



# ACER and UNICEF partner in assessment and evaluation

ACER has been entrusted to provide technical assistance in large-scale national and regional assessments in the Asia-Pacific region and program evaluations in Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia for UNICEF countries.

Education drives poverty reduction, inclusion, economic growth, and sustainable development. Countries across the globe have made remarkable advancements in student enrolments in school. Provision of quality education to all children, however, remains a challenge and cross-country differences in educational achievements are apparent. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified global educational challenges and disparities due to school closures across many countries. To understand real progress, education stakeholders are focused on measuring student learning outcomes and evaluating education programs in different regions.

In 2020, ACER signed two significant Long-Term Agreements (LTA) with UNICEF. One involves design, implementation and reporting on large-scale national and regional learning assessments in the Asia-Pacific region and the other covers technical assistance in the evaluation of education programs and interventions in countries under UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) and Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). Both agreements will run for three years with the possibility of a further two-year extension.

The LTA framework for the Asia-Pacific region covers UNICEF's flagship initiative, the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), of which ACER is the lead technical partner. SEA-PLM is a regional program for Southeast Asian countries to assess student learning outcomes of Grade 5 students. The program's central focus is to support member countries to develop robust learning assessment systems, enabling them to monitor student learning outcomes and to contribute to a more equitable and meaningful education for all children across the region. SEA-PLM is led through a partnership between the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and UNICEF.

Under the new assignment for program evaluation in Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia, ACER has partnered with 14 expert



organisations across nine countries in the ESARO region and nine expert organisations across six countries in the ROSA region. It demonstrates ACER's ability to work with multiple partners and often new partners in different regions, reflecting the organisation's truly global footprint.

ACER is now a recognised partner for UNICEF countries in all areas of large-scale assessment in the Asia-Pacific region and in different areas of evaluation in UNICEF ESARO and ROSA countries. We are committed to supporting education stakeholders in evidence generation and utilisation, including, but not limited to, student assessments, educational research and evaluations. We engage with educational organisations and professionals across regions to improve teaching and learning, particularly encouraging the use of robust data for educational decision making.

ACER has designed and led large-scale international, regional and national assessments and evaluations for countries around the world, including low- and middle-income countries. Through its expertise in evidence generation, ACER will continue to support education policymakers and program implementers in different countries to respond to the educational needs of a world shaken by the pandemic. ■

### Further reading

Read more about ACER's Long-Term Agreement with UNICEF in the Asia-Pacific region at: [acer.org/gb/discover/article/unicef-and-acer-establish-new-long-term-partnership-framework](https://acer.org/gb/discover/article/unicef-and-acer-establish-new-long-term-partnership-framework)

Read more about South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) at: [seaplum.org/](https://seaplum.org/)