



mEducation
Alliance

2023 – 2024

Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Communities of Practice Landscape Report





FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

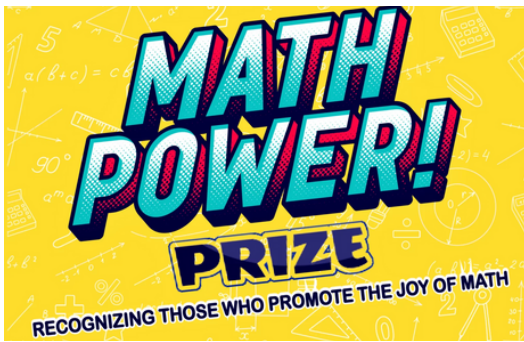
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We Strengthen Education Ecosystems to Bring Wondrous Learning!

Catalyzing

Accelerating investments and the scaling of promising interventions and initiatives.

- EdTech and other innovation consultations
- Global Digital Literacy
- Interactive Voice Response for Ed
- Market Mobilization (e.g., Low-Cost Video Projectors)
- Math Power! Prize - and other Ed challenge calls
- Youth Digital Champions
- #InspirationSTEM Girls



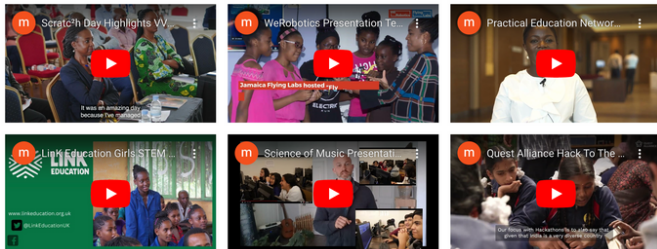
Communicating

Sharing good practices within a global community.

- Biweekly eNews
- EdTech Connected eZine
- Pulse Media Channel

2023 mEd Alliance Symposium Video Teasers

[Click here for the complete playlist!](#)



Convening

Connecting investors, policymakers, and practitioners.

- Largest global convening platform for EdTech for developing countries (100+ Alliance and Network Members)
- 14 Annual Global Symposia



Community Building

Bringing together leading organizations with common interests.

- Math Power!
- Literacy League
- Educational Volunteerism
- Global STEM Champions Network



Connect with us!



eNews



email



LinkedIn



website

Contact Us!



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Message from the Executive Director, Anthony Bloome

Since the mEducation Alliance's initial founding in 2009, we have showcased the important work of organizations committed to advancing foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN), particularly in low-resource settings, and via the appropriate and sustainable uses of various types of technology. This has included many presentations, several with video highlights of their work,, featured during our 13th annual Symposia and at various locations on our website.

In 2020, when we had established the mEducation Alliance as an independent non -profit, we wanted to accelerate knowledge-exchange among these like-minded FLN-focused organizations. Among other activities, this resulted in our establishing the Literacy League and Math Power! communities of practice (CoPs).

These CoPs have met quarterly since this time, primarily virtually, but with members occasionally seeing each others in face-to-face meetings. The meeting formats are intentionally informal and designed to maximize interaction and knowledge-exchange. In addition to round robin institutional updates, attendees also exchange information on general and specific topics of interest (e.g., monitoring impact, scaling, measuring quality). We are excited that so many new partnerships have emerged through such gatherings.

In this FLN Community of Practice Landscape Review, we are delighted to share the 2023 highlights and 2024 aspirations of several of these members.

