GAML
Expanding Coverage for Indicator 4.1.1

UNESCO Institute for Statistics
August 2017, Montreal, Canada
% OF COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATE IN ANY LARGE SCALE ASSESSMENT, by vulnerability status, subject-matter and point of measurement

“...countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries [LDCs], landlocked developing countries [LLDCs] and small island developing States [SIDS], deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries.”

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Development (UN, 2015)
Expanding Coverage: the problem

No global and comparable information exists that can be used to compute SDG 4.1.1.

✓ Coverage Issues

- Many countries do not have data on their children’s and young people’s proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.

✓ Technical Issues

- Among the countries that do have national learning assessments, skills, tools and metrics measure different mathematics and readings skills at different grades/ages.
- Results are not linked in the same scale
- Countries have different educational structures

✓ National capacity issues

- Many countries do not have data on their children’s and young people’s proficiency levels in reading and mathematics because they do not have either the financial capacity and/or the technical capacity;
- The great majority of countries without high-quality learning assessments are either low-income or lower-middle income countries.
Expanding Coverage: What do we need?

✓ Technical responses through a set of tools to conceptually align assessments:
  ▪ Global Framework for Reference: to define the skills/competencies and contents associated to each point of measurement;
  ▪ Global standards of data alignment for methodological and operational procedures
  ▪ A set of tools and standards to compare and define benchmarks

✓ Funding responses though a set of strategies to expand coverage:
  ▪ Funding options to expand coverage of the next round of cross-national learning assessments to expand the number of countries
  ▪ Cross-national assessment expansion to fill the gap for the regions that do not have any regional assessments with special focus given to primary education.

✓ Capacity development through a set of strategies to improve data alignment
  ▪ Capacity development strategies (and funding) to support countries to build national learning assessments that meet technical standards.
Assumptions

- Each assessment costs .5 million US dollars
- Each country does two points each 4 years

Parameters

- 5.8 Billion of US dollar per year as costs for pre-primary through secondary education
- 10% of inefficiency as conservative number costs US$580 million per year
- 5% of the inefficiency is addressed with learning data
- 30 US million per year per country
- High Benefit Cost ratio (30/.25 US million per year -120 million)

Funding strategy from international community

- 100% first year
- 50% second year
- 0% third year
Countries participating in cross-national learning assessments, by income level

Low-income countries: Assessment
Lower-middle-income countries: Assessment
Upper-middle-income countries: Assessment
High-income countries: Assessment

No assessment

Note: The depiction and use of boundaries and related data shown on this map are not warranted to be error free nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNESCO.
## Simulating Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of countries participating</th>
<th>Financial support needed, $US millions*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation, all countries</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The cost benefit is clearly positive

- **Costs**
  - US$250,000 per year for 2 measurement points

- **Benefits**
  - Benefit/Cost Ratio of investment
    - US$120 million per year (30/.25)
    - US$29 million per year (5% of US$580 millions cost of inefficiencies in a LIC and MIC country)
How can we collaborate to make expansion and comparability materialize?