

National learning assessments by region and country

Introduction

These tables provide an overview of assessment and evaluation activities undertaken by countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Such activities aim to provide education stakeholders with systematic information about the status of students' learning outcomes and the extent to which students attain predefined standards or proficiencies. The scientific reliability and validity of national assessments vary greatly, and thus cross-country comparisons are not warranted. Nevertheless, such learning assessments represent a potentially useful tool to monitor educational quality, address national policy issues and pinpoint areas for government attention and programme intervention.

Information for the tables was compiled from an array of sources (e.g. printed material, websites, experts and contacts through UNESCO regional offices), some of which were partial and/or contradictory. Much effort has been made to verify and cross-check the reported information, but some mistakes are likely. The EFA Global Monitoring Report Team intends to continue to expand and revise this information in the coming years. For a more detailed listing of national learning assessments, see Encinas-Martin (2006).

Abbreviations used in the tables

DFID	Department for International Development, United Kingdom
EU	European Union
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ICFES	Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEA	International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement
IEQ	Improving Educational Quality
IIEP	International Institute for Educational Planning
ILI	International Literacy Institute
INEE	Instituto Nacional para la Evaluación de la Educación
INEP	Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas Educacionais Anísio Teixeira
MoE	Ministry of Education (or equivalent national body)
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NIER	National Institute for Educational Policy Research
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Table 1: Sub-Saharan Africa

Country	Name or description of assessment study	Organization/institution responsible for assessment	Target population	Curricular subject(s) assessed	Year(s)
Central Afr. Rep.	Quality of education	...	Grades 4, 5	French, mathematics	1997
Eritrea	Learning Achievement	MoE	Grades 1, 4	Languages, mathematics	1999
Ethiopia	Sample Baseline on Students Learning Achievement	National Organization for Examinations	Grades 4, 8	English, mathematics, environmental science, chemistry, biology	2000, 2004
Gambia	National test	MoE	Grades 2, 4, 6	English, French, mathematics (variable)	1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
Ghana	Evaluation of Implementation of Ghana's School Language Policy	USAID and IEQ	Grades 1 to 4	Languages	1999, 2000, 2001
Malawi	Primary Schools Learner Achievements Level	Annual Basic Education Statistics Census	Grades 3, 5, 7	Chicewa, English, mathematics	Annually since 2004
	Quality of Learning and Teaching in Developing Countries	DFID	4 years of schooling	English, mother tongue	1996, 1997, 1998
	Reading in English in Primary Schools	DFID	Grades 3, 4, 6	English	1993
	Reading Levels and Bilingual Literacy in Primary Schools	DFID	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6	English, local languages	1998
	Literacy Development through a Local Language in a Multilingual Setting	USAID and IEQ	Grades 2, 3, 4	Literacy skills	1999, 2000
Mauritius	Early Diagnostic Tool for Literacy and Numeracy	Mauritius Examinations Syndicate and Mauritius Institute of Education	All levels of primary school	Literacy, numeracy	Being developed
Nigeria	Universal Basic Education Programme	Universal Basic Education Commission	Grades 1, 6 (primary) and 1, 3 (secondary)	English, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	2001
South Africa	Assessment of Learning Achievement	MoE	Junior and senior secondary	English, mathematics, social studies, integrated sciences	2003
	Monitoring Education Quality	HSRC	Grade 9	English, mathematics, sciences	Annually since 1996
	Learner Assessment Results	HSRC, District Development Support Programme and USAID	Grade 3	Reading	2003
	Systemic Evaluation Study	MoE and HSRC	Grade 6	Language, mathematics, sciences	2005
Zambia	Reading Levels and Bilingual Literacy in Primary Schools	DFID	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6	English, local languages	1998
	Primary Reading Programme	Association for the Development of Education in Africa	Grades 1 to 6	Reading, writing	1999, 2002

... information not available

Table 2: Arab States

Country	Name or description of assessment study	Organization/institution responsible for assessment	Target population	Curricular subject(s) assessed	Year(s)
Algeria	Programme national d'évaluation du rendement	MoE	Grades 3, 6, 9 (primary) and 1 (secondary)	Arabic, French, mathematics	...
Djibouti	Evaluation du niveau de qualité et du rendement cognitive	Centre de Recherche, d'Information et de Production de l'Education Nationale	Primary and lower secondary	French, Arabic, mathematics	1991, 1992, 1997 – 2000
Egypt	Global Evaluation	MoE	Grades 1, 2, 3	All school subjects	Annually since 2005
Jordan	National test	MoE and DFID	Grade 10	Arabic, English, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually since 2000
Lebanon	Mesure des acquis d'apprentissage	Centre de Recherche et de Développement Pédagogiques	Grade 4 + complementary year	Languages, mathematics, sciences, transversal competencies/savoir-être	1994, 1995, 1996 (variable)
Morocco	Diagnostic et appui aux apprentissages	MoE	Grades 3, 5, 8	Arabic, French, mathematics	2000
	Evaluation des pré-recquis	MoE and UNICEF	Grades 4, 6	Arabic, French, mathematics, life skills	2001
	Evaluation des acquis des élèves	MoE and EU	Grade 6	Arabic, French, mathematics, sciences	2006
Qatar	Comprehensive Educational Assessment and School Surveys	Evaluation Institute	Grades 3 to 11	Arabic, English, mathematics, sciences	Annually since 2004
Saudi Arabia	Diagnostic Test in the Public Evaluation System	MoE	Grades 1, 2, 3	Arabic, mathematics	...
United Arab Emirates	National Assessment of Student Achievement and Progress	Australian Council for Educational Research	Grades 5, 7	Literacy, numeracy	2005

