

An Initiative Of



# Global Learning Lab 2027

## Accelerating FLN

### From Global Research to Systemic Transformation

8-10 February 2027 | Lucknow, India

### *Concept Note*

More children are in school than ever before – but are they learning the crucial foundational skills of literacy and numeracy? Are they developing 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking? If you are looking for solutions that build both FLN and create deeper, holistic, more joyful learning, then this conference is for you! The Global Learning Lab 2027, a three-day conference, brings together education leaders, policymakers, NGOs, researchers, and funders to share insights, scale and embed proven solutions. The event features pre-conference global research and Rapid Results Initiatives (RRIs), that deliver swift measurable FLN improvements. This actionable evidence will guide system-wide adoption of innovative strategies to accelerate quality education for all.

Uttar Pradesh has been conducting a large-scale experiment, implementing the innovative Accelerating Learning for All (ALFA) program in 9 districts. This has produced impressive results in third party assessments and the government PRS test. In the Global Learning Lab, you can witness ALFA transforming learning outcomes at scale in government and private schools.

Hosted by The World's  
Largest School



1. World Bank, 2022. State of Global Learning Poverty, 2022 Update. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/publication/state-of-global-learning-poverty>
2. DEVI, 2024. Research Report: Making India Literate <https://dignityeducation.org/links/images/making-india-literate-report-2024.pdf>

# Conference Objectives

## Spotlight Robust Global Research

Gain insights into future-ready, scalable, and sustainable FLN solutions, based on research and results worldwide.

## Actionable Strategies

Take home tools and frameworks to implement high-impact, low-cost FLN programs; access materials immediately.

## Global Collaborations

Build networks and find partners to support scaling and impact efforts and establish collaborations to sustain impact.

## Scalable Frameworks

Develop actionable strategies for integrating solutions like ALfA into national education systems.

# Bringing Together



## Education Ministers & Policymakers

Sharing insights on scaling foundational learning at national levels.



## International Organizations

Bringing global insights and shaping global educational priorities.



## Researchers & Practitioners

Presenting evidence-based approaches and innovations.



## NGO & Community Leaders

Highlighting grassroots success stories & collaborative strategies.



## Corporate and Philanthropic Partners

Commitments to global contributions & partnerships to boost FLN.



# Proposed Schedule

## DAY 1: EVIDENCE AND INSPIRATION

### Theme: Ignite the Path to FLN Success

#### Opening Ceremony

- o Welcome Address by Key Dignitaries
- o Keynote: The Global Learning Gap in FLN – Why Accelerating Progress Matters
- o Video Presentation: Global FLN Success Stories and Critical Areas for Action

#### Session 1: Evidence from Successful Programs

- o Group Sharing: Best practices from countries that have advanced FLN
- o Case Studies: Innovative strategies driving measurable FLN improvements

#### Panel 1: Boosting FLN Through Evidence-Based Pedagogy

- o Discussion: Pedagogy's role in FLN acceleration
- o Focus: Reducing global FLN disparities by 2030
- o Brainstorming: Solutions tailored to cultural and infrastructural diversity

#### Breakout Rooms

- o Parallel sessions on the conference themes (overleaf)

## DAY 2: STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Theme: Accelerate FLN

#### Session 2: Targeted Strategies for FLN

- o Presentations: Literacy, numeracy, and teacher training strategies
- o Focus: Leveraging collaborative, data-driven tools for swift results

#### Session 3: Data-Driven Success

- o Insights: Using real-time data to monitor FLN progress
- o Workshop: Tools and assessments for effective FLN tracking

#### Roundtable 2: FLN in Diverse Contexts

- o Case Studies: Solutions for urban, rural, and marginalized regions
- o Focus: Adapting FLN approaches to local languages and contexts
- o Recommendations: Strategic initiatives to prioritize FLN globally

#### Breakout Rooms

- o Parallel sessions on the conference themes (overleaf)

## DAY 3: OPTIONAL EVENTS

### Theme: Showcase, Engage, and Innovate

#### FLN Success Expo

- o Exhibits: Tools, materials, and practices boosting FLN globally
- o Interactive Displays: Real-life classroom examples demonstrating FLN success

