The PAL Network is a global movement of citizens volunteering their time to understand the status of learning in their communities and collecting data to produce a national picture of learning in their country. Our volunteers are our most precious resource. Without citizen volunteers giving up their valuable time to traverse even the most hard-to-reach areas of their communities, we would not be able to collect the data we have regarding learning levels of the hardest to reach children. We rely on volunteers who are enthusiastic, willing to learn, interested in people and education, want to make a difference in their community and are committed to persevere, even under challenging circumstances.

Introduction

What Are The Facts?

- Over the past 11 years, PAL Network member countries have collectively recruited and trained more than half a million citizen volunteers
- The profile of PAL Network volunteers is as diverse as our communities themselves: in age, in occupation, in level of education, and many other indicators
- Over several years, different PAL Network member countries have been exploring opportunities to engage citizen volunteers beyond just conducting the assessment

What Do We Already Know?

- The relative simplicity of the assessment tests and tools enable us to engage hundreds of thousands of citizen volunteers to conduct the assessment and collect data
- A key opportunity of engaging citizen volunteers is the scale we are able to reach using local people in local communities to collect data
- Across the PAL Network, we have a large database of citizen volunteers who have given up their time to conduct household-based assessments
- Each volunteer has a story to tell about their engagement and involvement with the assessment in their own community
- Recruiting and training citizen volunteers brings unique challenges in different circumstances and in different contexts
Questions To Discuss During Group Session

What Are Network Members Already Doing?

• How much information do network members currently collect about our volunteers?
• What do current network members understand about citizens’ motivations to get involved in citizen-led assessments? Do we know why ‘repeat’ volunteers return every year?
• How do we document and advertise volunteering opportunities beyond conducting the assessment? What more can we do?

What Is The Role Of The PAL Network?

• How can the PAL Network amplify the voices of half a million citizens at a global level through the strength of our collective voice?
• At a network level, how can we better understand the impact that volunteering has on citizen volunteers and how volunteering has changed opinions, perspectives and even lives?
• How can the PAL Network better support people-centered approaches to accountability through our global movement of citizen voices?

What Might The Future Look Like?

• How can we better promote the PAL Network as a global movement of citizens concerned about children’s learning?
• Is there something we can do at a network-level to profile and celebrate our volunteers? What would this look like?
• Are there potential opportunities to build a citizen-led assessment alumni community? What would this look like?
• Are there potential opportunities for engaging and retaining volunteers that we have not yet explored? What are they?