



## Findings from the PISA for Development field trial of the assessment of out-of-school youth

- The results of the field trial of the PISA for Development (PISA-D) out-of-school component confirm that the initiative is on track to deliver a method to include out-of-school youth in the PISA assessment, helping to make it more relevant to middle- and low-income countries.
- The field trial shows that the PISA-D out-of-school instruments work: they measure the skills, competencies and non-cognitive attributes of out-of-school youth, and collect actionable data on the characteristics of those assessed, the reasons for their not being in school, and the magnitudes and forms of exclusion.
- Lessons from the field trial are being used to inform preparations for the main data collection, which will take place from June to November 2018 in six countries.

The PISA-D project aims to make PISA more accessible and relevant to middle- and low-income countries by introducing new features to the assessment, including tests that are specially designed to measure lower levels of performance, contextual questionnaires that better reflect the situations of 15-year-olds across a diverse group of countries, and approaches to include out-of-school youth.

The PISA-D tests and contextual questionnaires for out-of-school youth are being piloted in six countries: Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal and Zambia. The field trial of the out-of-school assessment instruments took place from April to September 2017. More than 32,000 households in the participating countries were screened to determine the eligibility of youth in those settings for the out-of-school assessment, yielding about 2,300 completed cases. This represents a hit rate (number of cases completed per number of youth screened for eligibility) of around 7% in the probability-sample component. Another 1,200 cases were completed by eligible youth who were identified using a methodology that was not based on probability sampling (no response rate was computed for this component). Based on the results of the field trial, the instruments and survey operations were modified where necessary in preparation for the main study.

*The PISA-D out-of-school assessment field trial demonstrates that the instruments work as intended.*

Findings from the analysis of the PISA-D field trial data for the assessment of out-of-school youth are organised around four major field trial goals. Two of the goals are related to sampling and survey operations and instrumentation and are summarised in the table below.

Field Trial Goals	Findings
1. Evaluate the sample design and selection, and survey operations procedures	The field trial was successful for the survey operations procedures in terms of efficiency and accuracy of data collection processes, assessing response rates for various subpopulations of interest, and efficiency and accuracy of data processing (including recoding) and data submission.
2. Provide information about measures of the quality of the survey instruments	The sample sizes across all participating countries were smaller than planned but were adequate for finalising the Main Study instruments and design. The results of the field trial are a valuable resource to help guide the adequacy of scoring procedures, the quality of translation and adaptation, and the scale and analytical procedures for the Main Study.



The other two field trial goals are related to scaling and psychometric item characteristics, the computer-delivery platform, and the case management system, and the results for these are summarised in the table below.

Goals	Findings
3. Evaluate scaling and psychometric item characteristics	The PISA-D field trial data provided valuable information on how well PISA items function, as well as items that came from other surveys and their appropriateness to the PISA-D out-of-school population.
4. Assess the use of the computer-delivery platform and the case management system	The field trial was a success in the following tasks related to an interview-based study: i) the functioning of the cognitive portion of the delivery platform was optimal in the collection of responses and automatic scoring; ii) the case management system worked correctly, particularly for the flow of questions and efficiency of the system in capturing information; iii) it was possible to evaluate the accuracy of the interviewer's instructions; iv) the case management system was effective during the interviews; and v) the system for assigning cases to interviewers, storing case files, and managing reports at the national level worked correctly.

### *PISA technical standards were met by countries conducting the PISA-D field trial.*

The PISA technical standards were elaborated to account for the new features that the out-of-school assessment brings to PISA. The results of the field trial confirm that the participating countries carried out their survey operations in accordance with the newly elaborated technical standards, but with some difficulties. The results of the field trial are a valuable contribution towards the design of the main study, and for accuracy of the data collection and submission practices in the out-of-school component. Based on the field trial results and experiences from countries, the international contractors are also proposing to modify the main survey assessment design to accommodate a smaller sample size yield, while maintaining minimum yields necessary to evaluate the assessment items. These modifications will be reflected in the final version of the technical standards.

All findings from the PISA-D field trial, including lessons learnt, are documented for reference in preparing for the main data collection. While the results of the field trial were positive, each country faced its own challenges in conducting the out-of-school assessment, such as completing all field-trial tasks on time. The field trial helps countries better plan for the main study and anticipate challenges. The OECD and its contractors are providing countries with tailored support to reinforce their capacity and create the conditions in each country that are needed to successfully implement the assessment.

#### For more information

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