TOOLS & TIPS FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING AN EARLY GRADE READING ASSESSMENT

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HOW TO PARTICIPATE TODAY

• Open and close your Panel
• View, Select, and Test your audio
• Submit text questions
• Raise your hand
• Q&A addressed at the end of today’s session
• Everyone will receive an email within 24 hours with a link to view a recorded version of today’s session
Overview of Presentation

- Why is it important to assess reading?
- What is EGRA and why is it used?
- Planning and implementing EGRA: An Overview
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ASSESS READING?
Why is reading important?

- The ability to read and understand a simple text is one of the most fundamental skills a child can learn.
- Children who cannot read cannot learn well in school.
**Why is reading important?**

- Evidence indicates that learning to read both *early* and at a sufficient *rate* are essential for learning to read well.

- Children who do not learn to read in the first few grades are more likely to repeat and eventually drop out.
WHY ASSESS EARLY GRADE READING?

- Assessing children’s reading ability tells us which reading skills children know (or do not know) and in what grade.
- This information can be used to improve instruction.
Are there any questions before we proceed?
WHAT IS EGRA AND WHY IS IT USED?
What is EGRA?

- EGRA is an oral assessment of children’s reading ability.
- It tests the component skills of reading:
  - Phonemic awareness
  - Phonics
  - Vocabulary
  - Fluency
  - Comprehension
EGRA ADMINISTRATION
**Sample student stimulus: Letter sound identification (Hausa in Nigeria)**

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<td>i g U H N f A n B l</td>
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Section 1. Letter Sound Knowledge

Show the child the sheet of letters in the student stimulus booklet. Say:

Ga shafi cike da baƙaƙan Hausa. Sai ki/ka faɗa mini SAUTIN baƙaƙan da duk kike/kake iya ganewa – ba wai sumausu ba, a’na, vadda ake faɗinsu dai.

Misali, sautin wannan baƙi [muna A] shi ne /aa/.

To, bisimilla: faɗa mini sautin wannan baƙi [muna M]:
Idan yarinya/yaro ta’ya gano ansar, sai ki/ka ce: Da kyau, sautin wannan baƙi /mm/.
Idan yarinya/yaro ba ta’bai gano ansar ba, sai ki/ka ce: sautin wannan baƙi /mm/.

To, bari mu gwada wani baƙin: faɗa mini sautin wannan baƙi [muna d]:
Idan yarinya/yaro ta’ya gano ansar, sai ki/ka ce: Da kyau, sautin wannan baƙi /d/.
Idan yarinya/yaro ba ta’bai gano ansar ba, sai ki/ka ce: sautin wannan baƙi /d/.

Kin/ka gane abin da ake son ki/ka yi?

In na ce “Fara”, to sai ki/ka faɗi sautin baƙaƙen da hanzari, da hankali, ki/ka kuma daga murya. Fara daga nan, ki/ka ci gaba haka [muna baƙi na farko a layi, baya misali, sautin kikin ko na wani zuwa layin farko].

Instructions to be read to the student

Instructions for the assessor on how to administer and score the test

The section of the test where the assessor records the student’s responses
**Why use EGRA?**

- Appropriate for children in the early grades (both because it is oral and because it can discriminate between reading skills)
- Relatively quick to administer
- Can be administered to a sample of children
- Adaptable to different languages and contexts
- Easy to score and analyze
- Tests reading skills all children must have and is not curriculum specific.
- Provides feedback on specific skills needed for fluent reading.
WHY MEASURE READING ORALLY?

- Oral reading fluency and comprehension are good predictors of later reading and other learning skills.
- Paper and pencil test can’t show reading comprehension.
HOW IS EGRA DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ASSESSMENTS OR EXAMS?

