Global Alliance to Monitor Learning:

Key Findings from the Questionnaire on Country Participation in Cross-National Assessments (CNA)

Silvia Montoya, UIS Director

GAML4

November 2017 – Madrid, Spain

Introduction

- **CNAs are key to inform SDG 4.1.1**

- **Next round of CNAs is approaching quickly:**
  - PISA 2018
  - PISA for Development
  - PILNA 2018
  - SEA-PLM 2018/19
  - TIMSS 2019
  - LLECE 2019
  - PASEC 2019
  - PIRLS 2021
  - LANA
  - SACMEQ V

CNA Questionnaire

- **Questionnaires sent to 210 countries and territories asking**

  - If they are planning to participate in the next round of CNA

  - If their participation is formally confirmed

  - If they going to test the SDG4.1.1 target grades and subject areas

  - Their financial situation to participate in CNAs

  - If they have a permanent institution or unit to implement a CNA

  - If they need technical assistance to participate in CNAs

- **So far, 80/210 (38%) countries have returned their questionnaires**

  - Highest return rate from high income countries (56%); lowest return rate from low income countries (16%)

  - Highest return rates from North America and Western Europe (64%); lowest return rates from Sub-Saharan Africa (21%)

Key findings

Participation in CNAs

- **60/80 (75%) countries are participating or planning to participate in the next round of CNAs**
  - 22 countries in just one CNA
  - 20 countries in 2 CNAs
  - 23 countries in 3 CNAs

131 CNA/countries

CNA	Number of CNA/Countries
PISA 2018	46
PISA-D	3
PILNA 2018	2
SEA-PLM 2018	2
TIMSS 2019	36
LLECE (ERCE) 2019	7
PASEC 2019	5
PIRLS 2021	29
LANA	0
SACMEQ V	1
TOTAL	**131**

Participation in CNAs

- **Countries are participating or planning to participate in 131 CNAs**
- **Participation status**
  - 89/131 (68%) CNAs have been formally confirmed.
  - 18/131 (14%) Participation is in the process of confirmation.
  - 11/131 (8%) Participation is still under discussion.
  - 13/131 (10%) no response provided (missing)
- **110/131 (84%) cases there is a national institution or unit to implement the CNA.**

Participation in CNAs

- **For the countries that are NOT participating in CNAs, the main reasons are**
  - Lack of financing: Aruba, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyz, Sao Tome, Grenada, Namibia
  - Uncertainty about which CNA to join
  - A national assessment will be administered instead

**Adequacy
to inform
SDG 4.1.1**

- **All 131 cases will measure math or reading**
- **120/131 (92%) cases will use a sample that is representative of the entire country**
  - Cases where a sub-national sampling will be used
    - Azerbaijan: Baku city will only participate in PISA 2018
    - Georgia: Has not secured funding to test language minority schools in PIRLS 2021; these schools will be excluded from TIMSS 2019.
    - Other cases: Do not know or missing
- **11/131 (8%) cases will test grades 2 or 3**
  - LLECE 2019 at grade 3 (7 cases)
  - PASEC 2019 at grade 2 (3 cases)
  - PIRLS 2021 at grade 3 (1 case)
- **35/131 (27%) cases will test at the end of primary education**
- **51/131 (39%) cases will test at the end of lower secondary education.**

Technical Assistance

- **Only 35/131 (27%) cases reported needing technical assistance**
  - Data come mainly from high income countries
  - Demand for technical assistance increases among lower income countries
- **Areas where countries need technical assistance the most**
  - Sampling
  - Administration
  - Data processing and analysis
  - Data reporting, communication, and uses

Costs and financial situations

- **Costs of participating in a CNA**
  - Participation fees, overheads: ~USD$200,000
  - In-country implementation: ~USD$1,500,000
  - Total costs: ~USD$1,700,000
- **Main sources of funding**
  - Government: 110/131 (84%) cases
  - Local or international donations: 16/131 (12%) cases
- **Financial situation**
  - 86/131 (66%) cases full financing is secure
  - 28/131 (21%) cases full financing is not secure

Costs and financial situations

- **16/131 (12%) cases (from 10 countries) are looking for financial assistance:**
  - Albania: PISA 2018, TIMSS 2019
  - Burundi: PASEC 2019
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina: PISA 2018, TIMSS 2019
  - Georgia: PISA 2018, TIMSS 2019, PIRLS 2021
  - Honduras: LLECE 2019, PISA-D
  - Jordan: PISA 2018
  - Latvia: PISA 2018, PIRLS 2021
  - Montenegro: PISA 2018, TIMSS 2019
  - Namibia: SACMEQ V
  - El Salvador: LLECE 2019
- **Financial assistance will be mainly used to fund**
  - International participation fees
  - Assessment implementation
  - Training for the national project team

Conclusions and next steps

- **Need to increase participation of countries in CNAs by**
  - Identifying reasons for non participation
  - Addressing those reason case by case
  - Securing funding and technical assistance
- **Very few countries will have data to inform SDG 4.1.1. at grades 2/3**
  - Measuring grades 2/3 should be a priority
- **Next steps**
  - Finalize analyses of CNA questionnaires
    - Add new countries
    - Recompute with a special focus on lower income countries
  - Include data from (a) CNA agencies Questionnaire, and (b) Donors Questionnaires.
  - Background paper with final results will be ready in January 2018

Thank you!

Silvia Montoya, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics

@Montoya_sil

Learn more: http://uis.unesco.org/

@UNESCOstat