Nepal has undergone a long and complex transition towards establishing federalism in recent years. The new structure of governance offers opportunities and challenges for the education sector.

The amendment of the Education Act in 2016 introduced two key changes to school education: examinations at the completion of basic education in Grade 8 that allows entry to secondary education; and the formation of the National Examination Board (NEB) to oversee standardisation of the Grade 8 and secondary school examinations.

An overhaul of the examination system in Nepal focuses on standardisation of exams and assessing higher order thinking skills at the end of basic education.

Nepal shifts to the testing of higher order skills
conducted online, focused on quality assurance of test items and creation of an item bank.

The key results of the project include a robust assessment framework and draft high-quality assessment items that can be included in the final assessment. The items were reviewed for quality assurance and a pool of questions created. An important outcome of the workshops will be a team of local Nepalese experts, trained by ACER, who will become the backbone of the assessment system.

'IT has been a wonderful experience working with Nepali education experts who are open to new and innovative ideas and immensely motivated by the love for their country. We look forward to future engagements in supporting educational assessments and quality education in Nepal,' says Dr Mee Young Han, ACER India Research Director.

Throughout the project, ACER has been working closely with local experts as well as education officers in the government, which will enable them to develop their own capacity and ultimately achieve the goal of examination standardisation by themselves.

Further reading
Read more on ACER Discover at: acer.org/in/discover/article/supporting-examination-reform-in-nepal

The data for the illustration was taken from uis.unesco.org/en/country/np

### Nepal education statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children not in school</td>
<td>103,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of children aged 5-9 enrolled in primary school</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of young people aged 10-16 enrolled in secondary school</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>