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

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.

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

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.

**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

![Chart showing the relationship between net primary school attendance and children working](chart.png)

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.

**East Asia/Pacific**
- Nine 100
- Tuvalu 100
- China 99
- Fiji 99
- Cook Islands 98
- Nauru 98
- Korea, Rep. 97
- Tonga 95
- Regional average 95
- Malaysia 94
- Indonesia 93
- Samoa 93
- Singapore 93
- Brunei Darussalam 91
- Mongolia 90
- Philippines 90
- Vanuatu 90
- Thailand 89
- 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

**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

**No data for 1999:**
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- 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

**Gender gap a concern in three regions**

Net primary school enrolment/attendance ratio, by sex

![Gender gap chart](gender_gap.png)

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