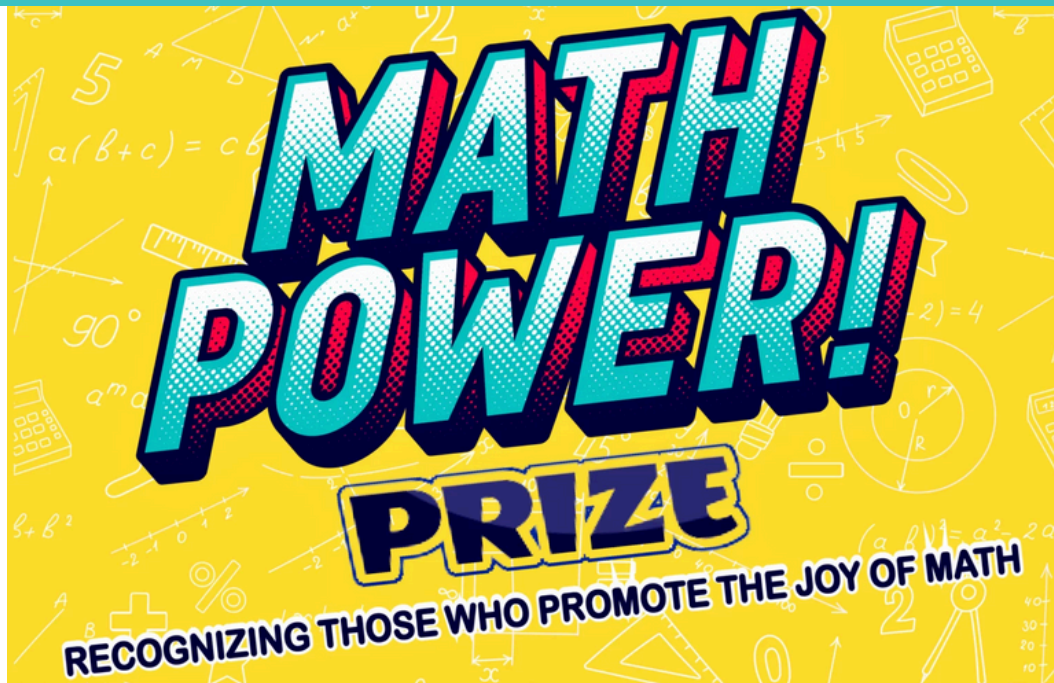
Please take special note of the **points of contact** featured in this report. These individuals represent the best spirit of of those whose efforts are helping to advance foundational literacy and numeracy skills and resources, particularly to marginalized and/or underserved learners around the world.

Join us at the 2024 mEducation Alliance Symposium to meet representatives from several CoP member institutions and others, including from mEducation Alliance Member institutions, engaged in FLN efforts.

If you are interested in becoming a Community of Practice or Alliance member, please let us know at medalliance@meducationalliance.org.

SPONSOR

THE 2024 MATH POWER! PRIZE



The Math Power! Prize is designed to draw attention to the importance of mathematics and numeracy skills, and to recognize the amazing work of exceptional non-profit organizations working to promote the joy of math.

Prior to our 2022 award, there did not exist a dedicated prize for this type of global recognition.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS
TO MAKE THIS AN ANNUAL AWARD**

Interested? Please let us know.

Learn more about the Math
Power! Prize here:



<https://meducationalliance.org/>

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023 has been a strong year for the ALNF. It saw the release of the long-awaited [Final Report](#) of the Overcoming Disadvantage in Early Childhood (ODEC) Study: A longitudinal evaluation of the ALNF's Early Language and Literacy Program (EL&L), conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). As part of the Study, ALNF commissioned a world-unique progression scale and formative assessment tool in oral language and early literacy for 2- to 5-year-olds, which extends to 8-year-olds. The [Early Language and Literacy Development Index \(ELLDI\)](#) helps early years educators access feedback and monitor children's growth.
- ALNF continued its program to foster literacy in Australian Indigenous Languages through its Living First Language Platform program. In particular, we celebrated [a collaboration with Curious Learning](#) who assisted the ALNF in developing Feed the Monster literacy games in Warumungu and Erub Mer.



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- To grow the reach of the Early Language and Development Index (ELLDI). We maintain that the formative assessment tool provides robust, useful information to support children's growth in those pivotal years from 2- to 5- and onwards to 8-year-olds;
- To scope the growth of the ELLDI beyond Australia. We wish to pursue international collaborations to apply and adapt the tool and its associated educational resources;
- To continue our support of literacy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages through the growth of the [Living First Language Platform](#) program within Australia;
- To pursue further partnerships – both domestically and internationally – to support innovation in how we foster literacy in Indigenous Languages, particularly as part of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; and
- To continue our efforts to supply quality training and mentoring along with rich children's literature and essential resources to diverse communities across Australia.

