Annual Member Landscape Report 2022
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The mEducation Alliance - We Strengthen Education Ecosystems

The mEducation Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on the evidence-driven and sustainable role of technology in education to advance quality educational outcomes. Initially formed in 2010, the mEducation Alliance is a unique, multi-stakeholder convening platform for government and donor policymakers, other investors, researchers, and practitioners to work together, particularly in lower-resource, developing country contexts.

The mEducation Alliance is dedicated to strengthening formal and non-formal educational ecosystems by:

- **Convening**: connecting EdTech investors, policymakers, and practitioners;
- **Communicating**: sharing good practices within the global EdTech community; and,
- **Catalyzing**: accelerating EdTech investments and the scaling of promising interventions and initiatives.

Landscape Background

A unique feature of the mEducation Alliance is the amazing work of our 50+ institutional members and of the many associated members of several communities of practice the Alliance supports. This annual report highlights notable work of a number of these institutions which took place in 2022 and previews some of their activities planned in 2023.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Alliance, please contact us at medalliance@meducationalliance.org.

If you already don't subscribe to our eNews, you can do so here.
Communities of Practice

Among other activities, the mEducation Alliance supports community of practice (COP) networks that bring together institutions with a common interest in various aspects of the educational ecosystem. These communities meet on a quarterly basis for closed professional development meetings to discuss certain topics and to learn from one another.

Existing communities include those with an explicit edtech lens, such as Literacy League which is a network of literacy app developers and Math Power!, a technical exchange platform of global institutions with common interest in bringing the joy of math to learners around the world.

In 2023, we will also support with co-hosts two new COPs focused on Educational Volunteerism and Social and Behavior Change for Education (SBC4E).
The mEducation Alliance was busy during 2022 with a lot of exciting activities.

- In collaboration with Save the Children, Hempel Foundation and Amplify, the mEd Alliance launched the first Math Power! Prize celebrating non-profits bringing the joy of math to communities around the world.
- With support from Cisco Foundation and collaboration with Save the Children and Viamo, we reached 10,000 unique users through the use of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) for math game content dissemination to households in Rwanda.
- As part of our Afghan Kids Support Hub, we worked with partners to collect 100s of digital learning resources in Dari and Pashto for Afghan refugees and disseminated 10,000 physical copies of kids books to sites in the US.
- We worked with Alison.com to produce and release two free Global Digital Literacy courses. These courses also featured some of our 2022 Youth Digital Champions.
- We hosted the 12th Annual mEducation Alliance Symposium in Washington, D.C. themed "Wondrous Learning is...!". Over four days, we featured over 150 presentations from 100 organizations representing 25 countries.

**2023 EdTech Aspirations**

Securing funding and partnerships for:

- Expansion phase of our IVR for math initiative.
- Launching global campaigns on Education Volunteerism and Social and Behaviour Change for Education with Save the Children and other collaborators.
- Hosting the 2023 mEducation Alliance Symposium.
- Advancing our Market Mobilization for Low-Cost Video Projection in Education initiative.

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Kano Literacy and Maths Accelerator (KaLMA), Nigeria. This project built foundational Maths, Hausa, and English literacy skills for more than 37,000 primary school students in Kano State. The project also provided home based learning assistance to over 4.8 million households via a support package that included radio broadcasts, text messages, automated voice messages on a toll-free line and worksheets for home learning.

Building Learning Foundations (BLF), Rwanda. In BLF we used computer-based testing and online synchronous and asynchronous course delivery to improve the language skills of over 3,000 primary teachers across 10 districts in Rwanda. BLF strongly supported girls’ education by getting more female teachers on the career pathway to school leadership, integrating gender responsive pedagogy into training materials, and including positive representations of girls and challenging gender stereotypes in primary pupil activity books.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Further development of the offline mobile application to improve access to learning for teachers working in low resource contexts.
- Research into the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on English Language Teaching.
- Piloting the use of AI in Video Based Observation for Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning.
- Development of Chatbot tech as per use on our LEAP project in South Africa

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In Malawi, under All Children’s Reading Begin With Books Prize, eKitabu completed the delivery of 282 accessible EPUBs in Tumbuka and Chichewa including 50 sign language video Storybooks in Malawian Sign Language.

In collaboration with Humanity & Inclusion, eKitabu delivered accessible digital content to 1,363 learners in 49 schools and learning centers in the Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps.

With Ubongo, eKitabu developed 12 episodes of Ubongo Kids Season 5 in Kenya Sign Language for television.

