PAL NETWORK
People's Action for Learning

#EvidenceForLearning

Annual Report
2023

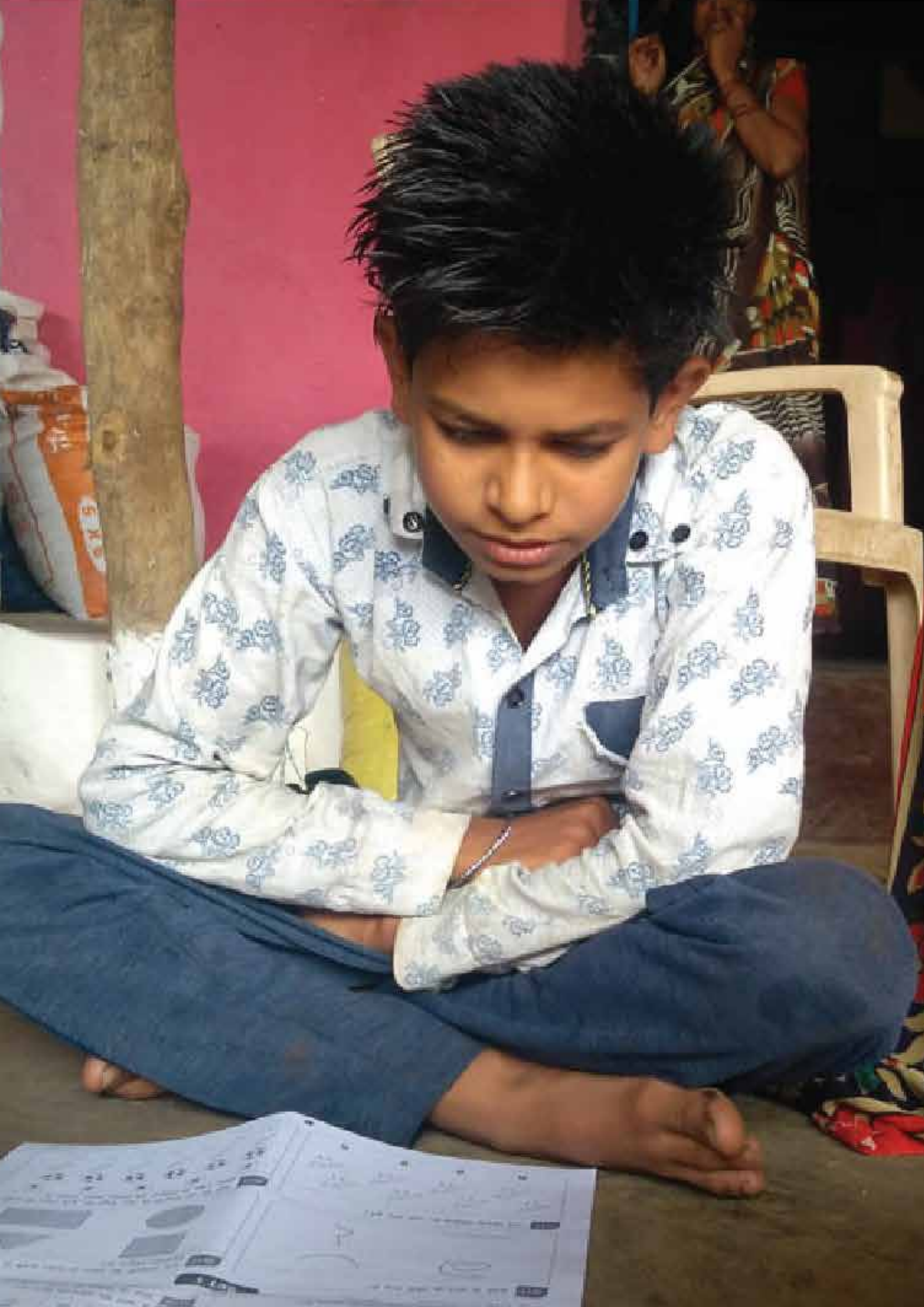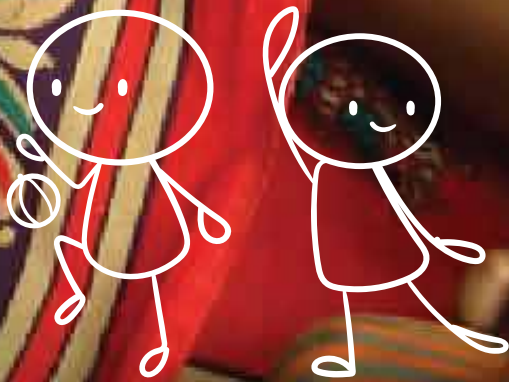15 COUNTRIES

9M+ CHILDREN ASSESSED

1M+ VOLUNTEERS

19+ YEARS IN EDUCATION

Contributing to a world where all children have a foundation for lifelong learning.

Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ALP	Accelerated Learning Program
ASER	Annual Status of Education Report
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLA	Citizen-led Assessments
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ELANA	Early Language & Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
EM	Evidence Map
FLN	Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
FUNER	Fundamental Understanding of Numeracy, Engineering and Reading
ICAN	International Common Assessment of Numeracy
LRP	LEARNigeria Remedial Programme
MELS	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing
MIA	Movilizar, Innovar y Aprender
PAL	People's Action for Learning Network
RELI	Regional Education Learning Initiative
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
SSA	sub-Saharan Africa
TaRL	Teaching at the Right Level
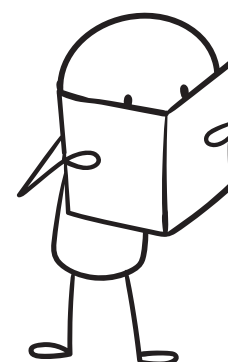
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About PAL Network

WHO WE ARE

The People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network is a south-south partnership of 17 organizations in 15 countries working across Africa, the America and south Asia. Member organizations conduct citizen-led assessments and/or action programs aimed at improving learning outcomes.
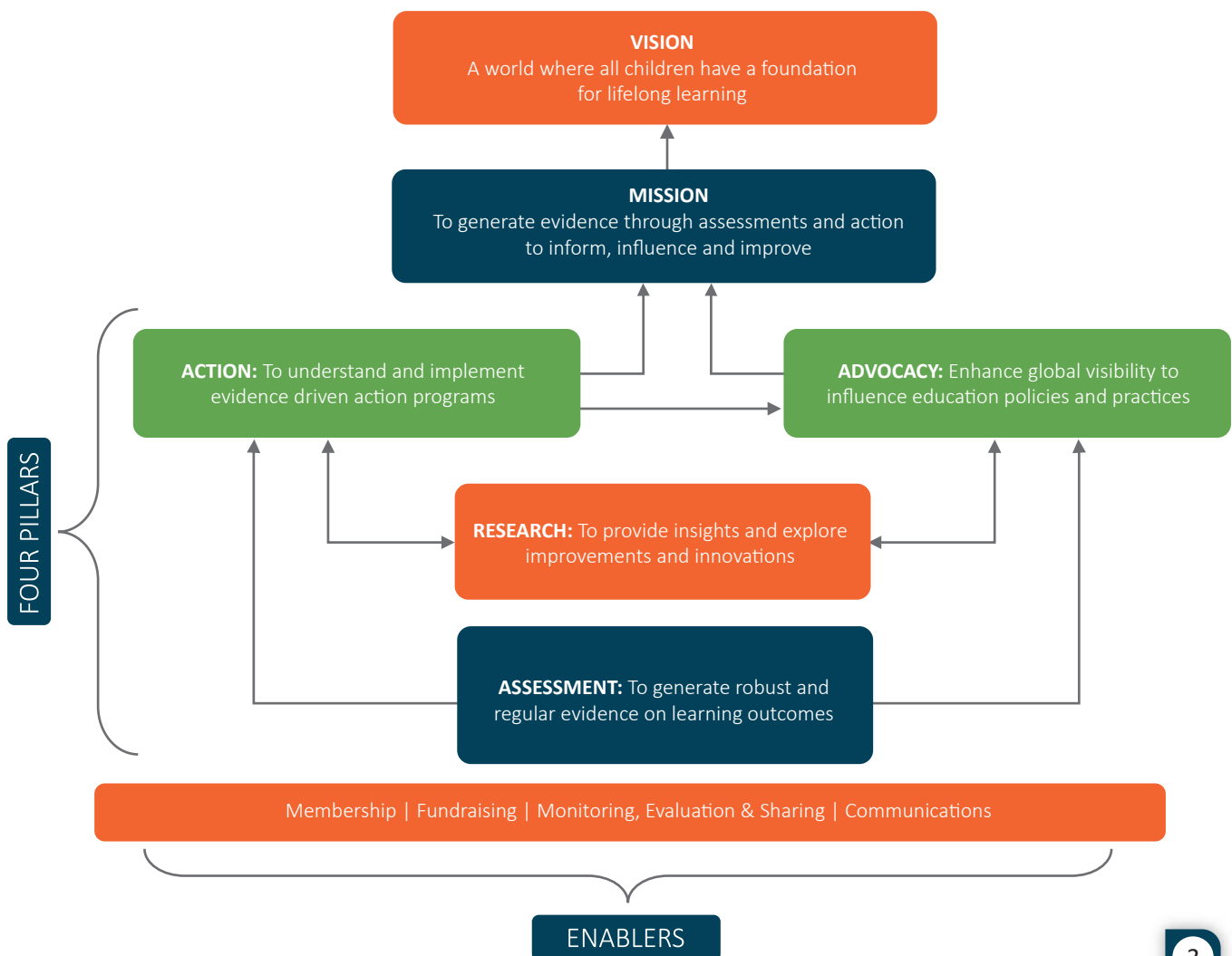
OUR VISION

A world where all children have a foundation for lifelong learning.

OUR MISSION

Generate evidence through assessment and action to inform, influence and improve children's learning.

STRUCTURE OF THE PAL NETWORK

1. The General Assembly of members is the highest governance organ

2. The Board of Directors maintains overall oversight and supervision

3. The Advisory Group provides technical advice on program implementation

4. A Secretariat of 17 staff headed by the Chief Executive Officer (who is the board secretary) implements the Network programs based on approved strategies and plans.