The Overcoming Disadvantage in Early Childhood Study

Evaluation of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's Early Language and Literacy Program

Final Report

**AUSTRALIAN
LITERACY &
NUMERACY
FOUNDATION**

CONTACT PERSON



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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

In February 2023, we distributed our 3 millionth book! Our books are intended for pre-school children across South Africa who would never otherwise be able to own books.

In March 2023, we were invited by the Bologna Children's Book Fair to host a 12-hour creative bookmaking event at the fair. A team of six creative volunteers from across Africa made two new books at this Book Dash. We were excited to have several "Community Starters" for micro-grants supported by ChangeX, which allowed Book Dash trainers to provide guidance on how to effectively print our books. Two of the "Starters" are based in Ukraine, and where two thousand Book Dash books in Ukrainian have now made their way into the homes of children in many of the conflict-torn areas of this country..

In August 2023, we published a survey of the evidence that supports the focus of our work: "Books in children's hands and homes". See the report [here](#).

In 2023, more than 130 content partners worldwide actively re-use or re-share Book Dash books.



Panel discussion at the Bologna Children's Book Fair

2024 ASPIRATIONS

We want to: print and distribute 1 million books across South Africa and nurture relationships with organisations around the world that re-use our content. This will enable us to gather in-depth and qualitative data about how the books are used, for what purpose, etc. We also plan to disseminate key findings of an external evaluation of our 3-year programme that has seen children each receiving an abundance of Book Dash books to own.

CONTACT PERSON



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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- CommonLit developed and launched three MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) on the MexicoX Platform for teachers to improve their practices and their students' reading comprehension
- CommonLit trained over 2,000 teachers in their free webinars focused on using CommonLit to improve reading comprehension
- CommonLit launched a research study in Mexico to learn about the correlation between the use of CommonLit and student reading comprehension
- CommonLit added hundreds of new lessons in Spanish to meet teachers' needs
- CommonLit partnered with Kolibri to add a hundreds of free lessons to be accessed by students in vulnerable areas with no internet connection



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Develop an assessment in Spanish to allow teachers to measure student growth in reading comprehension
- Reach more students in low connectivity areas by improving our offline capabilities.
- Organize new webinars to better serve our teachers' needs
- Partner with UNESCO for the third year in a row to launch a Reading Challenge (Desafío de vacaciones) to keep students reading with their families during the holidays.



CONTACT PERSONS

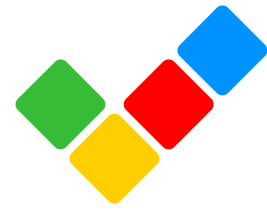


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ONEBILLION



<https://onebillion.org/>

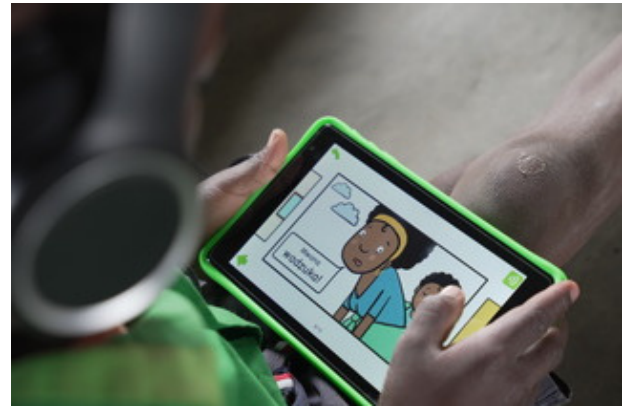
2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Our digital library, onelibrary, now contains over 250 books in Chichewa (currently also being localised into Swahili, French, Portuguese and International English). We aim to provide a range of stories to reflect the world the child knows, and to provide a window onto other cultures, worlds and possibilities.
- We ran co-creation sessions with neurodivergent children in Malawi and the UK to develop books that reflect the voices of children with lived experience of SEND.
- We've also developed a new higher-level library to engage children who are now reading to learn. The first version of this contains an encyclopedia of short articles and bite-size facts to engage and fascinate children with non-fiction content.



