The heart of UIS education activity

- **UIS is THE source of internationally comparable education data**
  - Pre-primary to tertiary based on ISCED (International Standard Classification for Education 97)
  - Finance

- **UIS compiles administrative data from:**
  - Annual survey of education ministries
  - OECD/EUROSTAT

Purpose of cross-national data

- To provide global and regional data and indicators
  - for advocacy
  - to mobilise resources (at the national, global and regional level)
  - to make governments accountable

- For purposes of comparison
  - learn from one another - to show what can be achieved
  - benchmark
  - act as a catalyst for debate

*Tension between nationally specific and cross-nationally comparable data*

How does UIS ensure comparability?

- ISCED to classify programmes
- Population estimates from the United Nations Population Division
- GDP and GNP estimates from the World Bank
- Ensuring that all educational institutions and groups are included in the country data
Major users of UIS data

- Member States of UNESCO
- CIDA, DFID, SIDA and USAID
- UNSD - Millennium Development Goals and Statistical Yearbook
- UNDP - Human Development Report
- UNICEF - State of the World's Children
- UNESCO
  - Global Education Digest (UIS)
  - EFA - Education For All annual report
  - Women in Science
- UNFPA
- WHO
- WORLD BANK - World Development Indicators

Researchers, companies and students

Most agencies request the information between January and March of each year.

Annual survey on education

- Three questionnaires: A, B & C
- Supplementary questionnaire on primary completion: S
- Paper format (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish)
- Electronic format (English, French, Russian & Spanish) – Quest 2006


New in survey operations

- Change in reference year (survey 2005) for more recent data
  - Survey 2005 requests data referring to the school year ending in 2004

- More focus on internal data quality

Responses Rate - World

- For Survey 2004 (school year 2002/2003):
  - Questionnaire A: 82 %
  - Questionnaire B: 61 %
  - Questionnaire C: 75 %

- Major differences between regions for Questionnaire A: 53% for the Pacific compared to 100% for Latin America
Response Rates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quest A</th>
<th>Quest B</th>
<th>Quest C</th>
<th>Quest S</th>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>69</td>
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<td>82</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Survey timetable**

- Survey is sent to countries in November
  - Deadline to submit questionnaires: 31 March
- Data processing (cleaning): August-September
- Estimation of missing data and checks for inconsistencies: October to mid-November
- Preliminary release: end of November
  - COUNTRY REVIEW

**Countries and agencies review**

- Preliminary data and indicators are sent to countries for validation and comments
- Data are also sent to international agencies (World Bank, UNSD, UNDP) for review
- Updates are made to data as appropriate
- First publishable release by end of January
Typical feedback

- Population issues
  - Why is the indicator lower/higher than national indicators?
    » Usually due to ISCED classification
    » If due to population data, UIS encourages countries to contact UNPD
- Blanks cells
  - Why are the data missing for certain indicators
    » Data were missing or UIS is unable to map into ISCED

Calendar of data dissemination for SURVEY 2004

- Preliminary → December 2004 → Not for publication
  - For revision and comments
  - Countries and agencies
- Provisional → January 2005 → For publication
- Revised → March/April 2005
  - More complete
  - GED2005, website and agencies
- Final → Sept/Oct 2005
  - EFA-2006: most complete
  - Final web release

Data Dissemination

  - [Arabic], [English], [French], [Russian], [Spanish]
- CD-ROM
- WEB site: http://www.uis.unesco.org
- Data requests
  - World Bank
  - EFA report team
  - UNDP
  - UNSD
  - Researchers
- Other thematic reports-coming soon
  - Joint Report on Out-of-School Children
  - Global Teachers Report

Improved Timeliness

Elapsed Time to Data Release

- Months after the end of the school year
- Return from country
- Release
The future

- SURVEY 2006 launched in November 2005; deadline March 2006
  - No changes to questionnaire
- Questionnaire redesign for SURVEY 2007
- New electronic questionnaire
- New dissemination environment
- More checks requiring more country feedback