Using the EGRA Calculator for Study Design and Budget Estimates

Kellie Betts

RTI International

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What is the EGRA calculator?

- An Excel-based estimation tool that can produce an approximate budget for an EGRA application

- Allows for adjustable inputs based on intended EGRA research design

- Is based on experience from past EGRAs to take into account common inputs that influence cost

Purpose and Intended Use of the EGRA Calculator

- For use by missions and implementing organizations interested in estimating costs

- Can help inform EGRA study design by providing rough estimates of costs associated with different design scenarios

How does the tool estimate costs?

Estimates are based on essential information that directly affects costs:

- Sample size
    - Number of schools
    - Number of grades
    - Number of students per grade

- Number of languages
- Number of EGRA subtasks being administered
- Geographic disaggregation needed (national vs. regional; urban vs. rural)
- Number of assessors and supervisors
- Number of assessor teams

Tool Assumptions: Implementing Organization

Organizational Structure:

The tool assumes an organizational structure in which the EGRA is managed from a headquarters office located in a country other than the country of implementation.

Required Cost Inputs: Implementing Organization and Labor

Labor rates for work assumed to be done at headquarters need to be manually entered, as these costs vary among implementing organizations.

11: Enter the labor rates and labor hours needed to complete the following activities:	Labor Rate per Hour:	Hours:
Overall Project Management		
Sample Design		
Instrument Design and Adaptation		
Instrument Translation		
Assessor Training		
Data Analysis		
Report Writing		
Other 1:		
Other 2:		

Required Cost Inputs: Travel Expenses

Travel Inputs: These costs must be manually entered into the calculator.

12. Enter the estimated expenses associated with travel:	Number of Travelers:	Cost per Trip:
Adaptation Workshop		
Assessor Training Workshop		
Dissemination Workshop		
Other 1:		

Tool Assumptions: Unit Costs and Currency

- **Unit Costs:** Current unit costs are based on averages from multiple regions/locations. Costs may be manually updated as needed to better reflect local costs and provide a more accurate estimate.

  - Consider local norms and practices, weather constraints, and context specific transportation challenges

- **Currency Adjustments: Unit costs are based on current actual costs.** The calculator does not account for inflation or currency fluctuation.

Updating Unit Costs

15. Adjust unit inputs to directly reflect unit costs of the items and expenses listed.	
Item	**Unit costs**
Venue	$500
Lunch/tea break during workshop trainings	$8
Data collector per diem/payment	$40
Data supervisor per diem/payment	$65
Transport to schools during pilot	$100
Transport to schools during data collection	$150
Assessor transportation to training	$30
Lodging	$50
Supplies	**Unit costs**
Photocopies	$0.30
Flipcharts	$10.00

Example 1: Country X Research Design

Country X would like to conduct an EGRA in 2017. The Ministry of Education in Country X is interested in collecting data for grade 2 students in each of the 6 regions/languages in the country. In each region, pupils are taught in the national language but introduced to English gradually until the end of grade 3, after which they are taught in English. Therefore, pupils will be assessed in a national language and in English.

Each regional education office has an assessment team consisting of about 10 staff who will be trained to conduct the data collection.

The assessment will include the five core EGRA subtasks, plus phonemic awareness and familiar word reading.

Example 1: Calculator Inputs for Country X

Parameters	Suggested	Current
Total Sample	2400	2400
Pupils Per Grade / School	10	10
Data Collectors / Team	4	3
Number of Teams	43	20
Total Number of Data Collectors	172	60
Total Number of Assessments	4800	4800
Number of Days for Data Collection	7	20
Number of Pupils / Assessor / School	4	4
Number of Schools	240	240
Total Estimate Based on Inputs	225,444	
Currency Exchange Rate	1	
Total Estimate in Local Currency	225,444	

Example 2: Country X Modified Research Design

The Department of Education in Country X has decided it is less interested in performance data for English since pupils will have had little exposure to English by the end of grade 2. Instead, Country X would like to compare early grade reading performance data in each of the national languages for pupils across grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3.

In order to complete the data collection in a timely manner, each region will use a mix of government and private data collectors, with about 10 government and 10 private per region.

Modified Calculator Inputs for Country X

Parameters	Suggested	Current
Total Sample	7200	7200
Pupils Per Grade / School	10	10
Data Collectors / Team	4	4
Number of Teams	30	30
Total Number of Data Collectors	120	120
Total Number of Assessments	7200	7200
Number of Days for Data Collection	10	10
Number of Pupils / Assessor / School	6	6
Number of Schools	240	240
Total Estimate Based on Inputs		250,962
Currency Exchange Rate	1	
Total Estimate in Local Currency		250,962

Important Reminders When Using the EGRA Calculator!

- The budget estimates from the previous example scenarios reflected only "other direct costs" or field costs. (Labor and international travel were not included.)

- While the estimates between the two scenarios appear to be similar, the gap will likely widen when labor and travel are included by the user.
  - e.g., budgeting for specialists and local experts to design tests for 1 grade in 6 languages (as in Example 1) versus 3 grades in 6 languages (as in Example 2)

- It's always very important to verify sample and unit costs on second tab.
  - Users must manually adjust the pilot parameters based on the total sample.
  - Users can manually adjust unit costs to reflect local context.

Pilot Sample for 6 Languages/Regions and 3 Grades

PILOT	
Total number of pupils	900
Total number of schools	20
Total number of pupils per school	45
Total assessors per team	4
Total number of teams	10
Number of days for data collection	2

Parameters	Suggested	Current
Total Sample	7200	7200
Pupils Per Grade / School	10	10
Data Collectors / Team	4	4
Number of Teams	30	30
Total Number of Data Collectors	120	120
Total Number of Assessments	7200	7200
Number of Days for Data Collection	10	10
Number of Pupils / Assessor / School	6	6
Number of Schools	240	240
Total Estimate Based on Inputs		263,465
Currency Exchange Rate	1	
Total Estimate in Local Currency		263,465