

IZIBALO NPC – ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: July 2024 – August 2025

Project A: Maths Pod Project (Grade 8 to 12). This is the flagship project of Izibalo to ensure each learner passes Mathematics by at least 60% in grade 12 to improve their vocational prospects.

Executive Summary

In alignment with our mission to ensure every learner reaches their full potential through mathematics, Izibalo's Maths Pod Project, has made significant strides during the past year. Our focus was on increasing the number of learners who achieve a minimum of 60% in Grade 12 Mathematics, enhancing their eligibility for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related vocational and academic opportunities. The data outlined in this report reflects the impact of our targeted interventions, community partnerships, and strategic growth.

Izibalo is dedicated to improving numeracy and mathematics outcomes for under-resourced learners in the Eastern Cape. Through structured tutoring, mentorship, and digital learning programmes, Izibalo aims to clarifying maths, build confidence, and create real opportunities for academic success through daily maths tutoring and coaching for learners from grade 1 to 12.

Our beneficiary stories best reflect the success we have enjoyed from our engagement with the Izibalo community and the multiple awards we have won since we started in 2022.

Testimonial 1 – Thimna Booi (2024 Grade 12) has been accepted at her dream University, Wits for a BCom Accounting degree. Joining Izibalo in 2022, showed an overall improvement in maths from a level 2 to level 6 (40% improvement) in her final year.

Total Learners Reached since our inception in 2022: 230 learners

Performance Measure	Izibalo Target	2024-2025 Outcome
Learner Enrolment	100 active learners per Maths Pod	85 learners (2024) 70 active learners (2025)
Pure Maths Choice in Grade 10	70% of Grade 9 learners *	74% chose Pure Maths in Grade 10 (2025)
Grade 9 Growth	30 learners per year	18 (2024) to 30 (2025)
Grade 9 average % achieved at School	60% in School Report	57% achieved (2025)
Attendance Rate	80% of scheduled lessons (3 hours p/w)	84% (5240 attended / 6268 hours)
Min. % in School Report	50% (Grade 8 to 12)	49% (2024) 55% (2025)

Member of:



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Points to note:-

42% of Grade 9 learners choose Maths in Grade 10 *

Across South Africa, **only 26.68 %** of learners who took Mathematics in Grade 8 continued with it in Grade 12** There's a widespread concern that many learners drop Pure Mathematics after Grade 9 or switch to Maths Literacy early, contributing to low numbers choosing Pure Mathematics in Grade 10.

Quarterly reporting to parents and schools promotes accountability as Izibalo has made tangible strides in expanding access and improving learner performance.

Challenges faced over the year.

- Limited homework access to Maths & Science practising Platform due to device constraints
- Limited space for learners during exam and test periods
- Irregular attendance from uncoordinated school interventions due to a lack of learner textbooks causing a space issue to cover all learner missed lessons
- Understanding of English language concepts critical to thinking in mathematics
- Physical Science only offered as a subject to our top achievers
- Lack of laptops

Strategic Responses

- Parents and guardian support is critical to learner progress. Ongoing engagement, feedback and support are given to all izibalo parents and guardians. Practising Platform is zero rated and a normal cell phone may be used.
- Apply for funding through donations and sponsorships for additional classroom space.
- Activated the MOU with the Department of Education to highlight the importance of the service offered by Izibalo to all stakeholders. Ongoing parent and guardian involvement in learners' education. Apply for textbooks in all learner subjects. Textbooks to be loaned to learners as their own resource for the year.
- Introduction of an English programme to 48, Grade 8 and 9 learners to improve their comprehension of the English concepts
- Offered all Grade 10 to 12 learners who have chosen Physical Science as a subject, additional support.

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Project B: Teacher Development and Support Project

Executive Summary

Strengthen mathematics education through the professional development of local teachers and the creation of sustainable pathways into maths education careers.

Key Project Activities:

- **Beneficiary Registration**
In Term 3 - Register 2 Mathematics teachers from Grade 8 & 9 from a local feeder school as official programme beneficiaries to enrich their skills and knowledge in mathematics and assist them with the overcrowded classrooms. These teachers to become volunteers in the Maths Pod in the afternoons.
- **Mathematics Content Mastery**
Offer specialised training on Mathematics topics where teachers lack confidence. Progress will be tracked, and participants will earn **SACE Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** points.
- **Learner Tracking and Subject Uptake Analysis**
Require teachers to report the number of learners (outside the Izibalo flagship project) who choose **Pure Mathematics**, enabling year-on-year comparison and broader impact assessment.
- **Career Pathway Development**
Identify enthusiastic learners and teachers for development into future **Training and Development Practitioners**, with encouragement and mentorship towards a career in teaching Mathematics.
- **Ongoing Support and Technology Integration**
Conduct regular site visits to support teachers and promote the integration of **tech-based learning platforms** into their daily teaching practice. Provide teachers with Wi-Fi connectivity, a laptop and data projector.

