



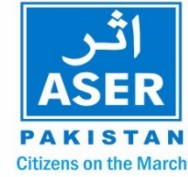
**PAL NETWORK**  
People's Action for Learning

# **Citizen-Led Assessments:** A low-cost model to measure foundational learning at scale





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# WHAT ARE CITIZEN-LED ASSESSMENTS?

Baela Raza Jamil

CEO of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) / Founder of ASER Pakistan

[www.itacec.org](http://www.itacec.org) / [www.aserpakistan.org](http://www.aserpakistan.org)



# Introduction



**Baela Raza Jamil, CEO of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA; Centre for Education and Consciousness) in Pakistan, is a public policy activist, influencer and innovator.**

- ITA leads the citizen-led assessment and education system accountability initiative in Pakistan through its assessment wing, ASER Pakistan.
- ASER Pakistan is a trigger for multiple learning solutions including accelerated Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) programmes, second chance remedial programs, reading hours, literature festivals, and many other programmes, which are implemented by ITA as a leading civil society NGO.

Baela has been catalyzing coalitions for the transformation of education systems. She is also the founder of the Pakistan Learning Festival for Children and Teachers, and serves on multiple national and global Advisory Councils and Boards including as a Board Member of the PAL Network.

# Origins of the Citizen-Led Assessment (CLA) Movement

What are citizen-led assessments?

# What do we know?



**Schooling**

**Learning**

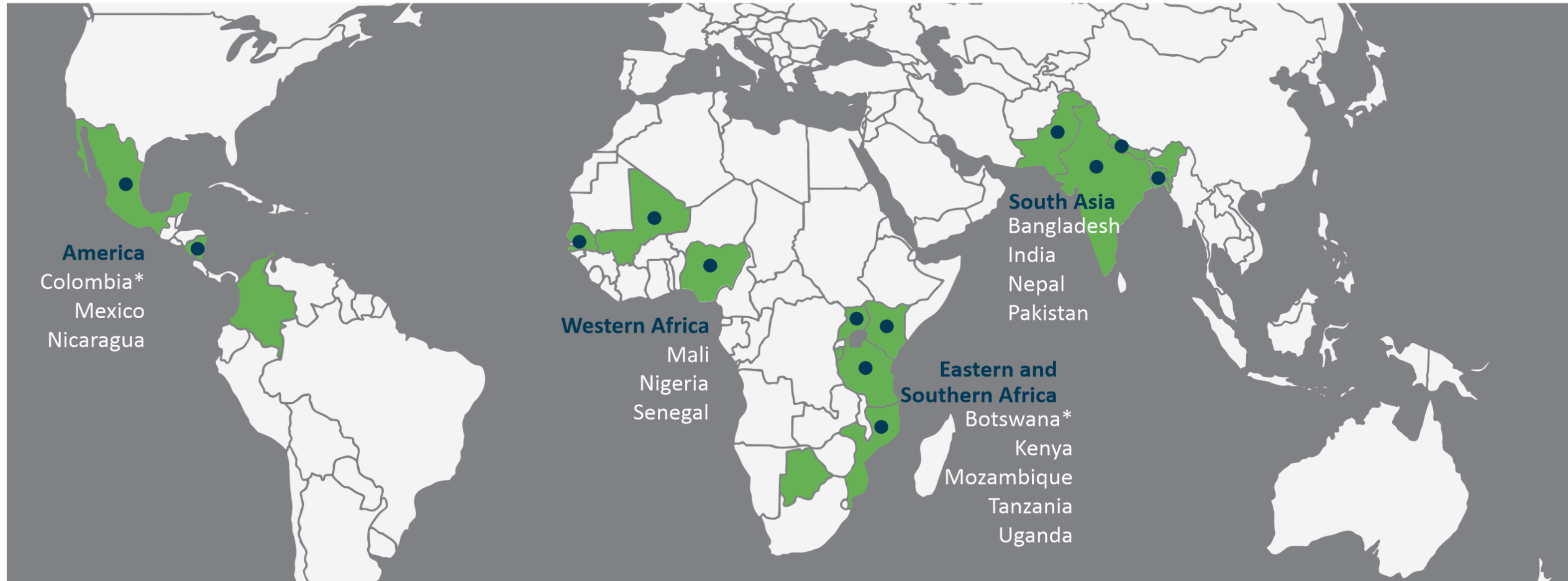
# What do we know?



# *PAL Network members have been pioneering CLAs across the Global South since 2005*



## A Global South Movement for #AllChildrenLearning !



● Past rounds of Common Assessments

● \*PAL Members initiating Common Assessments

# Features of Citizen-Led Assessments (CLAs)

What are citizen-led assessments?



# 5 key principles of CLAs



1

We assess basic skills including reading and simple arithmetic

If children cannot read, they cannot move ahead—either in the school system or in life.

a b c

1 2 3

2

We assess children orally, one-on-one

Pen and paper assessments assume that a child can already read. We do not make that assumption.



