The People’s Action for Learning (PAL) Network is a south-south partnership of 15 member organizations working across South Asia, Africa and Latin America. Member organizations conduct Citizen-led Assessments (CLAs) and/or actions aimed at improving learning outcomes.
Background
The Citizen–Led Assessment (CLA) approach was born in India in 2005 when Pratham Education Foundation, one of India’s largest education NGOs, designed an innovative approach to assess the foundational reading and numeracy competencies of children. The assessment was conducted at the household, and included all children regardless of their schooling status. This assessment is the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in India.

Over the past 15 years, the ASER tools and approach have been borrowed and adapted in different countries across the Global South. CLAs evolved organically from this approach, spurred by the interest of citizens who understood the importance of obtaining reliable data on children’s foundational learning that could build awareness and inform policy and practice.

To understand the spread of the CLAs, PAL Network undertook a mapping exercise in 2018 to establish where the ‘ASER/Uwezo’ testing tools are being used, by who and for what purpose.

Uses of CLA tools
The mapping exercise revealed that 56 projects across 33 countries had used CLA tools in the following three different ways;
1. Assessment only
2. Learning intervention program with assessment component
3. Project or program evaluation

01. Assessment only

| 3 projects |
| Citizen-Led Assessment pilot program |
| Countries | Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nicaragua |

| 6 projects |
| One-time assessment of learning outcomes |
| Countries | Bangladesh, Guinea Bissau, India, Indonesia, Nepal |

| 1 project |
| Adult literacy evaluation program |
| Country | Afghanistan |
02. Learning Intervention program with assessment

**Teaching at the Right Level**

**Countries** | Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Peru, Uganda, Zambia

**Learning Intervention Programs in crisis and emergency settings**

**Countries** | Bangladesh, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, Syria, Yemen

**Other learning intervention program**

**Countries** | Burundi, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Laos, Sri Lanka, Tanzania

**The Earth Institute – Millennium Village Projects**

**Countries** | Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda

03. Project and program evaluation

**Girls’ Education Challenge Project Evaluations**

**Countries** | Afghanistan, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda

**USDA McGovern-Dole ‘Food for Education’ Program Evaluations**

**Countries** | Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Senegal