Since 2002, the government has been dedicated to improving its education system in three key areas: 1) expanding school access; 2) improving the quality of education; and 3) strengthening the efficiency and equity of the education system at all levels. While Angola’s primary education system has improved dramatically since 2002, work remains to establish a strong overall system that ensures quality learning outcomes at both the primary and secondary levels. There has been strong commitment from the highest levels of government in Angola to improve the capacity of the education system to monitor quality and measure student learning outcomes.

**CONTEXT**

Created a strong and sustainable foundation for its national learning assessment system

Angola institutionalized a new assessment unit—the National Assessment System Technical Group (NASTG) in the Ministry of Education (MED)—which is responsible for the national assessment system and carrying out national assessment activities. The READ 1 Trust Fund program helped build the capacity of this assessment unit through over 20 specialized training activities, national workshops, international conferences, and study visits. These capacity building events also benefited more than 300 MED staff, provincial education officials, and teacher trainers.

In 2010, Angola’s government created a line item for assessment activities in the education budget. Since then, a regular annual budget of approximately US$1 million has been allocated for supporting the development of Angola’s assessment system, ensuring the sustainability of assessment-related activities.

Enabled benchmarking of learning outcomes by introducing an Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and setting a path to conduct an international large-scale assessment (ILSA)

In 2011, Angola implemented its first-ever national EGRA across 144 schools throughout all of the country’s provinces. Angola’s EGRA results have not only served as the first baseline data on learning outcomes in the country but have also put the country on the global scale in the context of the Human Capital Index (HCI).

A decision was made to implement EGRA on a regular basis, thus ensuring that Angola continues to focus its efforts on measuring and improving learning outcomes.

In 2013, Angola’s MED signed a formal agreement for the country to participate in its first ILSA by joining Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ).

**FOCUS AREAS OF READ TRUST FUND GRANT SUPPORT**

Improving capacity to assess student learning outcomes

Developing a culture of evidence-based decision making

Leveraged the impact of the READ 1 Trust Fund grant to continue building and supporting education quality

As a result of the support of the READ 1 Trust Fund grant, in September 2013, the World Bank’s Board of Directors approved the Angola Learning for All project, providing a commitment of US $75 million until 2020. The Project includes US $9 million to support a dedicated component that focuses on strengthening Angola’s student assessment system. Under this component, the project has financed subsequent rounds of EGRA, implemented the Service Delivery Indicators (SDI) survey, and supported the country’s first-ever national large-scale assessment (NLSA) in grades 4 and 6. This project builds on the specific activities supported under the READ 1 Trust Fund program, and also expands support to other areas of the student assessment system in the country.