

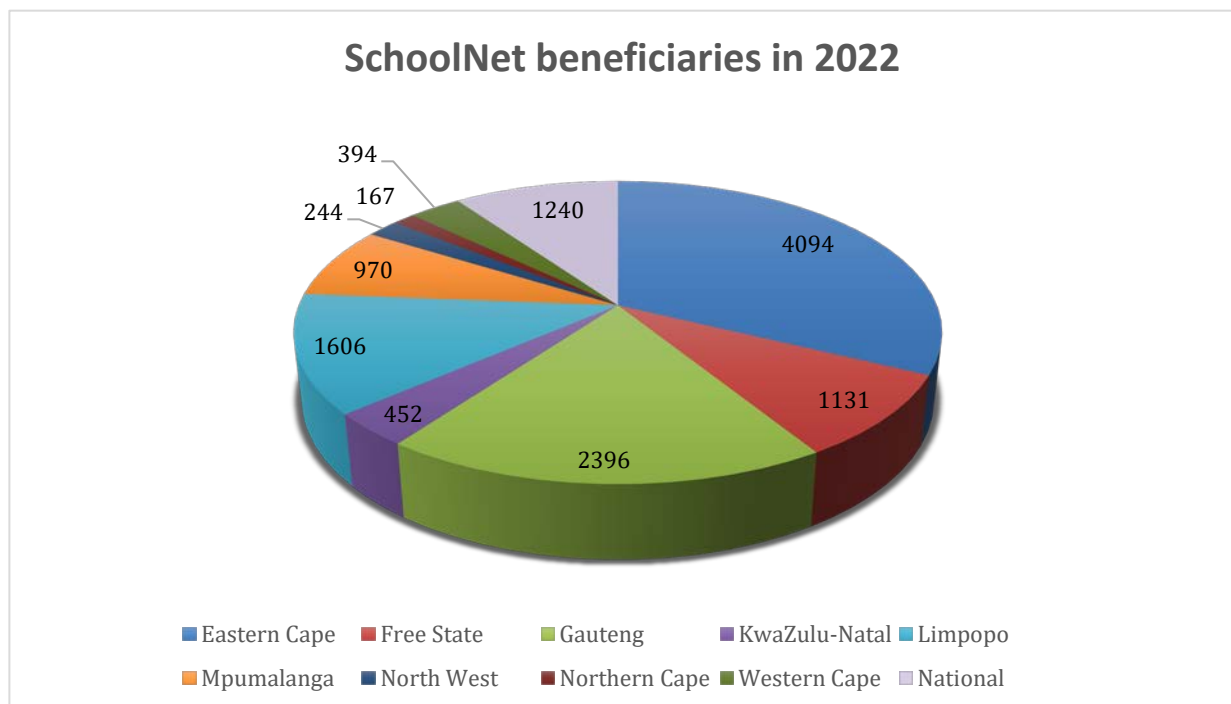
ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

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1.SchoolNet SA in numbers for 2022

A total of **14772** participants attended **338** training workshops during 2022. This comprised of three different beneficiaries which included Teachers, Learners and out-of-school youth. For the first time in SchoolNet's history we have completed more training for Learners than for Teachers. This speaks to a good diversification of programmes for different audiences.



The graph above shows that the majority of workshops were held in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng. The provinces following close behind were Limpopo and the Free State provinces and this was largely due to the Microsoft-Standard Project, Telkom Treasury and the Commonwealth of Learning's Leadership programme.

2. Projects across the Year

2.1. Telkom

2.1.1. Treasury

The National Treasury project is a partnership between Telkom Business and Treasury. SchoolNet was appointed as the implementation partner to provide training for project schools with ICT resources. A total of 18 schools were selected by the province that were considered rural. Due to the number of teachers being low, surrounding additional schools were invited to maximum the participation in training. Thus far the total number of schools is twenty-one.



Ten modules of training were offered to each school with schools being able to select from fourteen modules, the courses that best suited their digital needs. Training is progressing well, with the project due to end in June 2023.

2.1.2. ICASA

The ICASA project started in 2021 and was due to be completed in March 2022. Training was offered to both teachers and learners. Virtual Classrooms were installed in schools selected by the Department of Basic Education and included 2 schools from the Gert Sibande district in Mpumalanga and 2 schools from Puthadjithaba, in the Free State province.



