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# LEARNING OUTCOMES IN NAMIBIA

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# BES III

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1. Under the BES III EQUIP2 project, AIR was contacted by AED in early 2005 to support measurement of learning outcomes for the project.
2. Goal was program evaluation, i.e., to measure the impact of the project interventions on learning outcomes at the elementary school level in the northern regions.
3. BES III collaborated with the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) in Namibia on the program evaluation.



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# LPAI

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1. Under the Learner Performance Assessment Instrument (LPAI), assessments were developed by BES III and NIED at grade 4 in mathematics, science, and English.
2. Administration was conducted over two years, comprising a baseline and a posttest.
3. Evaluation was well-received by the Ministry of Education and USAID.
4. Constraints were: late baseline, only one posttest, one grade level, low capacity of NIED.



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# NNSAT

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1. In early 2008, AIR was again contacted by BES III to explore expanding the LPAI into a national student assessment.
2. Work was proposed in collaboration with the Directorate of National Examinations and Assessment (DNEA).
3. Goal was a sustainable national system of evaluating student achievement at grades 5 and 8 in 3-4 subject areas on a census basis.



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# Technical Assistance

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1. During the period of performance (2008-2009), focus has been on technical assistance, capacity-building, planning, and piloting.
2. Areas of assistance include: test blueprints, item development, test construction, administration, data analysis, psychometrics, and reporting.
3. Special focuses have been on aligning tests with international standards and setting up systems for analyzing trends over time.



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# Successes

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1. Namibia is benefitting from several advantages: previous experience, supportive MOE, existing capacity in the DNEA, clear objectives, solid planning, and adequate funding.
2. Negotiations are in process for a 2-year extension with USAID funding for technical assistance and further sustainability.
3. Prospects for success in the future are very good, based on past performance and current



vision.  
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# For More Information

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See *Measuring Learning Outcomes in USAID/USG-Supported Education Programs: BEC Evaluation Working Group Recommendations*. (USAID version: December 2007; International version: January 2008).

Also *Improving Learning Outcomes in Developing Countries through Standards-Based Education* (Forthcoming EQUIP1 Paper).



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