

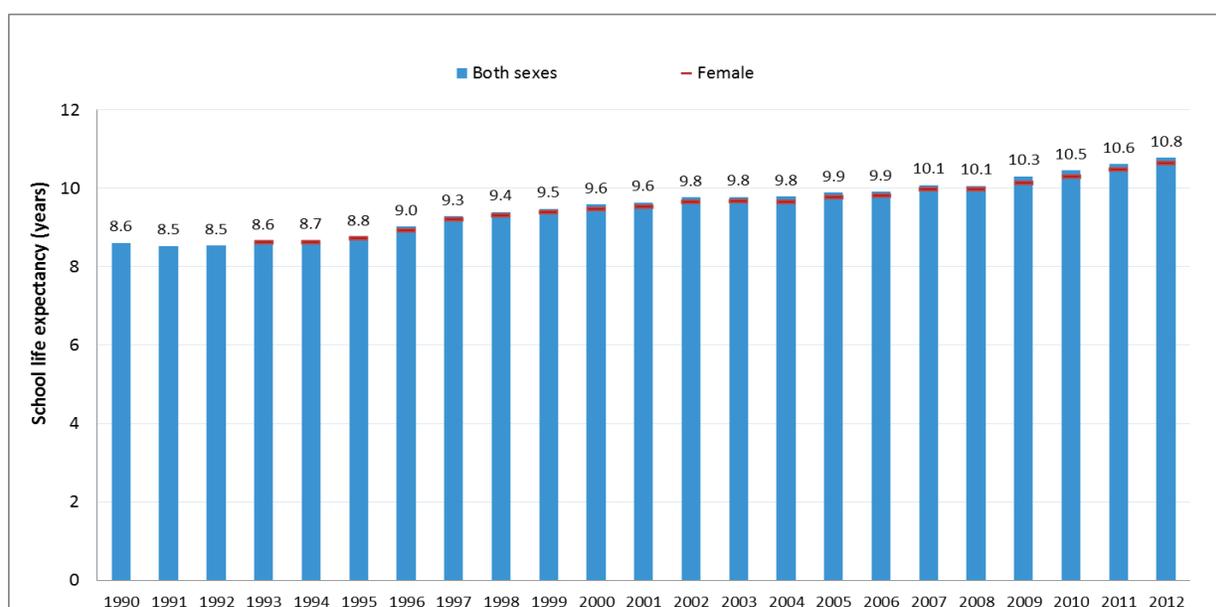
Education in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

UNESCO Institute for Statistics

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According to estimates by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), 14 million young people of primary and secondary school age live in SIDS – approximately 1% of the world's population in this age group. In 2012, a child of primary school entrance age could expect to spend nearly 11 years in education at the primary or secondary levels. [The school life expectancy including tertiary education would be slightly greater but data are lacking to produce it for the SIDS.] Over the last two decades, the school life expectancy for primary and secondary has increased by more than 2 years and has remained slightly higher than the value for the world as a whole.

Figure 1: School life expectancy (primary and secondary) in SIDS, 1990-2012

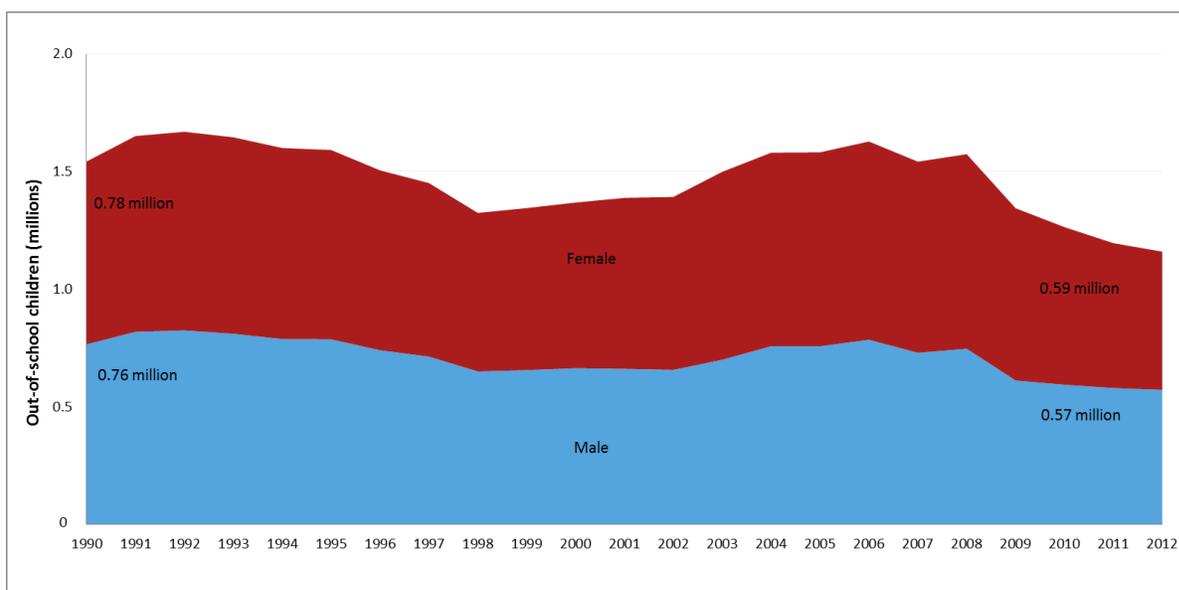


Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2014.

