

Consultancy Opportunity | Development of Results Framework for PAL Network Strategy 2025-2030

Terms of Reference

About PAL Network

The People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network is a south-south partnership of 17 member organisations working to promote children's foundational learning across Africa, Asia, and America. PAL Network members conduct citizen-led assessments (CLAs) and learning intervention programmes (action) aimed at improving learning outcomes.

About the 2025-2030 Strategy

Since its formal establishment, PAL Network has developed and implemented three strategies. The journey began with the 'State of the Network' report launched in 2015, guiding the network's initial two years. The first network-wide strategy, implemented between 2017 and 2019, was informed by an updated 'State of the Network' report in 2017 that tracked the network's evolution. This strategy was later evaluated using an 'outcomes harvesting' approach, which laid the foundation for the second strategy.

The second strategy, initially designed to cover 2020-2023, was extended to 2024 due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A mid-term strategy review in June 2023 evaluated progress and initiated the groundwork for the third strategy.

Finalized in November 2024, the strategy covers six years (2025-2030), coinciding with the SDG deadline. As one of the few large-scale, low-cost, household-based initiative collecting nationally representative data on foundational learning, PAL Network plays a critical role in achieving these global goals. Over the next six years, the focus will be on producing high-quality data through citizen-led assessments and actions to influence global and local conversations on learning outcomes and improvements.

The PAL Network's 2025–2030 strategy is designed to achieve its vision of ensuring all children have a foundation for lifelong learning. Anchored by two main pillars—Assessment and Action—and supported by two cross-cutting focuses on Advocacy and Research, the strategy outlines specific objectives, outcomes, and outputs. It incorporates six strategic enablers: governance, financial resources, financial management, member engagement, skilled secretariat staff, and effective Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Sharing (MELS). A robust governance structure and risk management plan ensure accountability, while adaptive strategies aim to influence global and local conversations on foundational learning outcomes and improvements.

Purpose of the Results Framework

The Results Framework will act as an essential tool for operationalising the PAL Network's strategy for 2025-2030. It will not only track progress but also ensure that the PAL Network's initiatives bring about tangible improvements in children's foundational learning across Africa, Asia, and America, ultimately contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will:

1. Establish indicators to track progress towards achieving the strategy's goals.
2. Provide a structured approach to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of annual plans.

3. Enable adaptive management through evidence-based decision-making.

Structure of the Results Framework

The Results Framework will be structured as follows:

1. **Strategic Objectives:** High-level goals aligned with the four pillars and Enablers.
2. **Outcomes:** Specific results the strategy aims to achieve by 2030.
3. **Outputs:** Tangible deliverables contributing to each outcome.
4. **Indicators:** Quantifiable metrics to measure progress at each level.
5. **Tools and Processes:** Mechanisms to collect, analyze, and report data.

Expected Outputs

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

1. A comprehensive Results Framework aligned with the PAL Network's 2025-2030 strategy.
2. User-friendly tools for tracking progress toward outcomes, including:
 - Indicator reference sheets.
 - Data collection and analysis tools.
 - Reporting templates.
3. A Presentation session for PAL Network staff on the use of the Results Framework and tracking tools.

Timeline for the Consultancy

The consultancy will be carried out over three months, from **March to May 2025**, following this timeline:

1. **March 2025:** Inception phase – Desk review, consultations, and initial framework development.
2. **April 2025:** Framework refinement and tool design.
3. **May 2025:** Finalization, submission of final outputs and presentation to staff.

Responsibilities of PAL Network

1. Provide all relevant documents, including the 2025-2030 strategy.
2. Facilitate access to key stakeholders for consultations.
3. Facilitate communication with PAL Network staff if necessary.
4. Review and provide comments on the deliverables promptly.
5. Facilitate necessary contacts.
6. Facilitate payments on time.

Qualifications and Experience

1. Advanced degree in Monitoring and Evaluation, Education, Research, Social Sciences, or a related field.
2. At least five years of experience in developing results frameworks for education-focused, multi-country programs, particularly in the Global South.
3. Proven expertise in designing M&E tools and processes for large-scale, low-cost, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy initiatives.
4. Excellent communication and writing skills.

Application Guidelines

Applications should not exceed ten pages and must include:

1. **Approach and Methodology**
 - Brief understanding of the ToRs.
 - Workplan and methodology.
2. **Experience**
 - Two-page resume of the consultant.
 - One-page summary providing evidence of similar work.
 - References from past clients or organizations.
3. **Cost and Effort**
 - Total consultancy fee, inclusive of taxes.

Send your applications to jobs@palnetwork.org with the subject: **Call for Results Framework Consultant** on or before the 28 of February 2025.

PAL Network is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds, including those from underrepresented groups. Join us in making a lasting impact on children's foundational learning worldwide