

Goal

By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary-school-age children

» Primary Education



Result

In 1990, 80 per cent of primary-school-age children were either enrolled in and/or attended school (net primary enrolment/attendance ratio). At the end of the decade, the global ratio had increased to 82 per cent. The gender gap has been halved but is still a concern in three regions. (See graph on facing page.)

... but

Despite the gain, the number of children of primary school age not in school has remained at nearly 120 million since the start of the decade due in part to population increases. Enrolment and/or attendance ratios in four regions are still below 90 per cent.

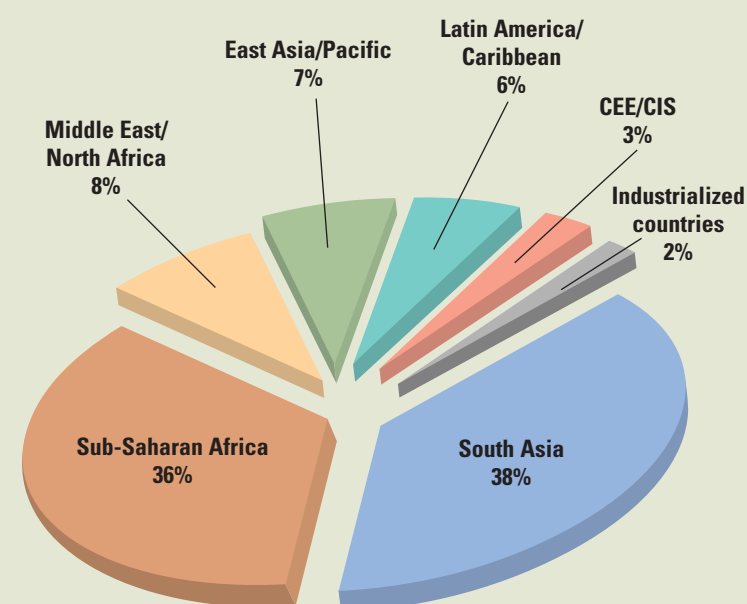
Issue

Primary education for all is not only a right; education has a major positive effect on the well-being of children and adults. At the beginning of the decade, only the countries of East Asia and the industrialized world had ratios higher than 90 per cent.

Data in these two pages differ from those in the 'Education for All 2000 Assessment - Statistical Document' released for the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, April 2000, due to extensive updating, particularly from recent household surveys, including multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS).

WHERE CHILDREN ARE OUT OF SCHOOL

Children of primary school age not in school, by region, 1999



120 million primary-school-age children were not in school in 1999, 53 per cent of them girls and 47 per cent of them boys. This is a narrower gender gap than in 1990.

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

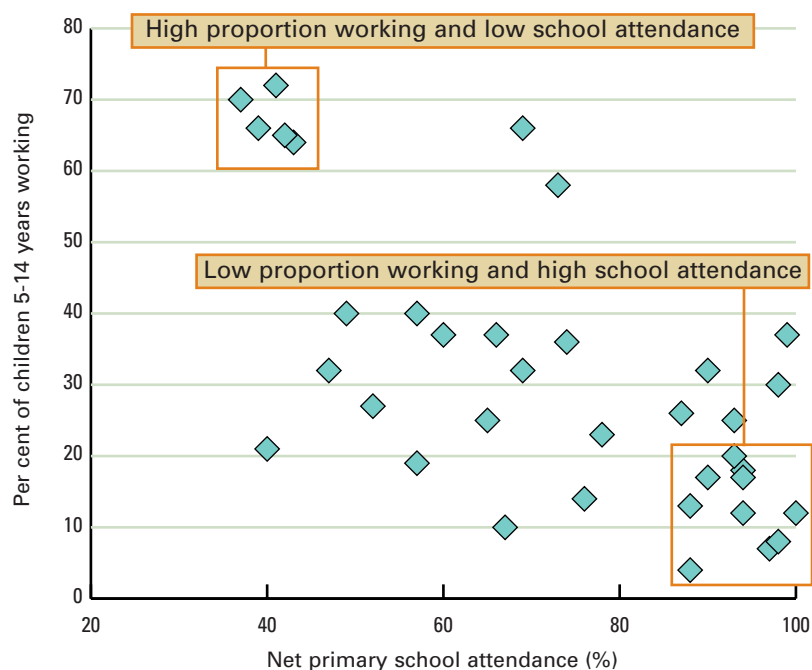
Proportion of boys and girls enrolled in or attending school*, 1999

