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Key findings from the expert group meeting on "Population, education and sustainable development"

EGM Population, education and sustainable development

Held virtually 6&7 September 2022

20+ experts from UN entities and research institutions

Observers from Member States and civil society

Relationships between education and different elements of population change and the ICPD Programme of Action

Progress toward related goals of the 2030 Agenda

Emerging issues including impact of and recovery from the pandemic, access to digital technologies and skills, and

Even before the pandemic, recent progress towards universal schooling had been far too slow to meet the aspiration of SDG 4

- Primary school completion rates in low-income countries were only on track to reach 2/3 by 2030
- About half of children globally achieving minimum proficiency in reading

Interrupted schooling for millions of children around the world

Exposed disparities in the quality of education between and within countries, including in access to digital technologies

Impact on learning outcomes context-dependent and still under study

Importance of preparing resilient systems for the future

Education and ICPD Programme of Action priorities

Gender equality; opportunities for girls, adolescents and youth; sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; prevention of early marriage and childbearing

Gender norms and poverty as key drivers of early marriage, early childbearing, and lack of access to education or school dropout

Sexuality education and impacts on health, well-being and other outcomes

Macro-level: expanding quantity of education without improving quality weakens the association of education with fertility decline

DESA

Access of migrants to education opportunities in host countries

Importance of data

Timely data on education and population needed across countries and regions and at all geographical levels, for planning school infrastructure, teacher workforce, and identifying at-risk populations

Data disaggregated by age, sex, educational attainment, and other key characteristics provides the evidence base that is needed for building inclusive societies