... information not available

Table 3: Asia

Country	Name or description of assessment study	Organization/institution responsible for assessment	Target population	Curricular subject(s) assessed	Year(s)
Bangladesh	Assessment of the Achievement of Pupils Completion Grade 4	MoE and NCTB (National Academy for Primary Education)	Grade 4	Bangla, English, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	2000
	National Assessment	MoE	Grades 3, 5	Bangla, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, environmental studies	2001
	IDEAL Project	MoE	Grades 1 to 5	Bangla, English, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	2004
	School Based Assessment	MoE	Grade 9	Range of behaviours, activities and quantitative measures	To be decided
India	Baseline Assessment Survey	NCERT	Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 (variable)	Language, mathematics, environmental studies (variable)	1994, 2002, 2003, 2004 (variable)
	Mid-Term Assessment Survey	NCERT	Grades 1, 3, 4	Language, mathematics	1997
	Terminal Assessment Survey	NCERT	Grades 1, 3, 4	Language, mathematics	2001
Indonesia	Assessment of Students Learning Achievement	Educational National Standard Board	Grade 3 (primary) and senior (secondary)	Indonesian, English, mathematics	Annually since 2005
Japan	National Assessment of Learning Outcomes	NIER	Grades 5, 9, 12 (variable)	Japanese, English, mathematics, sciences, social studies, geography, history, civics	2002, 2003, 2004
	National Assessment of Student Performance	MoE and NIER	Grades 6, 9	Japanese, mathematics	2007
Lao PDR	National Literacy Survey	MoE, UNESCO and UNICEF	Age 6 and above	Reading, writing, numeracy, visual literacy	2000
Mongolia	National test	MoE	Grades 5, 9, 11	Language, mathematics	Annually since 1997
	Regional test at aimag (district) level	State Professional Assessment Agency	Grades 5, 9, 11 (variable)	Languages, mathematics, history, physics, chemistry, biology (variable)	Every 5/6 years since 1997
Myanmar	Learning Achievement Study	MoE and UNICEF	Grades 3, 5	Myanmar language, mathematics, sciences	2005, 2006
Pakistan	National Achievement Test	MoE and National Education Assessment System	Grades 4, 8 (variable)	Languages, mathematics, sciences, social studies	2005, 2006
	Quality of Education (Learning Achievement)	Academy of Educational Planning and Management	Grade 4	Sindhi, Urdu, mathematics	2000
Republic of Korea	National Assessment of Educational Assessment	Korean Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation	Grades 6, 9, 10	Korean, English, mathematics, sciences, social studies	Annually since 2003
Singapore	Core Research Program	Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice	Pre-school to secondary	Languages, mathematics, sciences, ICT	2003
Viet Nam	Reading and Mathematics Assessment Study	MoE and World Bank	Grade 5	Reading, mathematics	2001

