

Policy Document, 2014
Access to the SACMEQ Data Collection Instruments

The Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) undertakes large-scale cross-national studies of the quality of education and the conditions of schooling associated with African primary schools. The research and information resources generated by the SACMEQ research programme have been used extensively by Ministries of Education, International Organizations (such as UNESCO and the World Bank), and various donor agencies (such as DfID and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs). These resources have also become popular in many universities (in Africa, Australia, United Kingdom, and Japan) where they are used by professors and postgraduate students for the preparation of research papers, government reports, theses, and dissertations.

This document describes access arrangements for the research and information resources related to the SACMEQ Data Collection Instruments.

The SACMEQ Data Collection Instruments include the following documents:

- (i) SACMEQ Questionnaires - which are administered to pupils, teachers, and school heads.
- (ii) SACMEQ Tests - which are administered to pupils and teachers (covering reading mathematics, and HIV-AIDS knowledge).
- (iii) Other SACMEQ Data Collection Instruments - such as take-home pupil questionnaires, school context proformas, and within-school project management documents.
- (iv) SACMEQ Field Manuals - including training materials and manuals/instructions designed to guide within-school data collection.

These SACMEQ Copyright materials are the property of the SACMEQ Coordinating Centre. No individuals (including SACMEQ National Research Coordinators) and no countries (including SACMEQ Member countries) have the right to publish, disclose, or share any of these materials - or to use them outside their official and specific SACMEQ Project designation. These materials (paper and electronic versions) must be destroyed by SACMEQ National Research Coordinators after the completion of an associated within-country SACMEQ data collection.

The SACMEQ Questionnaires are released for public use as an integral part of the associated SACMEQ Data Archive.

In certain cases some questionnaire items may be released to bona fide researchers prior to this with the approval of the SACMEQ Director (based on consultation with the SACMEQ Scientific Committee).

The SACMEQ Tests are strictly confidential and are never released.

However, some selected test items are released so as to provide examples of the questions that are employed across the ability spectrum assessed by each test. These released items are supplied with their Rasch-scaled difficulty values so that researchers are able to embed SACMEQ items in their own tests and then equate them with the SACMEQ scales (which have been equated across the SACMEQ Projects). This important test release policy is applied without exception because the release of the SACMEQ Tests would: (a) invalidate their future validity for the assessment of **levels of knowledge** - both within and across countries, (b) invalidate their future validity for measuring **trends in knowledge** - across time points. The SACMEQ Coordinating Centre has prepared a document (available on the SACMEQ Website) that contains all test items that have been approved for release.

Other SACMEQ Data Collection Instruments and Field Manuals are not released for public use.

These documents may be released to bona fide researchers with the approval of the SACMEQ Director (based on consultation with the SACMEQ Scientific Committee).