

2017 Half Year Narrative Report – Summary

PROGRESS MADE IN FIVE KEY OUTCOME AREAS

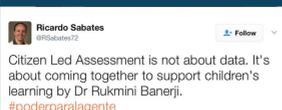
STATUS KEY	FREQUENCY
■ Fully or substantially achieved	22
■ Significant progress made but not complete	10
■ Largely not achieved	5

OUTCOME AREA 1 - PAL NETWORK CAPACITY TO GENERATE DATA OF GOOD QUALITY IMPROVED



KEY OUTPUT	KEY ACTIVITY	STATUS	ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS
Network Data Quality Standards Framework developed	Review of Network Members' tools undertaken	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data quality workshop held in Aurangabad, India hosted by ASER Centre. Inaugural in-person meeting of the Data and Design Working Group held. Draft quality standards document sharing the minimum requirements developed. Rapid analysis framework for 62 existing documents developed. Partnership with National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) established for development of Data quality standards document.
	Data quality standards framework developed	■	
Existing datasets minded for new insights with an equity focus	DQS Framework Workshop organized	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept Note for the Research Fellowship 2018 program drafted by Research Working Group, and further developed into a full program. ASER India, initiated, compiled and shared 4-page information brief on learning outcomes across 8 member countries. Network members made a total of 9 presentations in three panels at the Comparable and International Education Society Conference (CIES) in Atlanta, USA in March 2017. Individual members participated in conferences and symposiums.
	Data Watch Team created	■	
	Data Portal developed	■	
	PAL Fellowship for Research Stream developed and implemented	■	
	Desk based multi-country research using existing datasets undertaken	■	
	Research findings presented in high-level international education forums	■	

OUTCOME AREA 2 - NETWORK STRENGTHENED TO POSITION ITSELF TO INFORM GLOBAL MONITORING EFFORTS TOWARDS SDG4



KEY OUTPUT	KEY ACTIVITY	STATUS	ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS
PAL data and processes consolidated and repackaged	Awareness and visibility of PAL Network enhanced digitally	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAL Network newsletters for first two quarters distributed in April and June respectively. 31 blogs posted between January and June 2017, first ever 'events' section introduced and analytics function added to PAL website, recording 287 website users and 2,907 page views. Twitter followers increased from 219 in January to 963 in June while profile visits and mentions more than doubled each month. Network-wide Communications Strategy drafted in consultation with the Communications and Advocacy Working Group. PAL Network represented in two Work Streams of the Education Equity Research Initiative (co-convened by Save the Children and fhi360). External Publications page, with articles and literature using or referring to CLA data, added to PAL website
	Linkages with assessment and data agencies built	■	
	PAL 'Community of Friends' using the CLA approach or data identified	■	
Partnerships with global education organizations pursued	Meeting convening PAL and institutions responsible for monitoring SDG4 held	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept note for consultative meeting on PAL Network contributions to SDG4 developed. PAL Network represented in GAML specialist Task Forces, both in online meetings and in the 3rd GAML meeting in Mexico City, Mexico.
	PAL Network represented in global meetings monitoring SDG4	■	

OUTCOME AREA 3 - ACTIONS TAKEN BY MEMBERS TO IMPROVE LEARNING OUTCOMES UNDERSTOOD AND IDEAS POLLINATED ACROSS THE NETWORK



KEY OUTPUT	KEY ACTIVITY	STATUS	ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS
Documentation of actions emerging from CLA data undertaken and shared	Documentation of actions emerging from CLA data shared	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies of action initiatives collected by the PAL Network Secretariat and the REAL Centre at the University of Cambridge.
Internal matchmaking facilitated for learning, sharing and adaptations	Exploratory visits facilitated between network members	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment to Action Exposure Visit concept note developed and shared with Assessment to Action Working Group. Expression of Interest document / work sheet designed and shared with PAL Network member countries.
	Networking with actors using CLA explored and learning session planned	■	

OUTCOME AREA 4 - NETWORK STRENGTHENED BOLSTERED BY RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE AND DIVERSIFIED FUNDING



