



2010 UIS Initiative: Assessment of Learning Outcomes Clearinghouse (ALO-c)

*Alcyone Vasconcelos
UNESCO Institute for Statistics
September 24, 2010*

What is this presentation about?

NOT

✓ about a new international assessment

What is this consultation about?

✓ clearinghouse for monitoring
learning-levels of school children

UIS mandate

✓ collect data
& produce statistics on
all dimensions of
education,
with international
comparability

✓ now, UIS will add
stats about learning
levels of school
children

**ALO Clearinghouse
(ALO-c)**

(1) what are countries doing to monitor student achievement?

- no systematic answers (yet)

(2) what are countries doing w/ results of assessments of learning outcomes?

- no systematic answers (yet)

(3) how (specs) are countries assessing learning outcomes?

- no systematic answers (yet)

➤ ***UIS mandate covers all***



ALO-c features

(1) catalogue of existing indicators of learning levels of school children

- trends

(2) inventory of how countries are measuring learning outcomes

- trends

(3) support to “learning for all”

- trends

➤ ***partnerships***



- database of learning outcomes: **NO comparability**

- **catalogue of existing indicators**
- **student achievement**
- **any grade, any subject, any approach**
- **per country, latest assessment(s)**
- **all sources (focus on national assessments)**



- **database of learning outcomes: NO comparability**

- **any subject**
- **any assessment approach**
- **any grade (primary & secondary)**
- **all sources but focus on national assessments**
- **at inception, latest >>> track trends**



- **database of approaches: comparability**

- **inventory practices, appraisal upon demand**
- **per country, key specs, (stated) usage**
- **current & recent history, challenges**
- **all sources (focus on national assessments)**
- **at inception, latest >>> track trends**

Country X

✓ end-secondary exam:
60% of students master
skills set A, as per
country's standards /
definitions

✓ TIMSS: [different
language] 20% of students
master skills set A, as per
TIMSS standards /
definitions

**ALO Clearinghouse
(ALO-C)**

■ country summaries / report cards

- indicators “side by side”, different sources
- some info about assessment approaches
- some sector context
- discrepancies as starting points for
(internal & external) dialogue

Country Y

✓ end-primary exam:
50% of students can read
with comprehension after
2 years of schooling

✓ EGRA: 80% of tested
students cannot read a
single word after 2 years
of schooling

**ALO Clearinghouse
(ALO-C)**

■ Why all sources despite quality issues?

✓ **pragmatic 1st step**

✓ **due respect to countries**

■ prospective partners

- **int'l development banks, bilateral aid agencies**
- **assessment outfits, countries w/ knowhow**
- **think-tank institutions, NGO/CSO**
- **other UN**
- **who else?**



- support to “learning for all” = partnerships

- collaboration among external assessments outfits
- appraisal of assessments, guidance to countries
- contribution to training programs of partners
- contribution to other UNESCO initiatives
- collaboration & coordination w/ other agencies



- **timeline: defined for...**

✓ **database of learning outcomes**



- **timeline for database: past & ongoing**

- **preliminary design (1st quarter 2010)**
- **informal consultations (since March)**
- **contacts w/ potential data collecting partners**
- **political & technical endorsements**
- **web-based pre-pilot (2nd quarter 2010)**



- **timeline for database: ongoing & next (by end 2010)**

- **structure of database (in-house)**
- **terms of reference for data gathering partners**
- **formal e-consultations**
- **choice of experts for advisory committee**
- **final design for PILOT**



- **timeline for database: Jan-June 2011**

- **PILOT (5-10% of countries)**
- **1st meeting of advisory expert committee**
- ✓ **meeting of pilot countries & data collectors**
- ✓ **accounting of expenses & budgeting**
- ✓ **final design for Phase I**



- **timeline for database: July-Dec 2011**

- **PHASE I (10-20% of countries)**
- **country summaries**
- **review of processes, outputs, framework**
- **2nd meeting of advisory committee**



- **flexible & as feasible: Jan-Dec 2011**

- **“insertions” in IIEP (cont.) & WBI courses**
- **collaboration to others’ initiatives (cont.) (you!)**
- **set up network of interested parties**
- **dissemination & feedback sessions (cont.)**



- **assessments are widespread: good!**

- **2/3 of poorest countries (external)**

- **100% of 10 Asia countries (exams, external)**

- **about 100% of LA countries (internal)**

1st step

1st step

1st step

"you can't fix what does not exist"

From Pregadora Tupiniquim in "The Book One Day I Shall Write", circa 1990

THANK YOU

MERCI

謝謝

¡GRACIAS!

شكرا لك! Спасибо

TERIMA KASI

OBRIGADA

a.vasconcelos@uis.unesco.org

UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Montreal, Canada