



Final Report
ICT Integration Training in 109 Vodacom
Schools in Five Provinces



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Overview of the Project

In 2013, Vodacom provided full ICT solutions to 109 schools in five provinces in South Africa. Vodacom realised that the basic technical training had not translated to the desired outcome to change teaching and pedagogical practice. SchoolNet was requested to propose a plan that provides teacher professional development with SACE Continuing Professional Teacher Development points to participating educators. This was the first phase of the project which allowed educators to gain their initial confidence in using technology for teaching and learning. This project provided teacher professional development to 109 schools in five provinces (KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga) and to encourage a change in classroom teaching methodology. The focus was on the integration of digital learning across the curriculum. SchoolNet proposed that five educators from each of the participating schools attend five days of clustered training on the Microsoft ICT Skills for educators (10 SACE CPTD points). The second phase would provide SETA/NQF level 3 or 4 depending on the participants' display of competence in ICT.

Implementation of Teacher Development

KwaZulu Natal

There were 22 schools were trained in KZN, and these were divided into five clusters:

Mahwaqa Education Centre



The Mahwaqa Education Centre hosted 2 clusters for training. The schools that attended both sessions were from Bulwer, a small town in the Midlands Region. The first clustered training took place on 18 - 22 April 2017 and the following schools attended: Michael M. Shelembe Primary, Pheshe Primary, Dumabezwe High School, Esibomvini Primary and Kumkani Primary school. There were 18 educators who attended the ICT Skills training. The trainer pointed out how they were all willing to learn and how those who had good computer skills managed to assist others. He was especially impressed by two more senior participants who were due for retirement but still focused and were able to work independently. Ms Nonhlanhla Xaba from Esibomvini Primary School commended the trainer's patience, she said it was her first time touching the computer and only came back the second day because the trainer was patient.

Designing a certificate, creating a simple presentation, creating a class planner, designing a concert programme, writing a letter, creating an interactive picture, mail merge letter, assessment tool and creating a class database were the most enjoyed activities. Learning to create, send and receive emails was the highlight of the training, and according to the trainer some participants could not believe it when they saw emails coming through.

The following schools attended the second session at Mahwaqa Education Centre: Emangwaneni Primary, Kikizani Primary, Ncwadi Primary, Camanga Primary and KwaPitela Primary School.

The trainer reported that the participants were very eager and willing to participate. The trainer encouraged them to work independently and allowed them to select the scenarios that they were most interested in. They did more each day and improved in terms of their ICT levels. Some participants gained enough skills to assist other colleagues who were even able to help others.



Ixopo Primary School

The Ixopo Primary school is situated in a small town called Ixopo on a tributary of the Mkhomazi River, in the Midlands. The school hosted four schools for training: Ixopo Primary School, Mahehle Primary School, Matshanhlola Primary School and Nomeva Vukazi Special School.

The participants appreciated the course and even wished for additional days so that the course could continue. educators were amazed at being able to use technology in the classroom. Most educators were able to work independently by the end of the last day of training. Lynn - Marie Fahmay from Ixopo Primary School said, "The course was very useful and I would like to attend more training to improve on the skills learnt".

Little Flower Secondary School

Hlokozi High School, Lusibalukhulu High School, Little Flower Secondary School, Umzimkhulu Junior Secondary and Mantulela Primary School formed this training cluster.



This is a Catholic School based in Ixopo. The trainer categorised quite a number of participants as intermediate in terms of their skills and a few were complete beginners. The trainer reported that the most rewarding experience about the training was the development of educators, where they were beginning to help one another to demonstrate where to find assistance such tip sheets, and outcomes. Ms Sibusisiwe Mntaka from Umzimkhulu Junior Secondary said the workshop was so interesting, it made her want to use the computers everyday in her teaching. Mr. Dumisani Sakwe thought the workshop was great help as he came to the training with little knowledge on using the computer but by the end of it he felt confident; he also thanked the Vodacom for providing the training and SchoolNet for our organisation.

Nomzamo Primary School

Nomzamo Primary School is located in Kokstad, within the Harry Gwala District Municipality. Educators from Seven Fountains Primary, Westlands Primary, Nomzamo Primary and Glen Edward Primary were invited to the training. Only 4 educators from a group of 20 had ever used a computer before but the rest were highly determined to learn. According to some of the educators it was a very interesting and informative course; Ms Pretty Zuka from Nomzamo Primary School said she gained a lot from attending the workshop, especially since it was her first time using a computer.

Mpumalanga

29 schools were divided into 6 Clusters for training.

