

Improving learning outcomes worldwide: How PISA can help

This brief introduces PISA and shows how countries have used it to inform their policies. It also presents PISA for Development, a new project that aims to enhance the relevance of PISA for developing countries and contribute to the UN-led discussions about post-2015 development goals.



Policy makers around the world recognise that enrolling all children and keeping them in school is essential for social and economic development. They also know that attendance is not enough: if young people are to get decent work, succeed in higher education and participate in society as engaged citizens, they need to graduate with the right set of knowledge and skills. In short: they need quality education.

Discussions about the follow-up to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) after 2015 have already raised the issue of quality education. The challenge now is to define global learning goals that combine access, equity and quality, and that can be measured and tracked over time.

The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the new “PISA for Development” project can help.