

TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Results of the TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Survey Activities Questionnaire

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The Survey Activities Questionnaire was designed to elicit information about NRC's experiences in preparing for and conducting the TIMSS 2011 and/or PIRLS or prePIRLS 2011 data collection. The questionnaire was composed of six sections and focused on the following:

- Identifying and selecting samples;
- Preparing survey instruments;
- Administering the assessment(s);
- Implementing the National Quality Control Program;
- Preparing for and scoring the constructed-response items; and
- Creating the data files.

All items in the Survey Activities Questionnaire included accompanying comment fields, in which NRC respondents were encouraged to explain their responses, provide additional information, and suggest improvements in the process.

To make data collection more efficient, a combined TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Survey Activities Questionnaire was administered online and was completed by a total of 73 NRCs. The following sections summarize information gathered from the Survey Activities Questionnaire, reflecting the quality of the TIMSS 2011 and PIRLS/prePIRLS 2011 survey materials and procedures in the participating countries.

Sampling Schools and Classes

The first section of the Survey Activities Questionnaire asked NRCs about the survey operations procedures for sampling both schools and classes within the sampled schools. As illustrated in Exhibit 1, nearly all of the countries responded that both Survey Operations Procedures Units 1 and 3 were clear and sufficient and did not report having problems selecting their samples using

Exhibit 2: Survey Activities Questionnaire, Section Two—Translating, Adapting, and Producing
Survey Instruments (Number of NRC Responses)



Nearly all of the countries conducted the recommended quality control checks during the process of printing the testing materials. The most common errors that countries detected and fixed during the printing process were pages that were missing or in the wrong order. Two countries expressed concerns about a breach of security due to the involvement of so many different people in the study, even though all were asked to sign a nondisclosure agreement. In one case, the courier lost the package with the materials and it has not been recovered.

Data Collection

The third section of the *Survey Activities Questionnaire* addressed the extent to which NRCs detected errors in the testing materials during packaging for shipment to schools. As shown in Exhibit 3, a small number of errors were found in the materials. About half of such errors were discovered before distributing materials to schools and were successfully remedied. Errors found after distribution usually were very minor, and either were remedied by school coordinators or the provided replacement materials were used. In the few cases in which the translation or printing errors detected at this late stage could not be remedied, these were reported to the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center and no data for these problematic items were used.

Q: e _r	Ye	N	A N _r e ed
Did you hold formal training session(s) for School Coordinators?	44	28	1
Were Test Administrators trained by School Coordinators within the participating schools?	37	35	1
If you administered PIRLS/prePIRLS and TIMSS at the fourth grade to the same students, did all schools follow the assessment administration order as identified on the Student Tracking Forms?	28	9	0 (N A)

document compliance with prescribed procedures. Primarily due to very tight budgets, some countries sent national monitors to less than 10 percent of the participating schools and some did not observe any actual testing sessions.

As shown in Exhibit 4, when applicable, almost all of the national centers used the National Quality Control Monitor Manual, provided by the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, in order to conduct their quality assurance program. The on-site quality control observations were conducted either by an external agency, members of the national center, or in some cases, other