# 5 key principles of CLAs



3

We assess children in their home

The best place to find a representative sample of all children, whether they are in school or not, is in their home.



4

We use local volunteers to assess children

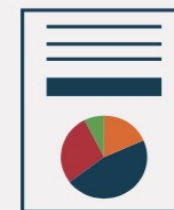
We want to involve as many people as possible in understanding the problem and thinking of solutions.



5

We communicate our findings regularly

Data does not speak for itself. We communicate our findings regularly to inform citizens and influence policy.



# The Impact of Citizen-Led Assessments (CLAs)

What are citizen-led assessments?

# CLA history in numbers

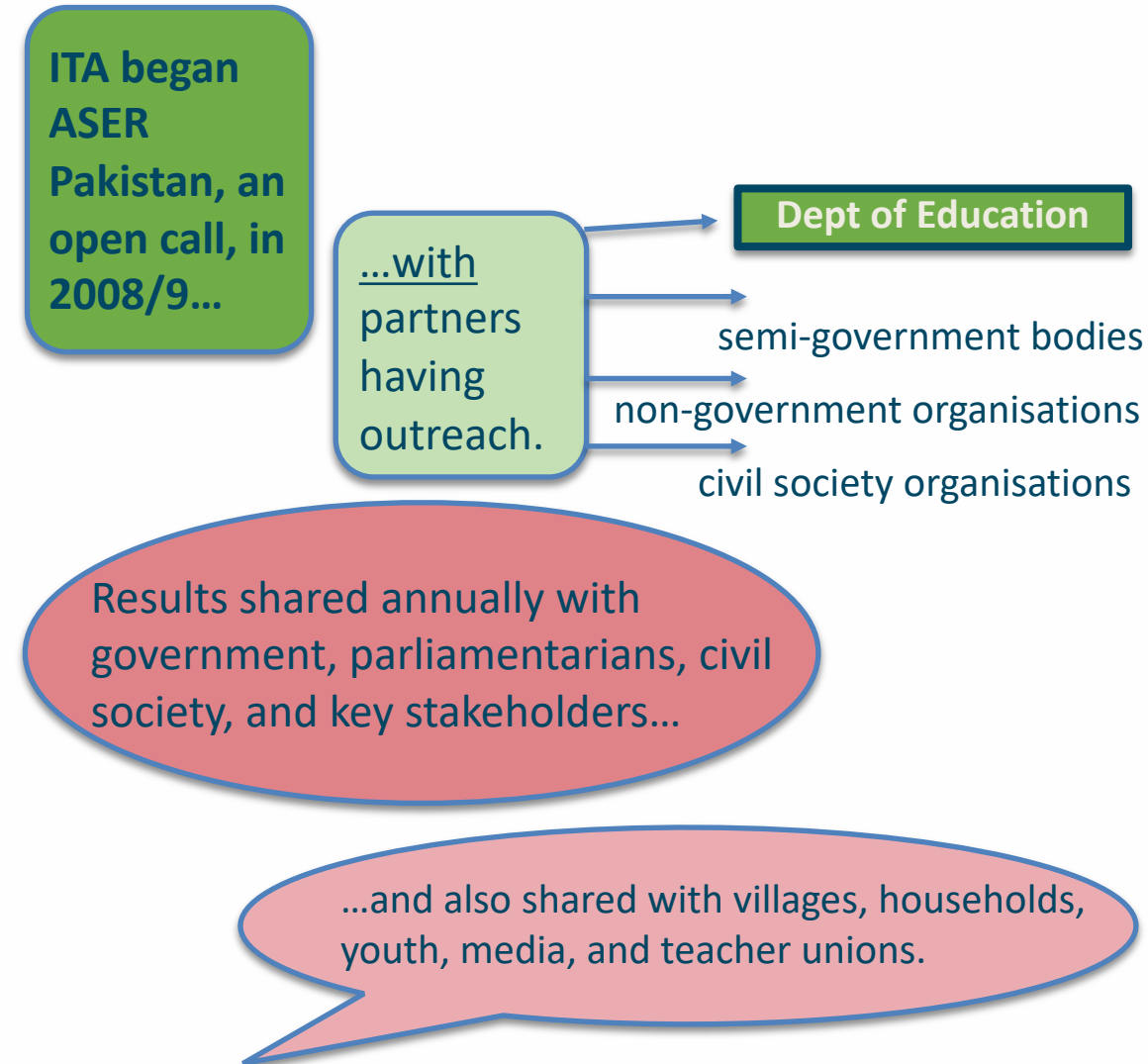


**Over 9.7+ million children tested**

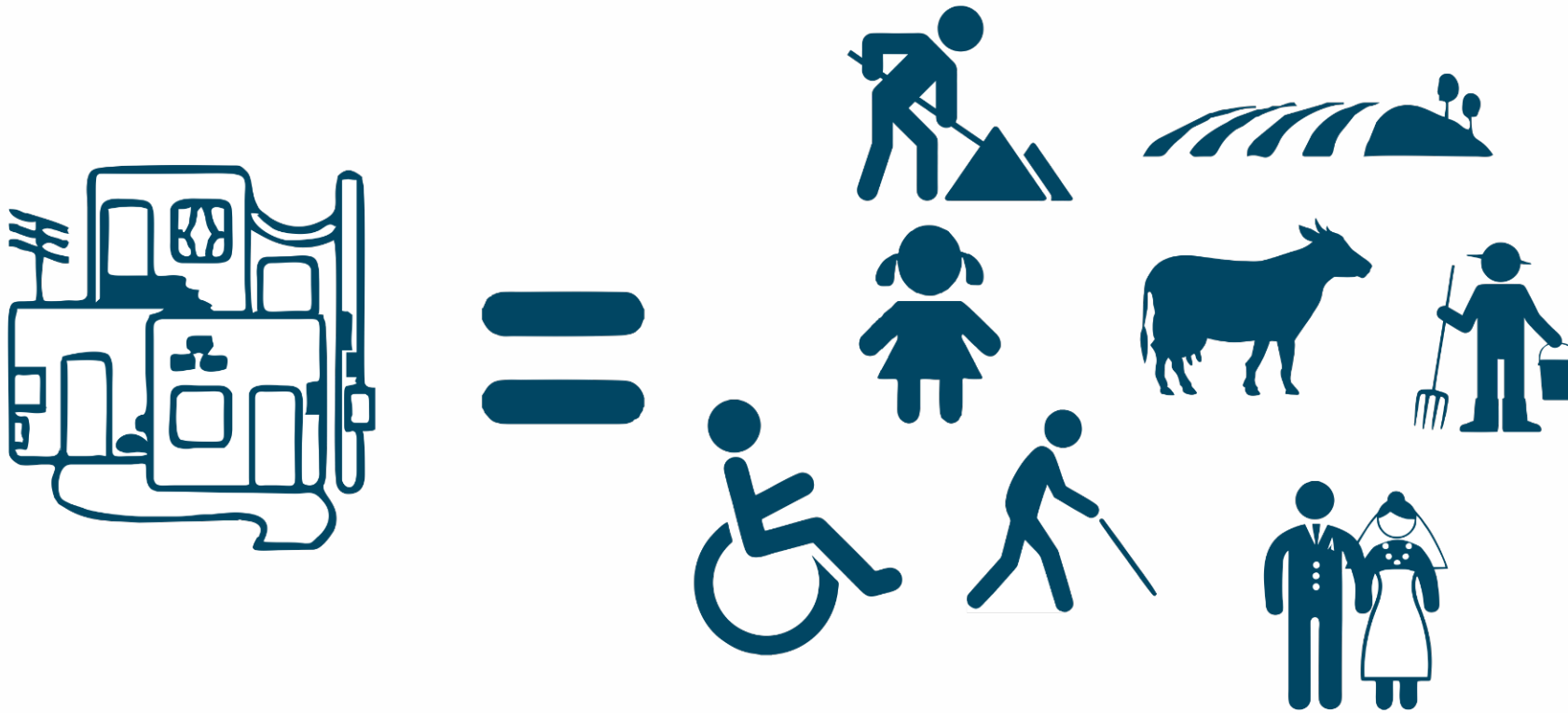
# The role of citizens and citizen mobilization



- In the CLA model, citizens are...
  - accountability agents for State & Society
  - investigators collecting evidence
  - knowledge producers
  - mobilizers of Action
  - open Learners
  - innovators
  - policy influencers
  - activists for change
    - What does not work & what more is needed?



# The importance of household-based assessments



# Making an impact through dissemination



## Household

- Survey: Children's Learning Assessment to create spaces for change conversations, building relationships and trust.

## Village

- Baithaks/Katcheris: Community Gatherings at the village level.
- Citizen Stories.
- Call for Action; Posters; Alliances; 'Politicians knocking on the door'.

