Zambia has achieved significant progress in enrolling its students into primary education, but with more students in school, the quality of education has declined. As the country's economy continues to grow, the education sector will play a key role in ensuring that Zambia is strong competitors in the global economy. It is critical that the country maximizes current financial resources to cultivate its richest resource — its people.

### Education: Are Our Children Learning?

**1. What is the State of Education in Zambia?**

- **Net Enrollment Rate:** 70%
  - Students enrolled in primary school/total children of primary school age
  - Only 58% of children reach 6th grade.

- **Survival Rate:** 81%
  - Percentage of students who continue to the next grade
  - Only 36% of students continue from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

- **Youth Literacy Rate:** 80%
  - Percentage of 15-24 year olds who can read
  - Only 44% of males and 36% of females.

- **Reading Test Scores:** Zambia students test poorly when compared to neighboring countries in the Southern Africa region.

- **SACMEQ Maths and Reading Scores:** Zambia achieves relatively low learning compared to other African countries.

- **Maximizing Existing Resources:** The MESVTEE is implementing strategies aimed at improving learning outcomes and educational infrastructure. This includes improving the implementation of the revised curriculum, focusing on basic skills, supervision, and using data for decision-making.

- **Conducting Literacy Assessments:** By conducting continuous assessments during each term, teachers can tailor their curriculum to be responsive to how students are performing. This assessment can provide insight and inform education priorities at the district level.

### How Does Zambia Compare to Other African Countries?

**2. How Does Zambia Compare to Other African Countries?**

- **Reading Test Scores:** Zambia scores lower than neighboring countries in the Southern Africa region.

- **SACMEQ Maths and Reading Scores:** Zambia achieves relatively low learning compared to other African countries.

### How Is the Government Addressing Learner Performance in Zambia?

**3. How Is the Government Addressing Learner Performance in Zambia?**

According to McKinsey, education systems similar to Zambia’s improve when education systems focus on basic skills, supervision, and use of learning assessment data. Unless children learn to read at an early age, they cannot absorb more advanced skills and content that rely on reading. The Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education (MESVTEE) introduced a revised curriculum in 2014, in order to focus Zambia’s financial and management resources where the impact will be the greatest — on improving basic skills, especially in reading and math in early grades.