



SEPTEMBER 2025

Capacity

Developing Sustainable Assessment Systems in Africa: Burkina Faso

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ASSESSMENT TEAM

- The **Direction des Statistiques Sectorielles et de l'Evaluation¹ (DSSE)** is a department within the Ministry of Education responsible for education statistics, school surveys, and national learning assessments.
- The evaluation team also conducts various school-based surveys and includes 20 staff members:
 - Statisticians
 - Pedagogues
 - Teachers
 - Advisors



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- There is no dedicated technical committee. A **Scientific Council validates reports** but is composed primarily of administrative staff rather than researchers or technical experts.



STEERING COMMITTEE

- There is no steering committee.



COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT COVERAGE FOR NATIONAL LEVELS

DSSE manages to conduct national evaluations every 3 years with MoE funding.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS	REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS	INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENTS
National evaluations: Conducted every 3 years since 2001 (last ones 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2024); assesses Reading and Mathematics in Grades 1 and 4, 2 and 5 and 3 and 6 alternatively. EGRA (<i>Early Grade Reading Assessment</i>): conducted in a few localities for a project in 2023; assessed Reading readiness in early grades. EGMA (<i>Early Grade Maths Assessment</i>): conducted in a few localities for a project in 2023; assessed Mathematics readiness in early grades.	PASEC (<i>Programme d'Analyse des Systèmes Éducatifs de la CONFEMEN</i>): Conducted every 5 years (2014, 2019 and 2025); assesses Reading and Mathematics in Grades 2 and 6.	<i>Currently not involved in any international assessments.</i>

¹Department of Sectoral Statistics and Evaluation)



National evaluations are fully funded by the MoE. External partners provide only limited technical support.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS: INSUFFICIENT FUNDING AND LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES



CHALLENGES

- **Limited expertise in literature reviews** and formulating research questions
- **Lack of psychometric skills** for item validation
- Difficulties in mobilizing, training, and supervising large teams for assessment administration
- Security challenges in certain regions
- **Limited research skills for advanced data analysis** (mostly limited to bivariate analysis)
- **Challenges in disseminating results effectively**



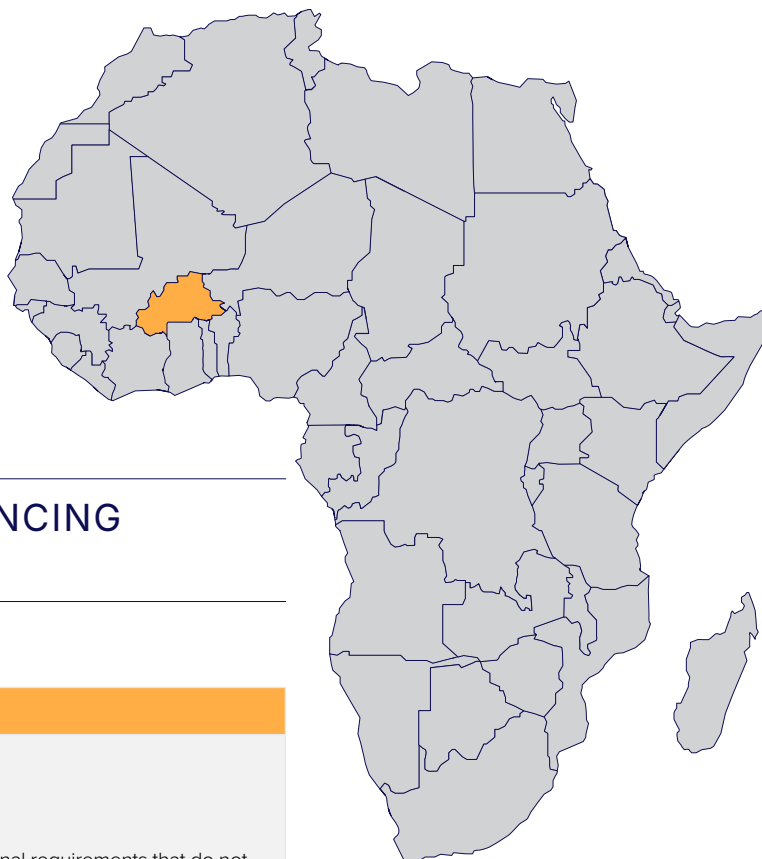
POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- **Pilot use of tablets** to improve data collection
- **Occasional support from national institutions and universities** (e.g. INSD, ISSP, LAPAME)
- Technical support previously provided by Canadian cooperation (now discontinued)
- **Organization of regional workshops to disseminate results**

Source	Description	Frequency	Duration	Participation
DSSE	Data analysis using R or Stata	Ad hoc	Ad hoc	Staff who need support
PASEC	Various training workshops on evaluation (sampling, data analysis etc.)	Held every 5 years during PASEC cycles	one week	1 statistician
INSD National Demographic Institute	Training on statistics	Tailored support when needed	Ad hoc	Staff who need support

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Findings from national assessments have recently informed policy decisions, particularly regarding the use of national languages for instruction and the effects of class size.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING ASSESSMENT IMPACT

Recommendations for International Organizations:

Start Doing	StopDoing
Provide support for capacity building (online)	Imposing external requirements that do not align with local priorities.
Help to migrate to open source software (R)	
Provide computers	
Help local and regional universities to train statistician in psychometrics	

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The most important factor is having the right people in the right positions.