Professional development for senior management and teachers kick-started the project with a focus on digital skills, use of the sponsored technologies and an introduction to Lightbulb platform which offered digital education content. Learner development focused on the use of Digital technologies for learning. Whilst it is widely thought that learners are knowledgeable about digital devices; they are unable to leverage digital technologies for learning. The training therefore focused on research skills, finding open education resources and applications for bursaries and university entrance.

2.1.3. Digital Specialists

SchoolNet was contracted since 2018 to manage the digital specialists placed at each of the seven connected schools. Direct salary costs were covered by Telkom with an admin fee for SchoolNet. Professional development, support for teachers and learners and managing the technology assets at each school were focus areas for the specialists. This is the fifth year of the programme and is due to be completed in February 2023. An evaluation study was completed on the success of this initiative and showed that SchoolNet was instrumental to specialists' success at each school. The report is available [via the link](#). This programme showcased an approach that could ensure that dedicated personnel with development can support teachers, learners, administration and assist with the management of digital assets. Across the project, SchoolNet has managed 14 specialists in total as many have found and maintained fixed employment.

2.2. Microsoft

2.2.1. Engineering and Skills Development Programme

Microsoft has recognised the need for sustainable employment opportunities and an even greater need to ensure that both teachers and learners in basic education attain digital competencies to actively engage in and contribute to a better South Africa.

Microsoft has partnered with SchoolNet to provide professional development for teachers and learners to test a proof of concept complete a global standard certification programme to support and develop mastery of digital skills. Teacher development will focus on 21st Century Learning Design and Learners would focus on Minecraft and Microsoft Office Specialist (PowerPoint) programme.

This initiative is a five-year programme, which will include one school province, with two or three provinces being completed per year. In year one, the Gauteng and Eastern Cape provinces were completed in MH Baloyi (GaRankuwa) and Zingisa Comprehensive (Umtata) respectively.



Learner development was provided in two parts with the Minecraft Hour of code workshops and Microsoft Office Specialist in PowerPoint. The proof of concept included Grade 9's at MH Baloyi and Grade 8's at Zingisa Comprehensive. Whilst seemingly this is a young age, the concept was to establish whether learners in these grades could attend training, complete the programme and gain certification. Success in this phase would cause interest and perhaps ignite learning in STEM in the FET phase.

This initiative included 75 teachers completing 8 modules of the course, and completing the online certification. There were 168 learners from Gauteng and 240 learners in the Eastern Cape completing six modules with each module containing an average of 6 lessons.

2.2.2. Ruabohlale Minecraft Hour of Code

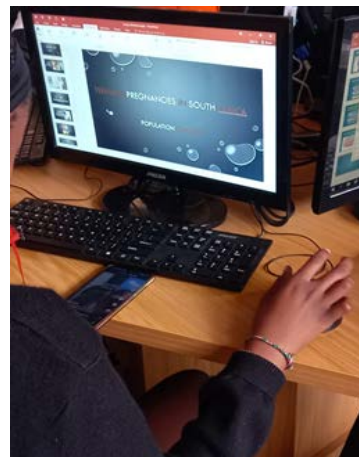
The Hour of Code at Ruabohlale Secondary School was a week-long intervention that took place between 1 - 7 June 2022. The Hour of Code is an introductory experience with coding and computer science in a safe, supportive environment. This session is ideally suited to learners and teachers who want to explore coding principles which use algorithmic design to complete a range of exciting tutorials. Learners and Teachers alike selected tutorials that were of interest and completed multiple levels to achieve certification for completion of the programme.

The project aimed to promote and to provide a foundational coding experience for learners through the Hour of Code. Additional time was allocated for learners to maximise the opportunity to complete the programme. Additionally, teachers were also included in the programme to ensure that they were afforded the opportunity to experience Coding in

practice. Teachers explored the Hour of Code resources as well as the newly launched Microsoft Learn platform. Fifteen teachers and 105 learners participated in the programme.

2.3. Standard Bank

The Standard bank joined the Microsoft partnership to subsidise the preparation for the exams, exam and a retake voucher which equate to about \$100 per exam. SchoolNet will be responsible for preparing teachers and learners for the exams, managing the voucher dispensing and tracking of progress. Mustek will be responsible for installing a lab at each project school. This project will align to Microsoft training on the ESDP programme and will also see one school from each province benefit from the programme. The five-year programme will see 1000 teachers and 5000 learners complete the programme.



2.4. Google Skills for Africa

SchoolNet SA in partnership with Google Digital Skills for Africa has continued to provide free training live via YouTube. The training has been marketed in all SchoolNet SA social media platforms and intends to provide entrepreneurs with skills to start and operate small businesses, explore tools and solutions offered by Google to help grow businesses and find support when needed.