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Throughout 2024, onebillion will be working on developing more content for children who need additional support in areas such as executive function and speech and language to ensure they are supported to unlock their education and foundational learning.
- We'll be focusing more on higher-level content for emerging and fluent readers - including new materials to support children with SEL, and content related to STEM.
- We've developed a new digital teacher with accurate lip-syncing to support children who are hard of hearing and in noisy environments, and will be rolling this new feature out across all the languages available on onetab in the coming year.



CONTACT PERSONS



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PANAMANIAN FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF MATHEMATICS



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, we launched the second edition of the FUNDAPROMAT Factorial Magazine, which can be downloaded for free (in Spanish) on our [website](#).
- In February 2023, we visited the province of Bocas del Toro so now we can finally say that FUNDAPROMAT has visited all 10 provinces of the Republic of Panama. During these visits, we talk to directors and educators and inform them about the free teaching resources that the Foundation offers.
- In March 2023, we ran our first Math Carnival outside of Panama City. It took place at the Boquete Library in the province of Chiriqui. More than 200 people attended this free in-person event. So far we have run 98 Math Jamborees. These are virtual events in which participants separate into groups depending on whether they are kids or adults and explore fun math activities in an environment of collaboration and a lot of fun. These activities (in Spanish) are also available to download for free on our website.

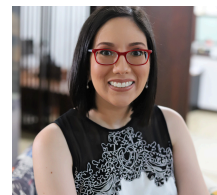


2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Launch the third edition of the FUNDAPROMAT Factorial Magazine.
- Organize more Math Carnivals outside of Panama City. Find more sponsors to be able to continue organizing free math outreach events, both virtual and in-person.
- Continue running webinars to spread the joy of mathematics to our international community.
- Invite exceptional public speakers to travel to Panama to share their passion for mathematics with kids and adults of all ages. Find out more about our upcoming events, which are free and open to the general public, please visit our Calendar of Events on our website at <https://www.fundapromat.org/en/events>.



CONTACT PERSON



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MOBILES FOR EDUCATION ALLIANCE



<https://meducationalliance.org/>

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The mEducation Alliance and its **Math Power! Explorer (MPE) project** partners received a second year of pilot funding from [Cisco's Global Cash Grants](#) to expand the use of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) to deliver audio-driven adventure-styled math games for parents to use with primary-aged learners in households in Rwanda.
- We supported out **communities of practice (CoP)** around various themes. On average, we organized 4 quarterly meetings for each CoP: *Literacy League*, *Math Power!* and *Education Volunteerism*.
- We developed and circulated 20 **eNews**.



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- To attract enthusiastic sponsors and FLN presenters for our **14th Annual mEducation Alliance, STEMtastic Adventures!**
- To identify supporters for a [2024 Math Power! prize](#).
- To identify country collaborators for a **microprojectors at scale** for FLN and STEM education initiative
- Launch a **STEM Education Champions' Network**
- To develop and field test a repository of [EscapelE](#), puzzle based cooperative games, based on the Global Proficiency Framework for Mathematics

CONTACT PERSONS



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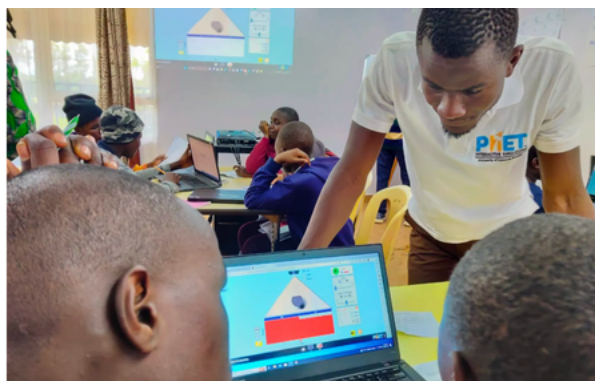
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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The PhET team deepened their work in early math, publishing two new simulations and numerous lessons for early math learners around the world. The Number Play and Number Compare simulations are the latest additions to PhET's early math collection. Both simulations support development of number sense and counting principles, actively engaging young learners with virtual manipulatives that offer correct dynamic feedback, fostering connections with multiple representations of a number, and supporting emergent bilingual learners with dual-language voicing features.
- For secondary school students, PhET's new Center and Variability simulation as well as the new Calculus Grapher simulation support development of fundamental, yet quite challenging, concepts in statistics and calculus. In Center and Variability, students visualize mean, median, range, interquartile range, and median absolute deviation in the playful context of students kicking soccer balls onto a number line. Calculus Grapher enables students to dynamically create functions and develop a conceptual understanding of the derivative, integral, and second derivative.
- Beyond simulations, the PhET Global team and PhET Fellows (67 teacher leaders across 33 countries) engaged over 6,500 teachers across more than 90 math-focused teacher professional development opportunities in Africa and Latin America. In Ethiopia, for instance, PhET Fellow Tesfay Mohammed initiated the development of STEM centers in the Tigray region, integrating PhET simulations into math lessons across 12 schools. His efforts significantly enhanced the teaching capabilities of over 200 teachers and positively influenced the education of more than 15,000 students.



