



Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML)

Term of Reference for Assessment Implementation Task Force

**Montreal, Canada
March 2017**

1 Reasons for proposing the Assessment Implementation Task Force (TF)

1.1 Overview of the proposal

UNESCO Institute for Statistics is responsible for defining and measuring globally-comparable indicators of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNESCO Institute for Statistics is launching the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning, to provide a platform for discussion among stakeholders, researchers, UN and NGO partners on how to fulfill UIS's mandate for producing globally-comparable data on learning for each target within Goal 4. Three key issues require discussion: 1) the comparability of measurement across countries; 2) how best to define the minimum proficiency level, and 3) how frequently data should be collected to effectively track changes in outcomes due to interventions, and to guide policy. Options for measurement, including integration of existing data to address the need for universal learning indicators, will also be outlined by GAML.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics is convening task forces to address technical approaches to measurement of learning across Goal 4, as part of the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML). Task forces will provide opportunities for input from a diverse range of stakeholders, with the overall purpose of identifying the innovations and methodological advances that could inform the design and implementation of universal learning indicators.

1.1.1 Purpose of the work

The Task Force will lead the development of the three elements of the Data Quality Processing for monitoring learning assessments for SDG 4, i.e.:

- The Good Practice for Learning Assessment (GP-LA);
- The Evaluation of Alignment of Content (EAC);
- The Assessment of Data Collection (ADC).

Within the next year, the Task Force will provide input to technical partners/consultants while they are undertaking the following activities:

- For the GP-LA:
 - review existing standards documentation and coming to final decisions about scope, content and coverage of the GP-LA and any supplementary material;
 - draft the GP-LA and any supplementary material.
- For the EAC:
 - formulate EAC processes that look at alignment between assessments and the UIS Reporting Scales from the perspective of i) the learning domain overall, ii) the strands within the learning domain, and iii) the targeted levels of learning;
 - develop EAC threshold criteria that are appropriate to determine the alignment between assessments that target different ages or periods of development and the UIS Reporting Scales;
 - develop approaches to integrate capacity building into the EAC;
 - determine EAC governance arrangements.

- For the ADC:
 - decide on the final set of ADC tools and methods to determine the extent to which an assessment’s products and processes are in line with the assessment standards articulated in the GP-LA;
 - develop a process for determining which tools/methods will be used in each specific ADC implementation;
 - prepare, pilot and finalise ADC tools and methods;
 - develop approaches to integrate capacity building into the ADC;
 - determine governance protocols for the ADC, including processes to audit and adjudicate ADC decisions;
 - determine if and how ADC decisions will be shared with the public.

1.1.2 Assessment Implementation Task Force Composition

The Assessment Implementation Task Force members will include up to 12 members. The following groups should be represented:

- citizen-led assessments
- international and regional assessment bodies
- assessment service providers
- research/academia

1.1.3 Relation with other activities in Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) and Technical Cooperation Group (TCG)

The relationship between the Assessment Implementation Task Force, the GAML Secretariat and Chairs, other GAML Task Forces and the TCG for the SDG 4 indicators will play out as follows:

- The Task Force will review studies it has commissioned and expert advice it has requested, and then make technically sound and pragmatic recommendations for the development and implementation of assessment to the GAML Secretariat and Chairs.
- The Task Force will support the GAML Chairs to come to a final decision about technical or operational matters about the development and implementation of assessments in instances when there is disagreement amongst members about the most appropriate approach.
- As necessary, the Task Force will liaise with other GAML Task Forces (e.g. the Target 4.1 Task Force) to ensure that approaches, outputs and schedules are appropriately synchronised.
- As requested by the GAML Secretariat, the Task Force will represent GAML to present technical or operational solutions for the development and implementation of assessment to the TCG member states.

1.2 Organization of the work

Through the GAML Secretariat, UIS will take responsibility for summarizing the themes of the task force and preparing summary documents to share with the GAML Chairs and TCG.

1.2.1 Outputs of the Assessment Implementation Task Force

The Task Force will review studies it has commissioned and expert advice it has requested and make recommendations to the GAML Secretariat and Chairs to support final decisions about:

- the structure and content of the Good Practice in Learning Assessment (GP-LA) and any associated supplementary materials;
- terms of reference for the writing of the GP-LA and any associated supplementary materials;
- a standardised, repeatable, transparent and technically justifiable Evaluation of Alignment of Content (EAC) ie a process for evaluating the level of substantive alignment between individual assessments and the descriptions of knowledge, skills and understanding that feature in the UIS reporting scales;
- a standardised, repeatable, transparent and technically justifiable Assessment of Data Collection (ADC), i.e. a process for investigating and confirming the quality of learning assessment data that are submitted for reporting against the UIS reporting scales;
- who will be responsible for implementing the EAC and the ADC;
- a process to audit decisions that are made as part of the EAC or the ADC;
- approaches for maximising the capacity-building value of the EAC and the ADC.

1.2.2 Deliverables

The Task Force will produce a report on progress and issues to the GAML Secretariat and Chairs on a semi-annual basis.

2 Schedule

2.1 Target dates for the start of work, duration of work and conclusion of the work

The Task Force will be established in March 2017. The lifetime of the Task Force will be determined on an as-needs basis, depending on how its tasks and activities evolve. The GAML Chairs will approve the formation and final composition of the Task Force.

The Task Force will meet virtually at times determined by its work program. It will also meet in-person once a year to discuss the outcomes of commissioned studies and expert advice, and formulate recommendations and solutions to take to the GAML Secretariat and Chairs.

The coordinator of the Task Force may represent the Task Force to present progress and recommendations/solutions at the GAML meeting.

When issues cannot be resolved within the Task Force, the coordinator of the Task Force will liaise with the GAML Secretariat and Chairs to facilitate reaching a final decision.

A summary timeline of envisaged Assessment Implementation Task Force activities is given below.

	Activities	Date
1	Seek expert advice to finalise proposal for structure and content of GP-LA and any associated supplementary material.	March 2017
2	Suggest possibilities for author(s) of GP-LA and any supplementary materials	March 2017
3	Form working group and commission research to further the development of EAC and ADC.	March 2017
4	Present recommendations on structure, content and possible author(s) of GP-LA and any associated supplementary material to GAML Secretariat and Chairs.	March 2017
5	Review findings of working group and commissioned research on further development of EAC and ADC.	March 2017
6	Consider possibilities for implementing and auditing bodies for EAC and ADC	April 2017
7	Present recommendations on EAC and ADC to GAML Secretariat and Chairs.	May 2017