Our research and evaluation work continued with the International Publishers Association’s, Africa Publishing Innovation Fund (APIF) project.

eKitabu investigated ways to address Africa’s remote learning challenges—to build a more inclusive and equitable learning ecosystem and leave no one behind.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Engaging more learners with and without disabilities, teachers, and families through eKitabu programs
- Building evidence based on the importance of language development as a critical step before literacy for deaf learners
- Increasing accessibility of digital content and lowering the cost for inclusive and equitable quality education in Africa and beyond
- Supporting, innovating and designing with users and partners from the public and private sectors

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Developed by UNESCO and GIZ in 2021, the Future Teacher Kit (FTK) is a teacher training solution that taps the potential of scaled low-tech solutions such as mobile phones and messenger systems (e.g. WhatsApp) to equip teachers with 21st century skills. The FTK was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MESD), Botswana.

2022 was dedicated to preparing and launching the FTK for up to 1,000 TVET teachers in Botswana. Over a period of 8 weeks teachers received training snippets and hands-on activities on their phones via messenger, completed by weekly lessons. The training focuses on foundational teaching skills, digital teaching skills as well as 21st century skills.

In 2023 UNESCO will implement the FTK in the Caribbean. An impact evaluation will increase credibility and thus funding opportunities of the FTK.

We hope to expand FTK to other countries, including:

- In 2023 UNESCO will implement the FTK in the Caribbean.
- An impact evaluation will increase credibility and thus funding opportunities of the FTK.

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Ubongo: In 2022, the Hempel Foundation initiated a new partnership with Ubongo, Africa’s leading producer of kids’ edutainment. The purpose of the project is to develop a model for enabling children in Tanzania in hard to reach areas to gain access to Ubongo’s learning content.

Remote online learning with Save the Children: Covid-19 hit Bangladesh a few months after the Hempel Foundation launched a project to support 10400 girls who were at risk of dropping out of the school system. Hempel Foundation Partner, Save the Children acted swiftly to adjust the project to the new reality. Remote learning opportunities using tablets and online learning modules became the backbone of the project.

After almost two years of school closures, an Effectiveness Study conducted in 2022 by the Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University revealed that the EdTech based remote learning approach enabled the girls to continue learning despite school closure.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

Expanding our partnership with VSO and onebillion in Sierra Leone
The aim of this is to generate deeper evidence of the effectiveness of two EdTech models:

- Tablet-sharing: Two children paired and working on the same tablet with onebillion’s software.
- Solar projector: Teacher using the software on a projector to teach the whole classroom.

The two models have not previously been tested rigorously so the outcome of the project will be relevant both for further scaling in Sierra Leone and for the global EdTech community.

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mLearn 2022 and 2021 Proceedings

- mLearn 2022 proved again to be a fantastic conference. Hosted this year as a hybrid conference by the Netherlands Open University and EADTU, in Heerlen. The short and round table papers are now available online on our IAmLearn website with all the long papers being published in a special issue of the International Journal of Mobile and Blended Learning (IJMBL).

Second OA Book on Seamless Learning

- At mLearn 2022 we launched our second Open Access book on seamless learning. This book was a follow-up to an earlier book. This new book is a compilation of detailed descriptions and comparisons of educators designing and teaching courses from 10 countries.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- We are hosting a series of webinars which will include presentations by leading researchers in the area, panel discussions and hands-on workshops focused on exploring the emerging and dynamic future of mobile learning.
- We will host the 22nd World Conference on Mobile, Blended and Seamless Learning along with the North-West University in South Africa, as a hybrid (online and face-to-face) conference 9th-11th October 2023.

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During 2022, the GPE and IDRC KIX program continued to develop a portfolio of 40+ global and regional research projects in primary and secondary education, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of knowledge producers and users in the Global South to scale innovations and improve the use of evidence in education planning, policy, and practice.

EdTech is a central or important component in many projects we support. In 2023, as KIX launches a new phase and new calls for proposals are developed, IDRC will also conduct a report on EdTech knowledge and research gaps, actors and opportunities in the global south.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- To support EdTech as part of IDRC´s and KIX mandate on supporting and funding research for development and education in the global south.
- Focus on knowledge and evidence gaps, priority areas for research investment & capacity strengthening, regarding the use of EdTech as part of policy level decisions for the public education systems.
- Investigate scaling models that could be adapted to educational innovations, including EdTech, in the global south, and capture the attention of policymakers.

