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STATISTICS



GLOBAL
ALLIANCE
TO MONITOR
LEARNING

Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML)

Term of Reference for Target 4.2 Task Force

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1. Overview

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is responsible for defining and measuring globally-comparable indicators of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, the UIS launched the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) to provide a platform for discussion among stakeholders, researchers, UN and NGO partners on how to fulfill UIS's mandate to produce globally-comparable data on learning for each target within Goal 4. Three key issues require discussion: 1) the comparability of measurement across countries; 2) how best to define the proficiency level, or in the case of 4.2, defining "developmentally on track,"; and 3) how frequently data should be collected to effectively track changes in outcomes due to interventions, and to guide policy. Options for measurement, including integration of existing data to address the need for universal learning indicators, will also be outlined by GAML.

Within GAML, the UIS is convening task forces to address technical approaches to measurement of learning across each of the targets of Goal 4. These will provide opportunities for input from a diverse range of stakeholders, with the overall purpose of identifying the innovations and methodological advances that could inform the design and implementation of universal learning indicators.

The purpose and scope of Task Force 4.2 is different from that of other GAML task forces, since SDG target 4.2.1, which is the '*Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex*', has a scope that goes beyond the learning domain. As such, UNICEF is the custodian agency identified by the UN Statistical Commission for the provision of data and associated methodological developments for this target, while the UIS will act as a key partner given its leading role with respect to SDG4. UNICEF has convened an Inter-Agency Expert Group on Early Childhood Development (IAEG-ECD) with members including the UIS and other international organisations involved in ECD measurement. An Expert Advisory Panel will support the IAEG-ECD, and its initial activities will focus on the revision and expansion of the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) to match more closely the aim of Target 4.2.1., with the goal of using it as the indicator to monitor progress on this target.

Because of the leading role played by UNICEF in the methodological developments for Target 4.2.1, and to avoid a duplication of efforts, the scope of this GAML Task Force will focus on playing an advisory role to the UIS and other actors members on inputs given through the IAEG-ECD, engage with 'learning' tools and methodologies that include direct child assessment, and to ensure close links with other GAML initiatives. More specifically, the Task Force will help create linkages between methodological developments relating to learning for pre-school ages to those for early primary grades through target 4.1.1 (a and b in particular).

2. Objectives of the Task Force

The main goal of the Task Force is to offer guidance and propose solutions to the UIS and GAML on critical issues related to the measurement of Target 4.2, child development and

learning, with the following specific objectives:

- 1) To advise the UIS and other GAML members of the IAEG-ECD convened by UNICEF on inputs requested, such as on the revision of the ECDI, the definition of 'developmentally on track' from a global perspective, the overall measurement strategy (using a single measure vs developing alignment tools for different measures), technical standards for measurement tools, and capacity development plans for countries.
- 2) To ensure close linkages of methodological developments for the learning domain of Target 4.2.1 taking place within the UNICEF-IAEG with related developments within other SDG4 targets, especially 4.1.1, such as alignment with the UIS Reporting (learning) Scale for pre-school ages, and the definition of potential 'minimum levels' of learning.

The focus of the Task Force will be on learning, which most clearly falls within the mandate of GAML. However, in recognition of the close relation and overlaps between learning, health, and psychosocial well-being, 'focus' should not be understood as 'excluding discussions on the other two domains'.

- 3) To propose an interim measurement strategy for 4.2.1. until the ECDI revision is complete and being implemented.

3. Task Force Composition

The Task Force members will include six to twelve members, potentially in the following areas:

- Representatives from existing population-based measurement efforts based within international and regional organizations
- Representatives from civil society organizations
- Representatives from non-profit research institutions
- Representatives from professional, academic, teacher associations
- Representatives from Member States

4. Relation with other activities in Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) and Technical Cooperation Group (TCG)

The Task Force will:

- Serve as liaison with the GAML Chairs for advice when there is disagreement on the technical solutions among members
- Represent the GAML to present technical solutions to the TCG member states as requested by the GAML Secretariat and propose the best technical solutions to produce the proposed indicators to the TCG.

5. Organization of the work

Through the GAML Secretariat, UIS will take responsibility for summarizing the themes of the task forces and preparing summary documents to share with the GAML Chairs and TCG. The GAML Secretariat will serve as a liaison with the UNICEF IAEG-ECD and will work with the TF Chair to convene meetings when specific inputs to the IAEG and to UNICEF's work are required.

5.1. Outputs of the Task Force

To achieve its objectives, the Task Force is expected to support the GAML Secretariat by:

- (a) Providing inputs to the UIS and GAML on documents provided through the IAEG-ECD. Although the TF's inputs will focus on the learning domain, members will also be invited to comment on developments related to the health and psycho-social domains based on individual's expertise;
- (b) Providing inputs to the UIS, GAML and technical partners on the development of the UIS Reporting (Learning) Scale for pre-school ages
- (c) Providing inputs to the UIS and GAML on the revision of modules I and II of the Catalogue of Learning Assessment (CLA, 2.0 version) to ensure that ECE is properly integrated
- (d) Proposing an interim measurement strategy for 4.2.1. until the ECDI revision is complete and being implemented. This could include, for example, exploration of coverage and comparability of existing measures.
- (e) Updating the GAML plenary on current developments of the IAEG-ECD and the measurement strategy for Target 4.2.1 being proposed to the UN Statistical Commission.



5.6. Schedule

The Task Force was convened in March 2017. The duration of the Task Force will be on need-basis, depending on the tasks and skills needed in the Task Force. The GAML Chairs will approve the formation and composition of the Task Force.

The Task Force will meet virtually based on progress and needs of the IAEG-ECD and learning metrics developed through other GAML Task Forces. The coordinator of the Task Force may represent the Task Force to present progress and technical solutions at GAML meetings, and possibly the TCG meeting, as deemed necessary.

The GAML Secretariat and Chairs will be consulted when there are issues that cannot be resolved within the team.