**PASEC**

Established in 1991, the CONFEMEN Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems (PASEC) aims at providing information about the evolution of education systems’ performance, to contribute to the development and monitoring of education policies. In two decades, over twenty African and Asian countries have been supported by PASEC in conducting national evaluations. In 2012, PASEC established international comparative evaluations, to better meet countries’ needs.

PASEC is a supporting tool for monitoring education systems in CONFEMEN member States and governments for improved quality education.

**OBJECTIVES**

* + Assess pupils’ performance and identify efficiency and equity factors for basic education
	+ Provide national policies with indicators that will allow them making comparisons in space and time
	+ Foster, at country level, the development of an internal and permanent capacity for the evaluation of their education system
	+ Disseminate evaluation results at international level to contribute to reflections and discussions on factors determining education quality

**The 3 action levels**

1. **International evaluations**

PASEC international evaluations will enable CONFEMEN to contribute to international and national debates for a quality education for all.

* A regular evaluation programme, every four years
* Evaluations at three key moments of basic education :

– Beginning of schooling (2nd grade of primary school)

– End of primary cycle (6th grade of primary school)

– End of basic education cycle (end of lower secondary school) - as of 2016

* 10 countries evaluated in 2014 :
Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Congo, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Togo

**A methodology meeting international evaluation standards**

The PASEC international evaluation methodology is based on the comparison of education systems’ performance. In view of this, PASEC matches the competencies of students with the educational indicators reported at three levels: the socio-economic background of students, the teaching conditions and the policy guidelines. Based on the assessed countries’ curricula and the basic competencies recognized by the international community, PASEC tests use the Item Response Theory (IRT) methodology, suitable for accurately determining the level of students on a competency scale.

The procedures for tests administration and data analysis of PASEC evaluations are standardized to ensure international comparability. The anchoring of tests and methodology between PASEC and SACMEQ can serve as a comparative basis for assessing the efficiency of educational systems between the participating French-Speaking and English-Speaking countries in Africa.

1. **A continuous capacity building**

For more than 20 years, PASEC has been involved in the capacity building of education stakeholders in southern countries at various levels:

* Technical capacity building of PASEC national teams on evaluation methods
* Support to national teams for the monitoring of PASEC international evaluations
* Technical support for the strengthening of national evaluation mechanisms
* Support to education systems planning through the enhancement of competencies regarding the translation of evaluation results into courses of action and education policies.
* One-off technical support for the implementation of national evaluations
* Equipping PASEC national teams
1. **Support to countries for the use of evaluations results**

PASEC works to develop recommendations for the management of education systems, in partnership with national teams. To strengthen this effort, PASEC and CONFEMEN aim at promoting dialogue between policy makers, people responsible for education systems planning, specialists and all stakeholders to allow a better ownership of evaluation results and a better use in the development and management of education policies, as well as providing a technical support to countries in the development of national evaluation tools and mechanisms as well as the use of the evaluation results. PASEC also works to build a network for experience sharing on policy guidelines, education practices and the assessment of achievements.

**How PASEC operates**

* Steering Committee deciding on PASEC’s main orientations
* Scientific Committee ensuring the reliability of PASEC’s results
* PASEC team composed of Technical Advisers and a Coordinator conducting the implementation of the programme’s activities and supervising the national evaluations
* National PASEC teams in participating countries, specialized in learning assessment, in charge of the national evaluations

**Partnerships**

PASEC is a benchmark program in terms of evaluation of learning achievements in french-speaking countries. In this regard, it has built several partnerships at technical and/or institutional level with projects or international organizations, namely with ADEA, AFD, CIEP, IEA, LMTF, OECD, OIF, SACMEQ, UNESCO and the World Bank.

*The funds allocated to PASEC come from three sources: CONFEMEN’s own resources, contributions of countries participating in evaluations and technical and financial partners (AFD and World Bank for 2012-2016).*