5. Readers' guide to ICAN 2019 survey findings

Overview

ICAN 2019 uses a simple-to-use assessment tool, administered one-on-one with children in their homes. The same tool is used with all children in the age group of 5-16.

ICAN 2019 data from the first round of large-scale household-based implementation, described in the preceding section of this report, provides a snapshot of foundational numeracy in one rural district in each of the 13 participating countries. The sampling strategy generates a representative picture only of the sampled district. Therefore, ICAN 2019 data from this round cannot be used as a proxy for national estimates or to compare countries. Rather, this exercise aimed to demonstrate proof of concept in two ways:

- To demonstrate the feasibility of using a common assessment framework and set of tools across very different country contexts; and
- To highlight the ways in which ICAN can be used to generate estimates that respond to important questions confronting countries in the Global South.

In the following sections we provide illustrative examples of how ICAN can provide important evidence with which to answer questions regarding children's foundational numeracy.

Illustrative comparisons using ICAN 2019 data

ICAN 2019 was implemented in 13 countries, but given the limited scale of implementation in each country, the intention in this first round of implementation was to understand the kinds of comparisons that the use of ICAN on scale facilitates, rather than to compare these specific districts. Therefore, Section 6 of this report presents comparative data that has been anonymised; districts are referenced as Location 1, Location 2 and so on. Each page poses a question; displays evidence using ICAN 2019 data that speaks to that question; and summarises what this evidence tells us. The examples provided are intended to illustrate some of the ways in which data from the ICAN assessment tool and contextual questionnaires can be used.

District estimates

Finally, Section 7 presents ICAN 2019 data from individual districts as a snapshot of enrolment and learning in those specific districts. Results are shown for a standardised set of indicators.