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The Edtech Solutions Network brings together innovative solution providers to learn from one another, bring key information and insights to the surface, connect with experts and more. Through a collaborative effort with solution providers, we believe we can overcome current challenges and build solid foundations for the future of edtech and education as a whole. This hope led us to create a unique community experience for solution providers - the Edtech Solutions Network. We meet live at ISTE live 2023 at the Solutions Summit.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Help education technology solutions improve and deliver high quality and evidence-based material for students, teachers, and coaches.
- Lead informative conversations regarding insights from educators, researchers, and industry experts back to edtech developers to improve the quality of edtech products.
- Bring EdTech leaders and product developers together around critical issues in education.
- Build community in Edtech Solutions Network and excitement around Seal of Alignment through collaboration (networking) and learning.

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One of the key pillars of the Jacobs Foundation 2030 strategy is unlocking the impact of EdTech to advance learning and development. The Foundation launched three mutually reinforcing initiatives in 2022:

- **LEIF – Learning EdTech Impact Funds**, CHF 30 million invested in leading EdTech Venture Capital funds to promote the use of evidence.
- **CERES – Connecting the EdTech Research Ecosystem**, A CHF 10 million research facility to bridge the divide between science and the EdTech industry.
- **EdFirst – Education Foundations Investing in Research and Systems Transformation**, An alliance of leading foundations to advance the EdTech industry’s focus on evidence-based impact.

The Foundation organized a conference in May 2022 bringing these three initiatives together to share latest thinking and research.

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**2023 EdTech Aspirations**

- Continue to shape the EdTech industry by activating and increasing the demand for evidence to inform technology-related decisions in the K-12 education space.
- Strengthen the connections between key stakeholders in the EdTech Ecosystem: schools, EdTech companies and researchers.

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• Provision of 24 free fonts for schools
• KERIS visits remote area schools to provide equitable AI&SW education
• Primary school math. supporting system using AI expands its coverage from K1-2 to K3-4
• Provision of research papers’ text-to-speak (TTS) service to enhance the learning opportunities
• Serviced the KERIS developed and patented Cyber Threat Automatic Distinct System

2023 EdTech Aspirations

• EdTech Softlab management
• AI courseware based Digital textbook development
• Experimental educational content (VR, AR, 360) for K-12 development and implementation

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NBA is supporting the World Bank’s Read@Home initiative establish an online library for high-quality print-ready PDF files for commercial printing. The early literacy resource network platform shares openly licensed storybooks and learning resources in all languages to facilitate bulk printing and online reading.

- Education projects and governments can download materials for printing at scale and upload files to share with the global education community. Books are easily accessible and searchable and more titles are added in more languages every day.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- To onboard more partners and projects on the Early Literacy Resource Network to share openly licensed print-ready learning materials in underserved languages;
- To work with more donors to support The Early Literacy Network
- To enable more governments to access high-quality titles on the resource network for large scale printing

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During 2022, ProFuturo reached 7.2M children and more than 380K teachers in 40 countries. In addition, more than 254K users accessed ProFuturo’s educational open resources.

Our Digital Competencies Self-Assessment Tool, developed in collaboration with CIEB Brazil, was launched and more than 11K teachers worldwide used it and received suggested training itineraries.

Two research and evaluation processes were completed in 2022: A qualitative research of the project in Zimbabwe and Guatemala, aiming to identify the most significant changes produced in all participating educational stakeholders and A “results evaluation” process to evaluate the impact of the project “Docentes Digitales” (teacher training project implemented in the Spanish region of Extremadura).

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Migration and massive deployment of the new LMS platform (based on Moodle), that has already been piloted and tested with very good results.
- Achieving a balance between quality and quantity, managing the depth of the impact with improvement actions seeking resource efficiencies in the intervention models.
- Working on the sustainability of the programme (searching for partners at local and global level that contribute to the continuity of the activities).
- Contributing to the public debate on the need of a Digital Education strategy
- Carrying out new evaluation process.

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Took the Parental Education Program (PEP) to scale using automated messages and a chatbot. 6,500 mothers registered for PEP and 363,000 viewers participated in the facebook live sessions in 2022.

Expanded the Massader beta platform with 100 new resources and 10 intro sessions for 150 educators to meet Arabic teachers’ needs by offering a comprehensive suite of evidence-based, quality resources like worksheets, classroom activities, and instructional videos.

Edraak, QRF’s educational and employability skills development platform, continues to deliver cutting-edge courses, workshops and specializations for MENA’s next generation of careers in tech, business, and beyond. Nearly 7 million users access content in localized Arabic language to promote accessibility to 21st century skills and competencies to drive innovation and development.

Launch the pilot phase of a multi-year national behavior change campaign to create literacy-rich home learning environments for children aged 0-5 in Jordan.