Sub-Saharan Africa		Middle East/North Africa	
Seychelles	100	Syria	99
Swaziland	100	Lebanon	98
Cape Verde	99	United Arab Emirates	98
Mauritius	97	Algeria	97
Sao Tome and Principe	93	Bahrain	97
Equatorial Guinea	89	Iran	97
South Africa	87	Cyprus	96
Uganda	87	Libya	96
Namibia	86	Jordan	95
Zimbabwe	85	Occupied Palestinian Territory	94
Botswana	84	Qatar	94
Gabon	83	Tunisia	94
Malawi	83	Iraq	93
Ghana	74	Oman	89
Kenya	74	Kuwait	87
Cameroon	73	Egypt	86
Togo	69	Regional average	81
Zambia	67	Saudi Arabia	76
Rwanda	66	Morocco	70
Lesotho	65	Yemen	58
Somalia	64	Sudan	40
Benin	63	Djibouti	33
Comoros	60		
Regional average	60	South Asia	
Congo, Dem. Rep.	59	Maldives	98
Côte d'Ivoire	57	Sri Lanka	90
Madagascar	57	Bangladesh	82
Nigeria	56	India	76
Mauritania	54	Regional average	71
Tanzania	53	Nepal	66
Gambia	52	Bhutan	53
Angola	50	Pakistan	46
Senegal	49	Afghanistan	24
Burundi	47		
Ethiopia	44	World average	82
Mozambique	44	Developing countries' average	80
Central African Rep.	43		
Guinea-Bissau	42		
Sierra Leone	41		
Mali	40		
Chad	39		
Guinea	39		
Eritrea	37		
Niger	37		
Liberia	34		
Burkina Faso	27		

*This indicator was derived from administrative school data collected by national Ministries of Education together with primary-school-age population data (enrolment), or from national household surveys that asked children of primary school age questions about their school attendance.

School and work don't mix

Per cent of children 5-14 years currently working plotted against net primary school attendance ratio, for selected countries

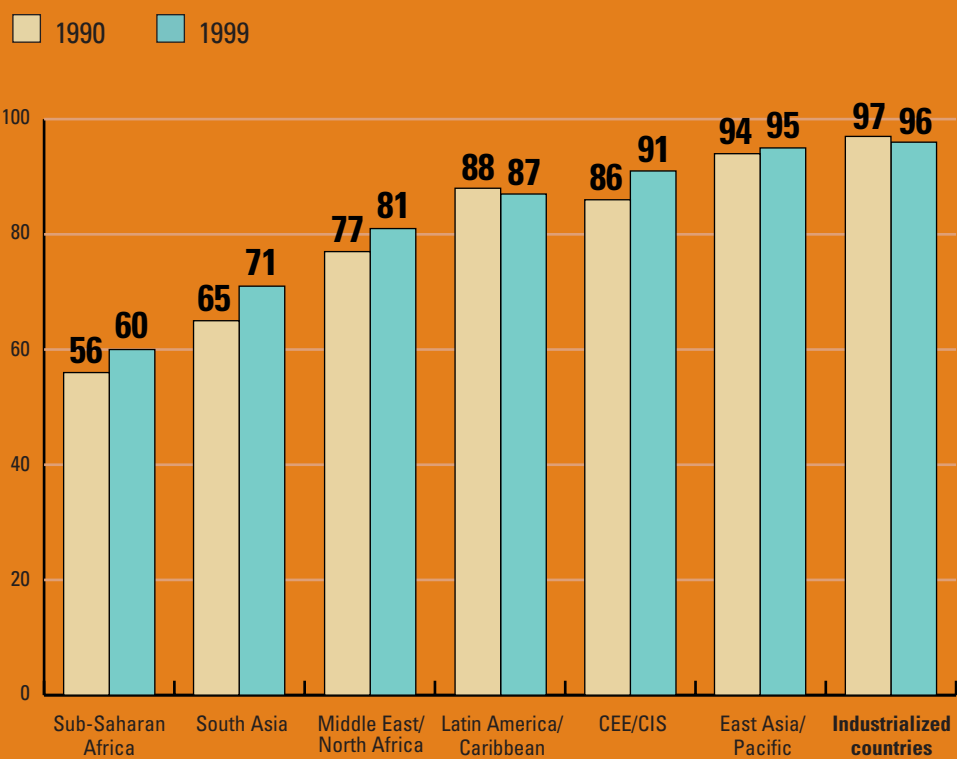


Each of the diamonds in the chart represents one country, plotted using data from MICS. The chart shows a strong association between a high proportion of child workers and low attendance and between a low proportion of child workers and high attendance.

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

Marginal change over the decade

Net primary school enrolment/attendance ratio, 1990 and 1999



The global net primary enrolment/attendance ratio has improved from 80 per cent in 1990 to 82 per cent in 1999.

Source: UNICEF/UNESCO, 2001.

