

Exercise D: EGRA Planning Discussion
Session 11: EGRA Implementation

Introduction to the Discussion: This is a whole-group discussion and brainstorming activity. Read each of the following case studies and the challenges encountered. Think about and discuss steps that could be taken to prevent such a challenge. Brainstorm ways to address the challenge and how to move forward to complete the tasks in the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) process. We will take approximately 5–10 minutes to read, reflect, and discuss each case study below.

Case Study 1:

You just received word that your language expert is unavailable for the Adaptation Workshop.

How to move forward:

- Recruit new expert
- Draw on local networks
- May need to adjust overall timeline to get new expert lined up and familiarized with project

How to prevent the challenge:

- Make sure language expert is aware of key dates for participation and has agreed to be available
- Schedule adaptation workshop around language expert’s availability (assuming it works for everyone else)

Case Study 2:

The MoE sent word that they would like to assess grade 2 and grade 3 students. You are one week away from the Adaptation Workshop.

How to move forward:

- Conduct analysis of grade 3 textbook/materials, including word and letter frequency lists
- Draft new instruments (IF NEEDED) ahead of Adaptation Workshop

How to prevent the challenge:

- Make sure MOE is included in initial planning stages and agrees to research questions and need to stick to them
- Plan to collect data for 2 grades from the beginning

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Case Study 3:

The budget you proposed for the EGRA study is more than what the client was anticipating or is able to fund.

How to move forward:

- Identify biggest drivers of cost and identify how they can be reduced
- Assess research questions; are modifications needed to reduce sample size and bring down costs?
- Condense data collection period (may in turn require adjustments to sample size and research questions)
- Reconsider design of assessor teams (fewer assessors may be possible)
- Modify instrument to streamline assessment process and number of assessors needed

How to prevent the challenge:

- Agree on budget parameters early on in the process, and develop research questions that allow you to stay with the available budget

Case Study 4:

The MoE would like the results of the EGRA in six months from the start of planning. There was an EGRA in this country before—two years ago.

How to move forward:

- Draw on prior instruments
- Condense adaptation and piloting processes
- Recruit assessors, local experts, subcontractor previously involved and familiar with EGRA

How to prevent the challenge:

- Share with the MOE a typical EGRA timeline early on in the planning process so that they are aware of when results can be expected.
- Utilize existing resources (instruments, trained assessors) to save time during the planning and implementation process

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Case Study 5:

Uploading data proves to be difficult during the Assessor Training Workshop and Pilot. You suspect this might also be the case during data collection.

How to move forward:

- Research alternative options that may work better (i.e., mobile hotspots, wireless modems, specific mobile networks available in a region)
- Provide back-up uploading options for teams (i.e., come to project office to upload data)
- Encourage teams to sync tablets daily to back-up data in between uploads

How to prevent the challenge:

- Conduct research in advance to identify best options (have project staff or subcontractor organization assist)

Case Study 6:

The subcontractor you are working with threatens not to proceed with the project due to limited cash flow.

How to move forward:

- Develop a deliverables schedule with frequent milestone payments
- Develop communications and agreements with subcontractor

How to prevent the challenge:

During contract negotiations

- review financial health of organization and feasibility of necessary advance payments and purchases
- communicate with subcontractor in advance regarding need for payments and purchases prior to payment
- communicate with subcontractor normal timeframe for subcontractor payments
- develop a deliverables schedule with frequent milestone payments