

# Optimizing Assessment for All



## Terms of Reference of the OAA Mini-Study Workshop 2

Location: Dakar, Senegal

Dates: 8-9 November, 2018

Countries that are anticipated to participate: Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Senegal, Zambia

Background/Purpose: As part of the Optimizing Assessment for All (OAA) initiative, the Brookings Institution, in collaboration with Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Teaching and Learning Educators' Network for Transformation (TALENT) at UNESCO Dakar Regional Office, is facilitating a mini-study with nine countries in Africa to identify existing assessment tools that are related to 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Over the course of the mini-study, the countries will participate in a data-gathering activity to identify and provide examples of national and classroom-based tests or test items that could be interpreted as directly or indirectly capturing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. This information will be reported at the TALENT regional convenings and act, in part, to provide an understanding of "baseline" approaches to assessment of these skills.

On 16-17 July 2018, nine African countries participated in the first workshop for the OAA Mini-Study, during which country representatives provided information about their national education systems, engaged in collaborative discussions about 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and discussed and finalized guidelines for the mini-study. During August and September, representatives in their respective countries have started contacting their ministries and departments for national level assessment examples, identifying and recruiting schools to sample from, and collecting sample national and classroom-based tools and items.

This second OAA mini-study workshop, is designed to familiarize participants with key features of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that will enable them to recognize and categorize assessment items and tools appropriately. Therefore, **country representatives must come to the workshop with examples of tools and items that could be interpreted as capturing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.** During the workshop, representatives will engage in collaborative analysis of these sample tools, and common understandings across the country representatives will be built. This is essential if the coding of each country's sample assessments are to be based on similar criteria. The goal of the workshop is to equip participants to code their own data and to have a deeper understand of the skills that are the focus of the study.