Alfred Matshine High School

The school is located in Casteel Trust, Bushbuckridge. Educators from Ditau Secondary School, Sokisi Secondary School, Mosetarata Secondary School, Serisha Secondary School, Alfred Matshine High School and Qokiso Secondary School were invited for training. The trainer said that the workshop was influenced by educators' needs. The educators needed to be trained mostly in PowerPoint and Excel. In PowerPoint they were guided on how to create a tutorial and an interactive quiz; in Excel they were guided on how to use functions to calculate learners' mark schedules and how to analyse each learner's information and performance.

Mafa Max Motloug Secondary School

This school is based in Shabangu Street, Botleng Location in Delmas. Almost all educators who attended had some form of qualifications in Information technology, ranging from Computer Science degree to End user Computing as an auxiliary course, Most participants selected scenarios from the Advanced Section which was influenced by their ICT background. They were from Botleng Secondary School, Phaphamani Secondary School, Sundra High School, Swartklip Combined School and Mafa Max Motloug Secondary School.



Mchaka Secondary School

Mchaka Secondary is located at Cuning Moore B Trust in Bushbuckridge. Most educators who attended the course were computer literate which made it easy for them to assess the course content. They were also able to work on most activities on their own, following instructions. According to the trainer, educators were excited as they realised that the scenarios were relevant to their daily activities, they were very thrilled to use Excel and Word. Mr. Samson Khoza from Mchaka Secondary Schools mentioned how the course managed to change his attitude towards the use of ICTs in education.

IM Manchu Secondary School

The school is based in Balfour, Dipaleseng Circuit. The training focused on areas that educators said were interested in such as Zoom, Kahoot, Microsoft Educator Community, mail merge, Moviemaker, Publisher, Access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint, Google forms and cloud storage. The trainer pointed out educators concentration was impressive when they were doing calculations, in particular the IF statements/functions, pictogram and budgeting, the Principal from Vusumuzi Primary was very impressed with Budgeting example in excel and said it will help a lot in the second term.

Limpopo

There were 14 schools invited for training in Limpopo and these were divided into three clusters.

Mokopane educators Centre

The centre is situated in Mahwelereng, a township in the Limpopo Province. It is located at the Mokopane Education Multipurpose Centre, a former College of Education. Dumazi Primary School, Leshoba Primary School, Kgopedinota Primary School and Madiphatlo Kgomo Primary school attended the workshop at Mokopane Teacher Centre.

Most educators who attended were teaching Intermediate and Senior Phase and it was reportedly their first time using a computer, and they were very ready to learn. They showed a lot of improvement as days went on, and by the last day most of the educators were attempting scenarios on the Intermediate and Advanced levels. Ms Julia Gadebe from Mmadiphatlo Kgomo Primary wished that all her colleagues were there to be exposed to what she learned. According to Ms Mamsy Lesufi from Kgopedinota Primary School the training was very useful and it had increased the little knowledge she had in using ICT.

Tivumbeni Teacher Centre

The centre is situated next to Nkowankowa Township. The educators that were invited for training were from Kheodi Secondary School, Fofeza Primary School, Foskor Primary School and Mapula Primary School. According to the trainer, educators participated very positively even though most of them did not have any basic computer skills. Most educators showed much improvement by the last day of training, they were confident to share their work with others, and even attempted advanced activities.



Mmampatile Primary School

Mmampatile Primary School is situated in the Bela Bela Area, Waterberg District in Limpopo. The schools that were invited for training were Bathopele Intermediate School, Ramela Primary School, Kgotsoro Primary School, Ulando Primary School, Khabele Primary School and Mmampatile Primary School. The majority of the educators were computer literate so the trainer divided them into groups of beginners, Intermediate and advanced skills; this was done so that the trainer would be able to give more attention to those who needed it more and to allow them to assist each other. The educators from Bothopele Secondary said that the training was fruitful, they had learned more computer skills and that the use of computer applications helped a lot in developing and creating activities. Mr. Boipelo Matlala from Ulando Primary School felt like his mind was being unlocked in Technology usage, and confessed that his skills were clearer than before the workshop.

North West Province

In the North West there were 18 schools in the project and these schools were situated in Rustenburg, Lethlabeli and Brits. Training was conducted at some of the schools which were used as host venues.

Ikatisong Secondary School

There were four schools that were clustered together to attend ICT Skills for educators training at Ikatisong Secondary school located in Brits. Participants were a mix of elderly and middle aged educators from primary and secondary schools around the Madibeng-Brits areas. The training venue was excellent as there was a lot of assistance received from Selwin, a SGB Admin Assistant. There was excellent Internet connectivity and participants were able to see the power of the Internet in enhancing teaching and learning.