- EGRA is conducted in the early grades
- EGRA is conducted orally
- EGRA is usually conducted on a sample of students
- Tests reading skills all children must have (and is therefore not specific to a curriculum)
Any questions or comments?
Chapter 1: Pre-Implementation Planning
Chapter 2: Instrument Development
Chapter 3: Assessment Training
Chapter 4: Data Collection
Chapter 5: Data Analysis and Reporting
Chapter 6: EGRA Results: Dissemination and Next Steps
CHAPTER 1: PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING
CHAPTER 1: PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

This chapter provides guidance on:

- How to identify the purpose of your EGRA
- How to build an “EGRA team”
- How to identify the EGRA sample and choose appropriate sampling methodologies
- How to develop a work plan
- How to prepare an EGRA budget
IDENTIFYING THE “EGRA TEAM”

- Identify an “EGRA team” with individuals who will be responsible for each task associated with implementing EGRA.
- Identify appropriate stakeholders for collaboration (Ministry of Education, NGOs and CSOs, universities, etc.) to be responsible for each task.
Roles and responsibilities of team members

- Coordinator or Team Leader, supported by project staff
- Technical experts (reading specialist, language specialists, curriculum specialists, translator)
- Statistician/survey specialist (for sampling and/or data analysis)
- Assessors (data collectors) and supervisors
- Data entry clerks and supervisors
- Data analyst(s) and report writer(s)
- To consider: Advisory/Consultative Team
IDENTIFY THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EGRA

1. Provide a “snapshot” of reading achievement in a particular area
2. Establish a nationally (or regionally) representative baseline to inform government policy - EXAMPLE: Mali

Grade 2 - Passage reading - Correct words per minute

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<th>10-19 words</th>
<th>20-29 words</th>
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<td>93.7</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>91.3</td>
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<td>Bamanankan</td>
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<td>Bomu</td>
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<td>Fulfuldé</td>
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<td>Arabic</td>
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IDENTIFY THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EGRA

3. Assess the impact of an organization’s intervention – EXAMPLE: Liberia
Identify the purpose of your EGRA

4. Identify children in the classroom that need additional support.
HOW EGRA SHOULD NOT BE USED

- Cannot use same survey as both a project evaluation tool and a system level “snapshot”
- Cannot be used in cross-language comparisons
- Should not be used for “high stakes” assessment
- Should not be used to determine if students should pass or fail a grade
SELECT YOUR SAMPLE

- Based on what you would like to know, identify your sample
- Be sure to consult a statistician to ensure your sample is appropriate for your purpose.

TIP!
Your sample size will have a significant effect on your budget. A sampling expert can help you identify the appropriate sample size.
**DEVELOP A WORK PLAN**

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<th>Month 2</th>
<th>Month 3</th>
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<th>Month 5</th>
<th>Month 6</th>
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<td>2. Conduct policy dialogue with in-country stakeholders (ongoing)</td>
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<td><strong>B. Development of EGRA Instruments</strong></td>
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<td>2. Arrange logistics for pilot</td>
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<td>3. Conduct adaptation workshop(s) (length depends on number of languages, number of subtasks in EGRA tasks, whether pilot will be conducted immediately afterwards, etc.)</td>
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<td>4. Develop EGRA questionnaire (for students; may want to develop teacher and principal questionnaires as well, which will require additional time)</td>
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<td>8. Analyze pilot data</td>
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<td>9. Finalize Instruments</td>
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<td>10. Submit Instruments and manuals for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval</td>
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<td><strong>C. EGRA Survey</strong></td>
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<td>2. Arrange logistics for enumerator training</td>
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<td>3. Conduct week-long enumerator training</td>
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<td>4. Arrange logistics for full survey</td>
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<td>5. Conduct full EGRA survey</td>
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<td><strong>D. EGRA Data Analysis</strong></td>
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<td>3. Conduct data cleaning and analysis</td>
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<td>4. Write summary report - 4 days</td>
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<td>5. Share EGRA results with stakeholders</td>
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### Develop a Budget

#### EGRA Budget Items

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<td>Assessor transport (must be broken down in detail)</td>
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<td>Data entry clerk transport</td>
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<td>Data entry - test per unit cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer rental</td>
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RELATED TOOLS IN ANNEX:

- Annex 1: Introductory Presentation
- Annex 2: EGRA Sample Instrument
- Annex 3: Relevant EGRA Sampling Principles
- Annex 4: Simple Work Plan Example
- Annex 5: Detailed Work Plan Example
- Annex 6: Guidance on Budget Inputs
Any questions or comments?
CHAPTER 2: INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT
CHAPTER 2: INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