Continue developing a scalable model for the Parental Education Program with automated messages and chatbot reaching thousands of parents and carers across Jordan.

Continue the development of the Massader platform resources for Arabic literacy, building on the 100 resources developed in 2022.

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Publishing the MEL Framework for Technology Supported Remote Teacher Training to help program designers plan, measure and evaluate such initiatives.

Expanding Tangerine with psychometrically validated self-assessment functionality for early reading and mathematics, in partnership with Imagine Worldwide.

Expanding Tangerine with tested functionality for self-assessment for learners who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (e.g., adding in video playback and video capture functionality).

Successfully field testing a self-administered computer-based reading assessment that is AI-scored, including for oral ready fluency.

Further developing Loquat mobile app which debuted in 2022. The app uses machine learning to capture, analyze, visualize, and track classroom speech patterns. The app provides guided reflection and tailored, actionable feedback to help teachers increase active learning, student participation, and inclusion in their classroom.

Expanding Tangerine’s functionality to include locally adaptable individualized education plan options in support of inclusive education for children with disabilities.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

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Save the Children has been utilising EdTech across ECCD, Basic Education and Education in Emergencies for well over a decade, including deploying technology to directly support children’s learning and teacher professional development, and supporting education institutions in utilising data to inform policy and practice in education systems around the world.

There is significant and growing use of education technology across Save the Children’s programmes, which has been accelerated by the COVID-19 education response (e.g., Learning Tree in Pakistan and Tisewere ‘Let’s Play’ in Malawi).

In 2022, Save the Children also launched its first Global EdTech Advocacy Brief, convened an EdTech Task Team, developed an internal-facing EdTech 101 course, drafted an EdTech Proposal Review Guide, and created an EdTech Tool Selection Rubric.

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### 2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Using inclusive education technology to provide learners who need additional support with tailored and adaptive support to develop foundational skills (literacy and numeracy) at home and in communities.
- Engaging parents to support all children’s learning, including children with disabilities, and others at risk of discrimination within education, using innovative and inclusive behavior change communications approaches and mobile technology platforms.
- Community based Inclusive Catch-up clubs which will provide additional services for learners who need additional support.

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The COVID-19 pandemic underpinned our understanding that mobile devices and their ability to integrate in low-resource settings are critical tools for education because of them being accessible to many learners. SPIDER research has shown that in low resource settings, these were the most common learning devices available when schools closed because of the pandemic. Our research also indicate that parents of these communities are willing to prioritize education, including making small financial contributions to ensure their children can keep learning in times of disruption.

In 2022, SPIDER worked to champion the need for making more digital content available. Content that is anchored in national curriculums but tailored for special needs and learner realities. Our recent EdTech endeavors include making solutions for learners in migrant communities, for learners with disabilities and to build digital capacity in teachers, teacher students and parents to support continuous learning.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

In 2023 SPIDER will focus on learners in communities hardest affected by the pandemic. This includes:

- Supporting indigenous learners in Cambodia by creating learning materials for core subjects of the curriculum in indigenous languages
- Bridging the urban-rural ICT skill gap by providing coding curriculum and training in Khmer for rural youth in Cambodia.
- Preparing rural learners in Zambia for final exams by supporting their learning across the entire curriculum with digital content and devices to access a wide range of lessons and creative learning tools.

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2022 EdTech Highlights

- **Instant Network Schools** (Vodafone/UNHCR partnership): 84 INS centers are benefiting 247,065 students and 4,418 teachers across six countries, with additional 40 new centers being set up by end of March 2023,
- **ProFuturo** Partnership: Presentation at 2022 mEducation Alliance Symposium of the partnership in two new countries reaching a further 8000 children and over 200 teachers in 9 schools.
- **Connected higher education**: Developing a cohort of young refugee graduates to serve as advocates for connected higher education.
- Working with the ministries and universities in Lebanon on a national initiative to develop digital pedagogies for university teachers.
- Holding the first in-person convening in three years of the **Connected Learning in Crisis Consortium** in November 2022.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Develop programmes and products that cater to refugee and host community students and work in low resource contexts
- Offer grants and technical support to exciting refugee-led initiatives in connected education
- Build momentum to **address the digital divide for refugees** through the **Refugee Connected Education Challenge**.
- Improve access to education and support the growth and development of refugees through technology.

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UNICEF co-led the TES’ Action Track on Digital Learning and Digital Transformation of Education, and the Call to Action on Quality Digital Learning on “three keys”: content; capacity; and connectivity.