VISION
A world where all children have a foundation for lifelong learning

MISSION
To generate evidence through assessments and action to inform, influence and improve

FOUR PILLARS

ACTION: To understand and implement evidence driven action programs

ADVOCACY: Enhance global visibility to influence education policies and practices

RESEARCH: To provide insights and explore improvements and innovations

ASSESSMENT: To generate robust and regular evidence on learning outcomes

Membership | Fundraising | Monitoring, Evaluation & Sharing | Communications

**ENABLERS**

Chairperson's Message

Dear PAL Community,

Reflecting on the strides made by the PAL Network in 2023, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member, partner, and supporter who contributed to our journey towards advancing foundational literacy and numeracy.

Through the collaborative efforts of our members, we worked together to strengthen the Network's position as a key actor in foundational learning. We achieved this through a growing international recognition of our common assessment tools and by using our assessment findings to influence education policies and practices in the Global South. We also contributed to global knowledge on foundational literacy and numeracy through our collective research studies. Finally, we underscored our commitment to our Citizen Led approach, ensuring that communities continue to actively engage and co-design foundational learning interventions within our accelerated learning initiatives.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our appreciation for your continued support to the PAL Network. As we navigate the path ahead, let us continue to work together, innovate, and advocate for foundational learning. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will create lasting impact on the lives of children in the Global South.

DR. ARIEL FISZBEIN
Board Chairperson

"**Through the collaborative efforts of our members, we worked together to strengthen the Network's position as a key actor in foundational learning.**" -
Dr. Ariel Fiszbein, Board Chairperson
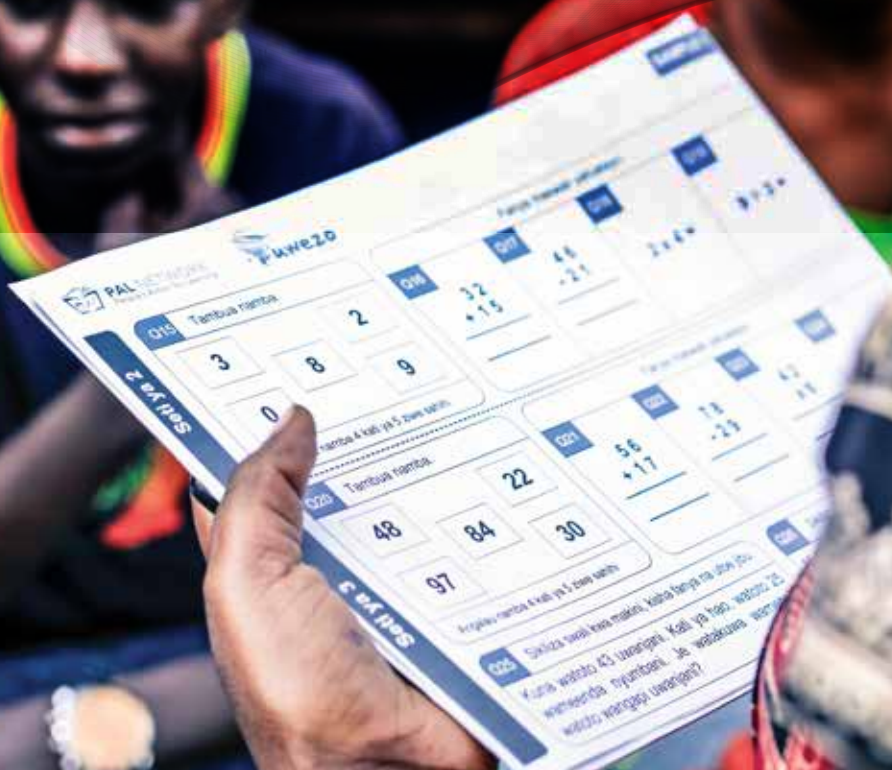
CEO'S Message

Dear PALs,

I am filled with gratitude and pride for the journey we've shared over the past year. I extend my warmest greetings to each PAL Network member, staff, and our invaluable partners. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in driving our collective success.

The dedication of our members across various regions has been exemplary. Our collective efforts culminated in PAL Network receiving the prestigious 2023 World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Award. Our International Common Assessment of Numeracy (ICAN) tool was recognized for its scalability and alignment with SDG 4.1.1(a), the only SDG indicator that measures foundational learning in the early grades, globally. This award is a clear demonstration of the power of our unified actions towards enhancing foundational learning in the Global South.

Our assessment tools not only continue to gain international recognition, but also continue to shape conversations on educational policies and practices in the Global South. In 2023, we released the Sub-Saharan Africa ICAN report for 2022, comparing literacy and numeracy results across 9 districts of Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria. We shared these findings in various platforms including a policy dialogue drawing participants from regional organizations, donors, multilateral organizations.

In our learning interventions, initiatives such as the My Village Project have reached 44,983 children through learning camps and life skills assessments across 304 villages in Kenya, Nepal, and Tanzania.

The release of the second PAL Network book titled "Ensuring Foundational Learning: Insights from the Global South" demonstrates our commitment to sharing research and insights that can drive positive change.

To boost collaboration, we organized a Donor Roundtable in Oxford with leading donor and partner organizations and convened the annual family meeting in Kenya. I extend my gratitude to our funders, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Echidna Giving Foundation, FCDO, and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, for their unwavering support.

In conclusion, as we celebrate our achievements, let us remain committed to our vision of transforming foundational education globally. Together, we have made significant strides, and together, we will continue to inspire positive change in the lives of millions.

