundi: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Burundi: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Burundi: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 35. Cambodia

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 36. Cameroon

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 37. Cape Verde

Cape Verde: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Cape Verde: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Cape Verde: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 38. Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands: Adult literacy rate, 2007

Cayman Islands: Youth literacy rate, 2007

Cayman Islands: Gender parity index, 2007

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 39. Central African Republic


- 2015 target

Total Male Female


Total Male Female

Central African Republic: Gender parity index, 1988-2015

Gender parity range

GPI of youth literacy rate GPI of adult literacy rate

Figure 40. Chad

Chad: Adult literacy rate, 1993-2015

- 2015 target

Total Male Female

Chad: Youth literacy rate, 1993-2015

Total Male Female

Chad: Gender parity index, 1993-2015

Gender parity range

GPI of youth literacy rate GPI of adult literacy rate

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 41. Chile

Chile: Adult literacy rate, 1992-2015

Chile: Youth literacy rate, 1992-2015

Chile: Gender parity index, 1992-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 42. China

China: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

China: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

China: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 43. China, Macao Special Administrative Region

China, Macao Special Administrative Region: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2015

China, Macao Special Administrative Region: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2015

China, Macao Special Administrative Region: Gender parity index, 2001-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 44. Colombia

Colombia: Adult literacy rate, 1993-2015

Colombia: Youth literacy rate, 1993-2015

Colombia: Gender parity index, 1993-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 45. Comoros

Comoros: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Comoros: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Comoros: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 46. Costa Rica

Costa Rica: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Costa Rica: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Costa Rica: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 47. Côte d’Ivoire

Côte d’Ivoire: Adult literacy rate, 1988-2015

Côte d’Ivoire: Youth literacy rate, 1988-2015

Côte d’Ivoire: Gender parity index, 1988-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 48. Croatia

Croatia: Adult literacy rate, 1991-2015

Croatia: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Croatia: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 49. Cuba

Figure 50. Cyprus

Cuba: Adult literacy rate, 2002-2015

Cuba: Youth literacy rate, 2002-2015

Cuba: Gender parity index, 2002-2015

Cyprus: Adult literacy rate, 1992-2015

Cyprus: Youth literacy rate, 1992-2015

Cyprus: Gender parity index, 1992-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Note: Literacy rates for 2007 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.  
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 55. Egypt

Egypt: Adult literacy rate, 1986-2015

Egypt: Youth literacy rate, 1986-2015

Egypt: Gender parity index, 1986-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 56. El Salvador


El Salvador: Gender parity index, 1992-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 57. Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Equatorial Guinea: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Equatorial Guinea: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 58. Eritrea

Eritrea: Adult literacy rate, 2002-2015

Eritrea: Youth literacy rate, 2002-2015

Eritrea: Gender parity index, 2002-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 59. Estonia

Estonia: Adult literacy rate, 1989-2015

Estonia: Youth literacy rate, 1989-2015

Estonia: Gender parity index, 1989-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 60. Ethiopia

Ethiopia: Adult literacy rate, 1994-2015

Ethiopia: Youth literacy rate, 1994-2015

Ethiopia: Gender parity index, 1994-2015

Note: Literacy rates for 2005 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 61. Gabon

Gabon: Adult literacy rate, 1993-2015

Gabon: Youth literacy rate, 1993-2015

Gabon: Gender parity index, 1993-2015

Figure 62. Gambia

Gambia: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Gambia: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Gambia: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 63. Georgia

Georgia: Adult literacy rate, 2002-2015

Georgia: Youth literacy rate, 2002-2015

Georgia: Gender parity index, 2002-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 64. Ghana

Ghana: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Ghana: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Ghana: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 65. Greece

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 66. Guatemala

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 67. Guinea

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 68. Guinea-Bissau

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 69. Guyana

Note: Literacy rates for 2009 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 70. Haiti

Note: Literacy rates for 2006 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 71. Honduras

Honduras: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2015

Honduras: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2015

Honduras: Gender parity index, 2001-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 72. Hungary

Hungary: Adult literacy rate, 1994-2015

Hungary: Youth literacy rate, 1994-2015

Hungary: Gender parity index, 1994-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 73. India

India: Adult literacy rate, 1991-2015

India: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

India: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 74. Indonesia

Indonesia: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Indonesia: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Indonesia: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 75. Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 76. Iraq

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 77. Italy

Italy: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2015

Italy: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2015

Italy: Gender parity index, 2001-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 78. Jamaica

Jamaica: Adult literacy rate, 1999-2015

Jamaica: Youth literacy rate, 1999-2015

Jamaica: Gender parity index, 1999-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 79. Jordan

