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Regional Workshop on National Learning Assessment Systems in
Sub-Saharan

6-8 December 2017

SEACMEQ

- Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality
- An independent developmental network of 16 Ministries of Education
- One additional Ministry of Education participating as an observer.



- Governance and management
 - Coordinating Center (SCC) which is housed at University of Botswana
 - SEACMEQ Managing Committee
 - SEACMEQ Scientific Committee
 - SEACMEQ National Steering Committees

SEACMEQ Conceptual Model

- **School Characteristics**

type, location, enrolment, resources, principal's qualification, parental involvement etc.

- **Learner Characteristics**

Age, Sex, Attendance, Repetition, SES, Nutrition, Siblings, Home help, etc.

- **Teacher Characteristics**

Age, Sex, Qualifications, Subjects, Classroom resources, Behaviour, In-service training, etc.

Learner Achievement

- **Reading**
- **Maths**
- **Health Knowledge**



Examples of

- **SEACMEQ Research Questions**

1. Is the quality of education improving, remained the same, or declining?
2. What are the characteristics of Grade 6 pupils?
3. What actions do these characteristics require the Ministry of Education (MoE) to take?
4. How do these characteristics influence achievement?
5. What can the Ministry of Education do?

SACMEQ I Project	SACMEQ II Project	SACMEQ III Project	SACMEQ IV Project
1995 - 1998	2000 - 2004	2006 - 2010	2012 - 2016
Seven MoE; 20,133 pupils 2,014 teachers 1,086 schools	Fourteen MoE; 41,686 pupils 5,313 teachers 2,282 schools	Fifteen MoE 69,888 pupils 7,614 teachers 2,785 schools	Fourteen MoE 62,000 pupils 7,000 teachers 2,500 schools
Questionnaires Reading Test for Pupils.	Questionnaires Reading & Maths Tests for Pupils and Teachers	Questionnaires Reading, Maths & Health Knowledge Tests for Pupils and Teachers	Questionnaires Reading, Maths & Health Knowledge Tests for Pupils and Teachers

- Target population: learners in Grade 6
- Language of test: English, Portuguese, and Kiswahili

Completed SEACMEQ Projects

SEACMEQ Assessments and Quality of Education

- Use of SEACMEQ (national)
 - Curriculum reforms
 - Evidence-based planning,
 - Addressing inequalities in the distribution of both human and material resources.
 - To track the quality of education over time (Is it remaining the same, improving or declining?)
 - To develop capacity and technical-know-how on educational evaluation
 - To provide a platform for the public to engage, from an informed position, with education systems and thus hold them accountable.

SEACMEQ Assessments and Quality of Education

- Use of SEACMEQ (international)
 - To inform the formulation of regional and global strategies for the development of education systems in Africa and elsewhere:
 - SADC Human Resource Development Sector's programmes,
 - Use of SEACMEQ Data Archive to contribute to the advancement of knowledge

SEACMEQ Impact on Policy

- Education policy reforms in a number of SEACMEQ countries:
 - Development of National numeracy plan (Seychelles)
 - Action plan to 2014 – improving schooling (South Africa)
 - Education and Training Sector Plan 2005 -2015 (Namibia)
 - Improvement of textbook distribution in primary education (Mozambique)
- Contributed to policy/prog. changes, & guided development partners;
- Informed sector reviews, presidential commissions, curriculum development, teacher training

Benefits of Participating in SEACMEQ's Research Programmes

Short term

- Research products and tools in the form of research reports, indicators, and information systems
- Trained educational planners and researchers
- Improved and expanded dissemination systems for SEACMEQ information resources

Long term

- A long-term information base on education quality
- Improved and expanded evidence-based policy procedures

Challenges or issues of large scale learning assessments

- Contexts vary
 - curriculum,
 - conditions, etc.
- Translation and Interpretation of items may
 - language proficiency
 - Shades of meanings
- Funding
 - Gaps in study circles
 - Delayed processes

Concluding remarks

- SEACMEQ serves its member countries through research at primary education level to assist them to monitor and evaluate education with the aim of providing continual quality education.
- Methodology of research employed can be summarised into three themes: policy development, evaluation and research.



Thank you