With heartfelt gratitude and anticipation for the journey ahead,

ARMANDO ALI
CEO, PAL Network

"This award is a clear demonstration of the power of our *unified actions* towards enhancing foundational learning in the Global South." - Armando Ali, CEO, PAL Network
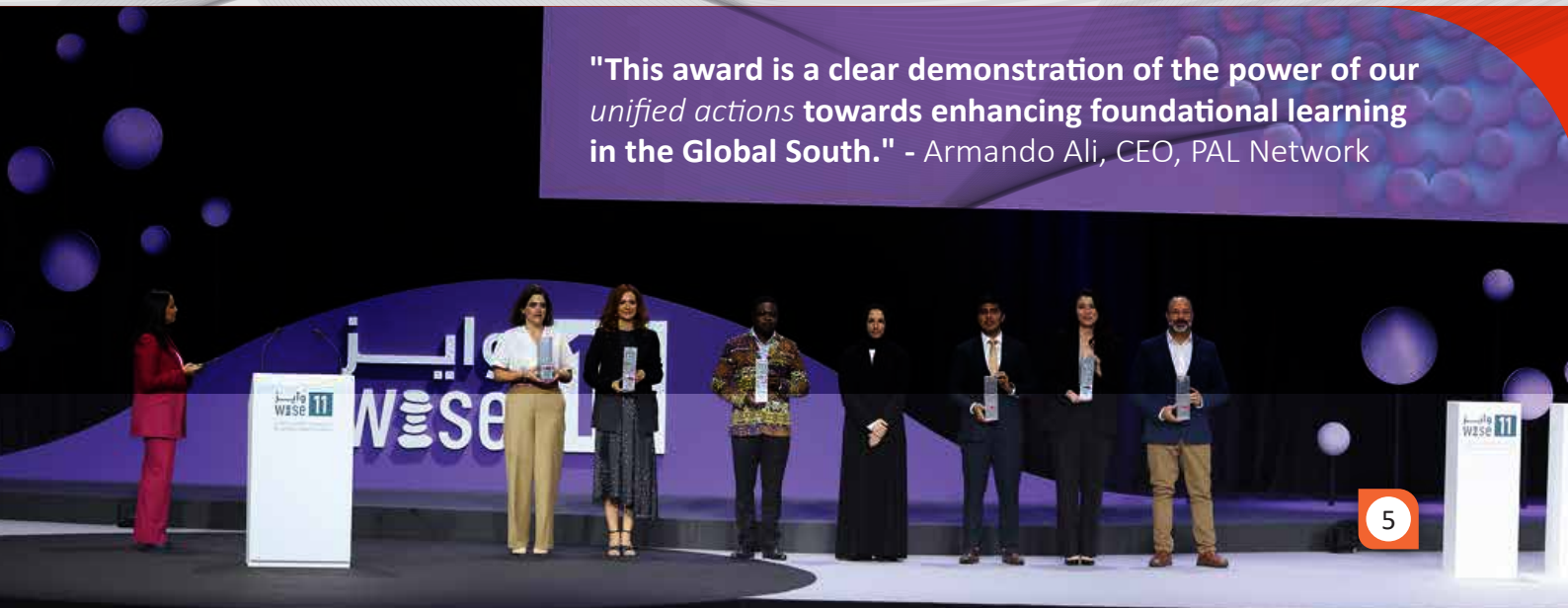
Key Milestones

ASSESSMENT

The 2022 ICAN report for Sub Saharan Africa was finalized in March 2023 providing assessment results in literacy and numeracy from nine locations in Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria. Data was collected from **546 rural communities**. More than **16,000 children** between 5 and 16 years old were assessed from approximately *11,000 households*. The report also included a comparison of the results obtained in 2019 and 2022 in 3 districts (one in each country).

Findings from the ICAN SSA 2022 study showed that we are very far from assuring that all children acquire foundational skills. In most sampled locations, only 80% of grade 7 learners can do grade 2-3 tasks. In sampled locations in Mozambique, even in grade 6 there is more than 60% of children who cannot read a short paragraph.

Field trials for PAL- ELANA were carried out in **12 countries** across Africa, Asia, and the Americas including Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda, Mali, Senegal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

About PAL Network Assessments

- International Common Assessment of Numeracy (ICAN) is an open-source, robust and easy-to-use assessment tool, available in 11 languages, that offers international comparability of results aligned to SDG 4.1.1 (a). ICAN was developed through a collaborative effort among PAL Network members.

- PAL- ELANA (Early Language, Literacy and Numeracy Assessment) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that covers pre-primary and early primary grade competencies for children aged 4-10 years. The tool, currently under development in 9 languages, will be implemented by PAL Network member organizations in 12 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

- ICAN and ICARe are paper-based versions of the PAL Network's established common assessments: the International Common Assessment of Numeracy (ICAN) for numeracy and the International Common Assessment of Reading (ICARe) for language and literacy. This assessment will be done in 15 countries to strengthen foundational learning for all as called for under SDG 4.1.1a.

ACTION

My Village is an ambitious learning intervention project aimed at supporting at least one million children to read and do basic math in the next five years through community participation one village at a time. In 2023, My Village project was successfully piloted in **304 villages** across Kenya (98), Nepal (107) and Tanzania (99) reaching **44,983 children**.