#### Field Visits

- o Guided School Visits: High-impact FLN practices and Q&A with educators
- o Optional Tour: Experience the rich cultural heritage of Lucknow



# Conference Themes

## THEME 1 Next Strategies for Literacy Mastery

- a) Charting a Future Roadmap for Education
- b) School-Based Rapid Results Initiatives
- c) Community-Driven Rapid Results Innovations
- d) Government-Led Rapid Results Initiatives
- e) Best Practices Grounded in Research and Evidence
- f) Embedding 21st Century Skills, Climate Education and Social-Emotional Learning
- g) Leveraging Education Technology and AI
- h) Gamification and Interactive Learning
- i) Culturally Responsive Pedagogies

## THEME 2 Global & Local Perspectives on Literacy

- a) Literacy and Numeracy in the Global South
- b) Literacy and Numeracy in the Global North
- c) Promoting Mother Tongue Literacy
- d) Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- e) Advancing Equity & Inclusion in Education
- f) Girls and Women Education

## THEME 3 Policy Leadership for Driving Systemic Change

- a) From Research to Impact: Scaling Proven Educational Innovations
- b) Embedding Accelerated Learning Approaches in Education Systems
- c) Transforming Teacher Education and Professional Development
- d) Leadership for Educational Change: Global Success Stories
- e) Shifting from Gatekeeping to Enabling Policy Frameworks
- f) Rethinking the Role of International Development Organizations
- g) Reforming Accountability Systems
- h) Cross-Border Policy Collaborations
- i) Public-Private Partnerships

## THEME 4 Adversity to Opportunity: Challenges & Solutions

- a) Education for Refugees and Conflict-Affected Regions
- b) Adult Literacy Innovations: Building Foundational Skills Across Generations
- c) Literacy: Challenges and Solutions
- d) Numeracy: Challenges and Solutions
- e) Supporting Learners with Disabilities
- f) Non-Traditional Learning Spaces

## THEME 5 Fast-Tracking SDG4: Alliances for Global Impact

- a) Bringing the World Together in a Time-Bound Mission
- b) Foundational Skills: A Lift-All for the Sustainable Development Goals
- c) Meeting SDG4 Ahead of Time
- d) Funding and Supporting FLN Research, Scaling and Embedding
- e) Monitoring and Evaluation for SDG4
- f) Regional Education Coalitions
- g) Cross-Sector Advocacy & Partnerships

# Why Lucknow? Why DEVI? Why CMS?



**Lucknow**, the capital of Uttar Pradesh (India's most populous state) is the birthplace of ALfA—Accelerating Learning for All—developed through two decades of research and extensive fieldwork in slums, villages, government and private schools. Lucknow has a unique confluence of innovation, inclusion, and community.



**Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan)** is an educational not-for-profit registered in India and the US. It has been pioneering research-based innovative solutions for quality education. DEVI has partnered with governments, organisations, and NGOs around the world, to showcase the power of a disruptive pedagogy.



**City Montessori School (CMS)**: City Montessori School, Lucknow, is the world's largest schools by number of pupils, a Guinness Record holder, and the world's sole school recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. CMS has served as a giant laboratory for innovative educational practices like ALfA.

## Research & Implementation Partners



**SBI Foundation**  
Service Beyond Banking  
CSR partner



**All Africa Students Union**  
Knowledge & training  
partnership



**Teachers Without Borders**  
Toolkit Replication Initiatives



**Forum for African Women Educationists**  
Knowledge & training partnership



**PATH Youth, Kenya**  
School literacy intensives



**World Climate School, Norway**  
Knowledge & Training



**Quizizz, International**  
Partners for Massive  
Open Online Trainings



**Dubai Cares**  
Media promotion  
partnership

**We look forward to collaborating with you!**

# Pre-Conference Rapid Results Initiatives (RRIs)

## Engage. Expand. Embed.

The Global Learning Lab 2027 hinges on practical, evidence-based approaches to pedagogy. Prior to the conference, participants are invited to engage in a 45-day Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) in their own contexts to implement the RRI that facilitates policy integration through three phases:



**Engage:** Conduct small, rigorous RCTs in select schools using ALfA.



**Expand:** Broaden ALfA's implementation across a region.



**Embed:** Integrate ALfA's resources and methodologies into education systems.

**Who:** Ministries of Education, NGOs, and partner organizations working in collaboration with governments at local, regional and national levels.