Note: Estimates for females for 1990-1992 are not available.

The SIDS as a group are still very far from achieving universal primary education. Progress has been slow over time. In 2012, the adjusted primary net enrolment rate was 84% compared to 80% in 2000 and 75% in 1990. In 2012, there are still nearly 1.2 million children of primary age not in school or one in six of the age group.

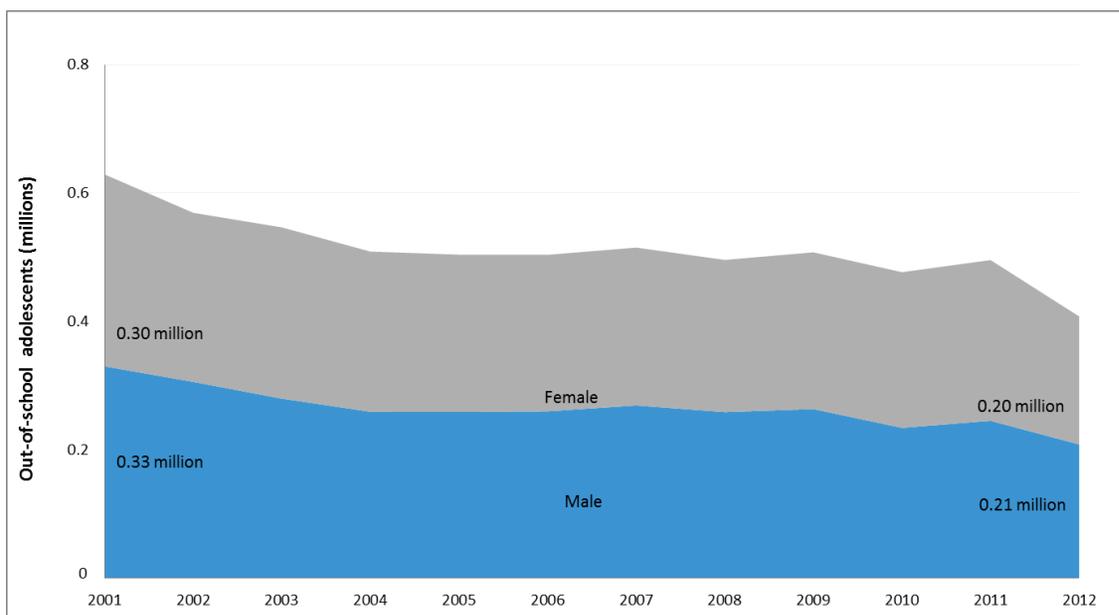
Figure 2: Out-of-school children of primary age in SIDS, 1990-2012



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2014.

There are a further 0.4 million adolescents of lower secondary age also out-of-school. In total, SIDS accounts for 1.3% of all out-of-school children and adolescents. The three countries of the group with the largest number of out-of-school children of primary age are: Papua New Guinea 0.2 million, Dominican Republic and Guinea-Bissau with 0.1 million each. Concerning out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary age, the largest numbers are found in Jamaica 0.04 million, Dominican Republic and Timor-Leste with 0.03 million each.

Figure 3: Out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary age in SIDS, 2000-2012



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, May 2014.

Enrolments in primary and secondary education in SIDS have increased by 16% from 10.8 million in 2000 to 12.4 million in 2012. Teacher numbers have largely kept the pace over the same period resulting in pupil-teacher ratios at about 22 pupils per teacher in primary education and at about 17 pupils per teacher in secondary education.

In SIDS as a whole, gender disparities are relatively small except in tertiary education. Gender parity has been achieved in secondary level since 2000. At primary level, the gender parity index – which is the ratio of the female to male gross enrolment ratios – has hardly changed since 1990, fluctuating between 0.95 and 0.96 which is slightly short of the range 0.97-1.03 in which it is assumed that gender parity has largely been achieved. However, at tertiary level, disparities are at the expense of men and have been widening since 1990 where the gender parity index was 1.25 compared to 1.49 in 2006 (the most recent year available). This may, however, be an indication that relatively more men than women go abroad for their tertiary education resulting in higher participation rates of women in their home countries. About half of the SIDS have achieved gender parity at the primary level, ten at secondary level and none at tertiary level.