SchoolNet has trained 871 youth on this programme and surpassed the target for the year. This programme will continue next year and we look forward to new programmes in this initiative.

2.5. Ikamva Youth

In 2021 SchoolNet South Africa collaborated with Ikamva Youth, to provide four one-day face to face teacher professional development workshops in four provinces. The intention was to create awareness and enhance teacher's roles to support teaching and learning using virtual and online environments. In 2022, Ikamva Youth approached SchoolNet to once again provide similar workshops to 55 additional teachers in the same geographies, namely, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo provinces.

The training took place in September 2022, where one-day training sessions were completed. A total of 53 teachers attended the training despite the expected number of teachers being fifty. Limpopo fell short in attendance whereas other provinces, such as the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal, included additional teachers who were interested in the workshops.

2.6. Ramizone



This is an expansion on the Biotherm project in 2021 which saw SchoolNet manage the refurbishment of Witbank Primary School, near Pofadder in the Northern Cape. SchoolNet managed the supplier for the computer lab, painting, security, internet and education resources

for the school. In 2022, Ramizone, a partner of Biotherm, partnered with SchoolNet to provide similar support to Hoërskool Aggeneys, a school situated in a small mining community called Aggeneys, lying between Pofadder and Springbok in the Northern Cape. SchoolNet was tasked to manage minor refurbishments, teacher development and educational resources for the school.

2.7. Commonwealth of Learning

2.7.1. CDELTA

The Commonwealth of Learning has extended the partnership with SchoolNet South Africa, to offer the Commonwealth's Digital Education Leadership in Action (CDELTA) course for the fourth year in 2022. This project aimed to reach more than 1000 teachers and 1000 learners across South Africa. A total of 39 workshops were conducted in this year. Of these sessions, 34 were face to face and 5 were virtual sessions. A total of 2382 learners/students and teachers participated in the programme which surpassed the expectation of the project. The leadership course was text-based and hence needed a lot of support for teachers to engage with the content and complete the pre- and post- tests. Additional support was offered as virtual sessions and WhatsApp groups were created for ongoing timely support. Amongst other skills teachers acquired a better understanding of Open Educational Resources and grew an appreciation for collaborating with other teachers through professional networks. The use of C-DELTA training material has positively impacted their daily teaching lives and will continue to apply their knowledge in the classroom.

2.7.2. Girls Inspire

This project is an expansion of the Girls Inspire initiative in 2020 which saw 300 young ladies attend and complete 10 modules of training on a variety of digital modules. In this iteration, the expectation is an expansion to all provinces with 270 unemployed girls attending face to face sessions and a further 730 girls to attend online workshops. Ten modules would be offered to each participant and will encourage personal and professional learning networks, motivation for awareness and use of digital skills to find information and to become more economically active. The project has commenced with us being in the project planning phase which requires us to identify venues and advertise the call for interest. From this process, girls will be shortlisted and the programme will commence

2.8. SchoolNet Training



Two districts in the Eastern Cape are using the Intel getting Started course as a district-wide rollout. The Nelson Mandela Bay and OR Tambo Inland district both attended master training with SchoolNet and have endeavoured to roll out the programme to the schools in their districts and share their training data with SchoolNet. The Eastern Cape province was hampered by go-slows and municipality strike actions which prevented a consistent implementation of the programme. Both districts will continue with training in the new year.

2.9. Scratch Coding

Scratch programming, is language developed with the aim to ease the activity of writing programs for the purpose of programming games, doing animations, and enhancing music. Scratch programming examples was initially designed to target children starting from the age of 10 years and older, and was developed to teach people about computational thought process and how a simple language can be a powerful building-block towards the approach of software development. Scratch is available for offline use and this is helpful in areas with low connectivity. This project will be implemented for 100 teachers.

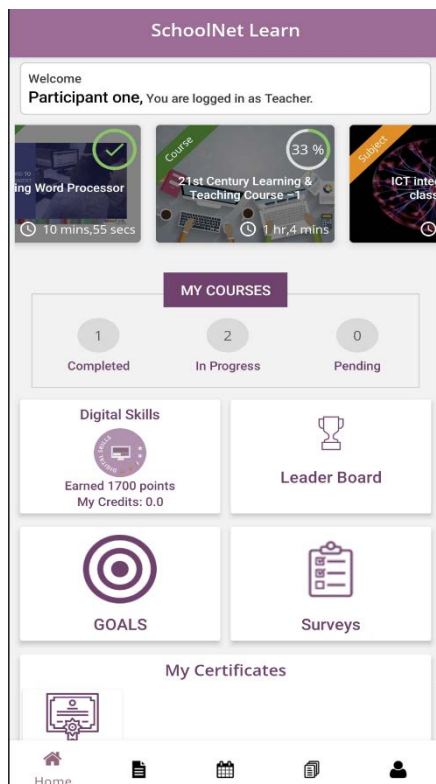
3. Monitoring and Evaluation

SchoolNet continues to firm up its processes in Monitoring and Evaluation with baseline surveys, midline where possible and an endline to create habitual display of the improvement of skills from participants.