Click or Scan QR  
dignityeducation/rri



## Some RRIs Worldwide



**GHANA**  
Olinga Foundation



**PERU**  
Arca Beta NGO



**USA**  
Literacy Chicago



## Click or Scan QRs for Case Studies



**MALDIVES**  
Ministry of Education



**UP, INDIA**  
7,000 Schools



**HP, INDIA**  
10,000 Schools



# Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA)

**FAST**

**HOLISTIC**

**TRANSFORMATIVE**

ALfA literacy and numeracy program has scaled rapidly from 20 schools to 17,000 government schools in India within two years, along with research implementations in 12 countries. Impressive early results indicate that the program is among the most cost-effective

in the world, with significant learning gains (average: 0.48 SD) and costing just \$4 per child. Toolkits are now available in 33 languages including Arabic, Chishona, Dari, English, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Twi and Yoruba.

## Key Features of ALfA Pedagogy



**Concrete to Abstract**

Draws upon children's prior knowledge and hands-on experiences to discover new learning.



**Paired Learning**

Interactive 1:1 paired learning without differentiation helps children learn faster and retain more.



**Holistic Development**

Embeds 21st century skills and traits like collaboration, critical thinking, citizenship, climate-consciousness.



**New Teacher Roles**

Teachers are galvanizers. They demonstrate how to work in pairs, ask questions, and guide students in paired hands-on activities.



India



USA



Kenya



Malaysia



Peru



Maldives

# Comprehensive FLN Booster Package

ALFA provides a process-led structure to reach FLN goals swiftly, at scale. This includes online and in-person training options, unique learning materials, universal standardized FLN assessments, and ed-tech tools that include learning, data & report generation apps.

## Thin Booklets



Low cost, low carbon  
low psychological burden

## Free EdTech Tools & App



Supplements & provides  
learning on devices  
at home & school

## Learning Materials



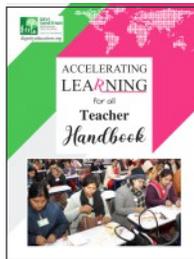
Locally available,  
sustainable, reusable

## Teacher Training



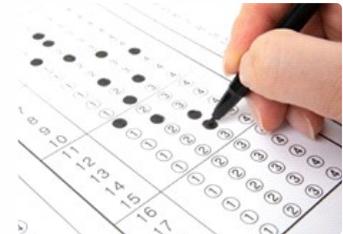
Highly participatory  
Online/Offline

## Teacher Handbook



Simple, visual instructions  
& video repository

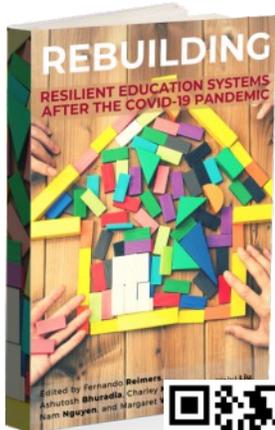
## Assessments



Scanning app enables  
instant analysis and reports

## Prof. Reimers & Team at Harvard GSE, USA, 2023

ALFA RCT Results Published In "*Rebuilding Education Systems After the Covid-19 Pandemic*"



Chapter 8 of the book discusses the RCT of ALFA in Shamli, Uttar Pradesh, India, which led to results as shown on the right after just 40 days of implementation as cited in the book.

These encouraging results led to the program's expansion to 41% of Shamli's schools. Shamli rose from being a Low-Performing District of India to Rank 18 of 75 in Uttar Pradesh in the governments own FLN test.