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 80. Kazakhstan

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Note: Literacy rates for 2007 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 83. Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: Adult literacy rate, 1999-2015

Kyrgyzstan: Youth literacy rate, 1999-2015

Kyrgyzstan: Gender parity index, 1999-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 84. Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Lao People’s Democratic Republic: Adult literacy rate, 1995-2015

Lao People’s Democratic Republic: Youth literacy rate, 1995-2015

Lao People’s Democratic Republic: Gender parity index, 1995-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 85. Latvia

Figure 86. Lebanon

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 87. Lesotho

Figure 88. Liberia

Note: Literacy rates for 2009 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Note: Literacy rates for 2007 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 89. Libya

Libya: Adult literacy rate, 1994-2015

Libya: Youth literacy rate, 1994-2015

Libya: Gender parity index, 1994-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 90. Lithuania

Lithuania: Adult literacy rate, 1989-2015

Lithuania: Youth literacy rate, 1989-2015

Lithuania: Gender parity index, 1989-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 91. Madagascar**

Madagascar: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

- Total
- Male
- Female (declaration)
- Female (assessment)

Madagascar: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

- Total
- Male
- Female (declaration)
- Female (assessment)

Madagascar: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

- GPI of youth lit. rate
- GPI of adult lit. rate (declaration)
- GPI of adult lit. rate (assessment)

**Note:** Literacy rates for 2009 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.  
**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

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**Figure 92. Malawi**

Malawi: Adult literacy rate, 1987-2015

- Total
- Male
- Female (declaration)
- Female (assessment)

Malawi: Youth literacy rate, 1987-2015

- Total
- Male
- Female (declaration)
- Female (assessment)

Malawi: Gender parity index, 1987-2015

- GPI of youth lit. rate
- GPI of adult lit. rate (declaration)
- GPI of adult lit. rate (assessment)

**Note:** Literacy rates for 2010 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.  
**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 93. Malaysia

Malaysia: Adult literacy rate, 1991-2015

Malaysia: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Malaysia: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 94. Maldives

Maldives: Adult literacy rate, 1985-2015

Maldives: Youth literacy rate, 1985-2015

Maldives: Gender parity index, 1985-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 95. Mali**

**Mali: Adult literacy rate, 1998-2015**

**Mali: Youth literacy rate, 1998-2015**

**Mali: Gender parity index, 1998-2015**

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

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**Figure 96. Malta**

**Malta: Adult literacy rate, 1985-2015**

**Malta: Youth literacy rate, 1985-2015**

**Malta: Gender parity index, 1985-2015**

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 97. Mauritania

Mauritania: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Mauritania: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Mauritania: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 98. Mauritius

Mauritius: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Mauritius: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Mauritius: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 101. Montenegro

Montenegro: Adult literacy rate, 2011-2015

Montenegro: Youth literacy rate, 2011-2015

Montenegro: Gender parity index, 2011-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 102. Morocco

Morocco: Adult literacy rate, 1994-2015

Morocco: Youth literacy rate, 1994-2015

Morocco: Gender parity index, 1994-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 103. Mozambique

Mozambique: Adult literacy rate, 1997-2015

Mozambique: Youth literacy rate, 1997-2015

Mozambique: Gender parity index, 1997-2015

2015 target

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 104. Myanmar

Myanmar: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Myanmar: Youth literacy rate, 2000-2015

Myanmar: Gender parity index, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 105. Namibia**

Note: Literacy rates for 2007 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013*

**Figure 106. Nepal**

Note: Literacy rates for 2011 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013*
**Figure 109. Niger**

**Niger: Adult literacy, 2001-2015**

- **Niger: Youth literacy, 2001-2015**

- **Niger: Gender parity index, 2001-2015**

**Figure 110. Nigeria**

**Nigeria: Adult literacy, 1991-2015**

- **Nigeria: Youth literacy, 1991-2015**

- **Nigeria: Gender parity index, 1991-2015**

**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

**Note:** Literacy rates for 2008 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 111. Oman**

Oman: Adult literacy rate, 2003-2015

Oman: Youth literacy rate, 2003-2015

Oman: Gender parity index, 2003-2015

**Figure 112. Pakistan**

Pakistan: Adult literacy rate, 1998-2015

Pakistan: Youth literacy rate, 1998-2015

Pakistan: Gender parity index, 1998-2015

*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013*
Figure 113. Palestine

Palestine: Adult literacy rate, 1997-2015

Palestine: Youth literacy rate, 1997-2015

Palestine: Gender parity index, 1997-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 114. Panama