Project results from the baseline assessment were also presented during the 2023 CIES conference in Washington DC through a paper titled; What it takes to have ALL children acquire foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Nepal initiated **50 moveable libraries** with 2,160 books in bags, while in Kenya the program team distributed **4,500 story booklets** to the households as part of the building household resource packs.

Life skills assessments were completed in all countries with four life skills sessions held in Nepal covering topics of CV writing, tax calculations and home sanitary pad production. SMS component was also initiated in Nepal with **46,691 messages** with instructions and learning content sent to **1,034 parents**. A total of 600 messages were sent through Mjisomee Platform in Kenya. The SMS component targets parents of children participating in My Village learning camps.

As part of the Small Grants initiative, learning sessions titled 'Learning from PAL innovations: Insights from members' were conducted on 25th October and 2nd November. These sessions aimed to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and promote the success stories of projects initiated by member countries. The following members took part in small grants projects:

1. Medición Independiente de Aprendizajes (MIA): Implementation of diagnostic tools and educational innovations in multigrade schools in Mexico.

2. Aprendizajes Basados en Actitudes Cooperatives (ÁBACOenRed): Supporting the development of basic skills in reading, mathematics, and social interaction.

3. ASER Nepal: Assessing the effectiveness of inquiry based hands-on STEAM learning in remote teaching-learning environments.

4. Uwezo Uganda: Development of the assessment of children's writing skills in Uganda.

5. TEP Centre: Technology Enabled Platform for digital learning – TEP Digital.

2022 ICAN SSA Report Launched during the Regional Policy Dialogue held in Nairobi on the 28th and 29th March 2023

ADVOCACY

On November 27, 2023, PAL Network received the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Award, gaining recognition for its International Common Assessment of Numeracy (ICAN) during the 11th edition of the WISE Summit held in Qatar. ICAN was recognized as a simple-to-use and scalable tool that is designed to monitor progress of SDG 4.1.1a and aligned to the Global Proficiency Framework. The award has increased international visibility of the PAL Network and its efforts towards strengthening foundational learning in the global south.

A policy dialogue was held in Nairobi on the 28th and 29th March 2023. The event drew 130 participants from regional organizations, donors, multilateral organizations and PAL Network members who took part in the event both physically and virtually. During the event, findings from the 2022 ICAN report for Sub-Saharan Africa were shared.

Representatives from the PAL Network participated in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation convening held in Addis Ababa in July. The gathering brought together advocacy partners with the shared goal of formulating a unified strategy to address the learning crisis at scale across Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Collaboration with Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Hub (FLN Hub) continued throughout the year where PAL Network contributed to defining a unified approach to advocating for foundational literacy and numeracy issues in the upcoming 2024 Africa Union (AU) Year of Education.

RESEARCH

The manuscript for the second PAL Network book titled: **Ensuring Foundational Learning: Insights from the global south** was published. The PAL Network book contained a compilation of academic studies on key foundational literacy and numeracy issues that were presented in the 2021 PAL Network conference.

A research partnership was finalized with Youth Impact, with the A/B testing pilot successfully concluded in Kenya, Nepal, and Tanzania. The team is documenting the pilot phase, gathering essential data and observations. This data will be compiled into a research report, offering a structured and informative overview of the A/B testing pilot's implementation, results, and their potential implications for the project's future direction.

Enablers

GOVERNANCE

The PAL Network Advisory Group underwent a reconstitution and its membership received formal ratification at the 5th PAL Annual General Meeting (AGM). Dr. Suman Bhattacharjea was elected as the Chair of the Group. The Advisory Group continues to be instrumental in providing both strategic and technical guidance to the network's initiatives.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising efforts continued throughout the year. A Donor Roundtable was organized in September in Oxford UK. The event brought together a diverse group of 41 participants. This included seven leading donors, namely FCDO, BMGF, GPE, IDRC, BHP Foundation, Lego Foundation, and Porticus. Additionally, 15 partner organizations, such as UNESCO's GEM Report, What Works Hub, REAL Centre, ACER, NFER, and others, played a pivotal role. Furthermore, the event featured the participation of six friends, five network members (ZiziAfrique, Youth Impact, ITA, Uwezo Uganda, and ASER Nepal), and seven secretariat staff.

MONITORING EVALUATION LEARNING AND SHARING (MELS)

Data and reporting support was offered to members throughout the year. A series of training sessions on CommCare for data Management was held in May 2023 for all interested network members. The training was organized by members of the West Africa hub. CommCare is a mobile data collection platform designed for low-resource settings where internet connectivity and access to electricity may be limited. It allows users to customize data collection forms, manage and analysed data, and provide feedback to field staff in real time. The training aimed to help participants with an understanding of best practices before any data collection process, master the basic features of CommCare, learn how to create complex forms including those that require validation rules, question breaks, and calculations and understand how data collection can be tracked via the platform.

COMMUNICATIONS

Various communication and advocacy products including videos, Infographics, and social media assets with key messages from project achievements, assessment findings and Foundational Learning advocacy key messages were created. Total followers of PAL Network Social Media channels were 45,672 by end of 2023. The total number of social media accounts on whose feeds our content appeared were 152,942. Out of these, the channels reported 36,141 engagements with our content including page visits, link clicks, mentions, profile visits and reposting of the Network's content. A total of 22 blogs and stories were published in the PAL blog.

