

## **Session 7, Activity 1**

### **Planning and Budgeting for a National Large-Scale Assessment**

It is January 2012, and the government of Eduland has determined that it would like to carry out a National Large-scale Assessment (NLSA) of its fourth-grade students in mathematics and the Edulandese language. The sample would include 200 schools. The assessment instruments have not yet been developed. There are 5 people working at the National Assessment Center (NAC) part time. No one on the team has previous experience working on a Large Scale Assessment of any kind. The NAC has developed the following schedule for the assessment program, which lists the NLSA activities that have been planned for each month, starting in January 2013:

1. In January 2013:
  - a. Create assessment plan
  - b. Create assessment framework
  - c. Prepare Terms of Reference (TORs) and contracts for specialists involved in different stages of the NLSA administration (including development, preparation, and implementation of the assessment, and reporting of results)
  - d. Involve stakeholders
2. In February 2013:
  - a. Develop operations plan (define number of schools per assessment supervisor and administrators; training; transportation)
  - b. Purchase equipment for the assessment office
  - c. Design communication products (flyer, brochure, report)
  - d. Develop prepilot tests (write or select test questions based on test framework)
  - e. Contact 3 schools for prepilot (high & low achievement)
3. In March 2013:
  - a. Revise and select final questions based on prepilot
  - b. Design and produce manual and forms
  - c. Design and produce communications products
  - d. Prepare printing contract
4. In April 2013:
  - a. Train 600 supervisors and administrators
  - b. Check the printing and packaging of tests to ensure that there is the correct number of test instructions, test booklets, and answer sheets, and that they meet pre-determined specification for acceptable quality
  - c. Distribute informational brochures on the NLSA to key stakeholders, such as teachers, parents, and students
5. In May 2013:
  - a. Administer the assessment
  - b. Conduct checks of the administration procedures of the NLSA at schools during the assessment administration
  - c. Collect instruments from schools
  - d. Enter students' responses from the test booklets into a database
  - e. Validate data
6. In June 2013:
  - a. Produce data for reports
  - b. Prepare reports for all stakeholders
  - c. Disseminate reports to all stakeholders; hold conference on findings

With your table, please evaluate the NLSA plan that the NAC of Eduland has developed. Please consider the following questions:

1. Is the order of activities appropriate?
2. Are the dates realistic?
3. What resources (fiscal, human, etc.) need to be in place to ensure the completion and success of the activities?
4. What is missing from the plan?
5. Would this plan be applicable to your country?

Please select one person from your team to present the findings from your discussion.