Table 4: Latin America and the Caribbean

Country	Name or description of assessment study	Organization/institution responsible for assessment	Target population	Curricular subject(s) assessed	Year(s)
Argentina	Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad Educativa	Instituto de Calidad Educativa	Grades 3, 7 (primary) and 2, 5 (secondary)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences (variable)	Annually 1993 – 2001
	Dirección Nacional de Información y Evaluación de la Calidad Educativa	MoE	Grades 3, 6, 7, 9 (primary) and 5, 6 (secondary) (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences (variable)	Annually 1993 – 2005
Bolivia	SIMECAL	MoE	Grades 1, 3, 6, 8 (primary) and 4 (secondary)	Language, mathematics	Annually 1996 – 2000
Brazil	National System of Evaluation of Basic Education	MoE and INEP	Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences (variable)	1990 – 2005 (variable)
	Exámen Nacional de Enseñanza Media	INEP	Last year of primary	Language, problem-solving,	Annually 1998 – 2005
Chile	Prueba de Evaluación del Rendimiento Escolar	MoE and Universidad Católica	Grades 4, 8	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	1982, 1983, 1984
	Sistema de Medición de Calidad de la Educación	MoE	Grades 4, 8 (primary) and 2 (secondary) (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, behaviour, (variable)	Annually 1988 to 2005
Colombia	Medición y Evaluación de Aprendizajes	MoE and ICFES	Grades 3, 5, 7, 9	Language, mathematics	Annually 1991 – 1994
	SABER	MoE	Grades 3, 5, 7, 9 (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences	Annually 1997 – 2003
	Exámenes de Estado	MoE and ICFES	Grade 11	Languages, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually 1980 to 2005
Costa Rica	Pruebas de Conocimientos	MoE and Universidad de Costa Rica	Grades 3, 6, 9, 11, 12 (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually 1986 – 1997
	Pruebas Nacionales de Bachillerato	MoE	Secondary school	Languages, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually 1988 – 2003
Cuba	Pruebas de Aprendizaje	MoE, Sistema de Evaluación de la Calidad de la Educación and Instituto de Ciencias Pedagógicas	Grades 3, 4, 6, 9, 12	Language, mathematics	1975, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002
Dominican Republic	Sistema de Pruebas Nacionales	MoE, IDB and World Bank	Grades 8 (primary) and 4 (secondary) (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually 1991 – 2003
Ecuador	APRENDO	MoE, World Bank and Univ. Católica	Grades 3, 7, 10	Language, mathematics	Annually 1996 – 2000
El Salvador	Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de los Aprendizajes	MoE, USAID and World Bank	Pre-school, grades 1 to 6, 9 (primary) and 2 (secondary) (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, health education	Annually 1993 – 2001
	Pruebas de Aprendizaje y Aptitudes para Egresados de Educación Media	MoE	Grades 2, 3 (secondary) and technical education	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually 1997 – 2004
Guatemala	Sistema Nacional de Medición del Logro Académico	MoE, World Bank, and Valle de Guatemala University	Grades 3, 7 (primary) 2, 5 (secondary) (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences (variable)	Annually 1992 – 1996
	Programa Nacional de Evaluación del Rendimiento Escolar	MoE, World Bank and Valle de Guatemala University	Grades 1, 3, 6 (variable)	Language, mathematics	1998, 1999, 2000, 2004
	Dirección General de Educación Bilingüe Intercultural	MoE and IDB	Grades 1, 3	Language, mathematics	2003

Table 4 (continued)

Country	Name or description of assessment study	Organization/institution responsible for assessment	Target population	Curricular subject(s) assessed	Year(s)
Mexico	Sistema Nacional de Evaluación Educativa de la Educación Primaria	MoE	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences	Annually 1996 – 2000
	Estándares Nacionales	MoE and INEE	Grades 2, 4, 5, 6,	Language, mathematics	Annually 1997 – 2004
	Aprovechamiento Escolar – Carrera Magistral	MoE and INEE	Grades 3 to 6 (primary) and 1 to 3 (secondary)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, foreign languages	Annually 1994 – 2005
	Instrumento para el Diagnóstico de Alumnos de Nuevo Ingreso a Secundaria	MoE	Grade 6	Reading, verbal and numerical reasoning	Annually 1995 – 2005
Nicaragua	Evaluación del Currículo Transformado	MoE	Grade 4, 5 (primary) and 3 (secondary)	Language, mathematics	1996, 1997
	Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de la Educación Básica y Media	USAID and UNESCO	Grades 3, 6	Language, mathematics	2002
Panama	Programa de Pruebas de Diagnóstico	MoE and various agencies	Grades 3, 6 (primary) and 6 (secondary) (variable)	Language, mathematics	1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1992
	CECE	MoE and various agencies	Grades 1 to 6 (secondary)	Language, mathematics	1995
	Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad de la Educación	MoE and Coordinación Educativa y Cultural Centroamericana	Grades 3, 6, 9	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences (variable)	1999, 2000, 2001
Paraguay	Sistemas Nacionales de Evaluación del Proceso Educativo	MoE and IDB	Grades 3, 6, 9, 12	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences (variable)	Annually 1996 – 2001
Peru	Unidad de Medición de Calidad – UMC-CRECER	MoE	Grades 2, 4, 6 (primary) and 3 to 5 (secondary)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, citizenship (variable)	1996, 1998, 2001, 2004
Uruguay	Unidad de Medición de Resultados Educativos	Administración Nacional de Educación Pública and World Bank	Pre-school and grades 1 to 4, 6 (primary) (variable)	Language, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, behaviour, cognitive and affective development (variable)	1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002
Venezuela	Sistema Nacional de Medición y Evaluación del Aprendizaje	MoE, World Bank, Univ. Católica and Centro Nacional para el Mejoramiento de la Enseñanza en Ciencia	Grade 6	Language, mathematics	1998