This chapter provides guidance on:

- How to draft an EGRA instrument
- How to select or design supplementary instruments, such as questionnaires
- Pre-adaptation workshop preparations such as staffing, agenda, training materials, and logistics
- How to pilot and revise your EGRA instrument
EGRA TEST DEVELOPMENT

- Identify reading and language specialists
- Collect learning materials in the language of assessment
- Conduct language analysis
- Identify EGRA sub-tasks appropriate for language, purpose of your EGRA
- Develop draft instrument
- Conduct adaptation workshop
Adaptation requires careful attention to detail, especially language characteristics. Be sure to bring on board a qualified linguist, not only speakers of the language. The linguist will work in collaboration with the reading specialist to make sure the test is well-designed.
DEVELOPING QUESTIONNAIRES AND OTHER DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

- Student (pupil) questionnaire
- Teacher and principal questionnaires
- Parent questionnaire
- Classroom observation
PILOT TESTING YOUR INSTRUMENT

- Conducted in a small sample of schools
- Results are analyzed and the instrument finalized
**Related tools in the Guidance Notes Annex:**

- Annex 7: How to Prepare Letter- and Word-Frequency Lists
- Annex 8: Criteria for Oral Reading Fluency and Comprehension Stories
- Annex 9: Basic EGRA Subtask Scoring
- Annex 10: Sample Agendas for Adaptation Workshops
Any questions or comments?
CHAPTER 3: 
TRAINING ASSESSORS & SUPERVISORS
CHAPTER 3: TRAINING ASSESSORS AND SUPERVISORS

This chapter provides guidance on:

- Recruiting assessors and supervisors
- EGRA assessor and supervisor roles and responsibilities
- How to plan and conduct a training workshop for EGRA assessors and supervisors
- How to select EGRA assessors and data collectors from the available candidates.
TRAINING ASSESSORS & SUPERVISORS

- Identify and recruit assessors
  - Potential assessors should be identified based on established criteria, in consultation with relevant stakeholders
In the training workshop, assessors need to learn how to:

- Use the materials
- Work with children
- Administer each sub-section of the test
- Score each sub-section of the test
- Complete the demographic information
- Select the sample of children
- Code the instrument
Plan workshop to train assessors

Train assessors
  - Goal is for assessors to accurately administer and score EGRA

Select assessors and supervisors
  - Potential assessors are evaluated during the training to identify those who most accurately administer the test
  - Those who are able to most accurately conduct the assessment are selected

Train supervisors
  - Specific roles and responsibilities

TIP!
Assessor training should be approximately 1 week. Build the capacity of trainees by providing instruction, practice opportunities in schools, and consistent feedback.
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**RELATED TOOLS IN ANNEX:**

- Annex 11: Sample Assessor Handouts
- Annex 12: Sample Supervisor Handouts
- Annex 13: EGRA Assessor Training—Agenda Examples
- Annex 14: Scoring Presentation
- Annex 15: Assessor Observation Checklist
- Annex 16: Overview of Interrater Reliability (IRR) Test Administration and Scoring

You can download training videos at: [www.eddataglobal.org/video/index.cfm](http://www.eddataglobal.org/video/index.cfm)
Any questions or comments?
CHAPTER 4: DATA COLLECTION
CHAPTER 4: DATA COLLECTION

This chapter provides guidance on:

- How to organize assessment materials
- How to arrange travel logistics
- How to organize and pre-code EGRA instruments and supplementary instruments
- How to work with school personnel during data collection
- How to facilitate and supervise accurate and complete data collection
- How to ensure sufficient post-assessment reporting and data management
PREPARING FOR DATA COLLECTION

- Identify time period for conducting assessment
- Review sample schools and verify location
- Create itinerary
- Organize testing materials
- Arrange transportation, lodging
- Notify all schools in advance and obtain letter of authorization
**Prepare Materials in Advance**

- Bags for supervisors
- Folders for assessors
- Rain gear
- Guidance for how to prepare instruments and restock folders and bags each evening
- Tools for coding and sampling
- A transportation plan
- Troubleshoot some scenarios together in advance
TEST ADMINISTRATION

