Citizen-led Assessments of Basic Learning

The People’s Action for Learning (PAL) Network brings together fourteen countries working across three continents to assess basic reading and numeracy competencies of all children, in their homes, through citizen-led assessments.

Data from these assessments highlights the learning crisis across many developing countries.

Emerging from the global south, this family of citizen-led assessments has grown over the past ten years, but our guiding question has remained constant: Are our children learning?
Learning levels in grade 5

% Children who:

India

47.8

Can read this grade II text (%)

Can do this grade IV arithmetic problem (%)

Pakistan

54.9

Can read this grade II text (%)

Can do this grade II arithmetic problem (%)

Kenya

76.8

Can read this grade II text (%)

Can do this grade II arithmetic problem (%)

Uganda

55.7

Can read this grade II text (%)

Can do this grade II arithmetic problem (%)

Note: Citizen-led assessments test children’s foundational reading and arithmetic abilities. Each country designs assessment tools and sampling strategies based on the national curriculum and context. Data is therefore not comparable across countries.
Tanzania

Can read this grade II text (%) 81.0

Can do this grade II arithmetic problem (%) 65.0


Mali

Can read this grade II text (%) 10.3

Can do this grade II arithmetic problem (%) 12.3

Mon école est jolie. Elle est située à côté de l'église. Le cœur est toujours propre. Les élèves apprennent bien.

Senegal

Can read this grade III text (%) 33.0

Can do this grade III arithmetic problem (%) 61.0

A la course de chevaux

Aujourd'hui, il y a une course de chevaux. La place du village est pleine de monde.

- «Qui sera le gagnant ? », demande Amadou.
- « C'est le cheval de Mamadou qui va gagner, c'est sûr ! », dit Ali.

Mexico

Can read this grade II text (%) 79.7

Can do this grade IV arithmetic problem (%) 41.9

El niño que no sabía reír, Juanito siempre estaba serio, serio... Nada podía ocurrir a su alrededor que le arrancara una sonrisa siquiera. Aunque mirara payaso muy gracioso que contaban chistes, hacía actos de magia y hacía bromas muy divertidas... nada, el niño seguía muy serio. Un día temprano, despertó a su mamá diciendo: ¡Ya me salieron mis nuevos dientes! Desde ese día, Juanito es el niño más sonriente que conoce.

Nigeria

Can read this grade II text (%) 44.4

Can do this grade III arithmetic problem (%) 40.1

Wasu Abokat Uku

About the PAL Network

The PAL Network envisions a world where all children acquire the foundational skills that allow them to thrive. Its mission is to bring learning and measurement to the center of educational policy and practice through citizen-led assessments. Household-based assessments of basic reading and numeracy competencies are the only way to find out whether ALL children are acquiring basic skills, which are the building blocks for all future progress in school.

Guiding principles

- We design basic assessments of foundational skills including reading and simple arithmetic, based on national curriculum expectations
- We assess children one on one
- We conduct assessments in the household
- We assess at scale
- We assess at regular intervals
- We respond to local demand to address the crisis in learning
- We ensure that our data meets the highest standards
- We involve as many citizens as possible by using simple tools, communications, and assessments
- We communicate assessment results regularly to inform citizens and influence policy

Sample Description

Data is available for 9 of the 14 PAL Network countries. Bangladesh, Ghana, Mozambique, Cameroon and Nepal are in early stages of implementation.

For more information visit palnetwork.org

Contact us at info@palnetwork.org