Educators who attended training were very excited and showed enthusiasm. Mr Tswai the principal of Ikatisong Secondary School was very helpful and hands-on when it came to organisation of the venue and catering for the training. The facilitator of the workshop was very excited as he is also from the same area. During the first day of training Mr Nkwe introduced the course to the educators and what he hoped to achieve by the end of the course. Participants were even willing to go an extra mile by reducing the morning tea and the lunch breaks. Participants covered some of the expectations that were outside the activities of ICT Skills for educators such as using the eBeam educational content that came as a package with the Vodacom laptops.

The following is a snapshot of what some participants had to say:

“The training was very interesting and informative.”

“I gained more knowledge during training.”

“Training was very helpful, and it would be great if schools that were also not part of the Vodacom project would be invited also so that they can also benefit from these kind of programmes.”

Reuben Monareng Primary School

Educators from four schools were invited to attend training at Reuben Monareng Primary School situated in Rustenburg. Educators were from Reuben Monareng Primary School, Abana Primary School, Luka Primary School and Letsibogo Primary School. Reuben Monareng Primary had no internet connectivity, so Ms Masinti Chukudi provided connectivity using a router. The group of participants, except for one, had basic skills training had to be stepped up to suit their expectations. The group consisted of both young and old educators which the trainer appreciated. Principals were also part of the group which provided a good opportunity to ensure sustainability.

The purpose for the workshop was thoroughly explained on the first day and this ensured that the educators from different schools were able to see the common goal. As training continued basic scenarios were practically tested to make sure that educators could display basic ICT competence. A class test was developed and participants were converged to a point where they knew where to find examples and tip sheets.

Educators were further challenged to work on more advanced scenarios and because most of them had good basic skills more practical work was done on preparing class presentations. A lot of excitement was evident as they were working on presentations and engaged in discussions on a topic that one educator was busy on at school.



They expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Vodacom providing them with equipment and training.

Rauwane Sepeng High School

Rauwane Sepeng High School is situated in Rustenburg and hosted the training. There were three other Rustenburg schools invited to attend training and these were Matale Secondary School, Keledi Secondary School, Mmanape High School. The school was well equipped with a computer lab with sufficient computers for all educators who attended training. Educators who attended were a mixture of elderly and young educators. They were all excited about training and had high

expectations. Course introductions were done and participants got to know each other better. All the educators were hands-on and willing to learn and gain skills on how to use ICT in their day to day teaching. Even though a few were not so confident at first, but as training went on they gained more confidence and were more relaxed.

Here is what some of educators had to say:

“ICT is very important, I am very impressed with the training”

“During the course I was confused but our trainer supported us when in distress

“I was challenged by making a presentation for a food chain. It is outside my field of interest. I will use the skill to present mathematics lessons especially Geometry part that needs more visuals”.



Eastern Cape

There were 26 schools who were invited to attend training in the Eastern Cape. They were schools in and around Libode and Ngqeleni Villages. The schools were divided into five clusters and the following venues were used: Libode Vodacom Centre, Mdeni JSS, Itombo JSS, Nciphizweni JSS and Goqwana JSS.

Libode Vodacom Centre

Six schools attended training at the Vodacom Centre and these were Mafini, Dininkosi, Lurasini, Libode Village, Maganise, Makaziwe and Mangqukwana Junior Secondary Schools. The facilitator described participants as very enthusiastic, positive and loved what they were doing. They showed commitment to the training and were also eager to know more. These educators were very excited to learn how to do basic activities like creating folders, creating their lesson plans using PowerPoint, the designs of slides, inserting texts and changing backgrounds was really fun for them. They could not wait to create lessons plans for their learners. Participants loved

exploring using Microsoft Publisher, designing certificates with different templates. Creating a mark sheet was a little challenging for them at the start but in the end they were able to get it right and with more practice were able to master the required skills. They were amazed to learn how to sum up the marks of each learner instead of manual calculations which they had been expecting. The activity bulletin was more fun for the participants as they competed against with each other to create the best design. They went all out to showcase their innovative skills. They felt really empowered. The facilitator was pleased with the participants' progress as they showed commitment and their hunger to know more made the learning process easier.

Mdeni Junior Secondary School

Schools that attended training were Guqaza, Mdeni, Upper Matanzima and Bantini Junior Secondary Schools. This group of educators included first time computer users and some who knew the basics. Educators were tired and demotivated on the first day because they had come directly from school. The facilitator motivated and encouraged them to see the value of attending the training. He then decided to pair them to assist each other in doing the basic scenarios. Participants were more committed and keen to learn on the second day as they did their best to finish the scenarios in time.