- Teams of data collectors (2-3 assessors, plus 1 supervisor) travel to one school per day to gather data
- They select a sample of pupils to assess (must obtain pupil consent)
- Administer EGRA during the school day
- Interview teachers and head teachers about their qualifications, instructional practices and other characteristics
SUPERVISION
DURING DATA COLLECTION

- Conduct EGRA, ensuring proper student sampling and management of supplementary questionnaire
- Ensure proper fieldwork reporting

TIP!
Supervision is key to a successful EGRA. A well-trained supervisor should accompany all teams. Supervisors should review all test instruments and provide feedback to assessors. An overall EGRA Coordinator should be in constant communication with supervisors to ensure that administration is running smoothly.
SUPERVISION
Related tools in annex:

- Annex 17: Sample Data Collection Itinerary and School Schedule
- Annex 18: Sample School Codes
Any questions or comments?
CHAPTER 5:
DATA MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS
This chapter provides guidance on:

- Roles and responsibilities of team members
- Selecting an appropriate data entry system
- Hiring and training data entry clerks
- Conducting and supervising the data entry process
- Cleaning and analyzing data
- Producing an EGRA report
**DATABASE DEVELOPMENT**

- Select your system
- Hire a person to develop it, if necessary

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DATA ENTRY

- Identify/hire data entry clerks and supervisor(s)
- Train data entry clerks
- Supervise data entry
DATA PROCESSING & ANALYSIS

- Review data entered
- Check for duplicate entries, data outside expected ranges, etc.
- Analyze data based on EGRA objectives
- Analyze EGRA variables appropriately

TIP!
In order to ensure the reliability and accuracy of EGRA results, a skilled data analyst will be needed to clean and analyze your data.
WRITE EGRA ANALYSIS REPORT

- Draft outline
- Use data to tell a story
- Include graphs and tables to visually represent data
- Be thorough yet succinct in what you report
- Consult the Guidance Notes and review EGRA reports online for an overview of how to present data
Any questions or comments?
CHAPTER 6: RESULTS DISSEMINATION & NEXT STEPS
CHAPTER 6: RESULTS DISSEMINATION AND NEXT STEPS

This chapter provides guidance on:

- Identifying the target audience for results dissemination
- Choosing dissemination activities
IDENTIFYING YOUR DISSEMINATION STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose ➔ Audiences ➔ Activities
DISSEMINATING RESULTS

- Hold a stakeholder meeting to validate results
- Identify other activities based on EGRA purpose (as well as budget)
- Example activities:
  - Policy dialogue
  - Distribution of briefs
  - Social mobilization campaign
  - Radio or television announcements
DISSEMINATING RESULTS

- Determine your main audiences for results dissemination and how they can be reached
- Identify key messages
- Prepare appropriate dissemination materials
Using results to improve reading

- Identify how results can be used to improve children’s reading outcomes
- Select and implement context-appropriate strategies for improving reading

Example: EGRA results in Malawi led to the development of a reading program for the early grades
SOME OUTCOMES FROM EGRA

Gambia: Results of the survey spurred government into action

• Developed handbook on Teaching Early Grade Reading Abilities
• Conducted nationwide in-service training of grade 1–3 teachers and their supervisors
• Conducted a follow-up EGRA in 2009 to assess the impact of their actions
• Results revealed significant improvement in children’s reading ability
• Continuing to improve reading through the development of reading program in mother tongue languages
RELATED TOOLS IN ANNEX:

- Annex 19: Sample EGRA Findings Workshop
- Annex 20: Sample EGRA Brief
INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

For more information on reading, planning and implementing EGRA, consult:

- *Guidance Notes on Planning and Implementing Early Grade Reading Assessments (EGRA)*

- *EGRA Toolkit*

- *EGRA training videos*
  [www.eddataglobal.org/video/index.cfm](http://www.eddataglobal.org/video/index.cfm)

- *Eddata website* (includes country-specific reports and instruments)
  [www.eddataglobal.org](http://www.eddataglobal.org)