“ The effect size of the project was **0.23 for Grade 3** students and **0.89 for Grade 5**... the results suggest there is significant value in pursuing the ALFA model in other schools if implemented in a coherent, structured, and coordinated manner. ”

Harvard Graduate School of Education

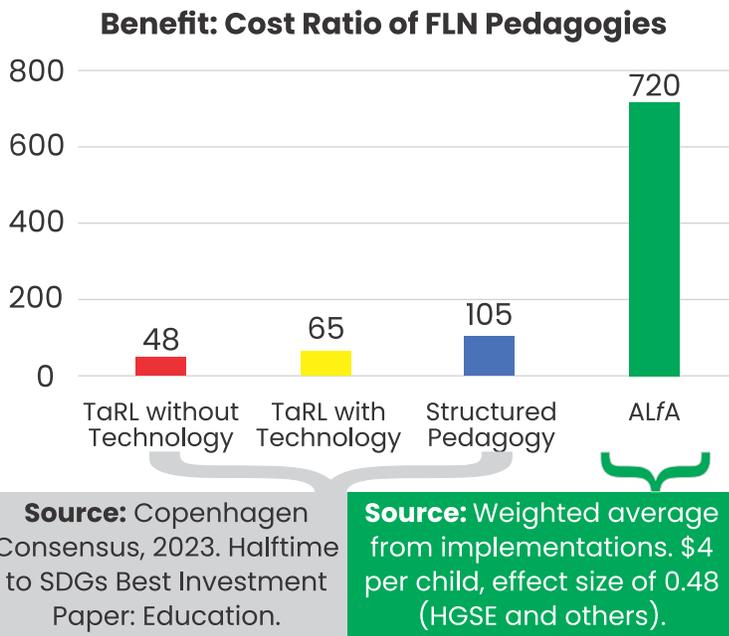
# ALfA: Comparison with Structured Pedagogy & TaRL

"One of the challenges facing many teachers is the extreme diversity of learning levels. Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) solves this problem by grouping students by ability, whereas ALfA transforms the mixed learning levels from a challenge to a strength through paired learning.

While ALfA is newer and still emerging compared to established programs such as TaRL and Structured Pedagogy, its ability to deliver swift learning gains positions it as a promising strategy for achieving universal literacy and numeracy."

- **Aïcha Bah Diallo**

Former Minister of Education, Guinea



**Table: Comparison of popular, evidence-based FLN pedagogies**

Feature	Structured Pedagogy	TaRL	ALfA
<b>Core Approach</b>	Standardized lesson plans and scripted teaching.	Grouping students by ability level and targeting instruction accordingly.	A process-led structure that scaffolds learning through paired activities.
<b>Holistic &amp; Social Development</b>	Focused primarily on <b>academic content delivery</b> rather than holistic development.	Differentiated grouping can unintentionally lead to a fixed mindset which can prejudice a child about their own ability.	Develops <b>21st-century skills</b> such as collaboration, citizenship, equity & inclusion through random paired learning.
<b>Speed &amp; Efficacy</b>	<b>Effect Size: 0.13</b> (Generally 3-year implementations)	<b>Effect Sizes: 0.08–0.7</b> (50 days, combination of studies 2005–2014)	<b>Effect Sizes: 0.23–0.89</b> (India, Maldives: 45 days, 2022–23)
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$8 per child</b> Detailed scripting and material requirements.	<b>\$20–\$27 per child</b> Resources vary by implementation. More significant training required.	<b>\$4 per child</b> Leverages local resources and requires minimal training time.

## References

Dweck, Carol. 2007. Mindset: The New Psychology of Success.

Kalra, Aparna. 2024. How Rich Donors have Caused More Harm than Good to India's Education. The Wire.  
<https://thewire.in/education/how-rich-donors-have-caused-more-harm-than-good-to-indias-education>

Copenhagen Consensus. 2023. Halftime to SDGs. Best Investment Paper: Education.  
<https://copenhagenconsensus.com/publication/halftime-sdgs-education>

Teaching at the Right Level: Summary of Interventions.  
[https://assets-global.website-files.com/61366d43ebd6df56d9b67a11/6174939ed355d9ec8ce755e2\\_Teaching%20at%20the%20Right%20Level%20Summary%20of%20Interventions.pdf](https://assets-global.website-files.com/61366d43ebd6df56d9b67a11/6174939ed355d9ec8ce755e2_Teaching%20at%20the%20Right%20Level%20Summary%20of%20Interventions.pdf)

**Click/Scan QR**  
for more details & further references



# Accelerating Learning for All A Groundbreaking Pedagogy to Transform Education

Sunita Gandhi, Jonathan Hakim, Tom Delaney  
Published by Bloomsbury, January 2024



