CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

January 2017
ASER Centre convened country leaders and data analysts at a data quality workshop in Aurangabad. Participants agreed on the need to produce quality standards for the network. The Data and Design Working Group drafted a set of ‘irreducible minimum standards’ as a starting point for further discussion and deliberation. During the workshop, 62 documents pertaining to data quality were collected from the network members for further analysis to inform a larger Data Quality Standards Framework (DQSF).

March 2017
The draft set of irreducible minimum standards was tabled at the 4th PAL Network Steering Committee meeting in Mexico City and further explored during the Data and Design Working Group meeting in Xalapa. Participants mutually agreed on four next steps:

1- To develop a ‘rapid analysis’ framework to analyse the 62 existing documents pertaining to data quality to inform the creation of the DQSF
2- To enter into a partnership with a consultant to conduct a landscape review of existing international and regional assessment data quality standards to inform the creation of the DQSF
3- To work in partnership with the consultant to draft the first DQSF combining the research and analysis outlined in steps 1 & 2
4- To reconvene the appropriate experts to finalize the DQSF and draft an implementation strategy

May 2017
Analysis of the existing network documents was undertaken by the Data and Design Working Group Secretariat Liaison person with follow-up Skype interviews conducted with data analysts in each of the network countries to finalize.

July 2017
The National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) in the UK was identified to conduct a landscape review of existing international and regional assessment data quality standards, and work in partnership with the PAL Network Data and Design Working Group and Secretariat Liaison person to draft the first DQSF.

August 2017
The Data and Design Working Group Secretariat Liaison person travelled to NFER to provide assistance and advice in the creation of the first draft DQSF. The first draft was completed at the end of August and distributed to the Secretariat and the Data and Design Working Group for further development.

October 2017
The second draft of the DQSF was returned to NFER in September for further development and cross-referencing against the ACER 2014 evaluations, the UNESCO Good Practice in Learning Assessment Manual, as well as the UIS Global Alliance for Monitoring Learning (GAML) Reporting Indicators for 4.1.1 document.
WORKSHOP PREPARATION
Between November 2017 and January 2018, several activities and consultations are planned as workshop preparation. It is anticipated that the final draft of the DQSF will be circulated in November 2017 to collect comments, questions and suggested edits in advance of the workshop. A draft DQSF checklist and implementation strategy will be created and shared in December 2017 to collect comments, questions and suggested edits in advance of the workshop. Finally, a draft Terms of Reference and Participant Criteria for the Peer Monitoring Team will be drafted and shared in January 2018 to collect comments, questions and suggested edits in advance of the workshop.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES
1. FINALIZE THE DATA QUALITY STANDARDS FRAMEWORK AND GET MOU SIGNED
The first day of the workshop will be allocated to deliberation and discussion on the key issues or concerns regarding the DQSF shared by network members in advance, concluding with final agreements and a signing of a network-wide Memorandum of Understanding on adherence.

2. FINALIZE THE DQSF CHECKLIST AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
The second day of the workshop will be allocated to deliberation and discussion on the key issues and concerns regarding the DQSF checklist and implementation strategy. After reaching an agreement on the implementation strategy the workshop participants will then finalize the plan and timeline for adherence.

3. FINALIZE MEMBERS OF PEER MONITORING TEAM AND ESTABLISH MONITORING CALENDAR
The final day of the workshop will be allocated to finalizing and formalizing the peer monitoring team and establish the monitoring calendar for 2018 and 2019.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION
As agreed during the Data and Design Working Group meeting in Xalapa, the PAL Network will reconvene the appropriate experts to finalize the DQSF and draft an implementation strategy. This workshop will be held exactly 12 months after the first Data Quality Workshop was held in Aurangabad, India. The workshop will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 1st – 3rd February 2018. The workshop will be facilitated in the style of an Advisory Committee meeting where comments, questions and suggested edits will be tabled for deliberation to achieve general consensus across the participant group culminating in agreements accompanied by a calendar of next steps. To ensure consistency, the same participants from the first data quality workshop will be invited to participate in the second workshop, together with members of the Data and Design Working Group. The working languages of the workshop will be English, French and Spanish with interpretation provided.