

Who's Doing What

UNICEF

Improving Quality by Assessing Learning  
Outcomes

June 2, 2010



## Context for UNICEF's Work on Learning Assessment

- **Shift in focus from access to quality and ensure children complete education cycle, meet learning targets and acquire relevant skills**
- ***Accountability approach* for improving quality focusing on assessing learning outcomes at the school level, utilizing parents and communities as proponents and agents of school and system reform**
- **UNICEF uniquely positioned to influence system wide policies and school based policies**

## CFS and the Focus on Assessment

- **Child-friendly Schools (CFS) links all the elements of CFS to learning as an indicator of success**
- **Targets most important determinants of success in learning, as well as learning itself**
- **Parents and children (stakeholders) empowered to develop a consensus on what type of results the school should be accountable for**
- **Technical expertise for assessing learning achievement, setting targets for improvement, and tracking improvements from year to year**

## Examples of Learning Assessment Initiatives

- Afghanistan - Support to MoE to increase their capacity in the development of assessment tools, textbooks and teacher training programmes.
- China - The Learning Competencies and Interactive Teaching project in remote rural areas - assessment of the learning competencies of 13,000 children in third and sixth grades in 110 schools was conducted in Chinese, Mathematics, and Natural and Social Science.
- India – In Kerala development of assessment handbooks for grade 4 and 7
- Macedonia: coordinate with USAID and WB to ensure complementarity of activities in classroom assessment
- Myanmar - The Township Education Management Information System (TEMIS) in Myanmar provides regular reports, including reports on learning achievement, in select townships.
- Pakistan - Baseline of learning achievements for Grade 4 students established in 11 districts of Baluchistan and NWFP; Development of CFS policy provision/guidelines that include development of Grades 4 and 8 learning assessment tools
- South Sudan - The South Sudan Program undertook a initiative towards establishment of a monitoring system of learning outcomes. The test items and tools have been developed for assessing literacy, numeracy, and life skills for Grade 4, and pilot tested in 15 schools. The next step in 2010 is to conduct numeracy, literacy, and life skills assessments for Grade 4 in all schools

## Going Forward

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- **Reporting National Assessments**
- **Upstream policy work**
- **System-wide monitoring studies with emphasis on including the foundational phase**
- **Regional research agenda on the determinants of good performance to inform policy, and mobilize resources**