



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO
INSTITUTE
for
STATISTICS

Catalogue of Learning Assessments

A public resource to learning assessments around the world

Growing demand for learning assessment data

In the last decade, the number of countries conducting large-scale learning assessments has doubled. Yet despite the importance – and controversy – attached to these tests, there is little information to help policymakers and practitioners make informed decisions about how to implement different types of assessments and use the results.

With the post-2015 global development agenda, national and international partners will strive to get every child in school and learning. But to transform this promise into action, governments and donors will need more and better data to monitor progress towards national and international education goals.

What is the Catalogue of Learning Assessments?

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) has created the Catalogue of Learning Assessments to provide standardised, comparable information about learning assessments administered in primary and lower secondary education programmes in countries across the world.

For each assessment, the Catalogue provides detailed information about its scope, purpose, funding, test design, coverage and sampling, as well as the production and use of the resulting data. It also provides access to assessment frameworks and examples of test items and background questionnaires.

The Catalogue serves as a resource for countries seeking to develop a new national assessment, refine an existing programme, or benchmark the outcomes of their participation in a regional or international initiative. It is uniquely designed to help governments clearly identify the technical elements underlying the robustness of a particular assessment. In addition, countries can learn from the experience of others by comparing standardised information about assessments undertaken around the world.

The Catalogue also serves as a resource for the donor community by mapping national assessment systems and providing information to better evaluate the quality and use of assessments that they are investing in.

Which assessments are included in the Catalogue?

The Catalogue will be regularly updated to include learning assessments undertaken by all countries and regional organizations since 2000. It includes the following types of assessments:

- **National assessments** designed to measure specific learning outcomes at a particular age or grade that are considered relevant for policymakers.
- **International assessments** administered in a number of countries, following similar procedures and yielding comparable data on learning outcomes.
- **Public examinations** intended to certify specific learning outcomes linked to curricula and often used to select students for the next level of education.

How can the Catalogue be used to improve learning outcomes?

This is the only open data source of internationally comparable information about learning assessments. The information can be used to:

- Map learning assessment initiatives globally;
- Monitor the ways in which countries use assessment results for policymaking;
- Track how learning data are being collected, analysed and reported to better understand and address the needs of the most marginalised children;
- Identify the specific capacity-building needs of countries, such as test design, sampling, administration, data analysis and use of assessment;
- Provide the baseline data needed to develop cross-national learning assessments; and
- Help governments learn from the experience of others and make informed decisions to invest in new assessments or improve those underway.

How are the data collected and processed?

To produce standardised information, the UIS has developed a questionnaire that is completed at the country-level of each assessment. Both the questionnaire and related instruction manual are available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

To help national teams complete the questionnaire, the Institute has a network of national focal points with expertise on assessments and public examinations. The Institute trains these focal points on the instruments and use of the Catalogue, as well as processing and verifying the completed questionnaires. The results are validated by national authorities before they are made available publicly online and used for further analysis.

Next steps

Ultimately, the UIS aims to expand the scope of the Catalogue to include assessments administered at the pre-primary and upper secondary education levels. Additionally, the Institute aims to include assessments conducted outside of formal school settings to provide a better understanding of the ways in which the learning outcomes of children out of school are being measured.

More information about the Catalogue is available at: www.uis.unesco.org

Please contact us at uis.information@unesco.org with any questions or to include your assessment in the Catalogue.



GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
for EDUCATION



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO
INSTITUTE
for
STATISTICS

UNESCO Institute for Statistics
C.P. 6128, Succursale Centre-ville
Montreal, Quebec, H3C 3J7
Canada