PhET Fellow shows students the Build a Fraction simulation



PhET Fellow demonstrates the Plinko Probability simulation

2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Developing opportunities for early math teachers to learn rich instruction strategies for teaching with simulations by developing a new virtual, teacher professional development workshop, expanding on the existing Virtual Workshop that is freely available on demand from the PhET website.
- Adding two new simulations to develop foundational data fluency skills, including a deep understanding of uncertainty, sample size, mean, and variance. These ideas are critically important for both the next generation of STEM innovators as well as the general population faced with today's global challenges related to making sense of data.
- Continuing teacher capacity development through regional and country-level engagement, collaborating with government and educational institutions as well as building on successes and lessons learned from the PhET Fellowship. This includes future PhET Fellowship cohorts and the chance to invest in the initiatives of our existing fellows.

CONTACT PERSONS



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PRATHAM BOOKS STORYWEAVER



<https://storyweaver.org.in>

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- [StoryWeaver](#) is an open source digital repository of multilingual stories for children from Pratham Books that hosts 61K storybooks in ~360 languages. It is India's first recognized Digital Public Good for Foundational Literacy and Early Grade Reading.
- Unlocking education department funding for a Foundational Literacy Programme, designed to build early reading fluency and comprehension, leading to positive shifts in learning outcomes for 6.6M students.
- A program with UNICEF to promote reading, was adopted by the Education Department in Maharashtra as part of its 'FLN Mission'.
- Launching 'Goa is Reading', in partnership with the dept of education for joyful reading experiences in Goa.
- Communities created first hyperlocal libraries of 300 storybooks in indigenous languages.
- Partnership with Indonesian Education Department to create storybooks in regional languages at scale.
- Gender atypical storybooks distributed in Osmanabad with UNICEF leading to positive mindset shifts in children.



Goa classroom



Pupils in an FLP Classroom

2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Collaborating with literacy partner-networks to set up structured reading interventions and creating a global movement to unlock the joy of reading for children.
- Activating the global publishing and creator ecosystems, especially nurturing indigenous communities of practice to grow the repository of high quality open source storybooks for children in underserved, indigenous languages.
- Advocating for story-based learning to nurture STEM mindsets at an early age using the STEM Literacy Programme on StoryWeaver.

CONTACT PERSON



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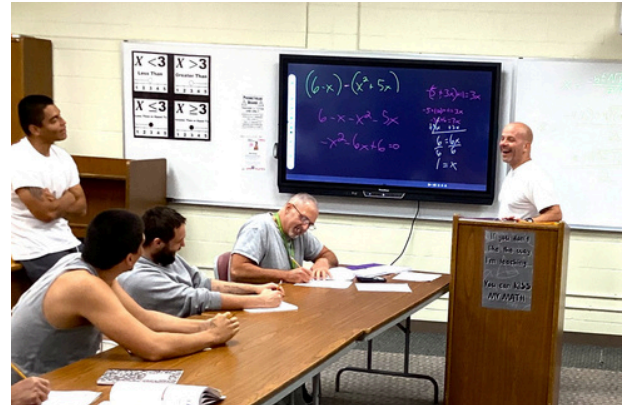
THE PRISON MATH PROJECT