## District

- Report Launch and Thematic Card Dissemination.
- Creating District Report Cards with Department of Education.
- Teacher Baithaks; Posters / Videos; Engagement with Politicians (MNAs/MPAs)

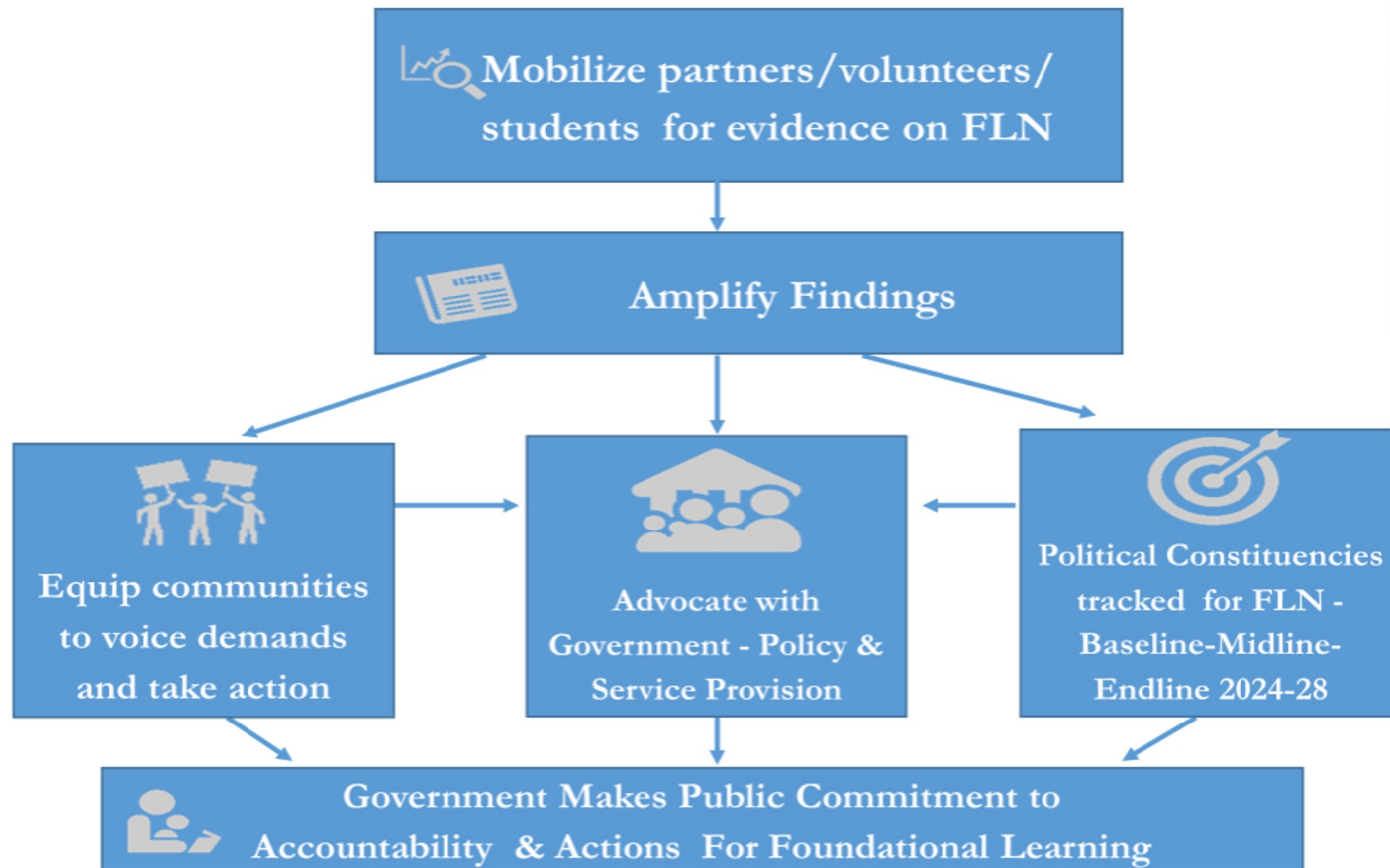
## Provincial

- Report Launch and Thematic Cards Dissemination
- Policy Dialogues; Media Trainings; Universities / CSOs / Department briefings based on findings
- Standing Committee on Education

## National

- Report Dissemination
- Policy Dialogues
- Media Trainings / Creation of Coalitions for Synergies
- ASER Documentary/ Videos

# Theory of change: How evidence is used for shaping policy



**Learning Solutions Adopted:** Accelerated learning TARL, Reading Hour, 2nd Chance Programs: TARL in Emergencies & ECCE



## **ASER Tracking Trends 2010-2023**

**Enrolment increase 2012-2023 77% -88%**

**Gender Gaps closing 2012-2023**

**Learning Gains in FLN 13-15% 2014-2019**

***Dip in 2021-2023 (COVID-Climate change)***

**Govt. commits 2 One National FL measure**

**Pakistan Foundational Learning Hub 2023**

***Pakistan in TCG mobilized for SDG 4.1.1 a***

**Democratizing Tool & FLN Data –DIY App**



# CLAs in action: ASER Pakistan



ASER 2023 National Launch March 8, 2024  
Politicians, Bureaucrats CSOs and Coalition Partners for FL



Call to Action for All Children Learning in Pakistan  
Grade 4 Students on ASER 2023 Launch March 8th



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