Project C: The Numeracy Project: Learning Through Play (Grade 1 to 3)

Executive Summary

At the heart of our intervention lies the **Numeracy Project**, designed around a play-based methodology to foster mathematical skills, thinking and confidence at an early age.

Izibalo continues to grow in its mission to improve foundational numeracy through play-based learning and targeted academic support. Our innovative Maths Pod model is reshaping how young learners engage with numbers.

- **Group Structure:** Focusing on Grade 1 – 3. Four learners per session.
- **Curriculum Focus:** Number sense, patterns, measurement, shapes, and problem-solving

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- **Teaching Methods:** Interactive games, storytelling, manipulatives, and peer collaboration within the partner primary school during a normal school day.
- **Session Frequency:** Twice weekly, at no cost to learners or the school

This model ensures that each child receives personalised instruction tailored to their pace and level, fostering a deep, joyful engagement with maths. The end goal is to develop a love for maths while the learner is still young and to follow this learner through to our high school project.

We currently have **84 active learners** (Grade 1 to 3) in two partner school-based Numeracy Lesson Pods.

Challenges faced over the year:

- Limited dedicated space for coaches to perform their lessons.
- Closure of schools due to water shortages and unplanned power outages.
- Coaches not having electronic devices to properly prepare lessons and capture impact.
- Irregular learners' attendance at school due to unaffordability of parents and guardians for transport.

Proposed Strategic Responses:

- Install a prefabricated classroom within the school yards of the partner schools for the Numeracy Project.
- Purchase laptops for the coaches to collect and record necessary statistics
- Provide transport for learners

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers are vital to our community-based model. This year, Izibalo supported **12 volunteers** who contributed across various functions:

- **2** youth volunteers trained as numeracy coaches
- **6** weekly volunteers supporting maths sessions
- **4** volunteers transitioned into employment in their chosen careers

All volunteers undergo safeguarding and induction training aligned with our teaching protocols.

Skills Development and Health & Safety Compliance

Izibalo NPC has made significant strides in expanding post-school pathways for our beneficiaries while ensuring safe and compliant learning environments across our sites.

1. Skills Development Accreditation and Career Pathways

Izibalo has successfully progressed towards accreditation with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) as a skills provider in two key occupational qualifications:

- **Occupational Certificate: Training and Development Practitioner**

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- **Cloud Practitioner Programme**

These two offerings form part of our broader **Success Equation**, a strategic initiative designed to support learners beyond high school by offering them tangible skills, workplace exposure, and career readiness.

- The **Training and Development** qualification enables graduates to pursue careers as facilitators in TVET colleges, opening a clear pathway into the education sector.
- The **Cloud Practitioner** course provides a solid foundation in IT, preparing learners for further specialization and employment in high-demand STEM fields.

Both programmes include **compulsory workplace experience**, a crucial feature that allows learners to gain practical skills and enhances their employability upon completion. Izibalo is excited about the long-term potential of these pathways to uplift its learners into meaningful, sustainable careers.

2. Health and Safety Compliance

Both our sites, **Vincent and Greenpoint**, have achieved full Health and Safety compliance. Creating a secure and supportive learning environment is fundamental to the success of the programmes.

Key achievements in this area include:

- Training of **six staff members as Intermediate First Aiders**, ensuring that immediate medical support is available on-site when needed.
- Appointment and certification of **two Health and Safety Officers**, responsible for the ongoing monitoring and enforcement of safety protocols.

This investment in training and infrastructure strengthens our capacity to deliver quality education and skills training in a professional, safe, and legally compliant setting.

Looking Forward

Our goals for the upcoming year include:

- Installation of **an additional Admin/Classroom** to expand tutoring space **at our existing Greenpoint Maths Pod**.
- Upskill **5 local maths teachers**.
- Installation of **four new Numeracy Classrooms** in primary schools.
- Roll-out of our **QCTO-accredited skills programmes**.
- Deepen school partnerships and improving long-term learner tracking.
- **Securing transport/contract** to improve learner and volunteer access.
- Reach **full enrolment** of 100 learners per week at the Maths Pod.

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- **Improve learner results** through expanded academic support.
- Extend our **model to new communities** where the need is great.

Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our donors and partners. Your belief in our mission fuels every success. Together, we're helping learners unlock potential, overcome systemic barriers, and rewrite their futures through the power of education. Together, we are proving that **problems can be solved through DOING maths**.

Written By:

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17 September 2025

* Statistics supplied by Eastern Cape Department of Education from the Eastern Cape High School Maths Statistics FET Phase Term 2 (2023)

** Mathematics the bane of Basic Education's existence Polity.org.za.

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