MEMBERSHIP

Representatives from the PAL Network took part in various activities under Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI). These included policy reviews, education sector reviews, and various events featuring discussions on Learner – Centred Teaching. PAL Network was represented in the Assessment of life skills and values in East Africa (ALiVE) conference held in June 2023, gaining insights of assessments of life skills and values in foundational learning. PAL Network was also represented in the Education Technology (EdTech) Summit in September 2023 which convened public and private sector influencers who can drive the EdTech ecosystem forward towards evidence-based, technology-enabled teaching and learning.

On November 14th -18th 2023, PAL Network convened its annual family meeting in Kenya, fostering learning, and knowledge exchange among members representing 15 countries. This gathering reinvigorated our dedication to children's Foundational Learning, particularly in discussions regarding the network's ICAN & ICARe assessments as crucial tools for monitoring and reporting on SDG 4.1.1a.

Member Highlights

ASER Centre Conducts 2023 'Beyond Basics' Survey in India.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 was released on January 17, 2024. ASER 2023 'Beyond Basics', a nationwide citizen-led household survey, provides a snapshot of what 14-18-year-old youth in rural India are currently doing and how prepared they are to lead productive lives as adults. The report provides estimates on four aspects of youths' lives: their educational and career pathways, their ability to apply foundational skills to daily life situations, their digital access and skills, and their aspirations. The survey covered 28 districts across 26 states in India, reaching a total of 34,745 youth in 1,664 villages.

ASER Nepal Progress with "My Village" Project and Community Engagement.

ASER Nepal has made great progress with its "My Village" project with PAL Network, which focuses on the basic reading and numeracy skills of children in Nepal's Surkhet, Sarlahi, and Makwanpur districts. Approximately 18,000 students benefited from the combined completion of Phase I and Phase II learning camps by ASER Nepal. 23 life skills workshops, numerous assessments, and training to 213 volunteers were all part of the initiative. A total of 46,691 SMS messages were sent to 1,279 parents, encouraging them to read to their children. Additionally, 50 community libraries were distributed. Notably, local government support and community ownership highlight the project's sustainability. ASER Nepal has had a significant impact on rural education in Nepal because of its commitment to education and community involvement.

Facilidade-ICDS Conducts Wiixutta Nithweelaka and Community Engagement Initiatives in Mozambique.

In 2023, Facilidade-ICDS made significant strides. Over 3,200 children in grades 3 and 4 saw notable enhancements in literacy and numeracy skills through the Wiixutta Nithweelaka (WN) approach, implemented across 50 schools with the collaboration of educational managers, teachers, school council members, and community facilitators. Additionally, it actively engaged 7 school councils and 20 health sector committees, training 500 members and hosting 21 debate sessions on public services, benefiting around 4,000 citizens. Monitoring and technical support were provided for 32 entrepreneur projects, and the initiative received the EOL-OC2 award. Its partnership with Associação Progresso aims to expand the WN approach's reach to Cabo Delgado province.

FUPECG - ÁBACOenRed Implements VIdA in Nicaragua.

In 2023, FUPECG- ÁBACOenRed ventured into novel educational advocacy initiatives, marking a year of significant experiences. Notably, the implementation of the VIdA project in Estelí municipality stands out, introducing two key innovations: conducting comprehensive work across both urban and rural areas within an entire municipality and integrating the two distinct phases of VIdA—Intersubjective Assessment of Learning (research) and Living Learning Innovations (school reinforcement). Another noteworthy achievement is the integration of our Vital_Essential Vision of Genuine Cooperation as a permanent segment in the children's television program "A la Rueda, Rueda." These milestones underscore PAL Network's commitment to pioneering approaches in educational advocacy and outreach.

GLOT Advancing with Evidence-Based Strategies in Colombia.

GLOT finalized the compilation of evidence from the pilot implementation in 2022 and continued generating evidence with support from Fellows worldwide in the framework of the LEAP Challenge. The project aimed to understand the benefits of learning through play, with a focus on migrant and displaced children in Colombia and refine GLOT's program to help them learn and integrate better into their new communities. GLOT's work in 2024 exhibits their commitment to evidence-based approaches and improving children's lives.

Medición Independiente de Aprendizajes Responding to the Learning Crisi in Mexico.

Medición Independiente de Aprendizajes (MIA) responded to the education crisis with a clear focus, innovative tools, and a comprehensive, evidence-based strategy to reduce the foundational learnings gap of children in Latin America and the Caribbean. MIA implemented Learning Camps in reading and mathematics in Spanish and in the Tsotsil language; through telephone tutoring we are accelerating learnings in mathematics in diverse contexts, including emergency situations. It is for this work that MIA has the official recognition of the Ministry of Public Education as one of the two national strategies for the recovery of learning and to promote complete educational trajectories and excellence.

IID Empowering Citizens on Budget Decisions in Bangladesh.

In 2023, the Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) launched the Citizen Scorecard initiative to boost citizen engagement in education budget discussions. Focused on marginalized communities in Gaibandha and Moulvibazar districts, IID evaluates citizens' participation and devises action plans, such as community dialogues and household awareness campaigns, to enhance awareness and involvement. Through a six-month monitoring cycle, IID ensures citizens are empowered to influence budget effectiveness. These endeavours are integral to IID's 'e!quality' education initiative, supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), demonstrating IID's commitment to inclusive governance and informed citizenry.