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

<https://www.prisonmathproject.org/>

- Discussed the value and personal impact of our outreach efforts at [SIMIODE EXPO 2023](#)
- Successfully organized first annual in-prison Pi Day event with special guests and mathematicians engaged on site
- Redirected content development towards foundational algebra to accommodate majority need of participants
- Spoke on the intersection between math education, neurodiversity, and incarceration along with other education inclusivity leaders at GlobalMindED annual conference
- Amplified social media presence to promote fundraising efforts and further volunteer engagement
- Supported participant-conducted mathematical research to arXiv pre-print



Paul teaching a class

2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Mentorship: Implement restructured semester-based system with mentorship accountability monitoring and prison education reading group
- Content Development: Pilot distribution of MathPaks, with content to be extended through calculus and differential equations
- Prison-Approved Tech:
- Proceed with development of secure, multi-language programming console application to be made available for prisoners
- Collaborate with Desmos to introduce a modified version of their graphing calculator for participants

Scientific American coverage: Participant Travis Cunningham physics research pre-print:
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2311.00804.pdf> Newly very active
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/prisonmathproj>



Paul and graduating students

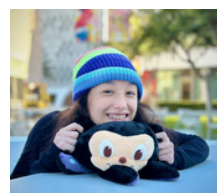
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ROOM TO READ

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



<https://roomtoread.org/>

we created a more immersive reading experience for children’s books on Literacy Cloud, our global learning platform, by upgrading the software so that our digital books have the same viewing experience as hardcopy books, including via dramatic page turns and integrated text and illustrations.

We also added several exciting new features to Literacy Cloud including:

- New languages: Dari, Pashto, and Italian, bringing the total number of languages to 39. We planned to add Gujarati by the end of 2023.
- New genres: narrative nonfiction biographies featuring Indonesian changemakers
- New formats: graphic novels for adolescents
- New search filter to find books that include read aloud videos

Increased unique users on [Literacy Cloud](#) by 40%, with readers in 137 countries, and more than doubled page views.



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Continue to increase the number and variety of children’s books available on Literacy Cloud, as well as resources for teachers and book creators
- Improve Literacy Cloud search and share functionalities
- Consider EdTech as a solution to programmatic challenges in ways that may help us to deepen impact, achieve scale, or benefit a population we could not otherwise reach
- Explore ways to effectively support teachers using technology
- Look into how technology can ease library checkout in low resource environments

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SIL INTERNATIONAL AND SIL LEAD, INC.



<https://www.sil.org/>

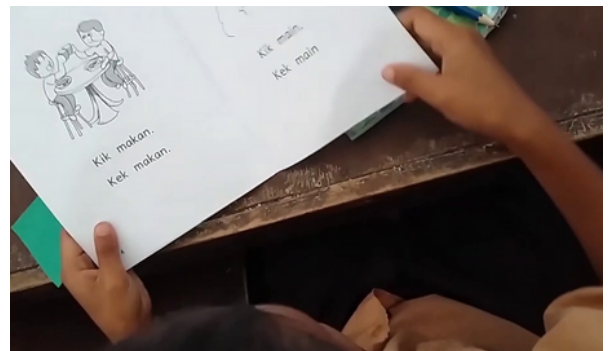
2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Bloom and Alpha Tiles were honored by HundrED as scalable and impactful education innovations as part of their [Global Collection 2024](#).
- Bloom won the [All Children Reading Digital Books in Action Prize](#). Bloom is software that facilitates translating books into different languages, recording audio readings of the book and then publishing the books in various print and digital forms.
- [Bloom Library](#) surpassed 17,000 books in more than 600 languages. Books are being read in more than 5,800 locations in 199 countries. The Bloom Library holds books that language communities can download to translate into their own languages.
- [Alpha Tiles](#) is now available in 63 languages. Alpha Tiles' design goal is to create basic literacy games for a new language in less than one week. Features are continually being added in parallel with new localizations. Testing is underway in 64 languages in 28 countries. Alpha Tiles is an Android app that is fully functional offline. The Alpha Tiles platform is open source.



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Surpass 20,000 books, 800 languages, 140,000 people reached digitally, and 2,000,000 cumulative book views in Bloom Library.
- Expand the topics addressed through Bloom books to include Climate and Creation Care, Anti-Human Trafficking, and Mental Health.
- Reach 10,000 hours of play time in Alpha Tiles
- Run Alpha Tiles workshops in Kenya, Mexico and Thailand



CONTACT PERSON



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SMART KIDZ CLUB INC.