East Asia/Pacific

Niue	100
Tuvalu	100
China	99
Fiji	99
Cook Islands	98
Nauru	98
Korea, Rep.	97
Tonga	95
Regional average	95
Malaysia	94
Viet Nam	94
Indonesia	93
Samoa	93
Singapore	93
Brunei Darussalam	91
Mongolia	90
Philippines	90
Vanuatu	90
Thailand	80
Kiribati	71
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	69
Myanmar	68
Cambodia	65

CEE/CIS

Kazakhstan	100
Moldova, Rep.	99
Bulgaria	98
Georgia	98
Hungary	97
Kyrgyzstan	97
Poland	97
Yugoslavia	97
Romania	96
TFYR Macedonia	96
Croatia	95
Bosnia and Herzegovina	94
Latvia	93
Russian Federation	93
Tajikistan	93
Czech Rep.	91
Albania	90
Azerbaijan	88
Estonia	87
Regional average	87
Belarus	85
Turkmenistan	80
Uzbekistan	78
Turkey	72

Latin America/Caribbean

Barbados	100
Bahamas	99
Antigua and Barbuda	98
Grenada	98
Mexico	97
Argentina	96
Brazil	95
Guyana	95
Cuba	94
Dominican Rep.	94
Jamaica	93
Uruguay	93
Belize	91
Costa Rica	91
Panama	91
Regional average	91
Colombia	90
Ecuador	90
Chile	89
Dominica	89
Saint Kitts and Nevis	89
Suriname	89
Trinidad and Tobago	88
Bolivia	87
Peru	87
Honduras	86
Paraguay	85
Saint Vincent/Grenadines	84
Venezuela	84
Nicaragua	80
El Salvador	78
Guatemala	77
Haiti	42

No data for 1999:

Sub-Saharan Africa: Congo
East Asia/Pacific: Dem. People's Rep of Korea, East Timor, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Fed. States of), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands
CEE/CIS: Armenia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine
Latin America/Caribbean: Saint Lucia
Industrialized countries: Andorra, Holy See, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino

Source: UNICEF, 2001.

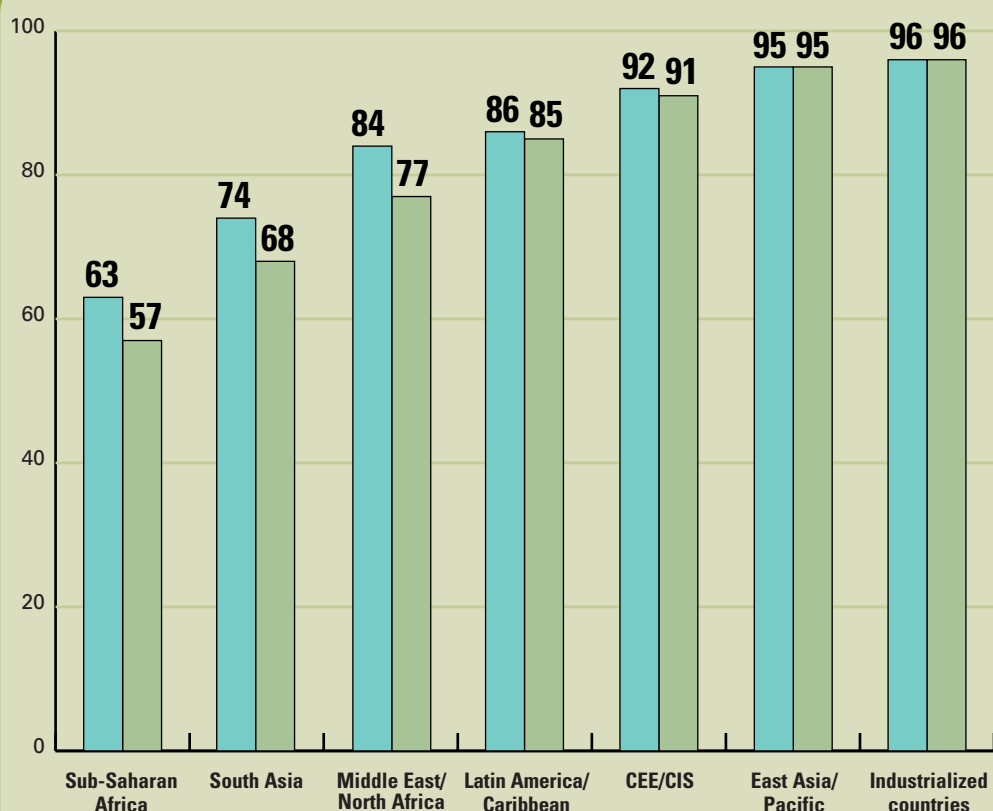
Industrialized countries

France	100
Ireland	100
Italy	100
Japan	100
Malta	100
Netherlands	100
New Zealand	100
Norway	100
Portugal	100
Spain	100
Sweden	100
Denmark	99
Finland	98
Iceland	98
United Kingdom	98
Belgium	97
Switzerland	96
Regional average	96
Australia	95
Canada	95
Slovenia	95
United States	95
Austria	91
Greece	90
Germany	86

Gender gap a concern in three regions

Net primary school enrolment/attendance ratio, by sex

Boys Girls



Between 1990 and 1999, the gender gap globally was halved, falling from 6 percentage points to 3 percentage points.

Source: UNICEF/UNESCO, 2001.