ITA Pakistan Collects Data for ASER 2023 Report.

In the year 2023, ITA achieved several significant milestones. Notably, it successfully conducted data collection for the ASER Report through a dedicated application, encompassing 123 urban districts and transforming into a nationally representative sample for both rural and urban areas. ITA collaborated with the Ministry of Education and EdTech Hub to launch the 2023 GEM Report, sparking discussions on global education findings. Moreover, in partnership with Sightsavers and PAL Network, ITA hosted a dissemination event for the pilot project on Inclusive Guidelines of ICAN. The 'Recovery for Foundational Learning: Flood Response in Sindh,' an education in emergencies project, effectively benefited 225,000 individuals. Additionally, ITA launched 15 children's books in collaboration with Room to Read and three publishers under the Pakistan Literacy Project, impacting over 17 million beneficiaries through initiatives such as the Pakistan Learning Festival.

LARTES-IFAN Advances Education and Gender Equality Initiatives.

In 2023, LARTES-IFAN spearheaded diverse initiatives. Notably, the Initiative for Women Teachers and Girls Education in Africa (IFEEFA) collaborated with FAWE to empower female educators in promoting girls' education. Moreover, LARTES-IFAN expanded a gender-sensitive school model across Burundi, Mali, DR Congo, and Senegal, aiming to enhance gender equality and girls' academic performance. A baseline study on knowledge sharing and innovations across 21 KIX Program partner countries was conducted, facilitated by GPE and IDRC. LARTES-IFAN also engaged in FBMG's Strategic Development Program to enhance FLN program implementation in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on promoting learning initiatives in classrooms.

Movilizar, Innovar y Aprender A.C Continues to Serve Adolescents Through Educational Innovations.

Movilizar, Innovar y Aprender A.C. maintains its activity in secondary schools serving adolescents through educational innovations put into practice within the schools, focused on the development and consolidation of life skills. To reinforce its work, it also created a proposal to carry out tasks with mothers and caregivers, which has already been tested. Movilizar, Innovar y Aprender A.C. also implemented a diagnostic instrument to be applied to each individual student at the beginning of the process in the school to result in progress indicators at the end of the work.

TEP Centre's Assessments and Advocacy Efforts Conducted in Nigeria.

2023 presented TEP with opportunities to leverage its competencies in addressing critical challenges in the education sector. They are excited to share some of our results with you. TEP brought together government officials, businesses, and educators in three northern states in Nigeria (Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa) to build forums for equitable education. They also created a school assessment tool for use in these states. Kaduna State has adopted and is using this tool to improve schools across the board. Supported by the Gates Foundation, TEP Centre piloted a new teaching approach, Assessment-Informed Instruction. This approach uses data to optimise classroom practices and has the potential to improve teaching and learning in sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, they revamped their webinars to support future education leaders by giving doctoral students and researchers a platform to share their work.

Usawa Agenda Data Collection for the 2023 FLANA National Report in Kenya.

In 2023, Usawa Agenda conducted two studies nationally: the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (FLANA) and the Secondary school Survey in all 47 counties in Kenya. The FLANA assessment targeted 40,000 households, 2,000 villages and 2,000 schools, while the Secondary School Survey targeted 1,300 schools. The objective of these studies was to generate evidence on the distribution of learning outcomes, as well as school factors that affect the exit grades for learners completing school. Standardized tests and participatory methodologies were used to gather information from pupils, teachers, and parents.

Uwezo Tanzania Empowering Communities and Improve Learning Outcomes.

In 2023, Uwezo Tanzania's implementation of My Village program made significant strides in community engagement and improvement of foundational learning outcomes. Through community meetings organized by the Tanzania Capacity Agency, citizens in over 50 villages across Gairo and Ludewa districts came together to address challenges in their children's learning. Identified issues included long distances to school, instability, and lack of school lunches. Parents pledged to contribute to school lunches and address absenteeism, demonstrating a commitment to improving education. Additionally, the My Village initiative implemented the 'Learn' program in Ludewa, resulting in 80% of enrolled children being able to read and basic math skills in just 30 days. Uwezo's 'Jifunze' initiative received praise in Kisarawe district, where teachers noted significant improvements in children's literacy and numeracy skills.

Uwezo Uganda Monitoring the Community-Led Learning Using Uwezo Assessment.

Uwezo Uganda monitored and evaluated the impact of Community-Led Learning (CLL), an initiative designed to improve learning outcomes by the Ministry of Education's Strengthening Education Systems for Improved Learning (SESIL) programme. This involved utilisation of Uwezo basic literacy and numeracy assessment tools and methodology to measure impact of the CLL intervention on learning outcomes. Conducted right from the pilot of the program in 2021, to its scale up in 2022 and 2023 was done at both baseline and end-line for up to 5 cohorts of the intervention in 6 districts (Maracha, Yumbe, Moyo, Kapchorwa, Kween and Sironko).   The CLL initiative's design was informed by Uwezo 2021 assessment findings, among other evidence, that illuminated major learning losses as a result of the Covid-19 induced school shutdown.