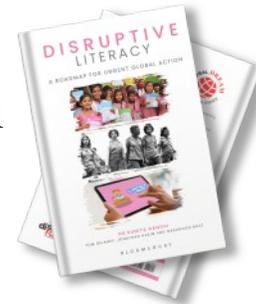
*"All students should be able to learn to read quickly so that they can maximize their academic potential and ALFA does that."*  
Jon Corippo  
Founder of EduProtocols, USA

*"This book provide some insightful and unique ideas about creating a pedagogy of possibility. It will undoubtedly create the conditions for a better world."*  
Sigamoney Naicker  
Professor, University of the Western Cape



# Disruptive Literacy A Roadmap for Urgent Global Action

Sunita Gandhi, Tom Delaney,  
Jonathan Hakim, Mashhood Bhat  
Published by Bloomsbury, July 2022



*"A much-needed manifesto for achieving large scale transformation of the global literacy crisis."*  
Ernesto Schiefelbein  
Former Minister of Education, Chile

*"A must read for policymakers and all those associated with the campaign against illiteracy."*  
Anil Swarup  
Former Secretary of Education, India



# Global Council of Sages

## Asia

- **Rana Dajani**  
President, We Love Reading, Jordan
- **Ravi Sreedharan**  
Founder & President, Indian School of Development Management, India
- **Robert Thorn**  
Director, Developing Real Learners, Turkey

## Europe

- **Inger-Mette Stenseth**  
Founder, World Climate School, Norway
- **Sighjorn Dugal**  
Founder, Pickatale, Norway
- **Nicolas Gravel**  
Professor of Economics, Aix-Marseille University, France
- **Richard Nilsson**  
President, Adventure of Humanity, Sweden/France
- **David Bovill**  
Partnerships Manager, DEIP, UK
- **Girish Menon**  
CEO, STIR Education, UK
- **Ms Novak Katalin**  
Former President, Hungary

## South America

- **Ernesto Schiefelbein**  
Chilean Pedagogue, Professor, Economist & Politician, Chile
- **Sylvia Guimarães**  
Co-founder & President, Vaga Lume, Brazil
- **Vicky Colbert**  
Founder & Director, Fundación Escuela Nueva and Former Minister of Education, Colombia

## Africa

- **Aïcha Bah Diallo**  
Former Education Minister, Guinea  
Founder, Forum of African Women Educationists
- **Peter Kwasi Kodjie**  
Secretary-General All Africa Student's Union, Ghana
- **Samuel Sasu Adonteng**  
Programme Officer, All Africa Students Union, Ghana
- **Rebecca Doreen**  
Founding Director, Vadiwa Trust Organization, Zimbabwe
- **Sigamoney Naicker**  
Professor, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

## North America

- **Bill Graham**  
Vice Chair, NGO Committee for Education, Learning & Literacy at the United Nations in New York, USA
- **Cindy Charles**  
Founder & CEO, Kupanda Sisters Inc., Guyana
- **Fred Mednick**  
Founder, Teachers Without Borders, USA
- **Gail Davvis-Carter**  
UN ECOSOC Representative, UN Partner, USA
- **Joanne Telser-Frere**  
Director, Program Director, Literacy Chicago, USA
- **Jon M Corippo**  
Author, Eduprotocols, USA
- **Mary McCool Berry**  
Founder, Read Keys, USA

Along with international educationists, the Global Council of Sages includes many Justices who have witnessed ALfA during their stays at CMS, Lucknow, for the Conferences of Chief Justices of the World. [Click/Scan QR for the full list.](#)



# Global Learning Lab 2027

## Accelerating FLN

### From Global Research to Systemic Transformation

8-10 February, 2027  
Lucknow, India

This conference is more than a dialogue; it is a global call to action for swift, replicable, impactful, equitable, inclusive, cost-effective and scalable solutions that empower learners and transform education systems.

Education leaders, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners are invited to join this transformative initiative. Together, we can create a global movement to accelerate foundational learning, achieve SDG 4, and fast-forward a quality education for all.



**Register Today!**  
Scan QR or visit  
[dignityeducation.org/lab](https://dignityeducation.org/lab)



+91 740 840 6000

[lab@dignityeducation.org](mailto:lab@dignityeducation.org)

[dignityeducation.org/lab](https://dignityeducation.org/lab)