We continue to improve our offering by expanding our success indicators. Attendance, completion of workshops, portfolio of activities and observed change in classroom practice are the key indicators for our success. With new projects such Microsoft ESDP, we are also moving into a position of being able to confirm skills through practical examinations.

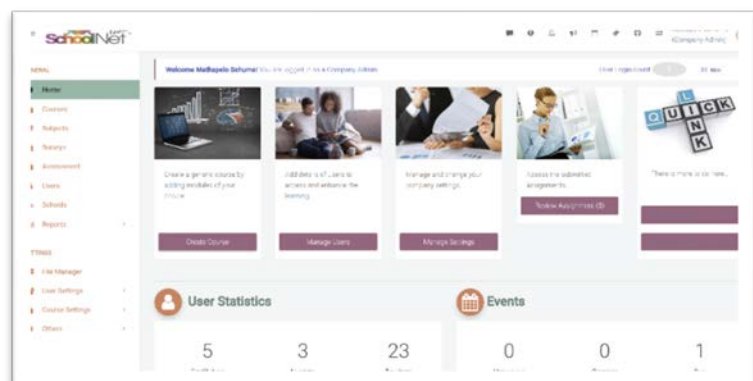
4. SchoolNet Learn

The SchoolNet Learn application is available via Android and Apple Stores and via web browser.



The SchoolNet Learn app is searchable off the Play store and Apple Store. At present the app is not open for self-registration as we are still populating the platform and testing the site.

Both the app and web browser offer the same user experience with the option to download content for offline use. Only built-in assessments will need to be completed online for badging and certification.



5. Advocacy and Marketing

SchoolNet participated in a number of advocacy events

Radio Interviews

Channel Radio Africa

SAFM Sunrise with Stephen Grootes

Alex FM, the Fastlane Drivetime show

Capricorn FM, Capricorn experience

SAFM, the JET Set Breakfast Show

Blog Posts

We regularly feature blog posts on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and our website. Thanks to Parthy for volunteering Jevanne, from Eskom Youth Science to assist the SchoolNet Team. A consultant was hired to assist on a fixed term contract for three months in order for us to assess the various elements of communications that might be needed for improving our communications strategy. We have decided that a maximum of two days per week for planning and scheduling posts will be needed in the new year.

Webinars:

Mental Health and well-being

Teacher well-being resources toolkit

Dialogue

SchoolNet hosted a dialogue on the Pedagogy of Play and panelists were represented from University of Johannesburg, Nali'Bali, Molteno Institute, Lego Foundation and SchoolNet. Participants included teachers, students, and learners.



6. Staff

Permanent staff now total eight women namely, Ms Mathapelo Thipe, Ms Quintres Sefala, Ms Phindile Mavundla, Ms Sibongile Jonas and Ms Omashani Naidoo. The new additions to our team include Ms Millicent Thabethe (UJ Assistant Lecturer-online Education), Ms Nokubonga Lamola who worked with SchoolNet in 2017 and Ms Brenda Mohale.



All staff are embarking on further studies:

- Brenda Mohale continues with her PGCE
- Quintres starts her PGCE programme
- Mathapelo and Phindile are registering for degrees in Project Management
- Sibongile has expressed an interest in Human Resource Management
- Omashani is registered for her PhD in ICT Education
- Millicent is completing her Masters' in Education.

7. Plans for 2023

Populate SchoolNet Learn with more of our courses

Support staff to take on additional tasks for formal writing and professional development

Seek funding to provide free access to SchoolNet Learn

Explore formalization of our Monitoring and Evaluation stream

Build additional training capacity in each Province.

SchoolNet, and its Board continues to strive to attain our vision which is to *act as a catalyst for positive change in education and improve opportunities for knowledge creation through digital learning*. We continue to stay the course despite the various trials, tribulations and financial constraints and plan for a more successful 2023.

Omashani Naidoo

Executive Director

www.schoolnet.org.za