Focused on the learning platforms and content "key", UNICEF ED Catherine Russell launched at TES, together with UNESCO, Gateways to Public Digital Learning. Gateways is one of TES’ Global Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives to mobilize action at country level and the flagship initiative of its Digital Action Track.

UNICEF led action in Gateways to ensure that platforms and content was designed and implemented following evidence and best practices, aiming to scale this approach through its work in over 190 countries.

Gateways is complemented by flagship implementation initiatives, such as the Learning Passport, active in 28 countries with 3 million learners, and Akelius Language Learning, active in 13 countries.

### 2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Highlight Gateways at the SDG Summit.
- Strengthen accountability of Member States in the provision of quality, accessible, and equitable digital learning.
- Launch Global Gateway (website) monitoring quality and equity of digital learning platforms endorsed or provided by governments.
- Deploy Learning Passport in 35 countries with 3.5 million users.

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With BLEND, VVOB and partners strengthen teachers and school leaders through **blended professional development**. An OER guide has been developed on how to support educators with effective blended CPD, emphasising participant motivation and engagement, equity and inclusion as well as cost-effectiveness, scalability and sustainability.

Together with the Rwanda Basic Education Board and the Rwanda Coding Academy, VVOB trained 164 STEM and ICT teachers from 54 secondary schools to integrate Scratch into the curriculum and to start after-school coding clubs with students. 274 coding clubs were set up reaching 3724 students of which 50% were girls. Hackathon competitions were organised, as well as exposure visits to leading tech companies.

**2023 EdTech Aspirations**

- Further capacity development of partners in the development and re-development of blended CPD programmes for educators.
- Advocacy on integration of coding in national curricula as part of promoting skilling of youth.
- Exploration of modalities to integrate coding in national curricula, e.g. through coding clubs. Scaling of Scratch project in Rwanda.
- Collaboration in the development of further evidence on EdTech in education and continuous professional development.

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The EdTech Policy Academy is an umbrella learning & training program to provide WBG Education staff, partners & client countries to design, implement & monitor edtech policies linked mainly to a WBG-financed project. Two programs were held in 2022 including countries from all WB regions.

The WBG & the OECD published 45 education continuity stories: "How Learning Continued during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Global Lessons from Initiatives to Support Learners and Teachers", in partnership with Harvard & HundrED. The case studies cover examples of how, amidst COVID, governments & NGOs quickly responded to school closures through remote learning strategies.

The WBG & Imaginable Futures designed the EdTech Readiness Index (ETRI), a multi-dimensional global instrument to assess the EdTech ecosystem. It was tested simultaneously in 2022 in 3 continents to support countries in assessing whether the enabling conditions for edtech to thrive are present.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

- Addressing skills gaps after the COVID-19 pandemic and the longer term actions that this crisis has exposed to more effectively use technology to build education system resilience, relevant digital skills, and leverage EdTech ecosystems to build capacity and implement new future-looking policies.
- The Policy Academy will support capacity building in resilient hybrid learning and digital skills. These efforts will be supported by EdTech Fellows & Networks, expert consultant networks, existing & revised Knowledge Packs, Blockchain & Non-Fungible Token Prototype, & Innovation Networks.

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In Saint Lucia, trained educators in digital skills integration and positive youth development to build youth digital resilience and employability;

In Nepal, supported teachers to use edtech solutions and Universal Design for Learning to improve the language and literacy skills of students with disabilities;

Across sub-saharan Africa, used Whatsapp groups to train teachers, case workers, and community members to protect girls and vulnerable children; Launched our CrowdED Learning initiative on quality and effective use of OER’s and the open DigitalSkillsLibrary.org;

In the U.S, co-led the Department of Education’s Digital Resilience in the America Workforce initiative on digital literacy and launched the Transforming Immigrant Digital Equity project.

World Education through its EdTech Center advances digital equity and promotes innovative approaches and best practices in using technology responsibly to improve learning and life outcomes. Some 2022 edtech highlights include:

- Advance digital equity through advocacy, demonstration projects, and new models to increase access to digital inclusion support.
- Support Ministries of Education to update and implement their digital education strategies.
- Continue to advance effective use of OERs through efforts through our CrowdEdLearning initiative and products including new ones such as Skillbloc.org.
- Continue to support countries and regions to use a shared digital skills framework to enable partnership between diverse stakeholders.

2023 EdTech Aspirations

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Thank you to the Alliance Members who shared their 2022 EdTech Highlights and continue to support the mEducation Alliance!

Stay Up-to-Date with the mEducation Alliance

For any recommendations for future landscape reports and general comments, please contact us!

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