

PRESS RELEASE

Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Classroom-Based Formative Assessments

The Teaching and Learning Educators' Network for Transformation (TALENT) in collaboration with the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) is organizing a Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Classroom-Based Formative Assessments in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2 to 4 July 2019. This meeting will be an opportunity to identify key elements to develop support tools for the effective use of formative assessment in the classroom with the participation of international experts, such as UNESCO, the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNICEF, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Brookings Institution and the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) as well as the participation of national teams from 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2017) shows that 8 in 10 children and adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa do not meet minimum levels of proficiency at grade levels in reading and mathematics. This learning crisis could threaten the progress of African countries towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on Education, and by extension, the African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2016–2025.

Education systems struggle to improve statistics on learning outcomes due to several factors, including, among others, the ability of teachers to understand what information is retained by students and what skills students are developing in the classroom environment.

To address this situation and help meet the learning challenge, TALENT was established in June 2016 to serve as a thematic platform to support the implementation of the Framework for Action of the SDG 4 on Education by 2030. It is one of the task teams of the Regional Coordination Group on SDG 4-Education 2030 in West and Central Africa.

It is within this framework that TALENT is organizing this workshop, with the financing of the GPE, on classroom-based formative assessments, in collaboration with IICBA, to develop a clear and shared understanding of formative assessment and other related concepts; identify key elements to develop supportive tools for an efficient use of classroom-based formative assessments; and be connected to a network of peers from other countries and international experts.

The three-day workshop will be attended by national teams from 15 countries, including Cameroun, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Togo in addition to the Secretariat of TALENT based in UNESCO Dakar and the previously mentioned international experts.