<https://smartkidzclub.com/>

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Smart Kidz Club's mission is to inspire kids to read and learn. Social impact is at the heart of our company as we enter the third year of the [Namibia Reads project](#), which provides nationwide free access to our digital reading and learning app in Namibia.
- We are working closely with the Namibian Ministry of Education Arts and Culture and the Namibian Embassy in the USA to increase the usage of this app in the schools in Namibia.
- At home in the United States, we are collaborating with Head Start centers on co-developing a digital tools for children that will enable underserved children to get access to this early literacy and reading tool at home.
- Smart Kidz Club was a finalist for the [2022-2023 Learning Engineering Tools Competition](#) and a semi-finalist of the [NSF VITAL Challenge prize](#), receiving mentorship and training to take this initiative further.
- Exciting milestone on #InternationalLiteracyDay! [Our Premium App](#) crossed 1 million downloads on Google Play.



Namibia Reads



Non-profits

April 2023 Magazine - EducationToday

Published on Apr 27, 2023



2024 ASPIRATIONS

- Launch a tool for Head Start centers in the USA
- Collaborate with nonprofits and foundations to launch nationwide apps in other countries
- Apply for grants to build EdTech tools that help children with English reading readiness

CONTACT PERSON



Surinder Sharma
CEO
Smart Kidz Club Inc.



Join the Alliance!

Our mission is to increase the impact of EdTech stakeholders globally by strengthening formal and non-formal educational systems, especially in low-resource and developing country contexts, with relevant and inclusive events, products and initiatives that are collaborative, not competitive in nature, developed in partnership with our member network and strategic partners.

mEducation Alliance Member Benefits

- Exclusive network access to mEducation Alliance organizational members
- Institutional EdTech highlights are featured in variety of channels (eCafés, [EdTech Connected](#), [eNews](#), [Pulse Media Channel](#));
- Opportunity to have a branded [Pulse Media Playlist](#)
- Matchmaking/networking among Alliance members for potential funding opportunities;
- Co-creation and engagement in Alliance working groups;
- Ground-level engagement in signature activities ([Math Power!](#), [Youth Digital Champions](#), [Global Digital Literacy, Literacy League](#), and [#InspirationSTEM](#));
- Participation in invite-only, VIP annual Alliance member events such as workshops, co-creation sessions, trainings and other professional development opportunities;
- Free admission to all Alliance member events.

Membership in the mEducation Alliance also gives you access to discounted services that the Alliance provides such as:

- Sophisticated technical advice in planning your next physical and/or virtual event;
- Access to our engagement and communications campaign design and production team that can advise on your next webinar, workshop, targeted event, or marketing campaign.



Alliance Members at the World Bank HQ during the 2023 mEducation Alliance Symposium

Interested in becoming a member of the Alliance?

Email us at medalliance@meducationalliance.org for more information or visit our website here:



Sponsor our initiatives:

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mEducation Alliance

ABOUT

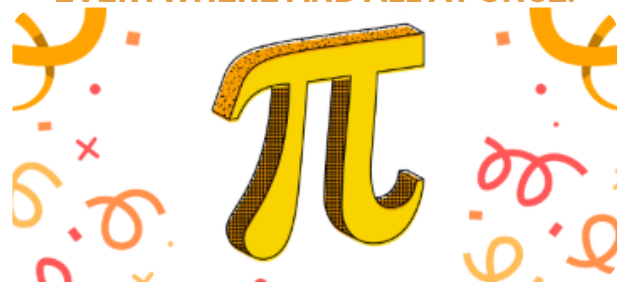
The mEducation Alliance eNews is released on a biweekly basis. Within which, we feature timely and noteworthy tech and non-tech education-focused interventions around various thematic areas, including updates from Alliance Members, upcoming events, and funding opportunities.

Some of our Favorite issues include:

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY



PI DAY - EVERYTHING MATH EVERYWHERE AND ALL AT ONCE!



SIZZLING SCIENCE! EDUCATION TRACK, SMITHSONIAN, AND MORE!



CELEBRATING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



FEBRUARY 11, 2023

CLIMATE EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR A GREEN FUTURE!



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Landscape Report](#)

2023

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