



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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International Institute
for Capacity Building
in Africa

Re-thinking learning assessment during school closure

Possible Options

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Conducting Learning Assessment During School Closure

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Key purposes of assessment

- a) Inform decisions on student promotion or placement
- b) Inform the teaching-learning process
- c) Give feedback to students, and other internal users such as parents
- d) Communicate levels of achievement to external users such as employers

Which of the above have direct impact on quality learning?

Two types of assessment

- **Formative assessment** – *assessment for learning*
Involves continuous collection of information about student achievement, to inform teaching-learning process with the goal of improving learning achievement
- **Summative assessment** – *assessment of learning*
Involves collection of information about student achievement at the end of a learning cycle, with the goal of measuring the levels of learning achievement.

Some key differences between **summative** and **formative** assessment

	Summative	Formative
What is the aim of the assessment?	To check the levels of learning achievement	To improve levels of learning achievement
When it is carried out?	At the end of a learning cycle	During teaching and learning processes
What is the spectrum of assessment?	Targets certain level of learning	Targets whole spectrum of learning
Is feedback given?	Yes, but rarely or never for national exams	Yes, always
What are some of the challenges?	Information of little use to classroom teachers	Need for “ assessment-literate ” teachers

Some key points about **classroom-based formative assessment**

- ❑ Active communication between **student, teacher** and **family** about the achievement of learning targets and opportunities for improvement
- ❑ Takes into consideration that students are at different levels of learning
- ❑ Student assessment data can be documented and used as evident for progress

Some possible options for formative assessment during school closure

High/medium-tech option

- Based on e-learning platforms – *either teacher or self directed*
- Pass before proceeding to the next section
- Learning examples can be incorporated
- Preferably run more efficiently online BUT can also be offline

Would require high

- ICT capacity among both teachers and students
- Investment on ICT devices

Some possible options for **formative assessment** during school closure

Low/No-tech options

- Take-home test packages
- Documents posted on websites
- Files via social media platforms such as WhatsApp
- SMS-based low-tech platforms for quizzes

Parental involvement crucial for success

Some possible options for **summative assessment** during school closure

High-tech option

- Based on e-platforms
- Teacher set up test online
- Restrictions on who takes the test, when, and for how long

Require high ICT capacity among both teachers and student **PLUS** considerable investment of ICT devices

Some possible options for **summative assessment** during school closure

Medium-tech option

- Teacher upload tests on a website
- Students upload their responses for marking

Low-tech options

- Take-home test packages
- Publish the tests in local newspapers.

Credibility would rely heavily on parental cooperation

Thank you

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