Global Alliance to Monitor Learning:

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

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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 are 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CNA</th>
<th>Number of CNA/Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PISA 2018</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PISA-D</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILNA 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA-PLM 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMSS 2019</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLECE (ERCE) 2019</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASEC 2019</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIRLS 2021</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANA</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACMEQ V</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>131</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

131 CNA/countries
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!

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