KEY OUTPUT	KEY ACTIVITY	STATUS	ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS
Network strengthened through shared learning amongst existing and potential new members	Learning needs across the network identified and learning forums planned	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven delegates from Cameroon and Swaziland participated in a five-day CLA exposure visit to Uwezo Uganda. ASER South Asia Regional Hub meeting held in New Delhi, India with participation from four network members. Concept note for PAL Network West Africa Regional Hub meeting developed. PAL Network Online Resource list developed and shared with interested countries. Content and format list for Starter Toolkit drafted. Newsletter shared in three languages (English, French and Spanish)
	Interest in the CLA approach responded to	■	
	Exposure visits to member countries supported	■	
	Specialized toolkits and materials published	■	
	Network materials available in three languages	■	
	Documentary: A story of the PAL Network created	■	
Governance and working structures consolidated to ensure well functioning network	Governance meetings held regularly	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Steering Committee (SC) meeting held Registration of the PAL Network as an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) approved; Draft constitution developed and shared for comments by the SC. Working Groups reconstituted and leadership reassessed; Each WG assigned a liaison person from the PAL Network Secretariat. Updates on PAL Working Groups distributed in internal newsletter 'PAL Pulse' in English, French and Spanish. 5th Annual PAL Network meeting held in Xalapa, Mexico - meeting report published on the website in June 2017.
	Working Group meetings held regularly	■	
	Periodic themed network meetings held	■	
Network invests in updating and interesting potential new donors to fund CLA	Potential Donors identified and relationships built	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured from an anonymous donor, Wellspring Advisors and a pledge from DFID. Discussions with IKEA continue. Draft Fundraising Policy and Approach developed and commented on by F&P WG. 2nd Donor Conference held in Mexico City, Mexico. PAL director participated in three Advisory Boards Meetings (GEMR in Paris, SABER in Washington, INCLUDE in the Hague), and continued to chair activities of KICD)
	Donor conference held	■	
	Fundraising products designed and produced	■	
	Participation in boards and committees	■	

OUTCOME AREA 5 - ORGANISATIONAL COMPETENCE GROWN AND LEARNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION CARRIED OUT



KEY OUTPUT	KEY ACTIVITY	STATUS	ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS
Learning to improve competencies in key areas undertaken	Learning needs identified	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of probation appraisals conducted. Staff confirmed. Staff identified learning needs, which have been used to plan the Learning sessions.
	Skill labs conducted on a regular basis	■	
Plans and budgets produced in a timely manner	Strategy for 2017-2019 finalised	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-year PAL Network Strategy and 2017 Annual Plan approved in March by the annual assembly. Half-year Narrative report completed and submitted to donors in May 2017. Staff induction and Staff retreat conducted in January 2017.
	Annual plan prepared and submitted for approval	■	
	Narrative and financial reports prepared	■	
	Staff induction/retreat conducted	■	
Monitoring and evaluation undertaken	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Developed	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two external reports concluded and shared - Report on Working Groups and the State of the Network Report. Learning Session on M&E held for all staff members
	External Evaluation Conducted	■	

LOOKING AHEAD



- 5th PAL Network Steering Committee Meeting to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The creation of a data quality standards framework for the network will be drafted in partnership with the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). The PAL Network Deputy Program Manager to work as a member of the NFER project team culminating in a week-long placement at the NFER offices in London, UK.
- Representatives from Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic will visit MIA in Mexico to participate in CLA exposure visit.

- Representatives from 3 PAL Network Member countries and the Secretariat to participate in the UKFIET 2017 Conference in Oxford, UK.
- PAL Network to convene consultative meeting with CLA experts to discuss the contribution of citizen-led assessment data to SDG4 monitoring efforts in Oxford, UK.

- First learning visit scheduled to take place in India by four network countries, to understand Pratham's 'CAMaL' method (also known as 'Teaching at the Right Level' (TaRL)) in order to plan a pilot in their own countries.

- A second data quality workshop to be held to agree on a final standards document for the network, and the development of a monitoring mechanism to provide peer-led support and recommendations for more improvement.
- PAL Network West Africa Regional Hub meeting to be held.