Panama: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Panama: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Panama: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 115. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea: Adult literacy rate, 2000-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 116. Paraguay

Paraguay: Adult literacy rate, 1992-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 117. Peru

Peru: Adult literacy rate, 1993-2015

Peru: Youth literacy rate, 1993-2015

Peru: Gender parity index, 1993-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 118. Philippines

Philippines: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Philippines: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Philippines: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 125. Rwanda

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Note: Literacy rates for 2010 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 127. Sao Tome and Principe**


Sao Tome and Principe: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Sao Tome and Principe: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

**Figure 128. Saudi Arabia**


Saudi Arabia: Youth literacy rate, 1992-2015

Saudi Arabia: Gender parity index, 1992-2015

**Note:** Literacy rates for 2008 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013*
Figure 129. Senegal

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 130. Serbia

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 131. Seychelles

Seychelles: Adult literacy rate, 1987-2011

Seychelles: Youth literacy rate, 1987-2011

Seychelles: Gender parity index, 1987-2011

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 132. Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: Adult literacy rate, 2004-2015

Sierra Leone: Youth literacy rate, 2004-2015

Sierra Leone: Gender parity index, 2004-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 133. Singapore

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Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 134. Slovenia

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Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 135. South Africa

South Africa: Adult literacy rate, 1996-2015

South Africa: Youth literacy rate, 1996-2015

South Africa: Gender parity index, 1996-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 136. Spain


Spain: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Spain: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 137. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Adult literacy rate, 2001-2015

- Total
- Male
- Female

Sri Lanka: Youth literacy rate, 2001-2015

Sri Lanka: Gender parity index, 2001-2015

- GPI of youth literacy rate
- GPI of adult literacy rate

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 138. Sudan

Sudan: Adult literacy rate, 2000

- Total
- Male
- Female

Sudan: Youth literacy rate, 2000

Sudan: Gender parity index, 2000

- GPI of youth literacy rate
- GPI of adult literacy rate

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 139. Suriname

Suriname: Adult literacy rate, 2004-2015

Suriname: Youth literacy rate, 2004-2015

Suriname: Gender parity index, 2004-2015

Figure 140. Swaziland

Swaziland: Adult literacy rate, 1986-2015

Swaziland: Youth literacy rate, 1986-2015

Swaziland: Gender parity index, 1986-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 141. Syrian Arab Republic

Syrian Arab Republic: Adult literacy rate, 2002-2015

Syrian Arab Republic: Youth literacy rate, 2002-2015

Syrian Arab Republic: Gender parity index, 2002-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 142. Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Adult literacy rate, 1989-2015

Tajikistan: Youth literacy rate, 1989-2015

Tajikistan: Gender parity index, 1989-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 143. Thailand

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 144. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 145. Timor-Leste

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 146. Togo

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 147. Tonga

Tonga: Adult literacy rate, 1996-2015

Tonga: Youth literacy rate, 1996-2015

Tonga: Gender parity index, 1996-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 148. Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Trinidad and Tobago: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Trinidad and Tobago: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 149. Tunisia**

Tunisia: Adult literacy rate, 1994-2015

Tunisia: Youth literacy rate, 1994-2015

Tunisia: Gender parity index, 1994-2015

**Figure 150. Turkey**

Turkey: Adult literacy rate, 1985-2015

Turkey: Youth literacy rate, 1985-2015

Turkey: Gender parity index, 1985-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 151. Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Adult literacy rate, 1996-2015

Turkmenistan: Youth literacy rate, 1995-2015

Turkmenistan: Gender parity index, 1995-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 152. Uganda


Uganda: Youth literacy rate, 1991-2015

Uganda: Gender parity index, 1991-2015

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 153. Ukraine

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

Figure 154. United Arab Emirates

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Note: Literacy rates for 2010 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 159. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

- Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015
- Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015
- Gender parity index, 1990-2015

**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013

**Figure 160. Viet Nam**

- Adult literacy rate, 1989-2015
- Youth literacy rate, 1989-2015
- Gender parity index, 1989-2015

**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
**Figure 161. Yemen**

Yemen: Adult literacy rate, 1994-2015

Yemen: Youth literacy rate, 1994-2015

Yemen: Gender parity index, 1994-2015

**Figure 162. Zambia**

Zambia: Adult literacy rate, 1990-2015

Zambia: Youth literacy rate, 1990-2015

Zambia: Gender parity index, 1990-2015

**Note:** Literacy rates for 2007 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

**Source:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013
Figure 163. Zimbabwe

Literacy rates for 2011 and 2015 are based on a reading test in a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), literacy rates for other years are based on self- or household declaration of literacy skills in a national survey or census.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2013