Some of the participants started off taking notes instead of using the tip sheets but later understood how easy it was to use the tip sheets and they eventually decided there was no need for notes. After that all the exercises, they used tip sheets as a resource instead of consulting the facilitator with their challenges. All the educators at the venue finished the sessions and were willing to have more sessions as they found the training sessions very fruitful.

Itombo Junior Secondary School

Lupapasi, Mqakama and Itombo Junior Secondary Schools attended training at this venue. Educators participated well throughout the training. Some even attempted to do activities at home. The course was successfully facilitated because participants acquired the necessary ICT skills. They were not only able to access Microsoft Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel but also to execute activities that are curriculum-based using these programmes.. The course content on the USB provided to participants helped a lot towards educators understanding how and when to integrate ICT in the classroom. All the educators showed great interest in learning and they

referred to the training as relevant to both what they have to prepare for a class and the actual presentation in front of the learners. They appreciated both SchoolNet and Vodacom for the opportunity.

Ncipizeni Junior Secondary School

Maxaka, Nonesi, Qanda, St Patrick's, Zwelakhe, Zwelakhe, Ngqwangi, and Mzimkhulu Junior Secondary Schools attended the training workshop at Nciphizweni JSS. The activities completed included Excel where educators worked on creating marksheets and budgets. As activities got more difficult, the participants worked harder with lots of dedication. The educators from Zwelake were very competent in most activities which showed that they had practised at school. The two educators from St Patrick's JSS did very well too. Educators from Nciphizweni were the stars of the show as they led in most of the sessions. The educators were appreciative of the course and felt empowered and fortunate to be selected to be part of the project. They were happy that even though their schools were in rural areas they were considered for such an amazing opportunity. They vowed to use the skills gained to uplift the standard of teaching and learning at their schools and community.

Goqwana Junior Secondary School

They were 23 educators from Goqwana JSS who attended training. They were at first very intimidated at the thought of using computers. The facilitator clarified the importance of the training and that it was not meant to terrify them but to make their teaching easier. The facilitator started with familiarising the participants with the ICT language and immediately after that they



attempted basic scenarios successfully. They were able to successfully complete the mark sheets scenario and were able to use formulae to calculate learner's marks, average, and percentage. All educators were impressed that this was possible and asked to be taken step by step on this scenario. They were then able to practice their skills by completing the task/assessment.

On the last day of the training participants were free to select their own scenarios and work independently to complete their portfolio of evidence with minimal assistance from the facilitator. The facilitator was pleased with the progress and has no doubt that the participants benefited a lot from the training sessions.

SACE Endorsement and Portfolios of Evidence

Five teachers from each of the 109 schools were invited to the training. In many cases the Province issued circulars about the training and SchoolNet followed up with phone calls to schools about the selection of the most appropriate teachers. Unfortunately only 364 of the 545 teachers attended the workshops (67%). The saving grace was that 299 of the 364 teachers (82%) that attended training submitted Portfolios of evidence for SACE endorsement. These are currently being evaluated.

Province	Number of Schools	Teachers Invited	Teacher Attendance	Teacher Portfolios Submitted
KwaZulu Natal	22	110	74	70
Limpopo	14	70	52	49
Mpumalanga	29	145	59	50
North West	18	90	72	54
Eastern Cape	26	130	107	76
Total	109	545	364	299
%			67%	82%

Conclusion and recommendations

All teachers have expressed a great appreciation for being included in this training opportunity that has provided a range of different ICT Skills. Many of the schools also expressed the feeling that due to their schools being situated in rural contexts, they are often bypassed for any initiatives. Vodacom should be commended for creating this opportunity to mobilise rural schools and help these schools where equipment was sponsored in 2013/2014 and provided with a brief technical training.

The following are some recommendations for future technology rollouts:

- ICT Integration training should be provided to teachers as soon as equipment is provided. This increases the potential for teachers to optimally use the sponsored equipment
- A set of conditions need to be provided to schools before delivery and explained that the sponsored equipment should be used for teaching and learning and the school must be required to provide some evidence eg photographs of use.
- Where possible whole school staff should attend training especially for schools in rural areas as this will promote peer mentoring and coaching. Often these schools do not have a close enough neighbour to foster a community of practice and the school therefore needs to rely on its staff to motivate and encourage each other.

- Principals and SMTs need to be able to provide direction for staff at school to foster collegial support to encourage the use of ICTs for teaching and learning- most especially to create learner awareness.

Vodacom's core business is in ICTs and is driven by advances in technology. It is noteworthy that Vodacom Foundation continues to support schools and teachers, to address the widening digital divide. With this kind of continued support learners from rural areas in South Africa will not grow up believing that circumstance drives opportunities. Well done Vodacom!

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