Mini-LAMP offers countries the flexibility to meet their specific needs. Countries administer the assessment directly, which means that they can adapt the tools and timelines based on their priorities and contexts.

Mini-LAMP is uniquely designed to focus on the lower levels of literacy and numeracy skills of youth and adult populations. Countries can decide to use Mini-LAMP as a stand-alone assessment or integrate it within an existing household survey.

The background questionnaire and modules can be adapted to a country’s unique context.

The assessment results can be placed on a scale that includes higher levels of literacy and numeracy, enhancing the value for reporting on overall literacy and numeracy rates.

The UIS can serve as a broker between countries and donors to help secure technical assistance if needed.

Table 1 presents the estimated costs for each option. The computer-based assessment is less expensive and less time consuming than the pencil-and-paper assessment.

Table 1. Estimated costs for paper-and-pencil and computer-based literacy and numeracy assessments for low income countries (in US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample size</th>
<th>Computer-based option</th>
<th>Paper-and-pencil option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Administering the assessment</td>
<td>119,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Data production and reporting</td>
<td>38,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>Total cost</td>
<td>157,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To measure progress towards this target, Global Indicator 4.6.1 measures:

“The percentage of the population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex.”

It is defined as the percentage of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) and adults (aged 15 years and older) who have achieved or exceeded this fixed level of proficiency.
The Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) was developed by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to respond to the pressing need to measure literacy and numeracy. It provides a sound methodology and tools to help countries, especially low- and middle-income countries, to monitor and improve literacy skills.

LAMP was field-tested in 10 countries: Afghanistan, El Salvador, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Paraguay, and Viet Nam. While the testing demonstrated the value of the LAMP methodological approach, it also highlighted the challenges of implementing assessments across a range of diverse locations and linguistic settings.

Based on this experience, the UIS has created Mini-LAMP, which can be adapted to meet specific needs of countries.

Mini-LAMP sheds light on:

- the real needs of countries;
- factors that influence the distribution of literacy skills, including literacy practices; and
- data needed to produce SDG Indicator 4.6 and others, including:
  - Indicator 4.3.1 on youth and adult participation in education;
  - Indicators 4.3.3 on the participation rate in technical and vocational programmes; and
  - Indicator 4.6.3 on the participation of youth and adults in literacy programmes.

Mini-LAMP provides the data to help governments and their partners to:

- develop policies and allocate resources where they are needed most based on sound evidence;
- improve the overall quality of education;
- reduce inequalities; and
- promote economic development.

How to implement Mini-LAMP

Mini-LAMP offers countries a range of options to meet their specific needs at each stage of implementation. The total time required to conduct Mini-LAMP can range from 11 to 24 months.

**Step 1:** National planning report to help countries plan for assessment costs and decide whether to:

- use Mini-LAMP as a standalone assessment or integrate it within a household survey;
- conduct a pencil-and-paper assessment or a computer-based assessment;
- focus on literacy skills or also include numeracy skills;
- produce estimates or projections; and
- produce results based on a continuum of skills or a defined threshold.

**Step 2:** Memorandum of understanding with the UIS to access the Mini-LAMP package. The UIS can also serve as a broker between countries and donors to help secure technical assistance.

**Step 3:** Development work by the country to adapt the data collection tools, software package, and quality assurance procedures to meet specific needs.

**Step 4:** Data collection by the country, which administers the assessment.

**Step 5:** Data processing, quality assurance, and reporting by the country. Mini-LAMP also includes a template to help countries produce national reports that can be adapted for policymaking and monitoring.

Depending on the needs of countries, Mini-LAMP can be used as a stand-alone assessment tool or integrated into a household survey. This flexible and streamlined approach enables countries to reduce the operational and technical costs associated with learning assessments.

Mini-LAMP includes:

- A background and self-report questionnaire to understand the language practices of a household and the reading, writing, and numeracy skills of individual household members, as well as their use of technology and educational experience. This information can also be used for other SDG 4 indicators.
- A literacy and numeracy module which includes 15 test items administered by an interviewer. The module is designed to assess the fundamental level of an individual’s reading and numeracy abilities and can be adapted to reflect the specific contexts of countries.
- Documentation and guidelines to help countries implement Mini-LAMP and ensure quality control of the results.
- A software package to produce the data needed for policymaking and reporting.