Youth Impact Expands Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) in Botswana.

2023 was a year of expansion and institutionalization for TaRL in Botswana. On their path to reach all primary schools by 2025, Youth Impact expanded TaRL to eight of Botswana's ten regions, with two achieving 100% scale through government-led delivery. Additionally, the organization reached a major milestone in government ownership of the program. Youth Impact hosted a Training of Trainers Workshop for regional champions, composed of Ministry of Education and Skills Development Principal Education Officers and teachers from each TaRL region. This strategic move not only unlocks potential for scaling through sustainable, local expertise, thanks to a network of regionally based government trainers, but also fosters institutionalization within the government.

Zizi Afrique Foundation Tapping onto Youth Agency to Improve Foundational Learning Outcomes.

In 2023, Zizi Afrique stepped up innovation on the levers of learning. As part of the My Village consortium, they opted for a fully-community based intervention approach, delivered by volunteer youth champions in 98 villages in three counties. During the year, over 290 youth champions supported the assessment of over 15,000 learners; facilitated learning camps for approximately 3,500 children; conducted life skills assessments and bootcamps for over 1,100 adolescents. They also supported over 7,500 parents to nurture a culture of reading at home. Zizi Afrique is indebted to their three local impact partners, Kyeni Kya Wasya, Milimo CBO and Kaloleni Youth Empowerment Group for these milestones.

Donor Spotlight

Donor Spotlight

Our donors are an integral part of our network, generously providing essential support that drives our mission forward. Their contributions are instrumental to our achievements, enabling us to enhance foundational learning for children and expand our impact in alignment with our shared objectives. We wish to express our profound gratitude to all our donors for their vital support of the PAL Network.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation partnered with the PAL Network in a multi-year evidence-based advocacy project to promote Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) across Sub-Saharan Africa. PAL is engaging with the African Union, ECOWAS, SADC and EAC to build awareness about FLN amongst policymakers, influencers, educators, and researchers. The Gates Foundation also supported the 2022 ICAN Sub Saharan Africa study assessment in literacy and numeracy in Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria. Data was collected from 546 rural communities. More than 16,000 children between 5 and 16 years old were assessed from approximately 11,000 households.

Echidna Giving Foundation

Support from the Echidna Giving Foundation enabled the PAL Network to pilot the My Village common response of PAL Network and member organizations to end the learning crisis in the Global South, one village at a time. The project was implemented across 304 villages in Kenya, Nepal, and Tanzania. This pilot integrated learning camps, libraries, SMS-based learning, life skills development, and A/B Testing, showcasing a multifaceted approach to equipping children with essential reading and basic math skills.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

FCDO's multi-year grant supports a foundational learning assessment across 15 countries in the Global South, offering critical data on children's numeracy, language, and literacy skills. This ambitious project aligns with SDG 4 goals, tracking progress towards 2030 and incorporating assessments on social-emotional learning, education in emergencies, and disability inclusion.

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

The IDRC's four-year investment in the PAL-ELANA project marks a significant endeavor towards developing a digitally adaptive, common assessment tool. Focused on pre-primary and early primary competencies, this initiative is crucial for identifying gaps in children's early literacy and numeracy skills across PAL Network member countries.

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF)

Over the past five years, the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund has significantly influenced PAL Network's direction, particularly in innovation, learning, and systemic change. Their support has allowed us to craft evidence-based, remedial learning programs drawing on Pratham's Teaching at the Right Level (TARL) methodology, alongside crucial training in fundraising and leadership development.

Financial Highlights

TOTAL INCOME	PROGRAM EXPENDITURE	% SPENT ON PROGRAMS
1,560, 681 (USD)	1,494,534 (USD)	95.8%

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

REVENUE	2023 (USD)	2022 (USD)
Total grant income	1,407,962	1,440,736
Other incomes	152,719	75,449
Total incomes	1,560,681	1,516,185

EXPENDITURE	2023 (USD)	2022 (USD)
EXPENSES PER PROGRAM		
PAL Network capacity to generate data of good quality improved	239,901	609,062
Network strengthened to position itself to inform global efforts to monitor foundational learning	382,271	149,083
Actions taken by members to improve learning outcomes	57,933	92,979
Network strengthened through responsive governance and diversified funding	39,577	99,244
Organizational growth through Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation	143,458	228,923
Program personnel salaries & benefits	550,230	505,972
Program administration cost	81,164	70,564
Total program expenditure	1,494,534	1,755,828
Other expenditure (Depreciation, Foreign currency gains and losses, Asset disposal)	4,685	4,876
Total overall expenditure	1,499,218	1,760,705
Fund balance for the year	61,463	(244,520)
Balance brought forward	1,363,455	1,607,974
Prior year adjustment	(1,983)	
Net balance carried forward	1,422,935	1,363,455

Financial Position	2023 (USD)	2022 (USD)
Total current assets (fixed and current assets)	998,568	1,193,708
Less: Current liabilities	43,399	55,459
Net Current Assets	955,228	1,138,250
Net Assets	964,977	1,149,068
Represented by funds balance	964,977	1,149,068

Notes

Notes

PAL NETWORK
People's Action for Learning

Daykio Plaza, First floor, Room 1.5,
Ngong Lane, Nairobi, Kenya

info@palnetwork.org

+254 741 059 150